



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

MOST PUSSANT GRAND COUNCIL,

OF

Royal and Select Masters



OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1881.

NEW YORK:

HELFY & MARK, Steam Printers, 34 Fulton Street,
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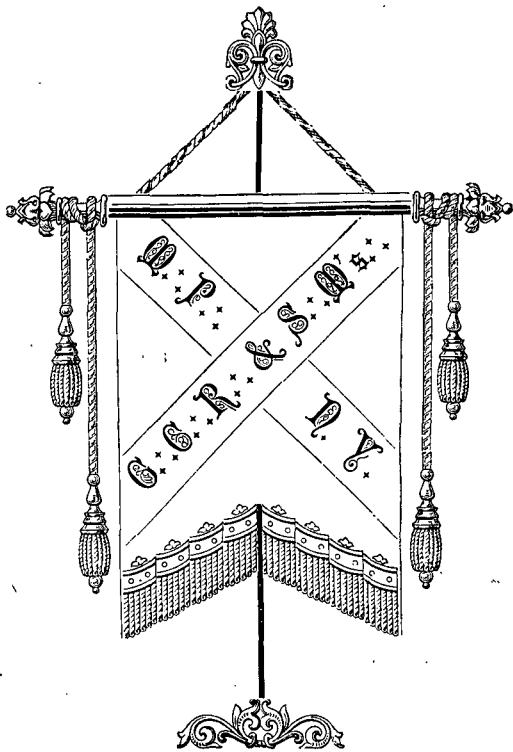
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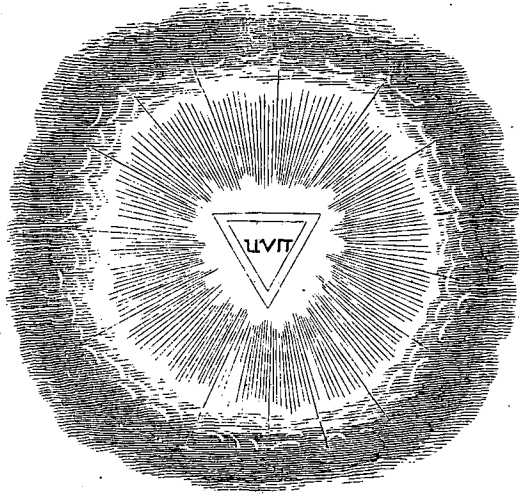
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ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

Grand Council R. and S. M's.

OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

GRAND COUNCIL ROOM,

MASONIC TEMPLE, COR. SIXTH AVE. AND 23D ST.

The Most Puissant Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of New York, convened in Annual Assembly in the City of New York, on Tuesday, September 20th, A. D. 1881, Anno Dep.: 2881.

PRESENT.

M. I. CHARLES W. BROWN	GRAND MASTER.
R. I. JOHN J. MARTIN	GRAND DEPUTY MASTER.
R. I. THOMAS GLIDDON	GRAND P. C. of W.
R. I. DAVID B. HOWELL	GRAND TREASURER
R. I. GEO. VAN VLIET	GRAND RECORDER.
R. I. JOHN L. BROTHERS	GRAND C. OF THE G.
R. I. P. W. VERHOEVEN	GRAND C. OF THE C.
R. I. R. C. CHRISTIANCE	GRAND MARSHAL.
R. I. :	} GRAND CHAPLAINS.
R. I. :	
R. I. :	GRAND LECTURER
R. I. W. MORGAN LEE	GRAND STEWARD.
R. I. JOHNSTON FOUNTAIN	GRAND SENTINEL.

Together with the Representatives of the following Councils :

COLUMBIAN	No. 1	PALMYRA	No. 26
UNION	" 2	BATAVIA	" 27
BROOKLYN	" 4	UTICA	" 28
ADELPHIC	" 7	KING SOLOMON	" 31
BLOSS	" 14	PENTALPHA	" 36
BRUCE	" 15	KONHOCTON	" 40
SOUTHERN TIER	" 16	ZABUD	" 46
BUFFALO	" 17	CORNING	" 53
DORIC	" 19	PEEKSKILL	" 55
KEYSTONE	" 20	SING SING	" 64
DEWITT CLINTON	" 22	ITHACA	" 68
ONTARIO	" 23	NEPPERHAN	" 80
DUNKIRK	" 25	ALPH-OMEGA	" 71

And permanent members as follows :

H. F. L. BUNTING	Past G. M.
JOHN D. WILLIAMS	" "
G. FRED. WILTSIE	" "
GEO. M. OSGOODBY	" "
JOHN HOOLE	" "
JOHN G. BARKER	Past T. I. M.
JOHN W. COBURN	" "

ROBT. M. LAWRENCE	Past T. I. M.
JESSE B. ANTHONY	“ “
GEO. W. THORN	“ “
JOHN F. BALDWIN	“ “

And the Representatives of the following Grand Councils :

ALABAMA,	MAINE,	NEW JERSEY,
CONNECTICUT,	MASSACHUSETTS,	OHIO,
FLORIDA,	MICHIGAN,	ONTARIO, (CAN.)
GEORGIA,	MINNESOTA,	PENNSYLVANIA,
INDIANA,	MARYLAND,	RHODE ISLAND,
KANSAS,	NEW HAMPSHIRE,	VERMONT.
LOUISIANA,	NEW BRUNSWICK,	

As visitors :

M. P. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND....	GENL. G. M. OF THE G. G. COUNCIL OF THE U. S.
P. EDWARD P. BURNHAM....	G. M. OF THE G. G. COUNCIL OF THE U. S.
R. I. ALFRED SHAW	DEP. G. M. OF LOUISIANA.
M. I. CHARLES BECHTEL,	PAST G. M. OF GRAND COUNCIL N. J.
M. I. GEO. SCOTT	PAST G. M. OF GRAND COUNCIL N. J.
M. I. ALBERT G. GOODALL	REP. GRAND COUNCIL ENGLAND, & C.
M. I. CHARLES ROOME	PAST G. M. OF THE G. LODGE.

The Grand Council was opened in Ample Form.

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

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

M. I. CHARLES W. BROWN, Grand Master, then delivered the following

ADDRESS.

COMPANIONS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL:

At the close of the official year, our constitution bids us to assemble together to review the labors of the past and to prepare ourselves for renewed energy in the discharge of the duties to rest upon us in the coming term. We stand here

on the dividing line between the old and the new, and bending the knee in grateful humility before the All Wise we see how gracious has been His protection and how broad should be our faith in the future.

Need I say, Companions, how gladly I greet you, with what pleasure I assure you of our peaceful and fraternal progress, and how to each of you go out the best wishes of my heart.

But though glad our hearts, Companions, in being able to grasp hands and exchange fraternal greetings there is resting upon us, this morning, and upon all the citizens of this great Commonwealth, a most profound sadness. The Chief Magistrate of the Nation is dead. His spirit yesterday evening "crossed the dark valley," and all the people are in tears. For many days and nights fifty millions of his fellow citizens have, as it were, stood constantly by his bedside and watched with unceasing anxiety his terrible sufferings,—hoping against hope, and praying that he might live. But it has pleased our Supreme Grand Master for, we trust, some wise and beneficent purpose, to afflict this people, and to-day is a day of national mourning.

President Garfield was a member of our loved fraternity, and he has enjoyed the blessings it bestows and contributed to it from the wealth of his mind and heart. It therefore becomes us as Masons, aside from our duties as citizens, to cease awhile from our labors, that we may drop the sympathetic tear for him and his bereaved family, and mourn with the world for the death of our companion, and the Nation's Chief; and, while we are engaged in the regular business which has called us together, let us not forget the sorrows of our country, nor the sufferings which he and his have so long and so patiently endured. But: "Thus wastes man! To-day he puts forth the tender leaves of hope; to-morrow blossoms and bears his blushing honor thick upon him; the next day comes a frost and nips the shoot, and when he thinks his greatness is still aspiring, he falls, like Autumn leaves, to enrich our mother earth."

Since last we met in this place, Death, that unceasing and unsparing laborer, has been also among the laborers in our crypts, doing his cruel work.

Thrice, Illustrious Companion, JOHN OMBONY, of Peekskill Council, died on the 31st day of January last. Scarce a face will be more missed at our annual gatherings than his. None more regularly attended the yearly Assemblies. Companion OMBONY was a most earnest and devoted Mason. He was initiated in Cortland Lodge No. 189 in the year 1861, and the next year became its Junior Warden, the following year its Senior Warden and was its Master in 1863 and 1864. So well known and respected was he among his brethren that in 1877 he was honored with the appointment of District Deputy Grand Master of the 9th Masonic District; and it was his pride to repeat that though the lodges were numerous and widely separated, he visited all in his district during his term of office. He was accustomed to attend each session of the Grand Lodge at least once to make his fraternal greetings to the many friends from all parts of the State, and he ever looked forward to these annual visits with the most pleasurable anticipations. He was made a Royal Arch Mason in Buckingham Chapter 174, in 1865, and assisted in 1868 in the formation of Mohegan Chapter No. 221, of which he was the first High Priest. He served continuously as High Priest

from that time until 1877, and thence to his death, as King. He received the Cryptic degrees in De Witt Clinton Council No. 22 in Albany; and in 1871 was the master spirit in the formation of Peekskill Council of which he was the first Thrice Illustrious Master, and was such at the time of his death,—having been seven times elected and installed into that office. He was in attendance upon all our regular assemblies, an active and interested participant in all the business and work. His was a singularly even character; modest but always warm and hearty in his friendships. He was a man of action but wise and considerate of the rights of others, in all his dealings. He kept himself young in mind and spirits in his growing years, and when the scroll of his life's record had been written full he passed away regretted as much by his younger Companions as by those who had grown old with him in years and in masonic experience. He will be long remembered, and his genial and hearty greetings freshly recollected at each annual recurrence of the Grand Council meetings by all of us who have so often and so regularly looked for and met him here.

We'll not forget thee, we who stay
To work a little longer here:
Thy name, thy faith, thy love shall lie
On memory's page all bright and clear:
And when o'erwearied by the toil
Of life, our heavy limbs shall be,
We'll come, and one by one lie down
Upon dear mother-earth with thee."

Companion GILBERT B. WOOD, Past Thrice Illustrious Master of Columbian Council No. 1 died on the 21st day of August, 1881, after a long and tedious illness. Companion Wood had not filled prominent offices in the fraternity, yet there was scarce a member of any of the various Grand bodies of this State to whom he was not well and favorably known. We can hardly express the sorrow that comes upon us in the death of this dear brother. He loved this Rite and was one of its best exemplars. He was a man in every sense of the word, loving those who despitefully used him because he had an abiding faith in the true principles of the fraternity. He was a gentleman in the best sense of the term and a mason throughout his whole being. Let his memory be preserved as one who was always a brother and whose whole life exemplified the best tenets of our fraternity.

There have been, and are still living, a few masons so eminent, so closely identified with the great work of Free Masonry, that no one jurisdiction can justly claim them as exclusively her own. Such a one was the distinguished craftsman, ALBERT G. MACKAY - whose death has been chronicled in the masonic and in the secular press. Companion MACKAY was one of the best known and most learned masons in the wide world. His masonic history would fill a volume. His books are to be found in every masonic library and in almost every mason's home. His writings will be an authority for the government of the fraternity when generations yet unborn shall have passed away. He was an ardent lover and promoter of the Cryptic degrees, and was the author of a Council Monitor which has been, and is, the standard in many jurisdictions. It will

require abler pens than mine to write his obituary ; for as a mason he was a great man among the greatest. "His life is ended, to open upon a new and higher one, where in a second temple and a purer lodge he will find eternal truth."

Cryptic masonry has suffered a serious loss in the death of Right Illustrious Companion GEORGE STODDART BLACKIE M. D., Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Council of Tennessee, at his residence in Nashville, Tenn., on the 19th of June last. The news of his death was a shock to me, for it was but a few days before that I had received a communication from him, and in which he desired to be kindly remembered to New York friends of whom he had many good and true.

Companion BLACKIE was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1834 and was therefore at the time of his death, in his 48th year. He came to this country in 1857, and for the greater part of the time since, to his death, he resided in Nashville. A few years ago he came to this city with the intention of making it his permanent residence, but not succeeding in business as he had anticipated he returned after a year or two to Nashville. He was initiated, passed and raised when he was just 21 years old, in Lodge Cannongate Kilwinning, Scotland, No. 2, Edinburgh; and within the ensuing two years received all the degrees up to and including, Knight Templar and Knight of Malta, and in the Ancient and Accepted Rite up to and including, the 32d. After removing to Nashville he affiliated with the various masonic bodies and has since filled many important positions. He was a Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee; and at the time of his death, in addition to being Secretary of his Lodge and Chapter and Recorder of his Commandery, was the Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence of the Grand Lodge; President of the Grand Council of the Order of High Priesthood; Grand Representative from two Grand Orients and sixteen Grand Lodges; and was, as before stated, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Council. He had been elected to the 33d degree, but died before the degree could be conferred.

Most Illustrious Grand Master BURNEX of the Grand Council; Most Worshipful Grand Master IRON of the Grand Lodge, and Grand Commander HALLER of the Grand Commandery, all issued letters to the craft announcing his decease and eulogizing his life. Most Worshipful Bro. IRON said of him: "Public spirited to an unusual degree, kind hearted and charitable in the broadest sense, through all the mutations of changing fortune he maintained unsullied his masonic character, and left as the richest inheritance to his children a reputation for probity, industry and generosity which made his name familiar and respected throughout the masonic world." Having had the pleasure of a long personal acquaintance with Companion BLACKIE, can say that this tribute to his memory is as deserved as it is laudatory. Of him it may be well said:

"Upon his girdle was no stain,
His work had no defect;
The Overseer will accept all,
Find nothing to reject."

The establishment of a General Grand Council has, since our last Assembly,

become a fixed fact, by the ratification, as provided in the instrument itself, of its Constitution by nine State Grand Councils, New York among the number. In March last I received from Most Puissant Companion Drummond a proclamation declaring the General Grand Council to be regularly formed, and now in existence "*as the governing body of the Rite in the United States as provided in its Constitution*" and directing the General Grand Officers to enter at once upon the discharge of their duties, which is as follows :

A GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS
FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

To all regular Royal and Select Masters, and especially to all Grand Councils thereof,
GREETING:

Whereas, at a Convention of Royal and Select Masters, representing a majority of the Grand Councils in the world, held in Detroit, on the twenty-third, twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth days of August, A. D. 1880, a Constitution for a General Grand Council was framed and submitted to the Grand Councils of the United States:

And, whereas, the officers, provided for in that Constitution, were elected and directed to enter upon the duties of their respective offices when the Constitution should be ratified by nine Grand Councils:

And, whereas, the Grand Councils of New York, Ohio, Minnesota, Indiana, Tennessee, Maryland, Massachusetts, Alabama and Louisiana, being nine in number, have, at their respective Annual Assemblies, ratified said Constitution:

I JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, of Maine, elected provisional General Grand Master, at said Convention, hereby declare that the General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the United States of America has been regularly formed and now exists as the governing body of the Rite in the United States as provided in its Constitution.

The General Grand Officers will at once enter upon the discharge of their duties; but before doing so, it is recommended that they severally take an obligation before a Grand Master or Past Grand Master of a Grand Council, to support the Constitution of the General Grand Council, and forward a certificate thereof to the P. . General Grand Recorder, Comp. GEORGE W. COOLEY, of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The General Grand Master is happy to announce that the M. . E. Grand Chapter of South Carolina, in view of the action of the M. . E. General Grand Chapter at its late Convocation, has rescinded its action in reference to the Council degrees, and that the Grand Council has reorganized, resumed work and ratified the Constitution of the General Grand Council, and is now a constituent thereof.

Given under my hand this first day of March, A. D. 1881, A. Dep 2881.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,
General Grand Master.

Since the issue of this proclamation seven other Grand Councils have ratified the General Grand Constitution and have become constituent parts of the General Grand Body,—making sixteen in all,—the announcement of which has been received from M. . P. . Companion DRUMMOND, and is appended to this address. Thus the formation of the General Grand Council, the refusal of the General Grand Chapter to accept the custody of the Cryptic degrees, and the determination of so many jurisdictions that the Grand Council system shall be

preserved has thoroughly destroyed the hopes of those who have so long been wasting their strength in advocacy of the so called Mississippi plan; and the merging of the Cryptic and Capitular degrees has ceased to be a live topic for discussion; for those who now persist in the scheme are excluded from our crypts, and the "wayward sisters" are returning to renew vows temporarily forgotten—and we may now be permitted to turn our thoughts to subjects more pleasing and more beneficial to us all.

While, however, we have given, and now give, our unanimous and hearty allegiance to the General Grand Council—and were among the first to advocate its formation, let us be careful to not surrender to any other organization by whatever name it may be called, rights and prerogatives which are inherent in and attach to us as a sovereign power. Intrusted for the time being with legislative authority over the Rite in our State, we have no right to be false to those whom we represent nor to those who come after us by surrendering these trusts to any except our legitimate successors. In all that concerns the interests of Cryptic Masonry in the State of New York we as a Grand Council are supreme. We cannot be dictated to nor controlled by any other power. As an aid in our labors—as a co-laborer—as a means of preserving the Rite as a system, and as a means of unifying our ideas and making uniform our systems of government, and our work, we give the General Grand Council our cordial support. As a legislative body competent to deprive us of the right to govern ourselves—as a body with officers who may control us in matters which have not our approval we do not yield to its authority. I do not wish to be considered an alarmist nor as being disloyal to the General Grand body; nor do I see occasion for alarm during the term of office of the present General Grand Officers, nor at all if the General Grand Council is not permitted to increase its powers; but if our sovereignty is lost it will be by a sudden act of usurpation. We have nothing to fear from this; but we must guard rather against the *gradual change of our relations to the General Grand Council*, whereby we may find that we have unconsciously, while sleeping at our posts in a sense of security gotten ourselves into a position so subordinate that our chief use will be to collect funds from our subordinates for the support of the General Grand Council. The recent districting of the General Grand Jurisdiction among the General Grand Officers for supervision, innocent on its face, and perhaps of benefit to the Rite in States which have surrendered the degrees to the Chapter—and for the advice and assistance to be given by their active and learned masons, may after all contain in it an element of danger to our sovereignty. There is a possibility, I repeat, that after a time, by legislation by decisions, by precedents, by weakness or carelessness on the part of State Grand bodies and their officers the powers now considered inherent in the Grand Councils and their officers may gradually but surely slip away from them forever. Once gone it cannot be recovered except by secession which may be then regarded as revolutionary, and a withdrawal from all connection with the Rite. The Grand Council of New York, Companions, has no need of a U. S. "District Deputy" to supervise its work and proceedings, and perhaps by and by the actions of its Grand Officers. The Grand Master is the highest officer known in this jurisdiction and no other person can preside in this Grand Coun-

cil without his consent. I say this with all due respect to the officers of the General Grand Council, than whom none esteem them more highly than I. They have proven their love and devotion to the Rite by years of toil—I refer entirely to the principles—not to individuals. But I do think, Companions, that this is a matter of sufficient importance to demand your consideration—and at this time, before precedents are made, or legislation effected, I think, you should define our exact relation to the General Grand Council, and declare what power you concede to it and its officers. This, if done now, while there is no question at issue between us, may prevent bitterness, dissatisfaction and possible disobedience at some future time. It is well, in other words, for you to now consider the question how far the General Grand Council is “*the governing Body of the Rite.*”

In this connection, also, permit me to call your attention to Section 13 of the General Constitution wherein you are required to make an appropriation at this and every annual session for dues to the General Grand Council. I would suggest an amendment to our Constitution which will make these dues a direct tax upon such subordinate Council, the amount to be collected with other Grand Council dues.

In obedience to a resolution adopted at the last Assembly of the Grand Council, I apportioned the several Councils of the jurisdiction among the Grand Officers for visitation. I found on assuming the duties of my office that there were many Councils in the State which, though reported annually in our Proceedings had ceased to work. I thought, therefore, that no more important work could be done during the year by myself and associates than to attempt the resuscitation of these sleeping Councils—and to give the *dead* ones, at the same time, of which I hoped we would find but few, as decent an interment as it would be possible under the circumstances to provide. Accordingly, in making my assignment of Councils for visitation I separated the dormant from the working Councils and gave to each of the visiting officers a special warrant authorizing him to assemble and set to work all dormant Councils in which could be found a sufficient number of members. (A copy of this warrant will be found appended to this report.)

To the Masters of Councils and to the Grand Officers I also issued a circular letter as follows:

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

FLUSHING, L. I., Oct. 25, A. Dep. 2880.

TH. .ILL. .COMPANIONS:

In accordance with a resolution of the last Annual Assembly of the Most Puissant Grand Council, I have apportioned the Working and Dormant Councils in this jurisdiction to the several Grand Officers for official visitation as follows:

R. Ill. JOHN J. MARTIN, D. G. M.

{ Working Councils Nos. 1, 20, 27, 31, 37.
 { Dormant Councils Nos. 8, 42, 45, 46, 47, 66.

R. Ill. THOMAS GLIDDON, G. P. C. of the W.

{ Working Councils Nos. 17, 22, 23, 68.
 { Dormant Councils Nos. 18, 34, 44, 50, 61, 63.

R. Ill. JOHN L. BROTHERS, G. C. of the G.

{ Working Councils Nos. 15, 25, 26, 40.
 { Dormant Councils Nos. 9, 32, 33, 35, 41, 48, 49,

R. Ill. P. W. VERHOEVEN, G. C. of the C.

{ Working Councils Nos. 4, 36, 64, 70.
 { Dormant Councils Nos. 30, 54.

R. Ill. R. C. CHRISTIANCE, G. Mar.

{ Working Councils Nos. 16, 19, 28, 53, 71.
 { Dormant Councils Nos. 24, 38, 56, 65, 67.

R. Ill. W. MORGAN LEE, G. Stew.

{ Working Councils Nos. 2, 7, 14, 55, 62.
 { Dormant Councils Nos. 21, 39, 43, 51, 52.

The Right Illustrious Grand Officers are directed to give their first and chief attention to the resuscitation of the Dormant Councils as instructed in their respective warrants; and if from necessity any visits shall be omitted they should not be to these, as it is especially enjoined upon each officer and upon each member of a Dormant Council to do all in his power to resuscitate and revive these bodies. Let there be a friendly rivalry as to which apportionment shall contain the greatest number of resuscitated Councils.

No Councils are especially assigned to the Grand Lecturer as it is hoped and expected that his services will be required by many Councils now dormant but which will this year decide again to begin labor in the S. V. Any Council in the jurisdiction which may require instruction in the work is at liberty to call upon the Grand Lecturer (Right Illustrious Companion John N. Macomb, Jr., Branchport, N. Y.), for such assistance; and all Councils resuming labor, or for other reasons not in possession of the work, should do so.

The Grand Master will be always ready to give such aid as his prerogatives will permit in assisting all Councils, working and dormant, which may desire his services.

The failure of the plan originating in Mississippi to merge the Cryptic Degrees with the Capitular, and the successful establishment of a General Grand Council of the United States, will place the Cryptic Rite upon such sure foundation that no Council hitherto established can now afford to be reckoned among the "Ahishers"; nor can any companion of the Rite who has any care for his masonic standing and reputation afford to voluntarily exile himself from our Arches. All there is of our system of Masonry is contained in Lodge, Chapter and Council; the Commandery forms no part of it. Whether Knights Templar recognize us, or

all, or none, of the branches of Masonry is a matter which concerns them exclusively, not us. Our interest is in the beautiful Cryptic degrees and those which precede them. Let us, therefore, cease our appeals to Knights Templar for recognition and with dignity maintain our right to rank with any other branch of Masonry,—not as a favor granted by some other body, but because we are a component part of a system which without the Cryptic degrees is incomplete and can be but imperfectly understood.

Grand Officers are instructed to make special report of the condition of each Council, and it is earnestly hoped that every one of the Councils above enumerated may be reported as entitled to representation at the Annual Assembly of the Most Puissant Grand Council in 1881.

With the wish that the present Masonic year of our Grand Council may be one of great prosperity to the Cryptic Rite and to all individual members thereof, I am

Fraternally yours,

C. W. BROWN,

Grand Master.

[L. s.]

Attest

GEORGE VAN VLIET,

Grand Recorder.

I am pleased to report that the several Grand Officers undertook the tasks assigned to them with the utmost cheerfulness; and, generally, they have given their time and attention to the work in a manner which has endeared them to me, and which is deserving of the thanks of this Grand Council and of all lovers of the Rite. When we realize that the most of the Councils are remote from the places of residence of the visiting officer—that while the Councils may have a time fixed in their by-laws for holding their regular assemblies—the larger number of them meet at irregular times—necessitating much correspondence to insure a full attendance to meet the visiting officer—that the condition of the treasuries is generally such that Councils cannot pay the expenses of the Grand Officer, whereby the visit imposes a considerable tax upon the pocket as well as upon the time of the officers, you will then appreciate the difficulties under which they labor, and cheerfully accord them the well earned thanks. I urged all officers to give their chief attention to the dormant councils for the then coming year's work, as the dormant bodies are the ones needing the most help. That work was one which especially demanded a genuine love for the institution, and a faithful obedience to the commands of the Grand Council, but it has been faithfully performed.

The reports of the Grand Officers of the work done by them are in the hands of the Grand Recorder. By a resolution of the last Assembly, I was authorized to remit the accrued dues of such dormant councils as could be induced thereby to again take up the trowel and resume their labors in the S. V. V. By the authority thus given, I remitted the dues of Olean Council, No. 33, Hornellsville Council, No. 35, and Zabud Council, No. 36—these councils having resumed labor, elected officers and agreed to send representatives to this Grand Assembly

and pay their dues this year. The first of these councils was resuscitated through the special efforts of R. Ill. Companion Gliddon; the second through the labors of our indefatigable G. C. of the Guard, R. Ill. Companion Brothers, and the other by the zealous painstaking of R. Ill. Companion Martin. The resuscitation of these three councils, companions, is a subject for rejoicing, "for what man having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine, * * * and go after that which is lost until he find it? And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost." These three councils have begun work with great vigor, and bid fair to be among our strongest and most active bodies.

A communication relating to the proposed resuscitation of Central City Council, of Syracuse, was referred to me with power to remit accrued dues, if this council would resume its labors. I have had some correspondence with former members of this council, but thus far have not succeeded in getting them together for a reorganization. In a personal interview with Companion R. H. Parker, of that council however, I was encouraged to believe that the council can be revived, and I am still of that opinion. So excellent a field as Syracuse should not be left untilled, and I recommend that the authority given to the Grand Master at the last Assembly concerning the resuscitation of this council be continued another year.

While it is a subject for rejoicing that three good councils have been redeemed and there is hope of still another, it is on the other hand a sad fact that many of the councils which were classed as "dormant" in my assignment to the Grand Officers, were not "sleeping," but were *dead* beyond resurrection. It is a satisfaction to know, however, that their deaths are not of recent occurrence. We do not see in their loss signs of *present* decay. The most of them were councils organized years ago in a mistaken effort to extend the usefulness of the Rite, by establishing councils in every place in which there was a R. A. Chapter. Many councils thus organized never had a real existence. We have been carrying the names of these non-existing bodies on our register, causing extra and unnecessary labor for Grand Masters and the Grand Recorder, and the officers to whom they have been annually assigned for visitation. I recommend that you declare forfeited the warrants of all councils which you shall conclude upon an examination of the reports of the Grand Officers, and the books of the Grand Recorder are beyond all possible hope—that a special effort be again made during the ensuing year to revive the remaining dormant councils, and that it be understood that at the next annual assembly all councils which shall not then have paid dues and made their returns within the last two years then preceding shall also forfeit their warrants.

The warrants of Chautauqua Council, No. 30, of Jamestown, Genesee Valley No. 41, of Nunda, and Owego No. (?) of Owego, have been surrendered—and have been placed in the hands of the Grand Recorder—no properties nor books were returned by either council. I submit these cases to you for such further consideration as may be proper or necessary.

Companions, do not be discouraged by these recommendations and reports

upon councils which long since ceased to work—they are no sign of *present* weakness. I advise action concerning the really dead ones in order that we may be rid of a list of names which encumber our books and are a source of annoyance to Grand Officers. It is true that missing numbers may give our list a sickly appearance, but it will be only an apparent, not a real, disease that will be upon us—and perhaps a re-numbering of the councils a year or two hence, when the funeral rites shall all have been performed—will blot from our memories the *sad* recollection of these *babes of an hour*.

December 23d, I issued a dispensation to Ontario Council, No. 23, authorizing it to change its place of meeting from Geneva to Penn Yan, until this annual assembly, providing in the order that the territorial jurisdiction be not altered by such removal. The removal of the council has proven of vast benefit to it and a great convenience to its active members, and I recommend the adoption of a resolution locating the council permanently at Penn Yan.

Also, on December 23d, I issued my dispensation authorizing Ontario Council, No. 23, to hold its regular assemblies on the last Tuesday of each month until such time as it could so amend its by-laws as to fix a different time of meeting from that named therein.

December 29, I issued my dispensation to Thrice Illustrious Companion Lyman Cobb, Jr., and other officers and members of Nepperhan Council, No. 70 of Yonkers, authorizing them to hold a regular assembly on a night other than that named in the by-laws, for the purpose of electing and installing its officers, the constitutional time for holding such election having passed, providing however that due and timely notice be given to all the members, of the time and place of holding such regular assembly, and of all business to be transacted.

January 17th, I issued a dispensation authorizing the election and installation of officers of Alph-Omega Council, No. 71, said council having failed to hold an election at the time prescribed by the constitution.

January 19th, I issued a dispensation to the Master of Utica Council, No. 28, authorizing him to install the P. C. of W. and the Recorder, they having been absent when the other officers were installed.

March 31st, I issued a dispensation to R. Ill. W. Morgan Lee, authorizing him to install the officers of King Solomon Council, No. 31, the council having failed to install its officers at the proper time.

I refused a dispensation asked for to receive a petition, ballot for and confer degrees upon a candidate at a special assembly. The companion upon whom it was desired to confer the degrees thus irregularly was, it was said, about to remove to a distant State—hence the emergency. I decided that I had not the power to issue such dispensation, that I could not delegate my prerogative to make a R. and S. M. at sight; and I will add, that in such a case, I would not exercise it if I could. If a Companion Royal Arch Mason has not sufficient interest in masonry to desire to penetrate the ninth arch until the time has arrived when his trunk is packed for his permanent removal from this jurisdiction, he has not sufficient interest to entitle him to the honor of hailing as a Select Master from the State of New York. Again, if his future home is to be in another State, it is my opinion that under such conditions the companions

in whose neighborhood he is to take up his residence, should be permitted to decide for themselves whether they will admit him to their Crypts.

Sing Sing Council, No. 62, which was by a resolution of the last Grand Assembly authorized to unite with Peekskill Council, has with commendable indignation declined to do any thing of the kind; and will retain her name, her warrant, her independence and her honor.

It has been several times suggested to me by companions whose counsel I respect, that it is desirable to request a few changes in the list of Grand Representatives from other Grand Councils near this Grand Council; but as by the reorganization of a number of Grand Councils we shall without doubt renew relations which have been suspended, and exchange representatives with these reorganized Grand Bodies, I concluded to postpone all recommendations for appointments and the making of appointments to these offices, until you shall have taken some action concerning the reorganized Grand Councils. I trust that my decision in this matter will have your approval.

To facilitate the correspondence of the Grand Master and enable him to readily learn the condition of all councils throughout the jurisdiction, and to urge them, if necessary, to greater exertions; and to enable the Grand Officers to whom councils are assigned for visitation, to make appointments for their visits with less trouble than is now done, it would be convenient to have given in the Proceedings the names of the Masters and Recorders, and the places and times of meeting of *all* councils, dormant, as well as working. If councils are dormant or do not meet regularly, or have not made returns for the last year, the names and times and places of meeting might be given as per the last returns made, accompanied with the date of the returns last received.

Through the courtesy of the several Grand Recorders, I have, in response to my request for the same, received the Proceedings complete from their organization, of most of the Grand Councils of the United States, and I have been surprised in noticing that during all the years that Cryptic Grand Councils have existed, the chief subject of discussion has been the imagined benefit to be obtained in making our beautiful degrees a pre-requisite to the orders of knighthood. I could not, in perusing these interesting reports of Grand Masters and Committees of Correspondence repel the thought that had all of the talent within the Rite been turned from this subject so thoroughly discussed, to the building up of the Rite on the merits which it surely possesses, the Mississippi trouble could never have arisen. For myself I do not believe in Grand Councils occupying the humiliating position of suppliants for recognition by the Grand Commanderies or the Grand Encampment. I believe we should assert our right to occupy a place equal in dignity and importance to that of any other branch of masonry. We should not acknowledge that we are now dependent for life and for regularity upon the will of any other branch of the fraternity. We have long ago been accorded a place in the American system of Masonry. The Cryptic degrees constitute the crowning glory of the series. They "form the apex of an institution of which symbolic masonry is the foundation." We do not therefore, need the help of the knightly orders. The commanderies have deemed it a wise protection to select their material for membership from Royal Arch Chapters; and

while we may think that though in this they have done well, they would do still better by requiring greater qualifications and receiving as candidates only those who have "passed the circle of perfection"; still this is a matter which concerns them alone. If other societies should select all of their material for membership from symbolic masonry, should Royal Arch Chapters beg for recognition from those societies; or, as now, build upon her own connection with symbolic masonry and her own intrinsic merits? No, companions, we do not desire strength which can only be acquired by making our Rite a stepping stone to something else entirely foreign to it, nor do we deserve it if such is to be its source. Let us rather unite in appeals to the good of the Royal Arch Masons to enter the S. V. V., and with trowel in hand to join us in the completion of our moral and masonic edifice, without regard to the good work which may be done by Knights Templar. Let us devote *our* time to the cultivation of *our* degrees; and of the friendship which should ever exist among *all* masons.

The very names of our degrees indicate that they are not intended to be popular. They are rather for the good—for the *Royalty* of the craft—the *Select*.—Where else in masonry can we better go for our ideal mason, than among the few and *select* who are diligent workers in the crypt? Do not be discouraged companions, by lack of numbers. Be alarmed rather, should there enter into the S. V. V. the unfaithful and the unworthy. If we are truly *Select* Masters how much deeper will be our sympathy for those with whom we stand thus closely connected in confraternal relationship, established for the very purpose of promoting this feeling and providing the means for its gratification!

The complaint which has been made so often by many mistaken companions, that Cryptic Masonry is weak, is a feeble institution and can only be sustained by merging it with the Chapter, or by prevailing upon Knights Templar to admit none to their ranks unless they shall have passed our arches is now, I hope, to cease. *Cryptic Masonry*, in New York at least, *is not waning*. If it is said that we are not increasing rapidly in numbers, we may reply that there are not so many Master Masons reported this year as last, nor so many R. A. Masons nor Knights Templar. If these other branches do not "hold their own" as to numbers, and are not discouraged, why should we, who are increasing our strength, be downcast and disheartened? We have not been less prosperous than they. If we have not as many members on the rolls as they, what of that? It is my opinion that masonry would be none the worse, if, as a whole, it had been more exclusive, more *select*. If our ideal of masonry cannot be found elsewhere is it not in our power to make a nearer approach to it among those who prove their devotion to the art by their seeking admission to the S. V. V.? To add *congenial spirits* to our numbers is desirable it is true, but we can best accomplish this in other ways than by simply making our arches a thoroughfare for Master Masons and Royal Arch Companions to hurry through on their way to enlist with the plumed knights. If Cryptic Masonry has any value it will survive by its own life giving principles and without the aid of other and independent organizations. If it have no virtue of itself why should we mourn for its decadence or undertake to keep it alive with unnatural stimulants?

The future of Cryptic Masonry, I repeat, is most promising. The formation of the General Grand Council to which body we have given our cordial allegiance, indeed, as I have before said, for whose birth we are no less than any other Grand Council, responsible, has given new courage to Royal and Select Masters everywhere. In our own State, many brethren who have been distinguished in other branches of Masonry, and whose names are known throughout the Masonic world for their skill and great worth, but who have not been known hitherto in connection with our Rite, are now giving their time and their thought to the promotion of our degrees. Let us then, all of us, take new heart, and go back to our homes determined that we will make our Councils attractive for the real beauty of the degrees and the manner in which they shall be conferred, for the valuable lessons they teach and the high character of our membership. See that your Councils always choose officers who have life, energy, and ability to understand and elucidate the ritual; who can instruct the members in the beauties and the worth of the degrees; who can show the relation of the degrees—not to the Orders of Knighthood, but to the symbolic and capitular degrees—who can make plain the meaning of these closing chapters of that most interesting volume of which these and the preceding degrees from E. A. to R. A. constitute the entire story.

And, now, Companions, in closing my official report, permit me to tender you one and all my heartfelt thanks for your numerous kindnesses to me and for the many honors which you have been pleased to bestow upon me. I have not been unaware of my shortcomings—my business affairs have to a great degree absorbed my time and my thought; and I am also fully alive to the fact that I am not competent, at best, to fill the place, *physically*, nor *otherwise*, of our energetic and esteemed companion, my immediate predecessor. I have, therefore, especially felt the weakness of my capabilities by comparison of myself with him. But I have been somewhat sustained by the knowledge that you have not altogether lost the valuable aid of Companion Osgood by electing me to succeed him to the office with which you have been pleased to honor me, and are not to be deprived of his labors, his advice, and the incitement of his enthusiasm; for he is as active and interested as ever in his work. For the confidence which you have reposed in me in electing me to this high office and for the kind and fraternal courtesies which have been extended to me by all of my Companions, and for the hearty cooperation of all my associates in office, I offer, in taking my leave of you officially, all that it is in my power to give,—the warm gratitude and affection of my heart. In review of my official acts, I hope you will extend to me the charity which is due to erring man.

Companions, the business of the Annual Assembly is now before you. Let your acts be such as will be an honor to yourselves and a blessing to the Rite. I have only to add the hope that the result of your deliberations at this time will redound to the interest of the Rite in the Empire State; and that you may all have occasion to say on your return to your homes: "It was good for me to be there."

C. W. BROWN,
Grand Master.

APPENDIX.

GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

To all regular Royal and Select Masters, and especially to all Grand Councils thereof:

GREETING.

The General Grand Master has the pleasure to announce that official notice of the ratification of the Constitution of the General Grand Council has been received from the following Grand Councils, viz:

New York, Ohio, Minnesota, Indiana, Tennessee, Maryland, Massachusetts, Alabama, Louisiana, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, California, Georgia and Missouri.

And the Grand Council of South Carolina has been re-organized by the Councils, and has also ratified the General Grand Constitution.

No official intelligence has been received from the Grand Councils of Kansas, Florida and North Carolina.

The Grand Council of Michigan, while adhering to the Council system, declined to become a constituent of the General Grand Council. She takes ground, in the strongest manner, against recognizing, as regular Royal and Select Masters, any others than those who receive the degrees in regular Councils.

It is understood that the Grand Councils of Connecticut, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania have taken no definitive action in relation to the General Grand Council, but adhere to the Grand Council organization and oppose merging the degrees with those of the Chapter.

The Grand Council of New Brunswick has been dormant since 1871. The Grand Council of Ontario maintains its organization, and there is no possibility that the Grand Chapter of Canada will even entertain the proposition of taking jurisdiction over the Council degrees.

It may be safely said that twenty-four and probably twenty-five Grand Councils in the United States and Canada will maintain their integrity, and sustain the Council system.

Other Grand Councils have heretofore existed in Virginia, Texas, Arkansas, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska and Wisconsin. That in Virginia, acting upon a demonstrably erroneous assumption of facts, dissolved in 1841; that of Texas followed this example in 1864; in the former jurisdiction, the degrees have been conferred in the Chapter (and West Virginia follows the same system), and in the latter they have been conferred in Councils appurtenant to Chapters. *The recipients of the degrees in both have been denied recognition as regular Royal and Select Masters in all other jurisdictions, until the recent promulgation of the "Mississippi Plan."* In the other five jurisdictions, recent attempts have been made to put the degrees under the government of the Grand Chapter, although scarcely any two of them adopted the same plan: in Illinois, the Grand Council was for a time nominally kept alive, but it is understood that no session was held in 1880: in Wisconsin a Grand Council has been re-organized, but by the Councils chartered by the Grand Chapter: the Grand Chapters of Arkansas, Illinois and Kentucky, in view of the recent action of the General Grand Chapter, at their Convocation in 1880, appointed committees to report at the next Annual Convocation what course ought to be adopted.

The formation of the General Grand Council was assented to by many, only because it seemed the sole method of saving the Council degrees. The result of the organization and its very general acceptance have more than justified the hopes of its supporters. South Carolina has abandoned the scheme of merging the degrees and re-organized a Grand Council. Two other jurisdictions, which had taken steps in the same direction, have retraced them and ratified the Constitution of the General Grand Council. In Oregon, Companions are making

arrangements for the formation of Councils. In Kentucky, a reaction has commenced which promises to restore the Grand Council system: an application has been received for a dispensation for a Council in that State, which was sustained by Companions of such ability and reputation, that I felt that no other course was open but to grant it, and it has been issued. In fine, the demoralization prevailing in different parts of the country has been completely checked and a more earnest interest in Cryptic Masonry been created.

It is so evidently the wish of a vast majority of the Cryptic Masons to preserve the Grand Council system, that it is submitted in all fraternal kindness to those of opposite views, whether they should not yield to the majority. The "Mississippi plan" was started as one of mere expediency: no principle called for it, but it was put forward and adopted as an expedient for saving expense and the labor of supporting one set of Bodies, Grand and Subordinate. But, on the other hand, the large majority felt that the plan proposed involved the sacrifice of a principle, and that they had no right to consent to conferring the degrees in any other than a regularly warranted Council.

The General Grand Council has determined that none can be recognized as Royal and Select Masters, who are not made in a regular Council: an appeal has been made, on the score of masonic courtesy, for the recognition of those made in Chapters, but they can no more be recognized than Royal Arch Masons, made in a Master's Lodge can be. It is settled, so that it is not even a matter for discussion, that the General Grand Council and its constituents cannot now or hereafter recognize as regular Royal and Select Masters any of those made under the "Mississippi plan": it is a matter of principle, and not a question of courtesy.

I am unable to perceive how any Grand Chapter, which is a constituent of the General Grand Chapter, can take any cognizance of these degrees. The latter Body has decided, with great unanimity, that it has no jurisdiction over them. By its Constitution, the degrees recognized by it "to be conferred in Chapters under this jurisdiction are Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Mason": the Constitution also provides that charters for Chapters "shall also contain the power to open and hold lodges of Most Excellent, Past and Mark Master Masons." Also, the one power, which is most fully vested in the General Grand Chapter by its Constitution, is the preservation, oversight and control of "the work." Hence, these degrees cannot be conferred in and by the Chapter, as a portion of the Chapter degrees, without violating two provisions of the General Grand Constitution. But it is proposed to confer them in "Councils appurtenant to the Chapter." But if so conferred, they are either conferred *under the Chapter warrant*, or they are not: if not, then under no warrant at all, and therefore clandestinely: and if *under the Chapter warrant*, it is held to authorize the opening and holding of Bodies in express violation of the General Grand Constitution.

But I have seen it stated that this is of no consequence, because the General Grand Chapter has no power of discipline over Grand Chapters, and, therefore, the latter are free to do as they please in this matter. I have even seen this repeated in the address of a M. E. Grand High Priest. But it seems to me that this idea must have been originated by some one whose zeal for the "Mississippi plan" ran away with his ideas of duty. The logical result is, that masonic law is to be obeyed only on account of the fear of punishment for its violation! If the law cannot be enforced generally, or in a particular case, and may thus be disobeyed with impunity, a mason is free to violate it. This is monstrous doctrine, and I do not believe that, upon sober second thought, any mason will have the hardihood to uphold it.

In view of these considerations, I submit that it is the duty of us all to give our support to the Council system, and thus secure harmony and the permanent prosperity of these beautiful degrees.

I do not deem it necessary for their prosperity, nor even desirable, that every Master Mason, or even every Royal Arch Mason should receive them. I regard

it as one of the worst features of our present system, that over-zealous Companions are in the habit of urging Master Masons to advance before they are ready: while very much has been said and written against hurrying candidates forward before they are sufficiently acquainted with the preceding degrees, but little has been said of another consideration, which in the immediate past has been of very great importance; very many masons are men of humble means, to whom the expense of receiving the degrees and paying their dues in the various Bodies, is no light matter, and these are often hurried forward before they are really ready, and the consequences are—suspension for non-payment of dues. But the Council system assumes that our number is small and select; if Grand Councils will keep this in view in chartering new bodies, many of the mistakes of the past will be avoided. I most earnestly commend this to the consideration of Grand Officers.

One great impediment to the proper understanding of the position of these degrees is the lack of information in reference to them, among the body of the Craft. It has been suggested to me by the R. P. General Grand Principal Conductor (Comp. PINCKARD); that the General Grand Jurisdiction be divided into Districts, to be assigned specially to each of the General Grand Officers. The suggestion seems to me to be a wise one, and I have made the division given below. I trust each of my associates will assume the duty thus imposed upon them, and by the distribution of documents among the Craft, by correspondence with the Companions, and by visitations when practicable, endeavor to promote the interests of the Cryptic Rite.

DISTRICTS.

- I. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Portland, Maine.
California, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and District of Columbia.
- II. GEORGE M. OSGOODBY, Buffalo, New York.
New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.
- III. GEORGE J. PINCKARD, New Orleans, La.
Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Arkansas and Indian Territory.
- IV. ORESTES A. B. SENTER, Circleville, Ohio.
Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan and Indiana.
- V. GEORGE W. COOLEY, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin and Dakota.
- VI. WILLIAM D. WADSWORTH, Montgomery, Alabama.
Alabama, Florida and Tennessee.
- VII. CHARLES R. ARMSTRONG, Macon, Georgia.
Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.
- VIII. EDWARD P. BURNHAM, Saco, Maine.
Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.
- IX. ALBERT D. MCCONAUGHY, Atchinson, Kansas.
Kansas, Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska.

In behalf of the General Grand Officers, I invite the co-operation of all Companions interested in these degrees.

Yours fraternally,

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.

General Grand Master.

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

ALPHA

OMEGA.

We, CHARLES W. BROWN, Most Illustrious Grand Master of Royal and Select Masters of the State of New York :

To our Truly and Well-Beloved Right Illustrious Companion,

Reposing the greatest confidence in your zeal, fervor and skill in the Masonic Art, we do, by virtue and in pursuance of the power in us vested, hereby nominate, constitute and appoint you, our said beloved Right Illustrious Companion, as our REPRESENTATIVE, to do and perform all the acts herein specified, viz : to visit, to inspect the labors and examine and inquire into the state and proceedings of the following

WORKING AND DORMANT COUNCILS,

and to give them all due masonic advice and instruction ; also, in our name, and on our behalf, to deliver to the said Councils respectful, affectionate and brotherly addresses, recommending harmony and union and the strictest adherence to the true and acknowledged principles of CRYPTIC MASONRY, viz:

Working Councils, Nos.

Dormant Councils, Nos.

Also, in our name, and in our behalf, as soon as may be convenient after the receipt by you of this WARRANT, to direct the RECORDER of each of the said DORMANT COUNCILS to summon the members of his Council to receive you, as our said Representative, at a regular assembly of said Council, to be holden at the time and place named in your order ; to attend such summoned stated assembly, and to preside thereat ; to cause the said Council to determine, by an affirmative vote of at least nine members, whether it will resume its labors, collect its membership dues, and pay thereafter its annual dues to the Grand Council ; and if nine or more members shall decide to so resume its labors, to order forthwith an election for officers of the said Council and to set the Council at work, giving such assistance and advice as may be necessary.

Also, if in any of the said DORMANT COUNCILS there shall not be found nine members who desire to resuscitate and revive such Council, you are authorized, empowered and instructed to at once arrest the warrant of said Council and to return the same, together with all books, papers, jewels and other properties of the Council to the Grand Recorder.

And we do hereby require and enjoin all Councils of ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS working under the jurisdiction of the *Most Puissant Grand Council of the State of New York*, and all Companions residing within the said jurisdiction, to RECEIVE AND RESPECT you as our said Representative, and to ACKNOWLEDGE the AUTHORITY herein reposed in you.

You are also required to make written report to us of the result of your labors performed under authority of this WARRANT, and of all your proceedings in the premises, on or before the 15th day of June, 2881.

Given under our hand and seal, in the Village of Flushing, N. Y., this 25th day of October, A. Dep. 2880.

C. W. BROWN,

Grand Master.

[L.S.]

Attest:

GEORGE VAN VLIET,

Grand Recorder.

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

GEO. M. OSGOODBY, JOHN F. BALDWIN and WM. M. SCOTT.

The Grand Treasurer presented the following as his Annual Report

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

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

Your Grand Treasurer submits his Annual Report as follows :

Balance on hand, as per last report	\$ 144 39	
Receipts from the Grand Recorder.....	1,108 00	
		<u>\$1,252 39</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

Warrant No. 501—Chairman Committee on For. Cor.....	\$ 56 00	
“ “ 502—Recorder's Salary and Expenses.....	340 84	
“ “ 503—Grand Master's expenses	30 00	
“ “ 504—General Grand Council.....	10 00	
“ “ 505—Grand Sentinel	10 00	
“ “ 506—Rent of room and safe.....	35 00	
“ “ 507—Pay of Representatives	506 96	
“ “ 508—Printing Proceedings 1880.....	250 00	\$1,238 80
		<u>\$13 59</u>

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

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

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

During the Annual Assembly of 1880, as acknowledged in the printed Proceedings.....	\$1,105 00
For attaching seal to certificates.....	3 00
	<u>\$1,108 00</u>

I have entered in the Grand Council Registry to the present date 3,380 names,
among whom the following changes have occurred :

Suspended for non-payment of dues.....	566
Died.....	176
Dimitted	124
Expelled.....	3
	<u>869</u>

Leaving a registered membership in good standing of... 2,511 Companions.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. VAN VLIET,

Grand Recorder.

M. . Ill. . Comp. GEO. M. OSGOODBY, for the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence presented the following report of

said Committee, which was, on motion, received, and ordered printed in our proceedings.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

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

COMPANIONS:

Once more the hurrying earth has speeded round her appointed orbit, and has brought us to the glad hour when we meet in the S. V. We clasp fraternal hands and exchange joyful greetings, as we stand by the gate before we carry in our work. We greet the familiar faces and hear the well known voices, but do not forget those whom we shall see and hear no more in the earthly sanctuary.

Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence again proffer modestly the result of their labors. We have wrought when all prying eyes were closed in sleep, and we bear tidings from near and from far. This year we have news from the following Grand Councils:

ALABAMA.....	2880.
CALIFORNIA.....	2877-80.
ENGLAND AND WALES.....	—
FLORIDA.....	2880.
GEORGIA.....	2880.
INDIANA.....	2880.
LOUISIANA.....	2881.
MAINE.....	2880.
MARYLAND.....	2880.
MASSACHUSETTS.....	2880.
MICHIGAN.....	2881.
MINNESOTA.....	2880.
MISSOURI.....	2880-1.
NEW HAMPSHIRE.....	2881.
NEW JERSEY.....	2881.
NORTH CAROLINA.....	2881.
OHIO.....	2880.
ONTARIO.....	2878-80.
PENNSYLVANIA.....	2881.
RHODE ISLAND.....	2881.
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	2881.
TENNESSEE.....	2881.
VERMONT.....	2880.
MISSISSIPPI.....	—
THE GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL.....	—

We have written to every Grand Council whose Proceedings failed to reach us through the Grand Recorder, Connecticut excepted and failed to get a reply in the case of Kansas only. We are under great obligations to our Companions the

Grand Recorders for their courtesy and willingness to oblige. We suggest to them to always send their Proceedings to our Grand Recorder at the Masonic Temple, New York. If they will take that precaution, we think so many Proceedings will not fail to be received.

We have spared neither time nor pains to make this report as full as possible, and to give the best information possible as to the condition of the Cryptic Rite. We trust, Companions, you will read carefully the various extracts we have made; for they contain much of value. Have the members of the Subordinate Councils read them, that they may be intelligent as to the condition and needs of the Rite. For we consider the Report on Foreign Correspondence to be a great education of the Craft.

Without further remark, we address ourselves to our work.

ALABAMA—2880.

Alabama never fails us. She always prints, and her Proceedings are received every year. There is ever something in them worth reading.

The Forty-Third Assembly was held in Montgomery, Dec. 6th, 2880, Wm. D. WADSWORTH, G. M., presiding, and seven Councils represented.

The Annual Address notes the lengthening of the time of the Annual Assembly, which we regard as a very gratifying action, as more time will be given for the business of the session and the exemplification of the work. We are opposed to hurrying the sessions. It has been a custom in many jurisdictions to meet at the same time with some other Grand Body, and hold one or two, or at most three, evening sessions of a few hours each, in which everything was hastily and imperfectly done. Such a practice should be abandoned wherever practicable. And we are glad to see the tendency in many of the larger jurisdictions to meet alone by themselves, to hold sessions during the day, and to be independent of all other bodies as to time and place. It is more dignified, and gives less of an impression of a side-show.

G. M. WADSWORTH says that several Councils have re-organized, and are now in a more prosperous condition than for years past. He attended the Detroit Convention, and submits the Proceedings of that Convention in the appendix. He says:

"The meeting was harmonious and particularly interesting to all who had the future welfare of Masonry at heart, and this union of the several Cryptic Jurisdictions, acting together in harmony, will no doubt forever end the many and varied pseudo-ideas that had been advanced by the less faithful of our members, those who have been asleep at their posts, as to what shall be done with Cryptic Masonry."

He heartily recommends the ratification of the Constitution of the G. G. C.

The finances showed \$136.25 on hand, and dues \$87.25.

On the second day several important resolutions were adopted. It was resolved that any attempt by any State G. Chapter or by the G. G. C. to merge the Cryptic Degrees, would be considered a gross infringement of the free and sovereign jurisdiction of this G. Council, and that it would be vigorously opposed.

Also—that any Companion, Royal and Select Master, who may use his influence for such end, acts in violation of his obligation.

Also—that, if the Grand Council of Alabama should, from any natural cause, cease to exist, all Subordinate Councils under her authority continue to work and confer degrees, subject only to the authority of some regular Grand Council which they may select.

The resolution passed at the last Assembly, giving forfeited Councils permission to reorganize and pay dues, was continued in force another year.

On motion of Companion JENKINS, the Constitution of the G. .G. Council was accepted and ratified, thus making Alabama the eighth Grand Council to ratify that document.

The same officers were re-elected. We miss very much this year the Report on Foreign Correspondence. Companion SAYRE was appointed as reporter. We always prize his Reports very highly. They are always readable, full of sound sense, sound law, and good humor. We suppose the financial fiend has laid his remorseless grasp on Companion SAYRE's facile pen. May we hear from him another year.

We do not find any table of statistics, but 12 Councils made returns, and we estimate the membership at about 300.

WM. D. WADSWORTH, Montgomery, G. .M. .

DANIEL SAYRE, Montgomery, G. .R. .

CALIFORNIA—2877-80.

We have received the Proceedings of California but once in all the years we have written Foreign Correspondence, nor could we ever elicit any response. Occasionally we have been able to quote from other Reporters, who were more fortunate than we. This year we take Companion CARLOVITZ' notice from the Proceedings of Florida. We quote entire:

California sends us her Proceedings for 1877-78-79. A perusal of the Proceedings of this Grand Council for 1879 contradicts the opinion entertained by many that this jurisdiction had adopted the Mississippi plan, and establishes the fact that the Annual Assemblies were regularly held. That no tidings have been received by any one from this Grand Council seems to lodge entirely upon the culpability of the G. .R. ., CHARLES L. WIGGIN. [That's so.]

We find the following in their Proceedings for 1877, in the report of the Committee on Finance:

"Your committee beg leave to report, that referring to the report of the Grand Recorder we have the only data from which we can obtain the desired information.

"We therefore present the financial condition of the Grand Council as entirely without funds, and probably with a small indebtedness, consisting of sundry items mentioned in the Grand Recorder's Report, and credited as having been paid by him, which in reality were not paid, and which are still a claim against the Grand Council. We have given the account all the attention our limited time would permit, and ask that our final report be deferred until our next session."

It seems strange to find that this Companion was re-elected; however in the Proceedings for 1879 we find another Companion as the Recorder, but a report signed by CHARLES LOUIS WIGGIN, who for reasons best known to himself was absent. This report was to serve as a narcotic to put that jurisdiction forever to sleep, and cover up all his misdeeds. Though the dose was heavy and quietly

taken by the patient, yet sufficient vitality was left to bring up that financial question again. We find the following:

"Your Committee on Finances beg leave to report, that they have been unable to ascertain the financial condition of this Grand Body, owing to the absence of the Grand Recorder, and their inability to get at and examine the proper books and vouchers.

"There are no funds in the hands of the Grand Treasurer, and so far as they are able to ascertain, the only available moneys on hand are \$21.50, being the dues of Sonora Council, No. 5, and \$53, being the dues from California Council, No. 2, yet unpaid, making in all \$74.50."

In the Proceedings for 1879, we find the following report from a Special Committee:

"Companion WILLIAM A. DAVIES presented the report of the committee appointed at the last Annual Session, to ascertain the financial condition of the Grand Council, as follows:

"To the M. . P., Grand Council of California."

"Your Committee, to whom was referred the financial condition of this Grand Body, beg leave to report that they have investigated the subject, and find as follows:

"There are, virtually, no books or accounts of the Grand Council. A few memorandum, blank, order, and check books, and a handsomely bound record book, containing, however, no records, are all we find. In the report of the Finance Committee of 1877, we find enough to give as a starting point, that Committee reporting in the estate of Companion LADLEY, the late Grand Treasurer, the sum of \$363.78. From that point, we find receipts to have been \$258 and the expenses incurred by the Grand Recorder, and for which he took credit, \$258.50. It now appears that these expenses were not paid, and that the Grand Recorder is entitled only to credit for the amount of his salary and allowance for contingent expenses, \$125, and that the balance, \$133.50, is due and unpaid to Companion FRANK EASTMAN, who did the work of printing the Proceedings of 1874-5-6, and also furnished blanks for the Recorder's office. The receipts for the year ending January 31, 1878, were entirely absorbed by the Grand Recorder, saving only the unpaid dues of California and Sonora Councils, those of Sonora Council, \$21.50, being paid during the session.

"Your Committee therefore, report the financial condition of the Grand Council at this date, April 10, 1879, as follows:"

With such a testimony before us we don't wonder why we have never received from that jurisdiction an answer to our many letters!

What! a high functionary of the Grand Council of California in default? When you appropriate the property of others to your own uses, what do you call that? But where is WIGGIN? Not in the Potter's field we hope! However we do expect that our good Companion will explain away such charges.

We are glad to see from the general tenor of the 1879 Proceedings that the Grand Council is in better hands.

The following leaves strong hope that we may expect better things from that jurisdiction in the future:

"On motion of Companion ORME, the Grand Recorder was instructed to communicate with the Councils in this jurisdiction, requesting a statement of their condition, and at the same time endeavor, as far as possible, to arrest the prevailing impression among Royal and Select Masters, that the organization is about being merged with the Chapter, as it is true that under no probable contingency could the proposed consolidation be effected prior to 1885."

Between the present year and 1885, however, a good many things may happen; we doubt whether the anticipations of California will ever be carried into effect. The late war of secession levelled the heads of a good many rebels, and the next General Grand Chapter very likely will put some of "our" rebels where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest.

Closely following upon the wake of the California Proceedings for 1877-8-9 comes a circular, announcing that the tenth Annual Assembly was held at the Masonic Temple, San Francisco, April 15th, 1880. Illustrious Companion EDWARD R. HEDGES was elected G. . M. ., and Companion THOMAS H. CASWELL G. .

R. We congratulate Companion CASWELL, or rather the Grand Council, for having selected such a zealous Companion as Companion CASWELL to the responsible position of Grand Recorder. Since his accession to the office we have already experienced light from this Ultima Thule of the Occident; may his zeal and the lustre of the coming light never diminish.

EDWARD R. HEDGES, Stockton, G. M.

THOMAS H. CASWELL, San Francisco, G. R.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

From this Grand Council of our own planting we have tidings for which we are indebted to Companion GEORGE W. COOLEY, of Minnesota. We copy his report entire:

We receive tidings from this Grand Council by way of a letter from Companion D. M. DEWAR, Grand Recorder.

The Grand Council was held on Thursday, the 26th day of February, at the Masonic Rooms, Red Lion Square, Holborn. There were present among other Companions, the Rev. G. R. PORTAL, M. P. Grand Master; FREDERICK DAVISON, R. P. Grand Treasurer; FREDERICK BINCKES, R. P. Grand Recorder; H. C. LEVANDER, R. P. Grand Lecturer; Lieut. Col. F. BURDETT, T. C. WATTS, R. I. D. Grand Master, No. 1; D. M. DEWAR, Recorder, No. 1; T. MEGGY, T. CUBITT, I. E. ANDERSON, R. LOVELAND, H. R. COOPER SMITH, R. RAY, W. CARLTON HALE, T. POORE, and others.

The minutes of the previous Grand Council having been read and confirmed, the Grand Recorder read a report of the Board of General Purposes, congratulating the Grand Council upon the progress the Cryptic Rite was making. It appeared from the report that nine warrants had been granted, and one hundred and forty certificates issued since the last meeting of the Grand Council. The report particularly mentioned the flourishing state of the Grand Master's Council, No. 1. The report was adopted. Several alterations having been made in the Book of Constitutions, the election of Grand Master resulted in favor of Companion, the Rev. G. R. PORTAL. Companion D. M. DEWAR was appointed R. P. Grand Recorder.

All business having been satisfactorily disposed of, the Grand Council was closed according to Ancient Form, and the majority of the members adjourned to banquet at the Holborn Restaurant.

Among other warrants granted by the Grand Council, one was granted for a Council in Tunis (the site of ancient Carthage), and one at Malta, and in both places the degrees are highly appreciated. In fact the Grand Council of England and Wales promises to be one of the most flourishing Grand Councils in the world.

FLORIDA—2880.

We are deeply indebted to the fraternal courtesy of Companion JOHN CARLOVITZ for copies of the Proceedings of Florida, and for various other information, as they failed to reach the G. R.

The beautiful pamphlet is entitled, "Annals of the Grand Council, &c." On opening the cover we are much pleased to behold the representation of the features of G. M. : GEORGE S. HALLMARK, excellently printed by some photographic process, we presume. We have always commended this practice of favoring the Cryptic World with the portraits of its foremost members. Now that there so many processes by which these portraits can be rapidly and cheaply printed, there is no excuse for any Grand Council not having one or two pictures every year. We are glad to see this evidence of enterprise on the part of the Grand Council of Florida.

The eleventh Annual Assembly was opened in Ample Form, at Pensacola, at High Twelve, June 2d, 2880. G. M. : HALLMARK presided, and all the Councils were represented. A number of Grand Representatives presented their credentials, and were welcomed and received with the Grand Honors, Companion JAMES A. CHAFFIN representing New York.

We have read with much pleasure the Annual Address. We gladly quote a portion of the beautiful and devout introduction. It says:

"We are here to take under review the sacred interests of Cryptic Masonry—interests which I would venture to hope are deeply interwoven with the noblest sympathies of our hearts, and incorporated with the purest aspirations of our lives. As we assemble here this day to resume our labors, may the hallowed associations of the hour and the occasion, together with the sacred memories of the past, be the inspiration of a closer fellowship to cement the ties that bind us together, and the solemn prompters to a deeper fidelity to duty; may the spirit of harmony and peace control our counsels and pervade our deliberations, and our hearts be thrilled with the beauty of the divine sentiment: 'Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.'"

"Nor would we forget amid the pleasant scenes and associations of the present hour, to remind you, that to the Infinite Being through whose mercies we are permitted to assemble here to-day, are due the profoundest praises and the most devout thankfulness of all our hearts. All true Masonry has ever rejoiced to recognize His overruling providence and His divine benedictions, as the source of all our blessings."

"Peace and prosperity seem to pervade our entire jurisdiction. And while it is true, that there has been no flattering augmentation of our forces, either in access of individual members, or the creation of new Councils, still it may be deemed a source of earnest congratulation, that we have so well maintained our own, and held our integrity unimpaired to the present moment. It is not in the augmentation of its numbers, but in the purity of its principles and the nobility of its individual life that Cryptic Masonry is to seek its triumphs."

In the discussion of the questions which were afterwards settled at Detroit the Address takes a decided stand. We give its arguments here now, that you may read them, so that, if at some future day that question comes up again, you can have an unanswerable argument against it.

"It may not be improper in this connection to refer to a subject which has excited the profoundest interest and the deepest solicitude of our fraternity throughout the whole extent of its boundaries and the sphere of its influence: and that is the maintainance of our undivided and distinctive integrity, as a separate and specific organization—in opposition to the modern policy of 'disintegration and absorption' into the Grand Chapters of the several States—as advocated by some of our associate and sister Grand Councils. Against such a proposal I feel called upon in behalf of this Grand Council, to utter a most decisive and unqualified protest. The grounds of objection are not far to seek.

"In the first place, the question seems to involve a direct issue of constitutional prerogative. Have we a right to do it? To make and unmake, to create and destroy an independent Masonic Organization at our own will and pleasure? It seems to me a plain axiom bearing upon all such cases, that no Masonic Organization has a right to vote itself into non-existence, or merge its individuality into another corporate organization only under the direct necessity for self protection or self existence. But where exists any such necessity for this measure proposed? Political or corporate self destruction is a revolutionary act, and can only be justified as a last resort for the wronged and oppressed. But from what terrible evil does Cryptic Masonry seek to escape by thus destroying its corporate identity, and merging it into that of another separate organization?

"In the second place, it seems to me a principle equally plain, that as Masons we are bound to transmit the order, just as we received it, unaltered and unimpaired in its entireness and in

"tegrity—in form and fact, in principle and organization, to our successors in perpetuity. If this is not true, then every age and every generation, every locality and every constituted body of Masons, may alter and amend its organic form to suit themselves. And if they can do so in one thing or particular, they can in another. Then what is to become of the uncorrupted integrity of our boasted and time honored Order? Innovation once commenced, where is it to end? Disintegration once set in, what is to become of our organic unity? Shall we become a party to this uncalled for act of revolution—without a plea; without a notice? No! let us rather seek to transmit the sacred trust of an unmitigated and unaltered Masonry to generations to come—in all of its grandeur and purity, a beacon star in the firmament of truth shining on forever!"

In Companion HALLMARK's remarks upon Masonic antiquity there is so much good, sound sense, that we must quote at length:

"Much attention has been given and much interest excited in certain Masonic Circles, as to the evidences of *Masonic Antiquity*, found in Cryptographic record, and hieroglyphic inscriptions, whose origin lies far back amid the mystic shadows of prehistoric obscurity. Prominent among these are the emblems on the obelisk of Egypt—the solitary 'sepulchral monument' of one of its buried cities. These mystic emblems and monumental inscriptions have been claimed by some as the exclusive property of Masonry and the records of its profound antiquity. Upon them have been expended a vast amount of research and learning. But to what purpose? What lustre can these ambiguous and unintelligible hieroglyphics add to the grandeur and beauty of Masonry? In the *first place*, it is more than doubtful whether these obelisk emblems have any relation whatever to Masonry—in any manner or form. In the *second place*, Masonry has nothing to gain from these absurd pretensions, and indiscriminate appropriations of antiquated inscriptions. Thank Heaven! the claims of Masonry rest upon a more solid foundation than these irrational assumptions of an illimitable antiquity. What matters it to us whether the traditional records of her *origin* can be traced to the historic scenes of the past century, or stretch away amid the solemn mysteries of 'the years beyond the flood?' Her *principles* are eternal, and sublimely reposing upon the immutable foundations of Faith, Hope and Charity, will grandly live on—bearing its own monumental inscriptions of Love, Purity and Fidelity through the centuries to come.

"It is the glory of Masonry, that it rests its foundations in the word of God—in the sublime revelations of Divine Truth. Hence it ever inculcates the most profound reverence for the Divine Being who is the Infinite Creator and Ruler of the universe. Need I, therefore, this day, remind you, Companions, of the great wrong and evil—alas! too common, I fear, among Masons—of 'profaning the name of the Lord'—of taking that sacred name in vain. The pernicious habit of profane swearing is a sad reproach to any one, but to none more so than a true and accepted Mason—whose very life, from the moment he enters the sacred portals of the Masonic Temple, is intermingled with the solemn associations of the Sanctuary of the 'Most High.' Every act of profanity is, therefore, but a practical contradiction to the hallowed teachings of the Order which he so unworthily represents."

We are so much pleased with the excellent sentiments of this address, that we will quote again:

"We hear much in these modern days of Councils dying out, and of the waning spirit of Cryptic Masonry that characterizes the present period of its history. Shame on us for the unworthy imputation! Dying out from what? From our own unfaithfulness, apathy and neglect. Only let us be true to ourselves, to one another, to God, to duty, and to the sacred principles of our Order: let us arouse and shake ourselves from the dust—from the debasing lethargy that blinds and paralyzes; let us go to work to rebuild the walls of our sacred edifice, restore the Ark of the Lord to its ancient resting place—then shall the 'Priest be clothed with salvation' and the hosts of Israel 'shout aloud for joy.' Let us choose our wisest and best men—men of zeal and energy and courage—who will work themselves, and inspire others to work—to lead us in the contest and in the Council, and then go forth to victory in the name of the Lord.

"We can not die out, only by our own suicidal act—by our own treachery and want of fidelity. We *must* not *dare* nor let Cryptic Masonry die out in our hands. The trust is too sacred for unmanly cowardice and trifling. The hallowed memories of the past, the sacred duties of the present, and the claims of future generations are beckoning us onward to a noble fidelity, and to higher achievements."

We do not fear for the Grand Council of Florida while such men are her Grand Officers. If such men had been in the East in other jurisdictions, we should never have suffered the disasters of the Mississippi plan.

In the Grand Treasurer's report we find a balance on hand of \$90.00. The G. .M. . was appointed delegate to Detroit, and in case he could not attend, he was directed to give a proxy to our own G. .M. . Companion OSGOODBY.

The same Grand Officers were re-elected.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence was again presented by Companion JOHN CARLOVITZ who is now so well known as a most interesting writer, and one of the best reporters in the Rite, that he needs no praise from us. His full and excellent Reports speak for themselves, and are among the very best we read. The one this year is fully equal to its predecessors. It reports the receipt of the Proceedings of sixteen Grand Councils, New York for 2879 included.

Our Proceedings receive a notice of over five pages, with lengthy extracts from the Address of G. .M. .OSGOOBY. Yes, Companion CARLOVITZ, we received the Proceedings you so kindly sent us, but it was not in time for that Report. You will see that in the Report for 2880 we did them full justice. We thank you just the same, and for all other favors.

2881.

Companion CARLOVITZ informs us that the Proceedings for the Annual Assembly of 2881 will not be printed until late in the year. The same Officers were re-elected. There will be a reprint of all of the Proceedings from the organization of the Grand Council down to 2872.

The Constitution of the General Grand Council was ratified, as we were sure it would be.

Subordinate Councils.....	3
Membership.....	72

GEORGE S. HALLMARK, Warrington, G. .M. .

JOHN CARLOVITZ, Milton, G. .R. .

GEORGIA - 2880.

It has been several years since we have given any report from our sister in Georgia. But this year we can break the silence. We have their Proceedings for 2880, not as late as we could wish, but the best we have. They are very brief, containing eight pages only, and a cover; but that is better than a circular.

The Grand Council of Georgia was opened in Ample Form in Atlanta, April 28th, 2880. The G. .M. . CHARLES R. ARMSTRONG presided, and seven Councils were represented.

The Address was very brief, showing that the G. .M. . had had little to do; no decisions had been rendered, and no visitations made; the G. .Chapter of Georgia had appointed a Committee to confer with him on the subject of uniting the two Grand Bodies; he had held no communication with them, but requested as a matter of courtesy that a like Committee be appointed by the Grand Council; he very sensibly adds a recommendation that no definite action be taken, no matter what the Committees might report, until the next Assembly, in order that a delegate might be appointed to the Detroit Convention untrammelled and un-instructed; he had received the Proceedings of eight Grand Councils, but New York was not one of the number.

The Grand Recorder however reported that he had received the Proceedings for 2879 of several other Grand Councils, and we are mentioned. He had received as dues \$84.00. There was a balance due him of \$43.45. Four Councils had not made returns for two years.

On account of insufficient revenue, the Constitution was amended so that no delegate should receive mileage; the G. . Treasurer should receive no salary; the compensation of the G. . Recorder should be fixed each year; and no delegate should receive any pay while his Council is in arrears.

The Joint Committee on the merging of the Grand Council with the Grand Chapter reported it wise and prudent to merge, but, in consideration of the coming Convention, that the Committee be continued for a year; which was adopted. G. . M. . ARMSTRONG was appointed delegate to the Convention.

In view of the action of the Convention, and the formation of the G. . Grand Council, and of the fact that G. . M. . ARMSTRONG is P. G. . G. . C. . C. ., we think there has nothing more been heard of merging with the Grand Chapter. We wish with all our hearts that Georgia may prosper, and that a grand future may be hers.

Subordinate Councils 11
Not making Returns 4

CHARLES R. ARMSTRONG, MACON, G. . M. .
A. M. WOLHIN, ALBANY, G. . R. .

INDIANA—288.

Our thanks are due to Companion AUSTIN for copies of the Proceedings of Indiana for 2880. They are as well printed as ever, and as neatly arranged as ever, as everything is which comes from the hands of Companion BRAMWELL.

The twenty-fifth Convocation was begun and held in Indianapolis. October 19th, 2880, Companion WALTER R. GODFREY, G. . M. ., presiding, and thirty Councils represented out of forty-seven.

The Address of the G. . M. . was comparatively brief, and related mostly to home matters. The introduction has a beautiful thought:

"At this time of year, when nature is tinged with the sear and yellow, it seems a fitting time for our assembling, and serves as a reminder that we are also passing away—that we should ever be active, always ready to perform our allotted task, never idle or found sleeping on the post of duty. If found thus, we will always be ready to obey the sound of the gavel, let it come in the morning, noon or evening of life."

He gives a brief account of the action of the Detroit Convention, and thinks:

"Many who left home lukewarm, or half inclined to favor consolidation, returned well pleased, and resolved to occupy the medium ground no longer. I can but believe that a bright future awaits Cryptic Masoury, and ere long the Councils who maintain their organizations will become stronger, and there will be no more sleeping on the post of duty. The 'Mississippi plan' is dead, and it only remains for us to see that it is decently buried forever from our sight."

Companion FISHER, G. . T. . reported a total of \$1,367.13 and a balance on hand of \$625.57.

Seven Councils were reported in arrears for dues for three years and upwards, and it was resolved that their charters be arrested, if the dues were not paid by the 1st of March, 2881.

The report of the Committee on the General Grand Council warmly commended the proposition, and on their motion the Constitution was ratified, and Indiana placed on the roll next to New York, Ohio and Minnesota as ratifying the action of the Convention at Detroit.

Companion WILLIAM W. AUSTIN presented the Annual Cryptic Review, occupying 35 pp. of the appendix. In years past we have had occasion to speak of Companion AUSTIN'S Reviews in the highest terms. We would reiterate our commendations, and only wish we had adequate words to express our pleasure as we have read the elegant productions of his pen. Long may he live to dispense Masonic light and information to the Companions of Indiana.

He says :—

"The main point at present seems to be, who are the faithful ones during the stormy days of doubt? Our companions will not fail to observe, from the notices we have given, that a brighter day for Cryptic Masonry is fast approaching; that the steadfast are encouraged in their efforts to keep their obligations; that some of the wayward are about to retrace their steps, and that we may hope for the Council Degrees an establishment on a stronger foundation.

"The formation of a General Grand Council meets with approbation, and the Grand Councils are falling into line, having faith that a grand central body will produce union, harmony and strength. We trust that under the influence of this new body a general acceptance will be made, and that peace and harmony will again preside through the arches."

Of New York for 2879 he says :—

"Judging by the handsome appearance of the pamphlet containing the proceedings of this Grand Council for 1879, held September 2, at New York, and from the general spirit manifested throughout the record, one must infer to a certainty that the Cryptics of New York are bound to stay by the Craft as long as timbers last and ropes hold.

"The portrait of the 'indefatigable' Grand Master, Companion GEORGE M. OSGOODBY, which adorns these proceedings, gives life and hope to the faint-hearted. 'Never give up' and 'come along' are written all over the face. Had there been twenty such GEORGES at the helm in '77 and '78, it would have been *goodby* to all plans of *bosoming*, and the old Cryptic Craft would have put out to sea with every sail set, and the good old flag, bearing aloft the *Trowel*, would have cheered the heart of Zabud on every sea.

"The address covers twenty pages, fine print and solid. With a strong arm and a high aim he carries through it a spirit of energy and a strong encouragement to be ever faithful to the trust reposed in his officers and the Craft in general throughout his jurisdiction. In the beginning of his year, instead of sitting down hopelessly in the Orient, and viewing the landscape through the blue lens of despair and weakness, and bemoaning the surroundings, he at once appointed deputies over the State, and in a circular full of cheering words, he bade them go through the length and breadth of the land to awake the Ahijabs, and set the select laborers at work on the glorious temple * * * *"

"He speaks plainly, and calls treason by its proper name, holding up to view the action of such Grand Masters who, after having taken an obligation to support, maintain and uphold their constitution, deliberately proceeded to be recreant to every idea of Masonic honor and integrity, and under the pleas of 'nothing to do,' 'debts to Grand Chapter,' &c., deliberately, by aid of cut-and-dried resolutions, sold out their Grand Councils, opening the way to confusion in the Order, and ending in handing down their own names to infamy and disgrace."

We have given the remarks of Companion AUSTIN in full, because we feel they are justly deserved, and are a due honor to our *Grand-est* Master. He also speaks of our Report in a manner which our modesty forbids our quoting.

He remarks on the Foreign Correspondence of Rhode Island, where the Committee did not give a full report, because they were generally a meagre resumé, and referred the Companions to the various Proceedings, as follows:

"We would inquire, what would be thought of the professional hotel proprietor who should tell the hungry traveler that, if he wanted a meal, to go to the butcher, the baker, the grocer and the dairyman, and gather for himself? The Committee on Foreign Correspondence has voluntarily accepted the duty of gathering here and there, through the many pages of proceedings, all that will interest and instruct, and then serve it up to the best of his ability. Committee on Foreign Correspondence means *business*, and nothing else; it is work for the benefit of others, and not one of advisory ease. If companions do not want to labor, let them stop aside for such as can and will."

Companion AUSTIN has the right idea of his duties, and does them too. He gives a synopsis of the proceedings at Detroit, and the Constitution formed there. He concludes as follows, commenting on the action of the G. : G. : Chapter concerning the Cryptic Degrees :

"Thus the great hope of the 'Mississippi' school has been dashed to the ground, and those who expected to grow fat and be happy on the 'grand bosom' must now look to other pastures for strength and support. We tender our deepest sympathies to those who have so blindly followed the weak-kneed leader who

"Would into thy bosom pour my thoughts,"

"And now we bid them a welcome return to the fold, assuring them that

"While the lamp holds out to burn,

"The innocent-est sinner may return."

Subordinate Councils.....	45
Advanced.....	86
Died.....	19
Membership.....	1318

EDWARD S. ROSS, Wabash, G.:M.:

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

LOUISIANA—2881.

The proceedings of Louisiana are on hand again in their covers of white. They tell us that the Twenty-Sixth Assembly met in New Orleans, Feb. 17th, 2881.

Our honored and eloquent Companion GEORGE J. PINCKARD, was again in the East, and representatives of five Councils were present.

The Address, after a beautiful introduction, notes the death of T.:I.: C. A. FRAZER, Master of Eureka Council, No. 10, and pays him a fitting tribute. He also notes the completion of the first quarter of a century in the existence of this Grand Council, stating that it was organized in 2856, four Councils being represented, and states that now there are eight Councils and 289 members. He rehearses the action taken at Detroit and recommends the ratification of the G.:G.: Constitution. He thinks the most important action taken by the G.:G.: Chapter was the adoption of the revised Constitution, and the action on the Cryptic Degrees.

In conclusion he says :

"Illustrious Companions we close our fifth address to you; as in the beginning, we again ask, what of the situation? Ye watchmen on the topmost tower, what of the night? Do ye not as yet perceive the glimmering of approaching dawn; are ye weary, and well nigh spent in your efforts to overcome? Cheer ye, the signs of a nobler and better, and brighter day have at length become apparent, the lessons you love so well are asserting themselves, the tried and trusty are sustaining you, the fair fabric you have so anxiously watched is arising more powerful than ever. The long night-watch of its trust is nearly ended, and a purer, holier, and happier state of existence dawns upon it, and upon you, and upon all of us."

Companion TODD, G.:T.:, reported receipts \$168.48, and a balance on hand of \$33.98. Companion LAMBERT, G.:R.:, reported that he had received the Proceedings of eighteen Grand Councils, New York for 2879 among the number. A communication was read from G.:G.:M.: DRUMMOND, calling attention to the G.:G.: Council, and urging ratification of its Constitution.

The Committee appointed to consider the subject of the G.:G.: Council reported in favor of ratification, and stated that they believed the formation of that Body to be absolutely necessary for the preservation of this important branch of Masonry. The report was adopted, and by this vote the necessary ninth Grand Council ratified the Constitution adopted at Detroit, and the Gen-

eral Grand Council was a living reality. New York has the proud distinction of being the first to ratify, and Louisiana of being the Grand Council which gave force and life to the action of the eight others.

Companion PINCKARD was re-elected G. M., thus entering upon his sixth year of office. This is an honor worthily bestowed, for Companion PINCKARD is one of the live G. Masters, and a most influential man in the Rite. He is G. P. C. of W. and we look forward to the time when he will adorn the Grand East of the G. G. Council.

We have but one fault to find with Louisiana, and that is, that this year, as for several years past, there was no Report on Foreign Correspondence. We would again exhort our Companions in Louisiana to remedy this defect. Even if the treasury be low, are there not enough patriotic companions in Louisiana to do the work gratis? Rather than leave it undone, we would write the report without hope of fee or reward. A brief resume, a statement of the condition of the Rite and the proceedings of the sister Jurisdictions, might easily be written, and the benefit would richly repay such men as PINCKARD, LAMBERT, TODD, FELLOWS, or HAMBURGER. The most prosperous Jurisdictions are those which have the best Reports of the Rite

Subordinate Councils	8
Members	289
Degrees Conferred	5
Died	8

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

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

MAINE—2880.

We are again indebted to the fraternal kindness of Companion DRUMMOND for news from Maine. This year again, as for the past four or five years, the Proceedings of Maine have failed to reach our Grand Recorder. Companion DRUMMOND assures us they are regularly sent, and we have no doubt they are, but they are never delivered. The Proceedings of Maine are so interesting and the Reports of Companion DRUMMOND are so valuable, that they are highly prized, and their absence is a great loss.

In this connection, we may as well say that we have spoken of this matter before, and especially in our Report for 2879, in which we mentioned our difficulty in getting the Proceedings of Maine from any one except Companion DRUMMOND. He thinks we did another Companion injustice. This we fail to see, for we stated the facts only. We indicated to that Companion what year's Proceedings we desired, and were told that the following year's Proceedings were not as yet published, and when we corrected that misapprehension in a second request, no attention was paid to us at all. If stating the mere facts is injustice, we were not aware of it before; for we have always been fraternally answered by almost every Grand Officer of whom we have made such requests, and when Proceedings were not published, we have obtained from them such intelligence of the condition of their Jurisdictions as would be of interest to the Craft.

Companion DRUMMOND in his review of our Report for 2879 says, commenting on this matter:

"He seems to assume that a copy will be sent directly to him, and yet his address is not given in the Proceedings."

That we fail to see, and we will leave it to any one if we assume any such thing. We all know that the Committee on Foreign Correspondence receives their copies of the various Proceedings from the Grand Recorder of their Grand Council. Every year we compare our list with that of the Grand Recorder, and see what Proceedings we have both of us failed to receive. For such as neither of us have, we, the Committee, write to the Grand Recorders of those Grand Councils asking for a copy, or for some news. And we generally get it, and appreciate in the highest degree their fraternal kindness which enables us to make our Report more complete. We are greatly indebted to Companion DRUMMOND for such favors for a number of years past, for without them we should have been unable to give any notice of Maine. Here we leave the matter, trusting that next year the Grand Council of New York may receive the "three copies" mailed to her immediately after publication."

The Twenty-Sixth Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Maine was held in Portland, May 5th, 2880, JOHN S. DERBY, G. M., presiding, and ten Councils out of twelve represented.

The Annual Address, though brief, was able and interesting. The beauty of the opening passage constrains us to quote it. It says:

"A beautiful thought of Lucretius represents the adepts of the system which he professed as 'entrenched upon the calm heights of their philosophy, whence they look down upon the bustling and selfish world below, unmoved alike by the thirst for office or its greed of gain, and strangers to its turmoil and its sorrows. With better reason, we may accept the spirit of his metaphor, and leave the burden of our daily cares behind as we assemble in the temple of our common Masonry to consult upon the interests of the Order,'"

He reports that he has corresponded and made much inquiry concerning the Rite, and the results have been very favorable, and this Grand Council never stood upon a better and a firmer basis. He argues at some length against merging the Degrees with the Chapter, but as that question has been we trust forever set at rest, we will not quote his cogent reasonings. Nevertheless we must insert the following quotation:

"There is merit in the assertion that our system contains too many degrees. It is the crying evil of our Masonry that the minds of its novitiates are diverted from its teachings by the fuss and feathers and frivolities of the so-called higher degrees, but when the time comes, if it ever come, that the York Rite shall be reduced to a consistent and consecutive system, the unity of the Master's legend requires that the Royal and Select Degrees should be left intact. It cannot be accomplished by discarding the only degrees that are really necessary to that end.

"The striking similarity of their traditions with those of the Royal Arch, renders their possession indispensable to the rational seeker for masonic light; and it is only in the midnight labors of the Royal Crypt that the student receives the reward of long and patient toil in the final completion of the Master's legend.

"There is a rare beauty in the Council teachings. Those of the Royal Master represent the zealous craftsman as modestly claiming the promised reward for long, faithful and efficient services, and as becoming the recipient of royal honors, though failing, through unlooked for misfortune, to realize his highest anticipations: Like the novitiate in a preceding degree, he seeks, and by honorable endeavor is in hope to find, the word of the Master, a symbol of Divine Truth. As a Select Master, he still presses forward in his symbolic search. He is taught to employ an honest fervency in a praiseworthy cause, and to so temper his actions with a becoming discretion that excessive zeal may not be mistaken for curiosity and disobedience. He is taught, too, that a brother who has indiscreetly erred should receive our ready pardon, while he who is false and recreant to his trust can not reasonably hope for mercy.

"The search for truth is the objective teaching of masonry; and while in some degrees it is obscured and in others it is almost lost to sight, nowhere does it receive more prominence than in the traditions of the Council. This is the one distinctive characteristic of Freemasonry that has remained unchanged from the dim twilight of its history, when the Steinmetzen of Germany carved upon cathedral stone their rude protest against the cant and bigotry of their age; and now, more than ever, when old forms are passing away and old beliefs are dissolving "is there need that we should fearlessly follow wherever the search may lead."

To which we heartily assent. Masonry like one of old cries, "Buy the truth and sell it not." Our ancient brethren devoutly seeking the Divine name, expected it would lead them into all truth. And to-day we are taught the same lesson to learn Him who is the truth. Do we not, Companions, forget our search for the truth? In our preparations for the search, we never get ready to start out in the search. So many are so utterly engrossed in the mere manner and wording of the instruction to search for truth, that they forget to search. The teachings of our Fraternity are not a mere form, not a mere ceremony to be forgotten on the morrow, but they are a grand reality, seeking to mold every life, and make every brother an earnest, conscientious follower of truth. It makes us sad indeed to see how many never rise to a realization of the great object taught by these ceremonies and symbols. They are all engrossed by the form of the temple, its gold, and silver, and cedar, and marble, and fine linen, its pillars, and sacred vessels, and forget to worship at the altar of the truth, and to lay their sacrifices thereon. What profit will it be, Companions, to be members of a truth seeking order, if we never seek the truth, and above all, if we never find it?

Companion FOBES, G. T., reported total receipts \$224.34, and a balance on hand of \$94.34. The same officers were re-elected.

The report on Foreign Correspondence occupies forty-eight pages, and is clearly printed so as to be readily read. It is from the pen of Companion DRUMMOND, the grandest of all the Foreign Correspondents, and the man to whom, of all others, Cryptic Masonry owes the most. To praise it would be like trying to gild the fine gold, or to add to the sparkle of the diamond. His reports are the most valuable contributions made to the literature of the Rite. We shall do you the pleasure of quoting as fully from this Report as our time and space will allow. Companion DRUMMOND reports the reception of the Proceedings of twenty-two Grand Councils, including those of New York for 2879.

Of the anomalous two-headed Grand Council of Illinois for 2879, he says:

"The Grand Master delivered an address which is not printed; the Grand Officers were elected and installed, and with the grimest kind of satire, the Grand Council unanimously tendered its thanks to the retiring Grand Master for his *able* and *EFFICIENT* services in that office during the past year.

"A Committee on Obituaries was appointed, and directed to present their report to the Grand Recorder in time to print it in the Proceedings. We presume that the Grand Council intended by this to adopt and publish its own obituary resolutions!

"We are pained to find in another part of the Grand Chapter Proceedings the announcement of the death of Past Grand Master JONATHAN J. FRENCH. He had removed to Kansas City, Missouri, for business purposes, and there fell a victim to malarial fever. Comp. FRENCH was one of the most indefatigable workers we have ever known. Not thirty-five years old at the time of his death, he had but just begun to diffuse the light acquired by incessant and long-continued study. 'Peace to his ashes, and rest to his soul.'"

He gently castigates Companion AUSTIN of Indiana :

"The Report on Correspondence (32 pp.) was again presented by Companion WILLIAM W. AUSTIN, the only fault we find with it is, that it has *too little* AUSTIN and *too much* scissors!

"What *kind* of work do you want Joe?" "Oh, anything, anything, only a *good deal* horse, and "not much JOE!"

Under Minnesota, where it had been decided that a dimit given to a Royal and Select Master under the sanction of a Chapter Warrant, or by a Council acting under such warrant, could not be recognized, he says :

"We are not entirely clear that the fifth (the above) should not be modified. When a Council surrenders to a Chapter, the latter can only receipt for any dues to the Council accruing *before* the transfer and not then paid. It seems that a receipt from a Chapter for those dues should be received as evidence of their payment, so that a Companion might properly petition for membership upon showing that his Council had been dissolved and producing a receipt, as a voucher that he had paid his dues to the assigns (so to speak) of his Council, and a dimit would be equivalent to such a receipt."

But when a Grand Council refuses to recognize the legality of any merging of another Grand Council in a Grand Chapter, and declares all Councils working under Chapter authority to be clandestine, and all Royal and Select Masters made by, or hailing from, such authority to be clandestine, how can any dimit be recognized, even as a receipt? In such a case as Companion DRUMMOND supposes, it seems to us that the Companion should present the receipt of the officers of his Council at the time of the consolidation, that all his dues had been paid up to that time. But we do not see how a dimit from Chapter authority could be considered for a second.

We say a hearty amen to the following remark, concerning the efforts of the Grand Master of New Jersey to resuscitate a Council, but which had been of no avail by reason of the apathy of the T. L. M. : He says :

"It is too bad when we have a live Grand Master, who has the time, inclination and ability to visit Councils and aid in their labors, his efforts should be thwarted by some drone who should never have been elected and yet who, in most cases, desired the office for the honor it would confer on him."

New York receives a full and kind notice. He begins with a full notice of our lamented Companion NORMAN, adding :

"While we sympathize with our New York Companions in the loss they have all sustained we point with delight to his example, as showing how much one earnest man may do. His motion was rapid beyond precedent, but no more so than his merit and usefulness warranted."

Again :

"The Grand Master (GEORGE M. OSGOODBY) delivered an elaborate and able address."

In his review of our Report he replies to our growl about the regular non-receipt of the Proceedings of Maine, but we have already had our say in the beginning of this notice. He makes several quotations.

In the review of Ohio, speaking of the decision of a Committee on the matter of Jeffrey Council, of Newport, Ky., which affirmed that Jeffrey Council, not having consented to the dissolution of the Grand Council of Kentucky, still remains a legal Council, he says :

"We do not assent to the reasoning of this decision: unless there was some peculiar provision in the Constitution of the Grand Council of Kentucky, we hold that it had the right to revoke any charter at its pleasure; but, if the Grand Council merely dissolved, without revoking the charters of the subordinates, they continue to exist until they surrender their charters or die from some other cause."

He gives the Proceedings of the Detroit Convention nearly in full, and the Constitution adopted there.

In conclusion he says :

"It is a fact not to be denied or kept out of sight, that at present the main interest centers in the Commandery and such other organizations as are capable of making a striking public display. But, as in the desperate times of Anti-Masonry, there are many who love Masonry for itself, and whether they be interested in the orders of Knighthood or not, they keep alive their interest in all the degrees: to them we must look to maintain the lodge, the Chapter and the Council. The degrees of each of these organizations have been, in the past, of sufficient interest to cause a rapid growth in each: the true plan is to leave each to sustain itself, or, if it can not, to go down without carrying another with it. But the present indications are that the Council degrees will be maintained on a firmer basis than ever before, though in many localities Bodies will cease to exist, and perhaps the membership fall off, but those which are left will be stronger and really more prosperous. Too many Bodies have been created, and the inefficiency of some has been contagious: if in every jurisdiction the number could be reduced so that it would be difficult to get the degrees, we should have stronger Bodies.

"But we think the tide has turned, and the action of the General G. Chapter and the Convention at Detroit will check the demoralization of the Mississippi movement, and restore that confidence in the stability of the Council organization that will lead to success and prosperity."

For our own part we deeply regret the increasing tendency to costly public display, which is so plainly manifest in some branches of Masonry. Young men hurry through the degrees to take part in these displays and go off on these costly junketing expeditions. Hence they are never of any value in the Lodge, or Chapter. They never understand or appreciate the lower degrees. They do not become Masons in the true sense of the word.

We were pained to see the lavish prodigality with which money was wasted at Cleveland and Chicago. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars were poured out. And for what? What good was done? What benefit to Masonry? How many asylums might have been founded and endowed with that same money, where the aged, but indigent, Mason, his widow or his orphans, might have found shelter. But how much of this money, thus squandered in public display, could have been obtained? Has any State such an asylum? There may be, but we do not know of them. How much more appropriate it would have been for an Order to use its wealth in such works, an Order that professes to remember the defenceless, the widow and the orphan, and which is founded upon brotherly love, relief and truth. Could not a General Body receive just as much honor, and maintain just as much dignity, by quietly convening at the appointed place, with the escort of a few local bodies, and then transacting its business, and going home again?

We wish a year, or six months at least, intervened between the reception of each degree, and that every candidate should be required to attend a certain number of meetings, before he could be advanced.

But to return. The Grand Council, by suitable resolution, returned its thanks to Companion CHARLES FOBES, who had faithfully and honorably served as Grand Treasurer ever since the organization of the Grand Council in 2855, and who now resigned the cross-keys. Upon ballot, his son, Companion LEANDER FOBES, was elected to the office. May the mantle of the father fall upon the son.

A tax of ten cents a member was levied. The officers elect were duly installed and the Grand Council was closed in ample form.

Subordinate Councils.....	13
Membership.....	915
Admitted.....	39
Died.....	11

JOHN S. DERBY, Saco, G. M.

IRA BERRY, Portland, G. R.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Portland, Com. on For. Cor.

MARYLAND—2880.

This year Maryland sends us a fine thick pamphlet of 81 pp., well printed on nice paper, and a credit to all concerned, ever so much better than a circular.

The Annual Assembly convened in Baltimore, Nov. 10th, 2880, WILLIAM F. COCHRANE, G. M., in the East and Five Councils represented.

The Address of Companion COCHRANE assures us of peace and prosperity in his jurisdiction. He laments the early death of Companion HENRY W. WORTHINGTON, G. P. C. of the W., cut off in the bloom of early manhood. He gives account of the Detroit Convention, and recommends ratification. He had corresponded with many of the Grand Masters, and as a result, Grand Representatives from fourteen Grand Councils had been appointed near Maryland, and the like number appointed near these Grand Councils to represent Maryland. New York already had one.

The finances showed receipts of \$76.37. The formation of the General Grand Council was approved, and the Constitution ratified unanimously.

This year there was a tip-top, bang-up, first rate Report on Foreign Correspondence of over 50 pp., which it has been a genuine delight to read, and which places the writer in the front rank of correspondents. We hope to hear every year from Companion GEORGE L. McCAHAN, G. R., who wrote this one. We give you, Companion, our hand, and like Oliver Twist pass our bowl for more.

Companion McCAHAN says:

"The storm has spent its strength, and the pleasure felt by reason of so many riding it safely, is intensified by the surprise that no greater number of wrecks bestrew the strand."

He had received the Proceedings of New York for 2879, and those of sixteen other Grand Councils. He quotes at length from them all, and the Companions of Maryland ought to be thankful for the amount of information given them. New York receives a most fraternal notice of seven pages. He styles our Proceedings a beautiful volume, and quotes Companion AUSTIN's remarks on the portrait of G. M. OSGOODBY, which we have already given you in our review of Indiana. He quotes at length from the Address, and especially Companion OSGOODBY's remarks on the Mississippi plan, and says:

"For once in our life we confess to having no sympathy with the 'under dog.'"

He quotes at length from our Report, and says our report is from "the pen and scissors, [you are another;] and though the latter are used liberally, he is equally free in giving his own views on every point of interest."

Under Maine he quotes Companion DRUMMOND's answer to our growl that we could not get their proceedings, and upon our review of Maryland says:

"Under Maryland for 1878, Companion HUDSON acknowledges the receipt of a circular issued by this Grand Council for that year, and adds: 'Ever since we welcomed this Grand Council upon her organization a few years ago, we have had difficulty in getting her Proceedings. Some years we have been obliged to omit her altogether, and in others copied from some brother correspondent more fortunate than we were.' Referring to Companion DRUMMOND's (of Maine) reply to a similar complaint, we would add that on our first reading of Companion HUDSON's 'rap over the knuckles,' our impulse was to 'jaw back,' but reflecting that perhaps we might have 'the short end of the stick,' we soon concluded to express our regrets to Brother CHARLEY and at the same time say to him, that the proceedings of this Grand Council have always been regularly forwarded to all Grand Recorders under the impression they would see to it that the Committee on Correspondence were placed in possession of them, and that failure in their reception will be cheerfully corrected on receipt of a postal intimation to that effect."

We always did like a bit of a discussion, and we like to stir up the brethren. As we have already said under our review of Maine, we look to the G. .R. . for the various Proceedings, and we most cheerfully bear witness to Companion VAN VLIET's readiness and promptness in forwarding them. Every year we compare when the Committee begin to write, and every year the G. .R. . has failed to receive a number of Proceedings. Then we write to the G. .Recorders of those Councils for some information, or for Proceedings. This year we have written to eleven. When we can not get Proceedings of the G. .R. ., we then try some one else and growl. But do not understand us to say Companion McCANAN that we have failed with you. It has been suggested to us, and we think it is the correct solution, that the reason why so many Proceedings miscarry, is in the direction. They fail to notice our G. .Recorder's address, which is, "Masonic Temple, Corner of 6th Avenue and 23d Street." If they are sent merely to New York, they go to the general office, and are lost. We think, if the Grand Recorders will bear that in mind, no more copies will fail to be received, and we shall not be under the necessity to "rap the knuckles" of any one.

After giving the action of the Detroit Convention, he says in conclusion:

"Our report has already gone much beyond our ideas at the commencement, but we are free "to acknowledge we had then no proper conception of the richness of the field we were about "to glean."

"Good. We exhorted Maryland last year to try a full report. We knew, if they tried it once, they would be pleased, and make a good report. Sometimes correspondents complain that their materials are so meagre. We never found it so, but always found plenty to report, and plenty to talk about.

He adds:

"The events of the past few years have culminated in more than success. What at first promised to be a panic has resulted in the unification of the loyal Grand Councils, in the business "of removing the state of doubt and indecision that has been the bane of the Rite for so many "years, and placing on a firm basis all the claims made in behalf of the right of Grand Councils "to control the Cryptic Degrees. As to the future source of inspiration in Cryptic affairs, we "will be able to look to a General Grand Council * * * *

"As to the jurisdictions which have 'merged,' we believe some of them, if not all, will before "a great while retrace their steps, as there are already indications to that effect, and in that "event nothing remains but that those individuals, who have been arrayed among the opposi- "tion, will lend at least a portion of their influence toward building up and strengthening the "Rite. This accorded, there remains no greater boon to wish for."

Subordinate Councils	5
Membership	227

GEORGE W. SHEIVE, Baltimore, G. .M. .

GEORGE L. McCANAN, Baltimore, G. .R. .

MASSACHUSETTS—2880.

This Grand Council met in Special Assembly in Boston, March 25, 2880, ALFRED F. CHAPMAN, G. .M. ., presiding.

The purpose of the Assembly was to make an official visitation to Boston Council, where the work in the Select and Super-Excellent Degrees was exemplified by the Grand Lecturer.

The Annual Assembly met Dec. 8th, 2880, in Boston, Companion CHAPMAN presided. Twelve Councils were represented. The Address was of interest, and was well written. It shows that the Councils are prosperous, some doing a large amount of work. All had been visited, or encouraged, and several had assem-

bled together to exemplify the work. Lafayette Council, at Washington, D. C., had not made returns for three years, and it was recommended, in the event of the formation of a General Grand Council, that it be transferred to the jurisdiction of that Body. He suggests the propriety of approving the G. G. Council. He laments the death of P. G. M. JAMES KIMBALL, who was Master in 2862, and who was a man of whom none spake but to praise, and whose life ever displayed the Masonic and Christian graces.

The financial report showed receipts amounting to \$305.70, and a total of \$766.

On motion the formation of the G. G. Council was approved, and the Constitution ratified.

A memorial page commemorates Companion KIMBALL. The various appendatory tables and lists are very complete, and excellently arranged.

Again Companion J. W. DADMUN comes to the front with the Report on Foreign Correspondence, occupying some twelve pages only this year. Companion DADMUN stands in the front rank, and we regret he so circumscribed himself this year. He had received Proceedings from thirteen Grand Councils. Ours came out so very late, that they did not come to his hands. He says:

"The mania for merging the Council and Chapter Degrees is subsiding. Some of the jurisdictions which were first and foremost in the movement, begin to see they have made a mistake. The leaders thought it would promote the interests of Capitular as well as Cryptic Masonry, but find they have jumped out of the frying pan into the fire.

"To take Masonic degrees, which have acquired the value and importance of the Cryptic degrees, and attach them to any other Masonic body, to be conferred indifferently, 'without money and without price,' will not only render them comparatively worthless, but will be an incubus upon the body to which they are attached—we always value things by their cost.

"Besides this, competition tends to cheapness, and if the Cryptic degrees can be conferred for 'nothing, or a mere 'nominal fee,' at most why may not the price of Chapter degrees be reduced, and all M. M. be invited to partake of the water of life freely? They furnish the foundation of the Superstruction, why not say to them, 'Come up higher?'"

Under California he says:—

"On the subject of transferring the Council degrees to the Chapter, California has taken the honorable course, by appealing to the G. G. C. of the U. S., with a determination to abide by her decision; and by notifying her Councils that if any change is made it can not be effected prior to 1885. We hope she will *dissolve*, rather than merge into the Chapter without authority from the parent body.

"Better days are coming. These degrees must possess intrinsic value to have become so popular, without having been made, like the Chapter degrees, pre-requisite to the Order of Knighthood; and, relatively, they have suffered no more, from business depression, than Capitular Masonry.

"The time will come when those who precipitated this merging business—if they are this side of the grave—will be ashamed of it. Why did they petition the G. G. Chapter for authority to do so, if they were not conscious it was unconstitutional? But to make the scheme doubly sure, as they thought, in their desperation they made the transfer to coerce the G. G. Body to grant their request."

Under Connecticut he says:—

"The bane of Masonry, at the present time is, we have too many within the body who would ruin or ruin. We do not say that all who have gone into the merging scheme are of this stamp, by any means, but they have, perhaps, unconsciously opened the way for such turbulent spirits to 'jump on and drive.' If Satan can not keep us back of the mark, he will jump in and drive, and drive us over. We do not want our worthy Companions to furnish that class with such a 'pleasure trip.'"

We only wish there was more of Companion DADMUN's Report. The little taste he gives us makes us long for more. We honor the G. G. Council of Massachusetts.

Subordinate Councils.....	23
Members.....	2557

ALBERT L. RICHARDSON, 296 Devonshire street, Boston, G. M.
JOHN HAIGH, Somerville, G. R.

MICHIGAN—2881.

This prosperous Grand Council held its twenty-third Annual Assembly in East Saginaw, January 17, 2881. M. I. DAVID WOODWARD, G. M., presided, and 39 out of 46 Councils were represented, a greater number probably than in any other jurisdiction, unless it be that of Ohio.

The Address was excellent in many things. It was lengthy, covering 24 pp., but it gave in full the Proceedings of the Detroit Convention, the call for the Convention, and the provisional Constitution. The introduction is so excellent that we would have you share it with us:

"To the history of Freemasonry antiquity lends a charm. The meditative Mason loves to dwell upon what bears the impress of ages long gone by. A charm lingers around aged Masonic emblems. The pine through whose branches have whistled the winds of a thousand bleak winters, the mountain whose bald summit has warded off the thunderbolts of untold ages, are each monuments of enduring time. Is it strange, then, that the Mason should read the history of Freemasonry with emotions, that he should reverence the Order the better for being ancient, and render an homage more devotional on that account? Had it been worthless it would long since have passed away. Things worthless do not triumph age after age over all the opposition of power that the ingenuity of man can bring to bear upon them. When we follow back the foot-prints of time, we find many of the eminent men of former days the living monuments of the teachings of Freemasonry. St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist were eminent Christian patrons of Masonry, with King Solomon, Zerubabel, Abraham and Moses, with many others worthy of profound admiration. Although handed down from generation to generation, Freemasonry is still the same. With 49 Grand Lodges, nearly 10,000 Lodges, 39 Grand Chapters, with nearly 2000 Chapters and 109,000 R. A. M.; 25 Grand Councils, 439 Councils, with 20,000 members. We of Michigan hold the Cryptic Rite especially sacred, while we regret that some of our sister jurisdictions have fallen out of the beaten track."

During the last year two Companions had met the inevitable lot of humanity, Companion WILLIAM BROWN, P. G. M., and P. G. H. P., on Sept. 23d, 2880, and Companion E. A. ELLIOT, P. G. M., and P. G. T., at Detroit, November 15th, 2080.

There had been no cause for official decisions. He gives the Proceedings of the Detroit Convention with the call for it, and the provisional Constitution adopted.

When Companion WOODWARD comes to the subject of endorsing the General Grand Council, ratifying its Constitution, and becoming members of it, he takes ground, and throws his influence in a way we had not expected from Michigan. In a jurisdiction so prosperous, so active, and which has stood so firm during all the storm which has tried Cryptic Masonry of late, we did not expect that there would be found any opposition to a measure so evidently necessary, and which has already shown its beneficent influence for the good of the Rite. But here we have another proof of what we have often said, that the Grand East has a wonderful power for good or evil, and that the action of a body generally follows the direction given it by its Master.

Companion WOODWARD spoke very doubtfully concerning the General Grand Council, and the Committee merely reiterated his expressions in their report. He first says the provisional G. G. Council was not organized unanimously, as many representatives had not been instructed on the subject and it was new to them. But the overwhelming majority of Grand Councils which have become members of that Grand Body, and given it life, shows there was no weight in that objection.

He and the Committee then say that the Grand Council of Michigan was formed in 1858, and by industry and rigid economy increased to 50 Councils. A very limited amount of legislation had been needed, and peace and harmony had universally prevailed. Of this no one is more glad than we. But will the G. G. C. put an end to peace and harmony, or cause industry and rigid economy to cease?

Further it was asked whether they would continue to legislate for themselves, or delegate that power to three or more Grand Councils assembled in General Grand Council; and could Maine, Vermont and Massachusetts legislate for California, Louisiana and North Carolina as well as each individual jurisdiction for themselves. "Let well enough alone," &c.

Now, while this seemed sufficient reason for the Companions of Michigan to refuse to become members of the General Grand Council, it seems to us lamentably weak as an argument. Except as a strong appeal to that powerful feeling of jealousy, which fears it must surrender some power, or some iota of independence, we think it amounts to nothing. Where is there any thing in the Constitution of the General Grand Council which takes away any powers from the Grand Councils? It will not in the least interfere with the independence or powers of the weakest Grand Council. The Grand Council of New York will not cease to legislate for itself, because it is a member of the General Grand Council. It will manage its own concerns just as it has always done. And so it would have proved in Michigan, had our Companions there seen fit to ratify the provisional Constitution. Every year, in its peripatetic course, the Grand Council of Michigan would have legislated just the same, exercised the same industry, and practiced the same rigid economy.

We look upon the General Grand Council as an advisory body, more than a legislative; it will be a strong central bond of unity, and a life giver rather than a destroyer of powers and independence. Such a conservative Grand Council as that of Indiana, which looks carefully after its own power and dignity, and which has always carefully been on its guard against surrendering any thing, saw in the General Grand Council only an advisory body, which would be of general advantage, and hastened to ratify it, and became a member of it. But it is reserved for Michigan to find this hidden danger, and tremble at the thought that somebody would legislate for them.

The General Grand Council has already shown its beneficent influence over the Rite. The very fact that it was contemplated to form such a body put an end to the efforts in the General Grand Chapter to have that body adopt the Cryptic Degrees. It has forever put down the Mississippi plan, and overwhelmed that scheme with defeat. If it had not been formed, the next few years would have seen more than half of the Grand Councils dissolved. It was the only salvation for the Rite at the time, and the Companions showed a true wisdom when they organized it. Cryptic Masonry has been put on an enduring basis. New zeal is rousing the souls of the desponding; steps are being taken to reorganize where the Rite has been merged; and the feeblers Grand Councils are putting forth more energetic endeavors. At the time we write 18 Grand Councils have become constituents of the General Grand Council, and hail it as the best meas-

ure that could have been devised. Michigan is the only one thus far which has refused to ratify. Some are still considering, some have taken no action, but she is the only one which has really refused. We trust that next year our Companions in Michigan will see their mistake, realize how groundless were their fears, and wheeling into line with the great majority, keep good her grand reputation as one of the best most prosperous and most zealous Grand Councils in the whole Rite. We very much regret that she did not take such action this year.

But to return to our review. The finances showed a total of \$430, and a balance of \$45. There was a good idea in the report of the Committee on Finance which proposed that instead of paying the G. .M. . a salary, an appropriate jewel be presented to him. We agree with the Committee that the Grand Officers should not be paid salaries, with the exception of the G. .Recorder and the G. .Treasurer.

Suitable memoirs and resolutions were adopted for Companions BROWN and ELLIOTT, and memorial pages were set apart in the Proceedings. There was no Report on Foreign Correspondence, which we regret, for Companion NOBLE always writes a good report. A committee was appointed on that subject for the next Assembly.

The appendix contains the Constitution, and the Circular of the G. .G. .M. . DRUMMOND, announcing the existence of the G. .G. .Council.

Michigan has our best wishes.

Subordinate Councils.....	46
Exalted	103
Membership.....	1979

RUFUS C. HATHEWAY, Ionia, G. .M. .

GARRA B. NOBLE, G. . R. .

MINNESOTA—2880.

The Proceedings of Minnesota this year fully equal the excellence of the past, and we thank Companion COOLEY most heartily for sending them to us. We have taken great pleasure in perusing them.

The eleventh Annual Assembly convened in St. Paul, October 11th, 2880, G. .M. . G. W. COOLEY in the East. Three Councils were represented.

The Address says their number is still complete, none having died; one Council had been formed U. .D. .; the Detroit Convention is duly noticed, and he strongly advises ratification of the G. .G. .Council and its constitution. In conclusion he says:

"In your subordinate Councils I again urge upon you the necessity of careful watchfulness in the selection of your officers. Elect only those whom you can trust. Place in your East that companion whom you can respect, and who will work faithfully and energetically for the good of his Council. Never elect to that important station, whether he be in the regular order of promotion or otherwise, a companion who will not devote his time and abilities to the good of the craft. If you do, his election will do you no good, and your Council will surely decline. Acknowledge in some manner the benefit you have derived from his election, if he be found worthy, that he may be grateful to you for the honor thus conferred—not by the bestowal of a gift or remuneration for his services, but by your steady support in his endeavors. Then you may send to the Grand Council a companion who will faithfully attend to your interests, and in whose hands you may at some time intrust with confidence the interests of the Cryptic Rite. Success can only be achieved by a close application of our faculties to the end in view, and having thus far wrought in Cryptic Masonry, let us not weary in the work, but

"continue with unabated vigor until we shall see the keystone of our Order properly placed— and shall achieve the commendations of the craftsmen everywhere assembled, and the assurance that we have acted well our part."

Companion COOLEY having held the position of Grand Master four terms, he declined a re-election. He has been an excellent G. :M. :., and has done good service to the Craft, and we most heartily and sincerely give him the plaudit of "Well done."

The G. :T. :. reported a total of \$125, and a balance of \$34.25.

The Committee on Jurisprudence presented the following report, which was unanimously adopted:

"Your Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, to whom was referred so much of the Most Illustrious Grand Master's address as refers to the Detroit Convention, beg leave to report that we fully approve and most heartily endorse the action of the Detroit Convention, recommending the organization of a General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters for the United States of America, and that this Grand Council do hereby ratify the constitution for the government of the same, as adopted at that Convention.

This puts Minnesota third on the list of ratifying Grand Councils.

By a two-thirds vote the constitution was amended to make a yearly due of twenty-five cents for each member to the Grand Council, and for the expenses of the present Assembly twenty-five cents a member was assessed.

In the appendix we find the Report on Foreign Correspondence, occupying some 32 pp. It is again from the pen of Companion GROVE B. COOLEY, G. :R. :., and is fully equal to his past most excellent, witty and interesting reports. We cheerfully add our praise of this report, and do it in no idle spirit of compliment. Companion COOLEY had tidings from 21 Grand Councils, including New York for 2879. He spends no time in introduction, but enters *in medias res* at once. New York receives a long and kindly notice of 3 pages. He says:

"The Grand Master submitted an excellent address covering 19 pages in the proceedings. It contains very many good things. The present flourishing condition of Cryptic Masonry in New York is the result, to a great extent, of the untiring energy and perseverance of its Grand Officers, among whom Grand Master OSGOODBY is not second."

Of our Report and of us he says:

"He is frankly outspoken and positive in his opposition to the so-called 'Mississippi plan', and to his able and ready pen Cryptic Masonry owes much for its escape from being swallowed up in that threatening maelstrom."

We have tried to combat it as well as we knew how, but we think the Rite owes its escape more to the pens of Companions COOLEY, DRUMMOND, SAYRE, MEYER, CARLOVITZ, OSGOODBY and others. Companion COOLEY was a keen and tireless adversary of that delusion, and his pen pricked the bubble, and it collapsed. We hope that he will continue to write, although he has succeeded in the object for which he fought and his D. :G. :M. :., and remember not to be "brief."

Subordinate Councils.....	5
Membership.....	281
G. W MERRILL, St. Paul, G. :M. :	
WILLIAM CHENEY, Minneapolis, G. :R. :	

MISSOURI—2830-81.

For Missouri we have Proceedings of two years together.

The fifteenth Annual Assembly convened in St. Louis, May 7th, 2880, being a change in time from Autumn to Spring. G. :M. :. B. P. BAILEY presided, and

seven Councils were represented. The Address was very brief, relating entirely to home matters. Some Councils had succumbed, but some had responded to a circular from the G. . R. . urging the payment of back dues.

There was a report from the G. . Lecturer ALLAN McDOWELL. He thinks the general outlook for Cryptic Masonry in Missouri is very encouraging; they could not expect large accessions, and should not desire them; our degrees should constitute in fact, as well as in name, a system of *Select* Masonry; and with a proper amount of zeal and energy, they would have a sufficient amount of good material during the coming year to place them in a healthy condition.

The Committee on Consolidation presented a grand report, which was unanimously adopted. In their honor we give it entire, as a noble contrast to so many of the weak kneed reports we have been fated to read in the years past:

"TO THE GRAND COUNCIL OF R. . AND S. . MASTERS OF MISSOURI.

"The undersigned Committee, to whom was referred the matter of transferring the Degrees of Royal and Select Master to the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, would respectfully report that, in the opinion of your Committee, this Grand Council has no right to abandon the Degrees, nor has the Grand Chapter any authority to receive them, and that it would not be beneficial either to Chapter or Council to consolidate them. We would therefore recommend that the Committee be discharged from the further consideration of the matter.

"Respectfully submitted,

"JOHN R. PARSON,
"JOSEPH S. BROWNE,
"Committee."

The Committee on Returns and Councils reported that eight Councils were paid up; that seven Councils made no returns for 2880; one Council has made no returns for three years, and one had made none for four years.

The financial report showed a total of \$165.74, and a balance on hand of \$52. It was resolved that all back dues for members suspended for non-payment of dues, or whose dues had been remitted on account of inability to pay, be remitted, provided returns were made in four months; but after four months the charters of the Councils, which should not make up returns for past years should be arrested.

The Constitution was amended, in regard to applicants for the Degrees, so that if there be no Council in the place where the applicant resides, he may apply to any Council in the jurisdiction.

Companion JOHN A. DOLMAN, of St. Joseph, was elected G. . M. .

2881.

The Sixteenth Annual Assembly met in St. Louis, May 6th, 2881, G. . M. . DOLMAN presiding, and six Councils represented.

The Address recommended the ratification of the Constitution of the General Grand Council; with reference to the arresting of the Charters of delinquent Councils, every possible effort had been made to inspire their officers with ambition and energy, and the large majority had expressed a zealous and earnest determination to resume the work too long neglected; the returns showed an increased activity, and a largely increased payment of dues to the Grand Council.

The report of Companion MAXO, G. . R. ., showed that he had written for the books, charters and effects of four Councils, and had received those of two, and from two nothing had been heard.

The G. T. showed a total of \$329.69, a very encouraging advance over last year, and a good balance of 226.89.

The report on Address was adopted. One of the resolutions was to approve of the General Grand Council, and ratify its Constitution. We welcome Missouri to our circle and congratulate her most heartily on her brightening prospects. A charter was granted to one new Council. The dues accruing before 2880 were remitted to all Councils making returns within the next six months.

We are very glad to find a Report on Foreign Correspondence, from the pen of Companion WILLIAM H. MAYO, G. R., which occupies 15 pp. It gives a clear and excellent resumé of the Cryptic Rite, without reviewing each jurisdiction in detail.

He had received the Proceedings of twenty-one Grand Councils including our own for 2880. Speaking of the general appearance of the Proceedings before 2880, he says :

"Since then, owing to the action taken by the General Grand Chapter, declaring they have no jurisdiction over Cryptic degrees, and the formation of a General Grand Council assuming the control of said degrees, the Proceedings that have reached us look brighter, Annual Addresses are longer and more hopeful. * * * * * New hope has inspired our Companions all over the country, and the nightmare of amalgamation absorption, merging, dissolution, consolidation, Mississippiing, or whatever you may choose to call it, that has had so depressing an effect upon the Rite for several years past has been shaken off."

To all of this we heartily agree. It is plain to see that a new life is at work among us, and a new energy is developing itself.

Again we agree with him in the following, which we take great pleasure in quoting, as being almost the same as we have often said :

"Prospects for the Rite are brighter now than they have been for many years, and we believe it is because there is a common or supreme central governing power, in the General Grand Council, formed at Detroit last August."

He gives a full account of the formation of the G. G. Council and its Constitution.

It has done us good to read the Proceedings of Missouri. Since the ever to be lamented GOULEY was so sadly lost to the Rite, there has not been so interesting and cheering news from Missouri as this year brings us. Companion GOULEY's untimely death was a sad blow to Missouri, but his mantle has fallen on worthy shoulders, and the work he left uncompleted will be taken up and carried on to its completion.

Subordinate Councils.....	12
Active Councils.....	10
Membership (estimated).....	350

JOHN R. PARSON, St. Louis, G. M.

WILLIAM H. MAYO, St. Louis, G. R.

NEW HAMPSHIRE—2881.

New Hampshire is nearly of age. The Twentieth Annual Assembly met in Concord, May 16th, 2881. FRANK D. WOODBURY, G. M., presided, and six Councils were represented.

The Address of the G. M. related mostly to home matters ; he had districted

the State for visitation ; one Council, which was on the point of surrendering had been retained in existence by the timely encouragement and faithfulness of a few zealous Companions ; he earnestly recommends approving the G. . G. . Council and ratifying its Constitution, and thinks its formation " seems to herald a new era in Cryptic Masonry in this country."

The finances showed a total of \$208.15, with a balance on hand of \$60.69. There was no report on Foreign Correspondence, we are sorry to say. If we remember aright there has been none in this jurisdiction for a long time. The Committee on Councils and Correspondence report having received the Proceedings of seventeen Grand Councils. Those of New York were not mentioned, on account, we suppose, of their publication being so long delayed. After enumerating the Grand Councils from which they had tidings, the Committee conclude their onerous labors by observing :

"The most fraternal feelings exist between this and the other Grand Councils."

We hope sincerely that this Committee were not exhausted by their task, but are still able to attend their usual employments, after consuming so much time and vital energy in concocting such an exhaustive report. For brevity and brilliancy it "takes the cake." This more or less able report must highly enlighten our Companions in New Hampshire.

The delegates to the Convention at Detroit made a verbal report, and recommended that the G. . G. . Council be approved. The resolution of the Committee on Doings of Grand Officers, favoring the ratification of the Constitution of the G. . G. . Council, was adopted. We heartily welcome New Hampshire to the ranks of the subordinates of the G. . G. . Council and wish her all success and prosperity.

Several amendments to the Constitution of this Grand Council were adopted relating to the standing committees, fixing the fee for the degrees at ten dollars; authorizing the Councils to confer the degree of Super-Excellent Master without charge upon any worthy companion residing in its jurisdiction, who may have received the other degrees in any jurisdiction where the Super-Excellent is not worked ; and fixing the dues to the Grand Council at one dollar for every Select Master made, and the annual due for each member at twenty-five cents.

Subordinate Councils	8
Membership	764
Passed the Circle	47
Deceased	12

EDWARD H. CURRIER, Manchester, G. . M. .

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

NEW JERSEY—2881.

With saddened heart we take up the Proceedings of New Jersey We think of the inimitable Corson, whose Reports we so much delighted to read in other days, but whose pen is forever still. He has passed through the veils, and with the Select, he rests from his labors. We think of the time when we shall go to

him, but sigh that he shall no more return to us. This loss leaves a great blank in the Proceedings of New Jersey.

The twenty-third Annual Assembly was held in Trenton, January 18th, 2881. The Grand Council was opened in Ample Form by M. I. ARCHIBALD J. WARK, G. M., with the assistance of the representatives of three Councils.

Companion WARK's Address was brief, and related mostly to local matters. He had not been called upon for any decisions. Sickness had prevented him from making visitations. He had written to the dormant Councils and they had deigned no answer; but in conversation with some of their members he had learned it would be impossible to revive them now. He recommended approval of the G. G. Council and ratification of its Constitution. He had received the proceedings of ten Grand Councils, including our own for 2879, and from them he concludes that Cryptic Masonry is advancing.

The report of the G. T. showed a total of \$97.58, and a balance of \$13.95.

The Committee on the Doings of Grand Officers made a report, recommending that the matter of the G. G. Council be referred to a special committee to report at the next Annual Assembly and Companions BORDEN, REDWAY and GOELER were appointed such committee.

We have no doubt they will follow the example of the seventeen Grand Councils, which have up to this time become members of the G. G. Council. The "serious consideration" spoken of can come to but one conclusion upon this matter.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence made a very brief Report, merely stating what Proceedings had been received and refraining from anything more on account of the condition of the treasury.

We are sorry, and we wish most heartily that our Companions would devise a way to escape from their dilemma. May the mantle of Companion CORSON fall upon a worthy successor.

Three Councils were directed to surrender their books and warrants.

Subordinate Councils	3
Membership	185

CHARLES BELCHER, JR., Newark, G. M.

CHARLES BECHTEL, Trenton, G. R.

NORTH CAROLINA—2881.

The Sixteenth Annual Assembly met in Asheville, June 2d, 2881. The D. G. M., J. I. MACKS presided, and three Councils represented. The G. M., Companion S. E. ALLEN, was necessarily absent.

Companion MACKS delivered a short address, saying that two Councils desired charters, and recommending that North Carolina most fraternally decline to have any General Grand Council on her plate, because, forsooth, of the manner the aforesaid G. G. C. was called into existence—it being the offspring of a few R. & S. Masters without any previous notice to the Grand Council of North Carolina. This is the first time that we knew that a few Companions called the G. G. C. into being. We had in our ignorance supposed that they only pro-

posed it, and that the ratification of nine Grand Councils called it into existence. And we really think we were right.

As is so often the case, the Grand Council obediently followed the command of the Address, and as the G. .M. . jumped so the whole flock leaped. The Committee appointed in 2879 on the propriety of dissolving this Grand Council, presented a report which they could not get in in 2880, for the good reason there was no Assembly that year. The report is too long for us to quote. It gives the history of the Degrees in the State. The Committee were evidently favorable to merging with the Chapter, but thought best to await the issue at Detroit. But in their supplement they concluded amalgamation was inexpedient, because of the action of the G. .G. .Chapter. And, as the Grand Council had obediently voted on the subject of the General Grand Council as the Master proposed, the Committee had nothing more to offer.

The General Grand Council can do without North Carolina better than North Carolina can do without it. They stand in their own light.

The finances showed a total of \$126.70, and a balance of \$77.15. Charters were granted to two new Councils, which we are glad to see, for North Carolina has had only three Councils for a long time. There was no Report on Foreign Correspondence.

Subordinate Councils.....	5
Membership (2 Councils estimated).....	150

J. I. MACKS, Wilmington, G. .M. .

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

OHIO—2880.

Upon opening the Proceedings of Ohio our eyes were gladdened by an excellent steel portrait of the Grand Recorder, Companion JOHN D. CALDWELL. For many years he has been G. .R. . and G. .Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, and we are rejoiced to see his features. It is a worthy testimonial to his worth. We have always signified our approbation of this custom of giving the portraits of prominent Companions, and we hope that not only Ohio but all the other jurisdictions will continue this custom. Companion CALDWELL, here is our hand, and may the Great Master have you in His keeping.

We next find a notice that the revised ritual of the Super-Excellent may be obtained of the G. .R. ., to be conferred as an honorary degree.

The Fiftieth Annual Assembly was held in Chillicothe, Oct. 14th, 2880. At this semi-centennial Assembly the G. .M. ., ORESTES A. B. SENTER presided, and the large number of 49 out of 61 Councils were represented. Ohio is the largest and most prosperous Grand Council in the Rite.

The Annual Address appropriately notices the fact of its being the fiftieth Assembly. Two Councils had been instituted. The following question had been asked, which we give in full:

"Please inform me what vote is required on the application for dimitt from Council when objections are raised? whether two-thirds, majority, or unanimous?

"To which I replied, No vote is required.

"The customary manner of granting a dimit, immediately after the application is made, is for the T. I. M. to say, 'If there be no objections a dimit will be granted.' There being none, he then orders the Recorder to enter upon the record the fact of the Companion having been granted a dimit, and to issue to him a certificate to that effect. If objections are made, it must be from two causes: either the Companion is in arrears for dues, or he is subject to charges for unmaasonic conduct. If the former case, all the Companion has to do is to pay his dues; if the latter, it is the duty of the Companion or Companions making the objection to prefer charges against the Companion. After trial, if found guilty, he then suffers such punishment as the Council may inflict upon him. If not guilty, the T. I. M. orders the Recorder to make record and issue certificate, as before mentioned."

During the year two P. G. M.: had died at an advanced age, Companions JOHN M. BARRERE and JOHN W. MILLIGAN.

He refers to the Detroit Convention and the G. G. Council, and to the fact that we of New York had already ratified the G. G. Council, and hopes that Ohio will be the second to ratify. He declined a re-election, having, as he judged, been sufficiently honored by his Companions.

Companion CALDWELL made an historical report, full of interest. From it we learn that the first Council was formed in Cincinnati in October 1827 by Comp. JOHN BARKER. In 1829 there were five Councils, and in 1830 the Convention met which organized the Grand Council of Ohio, which has continued 50 years.

In the afternoon a revised ritual of the Degrees was exemplified. Toledo was chosen as the place of the next Assembly.

It was desired to reprint the Proceedings from 1850 to 1862 inclusive, but financial reasons forbade. The Grand Council ratified the Constitution of the G. G. Council, being second only to ourselves in their action.

In the appendix the Constitution of the General Grand Council is given. The G. R., Companion CALDWELL, gives some most interesting historical memoranda, commencing with the pioneers, and tracing the progress of Masonry from 1717, giving the names, nationality and services of such founders and pioneers as MORIN, FRANCKEN, HAYS, DALCHO, JACOBS, CERNEAU, WEBB and GLEASON. He traces the Cryptic Degrees through the several States, and states whence the organizing Councils obtained their charters. It is a very valuable historical statement, and we recommend every student of masonic history and every lover of the Cryptic Rite to procure the Proceedings of Ohio for 2880, and carefully to preserve them for reference. We rejoice at the intimation we received some time ago that one of our own beloved Companions intends to write a full and exhaustive history of the Cryptic Rite, which will be a standard for all coming time. It is a work which is greatly needed.

The Report on Foreign Communications also appeared in the appendix, 10 pp., written as usual by Companion WILL. M. CUNNINGHAM. It was delayed, and was made much shorter than ordinary, on account of the painful bereavement Companion CUNNINGHAM suffered in the death of his son. We extend to you, Companion CUNNINGHAM, our hearty and sincere condolence in this great affliction. We would we had the power to say some consolatory word. We know well by sad experience how vain and powerless are all human words in such hours. None can ever know the fierceness of the pang until it has pierced his own breast. May the consolations of the great I AM be your stay, and raise your gaze from the grave to the future day of reunion where no death angel can ever more bring sad separation.

The Report reviews the Proceedings of 11 Grand Councils including a frater-

nal notice of New York for 2879. We would be glad to quote, but our limits bid us forbear.

Ohio at her semi-centennial has a grand outlook. We rejoice in her prosperity. She has the greatest number of Councils, and the largest membership, we think. May the end of the next 50 years see an equal prosperity continued without a break, and an equally great advance. Hail to the Buckeye State.

Subordinate Councils.....	62
Membership.....	2300
Advanced.....	183

JOSEPH M. GOODSPEED, Athens, G. M.

JOHN D. CALDWELL, 233 West Fourth St., Cincinnati, G. R.

ONTARIO—2878-9-80.

After a silence of two years, we are again able to give tidings of Ontario. They print the Proceedings of three years in the thick pamphlet at our hand. We wrote several times during the past years, but could obtain no tidings to give you last year, or the year before.

The Eighth Annual Assembly was held in Hamilton, August 15th, 2878, G. M. DAVID McLELLAN presiding, and eight out of fourteen Councils represented.

The Address of Companion McLELLAN covers some four pages. He reports that none had died, but he mentions with sorrow the illustrious dead of other Grand Councils; Shekinah Council, No. 1, had been revived; at the desire of Companion FRENCH of Illinois, he had granted a dispensation to open a Grand Council of Super-Excellent Masters in that State; he refers with gratification to the fraternal reception accorded Companions SPRY, ROBERTSON and FORTIER at the Buffalo Convention.

There were also reports from the Inspectors-General of Divisions. The finances showed a total of \$194.40, and a balance of \$1.90. Companion McLELLAN was re-elected Master.

2879.

In this year the Assembly met in the city of Guelph, August 13th. G. M. McLELLAN presided and 10 Councils were represented. From his Address we are happy to learn that the great angel of death had passed over Ontario; the past year had been one of harmony and prosperity.

The finances showed a balance of \$24.60. A warrant was granted for a new Council at Guelph. G. M. McLELLAN declined a re-election and Companion J. G. BURNS, of Toronto, was declared elected by the "Scrutineers." A number of notices were given by various Companions that they would move various amendments to the Constitution at the next Assembly.

2880.

The Tenth Annual Assembly was held in Guelph, July 15th, 2880.

G. M. BURNS presided and eleven Councils were represented. Companion BURNS' address says Cryptic Masonry had received a new impetus and thinks the coming year will be one of marked success; the Grand Recorder had devoted much time to putting all the books and affairs of the Grand Council in

complete order, and he had travelled many miles, and reorganized the Grand Council ; he was opposed to any fusion with the Chapter, believing it would render the Degrees insignificant and unimportant.

The Inspectors-General nearly all reported. The finances footed up a total of \$237.20, with a balance of \$107.70. Every thing about the various reports indicates a thorough revival of Cryptic Masonry, and a zealous endeavor on the part of the Companions to discharge their duties.

The matter of the Grand Council of Rites for the Dominion of Canada, which was started several years ago, but which had been deferred, was again taken up and the Grand Council, the Imperial Grand Council of Constantine, and the Grand Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners united to form the Grand Council of Rites for Canada. We are not very well posted, but we suppose the United Grand Council is to have control of the three Rites, but whether these degrees are all united in organic union, or merely as a confederacy of the three bodies to meet at one time and place, we could not say. Hence, we will venture no opinion on the matter at present.

The Constitution was amended so that the election of the officers of the Subordinate Councils shall take place in December, instead of August, as hitherto. Also to permit a Council to appoint a proxy for the Council when its officers can not attend the Annual Assembly, but no Companion may represent more than three Councils.

Companion JAMES B. NIXON presented an interesting Report on Foreign Correspondence of 21 pages. He reviews 17 Grand Councils, including New York for 2879. Our Proceedings receive an excellent notice of three pages.

He says:

"The address of the Grand Master * * * * is replete with instruction and counsel. We would be glad if it could be read in every Subordinate Council on the Continent: if they had one or two such men as M. Ill. Comp. Osgoodby in Mississippi, &c., &c., we would never have heard a whisper of the idea of Cryptic suicide. The address is so good from beginning to end that we hardly dare copy any, for fear we will not know when to stop."

He then quotes extensively from the address. Our modesty will not permit us to quote what he says about the Foreign Correspondence. In conclusion he remarks:

"We hold that it is just as much of a crime against the law of Masonry for a Grand Council to voluntarily surrender its existence, as it is against the law of all civilized countries for a man to cut his throat. Then, again, it must necessarily lead to a very great confusion, from the fact that several of the Grand Councils have said that no Companion receiving the degrees in a Chapter shall be received as a visitor or acknowledged as a member of the order.

"It would be far better for a Grand Council that finds it impossible to live without dragging out a miserable existence, to die nobly contending against adverse circumstances than to basely surrender that sacred birthright which has been handed down to them by men who would have scorned to think of such a thing for a moment."

Subordinate Councils.....	15
Membership.....	435

JOSHUA G. BURNS, Toronto, G. M.

DANIEL SPRY, Barrie, G. R.

PENNSYLVANIA—2881.

The Grand Council of Royal, Super-Excellent and Select Masters, of Pennsylvania, held its Thirty-Fifth Annual Assembly in Altoona, Feb'y 16th, 2881.

G. M. : WILLIAM J. FORDNEY presided, and the representatives of 9 Councils were present.

The Address was short, and reported that the past year had not been very eventful, but it had been harmonious, and the Rite had not retrograded; the various Councils had shown a marked interest in the learning of the uniform work; many of the inactive Councils were desiring to resume work; no reference was made to the General Grand Council.

Two District D. G. M. presented reports. The G. T. reported an excellent total of \$533.77, and a balance on hand of \$1,925.67, of which \$1500 was in Gov. 4 per cent bonds. We congratulate Pennsylvania on her financial prosperity. The estimate of expenses for the coming year was \$800. An allowance of 30 per cent was made on the dues and fees of the Subordinate Councils for the next year.

Companion CHARLES E. MEYER, G. R. , presented the Report on Foreign Correspondence covering 18 pp, which consisted solely in a reprint of the call for the Detroit Convention, its proceedings and the provisional Constitution of the General Grand Council. Companion MEYER says in conclusion :

"If these Companions desire to form a National Grand Council we cordially wish them God speed, but we can not recommend to this Grand Council the acknowledgment of any body superior to it, and to which it would be bound to give allegiance and pay tribute to. Again, for this Grand Council to become a part of the National Body, it would require an amendment to our Constitution. Under the circumstances we would offer the following:—

Resolved, That the Grand Council of Pennsylvania most fraternally decline to become a member of the General Grand Council of the United States, and in thus declining wish the companions composing it all prosperity and harmony, and that their fondest hopes may be fully realized."

The resolution was adopted. While we appreciate the courteous and friendly manner in which Pennsylvania refuses to ratify, we are not at all disappointed in her action. The experience of the past had taught us not to expect her to ratify. We do indeed think the reasons given are insufficient, that the alleged difficulty could be easily overcome. We would be glad to hope that soon Pennsylvania will become one of us, as she sees the beneficial effect of the National Grand Council, but our hope is not strong. Still our fraternal feeling for Pennsylvania causes us to return heartily her "God speed."

The next session was appointed at Lancaster. G. M. : FORDNEY declined a re-election.

Subordinate Councils at work	19
Received	28
Membership	1542

GEORGE C. JOHNSTONE, Allegheny City, G. M. :

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

RHODE ISLAND—2881.

The Companions of Rhode Island do not publish every year for financial considerations. This year we have received a circular which informs us that the Twenty-first Annual Assembly was held in the rooms of Orpheus Lodge, No. 36, in the City of Providence, Monday, March 14th, 2881. It was decided not to publish this year. A Committee was appointed to consider whether it would be

for the interest of the Grand Council to become a member of the G. . G. . Council and report at the next Assembly.

We should not think it would require a year's consideration to determine whether it would be for the interest of this Grand Council to join in ratifying the G. . G. . Council. Great minds move slowly. Still, an hour's reflection should show that it is for the interest of Cryptic Masonry everywhere to have a central rallying point of union, which will put an end to the many plans of change. It has already demonstrated its beneficial power. Its very inception, while yet it was only proposed and provisional, killed the Mississippi plan in the G. . G. . Chapter, and caused a cessation of all effort in that direction. It will unite all the jurisdictions, and will not derogate in the least from the authority or power of any Grand Council. Do it, Companions of Rhode Island. Ratify at once and be one of us.

The circular also says that the returns show a small gain in numbers for the past year. We append the statistics of last year.

Subordinate Councils	5
Membership	706
EDWIN BAKER, Providence, G. . M. .	
WILLIAM R. GREENE, Providence, G. . R. .	

SOUTH CAROLINA—2881.

Good news! Good news! The dead is alive; the lost is found; the buried is resurrected, and in not a cadaver either. We are most happy to receive such glad tidings from this State. The G. . G. . Council has thus soon shown its beneficial influence upon the Rite. The proposition of forming the General Grand Council put an end to the efforts at Detroit to induce the G. . G. . Chapter to sanction the "Mississippi plan," and its provisional formation resurrected a defunct Grand Council at the time for its regular Annual Assembly.

We have a circular from South Carolina which says :

"The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of South Carolina met in Annual Assembly in Masonic Temple in the City of Charleston, February 16th, A. D. 1881.

"The action of dissolution of the year previous was rescinded, the Grand Council re-organized, and resumed control over the Cryptic Degrees in South Carolina. The Constitution of the General Grand Council of the United States was also ratified and adopted."

We are heartily glad to welcome South Carolina back to the fold. We regretted most deeply her action last year, and we are equally thankful that it has been so soon rescinded. May all the Grand Councils which fell under the same baneful influence be equally prompt to reorganize and go to work. We invoke prosperity for South Carolina; we exhort her Companions to earnestly devote themselves to the welfare of Cryptic Masonry and to let their zeal be an example to all the rest. Here's our heart and here's our hand.

W. H. D. GALLARD, Anderson C. H., G. . M. .

ZIMMERMAN DAVIS, Charleston, G. . R. .

TENNESSEE—2879-80.

We have before us the Proceedings of Tennessee for two years. In 2879 the Annual Assembly met in Nashville, Nov. 12th, G. . M. . BENJAMIN R. HARRIS pre-

sided, and 12 out of 21 Councils were represented. There were also 9 Past G. . M. . present. GEORGE H. MORGAN, not WILLIAM, was the Deputy; a BLACKIE was the C. . of W. .; they had a FRIZZELL as G. . R. .; an IRON Chaplain; a WRIGHT G. . Visitor; a PITTS as C. . G. .; a BULLOCK as C. . C. .; and a JESTER as Grand Steward.

The Address speaks of the scourge of the yellow fever, which however, had been confined to one locality mostly, and had been much less fatal to the Craft than a year ago; Companion HUTCHINS, Grand Representative of Tennessee near New Hampshire, had died; he suggests that leniency be shown to delinquent Councils yet another year, in view of the hope that the General Grand Chapter might take away the restriction upon uniting the Councils with the Chapters. This hope as we all well know was not realized. The G. . M. . also recommends that a circular be forwarded to each Council to obtain their wishes on this point.

His conclusion we must quote, it is so excellent in its advice, and we hope we shall all heed it:

"Masonic Material.—As the good name and prosperity of Freemasonry depend more upon the character of its members than upon its numbers, too much caution can not be used when applicants seek admission to its mysteries. To admit men to the privileges and benefits of Masonry, who are wanting in physical ability, good moral character, and mental capacity, would be adding such as could not discharge its duties, and who would not stand to its obligations or discover the meaning of its symbols, or appreciate its sublime teachings. Freemasonry is only designed to make good men better, and if we will only keep this fact in view when material is presented, we will not hear so much about unpaid dues, failing to attend meetings, dropping from the roll, and dimitting; nor would we be humiliated by seeing any of the Craft frequenting the haunts of dissipation and intemperance. In these haunts men not only pave their way to premature graves, but they also put their families on the highway to poverty and the almshouse, by giving the means that properly belong to them to swell that river of woe which sweeps heavily against all moral institutions, and bears upon its tide the injured widow's moan and the hungry orphan's cry. Give to Freemasonry only such men as we may reasonably expect will adhere to its principles and practice its teachings, and the Orders of this time-honored institution are safe."

The Committee on Jurisprudence did not sanction the recommendation of the Grand Master with reference to merging with the Grand Chapter, but advised waiting until after the Convention and the Convocation of the G. . G. . Chapter, which was adopted. For once a Grand Council has not blindly followed the lead of the G. . M. ., as is most generally the case. When the East advises that which is best and right, its advice should be followed. But we like to see independence and good sound sense in a Grand Council, which will not be led astray, and which will not blindly sanction every thing proposed by the East. If this had been the case in all the Grand Councils, and more especially in Mississippi, we would not see so many defunct Grand Councils to-day. All honor to Tennessee.

The finances showed a total of \$429, and a balance of \$205.90.

2880.

The Thirty-first Annual Assembly met in Nashville, November, 11th, 2880. G. . M. . GEORGE H. MORGAN was not present and D. . G. . M. . DAVID J. PIERCE presided. Thirteen Councils were represented.

G. . M. . MORGAN'S Address was read. It was brief and referred entirely to home matters. In speaking of the reasons why many members seem to have lost their interest in Cryptic Masonry, he thought no good had been accomplish-

ed by relaxing the stringency of constitutional requirement and had been fruitful of evil in making the Companions careless in regard to their duties. He thought the charters of the delinquents should be called in; a dead limb adds nothing to the life of a tree, and dead Councils are an incumbrance to the Grand Council.

In compliance with this recommendation the axe was vigorously used and the charters of twenty-three Subordinate Councils were declared forfeited. Unpaid dues from five Councils were remitted. The Constitution was amended by lessening the amount of fees and dues. A charter was granted to one new Council. The finances exhibited a total of \$438.40, and a balance of \$178.40.

On the second day the Grand Council ratified the Constitution of the General Grand Council, and became a constituent thereof, making Tennessee the fifth to ratify. This is another proof of the wisdom of forming the G. G. C., for otherwise Tennessee would probably have followed the lead of Mississippi.

We bid Tennessee God speed, and trust that she will begin a new course of prosperity, and, having disposed of the dead and useless Councils, go on with renewed zeal and diligence.

Subordinate Councils.....	22
Membership.....	624

EWIN BURNEY, Nashville, G. M. :

JOHN FRIZZELL, Nashville, G. R. :

VERMONT—2880.

This Grand Council assembled for the twenty-seventh time, in Burlington, June 8th, 2880. ALBERT C. HUBBELL, G. M. , presided, and seventeen Councils were represented.

Companion HUBBELL delivered one of the best Addresses of the year. In beauty of expression it fully equals those of Companion DANA, and in faithfulness to the Rite and abhorrence of all alliances it speaks with no uncertain sound. In the introduction he says:

"Clothed in its wealth of leafy foliage, the air deliciously balmy, the early spring birds caroling their sweet music from tree-top, and hedge, and flowers, and shrubbery, the distant mountain heights enshrouded with a dreamy mist, and the clear blue of the sky, deeper than the depths of the sea, and spotless, save for tiny fleecy clouds, that hang high up like timid doves, with messages of comfort and love, ready to be delivered; such, illustrious Companions, are our surroundings to-day as we enter upon the hushed silence of our sacred retreat. Let our first act, therefore, be one of praise and thanksgiving unto Him who has kept us, and permitted us to gather up the fragrance of the passing year, and added another link in the golden chain, that has brought this Grand Council to its twenty-seventh anniversary."

He pays an especial tribute to Companion SMITH MONTAGUE, one of the old pioneers, and one who stood firm in the days when men's love for Masonry was tried, and many fell away. He gives a circular which he sent out to the Councils of Vermont, concerning clandestine Cryptic Masous made under the authority of Chapters, in which he took the same ground as was adopted in New York. On this subject he also gives the decisions of Companion OSGOODBY. In correspondence with the several Grand Councils, he had pledged Vermont to remain true to her sacred trust.

We know that in 2881 she did remain true, and became a member of the Gen-

eral Grand Council. We hope to have the Proceedings of 2881, before we conclude our report.

The finances reported a total of \$98.73, and a balance of \$4.23.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence was written by Companion W. H. WHITCOMB, G. .R. ., and was one of the best of the year, occupying 26 pages. He reviews 22 Grand Councils. Of New York for 2879 he says:

"The banner book of the whole we have this year received comes from New York. It contains 105 pages with business and thrift written on every one of them. * * * * Grand Master OSGOODBY'S Address, is, as usual, full of life. * * * * His discussion of the Mississippi plan is so sound and at the same time so exhaustive, that it leaves nothing more to be said. We should like to give it entire."

He praises the Foreign Correspondence, and quotes the account of the dissolution of Iowa.

For each of the Great Departed he gives a broken triangle, with mottoes so appropriate and witty, that we must share them with you.

For Arkansas it is "dissolved," with the date in the triangle, and underneath:

"I had rather be a dog and bay the moon,
Than such a Roman."

He heads the review of California for 2878 with the words:

"And are we yet alive!
And do we still rebel!"

Over the broken triangle of Illinois is "Mesmerized," and under:

"Barkis is willin'."

Over that of Iowa, "Dissolved," and under:

"I come to bury Cæsar, not to praise him."

Over Kentucky, "Consolidated," and under, "Alas, poor Hiram!" and:

"And my large kingdom for a little grave,
A little, little grave, an obscure grave."

Over Mississippi, "Merged," and under, "I struck the fatal blow," and the lines:

"May no rude hand deface it,
Nor its forlorn *hic jacet*."

Over Nebraska, "Absorbed," and under, "In that bosom," and the lines:

"Let's talk of graves, of worms, and epitaphs."

Over South Carolina, "Mississippied," and under:

"Or, shipwrecked, kindles on the coast
False fires, that others may be lost."

Over Wisconsin, "Amalgamated," and under, "My worthy Companion, how can this be?" followed by the lines:

"I die—but first I have posses'd,
And come what may, *I have been blest*."

Much more would we quote, but we must stop somewhere.

Subordinate Councils.....	18
Membership	814

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

ARTHUR E. BOSWORTH, Springfield, G. .R. .

MISSISSIPPI.

We have before us the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Mississippi for 1881, for which Companion PINCKARD of Louisiana has our thanks. We believe you will be glad to hear a few extracts from these Proceedings, and especially from the Address of the G. .H. .P. ., Companion SPEED.

A large part of that Address is occupied by the Cryptic Degrees and the action of the G. .G. .Chapter. It reviews the memorial which we sent to Detroit, and which was adopted by the Convention, in a very severe manner. Companion SPEED reviews, at a length which we can not quote, the subject of the right of the G. .G. .C. . to assume control of the Cryptic Degrees. He freely acknowledges that, whatever may be the difference of opinion as to the status of the G. .G. .C. . with reference to these degrees previous to 1853, it did then abandon all right to control them. He says:

"I do not, however, believe that there is now, or that there ever has been any legal impediment to a resumption of jurisdiction over these degrees."

A little farther on:

"In the present state of feeling upon the subject, I am clearly of the opinion that it was inexpedient for the G. .G. .C. . to have taken any action upon the subject of these degrees, and thereby to have widened the breach between those who favor and those who oppose our 'plan.' If in time our opponents shall permit reason to resume its sway, and agree to discuss the measure with us and others concurring with us, in a calm and dignified manner, such as becomes Masons and the gravity of the subject, dispensing with the use of all harsh terms and words, and forbearing to pronounce anathemas against us, such as in older and ruder times were fulminated against heretics, then the subject may be resumed in the G. .G. .C. .; and if it shall be made to appear that there is any real objection to the adoption of the degrees by the Chapter, then we may, without endangering our own dignity, agree to retrace our own steps, but until that time comes, I suggest that we continue to work the Cryptic Degrees regardless of all outside opposition, or the maledictions of those who would drag the discussion of a purely Masonic question down to the level of an argument suited only to the purliens of a police court.

"I would here gladly dismiss the subject but for the fact that during the session of the G. .G. .C. ., there was presented a document which in the language of the G. .H. .P. . of Iowa, 'contained some of the most unmasonic, discourteous, and invidious reflections I ever saw for a Masonic publication.'

"Even now, after the lapse of some months, I cannot, without feelings of the most intense indignation, recall the unnecessarily harsh, ungentlemanly, and unmasonic tone which pervaded and permeated what purported to be a memorial, addressed by one grave and dignified Masonic body to another, which has not inaptly been termed the 'Senate of American Masonry.'"

He then discusses the memorial at length, quoting from it, and using such grave and courteous terms as some of the following :

"The idea is purely gratuitous."

Again :

"As ignoscible a conclusion as ever was reached."

Again :

"The memorialists having tired with arguing their case, now retire behind the scenes, from which they quickly emerge in the character of a fishwoman, and resort to the usual weapon of that class."

Other quotations hereafter will show the animus of this address, and how clearly it shows the weakness of his case by resorting to what he condemns, and using the last resort of men worsted in argument, billingsgate and harsh words. It seems to us that Companion SPEED feels he is playing a losing game. By the amount of his fluttering, he must be sorely wounded.

From the quotations above, after he frankly confesses that the G. .G. .Chapter

has relinquished all claim to the Cryptic Degrees, we fail to see how there can be no legal impediment to its resuming the degrees. On the other hand it is impossible. Every State has its Grand Council now. If the G. : G. : C. : ever had the title and control, which we will not discuss, that title and control has forever passed, and can never be resumed as matters now stand. It is vested in other hands. As soon might a man, after he had deeded all his right and title in a piece of real estate, try to resume control of it.

It seems to us, that the evident intention in Mississippi to continue to confer the Cryptic Degrees, and defend their course by saying that they have the power, and the G. : G. : C. : is merely advisory, and a league or confederation between the Grand Chapters, fails and is faulty. The simple and only answer needed to this, is to ask why they presented any memorials to the G. : G. : C. : to recognize the Cryptic Degrees. Why did several jurisdictions resolve to wait until after the Convocation at Detroit? Why did South Carolina and others rescind their action, and again establish their Grand Councils?

It is a mere quibble to say that the G. : G. : C. : did not intend to interfere, and, when it recognized "the four degrees only," and thought it "inexpedient" to take any action concerning the Cryptic Degrees, intended to leave it an open question, and to permit the various Grand Chapters to do as they pleased. Any unbiased person will say that the G. : G. : C. : did not sanction any such thing. It is torturing the language, and drawing from the words an idea they were never intended to convey. They would not labor so hard to prove it, if they really believed it, or had any arguments to prove their assertions. When the G. : G. : C. : resolves that it "has no jurisdiction over the Degrees of Royal Master and Select Master," can more than one construction be put upon it? Does it not declare that the Chapter cannot confer the Council Degrees? Is not the merging of the two null and void?

Yet Companion SPEED suggests that in Mississippi they continue to confer these degrees, and says when we show any arguments, and they can without endangering their dignity, they may recede from their action. Does any one suppose that they will listen to any arguments? No argument can convince them. Sufficient have already been presented in the past few years to convince. But Mississippi will not be convinced.

Again we quote from the review of the memorial :

"The first statement which seems to call for notice is the assertion that it requires the unanimous consent of all the Grand Councils of the land to transfer these Degrees to any other branch of Masonry. As we in Mississippi received these Degrees from the Supreme Council at Charleston long before any such thing as a Grand Council was heard of in this latitude, through the Grand Council of Princes of Jerusalem, by whose mandate our Grand Council was organized and until the mania for revision enveloped us in its toils, worked a ritual which upon its title page bore the inscription :

"The Masonic Degrees of Royal and Select Master as taught by Illustrious Deputy Inspector General JOSEPH MEYERS, the original certified copy of which was brought by him from Berlin, Prussia, and afterwards on the 20th day of February, 1788, presented by him to the Grand Council of the Princes of Jerusalem, at Charleston, S. Carolina, and by virtue of which the legitimate Degrees have always been conferred in all regular Councils throughout the United States.

"We may well doubt the authority of any Grand Council to question the right of our Grand Council to dispose of them. The Supreme Council might, if it chose, demand their return to it, but surely no other body has any claim to them which is better than our own, and none other can, with the slightest pretence of authority assume to dictate to us the disposition we shall make of them."

This argument might be very good, if Mississippi were the only State in which

these degrees were conferred, or if the Grand Council of Mississippi were the only Grand Council. But, as we said above, every State merely has its Grand Council. The Cryptic Rite has assumed national proportions; it has increased until it is fully recognized as an integral portion of Masonry. And any such change as handing its degrees over to the authority of another and lower body is too great and sweeping a change for any one Grand Council to dare to attempt. Such an action demands the consent of all and a universal agreement. A simple statement is enough. As well might the Grand Chapter of New York, because it has had the Capitular Degrees from an early date, arrogate to itself the power of handing them over to the Lodge. Such an action would be universally condemned, and all Royal Arch Masons made by Lodges would be declared clandestine.

Again we quote concerning the memorial :

"Regarding the endorsement of the so-called Convention of Royal and Select Masters, which assembled at Detroit and assumed the grandiloquent title of 'Provisional General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters,' I have only to say that it amounts to no more than an expression of approval by any other equal number of gentlemen, for that Convention was a self-constituted body and had only such powers as it chose to arrogate to itself. It pretended to act by virtue of authority granted to a body which met and finished the business which it was authorized to transact years before."

The Companions of Mississippi may believe this, for they may not be any better posted. But most of the Companions know that the Convention was a delegated body; that most of the Grand Councils were represented. Some of the delegates had been appointed at the last Annual Assembly. Moreover the Buffalo Convention adjourned to meet at the call of the president, and that Convention was delegated. At Detroit no power was arrogated. It had a right to do what it did, and make the proposal it did. That proposal of a National G. . Council could be accepted or rejected, and until 9 Grand Councils ratified it, it was no power; but that it met the approval of the Rite is evident from the fact that twice that number of Grand Councils have ratified and become members of the G. .G. .Council. As to the endorsement of the memorial, it was a true endorsement of 16 Grand Councils.

Once more we will quote from this Address, and this quotation shows how uncertain Companion SPEED is concerning the "Mississippi plan," and also shows how easy it is to overlook the beam in his own eye while he picks at the mote in the eyes of the memorialists. He says:

"The organization of a General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters will probably be effected. From the temper and spirit manifested by the self-constituted convention which set it upon foot it is fair to presume that it will be an aggressive body, and there is some reason to fear that it will attempt an interference with those Grand Chapters which have assumed control of the Cryptic degrees. Precisely what form that interference will take, of course cannot be predicted with any certainty, but it may be that it will attempt the creation of Councils to work these degrees in the States where the Grand Chapters exercise jurisdiction over them. There is one way in which we may effectually guard against any such attempt, and that is to prohibit any Royal Arch Mason from engaging in the work under penalty of expulsion, and I recommend that you take into consideration the propriety of adopting a regulation imposing such a penalty. We have no reason to expect that the General Grand Chapter will hereafter legislate against the position we have assumed, and indeed we have ground for indulging the hope that before it is again convened a majority of the States will adopt the 'Mississippi plan,' and thereby render it powerless to take any adverse action."

Man is prone to indulge in the delusions of hope. The majority of the States have ratified and become members of the General Grand Council. It has been effected. It has been a grand success, a success we hardly expected, and 18

Grand Councils are a grand majority, which decrees the end of the "Mississippi plan" and vindicates the "self constituted body."

Whether the General Grand Council will form Councils in the States which have surrendered the Rite, we cannot say. We do not know that we would advise it at present, but rather wait for the Companions to see how utterly mistaken was their action in uniting with the Chapter. But should such action be determined, we maintain the G. G. Council would have a perfect right to organize Councils in Mississippi. All candidates made Royal and Select Masters by Chapters have been declared clandestine by nearly all the Grand Councils, and are so regarded by the G. G. Council. There are no Councils in those States which have abandoned the Cryptic Rite to the Chapter, and in all unoccupied territory the G. G. Council would be justified in again introducing the Rite in such territory. Still we would not advise it at present, although this Companion, who has so much to say about "bitterness," and "rancor," and "unmasonic spirit," and "manly and dignified spirit," and "anathemas" and "heretics," with an admirable consistency, puts himself upon record before all the masonic world for all time as advising expulsion to be inflicted upon any Royal Arch Mason who may differ in opinion from him, or desire to have the Cryptic Degrees separate from the Chapter in Mississippi. This recommendation speaks for itself, and needs no further comments. We are sorry it is so.

We sincerely hope our Companions in these jurisdictions will soon retrace their steps, and rescind their action. We commend to their thoughtful consideration the example of South Carolina, from whose Charleston Mississippi first received the Cryptic Degrees. For what benefit will it be to Companions to receive these degrees under the authority of the Chapter? As matters stand now, in the vast majority of the States they are regarded as clandestine, and they are deprived of that great masonic privilege, that of visiting in other jurisdictions, and can not even hold Cryptic intercourse with any but their own number. We hope that the reaction will soon set in in Mississippi, and she will set the example of returning as she sat that of going away. We are informed by a near neighbor of Mississippi, who is in correspondence with several of her Companions, that there are those in that State who denounce these proceedings, and who are Past Grand Masters at that; who will never be present in a Chapter to confer the Cryptic Degrees, and some of whom are High Priests of Chapters and refuse to confer these degrees in the Chapter. It is evident not near as many are receiving the Cryptic Degrees under the Chapter as were expected and promised by the promoters of this movement.

May they soon return, and no one will give them a more hearty welcome than we.

THE GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL.

New York was the first to ratify the Constitution of the General Grand Council. The Constitution and the Proceedings of the Convention at Detroit are in our last Proceedings. At our last Assembly and in our last Report we had no fear that the G. G. C. would not become a living reality. Yet we were much rejoiced when we received the circular announcing its beginning. We give the circular:

"General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters for the United States of America.

TO ALL REGULAR ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS, AND ESPECIALLY
TO ALL GRAND COUNCILS THEREOF, GREETING:

"Whereas, At a Convention of Royal and Select Masters, representing a majority of the Grand Councils in the world, held in Detroit, on the twenty-third, twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth days of August, A. D. 1880, a Constitution for a General Grand Council was framed and submitted to the Grand Councils of the United States.

"And Whereas, The officers, provided for in that Constitution, were elected and directed to enter upon the duties of their respective offices when the Constitution should be ratified by nine Grand Councils.

"And Whereas, The Grand Councils of New York, Ohio, Minnesota, Indiana, Tennessee, Maryland, Massachusetts, Alabama and Louisiana, being nine in number, have, at their respective Annual Assemblies, ratified said Constitution

"I, JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, elected Provisional Grand Master, at said Convention, hereby declare that the General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the United States of America has been regularly formed and exists as the Governing Body of the Rite in the United States as provided in its Constitution.

"The General Grand Officers will at once enter upon the discharge of their duties; but before doing so, it recommended that they severally take an obligation before a Grand Master or Past Grand Master of a Grand Council, to support the Constitution of the General Grand Council, and forward a certificate thereof to the P. General Grand Recorder, Comp. GEORGE W. COOLEY, of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"The General Grand Master is happy to announce that the M. E. General Chapter of South Carolina, in view of the action of the M. E. General Grand Chapter at its late Convocation has rescinded its action in reference to the Council degrees, and that the Grand Council has reorganized, resumed work and ratified the Constitution of the General Grand Council, and is now a constituent thereof.

"Given under my hand this first day of March, A. D. 1881, A, Dep. 2881.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,

General Grand Master."

Still later we have received another circular, which we give, as it embodies so much information, and tells it better than we can do. It reads as follows:

"TO ALL REGULAR ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS, AND ESPECIALLY
TO ALL GRAND COUNCILS THEREOF, GREETING:

"The General Grand Master has the pleasure to announce that official notice of the ratification of the Constitution of the General Grand Council has been received from the following Grand Councils, viz:

"New York, Ohio, Minnesota, Indiana, Tennessee, Maryland, Massachusetts, Alabama, Louisiana, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, California, Georgia and Missouri.

"And the Grand Council of South Carolina has been reorganized by the Councils, and has also ratified the General Grand Constitution.

"No official intelligence has been received from the Grand Councils of Kansas, Florida and North Carolina.

"The Grand Council of Michigan while adhering to the Council system, declined to become a constituent of the General Grand Council. She takes ground in the strongest manner, against recognizing, as regular Royal and Select Masters, any others than those who receive the degrees in regular Councils.

"It is understood that the Grand Councils of Connecticut, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania have taken no definitive action in relation to the General Grand Council, but adhere to the Grand Council organization and oppose merging the degrees with those of the Chapter.

"The Grand Council of New Brunswick has been dormant since 1871. The Grand Council of Ontario maintains its organization, and there is no possibility that the Grand Chapter of Canada will even entertain the proposition of taking jurisdiction over the Council degrees.

"It may be safely said that 24 and probably 25 Grand Councils in the United States and Canada will maintain their integrity, and sustain the Council system.

"Other Grand Councils have heretofore existed in Virginia, Texas, Arkansas, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska and Wisconsin. That in Virginia, acting upon a demonstrably erroneous assumption of facts, dissolved in 1841: that of Texas followed this example in 1864; in the former jurisdiction, the degrees have been conferred in the Chapter (and West Virginia follows in the same system), and in the latter they have been conferred in Councils appurtenant to Chapters. The recipients of the degrees in both have been denied recognition as regular Royal and Select Masters in all other jurisdictions, until the recent promulgation of the Mississippi plan. In the other five jurisdictions, recent attempts have been made to put the degrees under the government of the Grand Chapter, although scarcely any two of them adopted the same plan: in Illinois the Grand Council was for a time nominally kept alive, but it is understood no session was held in 1880: in Wisconsin a Grand Council has been reorganized, but by the Councils chartered by the Grand Chapter: the Grand Chapters of Arkansas, Illinois and Kentucky, in view of the recent action of the General Grand Chapter, at their Convocation in 1880, appointed committees to report at the next Annual Convocation what course ought to be adopted.

"The formation of the General Grand Council was assented to by many, only because it seemed the sole method of saving the Council degrees. The result of the organization and its very general acceptance have more than justified the hopes of its supporters. South Carolina has abandoned the scheme of merging the degrees and reorganized a Grand Council. Two other Jurisdictions, which had taken steps in the same direction, have retraced them and ratified the Constitution of the General Grand Council. In Oregon, Companions are making arrangements for the formation of Councils. In Kentucky, a reaction has commenced which promises to restore the Grand Council system: an application has been received for a dispensation for a Council in that State, which was sustained by Companions of such ability and reputation, that I felt that no other course was open but to grant it, and it has been issued. In fine, the demoralization prevailing in different parts of the country has been completely checked, and a more earnest interest in Cryptic Masonry been created.

"It is so evidently the wish of a vast majority of the Cryptic Masons to preserve the Grand Council system that it is submitted in all fraternal kindness to those of opposite views whether they should not yield to the majority. The 'Mississippi plan' was started as one of mere expediency: no principle called for it, but it was put forward and adopted as an expedient for saving expense and the labor of supporting one set of Bodies, Grand and Subordinate. But, on the other hand, the large majority felt that the plan proposed involved the sacrifice of a principle, and that they had no right to consent to conferring the degrees in any other than a regularly warranted Council.

"The General Grand Council has determined that none can be recognized as Royal and Select Masters, who are not made in a regular Council: an appeal has been made, on the score of masonic courtesy, for the recognition of those made in Chapters, but they can no more be recognized than Royal Arch Masons, made in a Master's Lodge, can be. It is settled, so that it is not even a matter for discussion, that the General Grand Council and its constituents cannot now or hereafter recognize as regular Royal and Select Masters any of those made under the 'Mississippi plan': it is a matter of principle, and not a question of courtesy.

"I am unable to perceive how any Grand Chapter, which is a constituent of the General Grand Chapter, can take any cognizance of these degrees. The latter body has decided, with great unanimity that it has no jurisdiction over them. By its Constitution, the degrees recognized by it to be conferred in Chapters under this jurisdiction are Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Mason: the Constitution also provides that charters for Chapters shall also contain the power to open and hold lodges of Most Excellent, Past and Mark Master Masons. Also, the one power, which is most fully vested in the General Grand Chapter by its Constitution, is the preservation, oversight and control of the work: hence these degrees can not be conferred in and by the Chapter, as a portion of the Chapter degrees, without violating two provisions of the General Grand Constitution. But it is proposed to confer them in 'Council appurtenant to the Chapter.' But if so conferred, they are either conferred under the *Chapter warrant*, or they are not: if not, then under no warrant at all, and therefore clandestinely; and if under the *Chapter warrant*, it is held to authorize the opening and holding of Bodies in express violation of the General Grand Constitution.

"But I have seen it stated that this is of no consequence, because the General Grand Chapter has no power of discipline over Grand Chapters, and therefore, the latter are free to do as they please in this matter. I have even seen this repeated in the address of a M.E. Grand High Priest. But it seems to me that this idea must have been originated by some one whose zeal for the 'Mississippi plan' ran away with his ideas of duty. The logical result is, that masonic law is to be obeyed only on account of the fear of punishment for its violation. If the law can not be enforced generally, or in a particular case, and may thus be disobeyed with impunity, a mason is free to violate it, this is a monstrous doctrine, and I do not believe that, upon sober second thought, any mason will have the hardihood to uphold it.

"In view of these considerations, I submit that it is the duty of us all to give our support to the Council system and thus secure harmony and the permanent prosperity of these beautiful degrees.

"I do not deem it necessary for their prosperity, nor even desirable, that every Master Mason or even every Royal Arch Mason, should receive them. I regard it as one of the worst features of our present system, that over zealous Companions are in the habit of urging Master Masons to advance before they are ready: while very much has been said and written against hurrying candidates forward before they are sufficiently acquainted with the preceding degrees, but little has been said of another consideration, which in the immediate past has been of very great importance: very many masons are men of humble means, to whom the expense of receiving the degrees and paying their dues in the various Bodies, is no light matter, and these are often hurried forward before they are really ready, and the consequences are—suspensions for non-payment of dues. But the Council system assumes that our number is small and select; if Grand Councils will keep this in view in chartering new bodies, many of the mistakes of the past will be avoided. I most earnestly commend this to the consideration of Grand Officers.

"One great impediment to the proper understanding of the position of these degrees is the lack of information in reference to them among the body of the Craft. It has been suggested to me by the R. P. General Grand Principal Conductor (Comp. PRICKARD), that the General Grand Jurisdiction be divided into Districts, to be assigned especially to each of the General Grand Officers. The suggestion seems to me to be a wise one, and I have made the division given below. I trust each of my associates will assume the duty thus imposed upon them, and by the distribution of documents among the Craft, by correspondence with the Companions, and by visitations when practicable, endeavor to promote the interests of the Cryptic Rite.

DISTRICTS.

- "I. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Portland, Maine.
 "California, Colorado, Arizona New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho,
 "Oregon, Washington and District of Columbia.
- "II. GEORGE M. OSGOODBY, Buffalo, New York.
 "New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.
- "III. GEORGE J. PINCKARD, New Orleans, La.
 "Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Arkansas and Indian Territory.
- "IV. ORESTES A. B. SENTER, Circleville, Ohio.
 "Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan and Indiana.
- "V. GEORGE W. COOLEY, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
 "Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin and Dakota.
- "VI. WILLIAM D. WADSWORTH, Montgomery, Alabama.
 "Alabama, Florida and Tennessee.
- "VII. CHARLES R. ARMSTRONG, Macon, Georgia.
 "Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.
- "VIII. EDWARD P. BURNHAM, Saco, Maine.
 "Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.
- "IX. ALBERT D. MCCONAUGHY, Atchinson, Kansas.
 "Kansas, Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska.
 "In behalf of the General Grand Officers, I invite the co-operation of all Companions interested
 "in these degrees.

"Yours fraternally,

" JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.

" *General Grand Master.*"

The above is so full that we need to add very little. Since the above circular both Kansas and Florida have ratified and become constituents of the G. . G. . C. . , making now a membership of eighteen Grand Councils. When a year ago New York was the first to ratify, we did not anticipate such a grand success, or that such a great majority of all the Grand Councils would so readily ratify.

It has been with feelings of the keenest satisfaction that your Committee have watched the organization of the G. . G. . Council, and heard the announcements as one after another of the Grand Councils have joined. It is not only a joy because we believe it the best thing that has ever been done for Cryptic Masonry, but also because the course of events has been a complete and most gratifying vindication of our course in the past. We very well remember four and five years ago, when we advocated a General Grand Council, and in our Reports then, and every year since, urged it as a necessity and the salvation of the Rite, and brought forward arguments in its favor, that then there was scarcely a Foreign Correspondent or a Grand Master who would agree with us. Companions opposed us, and even sometimes derided us. All the old stock arguments were urged against it. We say it modestly, but events have proved we were right. If this National Body had not been formed, the result would have been disastrous.

Already, in a most remarkable manner the G. . G. . Council has proved its value by the renewing influence it has exerted, and the fresh impetus it has given to the Companions everywhere. The mere reading of the circular tells all.

We believe we have good reasons for expecting a brilliant future for the G. . G. . Council. The Companions were wise at Detroit in their selection of General Grand Officers. A grand trinity stands at the head, DRUMMOND, OSGOODBY and PINCKARD. We have long learned to honor and love these Companions. DRUMMOND has a reputation as wide as the masonic world. May he long live to enjoy his honors, and the love and confidence of the Craft universal, and may many years bring him a serene and green old age. OSGOODBY has literally towered up

as a vast column of strength and confidence in these troublesome times. None has done more than he to preserve the Rite. Although a member of this Committee, the Chariman deems it proper to write these words. PINCKARD we have learned to cherish and appreciate as we have read his grand addresses and received his letters. May they two be spared in their turn to be the General Grand Masters.

CONCLUSION.

We have but a few words to add in conclusion of our report. After going through the various Proceedings, and after considerable correspondence with Companions who are in a position to judge of the condition of the Rite, we would sum it up by saying we are greatly encouraged. For the last five years the prospect has not been so encouraging as it is now. We have held fast and kept up good courage during the dark days of the past, when the future of the Rite as an independent system seemed to be doubtful. We ever assured the Companions that, if they would make their watchword to be—"Don't give up the ship," all would come out right. We were confident that the law of reaction would not fail in this case. After the ebb the tide would flow again. The ebb tide has passed, and we hope forever. The darkest time has proved to be just before dawn. We are on the upward course, and everywhere the Companions seem to have taken courage and to be inspired with a fresh zeal. There appears to be more enthusiasm, as well as a determination to go to work and rely on ourselves.

The fatal "Mississippi plan" has done its worst; it has failed, and, we believe, will soon be heard of no more. We trust that Grand Councils will soon be reorganized in the States where they have merged with the Chapter. We think the Companions will soon realize how quibbling and unmasonic it is to continue the coalition and evade the spirit and intention of the decision of the G. G. Chapter by putting on it a construction that the words do not bear and which were not intended. A little time will bring them back to a better resolution, and cause a return to reason.

The successful organization of the General Grand Council and the remarkable readiness with which it has been endorsed by a most gratifying majority of the Grand Councils in the United States, are the assurance of the perpetuity of the Council system. It will bind the Grand Councils together in a league, strengthen the Rite, and best of all put an end to the constant tinkering and suggestion of change. It will make us all feel more stable.

We are greatly gratified to see the universal appreciation of the course which the Grand Council of New York has taken in those doubtful days, and especially by the general honor in which the Cryptic Companions hold our Past Grand Master OSGOODBY, whose untiring exertions did so much to avert the threatening disaster and to stay the tide of dissolution. We express the sentiment of all, when we say we hope he may long be spared to render equal, if not greater services to the S. V.

We rejoice to find that so few of our number have been taken away during the past year. At this moment we do not recall that death has taken away any of

our prominent and distinguished Companions since our last Report. For this we are devoutly thankful.

The coming year, Companions, let us take hold of the work more earnestly than ever. We must ever remember that we are the Select, and that it is not to be our ambition to swell to overgrown proportions. We are not to look after quantity, but rather quality. If we would have true prosperity, we must do faithful work. We can not sit back and think the General Grand Council is going to do everything for us. No doubt it will do great things for us if we do our part. If we are faithful to our trust, prompt in our attendance, ever ready to discharge our trust, and above all, if we try to understand the spirit as well as the letter, and study our degrees and their symbolism, we can not fail to prosper. Let all respond to the untiring efforts of the zealous and patriotic.

We can not close without again urging the Companions to be especially careful in the selection of their officers, both Grand and Subordinate. Every year convinces us more and more firmly that everything depends upon the qualifications and dispositions of the officers. It is the captain, the officers and the wheelmen of a ship that navigate her well and bring her safely to the desired haven, and wreck and disaster are the result of their negligence. Equally responsible are the officers of the Councils.

We would urge the officers in their turn to realize their responsibilities of their trust. No man should seek position for which he is unfit. But, if the unsolicited suffrages of your Companions have placed you in positions of labor as well as honor, do not disappoint their expectations. Be not satisfied to repeat like a parrot the language of the work, but be students of the Rite. Understand what the symbols mean; study the history of the Rite and the circumstances on which the degrees are based. Explain them to your Councils. Instruct your Companions. Let the Assemblies be times when light is dispensed, and let the Companions go away wiser than they came. When you have no work, let the time be occupied in instruction. Deliver addresses, or even talks, concerning Masonry. Engage the learned of the Craft to address you and instruct you, and thus every Assembly will be full of interest, and the Companions will be glad to attend and look forward to the pleasant and instructive hours in the S. V. Let not the social season be forgotten, but let brotherly love assemble your families, your wives and children in festival or social even. By such means a new life may be infused into "languishing" Councils, dues will be promptly met, and Companions will cherish and love their Councils. We shall hear less of the doleful tale of lack of interest and poorly attended Assemblies.

We would say a word about "visitation." We fear Grand Officers do not realize the excellent effect of an official visitation. One such visitation a year, or even once in two years, will make its influence felt a long time. Do not hurry them. If necessary let them be protracted over two evenings. Let them be social. Let many encouraging and instructive words be given. Let every Grand Council be divided into districts for visitation. No Grand Officer should accept of any position, unless he is able and willing to visit the Subordinate Councils. If his business will not allow, let him respectfully decline any office. And if any Grand Officer fails to visit and inspect, without the best of reasons, we hope

the Companions will refrain from all complimentary resolutions and elegant testimonials; for that officer deserves them not.

Companions, we have endeavored to do our duty. We have freely expressed our mind on all subjects of interest to the Craft. We have never desired to be severe or unkind in all these years. We have had the most fraternal feelings for all, even for those who have differed from us, and even for those whose course we deemed most disastrous. We wish them all well, and none would be more ready to welcome the returning ones, or give them a heartier or gladder hand-clasp than we.

And now, Companions, another year has passed, and another Report is finished. We submit it to you with all its imperfections. As we go forth from our Annual Assembly may the blessings of the Ever Merciful go with us, and help us to work while it is day.

"How speaks the present hour? Act!
 "Walk upward glancing;
 "So shall thy footsteps in glory be traced,
 "Slow, but advancing.
 "Scorn not the smallness of daily endeavor,
 "Let the great meanings ennoble it ever;
 "Drop not over efforts expended in vain;
 "Work, as believing that labor is gain.

"What doth the future say? Hope!
 "Turn thy face sunward!
 "Look where the light fringes the far rising slope,
 "Day cometh onward.
 "Watch tho' so long be the twilight delaying.
 "Let the first sunbeam arise on thee praying;
 "Fear not, for greater is God by thy side
 "Than armies of Satan against the allied."

CHARLES G. HUDSON,
 Chairman,
 For the Committee.

M. . Ill. . G. FRED. WILTSIE, from the Special Committee appointed at our last Assembly to prepare a suitable testimonial for our Past Most Ill. . Grand Master GEO. M. OSGOODBY, having completed the duties assigned said Committee, presented M. . I. . GEO. M. OSGOODBY with a Past Grand Master's Jewel.

The Grand Master appointed the following Committees:

	<i>On Credentials and Returns.</i>	
GEO. VAN VLIET,	A. OPPENHEIMER,	and JASON COLLIER.
	<i>On Warrants and Dispensations.</i>	
A. D. ROBBINS,	L. H. RAYMOND,	and A. W. FORCE.
	<i>On Constitution and By-Laws.</i>	
GEO. M. OSGOODBY,	H. F. L. BUNTING,	and G. FRED WILTSIE.
	<i>On Grievances and Appeals.</i>	
JOHN J. MARTIN,	W. MORGAN LEE,	and GEO. W. BARRELL.
	<i>On Finance and accounts.</i>	
JOHN W. COBURN,	S. D. WADHAM,	and A. B. KING.

On Unfinished Business.

WARREN A. WOODSON, DANL. W. TOMLINSON, and MARTIN A. LEWIS.

On Deceased Companions.

THOMAS GLIDDON, THOMAS DARLING, and G. B. BALCH.

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

On motion, the election of officers for the ensuing year was made the special order for this afternoon's session immediately after the reading of the minutes.

M. P. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, GENL. GRAND MASTER OF THE
GRAND COUNCIL OF THE U. S.

R. P. GEO. M. OSGOODBY, GENL. GRAND DEP. M. OF THE
GRAND COUNCIL OF THE U. S.

P. EDWARD P. BURNHAM, GENL. GRAND MARSHAL OF THE
GRAND COUNCIL OF THE U. S.

being announced, were received and greeted with the honors due their several stations.

The officers appointed by the Grand Master to officially visit the various Councils under this jurisdiction, severally presented the report of their labors for the past year, showing an increase in both membership and interest in most of the Councils.

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

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

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

COLUMBIAN,	No. 1.	Thomas Cunnington.....	Dep. M. .
UNION,	" 2.	Lewis K. Goldsmith.....	T. I. M. .
		Albert G. Goodall.....	Dep. M. .
		Marvin H. Conklin.....	P. C. of W. .
BROOKLYN,	" 4.	Benj F. Adams.....	Dep. M. .
ADELPHIC,	" 7.	William Downes.....	T. I. M. .
		E. M. L. Ehlers.....	Dep. M. .
		John T. Underhill.....	P. C. of W. .
BLOSS,	" 14.	Alex. B. King.....	(Proxy for) T. I. M. .
BRUCE,	" 15.	Jason Collier	T. I. M. .
SOUTHERN TIER,	" 16.	S. D. Wadham	"
BUFFALO,	" 17.	A. Oppenheimer.....	"

DORIC,.....	No.19.	E. C. Peck.....	Dep. M.
		W. Lincoln Sage.....(Proxy for)	T. I. M.
KEYSTONE,.....	" 20.	Warren A. Woodson.....	"
DE WITT CLINTON,...	" 22.	Wm. H. Whish.....	Dep. M.
		Wm. M. Scott.....(Proxy for)	P. C. of W.
ONTARIO,.....	" 23.	John L. Lewis... ..(Proxy for)	T. I. M.
DUNKIRK,.....	" 25.	Wm. H. Wyman.....	P. C. of W.
BATAVIA,.....	" 27.	Daniel W. Tomlinson.....	Dep. M.
UTICA,.....	" 28.	Martin A. Lewis.....	T. I. M.
KING SOLOMON,.....	" 31.	Wm. Morgan Lee.....	"
PENTALPHA,.....	" 36.	Thomas Darling.....	"
ZABUD,.....	" 46.	S. R. Lawrence.....	"
CORNING.....	" 53.	A. D. Robbins.....	"
SING SING,.....	" 64.	Robt. M. Lawrence..(Proxy for)	"
ITHACA,.....	" 68.	A. W. Force.....	"
NEPPERHAN,.....	" 70.	Galusha B. Balch.....	"
ALPH-OMEGA.....	" 71.	Geo. W. Barrell.....	Dep. M.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. VAN VLIET,
JASON COLLIER,
A. OPPENHEIMER, } Committee.

On motion of Companion L. K. GOLDSMITH, it was

Resolved, That the next Annual Assembly of this Grand Council be held in the City of New York, on the *First* Tuesday in September, (5th,) 1882, at 10 o'clock, A.M.

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

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

Your Special Committee on sub-division of the Address of the Grand Master, and reference to appropriate Committees, respectfully report: That we have considered the Address, and recommend that so much of the same as refers to the decease of Ill. Companion JAMES A. GARFIELD, late President of the United States, be referred to a Special Committee of *Three*.

That so much thereof as refers to the General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the U. S., be referred to a Committee of *Five*.

That so much thereof as refers to the decisions of the M. I. Grand Master, be referred to the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws.

That so much thereof as refers to the revival of Dormant Councils, and the continuance of power in the M. Ill. Grand Master to remit dues, &c., be referred to the Committee on Warrants and Dispensations.

That so much as refers to the interests of the Cryptic Rite generally, be referred to a Special Committee of *Three*.

G. M. OSGOODBY,
JOHN F. BALDWIN, } Committee.
WM. M. SCOTT.

The Grand Master appointed the following Special Committees, in accordance with the recommendations of the foregoing Special Committee.

On the Death of President Garfield.

GEO. M. OSGOODBY, THOS. GLIDDON, and JOHN L. BROTHERS.

On General Grand Council.

JOHN J. MARTIN, JOHN D. WILLIAMS, G. FRED. WILTSIE,
JOHN F. BALDWIN, and JOHN G. BARKER.

On the Interests of the Cryptic Right in General.

ALEX. B. KING, R. C. CHRISTIANCE, and WM. DOWNES.

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

TUESDAY, September 9th, 1881—3 o'clock, P. M.

The Grand Council resumed its session.

Officers and Representatives as at the morning's session.

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

The time (as fixed by special order) for the election of Officers for the ensuing year having arrived the Grand Master appointed as Tellers, companions Alex. B. King and S. D. Wadham, when the Grand Council proceeded with the election, with the following result :

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

R. . I. . THOMAS GLIDDON the newly elected Grand Deputy Master being obliged to leave the city at the close of this afternoon's session was installed in said office by M. . I. . Comp. GEO. M. OSGOODBY.

The special committee on the Fraternal Dead presented the following report, which was on motion received, and their recommendation adopted:

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

That we mournfully endorse the tender and appreciative notices made by the

Grand Master, M. I. CHARLES W. BROWN, in his address to the Grand Council, of the demise of our late honored T. Ill. Companion, JOHN OMBONY, of Peekskill.

Also of Companion GILBERT B. WOOD, of the City of New York.

“ M. I. “ ALBERT G. MACKEY, of Washington, D. C.

“ R. I. “ GEO. STODDART BLACKIE, of Tennessee.

And would recommend that in consideration of their distinguished services to the Cryptic Rite, the Most Puissant Grand Council of the State of New York do hereby order a memorial page set apart in the Transactions to each and all of the above named companions.

Fraternally submitted,

THOMAS GLIDDON, }
THOMAS DARLING, } Committee.
G. B. BALCH. }

The special committee “on General Grand Council” presented the following report, which was on motion received, and their recommendations adopted so far as could be done at this Annual Assembly.

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

The Committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand Master's Address as related to the General Grand Council of the United States, respectfully report:

That the Constitution of the General Grand Council being so well defined, would seem to require no elucidation by this committee.

The committee suggest that the views of the M. I. Grand Master touching General Grand Council dues, be embodied by resolution so as to require the tax to be paid by each subordinate Council, and the committee understand the same to apply to working Councils only in this jurisdiction.

In conformity with these views the committee submit the following:

Resolved, That Section 15, of the Constitution have added thereto, “Every Council shall pay annually for General Grand Council dues, Fifty (50) cents.

Resolved, That Sec. 5, be amended by striking out all after the word “them” on 4th line of said section.

JOHN J. MARTIN, }
JOHN F. BALDWIN, } Committee.
G. FRED. WILTSIE. }

M. Ill. Comp. JOHN HOOLE offered the following preamble and resolution which were by a rising vote, unanimously adopted:

Whereas, Our Illustrious Companion, JAMES A. GARFIELD, late President of the United States, having been called, from his labors in this life, to his reward and rest in the Supreme Lodge above; it is therefore eminently proper that this Grand Council, out of respect to his memory and his distinguished services, not only to the Fraternity of which he was an honored member, but to this entire country, should place on record its appreciation and regard. Therefore be it

Resolved, That this Grand Council be immediately called from labor until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

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

WEDNESDAY, September 21st, 1881—10 o'clock, A. M.

The Grand Council resumed its session.

Officers and Representatives as at yesterday's session.

The minutes of yesterday afternoon's session were read and approved.

The following installation services for the Grand Lecturer presented by R. .I. .JOHN N. MACOMB JR., was adopted:

CHARGE TO THE GRAND LECTURER.

RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANION: To you is assigned the important duty of imparting instruction to the officers and members of our Subordinate Councils.— To this end it will be necessary for you to prepare yourself by careful study of the forms and ceremonies that have been enjoined upon us to preserve, so that your instruction may at all times be ready and accurate. In your examinations of the proficiency of our Officers, you will see that due attention be paid to our rules and regulations that the ancient landmarks be not infringed, and in case you shall observe any failure on the part of any of our Councils to pay strict obedience to our laws, you are to report the same to the proper authority.

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

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

After due inquiry your committee have arrived at the conclusion that there is no unfinished business upon which to report.

Fraternally submitted,

WARREN A. WOODSON, }
DAN'L W. TOMLINSON, } Committee.
M. A. LEWIS. }

The committee on "the interests of Cryptic Masonry in general" presented the following report, which was received, and adopted:

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

Your committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand Master's address as relates to the interests of the Cryptic Rite in general, report: That they have

given the subject careful consideration and feel that they can add nothing to the views expressed in the address, and recommend the adoption of the suggestions therein contained.

A. B. KING,
R. C. CHRISTIANCE, } Committee.
WM. DOWNES.

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

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

Your committee on Constitution and By-Laws most respectfully report: That nothing of importance has been referred to them, except the matter contained in the Grand Master's address in reference to the decisions made by him, in which they cheerfully and heartily concur.

GEO. M. OSGOODBY, } Committee.
G. FRED. WILTSIE,
H. F. L. BUNTING.

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

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

Your committee on Grievances and Appeals, report: That peace and harmony prevails in all the Councils in our jurisdiction, and that nothing has been brought to their notice for action.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN J. MARTIN, } Committee.
WM. MORGAN LEE,
GEO. W. BARRELL.

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

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

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

We recommend the payment of the following amounts:—

Salary of Grand Recorder.....	\$250.00
Expenses "	16.85
" Grand Master.....	16.00
Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence.....	50.00

Rent of Room and Safe.....	35.00
Grand Sentinel for Services.....	10.00
Committee for Testimonial to P. G. M.....	150.00
Mileage of Representatives.....	283.39
Total.....	\$811.24

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

JOHN W. COBURN,
A. B. KING,
S. D. WADHAM. } Committee.

The Special Committee on the death of the late President of the United States presented the following report, which was on motion received and unanimously adopted:

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

Your Special Committee, to whom was referred that portion of your Grand Master's Address which so touchingly and tenderly had reference to the decease of our Illustrious and well beloved Companion, JAMES A. GARFIELD, late President of the United States, would respectfully report:

That we approve of the tribute rendered to the memory of our late honored companion by our Grand Master, and with hearts surcharged with grief at his untimely removal while in the prime of life and usefulness, we deem it eminently fit and proper for this Grand Body, in unison with the great heart of the American people, to place permanently upon its records, its expression of love and respect for the deceased, and its sympathy for the bereaved family.

When the last memorable words of our beloved Companion, "It hurts," were flashed across the continent, the response of every true heart, upon every hearthstone in the land was an echo of those words, "It hurts," and peculiarly within our Masonic Temple where he was best known and beloved, the busy hum of the Craftsman's tools were hushed and stilled; while in bated breath and with hearts bowed down in very sadness the whisper goes around the arches, "It hurts," and so wherever freedom is known, in every land, will like hearts be found, who as the intelligence of his demise reaches them will respond in the same sad and tender words, "It hurts."

Your committee would therefore offer the following resolutions and recommend their adoption by this Grand Body by a rising vote:

Resolved, That in the decease of our well beloved and honored Companion, the fraternity have lost a true and faithful member—the country its noble, able and upright Chief Magistrate, while his family have suffered an irreparable loss.

Resolved, That this Grand Council unites with the entire people in extending its sympathy to our sister, the widow of the deceased, whose noble womanhood has endeared her to our hearts as a bright exemplar of a true Wife and Mother—to the aged mother, who gave birth to the grand manhood of our Companion,

and who in her declining years has lost the support of the strong arm of her loved and devoted son, and to the children who have lost the fatherly counsel and kind care of their parent.

Resolved, That the Subordinate Councils of this jurisdiction are directed to clothe their Jewels and Temples in mourning for ninety days as a testimony of their love and respect for the memory of the deceased.

Resolved, That a Memorial page be set apart in the proceedings of this Grand Body to his memory and that this body adjourn immediately after the installation of its officers for the ensuing year.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEO. M. OSGOODBY, }
 JOHN L. BROTHERS, } Committee.
 THOS. GLIDDON. }

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

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

Your Committee on Warrants and Dispensations, after consideration of the matters referred to in the Grand Master's Address, and the reports of the Grand Officers relating to Dormant Councils, recommend that the Warrants of the following Councils, which have been lying Dormant for the last eight years and upwards, be declared forfeited, viz: No. 8, 9, 18, 21, 24, 30, 32, 34, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 56, 61, 63, 65, 66, and 67; as well as the Warrants of all other Councils that have failed to make returns for the past four years—with the exception of Central City Council No. 13, located at Syracuse, and Deerpark Council No. 54, located at Port Jervis—which we recommend be referred to the Grand Master with power to remit their dues, and the request, that he use every endeavor to keep them alive.

Fraternally submitted,

A. D. ROBBINS, }
 A. W. FORCE, } Committee.
 JOHN F. BALDWIN. }

The Grand Master made the following appointments:

A. OPPENHEIMER, of Buffalo.....	R. I. Grand C. of the G.
R. C. CHRISTIANCE, of Ithaca.....	" " C. " C.
JOHN F. BALDWIN, of New York.....	" " Marshal
Rev. JOHN G. WEBSTER, of Palmyra.....	" " Chaplain
JOHN N. MACOMB, JR., of Branchport.....	" " Lecturer
A. D. ROBBINS, of Corning.....	" " Steward
JOHNSTON FOUNTAIN, of New York.....	Ill. " Sentinel

Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

GEO. M. OSGOODBY, CHAS. W. BROWN, and JOHN L. BROTHERS.

On motion a committee of three consisting of Companions GEO. M. OSGOODBY, CHAS. W. BROWN and GEO. VAN VLIET, were appointed to report at the next Annual Assembly upon the advisability of reprinting the early proceedings of this Grand Council.

The thanks of the Grand Council were unanimously tendered to our retiring Grand Master for the very able, efficient and impartial manner in which he discharged the duties devolving upon him during his term of office.

The thanks of the Grand Council were tendered to Union Council No. 2, for the very hospitable manner in which they have cared for the representatives to this Grand Council during this Assembly.

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

The Grand Officers (elected and appointed) were duly installed by M. .L. .CHARLES W. BROWN, assisted by R. .I. .JOHN L. BROTHERS.

The Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters was then closed in Ample Form.

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

Grand Recorder.

Companion

James A. Garfield,

Late President of the United States.

Died September 19th, 1881.

He Rests from his Labors.

R. I. Companion

Geo. Stoddart Blackie

Dep. Gr. M. of the Grand Council

Of Tennessee.

Died June 19th, 1881.

Gone, but not Forgotten.

Companion

Albert G. Wacker,

A Father in Masonry.

Died June 20th, 1881.

His Loss we Deeply Feel.

E. J. Companion

John Ombony,

A Member of Peekskill Council, No. 55.

Died January 31st, 1881.

Gathered into the Garner of the Lord.

Companion

Gilbert B. Wood,

A Member of Columbian Council, No. 1.

Died August 21st, 1881.

His End is Accomplished.

RECEIPTS AT THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY, 1881.

From Columbian Council, No. 1, for dues to August 1st, 1881.....	\$ 16.50
“ Union “ “ 2, “ “	43.00
“ Brooklyn “ “ 4, “ “	40.00
“ Adelphe “ “ 7, “ “	82.00
“ Bloss “ “ 14, “ “	131.50
“ Bruce “ “ 15, “ “	23.00
“ Southern Tier “ “ 16, “ “	48.00
“ Buffalo “ “ 17, “ “	74.50
“ Dorie “ “ 19, “ “	135.00
“ Keystone “ “ 20, “ “	70.50
“ DeWitt Clinton “ “ 22, “ “	108.50
“ Dunkirk “ “ 25, “ “	31.50
“ Palmyra “ “ 26, “ “	16.50
“ Batavia “ “ 27, “ “	17.50
“ Utica “ “ 28, “ “	41.50
“ King Solomon “ “ 31, “ “	28.50
“ Pentalpha “ “ 36, “ “	14.50
“ Zabud “ “ 46, “ “	5.50
“ Corning “ “ 53, “ “	15.00
“ Peekskill “ “ 55, “ “	14.00
“ Sing Sing “ “ 64, “ “	19.50
“ Ithaca “ “ 68, “ “	28.00
“ Nepperhan “ “ 70, “ “	18.50
“ Alph-Omega “ “ 71, “ “	23.00
Total	\$1,046.50

OFFICERS, LOCATION, AND TIME OF MEETING OF SUBORDINATE COUNCILS.

NAME.	No.	MASTER	DEPUTY MASTER.	P. C. OF W.	RECORDER.	WHERE LOCATED		DATE OF MEETINGS
						CITY, OR TOWN	COUNTY	
COLUMBIAN.....	1	L. H. Raymond	Thos. Cunnington	Wm. F. J. Thiers	P. Verhoeven	New York	New York	.....
UNION.....	2	L. K. Goldsmith	Albert G. Goodall	Marvin H. Conklin	W. M. Postley	New York	New York	3d Saturday.
BROOKLYN.....	4	John C. Heineinan	Benj. F. Adams	William Sherer	Wm. K. Smith	Brooklyn	Kings	3d Saturday.
ADELPHIC.....	7	William Downes	E. M. L. Ehlers	John T. Underhill	Geo. Van Vliet	New York	New York	1st Saturday
BLOSS.....	14	Egbert H. Dyer	James Aitken	Robert B. Stiies	.....	Troy	Reusselaer	1st Friday.
BRUCE.....	15	Jason Collier	Lorin King	Perry Stowell	V. N. Douglas	Lockport	Niagara	1st & 3d Wednesdays.
SOUTHERN TIER.....	16	S. D. Wadham	D. S. Dorr	F. E. Cleveland	P. L. Hinman	Elmira	Chemung	3d Monday.
BUFFALO.....	17	A. Oppenheimer	Girard McVicar	John A. Franke	Stephen M. Evry	Buffalo	Erie	2d Thursday.
DORIC.....	19	Wm. C. Brown	E. C. Peck	Isaac A. Wile	John Alexander	Rochester	Monroe	1st & 3d Wednesdays.
KEYSTONE.....	20	War'n A. Woodson	Wm. Hengerer	E. A. Rockwood	John H. Boshier	Buffalo	Erie	3d Saturday.
DE WITT CLINTON.....	22	John J. Martiu	Wm. H. Whish	Geo. L. Cooper	J. E. Allanson	Albany	Albany	3d Thursday.
ONTARIO.....	23	J. M. Macomb, Jr.	Franklin E. Smith	Wm. A. McIntire	W. W. Quackenbush	Geneva	Ontario	Last Tuesday.
DUNKIRK.....	25	S. N. Smith	W. Zimmermann	W. H. Wymau	Charles Blood	Dunkirk	Chautauqua	1st Wednesday.
PALMYRA.....	26	Mark C. Finley	Charles Deyo	John G. Webster	Geo. McGown	Palmyra	Wayne	2d Monday.
BATAVIA.....	27	Lucian R. Bailey	D. W. Tomlinson	John Thomas	A. N. Cowdin	Batavia	Genesee	1st & 3d Friday.
UTICA.....	28	Martiu A. Lewis	Julian Batchelor.	Edward Lawson	E. G. Brown	Utica	Oneida	Last Friday.
KING SOLOMON.....	31	Wm. Morgan Lee	Theo. W. Davis	Chas. H. Halstead	S. K. Rupley	Poughkeepsie	Dutchess	2d Monday.
OLEAN.....	33	Calvin L. Stowell	LaFayette Durkee	Geo. W. Norton	L. F. Moore	Olean	Cattaraugus	1st Wednesday
HORNELLVILLE.....	35	J. F. Bentley	Solomon Ossoski	L. S. Boardman	A. G. Howard	Hornellsville	Steuben	1st Wednesday.
PENTALPHA.....	36	Thomas Darling	Henry Carpenter	Chas. W. Brown	Wm. L. Seaman	Flushing	Queens	2d Friday.
KONHOCTON.....	40	Isaac J. Merrell	Wm. H. Shepard	Chas. B. Mowers	V. Brother	Bath	Steuben	4th Friday.
ZABUD.....	46	S. R. Lawrence	Samuel Wells	E. Doolittle	R. S. Atwell	Schuyl'rsville	Saratoga	2d & 4th Tuesdays.
CORNING.....	53	A. D. Robbins	T. S. Pritchard	Richard L. Hill	Geo. Hitchcock	Corning	Steuben	1st & 4th Thursdays.
PEEKSKILL.....	55	.....	John Halstead	Robert Brown	Thos. J. Hodgkins	Peekskill	Westchester	2d Monday.
SING SING.....	64	Ebenezer Fowler	Jos. H. Holloway	Thomas Leary	Geo. Lockwood	Sing Sing	Westchester	1st & 3d Fridays.
ITHACA.....	68	A. W. Force	R. C. Christiance	Geo. W. Melotte	A. B. Wood	Ithaca	Tompkins	2d Monday.
NEPPERHAN.....	70	G. B. Balch	James H. Jenkins	John E. Murphy	Ralph E. Prime	Yonkers	Westchester	1st & 3d Wednesdays.
ALPH-OMEGA.....	71	Robert H. Brown	Geo. W. Barrell	Albert S. Warner	R. Titus Coan	Albion	Orleans	2d Wednesday.

REPRESENTATIVES

OF OTHER

GRAND COUNCILS NEAR THE GRAND COUNCIL

OF NEW YORK.

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

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

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

OFFICERS FOR 1881-82.

JOHN J. MARTIN, of Albany,.....	M. I.	Grand Master.
THOMAS GLIDDON, of Rochester,.....	R. I.	Dep. Master.
JOHN W. COBURN, of Morrisania.....	"	P. C. of W.
DAVID B. HOWELL, of New York,.....	"	Treasurer.
GEO. VAN VLIET, of ".....	"	Recorder.
A. OPPENHEIMER, of Buffalo,.....	"	C. of the G.
R. C. CHRISTIANCE, of Ithaca,.....	"	C. of the C.
JOHN F. BALDWIN, of New York.....	"	Marshal.
REV. JOHN G. WEBSTER, of Palmyra,.....	"	Chaplain.
JOHN N. MACOMB, Jr., of Branchport,.....	"	Lecturer.
A. D. ROBBINS, of Corning,.....	"	Steward.
JOHNSTON FOUNTAIN, of New York,.....	Ill.	Sentinel.

Grand Master's address—100 Clinton Avenue, Albany.

Grand Recorder's address—"Masonic Temple," cor. 6th ave. & 23d st., N. Y. City.
(Next Annual Assembly, September 5th, 1882.)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Amend Section 15, by adding thereto: "Every Council shall pay annually for General Grand Council dues Fifty (50) cents."

Amend Section 5, by striking out all after the word "them" on 4th line of said section.

OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL

OF THE UNITED STATES.

- M. P. G. G. M. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,.....of PORTLAND, MAINE.
 R. P. G. G. D. M. GEO. M. OSGOODBY,.....of BUFFALO, NEW YORK.
 R. P. G. G. P. C. W. GEO. J. PINCKARD,.....of NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.
 P. G. G. Treas. ORESTES A. B. SENTER,.....of COLUMBUS, OHIO.
 P. G. G. Rec. GEO. W. COOLEY,..... of MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.
 P. G. G. C. G. WM. D. WADSWORTH,..... of MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA.
 P. G. G. C. C. CHARLES R. ARMSTRONG,.....of MACON, GEORGIA.
 P. G. G. M. EDWARD P. BURNHAM,.....of SACO, MAINE.
 P. G. G. S. ALBERT T. McCONAUGHY,.....of ATCHISON, KANSAS.

