

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Most Puissant Grand Council

OF

oyal & Select Masters

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK.

September 12th, 1876.



Buffalo:

PRESS OF BAKER, JONES & CO.

1876.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

MOST PUISSANT GRAND COUNCIL

OF

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK.

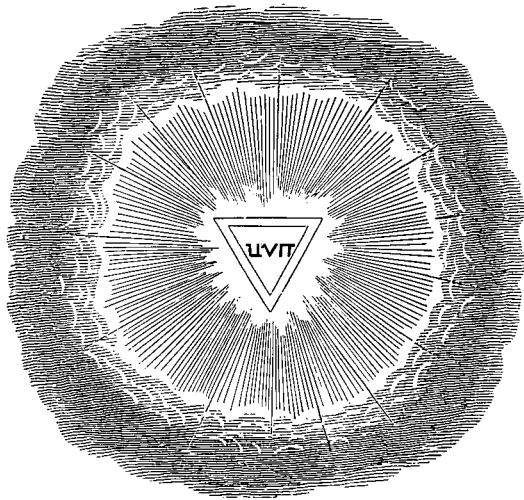
SEPTEMBER 12, 1876.

Buffalo:

PRESS OF BAKER, JONES & CO.

1876.





Grand Council.

—◆—
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY.
—◆—

GRAND COUNCIL ROOM,
MASONIC HALL, 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 12, A. D. 1876, A.: Dep.: 2876.

PRESENT.

M. I. JOHN B. SACKETT,	GRAND MASTER.
R. I. GEO. M. OSGOODBY,	DEP. GRAND MASTER.
R. I. CHARLES W. BROWN,	GRAND P. C. OF THE W.
R. I. DAVID B. HOWELL,	GRAND TREASURER.
R. I. GEORGE VAN VLIET,	GRAND RECORDER.
R. I. A. B. KING,	GRAND C. OF THE G.
R. I. JOHN F. BALDWIN,	GRAND C. OF THE C.
R. I. P. VERHOEVEN,	GRAND MARSHAL.
R. I. AND REV. JOHN G. WEBSTER,	GRAND CHAPLAIN.
I. THOMAS H. FLOYD,	GRAND STEWARD.
I. JOHNSON FOUNTAIN,	GRAND SENTINEL.
R. I. JOHN J. MARTIN,	GRAND LECTURER.

M. I. H. F. L. BUNTING, Past Grand Master.
M. I. JOHN D. WILLIAMS, Past Grand Master.
M. I. G. FRED. WILTSIE, Past Grand Master.
M. I. JOHN HOOLE, Past Grand Master.

Together with the Representatives of the following Councils :

COLUMBIAN.....	No. 1	OWEGO.....	No. 30
BROOKLYN.....	" 4	HORNELLSVILLE.....	" 35
BLOSS.....	" 14	PENTALPHA.....	" 36
SOUTHERN TIER.....	" 16	SENECA.....	" 38
BUFFALO.....	" 17	KONHOCTON.....	" 40
KING HIRAM.....	" 18	GENESEE VALLEY.....	" 41
DORIC.....	" 19	PEEKSKILL.....	" 55
KEYSTONE.....	" 20	SING SING.....	" 64
DE WITT CLINTON.....	" 22	CHENANGO VALLEY.....	" 65
PALMYRA.....	" 26	NORWICH.....	" 67
BATAVIA.....	" 27	ITHACA.....	" 68
UTICA.....	" 28		

And R. I. Companion HARRIS, Past Grand Treasurer.

Companion GEO. Z. BRETZ, Past T. I. M., of Brooklyn, No. 4.

Visitors.—M. I. Companion A. N. CAULKINS, Grand Master of Grand Council of Florida.

R. I. and Rev. Companion JOHN ANKETEL, Grand Chaplain of Grand Council of Connecticut.

The Grand Council was opened in *Ample Form*.

On motion of M. I. H. F. L. BUNTING, all Companions Select Masters in good standing were invited to seats as visitors in this Grand Council.

On motion of Companion R. C. CHRISTIANCE, the reading of the Minutes of the previous Assembly were dispensed with.

M. I. JOHN B. SACKETT, Grand Master, then delivered the following

Address.

ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANIONS:

As the weary, sore-footed pilgrim, after a long and tedious day's journey over the scorching sands of the Sahara, turns aside to seek an oasis where to rest and refresh himself, so we, my companions, have laid aside the cares and turmoils of business which have burdened and perplexed us, and to-day find a quiet retreat within our S. V.

We have met together for the purpose of taking counsel of each other, in order that we may successfully carry forward that branch of Masonry which has been so solemnly intrusted to us, and without which our American system would be incomplete and unfinished.

Let us, as we enter upon the work in which we are about to engage, offer up our prayers of gratitude and praise to the Almighty Disposer of human events for His protecting care during the past year, pledging ourselves to discharge more faithfully those duties which are daily devolving upon us, that we may transmit the structure upon which we are now laboring, to our children, and our children's children, pure and unimpaired.

While the year has been one of general health among the Cryptic Craftsmen, yet death has found his way into our S. V., and taken from among the most diligent and faithful, one of our number.

T. I. Companion JOHN J. KELLY died at his residence in this city on the 9th day of March, 1876, after a brief illness.

At the time of his death he was Thrice Illustrious Master of Columbian Council, No. 1; Past Master of Prudence Lodge, No. 532, and Veritas Lodge, No. 734; also an Honorary Member of Perseverance and Maimonodes Lodges.

He was Most Excellent High Priest of Veritas Chapter, No. 271, R. A. M.; an Honorary Member of Zerubbabel Chapter, and a member of Ivanhoe Commandery of K. T., besides being an Honorary Member of Adelpic Council, No. 7, R. S. M's.

He was Senior Grand Warden of Ancient Lodge of Perfection ; Most Equitable Sovereign Prince Grand Master of New York Council Princes of Jerusalem ; one of the Past Officers of Zeal and Constancy Chapter Rose Croix, and a member of Cosmopolitan Consistory.

Thrice Illustrious Companion KELLY was one with whom most of you were well acquainted, and his sterling worth was evinced by the large number of Craftsmen, of every department of Masonry, who were present at his funeral obsequies, which were attended from the large Hall of this building, and which at an early hour was filled to repletion with members of the Order, intimate personal friends and relatives of the lamented dead, while the corridors, entrance-way and streets were thronged with sympathizing mourners.

The stage was occupied by R. : W. : Brother WILLIAM T. WOODRUFF, JAMES E. KENNEY, FREDERICK EGNER, P. M. W. VERHOEVEN, JOHN W. SIMONS, A. P. MORIARTY, CHARLES T. MCCLENACHAN, JOHN G. BARKER, JOHN BOYD, PETER J. MARTIN, JOHN J. GORMAN, GREGORY SATTERLEE, WILLARD A. PEARCE, LEWIS HEIMS, JOHN G. FITZGERALD, HENRY HAYNES, RICHARD W. SHERIDAN, JOHN MOON, W. S. PATTERSON, WILLARD C. BLACK, B. F. METCALF, JOHN L. PIPER, JAMES T. FELLOWS, and other distinguished brethren.

The impressive and beautiful Masonic funeral ceremonial was most elaborately and touchingly rendered by R. : W. : Brother WOODRUFF, who was ably supported by associate celebrants. The remarks of Brother WOODRUFF were exceedingly interesting, and afforded the tearful listeners an opportunity of wisely appreciating the situation, and learning the lessons of time and eternity, from his personal recital of the Masonic and individual life and experience of the dead Mason, whose remains lay before them.

In all the walks of Masonry our lamented Companion was conspicuous for persistent zeal, intelligent devotion, and an unswerving ambition, not so much for place as for the advancement of an institution, in which, from his inception to his last hour, he was eminently an enthusiast. Those of us who knew him personally and intimately need not be told that he was noble and generous in disposition, forbearing and charitable in thought, word and deed. Unostentatious in benevolence, his kindness fell "As the gentle dew from Heaven upon the place beneath."

The remains, under the escort of an immense concourse, were conveyed to the shades of Greenwood, where they were interred mid the solemn silence which pervaded the scene; naught was heard save the stifled sobs of grief, responding to the mournful funeral bell, as "Evening let fall her sable curtain, and pinned it with a star."

He died, as he had lived, a faithful friend, an estimable citizen, a kind husband, a zealous Mason, a devoted Christian. Let us so live, Companions,

that the same may be truthfully said of us when we are called upon to pass through "the dark valley and the shadow of death."

I recommend that suitable action be taken by this Grand Council on the death of Thrice Illustrious Companion KELLY.

On the twenty-first of October, I issued the following circular letter to the several Councils, and to my associate Grand Officers:

OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER
OF
ROYAL AND SELECT MASTER MASONS
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

BUFFALO, OCT. 21, A. Dep. 2875.

THRICE ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANIONS:

In accordance with a resolution adopted at the last Annual Assembly of the Most Puissant Grand Council, I do hereby apportion the several Councils in this jurisdiction to the several Grand Officers for Official Visitation, as follows:

R. I. GEO. M. OSGOODBY, D. G. M., Councils Nos. 16, 25, 32, 35, 38, 66.

R. I. CHARLES W. BROWN, I. P. C. of W., Councils Nos. 15, 17, 20, 28, 31, 62.

R. I. A. B. KING, G. C. of G., Councils Nos. 22, 29, 37, 46, 52.

R. I. JOHN F. BALDWIN, G. C. of C., Councils Nos. 1, 4, 7, 21.

R. I. and Rev. JOHN G. WEBSTER, Grand Chaplain, Councils Nos. 18, 19, 23, 27.

R. I. P. VERHOEVEN, Grand Marshal, Councils Nos. 2, 36, 55, 64.

I. THOMAS H. FLOYD, Grand Steward, Councils Nos. 8, 26, 45, 56, 65, 67.

R. I. JOHN J. MARTIN, Grand Lecturer, Councils Nos. 14, 24, 30, 40, 41, 61.

The several Grand Officers are requested to make a full written report to me of their visitations, on or before the first day of June next.

By order,

JOHN B. SACKETT,

M. I. Grand Master.

Attest:

GEORGE VAN VLIET,

Grand Recorder.

As the result of the above apportionment, and the visitations of the Grand Officers, I submit the following reports:

To JOHN B. SACKETT,

MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER OF ROYAL AND SELECT
MASTER MASONS OF STATE OF NEW YORK:

The undersigned, having in compliance with the apportionment made among the different Officers of the Grand Council for the visitation of Subordinate Councils, made visits or ascertained the standing and condition of the Councils so assigned to him, would most respectfully report:

That Southern Tier Council, No. 16, has a membership of 97. That its financial condition is fair, but not as good as should be wished and expected from a Council of that number, and located in a city like Elmira. This Council has held but one meeting since the election in December last. The officers of this Council are very well posted in the Work.

The financial condition of the times is depressing, and prevents a good many who would, under other circumstances, become members of the Council, from so doing.

With a change in the times, with the money market easier, and the return of a prosperous era to the finances of the country, I have no doubt but that Southern Tier Council, under the direction of officers and a head as competent as this Council has, and with the aid and influence of its friends and members, including a past Grand Master, will meet with a success which will be unequalled by any of like jurisdiction.

I might add that this Jurisdiction has to support two Lodges, one Chapter, one Council, and one Commandery.

I further report that Dunkirk Council, No. 25, is in about the same condition as Southern Tier Council, having had but few meetings during the past year. I have not been able to have a meeting appointed at which I could meet this Council, although I have requested it of the Council. The following statement of its condition, etc., is furnished me by the T. I. Master:

Dunkirk Council has 50 members in good standing. The financial condition is not good, and the Council is in debt to some extent, and the Illustrious Master states: "I can see no immediate way of cleaning our books, owing to the depressing times, and the disposition of Chapter members to jump the Council to the Commandery."

The officers are well posted in the Work, but there seems to be a discouraging aspect to the future prospects of the Council in the opinion of its worthy Master. In the light of fairer days, which the future may bring forth, it is earnestly hoped that this Council will blossom forth to renewed life and vitality.

Chautauqua Council, No. 32, I regret to report, holds no meetings, is not prospering, and that I have been unable to get any information from its officers, or to have a meeting held at which I could make them a visit.

Hornellsville Council, No. 35, has made no additions to its membership during the past year. The financial condition is good, and the officers are very well posted in the Work, which could hardly be otherwise in this hot-bed of Masonry. The present hall of the Council is not adapted to their work, and is, on many accounts, very distasteful to its members; but with the completion of their new hall, in which the fraternity here have invested \$4,000, and their commencing work therein, we may confidently expect, as do the officers of this Council, that "Work" will revive, and that this Council will assume in Cryptic Masonry the same high and advanced position it occupies in the other branches of our Order.

Seneca Council, No. 38. I have visited this Council, and been greeted by its officers and members. Its membership is 33. Its officers are well posted in the "Work." Its usual attendance is fair. Its financial condition is good, and its prospects for the future as good as that of most other Masonic bodies.

The financial condition of the country has also affected this Council in some degree, and it has the same cause for complaint that many other Masonic bodies have, *i. e.*, that times are hard, and worthy members of other bodies, subordinate in degree, who would gladly avail themselves of the Council degrees, find that their charity belongs first to their own households, ere they advance in the light of Masonry.

Canandaigua Council, No. 66, is not in good condition. No meetings are held. I have personally been to see officers of this Council, and urged them to make an effort to revive their Work, and do something; and while of the officers I find those who would gladly do so, there appears to be a lack of interest at its head. A thorough waking up and an earnest revival in "good works" will be the only way that this Council can come forward into the ranks of its worthy sisters in Cryptic Masonry.

In conclusion, I have to say that considering the main burden of complaint wherever I have had the pleasure of a visit or of interviews with officers of these Councils, *i. e.*, hard financial times, etc., I see cause for congratulation that our Councils have held their own, that the hard times have not caused many more of them to succumb and surrender their Warrants. And with a change of times, and years of prosperity, such as we are in faith looking for in the near future, I look forward to the advancement of Cryptic Masonry, and its exaltation to that position in the Grand Masonic Edifice where it properly belongs, and where its light and beauty will reflect upon its members, adding to the lustre of its associate bodies, and bringing into a closer inti-

macy the different organizations having for their united ultimate object the advancement of the cardinal principles upon which the whole body of Masonry is founded.

I am, Most Illustrious Sir,

Fraternally yours,

GEORGE M. OSGOODBY,

Deputy Grand Master.

August 21st, 1876.

FLUSHING, N. Y., AUG. 31, 1876.

M. ILL. JOHN B. SACKETT,

GRAND MASTER OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS IN THE
STATE OF NEW YORK:

DEAR SIR AND M. ILL. COMP.: Systematic visitation of Councils, and faithful and energetic work by the Grand Officers ought to be, and I am confident must be, productive of much good to Cryptic Masonry in our State, and I regret exceedingly that I have been unable to do my full share of the labor, and experience my full degree of pleasure in visiting all of the Councils (Nos. 15, 17, 20, 28, 31, and 62) which it pleased you to assign to my especial care in your apportionment of the jurisdiction.

As you are aware, I visited Buffalo Council, No. 17, and Keystone Council, No. 20, of the city of Buffalo, on the evening of March 4th, the two Councils meeting in joint assembly for my accommodation.

As you were present on that occasion, I need to say for the benefit of others who may read this report only, that this was a most pleasant and interesting meeting. There were present over one hundred of the really *Select* Masons of the city, and among them were those who have become distinguished in the fraternity of the State, and of the Union. The degrees were conferred in an unexceptionable manner; officers from both Councils occupying the several stations. Cryptic Masonry in Buffalo is by no means defunct, on the other hand it is vigorous, and its members enthusiastic and devoted. It is given its due prominence in our American system, and its beauties are understood and appreciated.

On the fifteenth of March you accompanied me on my official visit to Bruce Council, No. 15, of the city of Lockport. Here the Companions had the pleasure of listening to a most instructive and entertaining address (read by yourself) upon the Cryptic Rite, and the duties of its members. Here, also, we had the great pleasure of meeting and taking by the hand that veteran of the Rite, an ex-chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, R. Ill. Companion CHARLES CRAIG. Companion CRAIG, after an interim of several years, has again been called upon to wield the gavel of Bruce Council,

which gives assurance that the interests of this body will not for the present, at least, be suffered to languish. The degree of Royal Master was conferred in a manner creditable to all participating. Bruce Council is evidently in a good, healthy condition, and will, no doubt, be numbered on our rolls and be distinguished among its sister Councils for very many years to come.

I made an engagement last winter with R. Ill. Companion MARTIN, Grand Lecturer, to visit Hudson Council, No. 62, at a time of which he was to give me notice. After some months I was informed by Companion MARTIN that he had waited in vain to hear from the Council concerning his visit, but had concluded that his services were not required. Waiting for this information prevented my visiting the Council in the Spring as I had intended. I do not mention this to censure any person, but as explanatory of my neglect to make the visit. The Master of this Council, Companion WHITING, writes that he "cannot give a very favorable account of the Council for the last year." That he has removed from the city, and has been unable to give the Council his personal attention for some time past. He "thinks that the future of the Council will be an improvement on the past," that "the times have been such that but few applications for the degrees have been received, but that the attendance is good, and all of the members take an interest in the welfare of the Council."

This last is certainly an encouraging state of things, and I hope that with better "times" work will be abundant within their Secret Vault. They "possess good paraphernalia, are well posted, and in good working order."

R. Ill. Companion and Grand Steward, THOMAS H. FLOYD, who is also Master of Utica Council, No. 28, writes that that body "is in a live and flourishing condition," that they "have work at almost every meeting, but an average attendance of only about 20 in a membership of 130;" that "those who do attend are ardent in their attachment to the Cryptic degrees, and take great interest in all that pertains to their advancement;" that "Utica Council is considered by its members as *par excellence*, the nicest Masonic body in the city."

Th. Ill. Companion ESTABROOK writes of King Solomon's Council, No. 31, of Newburg, under date of March 1st: "Money is scarce and candidates are therefore few. There is no prospect of an Assembly of King Solomon's Council very soon." Aug. 19th, he writes: "Our Council is solvent, pays its debts and *keeps quiet*. The scarcity of money has prevented its growth, but what there is of it is healthy and peaceful." He recommends an amendment to the Constitution which shall fix the minimum fee for the degrees at five dollars instead of at ten as now. I am inclined to indorse his recommendation. This change certainly cannot injure the Grand Council, and if it benefits subordinate Councils will benefit the Grand body. The argu-

ment that the degrees will not be valued if they cost so little, can have no force in the present condition of the Rite.

I have written this report hastily, during business hours, and have been subjected to frequent interruptions, because compelled to do this or make none at all. I trust that for this reason its crudeness and other imperfections may be overlooked.

Trusting that my associate officers have been able to perform their duties more faithfully than I have done, and hoping that you will pardon the lateness of this report—want of leisure preventing my making it earlier—I am,

Very truly and fraternally yours,

C. W. BROWN,

G.:Prin. Conductor of the Works.

TROY, N. Y., JULY 29, 1876.

TO THE M.:I.: JOHN B. SACKETT,

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

M.:I.: SIR AND COMPANION: In compliance with your request, I herewith transmit to you my report of the Councils assigned me for visitation.

Not having been able personally to visit Cryptic Council, No. 37, located at Saratoga Springs, Washington, No. 52, at Whitehall, and Zabud, No. 46, at Schuylerville, I wrote each of the T.:I.: Masters of these Councils under date of April 19th, requesting them to inform me, by mail, of the condition of their Councils, and such other information as would enable me to make to you a full report of the condition of each Council assigned to my charge. Up to this date I have as yet received no reply except from I.: Companion LAWRENCE, of Zabud Council, No. 46, who informs me that his Council has not met for the past year, is in debt some \$45.00 for furniture, and owes him for Grand Council dues advanced—or in other words this Council is defunct.

In regard to Mohawk Council, No. 39, located at Cohoes, I made to you, early in the season, a special report (which you will please see), since which I have nothing new to report.

It has been my pleasure on several occasions during the past year to visit De Witt Clinton Council, No. 22, at Albany, and I can assure you it was indeed a pleasure. This Council, under the able management of R.:I.: Companion JOHN J. MARTIN, and his able assistant officers, is in a prosperous and enviable position, and I have no doubt, is the *best working* Council in the jurisdiction; to say the least, they hold a position, as a working Council, of which they may justly be proud.

In conclusion, permit me, M.:I.: Sir, to return you my sincere thanks for

the honor of my appointment, and to extend to you my best wishes for your future happiness and prosperity, and trusting that you will pardon the delay in making this report, I remain,

Fraternally yours,

A. B. KING,
C. of G.

174 FULTON ST.,
NEW YORK, AUG. 23, 1876.

M. I. JOHN B. SACKETT,

G. M. R. AND S. M. STATE N. Y.

DEAR SIR: Yours of 14th reached me through Companion BROWN. The events in my family during the past year—made up of sickness and death, and which afflictions are not yet finished—have prevented me from doing anything more than routine duty.

I had promised myself much pleasure in visiting, but I have failed to be able to do my duty in that regard, and am obliged to say that I have no report to make.

I am, very respectfully and truly yours,

JOHN F. BALDWIN.

PALMYRA, AUG. 21, 1876.

J. B. SACKETT, Esq., M. I. G., &c.

M. ILL. SIR AND COMPANION: I have to report that I have no satisfactory report to make. I laid out my work in the spring, at a time when my duties would have permitted me to attend to it. Not having any guide as to the time of meetings of the Councils assigned to me, I wrote to them, respectfully asking the time of their meetings and when it would be convenient to have me visit them, but from none of them save King Hiram, No. 18, did I get any reply.

They finally settled upon the 10th of June as the time they would receive me. But as I was necessarily absent in New York at that date, I could not go; hence, without my fault, the failure. So far as I can ascertain, the Cryptic Rite hereabouts is *statu quo*, owing to the financial depression that everywhere prevails. I would suggest the propriety of publishing in our Proceedings, the time of meetings of the different Councils. It would be a guide to the Grand Officers, who could set their *own* time and then go.

Fraternally, &c.

JOHN G. WEBSTER.

NEW YORK, MAY 31, 1876.

M.:ILL.: JOHN B. SACKETT,

GR. MASTER R.: AND S.: MAS. STATE OF N. Y.

M.:ILL.: SIR: In obedience to a resolution of the Grand Council, and your assignment, I have visited the Councils as follows, viz :

Union Council, No. 2, on April 14th. Communicated the degrees to one candidate.

Peekskill Council, No. 55, on May 8th, the work being exemplified by T.: Ill.: Companion JOHN OMBONY and officers, in a creditable manner.

Pentalphia Council, No. 36, on May 12th, the work being exemplified by T.: Ill.: Companion THOMAS DARLING.

Sing Sing Council, No. 64, on May 19th, and conferred the degrees on six candidates, with the assistance of T.: I.: Companion JOHN OMBONY and officers of Peekskill Council.

In all of them I found the books correctly kept, and I communicated to the T.: I.: Masters and Recorders the instructions contained in your letter of November 10th, 1875. I also take this opportunity of thanking the Companions of the Councils I have visited, for their courteous and fraternal reception.

Respectfully and Fraternaly yours,

P. VERHOEVEN. Grand Marshal.

OFFICE OF GRAND STEWARD,

UTICA, N. Y., APRIL 17, 1876.

JOHN B. SACKETT, Esq.,

GRAND MASTER OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASONS OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK.

MOST ILL.: SIR: In accordance with request in your printed circular, I herewith inclose my report of the subordinate Councils placed in my district for visitation. It grieves me seriously to have to report that of the six Councils assigned me, I only find one in condition to be visited officially.

On the 10th of February, 1876, I issued circulars to Eureka, No. 8, Greene; Palmyra, No. 26, Palmyra; Otsego, No. 45, Cooperstown; Afton, No. 56, Afton; Chenango Valley, No. 65, Sherburne; and Norwich, No. 67, Norwich, announcing my appointment to visit those several Councils. The following is my report, as the result of such notices.

Eureka, No. 8, Greene, N. Y. No answer received at all to request asking when it would be convenient to receive my visit.

Palmyra, No. 26, Palmyra. On the 13th of March, 1876, in company with Ill.: Companion WELTON, of Utica Council, No. 28, I visited this Council, and was received with the grand honors. The work of the Royal and Select

Masters Degrees was performed by the Th. Ill. Master, Companion JACKSON, and showed such a strict adherence to the standard work of Cryptic Masonry, as to excite my heartiest admiration. Under the faithful ministrations of Companion JACKSON and his assistants, Palmyra, No. 26, cannot fail of receiving words of praise from all who may penetrate its Secret Vault.

Osseo, No. 45, Cooperstown. This Council is sorely crippled on account of several of its working members having moved away. The Master is unable to get a sufficient number present to open a Council.

Afton, No. 56, Afton, same report. As for Eureka, No. 8, no answer received to my communication. Chenango Valley, No. 65, Sherburne. On account of the small number of members of this Council, it is very difficult to get the requisite number present to open the Council; as a consequence the assemblies are not held as regularly as the officers could wish. They live in hopes, however, and expect during the summer months to add to their numbers. Norwich, No. 67, Norwich. This Council is laboring under the heavy load of a debt of \$120.00. They are trying to get along without adding to this burden, and as the Council holds no meetings, it is sincerely hoped, in course of time, when money becomes easier, and "work" more plentiful, that No. 67 will resume her place.

This ends my report, and though nothing very favorable to Cryptic Masonry is contained in it, still I am satisfied that our beautiful degrees are being more and more appreciated, and that all we require is the making of these degrees a prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood, to ensure our final success.

With many thanks for the honor conferred upon me by the appointment as Grand Steward, I remain,

Yours Fraternaly,

THOMAS H. FLOYD,

Grand Steward.

ALBANY, JUNE 5, 1876.

M. ILL. JOHN B. SACKETT,

GRAND MASTER.

Your order, assigning various Councils for me to visit, came duly to hand, and I regret that I have been unable to fully comply with your instructions.

I visited Bloss Council, No. 14, November 5th, 1875, and March 17th, 1876, on both occasions accompanied by a number of Companions of DeWitt Clinton Council, and was very much pleased, not only for the cordial and friendly greeting we received, but for the able manner in which the Ritual was rendered.

I have sent communications to Nos. 24, 30, 40, 41 and 61, but as yet have received an answer from only one, No. 24, which you will find inclosed. I have received an invitation from Columbian Council, No. 1, and have accepted the same, to visit them in working the Degrees of the Council, June 9th. Also a communication from Konhocton Council, No. 40, inquiring about a change of work. Answered, I trust, satisfactorily.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN J. MARTIN,

Grand Lecturer.

From the Reports of the Grand Officers it will be seen that the condition of many of the Councils in this jurisdiction is a pitiful one. They are either dying or dead, and any further attempt on the part of this Grand Council to revivify them will be utterly useless.

Some of them have gone to "that bourne from whence no traveler returns," and all that remains for this Grand Body to do is to erect a suitable monument to their memory.

They died from starvation, the family being so large and so numerous that the foster parents (the Royal Arch Chapters) failed to supply them with the necessaries so essential to their existence. Let their epitaph be written.

At the last Annual Assembly of the Grand Council, the subject matter of taking some action in relation to those Councils neglecting to make returns to this Grand Council, was referred to the Committee on Warrants, who reported as follows:

"As regards those Councils which are in arrears and have failed to make returns for two years or more, your Committee would recommend that the whole subject be referred to the Grand Master with power."

It was advisable that these dormant Councils should be resuscitated if possible, but if not, that their Warrants should be revoked. On the first day of November, I issued the following order, which was sent to last Thrice Illustrious Master, Right Illustrious Deputy Master, and Illustrious Principal Conductor of the Works of the following Councils, they having failed to make returns, or pay dues for the last two years:

Genesee, No. 9, Olean, No. 33, Watertown, No. 34, Northern Light, No. 39, Canajoharie, No. 42, Tyrian, No. 43, Alanson Brown, No. 44, Wadsworth, No. 47, Wyoming, No. 48, Fredonia, No. 49, Fulton, No. 50, Northern Constellation, No. 51; Corning, No. 53, Deer Park, No. 54, Belfast, No. 63.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER
OF
ROYAL AND SELECT MASTER MASONS
OF
THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

BUFFALO, NOV. 1, A. Dep. 2875.

TO THE T. I. M. AND COMPANIONS
OF..... COUNCIL, NO.....

At the recent Annual Assembly of the Most Puissant Grand Council, held in the city of New York, the subject matter of taking some action in relation to the Dormant Councils in this jurisdiction, was referred to the M. I. Grand Master with power.

It, therefore, becomes my duty to call your attention to Section 19, Article 1, of the Constitution, which is as follows:

“Any Council neglecting or refusing to make returns and pay dues for two years, may be punished by the forfeiture of its Warrant, and only be restored by paying all back dues, and offering sufficient apology for violation of the constitutional regulations of this Grand Council.”

Your Council is now years in arrears for dues to the Grand Council. If it is the desire of your Council to make returns, pay up the back dues, and retain its Warrant, you can have until the first day of January, 1876, to do so. Meanwhile, you should at the proper time; (viz.: at the time fixed for your regular Assembly immediately preceding the Festival of St. John the Evangelist,) elect your officers for the ensuing Masonic year.

Should you conclude to adopt the above suggestions, it will give me pleasure to welcome your representatives again to seats in the Grand Council; but should you fail to comply with the requirements of the Constitution, you will forward to me, at the city of Buffalo, the Warrant, and all the property of your Council, which then and in such case becomes the property of the Grand Council.

By order,

JOHN B. SACKETT,

M. I. Grand Master.

Attest:

GEORGE VAN VLIET,

Grand Recorder.

I regret to inform the Grand Council that this order failed to breathe into these Councils the breath of life, with but one exception, that of Washington Council, No. 52. I am informed by the Grand Recorder, that that Council, on the thirtieth of December last, paid dues to August, 1874, and promised at

that time to pay all back dues to the Grand Council so soon as they procured the necessary blanks, which the Grand Recorder lost no time in forwarding.

Fredonia Council, No. 49, Fulton, No. 50, and Belfast, No. 63, have surrendered their Warrants, while the following named Councils, Genesee, No. 9, Olean, No. 33, Watertown, No. 34, Northern Light, No. 39, Canajoharie, No. 42, Tyrian, No. 43, Alanson Brown, No. 44, Wadsworth, No. 47, Wyoming, No. 48, Northern Constellation, No. 51, Corning, No. 53, and Deer Park, No. 54, having failed to pay dues to the Grand Council or surrender their Warrants, I would recommend that you take the necessary action to revoke their Warrants.

It is time this Grand Council should cease granting Warrants to form new Councils in every little hamlet where there are but a dozen Royal Arch Masons.

Let us endeavor to build up our present number of Councils, and discourage the formation of others, unless it may be in localities where there are at least two or three Chapters, and a large number of Royal Arch Masons who would take interest enough in our Cryptic Rite to sustain a live Council. Let us lop off these dry limbs and endeavor by careful pruning to keep alive the old tree which has protected us from the sunshine and the storm these many years, and if hereafter we desire to engraft new ones upon it, let them be such that they will produce rich and luscious fruit, not the scraggy, shriveled things with which our eyes have been regaled for these many years.

October 25th, at the city of Buffalo, I installed Right Illustrious Companion OSGOODBY, as the Deputy Grand Master of this Grand Council, he having been in England at the time of our last regular Assembly.

November 22d, assisted by the Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master, and the Principal Conductor of the Works, I constituted Ithaca Council, No. 68, and installed its officers. This Council is composed of a class of active, earnest Masons, and unless I am mistaken, will be a credit to the fraternity of Ithaca, and an honor to this Grand Council.

December 28th, I granted a dispensation to King Hiram Council, No. 18, to hold a special election.

On the first day of September, 1876, I issued a dispensation authorizing Hudson River Council, No. 21, to hold a special election.

During the year I have had the pleasure of visiting several of the Councils in the western part of the State, and without an exception have found them in as prosperous a condition as the stringency of the times will admit of; but if we desire to see Cryptic Masonry prosper, if we wish to see it occupy that position in the unity of the different Masonic bodies to which it is justly entitled, we must insist upon these degrees being made a prerequisite to the orders of Knighthood.

When this shall be done, as I trust it soon will be, this department of Masonry will flourish equally with the others; but unless it shall be accomplished we may expect to see it drag out a miserable existence, and go down to its "peaceful resting place" unhonored and unsung.

Let me call your attention upon this subject, to the action of the General Grand Encampment which met at New Orleans in December, 1874. A committee consisting of Most Illustrious Companions

- J. H. DRUMMOND,.....Maine.
- JOHN FRIZZELL,Tennessee.
- G. FRED. WILTSIE,.....New York.
- W. A. PRALL,.....Missouri.
- P. M. SAVORY,Mississippi.
- S. M. TODD,Louisiana.

appointed by the New York Convention to memorialize that Grand Body upon this subject, presented the following :

"TO THE MOST EMINENT GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF THE U. S.

"At a Convention of the Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters in the United States, the undersigned were appointed a committee to memorialize your Most Eminent Body to make the Cryptic degrees prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood.

"These degrees are fully recognized and permanently established as a part of the 'American System,' and it needs no argument to show the great desirability of having that system compose a continuous order of degrees; the undersigned, therefore, invoke a favorable consideration of this request of the Convention of the Grand Councils.

SIGNED BY THE COMMITTEE."

This memorial was referred to a Special Committee, who made the following report :

"The memorial from a 'Convention of Royal and Select Masters,' requesting this Grand Encampment to make the Cryptic Degrees prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood, a majority of your committee report adversely to."

Whether the *minority* of that committee made a favorable report upon this subject, or whether there was any discussion on the part of the committee who presented this petition and the committee to whom it was referred, we are unable to learn.

But it is evident that their request was denied, and that we are no nearer to-day in accomplishing this desired object than we were years ago. Before dismissing the subject I desire to call your attention to the following extracts from the reports of a few of our sister Grand Councils :

From the Committee on Jurisprudence of the Grand Council of Indiana :

"The subject of prerequisites has been acted upon heretofore, so far as this Grand Council can do anything, and that has been by petition to the Grand Encampment of the United States, which has on all occasions been refused by that Grand body. The committee do not deem it advisable to take further action at this time."

Most Illustrious Companion PILLANS, Grand Master of Alabama, in his Annual Address to that Grand Council, says :

"The scheme of Masonry is incomplete without the Cryptic Degrees. The whole of Masonry consists in the loss, restoration, and preservation of the Word, and what inquiring Mason ought to be satisfied until he should have obtained the whole of this information. But, alas, I fear that a search after light inspires but few of those who seek the Masonic degrees. Too easily are they satisfied with the name of Mason, and too little do they think of the noble teachings of the order."

Most Illustrious Companion WALTER, Grand Master of Mississippi, says :

"The General Grand Commandery of the United States has refused to make the Degrees of the Council prerequisite to the reception of the Degrees of the Encampment. This action has proven to be a fatal blow to Cryptic Masonry in this State. The Royal Arch Degree, stripped of most of its real beauties by the severance of the Royal and Select Degrees from it, proves of but little attraction to its recipient.

"Dissatisfied with the 'Exalted Degree,' he seeks no further advancement in Ancient Masonry, and, without any knowledge of the real beauty and value of our degrees, hastens to the more attractive, but, perhaps, not less beautiful and instructive degree of the Encampment.

"The result is that Royal Arch Masons are such in name only, possessing the form, but destitute of the spirit of the Degree. The evil is a serious one. What shall be the remedy?"

Right Illustrious Companion GOULEY, the Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of Missouri, speaks out thus plainly :

"Something has got to be done for Cryptic Masonry outside of the present system of its arrangement. But very few Grand Councils report anything worthy of particular notice, apart from the fact that with very few exceptions nearly all the Grand Councils are in a languishing condition. There is still one hope left, viz: that the Grand Chapters will take charge of the degrees, or else that the Grand Encampment will give up the Red Cross Degree. Either will save the Councils, and, for ourselves, we prefer the former course."

Most Illustrious Companion NICHOLS, of the Grand Council of North Carolina, speaks despondingly on this subject :

“Cryptic Masonry in this jurisdiction stands just where it did one year ago. It neither recedes nor advances, and the interest therein, with perhaps one or two exceptions, (so far as I can learn,) is not such as to indicate any very rapid strides in the future. It is a matter of regret to all who have its welfare at heart that so much luke-warmness exists.”

From Companion BLODEGTT, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence of the Grand Council of Rhode Island :

“Cryptic Masonry, from all accounts, has not increased to any extent during the past year. In some sections it has strengthened, while in others it has weakened, or stands still. Some urge the giving up of the degrees, and others making them prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood. If the degrees are worth anything, they are worth preserving. How that can be done, is a question for some one to answer.”

Grand Master WOODHULL, of Wisconsin, says :

“I am unable to speak exultingly of the condition of Cryptic Masonry in our jurisdiction. The few Councils we have are, some of them, prosperous, while others are, well ! not gasping, neither dying—simply breathing hard, and not even enough energy in this to indicate any inward fever, but rather a quiet, sleepy mood, similar to that following the toothache.”

Most Illustrious Companion DANA, of the Grand Council of Vermont :

“Upon examination of the Proceedings of the Grand Encampment, it appears that the proposition to make the Cryptic Degrees a prerequisite for Knighthood, was not acted upon; and yet this proposal seems to accord with the growing sentiment in Masonic circles from the Penobscot to the Pacific, and to be supported by leading minds in every section of the republic. The lapse of time will doubtless bring unanimity of feeling upon this subject, and the American System of Masonry at last stand complete in harmonious proportions before the world.”

Most Illustrious Grand Master ST. JOHN, of the Grand Council of Massachusetts, says :

“The more I study the plan and scope of this institution, the more clearly do I see the necessity of making these degrees of the Cryptic Rite a regular step in the advancement of the aspirant after Masonic honors. In the Secret Vault alone is that knowledge obtained that completes the story of the second temple, and fits a man for a full appreciation of the Masonic tradition. Without these, the Royal Arch is but a partial history, while upon the instructions

they give, the candidate treads more confidently the pathway to the Order of the Red Cross."

I have presented the foregoing extracts from a few of the Grand Councils in order that you might learn the position taken by them on this important question.

I am in favor of making one more effort to persuade the General Grand Encampment to take such action in this matter as will finally settle the whole subject forever, and I would recommend that a committee of three be appointed by this Grand Council, to act with similar committees of the several Grand Councils of the United States that may be hereafter appointed, and that these several committees form one general committee, and that that committee appear before the Grand Encampment which meets at Cleveland in 1877, and respectfully but earnestly discuss this matter before that Grand Body.

This question should be settled immediately, and members of the Cryptic Rite should understand what they may expect as to the future of this branch of our institution.

The National Convention of Royal and Select Masters of the United States, met in the city of New Orleans, November 31st, 1874. You will find the proceedings of this body in my predecessors address of last year. The Convention adjourned to meet in the city of Buffalo, on the Monday before the third Tuesday in August, 1877.

Your attention is called to this subject in order that you may take such action in regard to the meeting of that convention as you shall deem advisable.

During the year I have appointed the following representatives of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of New York, near other Grand Councils :

M. . I. .	WILLIAM PORTER ANDERSON,	Massachusetts.
M. . I. .	R. M. SMITH,	Georgia.
Comp.	GEORGE H. BIGELOW,	Vermont.
M. . I. .	GEORGE W. COOLEY,	Minnesota.
Comp.	BENJAMIN F. POPE,	Alabama.
M. . I. .	WILLIAM MORRILL,	Florida.
M. . I. .	LUCIEN A. FOOTE,	Indiana.
Comp.	HENRY NEWBURGER,	Ohio.
M. . I. .	J. P. C. COTRILL,	Wisconsin.
I. .	DAVID BROCKWAY,	Kansas.
M. . I. .	A. H. CUSHMAN,	Rhode Island.

I have recommended and received appointments for the following Companions as representatives of the following named Grand Councils near the Grand Council of New York :

M.:I.: JOHN D. WILLIAMS,.....	Kansas.
R.:I.: GEORGE M. OSGOODBY,.....	Wisconsin.
R.:I.: CHARLES W. BROWN,.....	Rhode Island.
R.:I.: A. B. KING,.....	Minnesota.
R.:I.: JOHN F. BALDWIN,.....	Florida.
R.:I.: P. VERHOEVEN,.....	Georgia.
R.:I.: THOMAS H. FLOYD,.....	Alabama.
R.:I.: JOHN J. MARTIN,.....	Massachusetts.
I.: DARWIN E. MORGAN,.....	Ohio.
Comp. HAWLEY KLEIN,.....	Indiana.

During the past year I have, with the assistance of the Grand Recorder, succeeded in reducing the expenses of the Grand Council in order that a sufficient sum might be saved wherewith to pay the representatives at this Annual Assembly, and I would recommend that a still further reduction be made, if possible, in order that this Grand Body may be self-sustaining, without levying a further tax upon subordinate Councils. The time may soon arrive, and perhaps has already arrived, when, instead of holding an Annual Assembly, we should hold one triennially, and thereby make a large saving in our expenses. I believe that the business of the Grand Council could all be transacted at a Triennial Assembly, and as thoroughly done as if we met annually. While I do not recommend any change at present, yet I submit this question for your future consideration.

Companions, in retiring from the exalted position of Most Illustrious Grand Master, I am not unmindful of the high honor conferred upon me at our last Annual Assembly.

The duties of the office have been light, while the responsibility has not been lessened.

Devoted to the interests of Cryptic Masonry, I look over the field and see the blighting effects of the mildew and rust of carelessness and neglect, and my heart is sad within me, and yet there should be, in a great jurisdiction like that of New York, an abundant harvest. Let us once more consecrate ourselves to this noble work, and press forward with renewed vigor for the full accomplishment of that object; and for one, I pledge myself that I will in the future, as in the past, lend my feeble efforts to assist my Companions in advancing the interests of our Cryptic Rite.

To-morrow I shall be among you an humble member on the floor of this Grand Council, while another, who is more worthy and much better qualified, will succeed me in the discharge of these important duties.

As we are now about to enter upon our labors, let us invoke the presence and approving smile of our Great Grand Master upon the deliberations of this Annual Assembly, that all our work "begun, continued and ended," may redound to His glory, to our individual happiness and advancement, and to the good of Cryptic Masonry throughout the world.

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

JOHN G. WEBSTER, CHARLES G. HUDSON, HENRY WATERS.

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:

RECEIPTS.

From the Grand Recorder, \$1,514.75

DISBURSEMENTS.

Warrant No. 459.	To J. F. Baldwin, for Printing,.....	\$ 11.00	
" " 460.	Balance due Grand Treasurer,.....	77.00	
" " 461.	To D. B. Howell & Co., for Aprons, &c.,	152.50	
" " 462.	" G. Van Vliet for Salary & Postage,	326.51	
" " 463.	" Trustees H. & A. Fund for Rent of Room and Safe,.....	55.00	
" " 464.	" G. Fred. Wiltsie, for Expenses to Convention and Postage,.....	205.90	
" " 465.	" C. G. Hudson, for Report on For- eign Correspondence,.....	50.00	
" " 466.	For pay of 42 Representatives,.....	252.00	
" " 466.	" " " Grand Sentinel,.....	10.00	
" " 467.	To J. F. Baldwin, for Printing, (blank returns,).....	43.15	\$1,183.06

Balance on hand,.....\$331.69

Respectfully submitted,

D. B. HOWELL, Grand Treasurer.

New York, Sept. 12th, 1876.

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 1875, (as per printed proceedings,).....	\$1,201.00
Dec. 30th, 1875—From Washington Council, No. 52, for dues to Aug. 1st, 1874,.....	15.75
June 26th, 1876—From Adelpic Council, No. 7, for dues to Aug. 1st, 1875,.....	88.00
August 3d, 1876—From DeWitt Clinton Council, No. 22, for dues to Aug. 1st, 1876,.....	110.50
August 18th—From Genesee Valley Council, No. 41, for dues to Aug. 1st, 1876,.....	15.00
August 28th, 1876—From Brooklyn Council, No. 4, account dues to Aug. 1st, 1876,.....	45.50
August 31st, 1876—From Chenango Valley Council, No. 65, for dues to Aug. 1st, 1876,.....	7.00
Sept. 7th, 1876—From Hudson Council, No. 62, for dues to Aug. 1st, 1876,.....	25.50
For Grand Council Seals to Diplomas to date,.....	6.50
Total,.....	\$1,514.75

I have Registered in the Grand Council Registry.....2,571 names
among which the following changes have occurred :

Suspended,.....	86	
Died,.....	52	
Dimited,.....	25	
Expelled,.....	1	164

Leaving the number in good standing to this date,..... 2,407 names.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. VAN VLIET, Grand Recorder.

New York, Sept. 12th, 1876.

The Rev. Companion CHARLES G. HUDSON, (Chairman of our Committee on Foreign Correspondence,) by invitation, delivered an address before the Grand Council, and by request, furnished the following copy for publication in our Proceedings :

MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER AND COMPANIONS :

Man is a social being. After the completion of the work of creation, when all animate objects were brought before our Father, and there was no company found for him, it was said it was not good for man to be alone, and from that day to this, it has never been found possible for man to live by himself.

The most helpless of all animals at his birth, throughout his whole life he needs the help of his fellows and the aid of society. To-day, if by the sweep of some enchanter's wand the great bond of unity, the affection of the human heart, and the sympathy that joins soul with soul, should be broken, our civilization would perish, society would diappear, man would degenerate into a savage, and the world would become a wilderness.

But, while one common sentiment unites all humanity, and every man is our brother, yet in so vast a world there have always been, and must always be, some who are nearer and dearer than the rest. Our hearts are deeper stirred toward some than others, else there would be no family ties, nor the sacred love that unites the hearts of husband and wife, parent and child. But in the history of mankind, outside of the family circle, there have always been those who have felt especial affinities.

While mankind should be one grand brotherhood of peace and righteousness, we cannot help feeling peculiar drawings towards some, for all cannot be equally dear.

Men have ever bound themselves together into societies and fraternities, from the earliest ages, and will continue to do so as long as time shall endure. They have formed retreats apart from the rest of the world; they have had their private circles, where, undisturbed by the busy throng, they might give full rein to the joys of friendship, the amenities of social intercourse, sympathizing in each other's sorrows, rejoicing in the common joy, extending the helping hand to one another, imparting from each other's love, or handing down from generation to generation, great principles of truth or secrets of benefit to mankind.

Afar up the stream of time, in that distant past which long ago became hazy with forgetfulness, chosen bands drew together in closer ties. As the traveler to-day wanders amid the ruins of the hundred gates of Thebes, or the temples of Luxor, or the massive columns of Palmyra, and reads in those shattered memorials the glories of former greatness, so can the antiquarian find

in the history of the past, here and there a stone with some mark upon it, that tells of some brotherhood of ancient men; or he will come across some grand Colosseum-like ruin, or some beautiful, ivy-covered Abbey, that speaks of the time, when hand clasped hand, and heart beat true to heart.

On the banks of the far off Euphrates, near the cradle of the race, are found the remains of brotherhood.

On the shores of the overflowing Nile the fraternities of the priests handed down their secrets and mythology from age to age, with ordeals of fire, water and air.

Deep down in the ruins of the Jewish Metropolis, where once stood Jehovah's Temple, are found the marks of brethren bound together by a mystic tie, and the foot of the explorer wanders through secret vaults, which lead even beneath where once was the S.S. On the coasts of classic Greece the Pythagorians taught their mysteries and the powers of numbers, and the peoples of Hellas gathered at Eleusis to be initiated into the lesser and greater mysteries.

Look upon the lofty towers of the Cathedral at Cologne, or the spires of Milan, and you will read the mute story of the traveling builders.

The chivalrous Knights, together vowed to rescue the sepulchre from the infidel, or to defend the pilgrim.

From century to century, rite after rite has arisen, all having friendship, brotherhood, and some other grand and beneficent object in view. To-day, when man rules the earth, and the hum of million voices and the tread of myriad feet are heard all over the globe, there will be found, everywhere, circles of brethren, retired apart, on the mountain top, or in the recesses of the valley, cultivating the nobler portions of their natures.

In vain, then, may any declaim against brotherhoods and fraternities; in vain may they strive to do away with them, for all such efforts will ever fail, for it is striving against a longing of the human heart that can never be stifled.

Companions, it is our favored lot to belong to a fraternity that we revere as one of the most ancient and grand of all the family of brotherhoods. We are proud of the name of Freemason, and we profess to love our order with an undying affection. It is our boast that Freemasonry teaches the noblest principles and virtues. We celebrate its praises in our monitors, our orators, on St. John's day, wax eloquent in its defense, and often claim for it too much.

Now, the question that should present itself most frequently to every true Mason's heart, on which he should ponder longest and most earnestly, should be this: How shall we all to-day best acquit ourselves, and hand down to our successors what we have received from our fathers? What shall we do to prove true to the world what we assert of our order? How shall we reap the most

benefit from Masonry? And especially, as Companions of the Cryptic Rite, how shall we sustain and support the degrees which have so often charmed us by their beauty? And what shall we do to do away with the many lamentations of indifference, and to put an end to the prophecies of extinction and death? To these questions we will endeavor, this hour, to give some answer.

All of us once received an instructive lesson. Once, when we entered an open door and saw a slumbering sentinel, we were taught something that Cryptic Masons should never forget. It was not a mere ceremony. There was a reminder of the unceasing vigilance, with which we should ever guard the door of our S. V., and the care we should exercise in reference to those whom we allow to behold the glory of Israel. I have not words enough, or words strong enough, to deprecate the idea, that seems to so extensively prevail in the minds of many Masons, that the sole object of our Lodges, Chapters and Councils is to receive candidates. If our sole object is to raise, exalt, receive and greet candidates, and pass their fees into our treasuries, then Masonry is a humbug, our professions are fraud, and the sooner our Order disbands the better. There is something wrong in the idea, that bodies are to be called languishing, when candidates are few, that they are to die and become extinct, when candidates cease for a time. There are always times of reaction. The pendulum swings as far one way as it does the other. Commercial distress and stringency, and hard times, affect the number of candidates. But if, at every such time, Companions are to cry out death, and moan over languishment, if then inaction is to come upon us, and the sword and trowel fall from our grasp, then we have failed to comprehend the object of our Fraternity. We must not confound swelling with growth, abnormal increase in numbers with true prosperity. The arm or limb may swell up to the size of the body on account of disease, but we do not regard that as an evidence of growth or health, but rather a cause of alarm. I sometimes think it is the same with us, when candidates besiege our doors, and men rush from degree to degree, as if they were running a race. I believe, Companions, it is better to have one good candidate a year, one who will enter fully into the spirit of our institution, and be an honor to us, one who will be a perfect Ashlar in our temple, or a massive corner stone, or a lofty column, or a beauteous tracery and ornamentation, or a far-shadowing pinnacle. It is better to have such a one than it is to lead about a dozen poor ones, and have their names subscribed to our By-Laws.

A stomach daily gorged to repletion is no benefit to the system. A vine may grow up a pale and sickly plant in a summer, but it perishes under the breath of Autumn's frosts, while the sturdy oak, after its century's growth, will brave the storms of a thousand winters. Jonah's gourd grew in a night,

and it withered in a day. I believe that we have too many of the unworthy, who pass by our sleeping As.: I fear we look too often at the external and not the internal qualifications. In our greed for candidates, and our desire for dues, too many an ignorant and immoral man is entrusted with our secrets. Committees to inquire concerning the character and qualifications, fail to perform their duties. They do not inquire into the character, or they have too low an ideal of character; they fail to ask the question whether a man will have sympathy with our great design, and the workmen upon Lebanon, instead of choosing the sound cedars, bring to the temple rotten timber. I fear we have forgotten the good old Latin motto, *Festina lente*. We allow men to rush through from E. .A. . to K. .T. . in a month, or six months, or a year even. We deceive the guard who asks if the candidate has made sufficient proficiency to entitle him to advancement. And what is the result? Candidates are told that they have reached the summit and perfection of Ancient Masonry; they are duly dubbed as Sir Knights, and what do they know or realize about what they have seen? Their ideas of Masonry are a fog and a haze as deep as those upon which Londoners fatten. They cannot remember their words or grips or cuts. They cannot tell what induced them to become M. .M. . Their remembrance of the ritual is like that of a forgotten dream: Their minds are full like the gorged stomach, and its contents, like those of the gorged stomach, are thrown off, and just as soon as they have become tired of the novelty of the ceremonies, or candidates do not come in, they cease to attend our meetings. They do not care to learn our ritual and lectures, and they do not try.

How can we expect them to understand the nature of our Order? How can we expect them to study into its origin, its history, its mystery? How can we expect them to conform to its rules, or reverence its teachings? How can we expect them to embody in their lives its beautiful and virtuous precepts, or practice its morality? Can we expect anything else than that the name of the Grand Master of the universe should be profaned? or that the letter G should be seen staggering in the streets, or reeking with the fumes of alcohol? or that the square and compass should be paraded in the brothel? Is it unreasonable that the unassimilated Mason should take his dimit, or forget to pay his dues, or be unable to work his way into a Lodge? Of course such men will not think of Masonry, until some funeral calls them forth, or they swarm around the festal board with capacious stomach, or march down the street with glittering sword, waving feather and fuss of millinery.

Now, Companions, our aim is not only to make a candidate, but to do him good after he is made, to make him a better man, to make him a Mason in the true sense of the word, and with reciprocity to bestow benefit upon him and to receive the same from him.

If Masonry is anything at all, it is not mere ritual and ceremonies, but it is a band of friends and brothers, where social intercourse, morality and intellect are to be developed; and if all our work with a man is done, and we drop him as soon as he has signed the By-Laws, leaving him to sink or swim, survive or perish, to pick up a knowledge of our institution as best he may, and aid him not to become a true Mason and better man; if this be so, then it would have been better if he had never come among us, but had remained among the profane.

With all my heart I urge upon you, Companions, more care in the selection of our candidates, less regard for their number, more time between degrees, more faithful endeavor to incorporate our teachings into the lives of those whom we receive, as one answer to the questions we propounded.

How, then, shall this work be done? How shall those whom we receive be imbued with our principles and teachings, caused to be faithful in the performance of duty, and thus true prosperity be increased?

We answer, our Assemblies must be made so attractive, that every Companion will feel it to be a deprivation to be absent from one. Companion GOULEY, of Missouri, urges that the dramatic part of the degrees must be brought out more forcibly, with music and every impressive accessory.

But that is only a very partial answer. There are hundreds of Councils that can never have the means of fully developing the dramatic part of our degrees. They are poor, far from cities, they have no musicians among them, and for many other reasons they can never make a Council Chamber a theatrical stage, and, if they could, Companions would tire. The idea that dramatic representation will be sufficient to attract our Companions, is founded upon a wrong basis.

Our Assemblies, like the design of our Fraternity, are not merely to confer the degrees or practice the ritual, or learn the work and lectures. I agree with one Companion, who thinks that our Masonic Meetings are too frequent. They must not be so frequent as to take men away from their business or their families.

But held at proper intervals of time, every Assembly might be so managed, as to be eagerly looked forward to by every one. Even if a candidate should not offer himself for a year, yet every Assembly might be crowded with Gib-lemites full of interest and enthusiasm.

And here much depends upon our presiding officers. Most of us present to-day are probably presiding officers, and, while I trust that nothing I may say will censure any of you, I hope my thoughts may be profitable to you all. I wish to say something that will make our Companions more careful in the choice of those who are to rule our bodies, who are placed in the chief posts of honor.

Such a thing as chicanery, or wire-working, is foreign to the very genius of Freemasonry, and yet I have known men, Masons, who were unduly ambitious to be our rulers, and to remain covered, while the rest of us remain uncovered, and who did not stop to consider their fitness for the office they sought. It is, indeed, a laudable aspiration to excel, and to raise one's self by true worth, labor, and excellence of attainment, and such talent will always be appreciated in our Order. One of our first lessons was, that there may be a contention, or emulation rather, who can best work and best agree. Who can best work, who can best cultivate himself for responsibility.

But it seems to me, that to sit in the East should be regarded as an honor, or a reward, to be given to superior excellence only; and that that office is a solemn duty to be undertaken only with fear and trembling, and with an earnestness, zeal and resolution to promote the prosperity of our Rite. It will be a prosperous day for Masonry, when it becomes fully understood that no Brother or Companion, is to thrust himself into our principal positions, or receive the ballots of his fellows merely because he is a good fellow; but that every candidate for dignity must be well cultivated, well posted, and well read in the history, laws, and nature of our institution, and zealous for it; in a word, a *Master* Mason, yea, a M. . E. . M. .

Such a presiding officer should remember, and will remember, that our Assemblies are not merely for initiation; not merely to open, read the minutes, inquire if there are any candidates in waiting, and then close.

There should be in these Assemblies instruction, advice, warning, if necessary, reproof.

Masons are supposed to have intellects; they are supposed to be capable of doing something higher than always to wait around an ante-room, and crack jokes, or burn the weed, or expectorate tobacco juice.

When there are no degrees to confer, when the officers can work the ritual perfectly, then let the intellectual part of our Order come in play, and at all times let Masonic improvement be in order, and as M. . E. . M's. . let Masonic light and information be diffused; let the Constitution be read; let important Masonic questions be discussed. Why should not our presiding officers, or some one for them, give addresses upon the history of Masonry? There are always new brethren and Companions ignorant of the history of the Fraternity. Why not thus give instruction upon the nature of Masonry, and its objects? Speak of its laws, its ancient charges, its landmarks. Reveal the meaning of its mysteries; unfold the hidden truth in its symbolism; or tell what is known concerning other ancient fraternities. There are books enough, histories enough, lexicons of Masonry enough, cyclopædias of Masonry enough, so that the zealous officer can have no excuse for not posting himself. If he is not willing to do so, he is not the man we want for Master. If he

say he has not time enough, then he has not time enough to preside over a Council. If he thinks there is no use in doing these things, then he better take off his hat, and go and stand by the side of the youngest E. A. in the North-East corner.

If the presiding officer say, like Moses, that he is not ready of speech, he can always find an Aaron to speak for him. If he have not the pen of a ready writer, he can at least read from the works of others.

If some such things are done in our Assemblies, instead of hurrying through the work, clipping the ritual, and opening and closing without ceremony, and allowing the sole instruction and information the candidate receives to be the jocose remarks of the Companions, not to stick his nose into every door he sees ajar; I say, if we strive to carry out the spirit of Masonry in every direction, there will not be any need of running all over town to drum up a quorum, but the trouble will be to keep within three times nine. If such things are done, our Companions will be better men in the Order, better men in society, true prosperity will attend our labors, and our deeds will be our truest recommendation to the world of the excellence of our Fraternity.

As a third answer to our question concerning the prosperity of the Cryptic Rite, we reiterate the demand that has been made for several years past, that our degrees should, and must be, made prerequisite for the orders of Knighthood. We have not, indeed, been successful in our demands thus far, but that is no cause for discouragement. Rome did not spring up the full-fledged mistress of the nations the next day after Romulus marked out the sacred boundaries with his plow. The settler in the primeval forest does next expect to overthrow the mighty monarchs in a day, and in a day grub out their roots and cover the smiling fields with waving grain. Time, patience, and perseverance, which conquer all things, will at last discover and bring to light the object we seek.

I wish to repeat to-day what has often been said, that we shall not go to any Grand Commandery, or Grand Encampment, cringing, or fawning, or begging a boon in order that we may live, but rather to demand recognition as a member of the great Masonic family as our right. *And it is our right.* A Rite that comprises a membership of over twenty-five thousand in this country alone, a Rite that contains the explanation and key to all the mysteries that are left unsolved in the other bodies. Such a Rite must be recognized.

I do not believe in the theory of some Companions, that our Rite is a shrine far off from the way-side of Masonic progress, to be enveloped in such silence and secrecy that few shall ever find the way to our doors, but we believe it is just as worthy as any other Masonic body to be in the road of advancement, that it should be one of the chief rounds in the ladder.

The fact, that for one reason or another, we have failed to secure our desire

thus far, should be an incentive to greater diligence in our efforts to obtain what is due to us. It is my opinion that we have confined our efforts too much to resolutions in Grand Councils and petitions to the Grand Encampment, and that the great mass of Knights know nothing of our claim. Every Companion should talk the matter up to every Knight whom he meets; let it be more thoroughly discussed and ventilated. Don't be afraid to claim what is our due, for the general opinion and reputation of Cryptic Masonry will be no higher than that which we entertain ourselves. Probably the great majority of us are Knights, and if each one of us would make a determined effort in his Commandery, we would soon achieve what we wish. Let each one try and induce such Knights as have not received our degrees, to take them, and it will not be long before it will be the law that the Cryptic Degrees shall be prerequisite to the orders of Knighthood.

It is a favorite argument with Masons for separate and advanced bodies, that each body is like a sieve, by which the progress of the unworthy, the ignorant or the worthless Mason can be stopped. And it is a good argument. It is well that such can be stopped, and it is often done. And yet there seems to be many a broken mesh in the sieve, and a man visits Persia and the Sepulchre, who ought never to enter an Asylum. It is too often the result of this haste in taking degrees of which we have already spoken. Men rush through before we have any opportunity to know them or try them, or to judge of their characters. There needs to be another and a finer sieve interposed between the Royal Arch and the body, of which we who are Knights think so much.

The true K. T. desires to see the best Masons only, men of thorough cultivation and attainment in Masonry, men who have been proved and are known to be men of worth, allowed to reach the highest honor we have to bestow. And no man is complete in Masonic knowledge, or fully understands its history, or its mysteries, or the reason of its degrees, until he has taken the Cryptic Degrees.

It is a cause of regret to every Sir Knight, who is a Cryptic Mason, that any of his courteous Sir Knights should be content to remain ignorant of the truths and facts which we teach. Every Knight should see the Glory of Israel, and participate in the work of handing down to future generations, unimpaired, the greatest secrets and the most wonderful knowledge. Although it be done in the silence and secrecy of the deepest recesses of the Crypt, yet it is far more important than to set up B. and J., or gild the roof and pinnacles of the Temple, or to bring forth the cap stone with shouting and praise, crying grace, grace unto it.

Now, Companions, we urge this subject of prerequisite, not so much from a desire for the mere acquisition of members to our ranks, as for the

spread of true Masonic knowledge, and the improvement and prosperity of the whole Masonic body, that we may have the power to check the advancement of the unworthy; and that we may add to ourselves the excellent, the intelligent and the worthy of Symbolic and Capitular Masonry. Once more we exhort to renewed diligence and unceasing devotion on this subject of the recognition due to us. Let no Companion give it up in despair. It must come. If not in one way it will in another. If not to-day it will to-morrow. As the Temple of Solomon, King of Israel, was raised stone by stone, perfect Ashlar upon perfect Ashlar, and was seven years in building, so on this subject, let argument after argument, day's work upon day's work, be piled, until the work is done. It is in our power to make a tidal wave of Masonic opinion that nothing can withstand.

As the tidal wave after some earthquake rushes over the land with irresistible force, carrying all before it, so the time may soon come, if we are faithful, when this tidal wave of Masonic opinion will compel our recognition. For the world is full of examples, that no man, or body of men, or opinion, or faith, or creed, or dogma, can withstand the influence of a settled, growing public opinion.

And yet one more answer will we give to questions we have asked; and to this answer we are aware there will be much dissent, that many will differ, and have already differed, from me. We shall give this answer with all due deference to the opinions of others, without the least feeling of bigotry, most cheerfully conceding to every one the right to hold his own opinion, and feeling no difference in our brotherly love for any who may differ from us, for all sharp expressions, or bitter arguments, or sneers, or jeers, are things unknown to the genius of Masonry. Our instructions, political and Masonic, have ever been to acquiesce in the will of the majority, and to strive who can best work and best agree. If our desire and answer shall never be adopted, we shall not fly from the track, but with renewed diligence strive to promote the prosperity of our order in some other way.

And this answer is, that the prosperity of Cryptic Masonry would be much increased by a General Grand Council. Now, we trust, that no Companion in this jurisdiction, that no fiery BLODGETT, or genial CORSON, or witty LANGRIDGE, or exclusive Pennsylvanian, will elevate his head in utter scorn. We claim that we have as good a right to our opinion as they to their's. Our own Grand Council has approved of the project of a General Grand Council, and we think they were wise.

There has been an unaccountable opposition to a General Grand Council throughout the Rite, which, we must say, we fail to understand; and, as far as we have heard, the opposition to it has not been supported by sound argument, but rather by mere assertion. There is plenty of denunciation, plenty

of diatribe, plenty of ridicule, but we have always observed that when a man resorts to ridicule, and denunciation, and mere assertion, it is owing to the inherent weakness of his cause. When he is at a loss for argument, he begins to poke fun at his opponent, to ridicule his personal peculiarities, hoping that he may retire with seeming success, with the help of polished wit, or the laughter of the thoughtless multitude.

We think there is not a thing which has been urged against a General Grand Council which could not also be urged against every Grand Body in the world, against every Grand Lodge, or Grand Chapter, or Grand Council, or Grand Commandery in the country. If their ideas should be carried out, it would be much better to disband every Grand Body in the country, nay, go farther, and disband every Subordinate Body, and return to the good old practice, that whenever any brethren found themselves together, they straightway should organize themselves into a Lodge, confer the degrees upon whom they pleased, and then go their way. But those good old days were not remarkably prosperous for Masonry. Masonry did not flourish, and much indifferent material was received into the Order. But when the Fraternity came under better government, and Lodges and individual members were shorn of some of their powers, when there began to be a greater uniformity, and greater care over candidates, then there came true prosperity and excellence, which have raised our Order to the proud pre-eminence which it now occupies.

The chief objections which we recall, which have been urged against a General Grand Council, have been some of the following: They say that the Grand Councils would have to surrender some of their prerogatives, and this seems to us to be at the bottom of the whole objection. It is the fear of having to give up some powers, the unwillingness to make surrender for the general good. To be sure, it is a hard lesson to learn self sacrifice for the general good, and to surrender some of our prerogatives and authority for the prosperity of all. But such are the lessons we are taught in Masonry, that each one should be willing to be anything or nothing, if thereby the interests of the Craft may be advanced. It was once very emphatically impressed upon us that he who *humbleth* himself shall be exalted. When subordinates organize a Grand Body, every one acknowledges the wisdom of the step; they are willing to delegate powers to it, for they know that thus it is infinitely better for the good of the Craft. But for a General Grand Council they are not willing to give up one iota.

Another objection is, that it will be an additional expense. But that need not necessarily be. The only additional expense would be for the expenses of its members. The Assemblies of a General Grand Council could be held at the same time with those of the Grand Encampment and the General

Grand Chapter, and most might be delegates to all the Bodies and the expense for the General Grand Council be reduced to almost nothing. We dismiss this objection as trivial.

Another objection is that there are too many Grand Bodies already. Now we all know that Masonry is not a republic. It is not an institution in which every man may do what seems right in his own eyes. It is not like the ancient cities of Greece, each one of which was autonomous, filled with bitter hatred of its neighbors, and ever engaged in intestine feuds and wars, so that Greece was always weak, and perished from her own discords. We all worship the great truth that every man is created free, and all men are equal in their rights; but this liberty does not mean liberty to injure the happiness, or infringe on the rights of any one. The very idea of liberty includes government and restraint. Strong government is necessary, and central power to hold together the component parts. And so it is in Masonry. I do not look upon the Fraternity as a confederacy, or a rope of sand. The stronger the bond that unites us together, the more central the authority, and the greater the respect paid to its edicts, the greater will be the uniformity and the prosperity of our Order in every grade. We need some such bond between the sister Grand Councils, some such power upon which all may rest, some such center around which all may harmoniously revolve in their orbits, held by a power like that of gravitation, which will restrain the centrifugal force and tendency to fly away into the gloomy realms of discord and non-uniformity. As our ancient brethren revered Jerusalem, and in their devotions opened their windows towards that city, so we need something toward which we can turn with reverence, and upon which we can rely for uniformity. We are hearing much about uniformity. The hearts of most of our Companions seem to be set upon it. There are only a few who are so wedded to their own wisdom that they are not willing to give up their own work and adopt the uniform work. We see how much good has been done by the New York Conventions. Their work has been largely adopted, and, we hope, will soon be adopted by all, unless by the few who are the people, and with whom wisdom will die. But, if so much good has been done by a mere Convention, with no powers, that could make suggestions only, how much more good would be done by a General Grand Council with power to enforce its edicts? It would bring uniformity, for uniformity is possible. It would bring respect to us, it would add dignity to us, it would hasten the day when our degrees will become prerequisites for the Orders of Knighthood.

Thus have we suggested a few ideas in favor of a General Grand Council; and, while we may fear that Companions in other jurisdictions may not see eye to eye with us, and may not esteem our arguments as of sufficient weight, and may refuse to have a General Grand Council; and while we should regret

such a result, we shall none the less labor to advance Cryptic Masonry. And, Companions, allow me to reiterate the assertion that a General Grand Council would be one of the best things for the Cryptic Rite.

But we fear, Companions, we have wearied your patience. We were desired to say something to stir us up, and we have endeavored to make suggestions and exhortations that we thought would be for the benefit of our Rite. We would especially like to see our suggestions carried out by our T. I. M. with reference to making our Assemblies more interesting, and also to see greater care taken concerning candidates.

Once more we exhort to renewed zeal and diligence in our labors. Long-fellow says,

"Life is real, life is earnest,
And the grave is not its goal."

Even so Masonry is real and earnest; not mere play, not mere pastime, not a mere recreation of an idle hour; but full of genuine labor, having a glorious work to do both for ourselves and for humanity. There is a grand future before us. May the world be better and nobler for the existence of our Fraternity, and may each one of us, in the day when we have to pass the Grand Overseer, be found to be "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed."

On motion of M. I. JOHN D. WILLIAMS, the thanks of the Grand Council were tendered Rev. Companion HUDSON, for the able and interesting Address just delivered.

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

Credentials and Returns.

Comps. GEO. VAN VLIET, W. WOODRUFF, LEWIS C. SKINNER.

Warrants and Dispensations.

Comps. H. F. L. BUNTING, OWEN WILLIAMS, T. E. HASLEHURST.

Constitution and By-Laws.

Comps. G. FRED. WILTSIE, M. L. EDGETT, E. L. GAUL.

Grievances and Appeals.

Comps. JOHN OMBONY, R. C. CHRISTIANCE, CHAS. H. STURGES.

Finance and Accounts.

Comps. JOHN D. WILLIAMS, D. E. MORGAN, C. F. BEATTY.

Unfinished Business.

Comps. G. B. WOOD, JOHN HOOLE, J. J. WHITE.

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

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 GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTER MASONS
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK :

A herald! a herald! But not, Companions, a herald to report that the walls are falling or the enemy pouring in like a flood, and battering at the gates of the Temple. It is no such tidings of disaster and death to disturb the silence and secrecy of your labors in your S. V. ., but it is a herald that comes from afar with tidings of the prosperity and industry of the Cryptic Rite; a herald who has gathered tidings from our Sister Grand Councils; it is the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

You Committee have the honor to report that they have received the Proceedings of twenty-six Grand Councils for the following years, viz:

ALABAMA.....	1875.
ARKANSAS.....	1875.
CONNECTICUT.....	1876.
FLORIDA.....	1876.
GEORGIA.....	1876.
ILLINOIS.....	1875.
INDIANA.....	1875.
IOWA.....	1875.
LOUISIANA.....	1876.
MAINE.....	1875.
MASSACHUSETTS.....	1875.
MICHIGAN.....	1876.
MINNESOTA.....	1874-5-6.
MISSISSIPPI.....	1876.
MISSOURI.....	1875.
NEW HAMPSHIRE.....	1875.
NEW JERSEY.....	1876.
NORTH CAROLINA.....	1875.
OHIO.....	1875.
ONTARIO.....	1875.
PENNSYLVANIA.....	1876.

RHODE ISLAND.....	1870-1-2-3-4-5.
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	1875-6.
TENNESSEE.....	1875.
VERMONT.....	1875.
WISCONSIN.....	1876.

We have carefully perused these Proceedings, and endeavored to give you a faithful resume of everything of interest; and in so doing, we have not considered ourselves to be nothing but a paste pot, or a pair of shears, or a set of quotation marks. We have tried to do something more than merely clip and quote, or to state merely what was done, which some reporters seem to think to be the whole scope of their duties. We are glad that the financial scourge has not been shaken over us, and that we have not been limited in our report by the man who wears the crossed keys. So when we have seen fit we have been verbose in our own opinions, and have not hesitated to argue, approve or condemn. In fact we have magnified our office, and considered ourselves "a bigger man than Grant!"

We wish that no Grand Council would fail to appoint reporters, for if the Companions are always to be shut up in their Crypts, and never hear anything of the outer world of our Rite, they will soon become indifferent workmen.

We have been unable to obtain any information since our last report from California, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, or New Brunswick. We used our best endeavors to get some word from them, and wrote to each G. R., but they evidently took us for an imposter, and thought about striking off our right hand.

We divided ourselves into parties as before, and traveled as before, and the party who traveled a southerly course upon this occasion, came first to the Grand Council of

ALABAMA—1875.

The Grand Council of Alabama held its thirty-eighth Annual Assembly in the city of Montgomery, December 8th, A. S. Dep., 2875.

There were present PALMER J. PILLANS, M. Ill. G. M., presiding, and the representatives of twelve subordinates.

The G. M., in his address, states the following questions, which had been presented to him, and his decisions thereon, viz:

1. Upon an application for a dimit, a statement is made by a Companion that if time be given him he will prefer charges for *gross* unmasonic conduct, and moved to postpone the consideration of the application until the next regular Assembly, which was carried. Did I err in putting this question?

2. Is a Council *bound* to grant a dimit to a Companion at the regular Assembly to which he applies, unless charges are then preferred, when, in the

expressed opinion of some Companions, if time was granted them they could obtain evidence sufficient to prefer and sustain charges?

3. How long a time (how many Assemblies) should be given to prefer charges?

DECISIONS.

1. I think you did not err in putting the question for postponement. The presiding officer of any Masonic body has, necessarily (as our institution is constituted) a very large discretion, which he must exercise with care.

2. A Council will, yea, *must*, grant a dimit when properly demanded, if the applicant is worthy; but can this be the case when a member offers to prefer charges of the gravest and most disgusting character, if time be given him to make them?

3. No injustice should be done the member applying for the dimit, and if the charges be not preferred by the next regular Assembly, (unless to the satisfaction of the T. . Ill. . Master this were impossible,) he should have the Council act upon it.

We quote the following remarks:

"In view of these facts the question naturally arises as to the causes which may have led to this apathetic depression, amounting in some instances almost to annihilation. The peculiar political and social condition of the country for the few past years, has doubtless contributed much to this end, but these will hardly furnish a sufficient reason for our present condition, and we must look elsewhere for causes sufficiently powerful to produce so disastrous a result.

"The decline dates back for some years. Indifference to the obligations due to the Council has been growing. At first indicated only by a reduced attendance, until at last great difficulty is experienced in getting together a sufficient number to constitute a legal Assembly. I am inclined to think that other and more fundamental reasons exist for this peculiar and deplorable condition of things. It will be for you, Companions, to devise some means for infusing new life and new energy into the almost lifeless body. My predecessor adopted and inaugurated a policy, which this Grand Council approved, which was continued by myself, expecting good results, but unhappily the fruits of it have been exceedingly sparingly yielded. Hope, however, may be entertained that a revival will follow the present depression, if the several Th. . Ill. . Masters will only determine to exert themselves in that direction.

"The scheme of Masonry is incomplete without the Cryptic degrees. The whole of Masonry consists in the loss, restoration, and preservation of the Word, and what inquiring Mason ought to be satisfied, until he should have obtained the whole of this information. But, alas, I fear that a search after light inspires but few of those who seek the Masonic degrees. Too easily are they satisfied with the name of Mason, and too little do they think of the noble teachings of the Order."

We believe the great and fundamental trouble is that alluded to by M. . Ill. . Companion PILLANS, and which, as we have often said, is the lack of interest, effort, and enthusiasm of those who allow themselves to take the responsibility of presiding in our bodies. They are satisfied if they go through with the mere letter of the ritual, and that too often stumbingly, and do nothing to interest and instruct those over whom they preside. It is impossible for the presiding officer to too fully feel the weight and responsibility of his exalted position.

The Gr. . Tr. . reported receipts \$445.70.

Companion DANIEL SAYRE, presented another of his excellent reports on Foreign Correspondence, which we always read with pleasure and profit.

He reviews the Proceedings of twenty-three Grand Councils, including our own.

From a table prepared by Companion AUSTIN on Indiana, he learns:—

“That Tennessee has the largest number of Subordinate Councils, and Nebraska the smallest number. Massachusetts has the largest number of Council Masons, and North Carolina the smallest number. New York is the oldest Grand Council in the Union, and Nebraska the youngest.”

Remarking on Iowa, he says:

“The Grand Master is undoubtedly right; but we go a little farther than he does. Having some experience in all the branches of Masonry up to K. T. as presiding officer, it is our opinion that he is responsible for the failure of the body over which he presides. He cannot presume that the members, or any subaltern, will take more interest in the body than he does. Possibly they may; but he ought not to act on that presumption. He ought to act as though success depended on him alone; and determined that it shall not fail while he is at the head of it. It is so in all the affairs of life, from the government of a kingdom, down to the government of a family. Now, let any presiding officer reflect upon this opinion, and see if we are not right. He may not be able to preserve the life of the body; but he is certain not to preserve it, if he does not feel and act upon the great responsibility thrown upon him.

“Now as to these Council degrees. We are not going to depreciate any other degree, but we know nothing more beautiful in the whole range of Masonry, and any one who does not appreciate them, certainly must be rather obtuse. We certainly do not subscribe to the opinion of Companion LANGRIDGE, that there are too many degrees.”

To the suggestion of Companion HENDERSON, of Kentucky, who suggests that the Council should meet the same night with the Chapter, and after it, he emphatically says:

“1st. We are opposed to the Council being hung on to the tail of anything.

“2d. Not more than one-third the Chapter Masons belong to the Council; so that the Chapter is very frequently at work with not enough members belonging to the Council to work it.

“3d. If the Council is to wait until the Chapter gets through, why not let the Chapter wait sometimes until the Council gets through; that would be turn-about, and we have always heard that turn-about was fair play.”

He touches up G. M. WALTER, of Mississippi:

“Companion WALTER must certainly have the bump of credulity very largely developed, if he imagines he could modify, transpose, and arrange nine degrees so that all the world would agree; and especially he must have derived great hope from the result of the New York Convention, where fifteen or twenty of the best Masons in the United States, who went there especially for that purpose, could not agree upon the position of the two degrees.

“But what a reformer he would be! He would blot out every Grand Council and Grand Chapter in existence, and then he would create other Grand Chapters, and these he would place under the jurisdiction of Grand Lodges. One Grand Body under the jurisdiction of another Grand Body would be rather a curious Grand Body!

“Then, again, he would blend the Most Excellent Master, and Royal and Select Master, with the Royal Arch! Four degrees blended into one! Worshipful Masters, or High Priests, or Three Illustrious Masters, or whatever they might be called, would learn to work that degree without any trouble, it would be so simple; and then the whole thing would be so simple and easily understood, that all the world could speak the same Masonic language! Well, if the world does not do it now, wherever blue lodge masonry is disseminated, we should be rather dubious about its ever doing it under Companion WALTER's system.

“But, seriously, we think Companion WALTER makes the very common mistake of conceiving that Masonry is one of the necessities of life, and, therefore, that everybody ought to have it. We do not look upon it in that light. In our view Masonry is not one of the necessities of life, but one of the luxuries; and, therefore, it is that men only seek to obtain it when they are flush; or at least when they can spare the money to do so. As people, when they are hard run, or their crops have failed, or some thief has broken into their corn-crib or gin-houses—we say, at such times they are satisfied with bacon, and corn bread, and homespun clothes; but when the pressure has passed by and they begin to have money in their purses, they indulge themselves a little, and then—they want butcher's meat, and calico, and masonry.”

Even at the risk of being tedious, we must still farther quote.

In reply to Companion GOULEY, of Missouri, concerning the completeness of the Lodge degrees, he says:

"When a blue Mason discovers his *loss*, he is satisfied with the substitute; and although he knows there are degrees ahead of him, he never suspects there is any connection between them and those he has taken, until the *Recovery*. Then he knows that they are connected; and he wonders naturally, if he is an intelligent man, if he may not learn *how* in the Council. We repeat, therefore, that the Lodge Degrees are *complete* in themselves. They create no curiosity for the future. They excite no question as to what is to follow. He (the recipient of those degrees) never dreams of any connection."

In the review of Nebraska, he says of the proposition to make our degrees a prerequisite for Knighthood:

"Well, for ourselves we are done knocking at that door. We have desired that the Council Degrees should be in the regular line of promotion, because we wanted to make Masonry on this continent a unit. But the Council Degrees are sufficiently attractive to sustain themselves, and we think we see before them an illustrious future."

Again:—

"We are dead-out against the cheapening of Masonry for the benefit of anybody, as derogatory to the thing itself, and inconsistent with the high character that we claim for it."

New York for 1874 receives a generous and fraternal notice, with quotations from the Address and our report.

He says in conclusion:

"As far as we can ascertain, the following Grand Councils have adopted the work of the New York Convention, viz:

"Alabama, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Wisconsin.

"The following Grand Councils work the Super-Excellent Degree, viz: Connecticut, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin. Only nine so far as we know, but we do not think the list is perfect."

Membership.....	551
Received and Greeted.....	15

PALMER J. PILLANS, of Mobile, G.:M.:

DANIEL SAYRE, of Montgomery, G.:R.:

ARKANSAS—1875.

The sixteenth Annual Assembly met in the city of Little Rock, October 9th, A.:Dep.: 2875, M.:P.: JAMES A. STINSON, presiding.

There were found to be present the representatives of seven Councils.

The Annual Address was brief, reporting no official business of importance, and giving a resume of the Proceedings of the New Orleans Convention.

We copy the following:

"At our last Assembly I was authorized to teach the uniform work in the event that four-fifths of the Grand Councils had adopted it. This has not been done, but I believe that the Grand Councils, with a few exceptions, will adopt it. Some sixteen have formally done so, three only having positively declined to do so; others have it in the hands of Committees and under consideration.

"Now, Companions, if you do not feel disposed to adopt the Convention work, for the sake of uniformity (which is very much the same as our own), would it not be well to see that our old work is correctly taught, as I have learned that by innovation or *improvement* the work in some of our Councils differs as much from our old work as the old work does from the work of New York and New Orleans Conventions."

The following resolution was passed :

Resolved. That the Ritual heretofore adopted by the Grand Council be continued as the work of the Subordinate Councils in this jurisdiction; and that no Council or Grand Officer depart from or change the same until authorized to do so by the Grand Council."

The G. T. reported a total of \$306.93.

There was no report on Foreign Correspondence, and has been none for several years, if we recollect correctly.

Councils entitled to representation25

Membership, impossible to tell.

M. M. MCGUIRE, G. M. :

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

CONNECTICUT—1876.

The Annual Assembly of the M. P. Grand Council of Connecticut, was held in the city of Hartford, May 8th, A. Dep. 2876, and was opened in AMPLE FORM by the G. M., FRED. H. WALDRON, assisted by the representatives of seventeen Councils.

Companion WALDRON delivered an excellent address, from which we take pleasure in quoting:

"Another year has been added to the history of this Grand Council since last we met, and, in taking a retrospective glance at our doings, let us ask ourselves this question: Have we done all that lay in our power to make our time-honored institution all that we boast for it, and practiced what we teach in our several Masonic bodies?

"If we have been derelict in these duties, let us profit by the experience of the year past, make new resolves and stand by them, and be Masons in the true acceptation of the term, and not rush through the impetuous race of life guided by a spirit of selfishness, and animated by a desire of self-aggrandizement. Our mission as Masons is to bind up the wounds of the afflicted, compassionate their miseries, and when we speak the word 'Brother' or 'Companion,' let it come from the soul. Most of us here have taught to the followers of our order that we hold them by solemn promises to purer lives and nobler generousities; let us, by example and encouragement, induce them to live up to them.

"It is the practice with too many who are initiated into our solemn mysteries to hurry from one degree to another, and the entered apprentice of yesterday is likely to be a Sir Knight to-morrow. This is highly detrimental, not only to the candidate himself, but to the best interests of the Order. I think we should discourage this as much as possible, and a Brother or Companion should not only have made suitable proficiency in the work and Ritual before being advanced to higher honors and awards, but we should endeavor to have our teachings make a deep impression upon his mind, and he should be in a condition to give as well as to receive instruction. How many are there to-day who have taken all the degrees in Masonry, who are ashamed to present themselves at the outer door of the Lodge-room for examination? They can be counted by the score.

"This is not as it should be. It is generally conceded that those of our members who manifest the least interest in the Order are those who are ignorant of its principles and teachings—those who have hurried through the degrees without properly considering their meaning. Their zeal lasts as long as there are other degrees for them to advance to, and, as soon as the topmost round of the ladder is reached, their interest is lost, because, in their zeal to obtain all the light possible, they have lost sight of our first principles."

We like the plan of the Lodges in Germany, to advance no one under a year, if we remember rightly, and not until he has attended a certain number of Lodges of instruction. It would be well if we assembled more frequently for instruction, and if no Master Mason should be allowed to enter the Chapter under a year after receiving the sublime degree, and another year inter-

vene after his exaltation, before entering the next higher body. How often it has seemed a solemn mockery and farce to us to answer for the candidate of yesterday, that he had made suitable proficiency in the preceding degree to entitle him to the next, when all knew that he hardly remembered the signs and grip.

The brain, like the stomach, cannot digest too much at one time. A little Masonry well learned, well consider, well practiced, and well loved, is far better than all the K. T's, 18's, 30's, 32's, and 33's that were ever tacked to man's name.

Some of the best, brightest, and most zealous Masons we have ever known, had taken three degrees only.

We wish that in every Grand Council the principal officers, as in Connecticut, had a portion of the jurisdiction assigned to them for official visitation and oversight, and were required to report their doings, instead of sitting in the East,

"As idle as a painted ship,
Upon a painted ocean,"

counting on their fingers the years that intervene before they may become the wearer of the hat.

The Grand Council of Maryland was recognized.

The Committee on Delinquencies reported the delinquent Councils, which were duly "fined." Fining is an odd word in Masonry, but we suppose the Companions of Connecticut find a well thrown stone of a fine more efficacious than the casting of a ton of hortative grass. [Vide Webster's Spelling Book.]

Again we welcome Companion WM. WALLACE LEE, as he steps to the front, and gives us another excellent report on Masonic Correspondence. He had received the Proceedings of seventeen Grand Councils, and of the seventeen New York was one.

The Annual Address of Alabama for the past two years, has lamented the political condition of the country, as having a disastrous effect upon Masonry, to which Companion LEE says :

"Well, really, we can't see how the success or defeat of any political party is to affect Masonry, unless such party or parties should occupy a position of antagonism towards our institution. Good and bad men, honest and dishonest men, are to be found in all sects and parties. Corruption and dishonesty in office are no new experiences, nor confined to any one party, as any one who has been a voter for twenty-five or thirty years well knows. Such matters properly come within our province as citizens, but not as Masons."

Upon the action of Massachusetts in refusing to adopt the uniform work, he comments :

"We guess those grapes are sour. It is a much finer thing that others should yield in their likes and dislikes, preferences and prejudices, than that we should yield in our own."

Of New York, he says :

"This is a large and prosperous body, and its officers are active and efficient, serving with freedom, fervency and zeal. The Correspondence report is admirable, and, did our means allow, we would willingly substitute it for our own, but can only find room for his conclusion."

We much prefer to read Companion LEE.

He goes for Companion BLODGETT; of Rhode Island, in his characteristic manner :

"Mr. President," said the member from Delaware to Mr. Lincoln, 'be very careful what you do; all Delaware is watching you.' He sets down heavily on the idea of a General Grand Council, and has evidently crushed the life out of it."

Companion LEE, in his previous report, spoke of the General Grand Commandery, and had his ignorance exposed by Companion BLODGETT, and in palliation and justification of his offense, says :

"What are you looking at?' said a pompous looking individual to one of the children of Ham. 'I'se lookin' at dis, massa; dunno what it is.' 'Why, you fool, that is a horseshoe; anybody ought to know that.' 'Guy, massa, what a fine ting larnin' is! I tot it was a mare's shoe.' It is always well to be exact, especially in matters of importance."

Subordinate Councils.....	24
Received and Greeted.....	113
Admitted.....	3
Withdrawn.....	3
Died.....	27
Membership.....	2,268
Dues.....	\$342.00

WILLIAM FREESTON, of New Britain, G.:M.:

JOS. K. WHEELER, of Hartford, G.:R.:

FLORIDA—1876.

We have received a note from Companion HALLMARK, G.:R.:, who informs us that the Annual Assembly was held in June last. The Proceedings were not printed at the time of writing our report. He says :

"Cryptic Masonry has been very near dead in this State, but is now all right. We have three Councils working, and one U. D. The rest will likely come up this year. Meet Masonic Temple, Milton, Fla., 12th of June, 1877. We work the N. Y. work."

We extend to Florida our heartiest wishes for her success, and congratulate her on the revival of Cryptic Masonry in her jurisdiction.

A. N. CAULKINS, of Milton, G.:M.:

C. M. PIERCE, of Warrington, D.:G.:M.:

GEO. S. HALLMARK, of Pensacola Navy Yard, G.:R.:

GEORGIA—1876.

Shekels are scarce in Georgia this year, and hence the Grand Council does not print Proceedings, but sends us a circular.

The Annual Assembly was held in the city of Macon, April 26th and 27th, A. : Dep. : 2876.

The usual business was transacted. Our Proceedings for 1875 had been received.

Councils represented	11
Promoted the past year	17
Died	5
Members reported	320
Amount of dues	\$177.00

ROBERT M. SMITH, of Athens, G. : M. :

CHAS. R. ARMSTRONG, of Macon, G. : R. :

ILLINOIS—1875.

The twenty-third Annual Assembly was held in Chicago, Oct. 27th, A. : Dep. : 2875.

The Grand Puissant was absent, and in his stead Companion EDWARD BLACKSHAW presided.

After counting noses, the Committee on Credentials reported that thirty-two Councils were duly represented.

The Annual Address of G. : M. : BROMFIELD was read.

We quote the following melancholy announcement :

"During the year death has invaded our Secret Vault, and taken away those whom we loved. Companion LOUIS H. JORGENSEN died at Cairo, Ill., Dec. 31st, 1874, soon after his return from New Orleans, where he had been in attendance at the Grand Encampment of the United States. Companion JORGENSEN was born April 10th, 1832, at Copenhagen, Denmark. He was made a Mason in 1857, in Cairo Lodge, No. 237, and was exalted to the Royal Arch in 1864, and was also a charter member of Cairo Council, No. 24. He presided over each of these bodies with great ability, and in fact held every office connected with the several Masonic bodies in Cairo. At his death he was Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Commandery of Illinois."

The Address also recommends the adoption of the uniform work and titles, and the recommendation was concurred in.

The Committee on Finance reported a total of \$581.25.

The following was adopted :

"Resolved, That the Councils under the jurisdiction of this Grand Council, in conferring the degree of S. : E. : Master, shall not be required to work the degree in full, but may confer by obligation."

We believe this a step backward. We don't want any degree communicated to us. If any degree is worth conferring at all, let it be worked. Our experience with the S. : E. : Degree is, that it requires every accessory, and all

the dramatic element possible, to preserve its impressiveness and beauty. Rather than communicate it, or any degree, throw it away altogether.

A Committee of three was appointed to memorialize the Grand Commandery of Illinois, to make the Council Degrees a prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood in their jurisdiction; and also to send a copy of the memorial to each Subordinate Commandery in the State, asking their concurrence. May they be successful.

Companion JAMES H. MILES, G.:R.:, as usual, presented a good report on Foreign Correspondence, in which he reviews the Proceedings of twenty-two Grand Councils, including those of New York for 1875. We would like to have more of Companion MILES' mind expressed, and to see more of suggestion and criticism.

We quote his conclusion :

"From our stand-point we see no more cause for discouragement than in our report last year. In some of our Grand Councils a steady increase is noticed; in some, stagnation; while death and dismission have decreased the membership of others. Many of our Grand Record-ers are in the habit of giving no official statement, so that it is with difficulty we are able to make a statement of the status of our Grand Councils which would be reliable."

"Three questions are now agitating our several Grand Councils :—Uniformity, the formation of a General Grand Council, and the making the degrees a prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood."

"The adoption of the New York Convention Ritual and Titles would seem to settle the first proposition."

"The second meets with less favor, and its utility is doubted by many, and our own Grand Council has always looked upon the project with disfavor."

"The Grand Encampment, at its last session, laid the matter of recognition upon the table, from whence it may probably never be taken. Our own opinion is, that the Grand Com-manderies of the states have the power to recommend to their several Subordinates that ap-plicants for the Orders should receive the degrees of Capitular [Cryptic?] Masonry. In some Grand Jurisdictions, by common consent, none but those having received the Council degrees are advanced. But whether we are recognized as a part of the American system of Freema-sonry or not, we trust there is vitality and pride enough in our Subordinates to live and prosper."

Subordinate Councils.....	53
Advanced.....	152
Admitted.....	4
Restored.....	1
Membership.....	2,158

EDWARD BLACKSHAW, of Urbana, G.:M.:

JAMES H. MILES, of Chicago, G.:R.:

INDIANA—1875.

From Indiana we have a splendid specimen of the typographical art, well arranged, and a perfect ashlar in every respect.

The Annual "Convocation" was held in the city of Indianapolis, Oct. 19th, A.:Dep.: 2875, LUCIEN A. FOOTE, G.:M.:

Thirty-six Councils were represented. The Annual Address reports dispen-sations to organize four Councils; it also pays a fitting tribute to the follow-

ing deceased Companions: ROBERT J. SHAW, D. I. G. M., SOL. D. BAYLESS, P. I. G. M., P. G. M., P. G. H. P., P. E. C., and JOHN B. ROSE and NICHOLAS D. GROVER, honorary members of the Grand Council. We extend to the Companions of Indiana our fraternal sympathy and condolence that in one year so many and well-known Companions have been called away by the inevitable summons. "They rest from their labors, and their works do follow them." Suitable memorial pages are set apart for them. We quote the following paragraphs:

"The Cryptic degrees in this jurisdiction have been a success, progressing quietly, but steadily increasing in numbers, as well as popularity and usefulness. As to the reason for this, may we not say that it is owing to the fact that on the first organization of our Grand Council in 1855, a Committee on Ritual was appointed, who, at the first annual meeting of the Grand Council, held in May, 1856, reported a Ritual and form of work for conferring the degrees, which, being fully exemplified by the Committee, was adopted by the Grand Council, and made obligatory on all the Subordinate Councils to strictly observe.

"The work then adopted stands still without alteration. Every Council organized in our jurisdiction has been furnished with that work, and of course all are working it as then adopted. A member of a Council visiting another feels perfectly at home. He sees precisely the same ceremonies, hears the same language, and thus has not only a uniformity been secured, but a harmony has been produced in our entire jurisdiction that no doubt has been the main cause of the success Cryptic Masonry has met with in Indiana.

"Now should we change our work, what would most probably be the result? We could hope for no better success, and might, and probably would, create great confusion in our Councils. Those who have hitherto been our best workmen would refuse to learn something else, and retire from labor; new workmen would have to be procured, and thus two parties would be started in every Council, thus destroying the harmony that now exists, and doing the Order irreparable mischief in our jurisdiction. Uniformity in different jurisdictions has never existed, and the question is, can it ever be made to exist?

"Until we find something that is better than our work, and that will prove more of a success than ours has been, would it not be well to let well enough alone? I am not contending that we have the best work that there is, but only that the result of our work having been satisfactory, we should not lightly cast aside the means that have accomplished these results."

Well, Ephraim is joined to his idols, and we suppose we must let him alone. But we have a slight suspicion that this reasoning of our M. I. Companion is a little sophistical. He begs the question about uniformity being impossible. At a previous Assembly, it was said that Indiana work differed so little from the uniform work, that there was no use of a change. But now it is argued that the adoption of the uniform work would cause irreparable confusion, and division, and parties among the workmen. We doubt whether old workmen would refuse to have anything to do with new work. As to the matter of confusion, it would be necessary only to do, as has been done in the Lodges of Indiana, and issue a treatise on Hindu mythology, with copious hymns, dialogues and prayers from the Vedas! Those who have had the pleasure of perusing those remarkable hymns in that little book, so much cherished by the Ind. Blue Mason, as we have done, will easily see how nicely it might be translated into Cryptic English!

The G. T. reported a total of \$2,335.72.

There is one thing about the printing of the Proceedings that we would recommend to every G. R., and that is, every separate item of business has its caption in bold type, thus making it easy to see at a glance what the business is.

The Constitution was so amended that the titles of the principal officers are:

ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER,
DEPUTY ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER,
ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER.

A communication was read from P. G. M. WILLIAM HACKER, that from failing health he was unable to be present, to which a suitable reply was returned.

Companion W. W. AUSTIN presented a full and elaborate Annual Cryptic Review, occupying 53 pp. Companion AUSTIN is a faithful and conscientious reporter, and does his work well. He reviews the Proceedings of twenty-four Grand Councils, including New York for 1874.

He still keeps up the dispute with Companion SAYRE, of Alabama, about Lazarus and Dives, i. e., the price of admission, and has his say in these words:

"If we had the honor of being Tyler to a just and lawful Lodge, and 'old Lazarus' should put in his appearance, with even no less garments than the civil law would barely allow, if he had that knowledge in his head, and that skill in his hands, which every man claiming to be a F. & A. M. should have, we would draw on the relief Committee for more outward apparel, and inform the Lodge that a brother was in waiting. It is that 'appearance' which has in so many cases filled our stations and places with wooden men, whose only qualifications are to help make a quorum, and furnish an active hand at our banquets, whose masonry never gets above the level of their apron ties. We still hold to the living principle that it is the internal and not the external qualifications which are the desiderata."

We also copy, with approbation, the following in reply to Companion GOULEY:

"Our observation shows us that the difficulty is not with the Order itself—it is all right; but the trouble is in the selection of material. The idea with most persons is that we want quantity not quality. The fault is with those who do the choosing. The quality is shown at our public exhibitions and banquets; then we never lack numbers, energy, regalia, nor active stomachs. But sound the loud cornucopia of plenty, and members spring forth from every unexpected nook and corner, clad in all the paraphernalia, regardless of cost; dead brethren come to light, members who have forgotten what is meant by dues, and whose dimit have become eaten by the tooth of time, crowd around the festive board, and when, like anacondas, they have become gorged, they retire into the depths of oblivion, till the horn again sounds the charge to attack. No, it is not in the Order; the remedy potent is in the ballot-box, and we may blame *ourselves*."

New York receives a notice of six pages, containing three extracts from the Annual Address, and our conclusion to our report in full.

There is an excellent index appended to the Proceedings.

Subordinate Councils.....	44
Advanced.	201
Membership.....	1,803
Increase of Membership.....	260

DANIEL McDONALD, of Plymouth, G. M.

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

IOWA—1875.

We are disappointed in receiving such a thin Pamphlet from Iowa. It looks as if a cloud of grasshoppers had eaten out its substance.

We learn, however, that the Grand Council assembled in the city of Keokuk, Oct. 19th, A. Dep. 2875, and was opened by PAUL C. DAUM, D. G. M.

The Committee on Credentials reported eight Councils represented.

In the absence of the G. M., JOSEPH H. SEATON, his Annual Address was read by the D. G. M. In it he reports prosperity and peace, and gave an account of his official labors.

The G. T. reported \$515.24.

Companion W. B. LANGRIDGE, Committee on Foreign Correspondence, reported that he had received the Proceedings of twenty-three Grand Councils, including New York for 1874. He found in all that number nothing demanding the attention of the Grand Council! Companion LANGRIDGE has our hearty sympathy in his affliction, and we hope the amarousis of his eyes has not progressed beyond recovery. We sincerely trust he may recover before another Annual Assembly, for we have always considered his reports as among the best, and sadly miss it this year.

But since out of twenty-three Grand Councils he has been able to make a report of a page only, they that look out of the windows must be darkened, and the sound of the grinding must be low.

Subordinate Councils.....	18
Net increase in 12 Councils.....	49
Members.....	416

ROBERT F. POWER, of Keokuk, G. M.

WM. B. LANGRIDGE, of Muscatine, G. R.

LOUISIANA—1876.

Companion LAMBERT, G. R., informs us that the Annual Assembly was held Thursday, Feb. 17th, A. Dep. 2876.

No business of importance was transacted. The following amendment to the Constitution was adopted:

"ARTICLE II. Insert after the word state, 'and should any Companion R. & S. Master be suspended, expelled or stricken from the roll of membership by his Lodge or Chapter, as soon as authentic information be received by the Council, his name shall be stricken from the roll of his Council.'"

If stricken from the roll in the Lodge or Chapter means for non-payment of dues, we believe the Companion should by no means be deprived of his privileges in the Council. Of course we do not know what may be the effect

of striking from the roll, under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, but we maintain that so long as a Companion is a Royal Arch Mason, not suspended or expelled, and as long as he pays his dues to his Council, nothing but conviction upon charges duly preferred and tried, should deprive him of any of the rights and privileges of Cryptic Masonry.

C. B. WHEELER, of Bastrop, G. . M. .

RICHARD LAMBERT, of New Orleans, Box 872, G. . R. .

MAINE—1875.

Maine sends us this time a thick Pamphlet of 72 pp., dressed out in green. Tell us, some one, why that color ?

From it we find that the Annual Assembly was held in Portland, May 5th, A. . Dep. . 2875.

Present, CHARLES J. COLLAMORE, M. . P. . G. . M. . , and the representatives from ten Subordinate Councils.

The Annual Address announced that two had ceased from labor, viz. : Companions TIMOTHY CHASE, P. . D. . P. . G. . M. . , aged 82, and EDMUND A. CHADWICK, P. . R. . P. . G. . M. . , aged 58.

Companion COLLAMORE also tells of many official visits, showing that he is a zealous promoter of our rite, and not a mere figure-head, whose office is a "sinecure."

The G. . T. . reported \$196.10.

Companion JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, as usual, submitted a grand report on Foreign Correspondence, from which we shall quote largely, that our Companions may, with us, enjoy as much of it as possible. He reviews twenty-five Grand Councils, including our own.

He does not think, with Companion AUSTIN, of Indiana, that the reporter has no right to criticise, for he says:

"If we never criticise no discussion will be evolved; we believe in criticising; if it will lead to comparison of ideas and thus aid us in finding the *truth*, of which the light for which we are searching, is emblematical."

In his review of Maine he gives Companion HACKER an opportunity to reply to that portion of our report last year which refers to his action in the Convention.

"He says we are in error as to what he said, and that he did not make the remark we attributed to him. We have no doubt that he *thinks* so, but if he did not intend to make the remark he was very unfortunate in expressing himself, for he was so understood at the time, by very many, if not by all. And a delegate from Connecticut replied quite earnestly, saying, in substance, that those who came there with such views and purposes had better have staid away."

In his remarks on Iowa, he says :

"If no charter was granted for a Chapter until enough live men to work it had gone through the offices in the Lodge, the Chapter would flourish, and the same is true of the other bodies."

Companion HENDERSON, of Kentucky, said in 1874, that the Proceedings of Massachusetts were "dry as a codfish."

Companion DRUMMOND remarks:

"But are not his own Proceedings open to the same complaint? His review is evidently hurried, and consists of but little more than extracts. How would it work for each Committee on Correspondence to make special efforts to give interest to his report, by taking some subject for special consideration? Comp. H. would interest us all if he would give us the history of his Grand Council. Did it meet in any of the years from 1834 to 1840, inclusive? Or from 1842 to 1845 inclusive? Or in 1848 or in 1849?"

That is what we call a good suggestion. Don't always complain about the poverty of materials. A pound of iron is worth thousands of dollars if worked up into hair springs.

We animadverted last year on the action of Massachusetts in refusing to adopt the uniform work, after having been one of the principal ones to call a Convention for uniformity.

We now hear from Companion DRUMMOND:

"To say that we exceedingly regret this action is putting it very mildly, and our astonishment equals our regret.

"As stated in our review of Alabama, our Grand Council was visited at its Annual Assembly in 1871, by Comp. CHAS. H. NORRIS, G. M., and WILLIAM F. ANDERSON, P. G. M., of the Grand Council of Massachusetts, mainly for the purpose of arranging for the holding of a Convention to secure uniformity of the work and polity of Cryptic Masonry. * * * * * Attention was called to the fact that the order of the degrees in Massachusetts and Maine was different from that in the other states, and those present were distinctly warned that the probabilities were that we should have to yield in this respect, and it was well to consider before we started the enterprise, whether we were willing to yield our system for the sake of uniformity. It was determined to make the effort.

"Comp. MORE, in his Report on Correspondence the same year, says:

"It is to be hoped that every Grand Council in the Cryptic jurisdictions will be represented, and that the long desired wish of harmonizing the *Degrees, Work and Titles* will be consummated."

"The Committee to which Comp. NORRIS' Address was referred, (Comp. ANDERSON, Chairman,) recommend the appointment of delegates to the Convention, and that the G. M. be authorized, in connection with the G. M. of Maine, to take such action as may be necessary for the proper exemplification of their work. This recommendation was adopted, the Grand Council represented, and the work exemplified.

"In his Address of 1872, Comp. NORRIS gives an account of the proceedings of the Convention, showing that the precise question that had been anticipated had arisen, and was now pending. He argues strong for uniformity. * * * * * Comp. MORE emphasized his chief's plea for uniformity. The Grand Council adopted the recommendations of the Grand Master.

"It thus appears that Massachusetts really procured the calling of the Convention; that it was well known that the question of the order of the degrees would come up for decision; that after it was known that the question had come up and a Committee had reported in favor of a different order from her own, she determined to continue to be represented in the Convention, and that she was there represented, and her views upon this question very ably presented.

"But the Convention decided adversely; and she now (*alone of all the Grand Councils with one exception*) refuses to conform to the decision. Is not her action open to the criticism, that she went into the Convention with the intention of securing uniformity if it could be done by the adoption of her system, and not otherwise? We do not believe that Comps. NORRIS and ANDERSON had any such idea, and we are surprised that their Grand Council should place them in such an equivocal condition.

"We submit to our Companions of Massachusetts that since they took measures to have the Convention called and their work exemplified in it, knowing that this very question would arise, and might be decided adversely to them, if they did not intend to abide the decision, they should have notified the rest of us to that effect, and saved us the labor and expense of going through that which becomes a mere farce, if those alone are to conform whose system is adopted.

"If we had for a moment supposed that the Grand Council of Massachusetts would not conform to the decision of the Convention upon this question, whatever it might be, we would not have had anything whatever to do with the project. Influenced by her representatives, we entered upon it, and have given to it much time, labor and expense, all of which we count as nothing if the desired end shall be obtained; but we cannot help feeling that we have unwittingly been made the cat's-paw to pull *her* chestnuts out of the ashes."

New York receives a fraternal notice and words of commendation, and he quotes largely from our report.

Of North Carolina, he says:

"We see that Companion CARR has repeated the erroneous statement that Cross was expelled by the Grand Chapter of Maryland."

We quote the following concerning the "Convention work":

"The Grand Councils, with few exceptions, are adopting the Convention work as fast as they have an opportunity to examine it. Already Alabama, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina and Tennessee have formally adopted it. We understand that it is practically adopted and actually used in Florida and Wisconsin. California, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Brunswick and Rhode Island, have not (we believe) applied for and received the work. Connecticut decided that the work was almost identical with her own, and concluded to make no change, the two being substantially alike. Arkansas voted to adopt it when four-fifths of the other Grand Councils had done so. Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Ontario and Vermont have the matter in the hands of Committees. Indiana having the true (?) work, and 'little knowledge as to the nature and extent of the differences' between it and the Convention work, declines to adopt it. New Hampshire having *another* 'old and true' (?) work, declines even to examine any other. Massachusetts declines to adopt the work, because it reverses the order of the degrees as she adopted them; while Pennsylvania hesitates because she has still *another* true (?) work. Thus far but three Grand Councils have absolutely declined to adopt the work, and in the beginning it was taken for granted that *two* of these would do so; but the refusal of Massachusetts is a surprise."

Subordinate Councils.....	12
Admitted.....	66
Membership.....	930

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

IRA BERRY, of Portland, G.:R.:

MASSACHUSETTS—1875.

The Annual Assembly was held in the city of Boston, Dec. 8th, A.:Dep.: 2875.

The Assembly was opened in AMPLE FORM at 10½ A. M., by Rev. THOMAS ELLIOTT ST. JOHN, G.:M.:, assisted by the representatives of thirteen Councils.

The Annual Address says:

"The year has been one of average prosperity, yet the Order has felt in no small degree the general influence of depression. Everything that seriously disturbs the industries of the people, or interferes with the established customs of trade and finance, will necessarily leave its mark upon whatever forms a part of the intellectual or social life. Freemasonry has to do with both of these, and, therefore, is obliged to bear its share of the common fate. Yet above the influence of every crisis, beyond the effects of any outside condition, the principles of the Order still hold in all our hearts. Although our number may not increase as rapidly, may, may even show a falling off, yet the institution lives on. The attentive ear, the receptive breast, the instructive tongue, are not held beneath the power of any question of finance, nor subject to any vicissitude of fortune. Freemasonry holds its court in the secret recesses of the human heart, and there established its power is still available to cheer and to bless."

With regret we quote the following.

"Since we last met, the summons that none can disregard, has been heard at our outer door. Upon the death of our venerable and Ill.: Comp. E. B. MOORE, who for so many years had held the office of Committee on Foreign Correspondence. I appointed to fill his place, our worthy and well beloved Companion, Rev. GEORGE SUMMERFIELD NOYES. Ere his work was

completed, the hand of disease was upon him. He labored with a true heroic zeal, even beyond his powers of endurance, to complete his report for our last years' Proceedings. The last words of his report are a tribute to the memory of Companion MOORE. 'Our great ones are falling,' said he. 'May the ranks be quickly repleted.' But ere the words he had written were read, by those in whose service he was laboring, he had gone to his rest. He died as he had lived, an honest, faithful laborer in his Master's cause. He held this order in high regard, and was never weary in his labors to advance its interests, and honor its name. He has held many important trusts in his Masonic life, and honored them all. May his example be an inspiration unto us all, bidding us to emulate his virtues, and hold in due veneration the truth he sought to uphold. He died in Boston, Feb. 6th, 1876, aged 40 years, 8 months.'

Although we disagreed with many things in the report of our departed Companion, yet we do most sincerely drop a tear of remembrance over the hillock in God's acre, where rests in God, Companion NOYES.

The G. . R. . reported receipts amounting to \$326.00.

The Committee on Diploma Plate reported that a plate had been engraved at a cost of \$530.00.

In the Annual Election there was one worthy of example. Companion WILLIAM F. CHESTER was elected D. . G. . M. ., and, a thing unheard of before, declined to serve for the want of time to attend to the duties of the office. May his tribe increase until no man will venture to take upon himself any office unless he can faithfully discharge its duties.

The G. . T. . reported a balance of \$414.41.

The Committee an Archives says:

"With a little painstaking on the part of a few good, active members of the Craft in each locality, where there are one or more Masonic organizations, a respectable library of interesting Masonic literature would be gathered in a few years, costing comparatively nothing, and which would become invaluable."

We commend the suggestion to all. The majority of Masons do not read enough concerning our Order.

Companion Rev. J. W. DADMUN was appointed Committee on Foreign Correspondence, and reports that he has received the Proceedings of twenty-two Grand Councils, among which New York is not included. He did not receive them until the day of the Annual Assembly, and does not attempt to review them, for fear of the cross-fire from DRUMMOND, CORSON, GOULEY and others. Don't fear, Companion DADMUN, we cordially welcome you to the reportorial ranks, trusting that the mantle of Elijah has fallen upon the shoulders of Elisha. If you are the man we take you to be, we believe you will wield the pen as excellently as you strike the tuneful strings.

We see that Massachusetts has nine representatives near other Grand Councils.

Our Proceedings have not been received, and they still report Companion SHOVE as our G. . R. . A little research might make their table more correct.

Subordinate Councils..... 23

Membership..... 2,671

CHAS. J. DANFORTH, of Boston Highlands, G. . M. .

JOHN HAIGH, of Somerville, G. . R. .

MICHIGAN—1876.

The Proceedings inform us that the Annual Assembly was held in the city of Detroit, Jan. 17th, A. Dep. 2876, and was opened in AMPLE FORM by M. I. M. MANSFIELD, G. M.

Representatives were present from forty-two Subordinate Councils.

The Address of the G. M. was brief, giving an account of his official acts during the year, from which it appears that he has been a faithful laborer in the S. V., and has visited many of the Councils under his charge. He says :

“Nothing has come to my knowledge during the year tending in the least to disturb the feelings of brotherly love and friendship which has ever characterized our Order.”

The report of the G. T. showed an amount of \$828.50.

Charters were granted to seven Councils.

We find nothing in the Proceedings showing any action concerning the uniform work. The matter was left undecided last year, and nothing was done at this Assembly.

Companion G. B. NOBLE, G. R., submitted a faithful and courteous report on Foreign Correspondence, in which he gives a resume of the Proceedings of twenty-four Grand Councils, of which New York for 1875 is one. In conclusion he says :

“The principal questions among the Grand Councils is uniformity of work and title, and the formation of a General Grand Council.

“All see the necessity of uniformity of work and title; but how to accomplish it seems to be the great difficulty. A large majority have adopted the recommendations of the New York Convention; others think their's perfect, and work well enough, at least for them.”

“As regards the General Grand Council, we do not think there will be twenty Grand Councils in favor of its organization.

“In some states the Order has increased, in others it has slightly diminished, and in some it is at a stand-still. One urges transferring the degrees to the Chapter; and a majority to making them a prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood. But, scanning the whole Masonic horizon, we believe they will stand upon their own merits.”

Subordinate Councils,	46
Exalted,	193
Membership	1,986

GEORGE HILL, of Portland, G. M.

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

MINNESOTA—1874-5-6.

From our sister of the North we have tidings for the last three years.

From these we glean that in 1874 the Annual Assembly was held in the city of St. Paul, Jan. 14th, WM. S. COMBS, G. M., presiding, and three Councils represented.

No copy of the Annual Address was furnished for publication. The finances footed up \$50.00. The system of representatives was adopted, and

the G.:M.: was requested to appoint representatives near the Grand Councils in communication with this Grand Council. The abstract of work showed that thirty-three had "Passed the Circle." Companion COMBS was re-elected.

In 1875 the Annual Assembly was held in St. Paul. The G.:M.: was absent, and Companion FRED. JOSS, R.:I.:G.:M.:, presided.

The Constitution was amended so as to make the R.:I.:D.:G.:M.: an elected officer, instead of appointed, and to make his rank next to that of G.:M.: Companion JOSS was elected G.:M.:

The seventh Annual Assembly was held in St. Paul, January 11th, A.: Dep.: 2876.

Companion G. W. COOLEY, R.:I.:G.:M.:, presided. Three Councils were represented.

No formal Address was made. The time of the Annual Assembly was made to correspond with that of the Grand Commandery. One Charter was forfeited and one was granted.

Companion GROVE B. COOLEY presented an excellent report on Foreign Correspondence, reporting the Proceedings of New York for 1875; and those of nineteen other Grand Councils.

Although Companion COOLEY says he is a "new hand at the wheel," we congratulate him on his report, and hope often to hear from him. In introduction, he says :

"We are rejoiced that so many of our sister Grand Councils have sent us their annual Greetings. For, although we are very near the 'Hyperborean Regions,' the thermometer of our hearts is always above zero, and our hands ever open to receive the welcome *grip* from companions abroad. * * * * * Our worthy G.:R.: has sent the report abroad that *we are languishing*. That being true, there will not be much expected of us; but I beg to *differ*; we are not languishing, we never languish. We are yet young, it is true, but youth should never languish. We still live and move and have a being, and while life remains we don't propose to *languish*."

That is right, when they "pipe unto us" let us dance, but when they mourn unto us, let us not lament. These folks who are always sitting down and saying, it is of no use, who are constitutionally lamenters, never accomplish anything.

He gives New York two pages, and quotes fully, both from the address and our report. In conclusion, he says :

"If any are sleeping at their posts, put them aside and fill their places. We have two of the most beautiful and impressive degrees in the whole system of Masonry. What do we want of more? We may seek and obtain from the Commandery the Red Cross Degree, but what shall we do with it when we get it? It has really no connection with Cryptic Masonry. But we can't get it—neither will the Chapter of R.:A.: Masons take us—they don't want us, they have no *fit* place to put us in Capitular Masonry. We are just exactly in the right place, we have all we need, neither do we care for that class of Masons who are seeking the 'Templar's Feather,' and would only make us a stepping-stone to the Commandery. We don't endorse the idea of compulsion in Masonry. If our hand is sought at all, we desire it shall be for love, and that, when we are wed, we shall not be set aside for a more showy mistress. None of that in ours—we prefer to remain single. But don't let us *languish*."

There is a memorial page for Companion ALFRED E. AMES, M. D., 33°, First Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, Grand High Priest of

the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Minnesota. First Most Puissant Grand Master of the Grand Council, and Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery. May his refreshment be sweet.

Subordinate Councils.....	4
Membership.....	169
Passed the Circle.....	7

G. W. COOLEY, of Minneapolis, G. M. .

THEO. BURKHARD, of St. Paul, G. R. .

MISSISSIPPI—1876.

The eighteenth Annual Assembly was held in the city of Jackson, Feb. 1st, A. D. 1876.

HARVEY W. WALTER, G. M. ., opened the Grand Council in AMPLE FORM, with the aid of the representatives of twenty-seven Subordinate Councils.

The address of the G. M. . says :

"My official position for the past year has been a perfect sinecure. I have neither received or written a letter, granted a dispensation, arrested or suspended a charter, or answered a question. Though willing to work, I found nothing to do, and have, consequently, nothing to report. Peace, quiet, and perfect *stagnation* prevail throughout the Order in this state."

He repeats the recommendations of the previous year, to put the whole Masonic system under a hydraulic press, and subject it to a pressure of one hundred atmospheres. But it is so absurd that we shall not weary your attention with it.

The G. R. . reports that a majority of the Councils in the jurisdiction hold meetings not more than once a year.

Perhaps if the G. M. . would now and then write a letter and make some work, instead of finding none, they would meet oftener. We don't believe that any office ought to be a "perfect sinecure."

The G. T. . reports funds to the amount of \$521.92.

The following preamble and resolution were adopted :

"WHEREAS, It is apparent that Cryptic Masonry, in Mississippi, is in a languishing condition—in its finances—its work—its prosperity in every way—in its failures to meet and work—failure to keep its beautiful Work and Ritual alive in the Councils—and in a total abandonment of the duties devolving on those having charge of them; therefore,

"Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed to confer with the Grand Chapter of Mississippi, or its Committee, on the subject of the propriety of uniting the degrees of Royal and Select Masters with those of the Chapter."

Masonry teaches time, patience and perseverance, not surrender nor despair. We are ashamed of the Companions of Mississippi, and we hope the Grand Chapter of Mississippi will refuse the proposition, so that they may be obliged to work or else die.

Honorable extinction rather than "give up the ship."

Companion WM. S. PATTON presents a report on Foreign Correspondence, of 11 pp., reviewing twenty-four Grand Councils, including our own last Annual Assembly. His report is much condensed, and not up to the general average.

A memorial page is set apart to the memory of MORRIS COOK, G.:M.:, in the year 1870.

Subordinate Councils.....	32
Membership.....	789
Received and Greeted in 1875.....	36

P. M. SAVERY, of Baldwyn, G.:M.:

J. L. POWER, of Jackson, G.:R.:

MISSOURI—1875.

From Missouri we have only the report on Foreign Correspondence, which was sent us separate from the Proceedings. It is from the vigorous pen of Companion GOULEY, and comprises 36 pp.

We are glad Companion GOULEY has again seen fit to make a report that is a report, such as he knows how to make.

He reviews twenty-one Grand Councils, among which is New York.

Connecticut fines delinquent Councils, whereupon Companion GOULEY very properly says :

"As we have not the By-Laws at hand, we do not know what the usual fines are, and although we have heard of fines being suggested by some green member in Masonry, we never before heard of their being adopted and enforced. The use of such a word is foreign to Freemasonry, and we cannot understand it."

About the P.:T.:I.:G.:M.: of Illinois, we notice :

"Since the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts has adopted a Capitular Burial Service, we don't see why Illinois can't have a Cryptic Vault for P.:G.: Masters, duly labeled and set up in the cemetery of dead degrees. We believe that by the last official returns there are only 3279 defunct degrees, with Illinois to hear from, and we think it just and proper for the dignity of Cryptic Masonry that she should make it even 3280. Give the "sucker" a chance, for there is nothing in the Constitution of that commonwealth to prohibit a man climbing as high a tree as he pleases, before the ladies, provided his breeches are not torn."

Under the head of North Carolina :

"We are somewhat struck with the novelty of the reason assigned for moving the Grand Chapter from one town to another, viz.: that by hauling it around for the subordinates to look at, it might awaken new interest in its performances. If the suggestion should be adopted by the Grand Council, one good wagon would answer the purpose, and we don't know but what our own Grand Council might resolve itself into a perennial convocation and ride around, stirring up the Councils and collecting the returns, otherwise we don't see how we are ever to get half of them in."

Of New York, he says:

"Companion CHARLES G. HUDSON submitted a fine report on Correspondence, which, although not read, was printed right in the middle of the regular Proceedings. We hope the new Grand Recorder will not spoil another year's publication by such a performance. The Proceedings are most beautifully printed."

In conclusion he presents the following reflections, which we think are worth reading, and present them :

"Relative to want of interest and why there should be such apparent apathy in the secret vaults of the Council, is a question often asked, but asked in vain, so far as *results* are concerned. We shall endeavor to give an answer from the stand-point of personal observation. The Cryptic Degrees are essentially emotional and dramatic, and without these elements being fully developed and brought prominently forward, they fall back into the insipid recitations of one of Shakspeare's best plays without any scenery or costume. Professional readers of a high order, (or even of mediocrity,) are very rare indeed, and even the best of them, say Murdock, or Mrs. Kemble, or Mrs. Scott Siddons, could not possibly hold an audience over three successive nights in reading or reciting even the most thrilling and beautiful selections of any one of the best poet's productions; how then can it be expected that men wholly unprepared by nature or tuition shall be able to take up the beautiful story of Solomon or Hiram, and repeat the same year after year to the same audience with any effective interest? It is simply absolutely impossible, and one of the wisest injunctions ever given to mortal man was this : Never attempt the impossible; always accept the inevitable. To attempt to confer the Cryptic Degrees without a full dramatic effect, and hope to succeed, is nothing less than bidding defiance to human nature by ignoring an inevitable result. When the Council Chamber is properly arranged, with its throne, triangular pedestals, lights, curtains, solemn music with orchestra, and the room thoroughly furnished throughout with a systematic and practical arrangement of Arches and workmen, and each in his proper place, and every officer completely robed according to the legends of the work, and each thoroughly up in its parts; we say that all this attended to, and then supported by a rhetorical recitation of those soul touching episodes in the fraternal life of three of the greatest Masonic characters, and the affecting incidents of the death of one of them, would not only teach the candidate a sublime lesson of integrity and justice, but be an undying source of emotional pleasure and heart enjoyment to every member. Such a Council never would want either a quorum or a candidate.

"There is no iron and unbending formula to the *manner* of working the Cryptic Degrees, outside of its adopted Ritual. Much, and in fact all, of working interest is left to the enterprise of the workmen themselves. There is a dramatic elasticity granted to the Councils not allowed to any other Masonic body, and it seems as though this fact has been almost entirely overlooked; hence slim meetings, few candidates, and stupid work, followed by an almost entire loss of interest by the spectators.

"Nothing can be grander than the sacrifice of one's own life in vindication of the integrity of his promise to a friend, because it is a virtue so rare in human experience that the martyr of truth is almost worthy of deification, and then when that martyrdom is vindicated by the friend, even to the sacrifice of human life, it becomes a drama, most solemn and impressive. The beautiful moral taught in the brief and simple drama of the Royal and Select Masters' Degrees is worthy of perpetual preservation, and, as the Council Chamber should be properly arranged for such exhibitions, we see no impropriety in introducing the Super-Excellent Degree, to heighten, if possible, the object of the whole performance. But to expect a mere bungling and cut recital of the Ritual, in a half furnished room, unaccompanied by any dramatic effect, to draw an audience or to instruct a candidate, is nothing less than adding insult to common intelligence, and to the authors of the degrees themselves. * * * *

"A careful review of all the circumstances of the case leads us to the opinion that all the Grand Councils have been acting from an erroneous premise, viz: that the Cryptic Degrees should occupy a very prominent position in the Masonic System, and that Councils should be as large and energetic as Lodges, Chapters and Commanderies. Let us now take the other view, and we will only find that they appear small and weak by the comparison, and were there no other Grand Bodies, then those of the Council would appear large indeed, and were there no other degrees, then the Crypts would be filled with enthusiastic workmen. We have now come to the conclusion that we have been pulling at the wrong end of the rope, and that instead of these degrees being popular, in the worldly acceptance of the term, they should be secluded and select, with 'secrecy and silence,' so enveloping the hidden temple, and making it a place to be sought after and difficult of entrance. If was this, for aught we know, which caused it to be set off from the great public highway of Masonic progress, and left like a sacred shrine beside the still waters in the valley beneath, and as the entire history and legend of the degrees breathe a spirit of solemnity and death, we are of the opinion that if the proper element of dramatic life should permeate the work, that then they should be left just where they are."

NEW HAMPSHIRE—1875.

The Annual "Convocation" was holden in Concord, May 17th, A. . Dep. : 2875.

Present, JOHN A. HARRIS, M. . P. . G. . M. . , and the representatives of five Councils.

The Annual Address was very interesting and full of historical matter, from which we shall quote as largely as our space will permit.

He says :

"As you are all aware, the early history of Cryptic Masonry in New Hampshire has been enveloped in darkness. Here and there a person was found who remembered that Councils existed in this state many years ago, but it has seemed impossible to obtain much information in regard to them. Most of the records have perished, and a portion of those remaining are on mere scraps of paper, liable to be lost or destroyed. The only information in regard to some important matters now to be found is contained in newspapers or other publications, which no one seems to have thought of.

"I have carefully examined all records, documents, letters, and publications within my reach, some of which have been seen by no other person now living; and in some cases have made exact copies thereof, in other cases have stated the substance or the important portion, hoping thus to rescue these valuable matters from oblivion.

"I find that Tyrian Council of Royal Masters (the first in New England) was established at Hopkinton in this state, in 1815, and was afterward united with the Council of Select Masters, subsequently established in that town; and that a Council of Royal Masters, by the name of Guardian Council of Royal Masters, existed for a short time at Portsmouth, afterwards united with the Council of Select Masters, evidently subsequently formed, at that place.

"One of the first Councils of Select Masters in New England was the Council at Hopkinton, established Aug. 19th, 1817, according to a list published by JEREMY L. CROSS, but not organized until 1819.

"The only other Council of Select Masters ever established in New Hampshire, to my knowledge, was the one at Portsmouth.

"Though the term 'Select Councils of Royal Masters' sometimes occurs, it is evident from the titles of the officers that these Councils were Councils of Select Masters.

"The Councils established before the formation of the Grand Council in 1823, were Tyrian at Hopkinton, Guardian at Portsmouth, Washington at Hanover, and Columbian at Claremont."

He gives the Constitution and records of Tyrian Council entire; also records of the other Councils. and of the old Grand Council.

We copy the following interesting letter from BENJAMIN GLEASON to JOHN HARRIES, dated at New York August 28th, 1815, viz :

"I enquired at Albany, as you wished, respecting the R. M. Degree. It is now not so much attended to there as formerly. Their price of initiation is \$3, as yours. Their By-Laws have 13 Articles, as follows, viz:—after Preamble—

- "1. Meetings—1st Monday of each month.
- "2. Jewels, &c.—The Officers' property kept in trust.
- "3. Permissions—From the chair called Throne.
- "4. Price—2 Shekels in advance, 4 Shekels on admission.
- "5. Ballots—Unanimous, &c.
- "6. Members of the other Councils pay 2 Shekels for membership.
- "7. Special Meetings—4 Shekels extra (2 to the Council, 2 to the Guard).
- "8. Fees—None for membership from initiates.
- "9. Members—Sign By-Laws, conform. &c.
- "10. Officers—Chosen and installed on St. John Baptist Day.
- "11. Tyler (or Gd.)—1 Shekel at regular meetings when initiations.
- "12. Visitors—Conform to their Rules.
- "13. The August R. M. Jewel—Kept by Secretary in some secret place, not otherwise without consent.

"There is some charge written, which they could not find. They use the following words:—The Tyler is called Guard; M. of C., Herald; Council, Sanctuary; Half Dollars, Shekels; The Chief, August R. M.; Chair, Throne. This brief I think will please you and answer your wishes, although I think your own By-Laws much the best, and need no special alteration."

We advise all who desire much valuable information to obtain a copy of the Proceedings of New Hampshire for 1875.

The G. . T. . reports \$222.09.

The Grand Council of Maryland was recognized and fraternally greeted.

There was no report on Foreign Correspondence.

Councils.....	8
Initiations.....	50
Membership.....	708

OLIVER C. FISHER, of Henniker, G. M. .

JOHN A. HARRIS, of Concord, G. R. .

NEW JERSEY—1876.

To our great disappointment there comes a circular only from New Jersey, stating that the Annual Assembly was held in Trenton, Jan. 18th, A. Dep. : 2876.

Companion CORSON's hieroglyph looks familiar. We miss your "tale of brick," THOMAS. Keep thy wits alive, and give us a double quantum next year.

CHAS. C. WELLS, of New Brunswick, G. M. .

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

NORTH CAROLINA—1875.

The Annual Assembly of this sister Grand Council was held in the city of Raleigh, June 9th, A. Dep. : 2875.

JOHN NICHOLS, G. M. ., opened the Grand Council in AMPLE FORM, and the Committee on Credentials announced that three Councils were represented.

The G. M. . read an address of seventeen lines, reporting that Cryptic Masonry in that jurisdiction stands just where it did one year ago. He hopes that the experiment of holding the Annual Assemblies in different parts of the state may have a beneficial effect upon the Craft.

There was no report on Foreign Correspondence.

The following amendment to the Constitution was adopted :

"The Regular Convocation of this Grand Council shall be held at such place as each succeeding Grand Council may determine, during or immediately succeeding the Convocations of the Grand Chapter of North Carolina."

G. T. Receipts, \$79.91.

Subordinate Councils.....	4
Membership.....	126

JOHN NICHOLS, of Raleigh, G. M. .

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

OHIO—1875.

The Grand Council of Ohio assembled at Put-in-Bay, in the Secret Vault, (Masonic, of course,) Sept. 8th, A. Dep. : 2875.

The Assembly was presided over by M. I. HENRY THEOBALD, G. M. :
The large number of fifty-two Councils was represented.

The G. M. : said in his Annual Address :

"The work devolving upon me by the action of the last Grand Council as to the dissemination of the Ritual, was promptly attended to, and every Council in the State put in possession of the same. And here I wish to call the attention of the Grand Council to the fact, that although at our last Annual Assembly this Ritual was made the authorized work of the state, there are some Councils who think it is not obligatory upon them to conform thereto. I, therefore, ask of this Grand Assembly to again define its position on this subject."

The report of the G. T. T. exhibits \$2,612.39.

Companion CUNNINGHAM, in behalf of the Committee on Foreign Communications, submitted one of his excellent reports, which reviews the Proceedings of twenty-one Grand Councils, ours for 1874 among the number.

The G. M. : of Louisiana has made the following decision, viz :

"A member of a Lodge, who forfeits his membership by a vote of the Lodge under the regulations of our Grand Lodge, being virtually suspended, as the Grand Lodge has declared that forfeiture is equivalent to suspension, should be, *ipso facto*, suspended in Chapter and Council."

Upon this decision Companion CUNNINGHAM remarks :

"Which, in the opinion of your Committee, is a violation of Masonic usage, and subversive of the rights of Royal and Select Masters, it being a landmark that suspension and expulsion can only result from a regular trial."

New York receives a courteous and fraternal notice of two pages, with quotations from the Annual Address and the report on Foreign Correspondence.

We take pleasure in giving the conclusion entire :

"In concluding this report, your Committee congratulate the Companions of this and other jurisdictions upon the general prosperity of Cryptic Masonry.

"Whilst there are doleful refrains from within a few jurisdictions, yet a large majority of the Grand Councils are harmonious and prosperous. A total membership of over twenty-five thousand Companions within the United States, is a sufficient evidence of the solid foundation of our beautiful Rite, and of the high position to which it has attained, despite the sneers of its enemies from without, and the wailing of the doleful doubters within, our own ranks.

"In this connection, the greatest injury to the Cryptic Rite has doubtless been inflicted by its own members. Our organization having been so often placed in an unenviable position by their pitiful supplications of 'Recognize us, recognize us, or we perish !' that other bodies have been led to consider the Cryptic Rite a sick member of the American system of degrees.

"It is a pleasure, however, to observe that this feeling is passing away throughout the United States, and that the true principle that Cryptic Masonry is no suppliant for that courteous and fraternal recognition which should belong to it of right, is now a prevailing sentiment.

"Therefore, Companions, let us be true to ourselves, and by patient waiting, the weeding out of the selfish drones from within, and by debarring the unworthy from entering our portals from without, continue to impress upon earnest seekers after light the importance of the grade—impressing also upon the minds of those among us the beauty and truth contained in its teachings, and knightly recognition will ultimately follow as a natural sequence, and be deemed a privilege, as it should be, rather than a favor."

The Proceedings are finely printed and excellently compiled, containing Constitution, &c., well arranged tables and statistics.

Subordinate Councils.....	55
Number Advanced.....	185
Membership.....	2,674

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

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

ONTARIO—1875.

Our sister sends us this year a "beautiful piece of work," in blue and gold, excellently arranged and full of interest. It contains fine portraits of the G. M., DANIEL SPRY, 32°, and the G. R., JAMES B. NIXON, 30°, to whom we return thanks for fraternal courtesies. We are heartily pleased to look upon the representation of the faces of our Companions, and see what manner of men they are. We wish more of our Grand Councils would give us portraits of their prominent members. Though we may never meet these two Companions here at labor, we hope to grasp their hands some day, when we shall have all laid down the sword and trowel.

There was a Special Assembly of the Grand Council held at London, July 15th, A. Dep. 2875, and the degrees were conferred upon several Companions of exalted station in the Grand Lodge, who had been accepted in Subordinate Councils, but who had not been able to be present at the Assemblies of such Councils to receive the degrees.

The Fifth Annual Assembly was held in Toronto, Aug. 10th, A. Dep. 2875, and was opened in AMPLE FORM by DANIEL SPRY, G. M. Eight Councils were represented. The Annual Address was very interesting and full of information. It congratulates the Craft on the steady progress of the Cryptic Rite in that jurisdiction. He says:

"From past experience, I am quite satisfied that where Councils languish it is due to a considerable extent, if not altogether, to incompetent officers. Unfortunately we have Companions who desire to hold office to gratify their ambition, who are utterly unable to discharge the obligations imposed upon them as rulers of the Craft. Companions, you cannot be too careful in the selection of your officers; elect only those who possess the ability, dignity, and intelligence requisite to lead and direct your affairs, so as to attract your members to the meetings of the Councils by the able manner in which the work is performed."

He recommends a second application to the Grand Chapter for recognition.

We quote the following, about a Grand Council of the Rites, in full:

"You are aware that the Masonic and Military Order of Knights of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine was introduced into Canada in 1869, by our esteemed M. I. Companion Col. W. J. B. McLEOD MOORE, 33°, Grand Cross and Grand Prior for the Dominion of Canada, who was appointed Chief Intendent-General for this Dominion.

"The history of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine can justly claim a higher antiquity than any other order of Knighthood.

"It had its actual origin from the circumstance of a vision which the Emperor Constantine saw prior to the battle fought Oct. 28th, A. D. 313, at a place called Saxa Rubra, near Rome.

"According to the Christian writer, Eusebius, Constantine saw the symbol of the Atonement emblazoned upon the sky—a *Cross*, surmounted by the inscription—*In hoc signo vinces*. The Emperor communicated this vision to the learned Eusebius, and, as our traditional history states, afterwards instituted the Order of the Red Cross, as a memorial of the Divine miracle which effected his conversion to the Christian faith, and as a reward for the valor of his soldiers.

"The order teaches Faith, Unity and Zeal. It inculcates the Christian virtues, and urges us to carry out, in our daily lives, the Divine principles of Charity and Truth—based on that high and holy law, which will secure to every faithful follower of the Lamb a holy rest upon the bosom of Infinite Love.

"The degrees pertaining to this order are conferred in Assemblies called Conclaves, and are Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, Knight of St. John of Palestine, Knight of the Christian Mark, and Knight of the H. & T. I. Order of the Cross. The two latter degrees are conferred under the designation of a sanctuary, all of these degrees being confined to those who have

attained to the rank of a Royal Arch Mason. The same M. I. Companion introduced into Canada the Ancient Order of Royal Ark Mariners, and a Grand Lodge of this body has been formed for the Dominion of Canada.

"The creation of so many grand bodies has created some confusion, and it has appeared to many of the leading members of the Craft that some means might be devised whereby the degrees conferred in Councils, Conclaves, and Lodges of Royal Ark Mariners, might, with much benefit to Masonry, be placed under one grand body, to be called the *Grand Council of Rites for the Dominion of Canada*, or should you prefer to curtail your jurisdiction, for the Province of Ontario only. Our M. Ill. Companion McLEOD MOORE, as head of the two orders I have named, highly approves of this scheme, and has called a Convention of the Conclave of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, to meet in this city this evening, when this matter will be submitted for their consideration and decision. The Grand Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners has also been summoned to meet at the same time, when the brethren composing that Order will be asked to co-operate in organizing the *Grand Council of Rites* as proposed. I cannot too strongly recommend the Grand Council to give its approval to the arrangements suggested, thereby dispensing with so many grand bodies, which at present demand too great a sacrifice of the valuable time of the members of the Craft. Should the Grand Council of Rites be formed as proposed, the grand bodies of Canada then will be—Grand Lodges, Grand Chapters, Grand Council of Rites, Grand Priory, Supreme Council of the 33d Degree A. & A. Rite; quite sufficient governing power to control and direct the whole of Masonry, and to meet all requirements of the Craft."

All this arouses our curiosity, and as all the knowledge we had of these degrees was, that we once took the "Knights of Constantine," and a distant relative of ours, whose name was Noah, was an Ark Mariner, we at once seized our pen and wrote to Companion NIXON for more light. That M. E. M., remembering his ties, dispensed Masonic light and information to us. We will impart the substance of it to you.

The project has not yet succeeded, and is not likely to succeed. The Grand Council, the Grand Conclave, and the Grand Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners, all passed resolutions favorable to the formation of the Grand Council of Rites, and the same Companions were elected to the principal offices in each of the orders. But on examining the situation closely, and going into details, it was found impossible to effectually coalesce the three bodies into one, from the fact that Royal Arch Masons only are accepted as candidates in two of the bodies, and Master Masons in the other. It was also found that it would interfere in some quarters with the friendly relations between the Grand Council of Ontario and other Grand Councils. So it was determined to carry on the three orders as formerly, and have the Grand Assemblies, Conclaves and Communications at the same city, at the same date.

As far as we are able to judge, this seems to us the wisest course. We don't see how so many bodies and degrees could be coalesced and have the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters retain its autonomy, if, indeed, it would not entirely remove it from the sisterhood of Grand Councils. But we submit our opinion with diffidence.

During the past year G. M. SPRY had decided that a Companion suspended for non-payment of dues, is at once restored to good standing upon the payment of dues; also that a non-affiliated Companion has no claim upon a Council of Royal and Select Masters; also that only such P. T. I. M's. as are members of Subordinate Councils are entitled to a seat in the Grand Council; also that it is the inherent right of every Companion in good standing to

visit any Council, unless it should disturb the harmony of the Council he is about to visit; the member objecting must state his reason, and the T.:I.:M.: alone is to judge if such objections are good and sufficient.

The receipts of the Grand Council were reported at \$298.60.

The national work of the New York Convention was adopted.

Companion J. B. NIXON submitted a careful and full report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing twenty-three Grand Councils, including New York for 1874, from which we would be glad to quote, did our limits allow.

Subordinate Councils.....	13
Membership.....	298

DANIEL SPRY, 32°, of Toronto, G.:M.:

JAMES B. NIXON, 30°, of Toronto, G.:R.:

PENNSYLVANIA—1876.

The Grand Council of Royal Super-Excellent and Select Masters of Pennsylvania, held its thirtieth Annual Assembly in Reading, Feb. 16th, A.: Dep.: 2876.

M.:I.: CHRISTIAN F. KNAPP, who has so long and faithfully presided over this Grand Council, opened the Assembly in AMPLE FORM. Fourteen Councils were represented.

The Annual Address reports a marked improvement among the subordinates in the rendering of the work, and that all are adding furniture and regalia to make the work impressive. He says:

“During the year I made eighteen grand visitations, conferred the three degrees upon twenty-seven applicants. Devoted thirty-six days to the work, traveled twenty-seven hundred miles, and expended for postage, express charges, traveling, &c., during the year, \$175.

A workman that needeth not to be ashamed.

The G.:T.: reported funds \$1,499.89.

It was resolved that the minimum of furniture, &c., for the Councils should be as follows:

Official Regalia—The apron, collar and jewel of office.

Members' Regalia—Apron, (square.)

Arches—Nine on each side, made of such material as may be considered suitable by the Council, or a representation of the same may be painted on canvass.

Furniture—As used at present in all Councils.

A Keystone.

Veils of blue or purple and of white.

In addition, such Councils as may desire, may procure the robes of office, as worn by the Grand Officers of this Grand Council; also such other regalia,

furniture, &c., as they may deem proper for the correct working of the degrees.

A Committee was appointed to procure a P. M. P. G. M. Jewel, Collar and Apron to be presented to the retiring G. M., Companion KNAPP. There were nine District Deputy Grand Masters appointed. There was no report on Foreign Correspondence, but a Committee was appointed, who will, we hope, magnify their office and make a report.

Subordinate Councils.....	23
Work	58
Admitted.....	5
Died.....	25
Resigned.....	29
Suspended.....	65
Expelled.....	1
Membership.....	1,968

GETER CROSBY SHIDDLE, of Petersburg, G. M.

CHAS. E. MAYER, of Philadelphia, G. R.

RHODE ISLAND—1870-1-2-3-4-5.

We are heartily rejoiced to receive printed Proceedings from Rhode Island this year, and hope to see them oftener.

They are splendidly gotten up, and are a fine specimen of the work of the Rhode Island Printing Co. They are adorned with an excellently engraved portrait of the venerable JAMES SALSBUURY, the first M. P. G. M. of this Grand Council, who laid down the trowel and the sword, June 19th, 1872, aged 80 years.

"After life's fitful fever, may he sleep well."

We find from the Proceedings that the Grand Council assembled each of the above years in the city of Providence, and the Assemblies were mainly of local interest.

In 1872 the G. M. was appointed a delegate to the New York Convention. In 1874 the minimum fee for the degrees was fixed at ten dollars, and the least amount of dues to be paid by any Subordinate to the Grand Council, ten dollars. The P. G. R., EDWARD B. KNIGHT, was made a permanent member.

In 1875 the Annual Assembly was held March 8th, and four Councils were represented.

This year the G. M., ALBERT H. CUSHMAN, delivered an Annual Address. He reports harmony; that there are five Councils in the jurisdiction; no

official rulings; a small amount of work, yet, proportionate to that in the other bodies; does not favor a General Grand Council; recommends a Committee to procure and examine the uniform work, with a view to introduction.

Such a Committee was appointed.

The following resolution was adopted:

“Resolved, That this Grand Council regards with utter disfavor the movement looking to the creating of a General Grand Council, believing that the establishment of such a body would in no way tend to advance the interests of Cryptic Masonry. We protest, therefore, with great earnestness, yet with entire respect to those differing from us, against the formation of any such General Grand Body.”

While we regret such an action, we are pleased to mark the courteous spirit of the resolution. But with entire respect, we believe the Companions of Rhode Island are wrong, and that a General Grand Council would tend to advance the interests of Cryptic Masonry. But here in this world it is not to be expected that we should all see eye to eye.

Companion WALTER BLODGETT, G. M. R., presented a report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the Proceedings of twenty of the circle of Grand Councils, including New York.

The report is readable, quite waspish in tone, and might be improved by a slight tinge of courtesy. This Companion seems to think the chief business of a reporter is to indite diatribes on a General Grand Council.

We give a specimen under Alabama:

“So far as to ‘complete the work so happily begun,’ Companion WEBB, by forming a General Grand Council, you will just ruin Cryptic Masonry.

“If the Grand Councils are not able to take care of themselves, do for Heaven’s sake give up the degrees, and let Cryptic Masonry be among the things that were. Don’t have any more ‘side shows’ exhibiting with the Grand Encampment. We can tell you there is one state, and though it is small in territory, yet it is large in number of masons, [that] will never join in any General Council. Rhode Island is able to take care of herself, and if Alabama needs some one to teach her how to govern Councils, we will send some one to her relief, rather than let her perish for knowledge, or trust her head into a noose, the consequence of which will be death.”

Doubtless Alabama will jump at the chance of being instructed by one of
“The People.”

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence, of Illinois, thought the Grand Encampment would be compelled to take some action of the prerequisite question. Whereupon:

“When the Grand Encampment ‘feels compelled’ to do this we will stand treat. According to our idea the Grand Encampment has nothing to do with it. The matter can be arranged by the State Grand Commanderies, and no one else. Whatever the Grand Commanderies do about the Council degrees, the Grand Encampment will have to swallow.”

In reviewing our report, because we ventured to suggest that printed Proceedings, even of a few pages, were preferable to circulars, and expressed our disapprobation of circulars, we are totally squelched in the following summary manner:

“If Companion HUDSON will agree to ‘foot the bills,’ Rhode Island will print every year, but so long as money is not plenty in our treasury, we shall continue to send circulars, and, if Companion HUDSON doesn’t want any, we will willingly leave him out.

"In conclusion of his report, Companion HUDSON says:
 "We believe that there could be no better thing for the prosperity, appreciation, and dignity of the Cryptic Rite, than the establishment of a General Grand Council of the United States." As long as he believes such nonsense as that, of course he will not be satisfied with circulars."

We are overwhelmed. In deep contrition, we promise never to flourish the red rag of a circular before Companion BLODGETT again, for fear his swellings and stampings may cause the State of Rhode Island to tip up. We trust it may be our lot to receive some future circular from Rhode Island, and not be obliged to write to Providence, as we have had to do every year, to find out if the Grand Council of Rhode Island was still "able to take care of itself."

Now, seriously, we think our sister Grand Council is as well able to print brief Proceedings every year, as is the Grand Council of North Carolina; and from that jurisdiction we gladly receive Proceedings every year. We doubt if any Grand Council is so reduced in the matter of shekels as not to be able to devote \$25 or \$30 yearly to the printing of Proceedings, however brief.

As to the matter of a General Grand Council, we cheerfully grant Companion BLODGETT his right to his opinion, and while we respectfully differ from him, we shall, in the spirit of Masonic courtesy, refrain from characterizing his views as "nonsense."

The Finance Committee report a balance in bank and in the hands of the G. T. of \$229.84.

Subordinate Councils.....	5
Companions Greeted.....	14
No table of membership.	

ALBERT H. CUSHMAN, of Providence, G. M. :

WALTER BLODGETT, of Providence, G. R. :

SOUTH CAROLINA—1875.

We have from this Grand Council the Proceedings of two years.

This Grand Body assembled in the city of Charleston, Feb. 10th, A. Dep. 2875, and was opened in AMPLE FORM by WILMOT G. DE SAUSSURE, G. M., together with the representatives of nine Subordinate Councils.

The Annual Address announces the death of Companions ROBERT STEWART BRUNS and BENJAMIN RUSH CAMPBELL, and pays them a suiting eulogy.

He also says there are more cheering prospects for the progress of Cryptic Masonry in South Carolina.

The Appendix to the Address reviews the Proceedings of twenty sister Grand Councils, of which New York is one.

It merely gives a resume of their Proceedings, and contains nothing which we can quote.

1876.

The Annual Assembly for this year was held in the city of Charleston, Feb. 16th, A. S. Dep. : 2876.

Companion DE SAUSSURE presided, and there were present representatives from ten Subordinate Councils.

We quote from the Annual Address:

"Again convened in Annual Assembly, it behooves us with humble gratitude to acknowledge the goodness of the Great Architect of the Universe, who has permitted us to meet with undiminished numbers. Death has not taken any from among those who a year since closed their labors in the Secret Vault. While, then, we are not called to mourn, and with lacerated sensibilities shrink from contemplating the destroyer, it is, perhaps, not an inappropriate time to calmly contemplate that which must come to all.

"Our Grand Master has taught us that we may profitably give some thoughts to an event which so surely will happen to each and every one of us. It has been most beautifully said by a writer, that through death we enter the gateway of the temple not made with hands, there to receive the wages of rest, and the refreshment which our Father provides for all of his children who trust in him. Deep down in the heart, of primeval man, ere Enoch was, He had engraved the knowledge of His great name, and although through sin corruption came, and heaped rubbish over the place where it was concealed in secrecy, silence, and darkness, yet, in the great Light, the Book of the Law, He had laid up the key, by the use of which; each earnest, truthful searcher could hope to discover this lost treasure. And since death is followed by the resurrection, we may humbly hope, as did our Grand Master, that a conscientious endeavor to discharge our duties, humbly putting our trust in Him, will, after this mortal has put on immortality, be rewarded by Him, by disclosing to us the ineffable name emblazoned in refulgent light in that Middle Chamber to which we shall be called to give an account of our works, and to receive our wages, for good or for evil. Looking forward, then, to that time, when we must cease our labors and lay aside our implements, it is not inappropriate to regard the gateway through which we must finally pass from our works, not with fear and dread, but rather with the sobered hope that we may be found worthy and qualified.

"During the past year a reviving interest in Cryptic Masonry has been exhibited in this jurisdiction."

The G. S. T. : reported a total of \$187.38.

The Appendix to the G. S. M's. : Address gives information of the Annual Assemblies of twenty-three Grand Councils. Under New York, he says of our lamented Companion CHASE :

"Companion CHASE is known to all Masonic students, and is especially to be remembered in Cryptic Masonry, since much of the beautiful and impressive language of the Ritual, now generally adopted, was prepared by him, and the solemn manner in which he used that language, when exemplifying the work before the New York Convention, cannot readily be forgotten by such Companions as were privileged to hear it."

There are no tables of membership.

WILMOT G. DE SAUSSURE, of Charleston, G. S. M. :

A. LINDSTROM, of Charleston, G. S. R. :

TENNESSEE—1875.

At the Annual Assembly, held in the city of Nashville, Nov. 8th, A. S. Dep. : 2875, there were present W. R. SHAVER, G. S. M. :, and the representatives of thirty-three Councils.

The Annual Address announces the death of P. I. D. M. : JOHN W. PAXTON; that Cryptic Masonry in Tennessee is now in as good and healthy a condition as for several years past; no new councils have been organized; that he and several Companions attended the New Orleans Convention.

There was no report on Foreign Correspondence, nor any proceedings of special interest.

Subordinate Councils.....	45
Degrees Conferred.....	46
Membership.....	1,389

H. M. AIKIN, of Knoxville, G. : M. :
JOHN FIZZELL, of Nashville, G. : R. :

VERMONT—1875.

Our Green Mountain Companions gathered in Annual Assembly, in the city of Burlington, June 10th, A. : Dep. : 2875.

Eleven Subordinate Councils being represented, the G. : M. : , EDWARD S. DANA, opened the Grand Council with the usual ceremonies.

The Address of the G. : M. : was fully equal to his preceding most excellent and beautiful Addresses. We should be glad to give it entire. As it is, we present the most enjoyable portions.

He says :

“As the returning traveler, coming from far distant wanderings for pleasure or for profit, is gladdened by the sight of the towering peaks of Mansfield or Killington beckoning him homeward toward the Green Mountains of his nativity, so may the sight of these holy altars within this sacred temple, hallowed by many endearing associations, cheer and strengthen us for every duty as we meet again after weary months of separation.

“We have come to take sweet council together as to the methods by which we may strengthen and beautify the structure which has been committed to our charge, and perpetuate it with its countless blessings to those who shall come after us ; and while the wisdom of man may fail and the creation of genius with its magic touch may perish, yet if we rely upon an unseen hand for support and aid, we may go forward with an implicit trust that our labors will meet with perpetual reward.

“Let us, as we gather here within the grateful atmosphere of fraternal affection, lend ourselves with cheerful alacrity to enlarge and dignify those influences which shall give encouragement to the patient toilers in the vaults, and which they shall follow, like a pillar of fire by night, through every darkness and peril, until their mission shall close in the promise and plenty of merited success.”

He says he had expected to lay the work of the New York Convention before the Grand Council, but Companion DRUMMOND, of Maine, who had promised him a copy, had mislaid his copy.

Speaking of making the Cryptic Degrees prerequisites for Knighthood, he says :

“The lapse of time will doubtless bring unanimity of feeling upon this subject, and the American system of Masonry at last stand complete in harmonious proportions before the world. Until then we can but press steadily forward and onward in every good work, and with becoming modesty,

“Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.”

He notices the establishment of Cryptic Masonry in England, under our auspices, and compliments our Proceedings of 1874 as a “model of neatness, containing seventy-two pages full of interesting information to the craft.”

We copy again:

"The recent gathering of twenty thousand men, among them large numbers of those distinguished in all the walks of life, to dedicate with august ceremonies a spacious temple in the city of New York, conclusively shows that Freemasonry is something more than a sentiment, that it has grounded within itself a moral power, which if properly exerted will hold in check the passions and infirmities of men, while it fosters those noble virtues of human nature which glow with genial warmth through all our social life.

"Let the Freemasons of Vermont, who have ever held a proud position among their fellows, guard every act with jealous care, that their high standard shall never be lowered, and their zealous efforts of beneficence meet the approval of their conscience and the plaudits of our universal brotherhood."

He records the decease of Companion DR. GEORGE M. HALL, of Swanton, P. : G. : M. : of the Grand Lodge, and P. : G. : C. : of the Grand Commandery.

We give the concluding exhortation:

"I entreat you to permit no slothful indulgence in your midst, which shall suffer our arches to crumble into decay and bury our priceless treasures in unmerited oblivion; but let every Officer and Companion firmly resolve to dedicate himself anew to the service of the Cryptic Rite, and bring it up to the standard of perfection, which shall insure that fruition and fullness of reward which crowns the labors of the faithful and the just."

It was resolved that the fees for conferring the degrees of Royal and Select Master should not be less than five dollars.

The G. : T. : reported \$96.37.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence announced the incompleteness of their report, and were continued, with orders to complete it in time for the publication of the Proceedings.

We have strained our eyes in vain, and put on our Brazilian pebbles of the highest magnifying power, but not the least syllable, character, letter or shadow of a letter of such report do we find.

Where art thou, Companion STEWART? We miss the perfect ashlar, adorned with thy well-known mark.

Subordinate Councils.....	14
Advanced.....	2
Membership.....	686

EDWARD S. DANA, of Cornwall (P. O. Middlebury), G. : M. :

WILLIAM H. S. WHITCOMB, of Burlington, G. : R. :

WISCONSIN—1876.

Two years ago Wisconsin's G. : A. : was so fast asleep that we couldn't get a word of information out of him. But this year he was wide awake, and, in answer to our alarm, handed us a specimen from the S. : S. :, a beautiful piece of work. The Proceedings are elegant, and we have looked them over and over with pleasure. Well bound, beautifully printed, with clear, smooth paper, and orderly arrangement, they are indeed a gratification to the eye.

They tell us that the nineteenth Annual Assembly was held in the city of Milwaukee, Feb. 14th, A. : Dep. : 2876.

M. I. G. M. J. P. C. COTTRILL presided, and nine Councils were represented.

The Annual Address reported a general condition of prosperity and progress, and an entire harmony.

We quote the following:

"Cryptic Masonry having long ago become an integral part of American Masonry, being fully organized and having its established and distinct place in the order of the American rites, except in Virginia, West Virginia and Texas, in which its degrees are conferred in Chapters, and the Orders of the Temple being in like manner organized and having their distinct place, the interest of the latter, no less than of the former, require, in my judgment, that the receipt of the Council degrees should be made a necessary condition to the receipt of those of the Commandery. And to this end I recommend that a Committee be appointed, who shall be instructed to memorialize the Grand Commandery of Wisconsin, to the end that it may so provide in its Grand Constitution."

This recommendation was approved, and a Committee appointed.

The Committee on Finance reported a total of \$201.05.

Companion WM. C. SWAIN presented a most excellent report on Foreign Correspondence, occupying thirty-two pages, in which he reviews New York for 1875, and twenty-four other Grand Councils. We will quote some of the good things of this report, and we wish we had space for them all.

Under Connecticut:

"We find in this jurisdiction a Committee on Delinquencies, and a habit of fining 'delinquent Councils'; but if the fines of such Councils are as difficult to collect as their dues, it can hardly be a source of much revenue. We suppose in aggravated cases, a Council is 'sent up for thirty days.'"

He raps G. M. FOOTE, of Indiana:

"He does not favor the New York Convention work any more than his predecessor; and while enamored of the beauties of uniformity in his own State, does not seem anxious to 'uniform' with anybody else. He propounds the following conundrum: 'Uniformity in different jurisdictions has never existed, and the question is, can it ever be made to exist?' Well, that depends. Two or three jurisdictions, including Indiana, which do not desire uniformity, are extremely despondent about its attainment; but the great majority are strongly of the opinion that it can, and are making a vigorous and apparently successful effort to attain it."

He replies to the argument of G. M. ST. JOHN, of Massachusetts, concerning the order of the degrees:

"We think the argument, based upon the chronology of the degrees, is lame. He might as well argue that the Council degrees, which explain the Royal Arch, should be placed before that degree, because they chronologically precede it. We do not remember the Massachusetts Royal Master's degree, although we witnessed its exemplification at the New York Convention of 1872; but to place our Select Master's degree before the Royal Master's, would be like having the denouement in any of Wilkie Collins' stories precede the plot."

In the review of New York he pays the following tribute to the memory of our lamented Companion CHASE:

"Our acquaintance with Companion CHASE dated back eighteen years, and embraced a period of intimate fellow-service with him during the war, and his genial qualities, and readiness to assist and oblige his associates, greatly endeared him to all with whom he was connected. Those of us whom he assisted and instructed, while passing through the Capitular degrees, and Orders of Knighthood, will not soon forget his valuable and cheerfully rendered services."

He also quotes largely from the report on Foreign Correspondence.

In conclusion he remarks:

"The only panacea we know of for sick Councils, is the election of officers who will make the Assemblies interesting. We do not think it necessary to meet as often as most of our Masonic bodies are in the habit of doing. Let it be understood that the Council will meet, perhaps once a month; that when the regular Assembly night comes, there will be an Assembly, and that the meetings will be made interesting, and there are few intelligent masons who would not be willing to devote *one* evening in a month to this grade.

"There seems to be a general impression that the main object of the existence of all our Masonic Bodies is to make Masons; and although we deny this in theory, we practically admit it by calling those bodies dead which have no candidates. When we correct this impression, and teach our Companions practically that there are other objects sought to be attained by our institutions, and that there are other methods of making our gatherings interesting, we shall hear no more complaints of apathy and indifference; and we know of no Masonic Grade which would profit more by such instruction than the Council."

We give the above our hearty approbation. If our sole aim is to initiate candidates, we had better disband. If moral, social, and intellectual improvement, &c., are only to be found in Monitors and Manuals, and are never to be heard of, except in St. John's day orations, then indeed we labor in vain, and spend our strength for naught.

Subordinate Councils.....	9
Promoted (partial returns).....	19
Membership, in part.....	275

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

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

CONCLUSION.

These are the tidings, Companions, from the circle of the Cryptic jurisdiction. We trust that we have reported everything of interest, and that from our tidings you may gain a clear idea of the present status of our Rite.

We would have been glad to have spoken of every Grand Council, but it was impossible to gain news of them all. We wish that each G. : R. :, in mailing copies of his Proceedings, would mail them in duplicate, for they often miscarry. Several have written assurance that they have mailed them to New York, but they have never been received. To several of the Grand Councils we are obliged to write every year.

The condition of the majority of the Grand Councils is good; nearly all are hopeful and earnest; but very few are despondent; all but one remember the motto, "Don't give up the ship." We find that there are not so many candidates as in years past, but that should be no sign of lack of prosperity. Fewer candidates is the result of financial stringency, for we think Companion SAYRE, of Alabama, is right, when he maintains that Masonry is a luxury, so to speak, which men forego when dollars are scarce.

There are many expedients, changes, &c., proposed to cause prosperity, all seeming to be founded upon the supposition that many candidates mean pros-

perity, and that the sole aim of our Order is to receive and greet, and that a Council must languish or die, when men fail to investigate doors ajar. But upon this subject we intend to speak more fully to you in another capacity.

The uniform work is being very generally adopted.

The demand that our degrees be made a prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood, is being steadily and boldly made. The failure to obtain that object at New Orleans has discouraged none but the Companions of Mississippi. Several Grand Councils are petitioning the Grand Commanderies, arguing that those bodies have control of the matter. How that may be we are not able to state, but we believe the desired end will soon be reached, if we only make unceasing efforts for it one way or another.

Very little is said upon the subject of a General Grand Council. We regret to say that it seems to meet with general disfavor, and in some cases is opposed with great bitterness, as if it were some fearful heresy. We would it were otherwise.

Death has been busy. Unheralded, asking no permission of the Thrice Illustrious, with no fear of him who stands without, armed with the implements of his office, the angel of death has entered many a circle of laborers, and taken by the hand many cherished, revered and beloved ones, and conducted them to the S. S. S.

There, we trust, their labors have been declared beautiful pieces of work, and they have received their reward. Let us, too, be warned, and diligent in every good deed and work, for "the night cometh in which no man can work."

With these reflections, Companions, we submit to you our labors.

CHARLES G. HUDSON,
D. E. MORGAN,
H. M. PLANT.

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.

The Grand Lecturer was instructed to exemplify the work during this afternoon's session.

The Grand Council was then called from labor to refreshment until 3 o'clock, P. M.

TUESDAY, Sept. 12th, 1876, 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Grand Council was called from refreshment to labor.

(Officers and Representatives as before.)

A communication from Mohawk Council No. 29, was received, and referred to the Committee on Finance and Accounts.

The standard work of this jurisdiction was then exemplified under the direction of the Grand Lecturer.

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

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

Your Committee on Credentials and Returns 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:

Columbia.....	No. 1.....	G. B. WOOD.....	Master.
".....	" ".....	JOHN G. BARKER.....	Dep. Master.
Brooklyn.....	" 4.....	C. F. BEATTY.....	Master.
Bloss.....	" 14.....	T. E. HASLEHURST.....	Master.
Southern Tier.....	" 16.....	JOHN D. WILLIAMS.....	Dep. Master.
Buffalo.....	" 17.....	HENRY WATERS.....	Dep. Master.
King Hiram.....	" 18.....	W. WOODRUFF.....	Proxy.
Doric.....	" 19.....	OWEN WILLIAMS.....	Dep. Master.
Keystone.....	" 20.....	D. E. MORGAN.....	Master.
DeWitt Clinton.....	" 22.....	C. F. PLATTO.....	Proxy.
Dunkirk.....	" 25.....
Palmyra.....	" 26.....	JOSIAH J. WHITE.....	Dep. Master.
Batavia.....	" 27.....	JAS. SHOWERMAN.....	Proxy.
Utica.....	" 28.....	HENRY C. WELTON.....	P. C. of W.
".....	" ".....	EDWARD B. CASH.....	Prox.
Owego.....	" 30.....	GEO. F. BENTON.....	Master.
Pentalpha.....	" 36.....	THOMAS DARLING.....	Master.
Seneca.....	" 38.....	M. L. EDGETT.....	Master.
Konhocton.....	" 40.....	I. J. MERRILL.....	Master.
".....	" ".....	W. H. SHEPARD.....	Dep. Master.
Genesee Valley.....	" 41.....	L. C. SKINNER.....	Master.
Peekskill.....	" 55.....	JOHN OMBONY.....	Master.
Hudson.....	" 62.....	E. L. GAUL.....	Proxy.

Sing Sing.....No. 64.....ROBT. M. LAWRENCE.....Master.
 Chenango Valley.“ 65.....H. L. SMITH.....Master.
 Norwich.....“ 67.....ISAAC W. BAKER.....Dep. Master.
 Ithaca.....“ 68.....R. C. CHRISTIANCE.....Dep. Master.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. VAN VLIET, }
 W. WOODRUFF, } Committee.
 L. C. SKINNER, }

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 would respectfully report that the said Address has received due consideration, and it is recommended as follows: That so much of the same as relates to the Fraternal dead, be referred to a Special Committee.

That that portion relating to the condition of Cryptic Masonry and of 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 no reason for despair, or for giving up petitioning the General Grand Encampment to recognize what we deem a necessary prerequisite to the completion of the American system of Freemasonry. Your Committee cordially endorse the proposition of the Grand Master to appoint a Committee of this Grand Council, "to act with similar Committees of the several Grand Councils of the United States," for the purpose of concerted discussion of the matter before the General Grand Encampment in 1877, and would respectfully recommend that such Committee be appointed at this Annual Assembly.

With respect to so much of said Address as relates to the forthcoming National Convention of Royal and Select Masters in the month of August next, your Committee apprehend that much good may come out of such Convention, and that our jurisdiction should be officially represented in it. Your Committee would recommend that the matter be referred to this Grand Council for their action.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN G. WEBSTER, }
 CHAS. G. HUDSON, } Committee.

R. I. Companion OSGOODBY offered the following resolution, which was, on motion, received, and referred to the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws :

Resolved, That members in good standing of Subordinate Councils in this jurisdiction which already have, or may hereafter surrender their Warrant, or whose Warrants have already been, on may hereafter be revoked by this Grand Council for non-payment of Grand Council dues, shall be entitled to receive from the Grand Recorder, a certificate under the seal of the Grand Council, showing that at the time of the surrender or revocation of such Warrant, they were respectively members in good standing of such Councils, upon payment to the Grand Recorder the amount of dues which they were respectively owing to the Council to which they respectively belonged, up to, and including the date such Warrants were, or are hereafter respectively surrendered or revoked, and upon the further payment to the Grand Recorder of a fee of fifty (50) cents, which shall go into the Grand Council Treasury. And the same rule shall apply to members of Councils under Dispensation to whom Warrants may not be issued.

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 papers have been submitted to them for consideration, *no* Dispensations having been granted during the past year.

Your Committee most cheerfully acquiesce in the opinion of the M. I. Grand Master "that no further Dispensations should be granted, except in very extraordinary cases." At the present time, in the opinion of your Committee, such action would be very injudicious.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

H. F. L. BUNTING,
OWEN WILLIAMS,
THOS. E. HASLEHURST, } Committee.

The Grand Master appointed the following Special Committees :

On the Death of T. I. Comp. John J. Kelly.

Comps. H. F. L. BUNTING, G. B. WOOD, THOMAS DARLING.

To visit the Grand Encampment of the U. S. at Cleveland (Ohio) in 1877.

Comps. GEO. W. OSGOODBY, JOHN D. WILLIAMS,
CHARLES G. HUDSON.

On motion of Companion G. B. WOOD, the M.:I.: Companion JOHN B. SACKETT was appointed to represent this Grand Council at the Convention of Royal and Select Masters to be held in the city of Buffalo in 1877.

On motion of Companion H. F. L. BUNTING it was decided to close this Annual Assembly at the expiration of to-morrow morning's session.

On motion, the following proposed amendment to Section 3, of Article I, of the Constitution, was adopted, so that it shall now read :

“Each Warranted Council within this jurisdiction is entitled to be represented in this Grand Council by its first three officers, but in case either of them cannot attend, the Council (or in case of its failure to do so, its Master, or acting Master) may appoint in place of the absent officer, a proxy, who shall be a member of a Council, under the jurisdiction of this Grand Council, and shall furnish said proxy a certificate of appointment, over the signature of the Master, or acting Master, attested by the Recorder, and under the seal of the Council.”

Companion R. H. THOMAS was introduced, and in his remarks assured the Grand Council that the first existence of the Royal and Select degrees in the United States was in the state of New York, and presented to the Grand Council a recently published copy of its early Proceedings, for which the Grand Master returned the thanks of this Grand Council.

The minutes of to-day's session were then read and approved, and the Grand Council called from labor to refreshments until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 13th, 1876, 10 o'clock, A. M.

The Grand Council was called from refreshment to labor.

The minutes of yesterday's session were read for information.

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

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

Your Committee on Constitution and By-Laws beg leave to report that they have carefully examined the matter referred to them, and recommend the adoption of the following:

"Relative to Dormant Councils." That the matter be referred to the Grand Master, feeling satisfied that he will exercise authority in the revoking of Warrants in accordance with Section 19 of the Constitution, which provides, "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," and that he report the same to the Grand Council at its next Assembly.

Relative to "Resolution introduced by R.:I.: Companion OSGOODBY," and referred to this Committee, we report in favor of its adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

G. FRED WILTSIE, } Committee.
M. L. EDGETT, }

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

TO THE M.:P.: GRAND COUNCIL OF R.: AND S.:M's.:
OF THE STATE OF 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,

G. B. WOOD, } Committee.
JOHN HOOLE, }
J. J. WHITE, }

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 the W.
D. B. HOWELL, " " Grand Treasurer.
GEO. VAN VLIET, " " Grand Recorder.

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

M.:I.: JOHN D. WILLIAMS,	Rep. of Kansas.
“ GEO. M. OSGOODBY,.....	“ Wisconsin.
R.:I.: DARWIN E. MORGAN.....	“ Ohio.
“ CHARLES W. BROWN.....	“ Rhode Island.
“ A. B. KING	“ Minnesota.
“ P. VERHOEVEN	“ Georgia.
“ THOS. H. FLOYD.....	“ Alabama.
“ JOHN F. BALDWIN.....	“ Florida.
“ JOHN J. MARTIN.....	“ Massachusetts.

The Special Committee on the death of T.:I.: JOHN J. KELLY presented the following report, which was, on motion, received, and their recommendations and resolutions 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 address of the Grand Master as relates to the decease of our beloved Companion T.:I.: JOHN J. KELLY, respectfully report, that they have carefully considered the feeling and beautiful eulogy paid by the M.:I.:G.:M.: to the memory of our departed Companion, and fully concur in the same. We recommend the adoption of the following preamble and resolutions :

WHEREAS, The G.:M.:O.:T.:W.: has had need of the presence in the upper Sanctuary of Companion JOHN J. KELLY, and having entered our S.: V.:, has led him through the veils of death, that he may rest from his labors, and has left us to miss the ring of his trowel and the clasp "Of a vanished hand, and the sound of a voice that is still;" therefore,

Resolved, That while we bow with submission to the will of Divine Providence, believing that our Heavenly Father doeth all things well, while we rejoice that our beloved Companion rests from the cares and labors of life, yet we deeply regret the great loss which our Rite has sustained in the death of our Companion.

Resolved, That we respectfully tender to his bereaved family our most sincere sympathy in this, their hour of affliction, and we commend them to Him who healeth the broken in heart, pointing them to the glad hour of reunion, where there shall be no more parting.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the family of Companion KELLY, and a suitable memorial page to his memory be set apart in our Proceedings.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

H. F. L. BUNTING,
GILBERT B. WOOD, } Committee.
THOMAS DARLING, }

M. I.: G. FRED. WILTSIE offered the following, which was, on motion, adopted :

Resolved, That the Committee appointed by this Grand Council to attend the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U. S., 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 as may be agreed upon by such Committee.

R. I.: JOHN F. BALDWIN offered the following, which was, on motion, adopted :

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed by this Grand Council to visit the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of this state (which is to meet in this city, in October next), and urge upon that Grand Body the necessity of recognizing the Cryptic degrees, thereby placing them in their proper position in the American System of Freemasonry; and that said 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 Order of Knighthood.

Companions GEO. M. OSGOODBY, CHARLES W. BROWN and A. B. KING were appointed as such Committee.

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 seems to reign within our borders, as no alleged grievance has been presented for our consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN OMBONY,
R. C. CHRISTIANCE, } Committee.
CHAS. H. STURGES, }

The Grand Officers elect were then installed by M.:I.: JOHN B. SACKETT, assisted by M.:I.: G. FRED WILTSIE.

The Grand Master announced the following appointments :

JOHN F. BALDWIN.....	as Grand C. of the G.
THOMAS H. FLOYD.....	“ C. of the C.
REV. JOHN G. WEBSTER.....	“ Chaplin.
DARWIN E. MORGAN.....	“ Marshal.
OWEN WILLIAMS.....	“ Steward.
JOHNSON FOUNTAIN.....	“ Sentinel.
JOHN J. MARTIN.....	“ Lecturer.

Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

Comps. CHARLES G. HUDSON, JOHN OMBONY,
THOS. E. HASLEHURST.

The Committee on Finance and Accounts presented 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.:

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

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

Grand Recorder's Salary.....	\$250.00
“ for Incidental Expenses.....	25.60
John B. Sackett (G.:M.:) for Postage, &c.,.....	8.78
Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence.....	75.00
For Rent of Room and Safe.....	35.00
Grand Sentinel.....	10.00
Baker, Jones & Co., for Printing.....	165.50
Total.....	\$569.88

The Committee further report that there is now on hand about \$1,075.00, and they recommend that each Grand Officer, Permanent Member and Representatives receive compensation for two days attendance at three dollars per day, together with the actual fare paid by them in coming to and returning from this Assembly, which will leave a small balance in the Treasury.

In regard to the communication from Mohawk Council No. 29, the Committee recommend that the matter be referred to the M. I. Grand Master with power to adjust the same as he shall see fit.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN D. WILLIAMS,
D. E. MORGAN,
CLAUDIUS F. BEATTY, } Committee.

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

R. I. and Rev. JOHN G. WEBSTER offered the following amendment to Section 31, of Article II, of the Constitution, by adding after the word dollars (in the second line) except upon those who shall have already received the Orders of Knighthood previous to the date of Sept. 1st, 1877, which was, on motion, received, and laid over, in accordance with the Constitution, until the next Annual Assembly.

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 second Tuesday in September, 1877, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

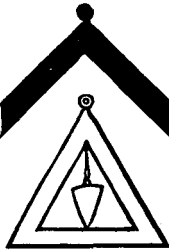
On motion, the Grand Recorder was authorized to have 400 copies of the Proceedings of this Annual Assembly printed, for distribution among the Grand Councils of the several states, and the Subordinate Councils in this jurisdiction.

On motion, Companions C. F. BEATTY, D. B. HOWELL and GEO. VAN VLIET were appointed a Committee, with instructions to procure a suitable testimonial for our retiring Grand Master, JOHN B. SACKETT.

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

GEO. VAN VLIET.

Grand Recorder.



In Memoriam.

JOHN J. KELLY.

Died at his residence in New York City,
March 9th, 1876.

RECEIPTS AT ANNUAL ASSEMBLY, 1876.

(NOT PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED.)

From Columbian,	No. 1.		\$ 41.00
Brooklyn,	" 4, Balance.		1.00
Bloss,	" 14.		144.00
Bruce,	" 15.		27.00
Southern Tier,	" 16.		48.50
Buffalo,	" 17.		63.00
King Hiram,	" 18.		16.00
Doric,	" 19.		98.50
Keystone,	" 20.		72.50
Dunkirk,	" 25.		32.00
Palmyra,	" 26.		33.50
Batavia,	" 27.		12.50
Utica,	" 28.		71.00
Owego,	" 30.		19.50
Pentalpha,	" 36.		11.00
Seneca,	" 38.		17.00
Konhocton,	" 40.		11.50
Peekskill,	" 55.		17.00
Sing Sing,	" 64.		19.00
Norwich,	" 67.		10.50
Ithaca,	" 68.		17.00
			\$733.00

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.....	1838	Dec. 8, 1875	Palmer J. Pillans.	Mobile.	Daniel Sayre.	Montgomery.
ARKANSAS.....	1860	Oct. 9, 1875	M. M. McGuire.	Dardanelle.	L. E. Barber.	Little Rock.
CALIFORNIA.....	1859		W. T. Reynolds.	San Francisco.	Chas. L. Wiggan.	San Francisco.
CONNECTICUT.....	1819	May 8, 1875	Wm. Freeston.	New Britain.	J. K. Wheeler.	Hartford.
FLORIDA.....	1858		A. N. Caulkins.	Milton.	Geo. S. Hallmark.	Pensacola.
GEORGIA.....	1825		Robt. M. Smith.	Athens.	Chas. R. Armstrong.	Macon.
ILLINOIS.....	1853	Oct. 27, 1875	Edward Blackshaw.	Urbana.	James H. Miles.	Chicago.
INDIANA.....	1855	Oct. 19, 1875	Daniel McDonadd.	Plymouth.	John M. Bramwell.	Indianapolis.
IOWA.....	1857	Oct. 19, 1875	Robert F. Bower.	Keokuk.	Wm. B. Langridge.	Muscatine.
KANSAS.....	1867	Oct. 20, 1874	John H. Brown.	Leavenworth.	J. Lee Knight.	Topeka.
KENTUCKY.....	1827	Oct. 21, 1874	Henry Bostwick.	Covington.	Albert G. Hodges.	Louisville.
LOUISIANA.....	1856	Feb. 17, 1876	C. B. Wheeler.	Bastrop.	Richard Lambert.	Box 872, New Orleans.
MAINE.....	1855	May 5, 1875	Sumner H. Boynton.	Rockland.	Ira Berry.	Portland.
MARYLAND.....	1874	Nov. 9, 1874	Geo. L. McCahan.	Baltimore.	John T. Gorsuch.	Baltimore.
MASSACHUSETTS.....	1826	Dec. 8, 1875	Charles J. Danforth.	Boston Highl'ds.	John Haigh.	Somerville.
MICHIGAN.....	1858	Jan. 17, 1876	George Hill.	Portland.	G. B. Noble.	Detroit.
MINNESOTA.....	1870	Jan. 12, 1876	G. W. Cooley.	Minneapolis.	Theo. Burkhard.	St. Paul.
MISSOURI.....	1864	Oct. 9, 1874	W. W. Garth.	Columbia.	Geo. Frank Gouley.	St. Louis.
MISSISSIPPI.....	1856	Feb. 1, 1876	P. M. Savery.	Baldwyn.	J. L. Power.	Jackson.
NEBRASKA.....	1872	Jan. 7, 1875	Chas. F. Goodman.	Omaha.	Wm. R. Bowen.	Omaha.
NEW BRUNSWICK (CANADA).....	1867		D. R. Munro.	St. Johns.	A. D. Goodwin.	St. Johns.
NEW HAMPSHIRE.....	1862	May 15, 1876	Andrew J. Thompson.	Laconia.	John A. Harris.	Concord.
NEW JERSEY.....	1860	Jan. 18, 1876	Charles C. Wells.	New Brunswick.	Thos. J. Corson.	Trenton.
NEW YORK.....	1809		Geo. M. Osgooby.	Nunda.	Geo. Van Vliet.	New York (Mas'ic Hall)
NORTH CAROLINA.....	1860	June 9, 1875	John Nichols.	Raleigh.	Donald W. Bain.	Raleigh.
OHIO.....	1839	Sept. 8, 1875	Saml. W. Courtright.	Circleville.	John D. Caldwell.	Cincinnati.
ONTARIO (CANADA).....	1871	Aug. 10, 1875	Daniel Spry.	Toronto.	Jas. B. Nixon.	Toronto.
PENNSYLVANIA.....	1847	Feb. 16, 1876	Getter Crosby Shidle.	Pittsburgh.	Chas. E. Meyer.	Phila. (Mas'ic Temple)
RHODE ISLAND.....	1860	M'ch 8, 1875	Albert H. Cushman.	Providence.	Walter Blodgett.	Providence.
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	1860	Feb. 16, 1876	Wilnot G. DeSausseur.	Charleston.	A. Lindstrom.	Charleston.
TENNESSEE.....	1847	Nov. 8, 1875	H. M. Aiken.	Knoxville.	John Frizzell.	Nashville.
VERMONT.....	1845	June 10, 1875	Edward S. Dana.	Middlebury.	Wm. H. S. Whitcomb.	Burlington.
WISCONSIN.....	1857	Feb. 14, 1876	James L. Bridge.	Berlin.	John W. Woodhull.	Milwaukee.

OFFICERS OF SUBORDINATE COUNCILS.

COUNCIL.	MASTERS.	DEPUTY MASTERS.	P. C. of the W.	RECORDERS.
1 COLUMBIAN.....	Gilbert B. Wood.	John G. Barker.	James E. Kenny.	James Thos. Fellows.
2 UNION	Joseph Nash.	J. M. Layman.	Alex. Kinnear.	Thos. Pyterman.
4 BROOKLYN.....	Claudius F. Beatty.	Henry J. Smith.	Albert E. Leach.	J. W. Osborn.
7 ADELPHIC.....	Horace Metcalf.	R. E. Deane.	J. H. Colgate.	Charles Rousha.
8 EUREKA.....	Marcus M. Wood.	Edgar J. Arnold.	Frank Turk.	Robt. P. Barnard.
14 BLOSS.....	T. E. Haslehurst.	P. F. Vanderhyden.	Henry T. Smith.	William Pettis.
15 BRUCE.....	Charles Craig.	Jason Collier.	Perry Stowell.	V. N. Douglas.
16 SOUTHERN TIER.....	John S. Bartlett.	John D. Williams.	A. Derby.	Wm. H. Browne.
17 BUFFALO.....	John Briggs.	Henry Waters.	Hawley Klein.	Stephen M. Evry.
18 KING HIRAM.....	A. G. Wheeler.	A. E. Lytle.	T. B. Barber.	U. Woodruff.
19 DORIC.....	Thomas Seed.	Owen Williams.	Wm. H. Davenport.	John Alexander.
20 KEYSTONE.....	Darwin E. Morgan.	John L. Brothers.	James M. Henderson.	John H. Boshier.
21 HUDSON RIVER.....				
22 DEWITT CLINTON.....	John J. Martin.	Wm. H. Whish.	Henry C. Littlefield.	J. E. Allanson.
23 ONTARIO.....	Wm. P. Durrant.	John T. Scoon.	Wm. E. Hayes.	Willard N. Smith.
24 BINGHAMTON.....	Orlando W. Earle.	Charles M. Brown.	Abner P. Kelsey.	John D. Rohde.
25 DUNKIRK.....	Elijah Harris.	Erastus C. Williams.	Henry Partridge.	C. H. Harris.
26 PALMYRA.....	T. S. Jackson.	Isaiah J. White.	Isaac F. Taber.	E. W. Cummings.
27 BATAVIA.....	Albert R. Warner.	Horace M. Warren.	George W. Griffis.	A. N. Cowdin.
28 UTICA.....	Thos. H. Floyd.	M. A. Lewis.	H. C. Welton.	Geo. D. Dimon.
30 OWEGO.....	Geo. F. Benton.	David M. Goodrich.	Horace A. Brooks.	B. J. Davis.

31	KING SOLOMON.....	Charles Estabrook.	John D. Mailler.	James E. Horton.	Chas. H. Halstead.
32	CHAUTAUQUA.....				
35	HORNELLSVILLE.....	R. D. Jillson.	S. Ossoski.	L. S. Boardman.	A. G. Howard.
36	PENTALPHA.....	Thomas Darling.	Charles W. Brown.	Jos. L. Frame, Jr.	Wm. L. Seaman.
37	CRYPTIC.....	Charles H. Sturges.	John L. Perry, Jr.	George H. Gillis.	Leonard R. Cushing.
38	SENECA.....	Martin L. Edgett.	Edwin C. Robbins.	Ebenezer Ingalls.	C. M. Woodward.
40	KONHOCTON.....	Isaac J. Merrill.	Wm. H. Shepard.	Edwin S. Smead.	V. Brother.
41	GENESEE VALLEY.....	L. C. Skinner.	O. H. Cook.	L. H. Brace.	A. C. Scott.
45	OTSEGO.....				
46	ZABUD.....				
52	WASHINGTON.....	Norman Z. Baker.	Sidney B. Watkins.	Warren F. Bascom.	DeWitt C. Smith.
53	CORNING.....	Charles H. Thomson.	Henry A. Balcum.	Truman S. Pritchard.	E. Clisdell.
55	PEEKSKILL.....	John Ombony.	C. W. Wadsworth.	Robert J. Post.	Thos. J. Hodgkins, Jr.
56	AFTON.....				
61	PORTAL.....				
62	HUDSON.....	Wm. H. W. Whiting.	Edward P. Magoun.	Henry Kertz.	Henry Miller.
64	SING SING.....	Robt. M. Lawrence.	Isaac Terwillager.	James H. Coleman.	Geo. Williamson.
65	CHENANGO VALLEY.....	H. L. Smith.	David Elsbre.	Wm. H. Allfrey.	Geo. W. Miller.
66	CANANDAIGUA.....				
67	NORWICH.....	Albert Beals.	Isaac W. Baker.	B. Gage Berry.	C. L. Ferry.
68	ITHACA.....	Jacob M. Kimball.	R. C. Christiance.	J. C. Vankirk.	A. B. Wood.

REPRESENTATIVES

OF OTHER

GRAND COUNCILS NEAR THE GRAND COUNCIL OF NEW YORK.

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

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

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

OFFICERS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL

Elected Sept. 13th, 1876.

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.
" "	JOHN F. BALDWIN, of New York.....	" C. of the G.
" "	THOMAS H. FLOYD, of UTICA ..	" C. of the C.
" "	AND REV. JOHN G. WEBSTER, of PALMYRA	" Chaplin.
" "	DARWIN E. MORGAN, of BUFFALO.....	" Marshal.
" "	OWEN WILLIAMS, of ROCHESTER.....	" Steward.
" "	JOHNSON FOUNTAIN, of New York.....	" Sentinel.
R. I.:	JOHN J. MARTIN, of ALBANY..	" Lecturer.

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

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

OFFICERS
OF THE
GRAND COUNCIL,

Elected Sept. 13th, 1876.

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.
“ “ JOHN F. BALDWIN, of NEW YORK.....	“ 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.
“ OWEN WILLIAMS, of ROCHESTER.....	“ Steward.
“ JOHNSON FOUNTAIN, of NEW YORK.....	“ Sentinel.
R.:I.: JOHN J. MARTIN, of ALBANY.....	“ Lecturer.

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

“ Recorder's “ Masonic Hall (cor. 6th Ave. and 23d St.), N. Y. City.