



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

MOST PUISSANT GRAND COUNCIL

OF



ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK,

September 4, 1888.



BUFFALO:
BAKER, JONES & Co., PRINTERS AND BINDERS.
1888.



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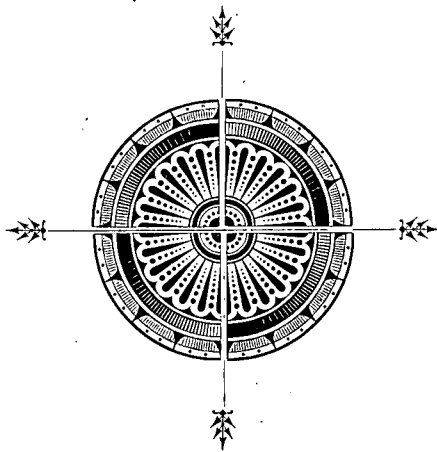
STATE OF NEW YORK,

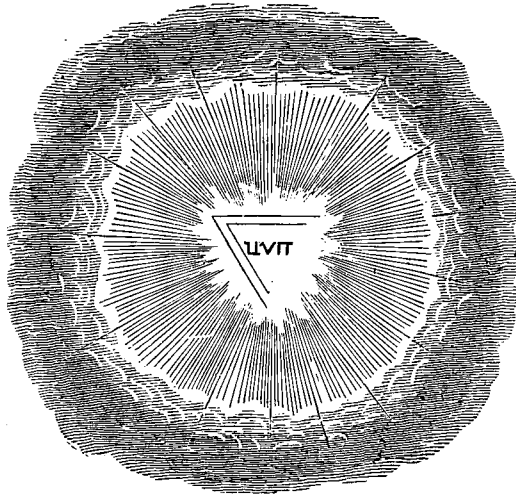
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ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters

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 4 A. D. 1888, Anno
Dep.: 2888, at 10 o'clock A. M.

PRESENT.

M.:I.	JOHN L. BROTHERS.....	GRAND MASTER.
R.:I.	RALPH C. CHRISTIANCE...	GRAND DEPUTY MASTER.
R.:I.	JOHN N. MACOMB, JR.....	GRAND P. C. of W.
R.:I.	JOHN F. BALDWIN.....	GRAND TREASURER.
R.:I.	GEO. VAN VLIET.....	GRAND RECORDER.
R.:I.	ALEX. B. KING.....	GRAND C. OF THE G.
R.:I.	GEO. A. NEWELL.....	GRAND C. OF THE C.
R.:I.	THOMAS J. BISHOP.....	GRAND MARSHAL.
R.:I.	.....	GRAND CHAPLAIN.
R.:I.	SAMUEL C. PIERCE.....	GRAND LECTURER.
R.:I.	JOHN G. BARKER.....	GRAND STEWARD.
I.:	JOHN HOOLE.....	GRAND SENTINEL.

Together with the Representatives of the following Councils:

COLUMBIAN.....	No. 1	ONTARIO.....	No. 23
UNION.....	" 2	DUNKIRK.....	" 25
BROOKLYN.....	" 4	PALMYRA.....	" 26
ADELPHIC.....	" 7	UTICA.....	" 28
BLOSS.....	" 14	OLEAN.....	" 33
BRUCE.....	" 15	CORNING.....	" 53
SOUTHERN TIER. " 16		PEEKSKILL.....	" 55
BUFFALO.....	" 17	ITHACA.....	" 68
DORIC.....	" 19	NEPPERHAN.....	" 70
KEYSTONE.....	" 20	ALPH.OMEGA.....	" 71
DE WITT CLINTON " 22			

And permanent members as follows :

G. FRED WILTSIE.....	Past G. M.
GEO. M. OSGOODBY:....	" " and Past Gen'l G. M.
JOHN J. MARTIN.....	" "
CHARLES W. BROWN..	" "
JOHN W. COBURN.....	" " and Present G. C. of the G.
P. M. W. VERHOEVEN.	Past T. I. M. of COUNCIL No. 1.
W. M. POSTLEY.....	" " " " 2.
WM. M. SMITH.....	" " " " 4.
E. M. L. EHLERS.....	" " " " 7.

With Representatives from the following Grand Councils :

ALABAMA, Represented by.....JOHN W. COBURN.
 ARKANSAS, Represented by.....C. S. HANKS.
 CALIFORNIA, Represented by.....THOMAS GLIDDON.
 CONNECTICUT, Represented by.....P. M. W. VERHOEVEN.
 FLORIDA, Represented by.....JOHN F. BALDWIN.
 GEORGIA, Represented by.....GEO. M. OSGOODBY.
 ILLINOIS, Represented by.....W. M. POSTLEY.
 KANSAS, Represented by.....JOHN D. WILLIAMS.
 KENTUCKY, Represented by.....E. M. L. EHLERS.
 LOUISIANA, Represented by.....PHILANDER REED.
 MAINE, Represented by.....G. FRED WILTSIE.
 MARYLAND, Represented by.....WM. DOWNES.
 MASSACHUSETTS, Represented by..JOHN J. MARTIN.
 MICHIGAN, Represented by.....PETER FORRESTER.
 MISSOURI, Represented by.....JOHN L. BROTHERS.
 MINNESOTA, Represented by.....ALEX. B. KING.
 NEW HAMPSHIRE, Represented by..GEO. VAN VLIET.
 NEW JERSEY, Represented by.....ROYAL E. DEANE.
 OHIO, Represented by.....DARWIN E. MORGAN.
 OREGON, Represented by.....WM. SHERER.
 PENNSYLVANIA, Represented by...JOHN HODGE.
 RHODE ISLAND, Represented by...CHARLES W. BROWN.
 SOUTH CAROLINA, Represented by.A. W. FORCE.
 TENNESSEE, Represented by.....JOHN N. MACOMB, JR.
 VERMONT, Represented by.....RALPH C. CHRISTIANCE.

The Grand Council was opened in Ample Form.

The Grand Master received and welcomed the Representatives of other Grand Councils, and tendered to them, and through them to the several Grand Bodies which they represented, the greetings of the Grand Council of the State of New York.

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.: JOHN L. BROTHERS, Grand Master, then delivered the following

ADDRESS.

COMPANIONS :

Through the infinite mercy of the Supreme Architect of the universe, we are again permitted to gather together in Annual Assembly, not only to seriously consider the past, which has gone never to return, but also to take wise counsel with each other concerning that future which lies all unknown before us.

And, as we exchange salutations and greetings to-day, after the separation that has intervened since our last Annual Assembly, we cannot be too devoutly grateful for the protecting care and never failing kindness of our "Heavenly Father," who has spared so many of us to again meet for the discharge of our official duties.

And, Companions of the Grand Council, at this time, after our first warm greetings are over, ere we commence the duties of this Seventy-ninth Annual Assembly, let us renew the vows of faithfulness which we have recorded in the past, and pledge ourselves anew to promote and strengthen the Cryptic Rite in the future, with our best endeavors; may our efforts be so blessed and directed by Infinite wisdom that what we build may rest upon a sure and enduring foundation, and that what we practice and teach may prove a priceless legacy to the coming generations.

And again, Companions of the Grand Council, although endeavoring to address you with a deep sense of gratitude for mercies past, as well as faith and hopefulness for the time to come, yet, even now, the shadow of a great sorrow casts its reflection over us as we miss from our side the form of that beloved Companion who has for so many years been faithful in his attendance at our annual meetings.

An aching void is felt within our heart when we realize that we shall never more hear the deep rich voice of our friend and Companion pleading with our "Heavenly Father" for blessings upon us, and upon the work of our hands. That voice is hushed forever, yet the memory of his presence lingers with us like a sweet perfume, and he has bequeathed to us that which is better than silver and gold, or precious stones, the blessed example of a good and pure life. Let us sacredly cherish his memory while life shall last.

OFFICIAL.

In rendering to you an account of my official acts, I congratulate you, Companions, upon the fair degree of prosperity which the Cryptic Rite in this Grand Jurisdiction has enjoyed during the year just ending. Peace and harmony reign in our midst; no disturbing elements exist that I am now aware of, and owing to this peaceful condition of our affairs, my cares and duties have neither been arduous nor exacting.

OBITUARY.

"Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord; even so saith the spirit, for they rest from their labors."

On the 27th of September last, the electric wire flashed to me the sad intelligence of the sudden death of R. I. and Rev. JOHN G. WEBSTER, Grand Chaplain of this Grand Council. The remains of our Rev. Companion were interred at Palmyra, in this State, with Masonic honors, on the 30th of September last. I was present at the obsequies of our esteemed Companion. Shortly after the death of Companion WEBSTER, I directed the R. I. Grand Recorder to prepare and issue the following circular letter for promulgation to all the Councils in this Grand Jurisdiction:

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

OFFICE OF GRAND MASTER, }
BUFFALO, October 11, 1887. }

Dear Companion :

Almost the first official act of your Grand Master is the sad duty of announcing the death of R. I. AND REV. JOHN G. WEBSTER, which occurred at Greenbush, on Tuesday, September 27, 1887. He was for twenty consecutive years prior to, and at the time of his death, Grand Chaplain of the *Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of New York*.

He was born at Chatham, N. Y., in July, 1824; made a Mason in Sylvan Lodge No. 41, at Moravia, N. Y., May 16, 1848; was elected its Master in December, 1850. He subsequently became a member of Jordan Lodge No. 386, and served as Master thereof in 1859, '60 and '61. He affiliated with Palmyra Lodge No. 248, on December 25, 1867, and on the same evening was elected Master, and re-elected in 1868.

He was District Deputy Grand Master of the 13th Masonic District from June, 1860, to June, 1863, and Grand Steward from June, 1862, to June, 1863. In 1869 he was appointed one of the Chaplains of the Grand Lodge, which office he held continuously until his death.

He was a member of St. John the Baptist Chapter No. 30; received the Council Degrees in Palmyra Council No. 26 in 1869; was a Charter member of Zenobia Commandery No. 41, and officiated as its Prelate until 1884, with the exception of one year, when he filled the office of Commander.

In 1869 he was elected Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templars of the State of New York, and in September, 1886, he was appointed Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment of the United States, both of which offices he held until relieved by death.

It would seem as though the Reverend Companion was especially fitted for the profession he chose, as the slightest acquaintance with him seemed to ripen into friendship; his every act tended to impress his companions with his sincerity of purpose; he was always ready to bear his portion of the "burden and heat of the day;" ever at the post of duty in his endeavors to promote the interests of the craft; no task assigned him was left undone; no words of counsel ever refused.

By his loss our hearts are made sad, and pen refuses to write his praise.

It is hereby ordered, That this memorial be read in each Council of this jurisdiction at the first Assembly after its reception, and that the Altar and jewels be draped with emblems of mourning for the space of ninety days.

Yours fraternally,

Attest,

GEO. VAN VLIET,
Grand Recorder.

JOHN L. BROTHERS,
Grand Master.

Th. Ill. Companion FRANK L. STOWELL :

On February 21st last, I received from Th. Ill. Companion C. S. HANKS, of Olean, a notice of the death of FRANK L. STOWELL, which occurred at Charlotte, North Carolina, on February 10th last.

Companion STOWELL was born in Friendship, New York, in 1826. For a number of years he was the general agent of the Masonic Guild, with office in New York City. At the time of his death he was engaged in a mining enterprise in North Carolina. He was possessed of a genial and generous nature, which strongly endeared him to his friends.

Companion STOWELL was made a Mason in Allegany Lodge No 223, at Friendship, New York, May 16, 1851, and served as Junior Warden in 1853, and Senior Warden in 1854. Subsequently he became a member of Olean Lodge No. 252, and served as Master thereof in 1868. January 13, 1853, he was exalted to the Capitular degrees in Wellsville Chapter No. 143. February 28, 1868, he became a member of Olean Chapter No. 150, and served as High-Priest in 1869 and '70. He received the Cryptic degrees in Southern Tier Council No. 16, at Elmira, New York, December 19, 1866; and on November 28, 1870, he became a member of Olean Council No. 33, and officiated as its Master in 1872 and '73; was knighted in St. John's Commandery No. 24, May 8, 1856; was elected Eminent Commander in 1864, and officiated in that capacity four years.

Companion STOWELL was elected Grand Sword-bearer of the Grand Commandery in 1865, and Grand Commander in 1872. He was also at the time of his death a member of the Scottish Rite, and an honorary member of the Supreme Council of the 33d degree. His remains were brought to Olean, New York, and laid at rest with imposing ceremonies on February 14th last.

M. Ill. Companion JAMES MCCREDIE,

Who died at his residence, in the City of Buffalo, New York, on the 21st of May last, was born in the City of New York, November 1, 1817; and, consequently, was in his seventy-first year.

Companion MCCREDIE was made a Mason in Hiram Lodge, U. D. (now No. 105), July 15, 1845, and was Secretary of this Lodge in 1849; in 1850 he became a Charter member of Erie Lodge No. 161, and was its Secretary that year, and continued as such to and including 1854. He became Junior Warden in 1857, Senior Warden 1858, and in 1859 its Master, serving in that office one year. He was exalted to the Capitular degrees in Buffalo Chapter No. 71, January 12, 1848, and served this Chapter with credit and distinction. Eight years as Secretary, twenty-one years as Treasurer, one year each as Scribe and King, and five years as High-Priest, a total of thirty-six years.

Companion MCCREDIE received the Cryptic degrees in Adelpic Council No. 7, in New York City, on the 9th of February, 1860, and subsequently became a Charter member of Buffalo Council No. 17, at Buffalo, June 20, 1860, and was its Th. Ill. Master in 1867, '68, '69, '70, '71, '72 and '73. He was elected Grand

Master of the Grand Council in 1870 and '71, and was the Representative of the Grand Council of Canada near this Grand Council for many years.

On January 12, 1854, he was created a Knight Templar in Lake Erie Commandery No. 20, in the City of Buffalo, New York; he served this Body one year as Warden, two years as Junior Warden, ten years as Treasurer, two years as Prelate, one as Captain-General, and nine years as Commander; no less than twenty-five years' continuous service.

Em. Sir Knight MCCREDIE was elected Grand Sword-bearer in the Grand Commandery in 1864, and was Grand Junior Warden in 1865-6. He was for many years an honored member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons, filling various offices, and was finally honored with the 33d degree. Upright and honorable in all things. Companion MCCREDIE was loved and honored by all that knew him.

In May last we received the sad intelligence of the death of the Hon. GEORGE H. BIGELOW, of our Sister Grand Jurisdiction of Vermont. Comp. BIGELOW was made a Mason in Washington Lodge No. 3, July 20, 1859; exalted in Burlington Chapter No. 3, Dec. 14, 1859; greeted in Burlington Council No. 5, January 18, 1860; created a Knight Templar April 5, 1884; received the Degrees of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite in 1868, and Sept. 16, 1879, the Honorary Degree of Sov. Grand Ins. Genl. was conferred upon him. In the death of Comp. BIGELOW, Masonry loses one of its brightest ornaments.

Let us honor our illustrious dead.

OFFICIAL VISITATIONS.

The following circular was issued in compliance with the resolution of the Grand Council making the assignments for official visitations by the Grand officers of the Grand Council:

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

BUFFALO, September 29, A. Dep. 2887.

John L. Brothers, Grand Master.

Apportionment of the Councils to the Grand officers for visitation, in compliance with the usual resolution of the Grand Council, is hereby made.

There can be no doubt that the great success and advancement of Cryptic Masonry in the past year was in a measure accomplished by the benefit resultant from our system of visitation; therefore, the Grand Master earnestly requests every Grand Officer to visit the Councils assigned, and fully acquaint himself with their condition, giving to the membership words of encouragement and appreciation of the Grand Council of the work in which they are engaged. The Grand Master requests the Masters of Councils to at once communicate with the Grand Officer to whom they are assigned, in order that a date of visitation may be arranged, and they shall be enabled to give timely notice thereof to the Council.

Reports of visitation should be forwarded to the Grand Master by the first day of September next at the latest.

Comp. RALPH C. CHRISTIANCE, R. Ill. G. D. M.

ITHACA, N. Y.

SOUTHERN TIER, No. 16.....	Elmira.
DORIC, No. 19.....	Rochester.
PALMYRA, No. 26.....	Palmyra.

Comp. JOHN N. MACOMB, Jr., R. Ill. P. C. of W.

BRANCHPORT, N. Y.

ADDISON, No. 69.....	Addison.
ALPH-OMEGA, No. 71.....	Albion.
OLEAN, No. 33.....	Olean.

Comp. JOHN F. BALDWIN, R. Ill. G. Treas.

42 VERSEY ST., NEW YORK CITY.

ADELPHIC, No. 7.....	New York.
NEPPERHAN, No. 70.....	Yonkers.

Comp. GEO. VAN VLIET, R. Ill. G. Rec.

COR. WEST AND BETHUNE STS., N. Y. CITY.

UNION, No. 2.....	New York.
KING SOLOMON, No. 31.....	Poughkeepsie.

Comp. ALEX. B. KING, R. Ill. G. C. of Guard.

TROY, N. Y.

DE WITT CLINTON, No. 22.....	Albany.
UTICA, No. 28.....	Utica.

Comp. GEO. A. NEWELL, R. Ill. G. C. of Council.

MEDINA, N. Y.

BUFFALO, No. 17.....	Buffalo.
KEYSTONE, No. 20.....	Buffalo.
HORNELLSVILLE, No. 35.....	Hornellsville.
DUNKIRK, No. 25.....	Dunkirk.

Comp. Rev. JOHN G. WEBSTER, R. Ill. G. Chaplain.

GREENBUSH, N. Y.

BLOSS, No. 14.....	Troy.
HUDSON, No. 62.....	Hudson.

Comp. SAM'L S. PIERCE, R. Ill. G. Lecturer.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

ONTARIO, No. 23.....	Penn Yan.
KONHOCTON, No. 40.....	Bath.
CORNING, No. 53.....	Corning.

Comp. THOS. J. BISHOP, R. Ill. G. Marshal.

ALBANY, N. Y.

PEEKSKILL, No. 55.....	Peeckskill.
ITHACA, No. 68.....	Ithaca.

Comp. JOHN G. BARKER, R. Ill. G. Steward.

NEW YORK CITY.

COLUMBIAN, No. 1.....	New York.
BROOKLYN, No. 4.....	Brooklyn.
SING SING, No. 64.....	Sing Sing.

By order of the Grand Master,

GEO. VAN VLIET,

Grand Recorder.

Later, owing to the death of the R. I. Grand Chaplain, the following re-assignments were made :

Ithaca Council No. 68 was withdrawn from the allotment assigned to R. I. Companion THOS. J. BISHOP, Grand Marshal, and added to the assignment of R. I. Companion JOHN N. MACOMB, JR., G. P., Conductor of Work.

Bloss Council No. 14 and Hudson No. 62 were added to the allotment of R. I. Companion THOS. J. BISHOP.

My intercourse with the Councils of the Grand Jurisdiction has been somewhat limited, not through a lack of inclination on my part, but for want of time and opportunity, occasioned by protracted illness and deaths in my family.

In January last I had the honor and pleasure of installing the officers of Buffalo Council No. 17, and of Keystone Council No. 20.

DISPENSATIONS.

I have granted five dispensations during the past Cryptic year, as follows :

November 8, 1887, dispensation was granted to "Doric Council No. 19," at Rochester, New York, to elect and confer the degrees in less time than the Constitution prescribes, a good and sufficient reason having been presented.

January 19, 1888, a dispensation was granted to Union Council No. 2, at New York City, to elect and install officers on the evening of January 21, 1888, in consequence of a neglect to do so at the time prescribed by the Constitution.

A like dispensation was granted under date of February 25, 1888, to Nepperhan Council No. 70, at Yonkers, New York, to elect and install officers on the evening of March 7, 1888, and for the same reasons as before mentioned.

May 23, 1888, I granted a dispensation to Central City Council No. 13, at Syracuse, New York, to elect and install officers on the evening of May 31, 1888, and to perform all such legal and constitutional acts as were requisite to place said Council in working order.

It was with great pleasure and satisfaction that I issued this dispensation. It seemed like a welcome to an absent and long estranged friend, desirous of renewing fraternal relations.

Central City Council had been dormant and inactive for several years, but by the energetic and persistent efforts of the friends of the Cryptic Rite in that jurisdiction interest was awakened and active steps taken to re-establish that Council.

I was approached in the matter, and gladly seconded the efforts that were being made, and promised that if Central City Council would again become an active constituent of the Grand Council, that all past dues due the Grand Council would be remitted up to the date of such reorganization—and I trust that the Grand Council will in this instance confirm my action.

Soon after the dispensation was issued, I requested M. I. Companion GLIDDON and R. I. Companions CHRISTIANCE and PIERCE to attend the Assembly of Central City Council on May 31st, and further requested M. I.

Companion GLIDDON to preside on that occasion, and desired the Companions to give all the assistance in their power to place the said Council again in active operation, and for the faithful and very willing manner in which my dear Companions performed their duties on that occasion, I tender my hearty thanks.

In addition to the election and installation of the officers, nine candidates were elected and greeted, and a large number stand proposed for future action.

June 15, 1888, a dispensation was issued to DeWitt Clinton Council No. 23, at Albany, to elect and confer the Cryptic Degrees upon Companion E. D. SYLVESTER, a resident of Glens Falls, N. Y., and within the territorial jurisdiction of Saratoga Council No. 37, it having been satisfactorily shown that the said Saratoga Council was in a dormant state, and that DeWitt Clinton Council No. 23 was the nearest active Council thereto, and that such action was in conformity with the resolution adopted at the last annual assembly of this Grand Council. The dispensation was regularly granted to confer the degrees upon the applicant heretofore mentioned, on the evening of Thursday, June 21, 1888.

CORRESPONDENCE AND DECISIONS.

I respectfully submit the following correspondence with the M. I. Grand Master of the Grand Council of the State of Connecticut, which will explain itself.

GRAND COUNCIL OF R. & S. M. OF CONNECTICUT.

OFFICE OF THE M. P. GRAND MASTER, }
DANBURY, Conn , Dec. 29, 1887. }

John L. Brothers, Esq., M. P. Grand Master, Grand Council of New York :

DEAR SIR AND ILL. COMPANION :

Companions C. A. RUNDALL and GEORGE W. DELEVAN, residing at Brewster, in the town of Southeast, in the Jurisdiction of the Grand Council of New York, and members of Croton Lodge and Chapter of that place, have presented their petitions for the Cryptic degrees to Wooster Council No. 28, of Danbury, under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Council of Connecticut.

Wooster Council has requested me to ask the M. P. Grand Master of New York for release of Jurisdiction, and through him to ask the consent of the Council at Peekskill to ballot upon the petitions and confer the degrees upon these Companions.

Residing in the near vicinity and being well acquainted with the circumstances, perhaps it would be well to inform you in regard to them.

I believe there is no direct railroad communication between Brewster and Peekskill; the Companions cannot attend there without leaving their homes in the afternoon and returning the next day.

Danbury is located about ten miles from Brewster, with direct railroad communications. The Companions frequently drive back and forth for business and pleasure, and can attend the Council and return the same evening.

There has always been a strong bond of union and friendship existing between the members of the fraternity in these places.

There is located at Brewster a Lodge and Chapter, and also a Commandery numbering about fifty members. I believe none of them have received the Council degrees, because there is no Council within a convenient distance, and there is now quite a large territory barren of results to Cryptic Masonry.

I believe if these Companions receive the Council degrees it will perhaps be the means of eventually opening up this territory to Cryptic Masonry in your Jurisdiction and establishing a new Council.

I would, therefore, respectfully ask for release of Jurisdiction should you think the request a proper one.

Fraternally yours,

JAMES H. WELSH,

M. P. G. M.

BUFFALO, Jan. 5, 1888.

James H. Welsh, Esq., M. I. G. Master, G. Council, State of Connecticut :

DEAR SIR AND ILL. COMPANION :

Your esteemed favor of the 29th ult. came duly to hand.

Your communication has received careful consideration. And I have come to the conclusion that the subject-matter of your communication is of so much importance, and that if your request was granted would establish a precedent of such grave importance, that I must decline to exercise my authority in the matter.

I would suggest to you that the matter remain in abeyance until the Grand Council of this State. assembles next September, when I will lay the subject before that Body for action.

Yours fraternally,

JOHN L. BROTHERS,

G. M.

GRAND COUNCIL OF R. & S. M. OF CONNECTICUT.

OFFICE OF THE M. P. GRAND MASTER, }
DANBURY, Conn., Jan. 11, 1888. }

John L. Brothers, Esq., M. Ill. Grand Master Grand Council of New York :

DEAR SIR AND M. ILL. COMPANION :

Your favor of January 5th was duly received and contents noted.

The great importance you attach to my communication leads me to believe that my statement of the circumstances connected with the case must have been misleading, or that I may have made a mistake in the wording of it, which has given you the impression that there was much more asked for than was intended.

My intention was merely to ask your consent for Wooster Council, of Danbury, to ballot for and confer the Cryptic Degrees upon Companions GEORGE W. DELEVAN and C. A. RUNDALL, provided that Peekskill Council should first give its consent. The request was not intended to refer to any other matter.

By the regulations of our Grand Council a subordinate Council cannot receive a candidate residing within the jurisdiction of another Grand Council without the consent of the Council in whose jurisdiction he resides, and also the consent of the Grand Master thereof. The officers of Wooster Council, not knowing the name or number of the Council at Peekskill, and not having the Recorder's address, and not having a copy of your proceedings at hand, I intended in my request to ask the consent of that Council through you, and at the same time to ask your consent, provided the consent of Peekskill Council was first obtained.

If my communication conveys any other impression it was not intended, and I shall esteem it a great favor if you will return it.

My statement of the circumstances and the influence these two Companions would have upon others applying for the degrees was merely an expression of opinion, what might follow. It was not expected that others would apply in this jurisdiction (but in your own), and that eventually it might lead to the estab-

lishment of a new Council in the vicinity of Brewster, and thus advance the interests of Cryptic Masonry in your Grand Jurisdiction.

As I now have the Recorder's address of the Council at Peekskill, I have directed Wooster Council to apply to that Council for permission to confer the degrees upon these two Companions, and if permission is granted will then forward to you for your endorsement. If the above Council shall refuse permission, of course that will end the matter.

Fraternally yours,

JAS. H. WELSH,
M.·P.·G.·M.·

81 Deer Hill Avenue, Danbury, Conn.

BUFFALO, Jan. 14, 1888.

Jas. H. Welsh, Esq., M.·P.·G.·M.·, Grand Council, Conn.

M.·P.· SIR AND COMPANION:

Your favor of the 11th is received and considered.

In reply I assure you that I fully understood your first communication, and that your explanation of the same now does not change the opinion I had the honor to communicate to you on the 5th inst.

Now, while my fraternal feelings of courtesy and good will prompts me to comply with your request, my sense of duty forbids that I should let any consideration whatever interfere with a due regard for the laws to which we all owe obedience.

I unhesitatingly express the opinion that Peekskill Council cannot give consent or waive their right of jurisdiction in this particular case.

A Council can only waive their right of jurisdiction to a Sister Council within the same jurisdiction (i. e. State), and cannot grant permission for material to go into another Grand Jurisdiction. That right rests with the Grand Council only.

And as I had the honor to state to you in my former communication, I think the request you make is a matter that the Grand Council of this State should decide upon at the next Annual Assembly.

Fraternally yours,

JOHN L. BROTHERS,
G.·M.·

I would state that this matter remained in abeyance for some time, and I intended to respectfully submit the same for such consideration and action as this Grand Body in their wisdom might deem proper. But after an interval of several months I received another communication, which closed the discussion, and renders further action I think unnecessary.

MOST PUISSANT GRAND COUNCIL, CRYPTIC MASONS, STATE
OF CONNECTICUT.

OFFICE OF M.·P.·GRAND MASTER, }
DANBURY, Conn., May 7, 1888. }

John L. Brothers, Esq., M.·I.·G.·M.·, Grand Council, New York :

M.·ILL.· SIR AND COMPANION :

Your favor of January 14th was duly received. On being informed that a Council in your Grand Jurisdiction could not waive jurisdiction in favor of a Council located in another State, I immediately ordered the petitions of Companions REYNOLDS and ALLERTON to be returned to them; as in our Grand Jurisdiction a Council cannot receive a petition from a candidate residing in

another State without first obtaining the consent of the Council in whose jurisdiction he resides, also the consent of the Grand Master. The petitions have therefore been returned to the petitioners.

Personally I have advised the Companions to present their petitions to Peekskill Council.

Fraternally yours,
 JAMES H. WELSH,
M. P. G. M.

Before leaving this subject, I desire to call attention to one fact that needs explanation, viz : In the first communication from M. I. Companion WELSH, he gives the names of the petitioners in question as Companions C. A. RUNDALL and GEO. W. DELEVAN, and in his last communication—just read—the M. I. Companion names them Companions REYNOLDS and ALLERTON.

In November last I received through the courtesy of our R. I. Grand Recorder a circular letter from the Grand Council of the State of Illinois, with a request that it be laid before this Grand Body for consideration and action.

CHICAGO, Ill, November 5, 1887.

ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANION :

At the late Assembly of the Grand Council R. & S. M. of the State of Illinois, held in Chicago, on the 26th day of October, 1887, the M. I. Grand Master in his address called attention to the General Grand Council as follows :

"Perhaps it would not be inappropriate at this time to call attention to the policy and attitude of the General Grand Council on this question (healing). As a large number of the Companions are probably unaware of the position assumed by this General Grand Body, I will make a few extracts from their printed proceedings. On page 61, proceedings of 1880, appears this question :

"3. What rule shall be adopted as to the status of those who receive the degrees in Chapters, as well as of those who have received the degrees in regular Councils, but have assisted in conferring the degrees in other bodies, or been present when they were thus conferred?"

It was answered by the adoption of the following on pages 62 and 63 :

Resolved, That all Royal Arch' Masons who have received the degrees of Royal and Select Master by the authority, direct or indirect, of Chapters or Grand Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, shall be and are regarded as clandestinely made Royal and Select Masters, who cannot, in any manner, be recognized or admitted into any lawful Council of Royal and Select Masters.

Resolved, That any Royal and Select Master made under lawful authority, who shall be present and aid or assist, directly or indirectly, in the conferring of the Royal and Select Masters' degrees outside of a regularly warranted Council of Royal and Select Masters, duly warranted by a Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, shall be guilty of unmasonic conduct, and is liable to expulsion from all the rights and privileges of Cryptic Masonry.

The following quotation from the edict or circular of the General Grand Master, page 23 of proceedings, G. G. C., 1883, may be of interest.

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.

Section 14 of the Constitution of the Gen. G. Council is as follows :

"SEC. 14. Every Council of Royal and Select Masters must have a charter or dispensation from the General Grand Council, or from some Grand Council working independently of any other branch of Masonry, and no Council shall be deemed legal without such dispensation or charter; and Masonic communication, both public and private, is hereby interdicted and forbidden between any Council or any member of it, and any Council or Assembly that may be so illegally formed, opened or holden without such charter, or any person assumed to be received or greeted therein."

The Grand Council of Illinois is Sovereign within its jurisdiction in the widest acceptation of the term, and is the peer of any Governing Body of Cryptic Masonry in the world. It has never ceased to exist, but has held its Grand Assemblies regularly. The work expressly delegated to the Chapter Councils by this Gr. Body was done in strict accordance with our ritual, and in 1882, when this Grand Council decided to resume active control of the degrees, it affirmed the legality and regularity of the work done by such Councils.

While I cheerfully admit the purity of the motives which actuated the distinguished Companions who inaugurated the movement which culminated in the organization of a Gen. Gr. Body, and freely concede that they were actuated by a zealous and exalted desire to advance the highest and best interests of Cryptic Masonry in the United States, yet it is plainly apparent that it has not achieved, nor is it likely to realize, the great expectations of its founders.

It meets triennially and is composed of nineteen Grand Councils. Four of the constituents of this Gen. Gr. Body have but three Subordinate Councils each, and the entire membership in these four Grand Jurisdictions is, as reported in 1886, but four hundred and seventeen. It is reported that one Grand Council is defunct. I have been informed that one of another of the Gen. G. Councils' constituents has been dead a long time, and the other two Councils are very inactive.

As it seems to be one of the results of the policy of the Gen. Gr. Council to impair or destroy the independence of the Grand Councils, by compelling them to heal such Companions as it chooses to declare irregular, I would suggest the propriety of this Grand Body taking the initiative to form among the twelve Grand Councils, not constituents of the Gen. Gr. Council, an association for the defense of the Sovereignty of Grand Councils in the United States. I believe the fairness and necessity of such action would commend itself even to some of the more moderate constituents of the Gen. Gr. Body.

The matter was referred to a special committee of five, who reported the accompanying Declaration and Protest, which was adopted by the Grand Council; and the undersigned committee were instructed to embody the same in circular form, and send it to the Governing Grand Bodies of the R. & S. Masters' degrees in the several States, and invite them to join us in said Declaration and Protest.

We cannot believe that the narrow action of the General Grand Council will be sustained by many of the Grand Bodies at the head of the Cryptic Rite in the United States, particularly at this time, when the Rite is at such low ebb, and so much labor and energy are necessary to keep it afloat.

One would think that all Companions R. & S. Masters would rather work for harmony and to build up the Rite, than for discord, that must surely destroy it, and would be willing to grant more liberty, and a greater breadth of action,

rather than to narrow down and circumscribe the platform on which these degrees rest. And we cannot believe that all of the constituents of the General Grand Council even will sustain the action of that Body, as witness the action of the Grand Council of Ohio, the largest as well as the most influential constituent of the General Grand Council.

"If a Companion made in Kentucky while the degrees were conferred in Chapters, or from Iowa or Mississippi, or from any other State, Territory, or District where that system is practiced, desires to visit our Council, we will admit him. Let the *healers* possess their souls and not take alarm at the above; we are sustained in our position by our Grand Council. Note the following from our Proceedings for 1884, pages 47 and 48.

"In reference to the following questions, submitted by Companion ACKLIN, viz: 'There is in this Grand Council Jurisdiction a Companion who received the Council degrees from a Chapter in Texas. He holds a dimit therefrom, and wishes to know what course to pursue to attain Council membership in Ohio.'

"The above was referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, and after mature deliberation the following report was *made and accepted*:

"Your Committee are of the opinion that whenever a Council is satisfied that a petitioner for membership has received the Council degrees in a legal manner, and holds a dimit showing him to have been in good standing *in the Body having jurisdiction over the Council degrees* of which he was last a member, and by ballot is found worthy, he is entitled to admission into a Council in Ohio.

"There is no reference to the healing process in the above action. The Companion was made in a legal manner as held in the State from which he hails, and though it may be held by the technical that he was irregular, we hold a different view (S. S. Williams)."

We believe the following from the pen of M. P. Comp. WM. WALLACE LEE, of Connecticut, to be the true definition of a lawfully made Mason:

"I understand that a lawful made Mason is one who is made, or receives the degrees of Masonry (in any branch) according to the law of the jurisdiction in which such Mason is made, or degrees received, and as our Masonry in this country is based upon the State's right doctrine (of which doctrine I am not a great admirer), it follows that no one outside of the State where such Mason is made has any authority in the matter, or any business to interfere and say what should or should not be done. In my experience as a lawmaker of Connecticut I never had any idea that any law we enacted had any force or power outside of Connecticut. In the State there is another Body, created for that purpose, to pass upon what the legislature has done, and say whether its enactments have been in accordance with the fundamental law of the State. In Masonry these powers, as well as the executive department, are combined in one body. Hence it follows, as it seems to me, that what such body enacts must be recognized as law, because there is no higher power to annul or set it aside. Then, of course, it follows that whoever is made a Mason in accordance with the enactments of that Supreme Body must be recognized as a lawfully made Mason, whether we like their code of laws or not."

We desire to induce the G. G. Council to recede from the narrow position it has assumed, so that we may all work and act in harmony, and the Rite in the United States be built up and assume the position we think it deserves. For we believe that without harmonious and energetic work the Cryptic Rite in these United States will soon be a thing of the past. In connection with our duties as presented by the resolution of appointment, we wish here to state the leading facts necessary to a knowledge of the situation of R. & S. Masters in Illinois.

Our Grand Council was organized in 1853 and duly recognized by all other Grand Councils in the U. S. We have continued to hold meetings annually from that time. Our authority to control the degrees in this State has never been questioned. In 1877 we made a treaty with the Grand Chapter to concede to them the right of conferring these degrees, in a Council of R. & S. Masters, to be opened by Companions already in possession of said degrees, under the care of the Subordinate Chapters that would undertake it. No change was made in the O. B. and all were duly bound to loyalty to the Subordinate Council and to any Grand Council under whose jurisdiction they may hereafter reside. The Grand Chapter accepted the trust, and annually reported to the Grand Council their doings. In the year 1882, by mutual action and in full harmony, this treaty was terminated and our Subordinates again entrusted with the work; many who had received the degrees under the operation of the treaty at once joined the Subordinates—a unanimous ballot was all that was required. Many more still occupy the position of unaffiliates, *but we hope to receive them all, if found worthy.* It will be seen from this that all that ever has, or ever will be, of Cryptic Masonry in Illinois is in our hands. No other Council can ever be formed here that would not at once be pronounced “clandestine.” Our Grand Chapter would at once forbid any of its members from joining any such Body. What Cryptic Masonry we have we hope and expect to hold. So far as the General Grand Council is concerned, we have no quarrel with it. For the present we shall undoubtedly be content with the management of our own affairs. We hope to occupy the same position relative to the General Grand Council as the Grand Chapters of Penn., Virginia and West Virginia now occupy in relation to the G. G. Chapter—recognized by other Grand Councils, as their Grand Chapters are by all other Grand Chapters and by the General Grand Chapter, notwithstanding that the first mentioned used to confer the Royal Arch in a Masters’ Lodge.

Will you please lay this matter before your Grand Council at its next Assembly, and make known the desire of the Grand Council R. & S. M. of Illinois, that it join with us, by resolution or otherwise, in the same?

JOHN M. PEARSON,	} Committee.
JOHN C. SMITH,	
G. W. WARVELLE,	
L. R. JEROME, M. D.,	
N. BOWDITCH,	

I respectfully suggest that the matter be referred to a Special Committee to report in writing at this Assembly or at the next Annual Assembly, as you may deem proper.

GRAND REPRESENTATIONS.

Under date of September 28, 1887, I transmitted a warrant to R. I. Companion RICHARD LAMBERT, of New Orleans, La., which duly commissioned him as our Grand Representative at the Grand Council of Louisiana. Companion LAMBERT is the Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of Louisiana.

WELFARE OF THE RITE.

In presenting to your attention the importance of ceaseless energy and untiring perseverance in guarding and fostering our Rite, I can use no better or more energetic words than those of M. I. Companion CHARLES K. FRANCIS, Past Grand Master of the Grand Council of Pennsylvania, in his Annual Address to that Grand Body on the 15th day of February last, in which he says: "The measure of success to be attained by Cryptic Masonry will be determined by the action of the members of the Subordinate Councils. Companions! assert and maintain for the degrees of the Council the position to which they are entitled as 'The Summit and Perfection of Ancient Craft Masonry.'"

Properly represent to worthy Royal Arch Masons the importance of acquiring the degrees of the Council, without which their Masonic education will remain incomplete. Elect competent officers, and support them faithfully. The greatest general cannot win victories unless sustained by brave and faithful soldiers. Even the hands of "Moses" could not give final triumph to the army of Israel until upheld by Aaron and Hur.

Attend regularly the stated Assemblies of your Councils, learn the work, and at every Assembly exemplify one of the degrees, even if there should be no candidate to initiate. "Growth is the fruit of work, but without work decay appears, and then comes death."

At this the eleventh hour, when nearly at the final of this communication, the gratifying intelligence comes to me—through the courtesy of the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence—that the State of Mississippi, the originator of the "Merger System," has disowned its own offspring, and has set about to reorganize its Grand Council, and it is to be hoped that it will become a constituent of the General Grand Council.

And now, Companions of the Grand Council, the hour draws nigh when I shall surrender into your hands the high authority with which I have been vested during my term of office as your Grand Master, to be, by you, transmitted to my successor.

The exalted honor that I have received from your hands, the unfailing courtesy and kindness that have been manifested towards me by the Officers and Representatives of this Grand Council, will ever be a proud and grateful remembrance.

I trust that my humble efforts to advance the Cryptic Rite, and to illustrate the beautiful teachings of our beloved Order, have met at least with some degree of success.

And thus ever may we labor in unity and upon the broad platform of equality and Brotherhood to advance our glorious Order; and by example and precept to soften our hearts to the influences of virtue and religion, that shall lead us to purer and holier lives.

Let us endeavor to teach Masons that they have one truth high above all others to maintain and propagate; one that has existed from the beginning of time and shall live throughout all eternity; a truth that is the foundation, the superstructure, the cap-stone; in short, the entirety of our beautiful structure, that there is but one God, and that our souls are immortal.

And when our labors here below are finished, and our noblest aspirations are fulfilled, may we rise to that higher and holier state of being, which is eternal, crowned and consecrated by him who is the Lord our God.

On motion, the Address was referred for sub-division and reference of its several parts to appropriate committees, to Companions GEO. M. OSGOODBY, W. H. WYMAN and JOHN B. HARRIS.

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, ETC.

Your Grand Treasurer presents the following as his Annual Report :

RECEIPTS.

From the Grand Recorder	\$1,138 00
Balance on hand, as per last report	155 12
	\$1,293 12

DISBURSEMENTS.

On Warrant No. 557—For copies of early Proceedings,	\$ 10 00	
“ “ “ 560—Grand Recorder, Salary and Expenses	261 25	
“ “ “ 561—Chairman of Committee, for Cor	50 00	
“ “ “ 562—Grand Master's Expenses	15 00	
“ “ “ 563—Grand Sentinel's Expenses, etc.	9 75	
“ “ “ 564—John F. Baldwin, for printing	49 25	
“ “ “ 565—Pay of Representatives	407 25	
“ “ “ 566—Library Committee	100 00	
“ “ “ 567—Rent of room and safe	20 00	
“ “ “ 568—Printing Proceedings for 1887	200 00	\$1,122 50

Balance on hand \$170 62

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN F. BALDWIN,
Grand Treasurer.

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

TO THE M. P. GRAND COUNCIL, ETC.

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

For dues (as acknowledged in printed Proceedings of Annual Assembly, held Sept. 6, 1887)	\$1,108 50
From Sing Sing Council No. 64, for two years dues	29 00
Attaching seal to one certificate	50
	\$1,188 00

I have entered in the Grand Council Registry to the present time the names of 4,245 Companions.

Among whom the following changes have occurred :

Suspended for non-payment of dues	933
Died	335
Dimitted	279
Expelled	12—1,559

Leaving a registered membership of 2,686 Companions.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. VAN VLIET,
Grand Recorder.

The Grand Master appointed the following committees :

	<i>On Credentials and Returns.</i>	
GEO. VAN VLIET,	C. S. HANKS,	H. McMICHAEL.
	<i>On Warrants and Dispensations.</i>	
WM. M. PECKHAM,	JOHN B. HARRIS,	A. OPPENHEIMER.
	<i>On Constitution and By-Laws.</i>	
GEO. M. OSGOODBY,	JOHN W. COBURN,	JOHN N. MACOMB, JR.
	<i>On Finance and Accounts.</i>	
ALEX. B. KING,	WM. H. WYMAN,	P. VERHOEVEN.
	<i>On Unfinished Business.</i>	
EDWARD A. STAHLBRODT,	JAMES M. THOIRS,	W. A. WICKS.
	<i>On Fraternal Dead.</i>	
G. FRED. WILTSIE,	JOHN J. MARTIN,	THOS. J. BISHOP.
	<i>On Grievances and Appeals.</i>	
A. W. FORCE,	EDWIN A. QUICK,	JOHN CUNNINGHAM.
	<i>Special Committee on Illinois Circular.</i>	
CHAS. W. BROWN,	GEO. MCGOWN,	E. M. L. EHLERS.

On motion the election of officers was made the special order for this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

On motion it was decided that when the Grand Council was called from labor, it be until 1.30 o'clock this afternoon.

On motion it was decided to continue this afternoon's session until all the business of the Grand Council is concluded.

On motion the following resolution was received and referred to the Committee on Finance :

Resolved, That Representatives of other Grand Councils present at the sessions of this Grand Council, and acting solely in such capacity, shall receive pay as other Representatives.

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

TO THE M. .P. . GRAND COUNCIL, ETC.

Your Special Committee would report and recommend : That so much of the address as relates to the Fraternal Dead be referred to the Committee on Fraternal Dead.

That so much as relates to the decisions of the Grand Master be referred to the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws.

That so much as relates to Dispensations to Councils be referred to the Committee on Warrants and Dispensations.

That so much as relates to the circular issued under date of Nov. 5, 1887, by a committee of, and authorized by, the Grand Council of the State of Illinois be referred to a Special Committee of Three, with instructions to report at this Assembly.

Fraternally submitted,

GEO. M. OSGOODBY, }
 W. H. WYMAN, } *Committee.*
 JOHN B. HARRIS, }

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

TO THE M. P. GRAND COUNCIL, ETC.

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.	P. Verhoeven	..... Proxy.
BROOKLYN	..... " 4.	John B. Harris	..... T. I. M.
ADELPHIC	..... " 7.	E. M. L. Ehlers	..... Proxy.
BLOSS	..... " 14.	Wm. M. Peckham	..... T. I. M.
BRUCE	..... " 15.	Charles N. Palmer "
SOUTHERN TIER	..... " 16.	Conrad Wehnes "
BUFFALO	..... " 17.	A. Oppenheimer	..... Proxy.
DORIC	..... " 19.	Edward A. Stahlbrodt	..... T. I. M.
KEYSTONE	..... " 20.	H. McMichael	..... P. C. of W.
DE WITT CLINTON	..... " 22.	Thomas J. Bishop	..... T. I. M.
ONTARIO	..... " 23.	John N. Macomb, Jr.	..... Proxy.
DUNKIRK	..... " 25.	Wm. H. Wyman "
PALMYRA	..... " 26.	Geo. McGown "
UTICA	..... " 28.	James M. Thoires	..... T. I. M.
OLEAN	..... " 33.	C. S. Hanks	..... Proxy.
CORNING	..... " 53.	W. A. Wicks "
PEEKSKILL	..... " 55.	David Griffin	..... T. I. M.
ITHACA	..... " 68.	A. W. Force	..... Proxy.
NEPPERHAN	..... " 70.	Edwin A. Quick "
ALPH-OMEGA	..... " 71.	John Cunningham "

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. VAN VLIET,	} Committee.
C. S. HANKS,	
H. McMICHAEL,	

M. : P. : Geo. M. Osgoodby, from the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, presented the report of said committee as follows, which was, on motion, received and ordered printed in the Proceedings :

To the Most Puissant Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of New York :

Your Committee on Correspondence would once more present a report to you of their review of the Proceedings¹ of our Sister Grand Bodies as we have been able to gather in by voluntary contribution, and by persistent application therefor. We tried to speak as plainly as the exigency required last year in reference to the forgetfulness, shall we term it, of those who, having the care of Proceedings, still neglect to send them until the last moment arrives, and then only upon a personal solicitation of the reviewer ; but, alas, our "say" did but little good, as this year we have had to write to *eighteen* different bodies for copies of Proceedings, nearly all responded, and we have not had to borrow, beg, or take without leave from those who had been more fortunate as in former years, and to those who have not, we say, if you find that we have what you want, take it and welcome. If any jurisdiction is not reported this year, charge it to the fact that we have not heard from you at all, although we have *written each of you twice* in the month preceding an Assembly for your Proceedings, or for written information, and *no* response. We congratulate ourselves, however, that you will find but few lacking, and, possibly none, as they may come to hand before the printer cries "copy."

With this brief introduction, we will proceed with the duty of the hour.

We present for your examination a review of the proceedings of the following jurisdictions, principally for one year each, a few for several years :

Alabama,	Iowa,	New Jersey,
Arkansas,	Kentucky,	North Carolina,
California,	Louisiana,	Ohio,
Canada,	Maine,	Oregon,
Connecticut,	Maryland,	Pennsylvania,
England & Wales,	Massachusetts,	Rhode Island,
Florida,	Michigan,	South Carolina,
Georgia,	Mississippi,	Tennessee,
Illinois,	Missouri,	Vermont,
Indiana,	Minnesota,	Wisconsin,

The General Grand Council.

ALABAMA—1888.

We have no news of any kind from this former Grand Council by which we can give any review of its position to-day. We open under the head of "Alabama," from force of habit. We regret its untimely decease, and regret

further that its decease has been followed by the decease of our old friend and companion, R. I. DANIEL SAYRE, who for so many years has been in correspondence with us as the Grand Recorder of that Body in its years of life and usefulness. We mourn a friend departed. He died April 8, 1888. His name has been as familiar as "household words" with his Masonic brethren for many years past, in which he has been the Grand Secretary of the Bodies of that jurisdiction, and his fraternal correspondence has endeared his memory to hosts of friends and companions. His life was blameless, and he has now gone to live in that noontide of bliss which remains for the just, the pure, the true Mason. May his memory be treasured by all as that of one whose life is worthy of emulation. He was a most devoted friend of the General Grand Council, and in the last letter which we received from him, expressed his deep sorrow that the Grand Council of his State had given up to the pressure of untoward circumstances. That it may soon revive is our earnest wish.

ARKANSAS—1887.

The Twenty-fifth Assembly was held at Little Rock, November 24th. M. I. GEORGE KIMBALL, G. M., presiding; thirteen Councils represented (a gain of six over the representation of 1886), together with a very full representation from Sister Grand Councils, including our own representative, Companion LOGAN H. ROOTS.

The address of the Grand Master is brief, but hews close to the line. He recommended that the provision of their Constitution, which provided for the election of an officer whose title should be "Grand Illustrious Master," should be stricken out so as to harmonize their law with that of other jurisdictions, leaving but four jurisdictions with this officer in existence.

The degree of S. E. Master was also recommended to be adopted, leaving it optional with subordinate Councils whether to confer or not. These recommendations approved and Constitution amended.

A resolution was adopted as follows:

"That all candidates applying to receive the degrees of Royal and Select Masters in the Grand Council shall agree to apply for membership in some subordinate Council in this jurisdiction, within three months, or join in an application with other members for formation of a new Council."

Four Companions of Royal Arch Chapters presented petitions, which being accepted, they were elected and the degrees of R. and S. Masters conferred upon them.

The G. M. was requested to ascertain what Councils were existing, desirous of reorganizing, and to take necessary steps to set them at work; also, to heal all such as received the degrees in Councils appurtenant to Chapters, who, when healed, could apply for affiliation with such Councils as they might select; also, to revoke the Charters of all Councils that do not reorganize, go to work and comply with the Constitution in making returns and paying dues, but that

Councils in arrears at the consolidation, whose Charters are not forfeited or revoked, be remitted upon making returns and paying dues for ensuing year.

This action of the Body implies that they mean business, but a still more important resolution was adopted, which make assurance doubly sure that this Grand Council is not to be the last in the line of Cryptic Workers in the confederation of State Bodies for mutual benefit and advancement of the Rite. This action adds a new impetus to the work of the confederation, and encourages us to persevere to the final triumph of regular Cryptic Masonry. It is as follows :

"That the Grand Council of Arkansas ratifies and accepts the Constitution of the General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the United States, and becomes a component portion thereof from November 25, 1886."

All hail, Companions of Arkansas ! We congratulate you, one and all, and we congratulate the Companions of the General Grand Council upon this addition to their ranks.

The Grand Master was re-elected. Address, Dardanelle, and Companion JAMES A. HENRY, Little Rock, re-elected G. . R. . Next Assembly at date to be fixed by G. . M. . No report on Correspondence.

Companion GRANT of Kentucky, noting that the late G. . M. . of Arkansas, in his address mentioned the fact that candidates rush heedlessly by the Council to get into the Commandery, strikes his flint upon the steel, and the fire, this time, hits the Commandery. See ?

"Yes, and to induce them to rush into the Council we must make it rival the *nuchee marche* class. How? That is the question."

Companion NOBLE of Michigan, reviewing the action of this jurisdiction relative to receiving petitions, electing candidates and conferring degrees, &c., says that he deems it rather a questionable proceeding under Masonic law generally, and notes that such is not the law in his jurisdiction. That may be, and still it is one of those matters which are not governed by any universal law. Each jurisdiction must regulate these matters of the minutia of their work in their own way. It is only when the underlying principles of the entire Masonic Institution are called into question that the universal law applies. We can see where the practice of our Arkansas Companions may work out good to them as well as to others in the same situation. Companion WILLIAMS, of Ohio, in his review, we see, is of the same way of thought. With us in New York, we do not think that the practice of receiving petitions, electing candidates and conferring degrees in the Grand Council would tend to the advantage of the Rite. Circumstances alter cases frequently, and so it may be in this instance. We think the better way to be, to elect in subordinate Council and let the G. . Body confer the degrees by request of the subordinate, as suggested by Companion BALDWIN, of Oregon.

No report on Correspondence. Will you give us one? "Let your light so shine," &c.

CALIFORNIA—1888.

The Twenty-eighth Assembly was held at San Francisco, April 16th. M. I. CHARLES LORD FIELD, G. M., presiding; six Councils represented. The representative of New York, Companion CHARLES LORD FIELD, was present.

The address of the G. M. is full of business. After reciting his official acts for the year, he proceeds with matters of general interest, to which we will briefly refer.

One decision made upon question submitted to him, as follows:

"A Companion who received the degrees of R. and S. Master in a Royal Arch Chapter in the State of Illinois, and afterwards joined a Council in the same State on a certificate from the Chapter, asks if he would be entitled to visit a Council in this State. I replied that if he was now a member, in good standing, of a legally constituted Council of R. and S. Masters, in the State of Illinois, they having a Grand Council owing allegiance to the General Grand Council of the United States, were competent judges of the qualifications of their own members, and, in my opinion, he was entitled to all the rights and privileges accorded to visitors in any Council in this State."

We agree with this decision, but, without the provision incorporated in it, to the effect, that the Grand Council of Illinois owes allegiance to the General Grand Council of the United States, which is not the case in fact. Illinois is an independent Grand Council, owing allegiance only to the universal Cryptic law. It is, however, the judge of the qualifications of its own members, and as it has reorganized its Grand Council, adopted resolutions for the "healing" of those who received the degrees under "Chapter" administration, and is working right along as an independent Grand Council, free from Chapter domination, it is regular in all respects as far as we with our light can determine, and therefore we decide that its present members are regular, not clandestine, and are entitled to all the privileges to which other regular Companions of the Crypt are entitled.

A recommendation was made that in the titles of the officers a change from "Puissant" to "Illustrious" be made, and that the office of Grand Master be abolished, so as to correspond with the large majority of Sister Grand Councils. All of which was approved, and a committee to recommend these and other general amendments to their Constitution was appointed. The Rite seems to be prospering in this jurisdiction, and it will continue to so advance with such Companions leading as this jurisdiction has in its charge.

There is a very fine Correspondence Report from Companion CASWELL, of eighteen Grand Councils, amongst which we find New York has a goodly portion, and from our report, many quotations are made with approval. We, at the risk of being called somewhat egotistical, will quote the opinion of our Companion in reference to our report of last year:

"An excellent report on Correspondence was submitted by Companion GEORGE M. OSGOODBY, one of the ablest and most genial writers in the reportorial guild. He reviews the Proceedings of twenty-six Grand Councils in a thorough and fraternal manner, including those of California for 1887. It is the champion report of the season, and the reader is well repaid for the time spent in its perusal."

Our remarks relative to Illinois and Kentucky are given as well as our opening and closing of such report for 1887, with expressions of approval.

Companion LEE, in his review, thinks that there is in this jurisdiction "a large field for missionary work for Cryptic Masonry." We agree with him. CHARLES LORD FIELD *is* a large field (in the way of ability and zeal) for missionary work, and he appears to do it well with the co-operation of the other able and industrious workers, who fear nothing except failure, and don't seem to fear that much, judging from their past. What *field* will Companion LEE now cultivate?

JAMES BESTOR MERRITT, G. .M. ., Oakland; THOMAS H. CASWELL, G. .Rec. ., San Francisco. Next Assembly at latter place, April 15, 1889.

CANADA—1887.

The Seventeenth Assembly was held July 12th, at Brockville, Ont. M. .I. . E. H. RAYMOUR, G. .M. ., presiding, with the representatives of eight Councils present, together with the representatives of sister Grand Councils, amongst whom was our own honored Representative, M. .I. . DANIEL SPRY.

The address of the G. .M. . exhibits workmanship of the first-class order. He has personally visited nearly every Council in his jurisdiction, and in giving a history of his official labors, he says:

"My labors the past year have been very arduous, and almost of that character that disheartens the most sanguine, as you will all remember that in my address to this Grand Body last year, I plainly pointed out the cloud under which we were laboring, and that nothing short of the most indefatigable efforts and hard work would bring the Cryptic Rite of Canada to a living issue; that it required something more than passiveness to interest the Companions and get a little enthusiasm into the Order from various causes, and while I have been successful far beyond my expectations, there is much to be done before the work is completed—the old lethargy eradicated, new life blood transfused into the Masonic heart to cause it to beat with strength and vigor, and to give life and a movement to the arteries that disseminate and spread the true principles of our beloved Order to the world."

The dormant Councils seem to be on the revival, and there appears to be a general activity in the Rite that bids fair to advance the Order in this great jurisdiction. While we get no Correspondence Report from it, the G. .M. . appreciates the reports which he gets from this side the border, and we trust that our Companions "over there" will give us a like return, in one of their own. The Companions of this jurisdiction are "enthused" by their G. .M. . and are taking hold well to build up and advance. The G. .M. . and G. .Rec. . J. ROSS ROBERTSON, of Toronto, was re-elected.

CANADA—1888.

The Eighteenth Assembly was held at Toronto, July 17th. M. .I. . E. H. RAYMOUR, G. .M. ., presiding, with representatives of all of its subordinates and Grand Representatives from other jurisdictions, including Companion DANIEL SPRY from New York.

The address of the G. .M. . is principally local in character, and he is the only one in the entire list of Grand Masters who affords our Companions of Illinois any real comfort in their position as to status of "Chapter-Council" members. This we are quite confident he would not have done had he understood the facts of the case. Not being conversant with the facts preceding the present time, when the contest over such Companions was going on, we cannot wonder so

much at the position he takes, but, with the comments under the different heads which we give and the undisputable facts of history there set forth, he would hesitate long, we think, before he would stand upon the same platform with them. He pits himself against *every* Grand Council in the United States that did not go into the merging process, as well as the General Grand Council of the United States. We recommend that a knowledge of the facts be obtained hereafter before passing upon such important matters. A judgment made up upon hearing one side of a story, and from an interested party at that, should not be considered as very valuable.

The Rite is in good condition in Canada and progressing. No report on Correspondence. Officers, Companions PHILIP J. SLATTER, G. M., Toronto; J. ROSS ROBERTSON, G. M., and G. Rec., Toronto, Next Assembly in July, 1889, at Owens Sound.

CONNECTICUT—1888.

The Seventieth Assembly was held at Hartford, May 7th. M. I. JAMES H. WELSH, G. M., presiding, with the representatives of nineteen Councils present, with the usual attendance of Grand Representatives, amongst whose names that of our Representative, Companion JAMES L. GOULD, does *not* appear.

The address of the G. M. was of local interest principally. A Special Assembly was opened in the forenoon of this day, at which the work was exemplified in each degree, including that of S. E. Master.

A *fine* of ten dollars was imposed on Cushing Council No. 4, of New London, for its not being represented at this Assembly. This seems to us to be pushing the mourners somewhat. A Council that cannot ordinarily be represented at the Grand Assembly is usually a "mourner," and to fine it for non-attendance is good, exceedingly good. This practice might be a bonanza in some jurisdictions, occasionally in our own, as it would bring in the shekels, and prevent Councils from lying down to get ready to give up the ghost, for fear that they might be fined while getting into their casket, their bodies seized and put up at auction to the highest bidder before burial.

The business was of a routine character. The Correspondence Report was from that old veteran of the quill, WILLIAM WALLACE LEE, who advertises to "do up all that come into his net" in fine style, and he does it. He reviews twenty-one jurisdictions, including our own, in a genial and attractive manner, making copious extracts from some, giving our report on Alabama in lieu of having one at hand. Throughout his report he cites considerable Scripture for the benefit of his brethren. Under New York, he says:

"This is one of the largest Grand Councils in the United States, and amid the discouragements of the past ten years has held its own to a degree equalled by only a few, if any, in the country. It has sometimes seemed to me that in their zeal for the Rite, they have not taken into account the difficulties and conditions under which some other Grand Councils have labored to sustain themselves, and made due allowance in their criticisms upon the action of other bodies. The zeal of OSGOODBY has been contagious, and I find no jurisdiction that seems to be possessed of more enthusiasm. There are over twenty Councils, and all seem to be doing fairly well. Correspondence report is, of course, * * * * * championing the General Grand Council with freedom, fervency and zeal, but in a kindly and fraternal spirit," etc., etc.

His compliments to us come from an offer which we once made to him (to induce him to stay over with us for a few days) to kill our dog for a feast, but he didn't bite at it—at the dog, we mean. Poor Tray escaped from this reporter, anyway.

M.·I.·JOHN P. WEIR, of Meriden, elected G.·M.· and R.·I.·JOSEPH K. WHEELER, Hartford, G.·Rec.· Next Assembly May 6, 1889.

ENGLAND AND WALES—1888.

The Annual Assembly of this Grand Council, which includes the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown (North America excepted), was held at Masonic Hall, 8a. Red Lion Square, London, February 2d. M.·I.·REV. CANON PORTAL, M.A., G.·M.·, presiding, with a full corps of officers present. Two new Councils instituted, one in New Zealand, and one in Canterbury. There are fourteen Councils under jurisdiction of this Body.

After the usual routine of business, which varies from the order of our Grand Councils in America, the Assembly closed and the Companions adjourned to a banquet, which was held at Freemasons Tavern, a good place—we have been there.

G.·M.·REV. CANON PORTAL, G.·Rec.·, C. FITZGERALD MATIER, 8a. Red Lion Square, London, W. C. The date of the next Assembly is not given. The Proceedings of this Grand Council are now printed regularly, and we trust that our Companions of this Grand Body, in which we take considerable pride, will at an early day commence giving us a Report on Correspondence, which will not only develop the Body, but add to its attractions to those not now within its Crypt, as well as to give great pleasure to their Companions on this side of the great waters. The writer's reminiscences of the fraternal greetings of which he was the recipient at the hands of Companions of this Grand Council in years past, on different occasions, are still lively, and will not soon pass away.

FLORIDA—1888.

There has been no Assembly of the Grand Council of this jurisdiction since 1884. In this Assembly the Body abolished the rule requiring the subordinates to pay annual dues, which were not sufficient in amount to defray expenses of printing the Proceedings, and those Companions who took an interest in the welfare of the Rite had to "chip in," for expenses, besides paying their own bills going to, at, and returning from the Assembly. Companion CARLOVITZ, who kindly gives us our information, says that they got tired of the difficulties of collecting funds, and so shut down on the money question altogether, and that the result is now felt, and he is waiting, "Micawber like," for something to turn up. There is, he writes, a slow movement in the eastern part of the State towards a revival. One Council, dead for many years, in Jacksonville, is trying to awaken, from its slumbers, with fair prospects of success. A Companion from "Old Kentuck" is also trying to revive the Rite in another part of eastern Florida, with like prospects.

Companion CARLOVITZ winds up his pleasant letter as follows :

"Now, dear Companion the Grand Council of Florida is not dead nor dying ; we are only taking a rest to look up the numbers of our sleeping Companions under the Orange Groves, the 'Rip Van Winkles,' who have been overcome by the ozone of the orange blossoms, and are not sufficiently awake to know that they have lost all recollection that a Grand Council ever existed here, and perhaps before they really awake, will try to have one of their own over in the eastern part of the State, with headquarters at Jacksonville. Our Grand Council is anxious that these 'Rip Van Winkles' come to life and unite in fraternal bonds with it. The future may have something good in store for us yet."

Florida has sent out too many bright things to now lie down and give up the ghost. Awake ! Arouse ! Thou art *not* condemned to die—as yet.

GEORGIA—1888.

This Grand Body held its Assembly April 21st, at Macon. M. I. CHARLES F. LEWIS, G. M., presiding, with the representatives of ten Councils and representatives from sister Grand Councils present, not including our own Representative, Companion ANSELM STERNE, who has removed to Alabama.

The address of the G. M. we are advised, was very able and interesting. The business transacted was purely local.

The Rite is steadily advancing, and the prospects of its future look bright and encouraging. On account of the severe and protracted illness of Companion WOLIHIN, from which he is still confined, the Proceedings have not yet reached the hands of the printer. They will be published as soon as he is able to prepare the manuscript therefor.

We are indebted to Companion WOLIHIN for our information, particularly so, as he was physically unable to write, and had to dictate his letter to an amanuensis. We hope to hear soon of his perfect recovery and to meet him, as he invites us to, next year at the Triennial on Georgia's soil.

Officers—Companion C. F. LEWIS, G. M., Augusta ; Companion A. M. WOLIHIN, G. Rec., Macon. Next Assembly at Atlanta, last Wednesday of April, 1889.

ILLINOIS—1887.

The Thirty-fifth Assembly was held at Chicago, October 26th, M. I. NATHANIEL BOWDITCH, G. M., presiding, with representatives of thirty-three Councils present, and Grand Representatives from seventeen States, New York's Representative, Companion JAMES DOUGLASS, not being present.

The address of the G. M. gives a touching eulogy to the memory of late Companion THEODORE T. GURNEY, whose name and official acts have made his name familiar in every Jurisdiction. He was born in Ogdensburg, N. Y., Sept. 4, 1820, and died in Chicago, Sept. 9, 1886. In addition to filling the highest Masonic offices in the gift of his brethren, he filled for several years the position of Chairman of Correspondence Committee of the Grand Council with distinguished ability. We regret his departure, but his is now the enviable rest of the faithful Mason.

The proposition which was deferred from the last Assembly as to an amendment of By-Laws, so as to allow the Cryptic degrees to be conferred imme-

diately after that of Master Mason, was disapproved in as strong language as the G. M. could bring to his aid, and was disapproved by the Body, but the committee in charge of it thought "that the proposed change *should be fraternally discussed* by the Body," which was also approved by it. There seems to be an element in the Body that either has but little regard for the law of Cryptic Masonry, or are ignorant thereof. Fraternally discuss a change in the organic law, which *no* Body can change. Some decisions are reported by the G. M. of importance, *i. e.*

"Can a Council confer the Select Master's degree, free of charge, upon Companions who received the R. M. degree in a Chapter?"

Decision :

That it could *not* be done.

"Is it necessary that R. and S. Masters, who received the degrees in a Chapter-Council in Illinois, be first formally healed before they are eligible for affiliation in a subordinate Council?"

Decision :

"No Council has the right to impose such a requirement ; that the ceremony of 'healing' was purely optional with each Companion."

The following statement of the Grand Master establishes that the "Circular," hereinafter set forth, was issued without any reason whatever therefor.

"I have no information, personally or officially, that any Royal and Select Master who received the degrees in a Chapter-Council in this State under the authority delegated to it by the Grand Council of Illinois has ever been denied admission to a Council, or refused recognition in consequence of that fact in any of the Grand Jurisdictions of the world."

He also states,

"That the 'formality of healing' is *apparently* no longer necessary or desirable."

Better read Companion WILLIAMS, of Ohio, in his comments on this question, and right here we will go into an examination of this question.

Under other jurisdictions we have already had occasion to notice a circular issued by the Grand Master of this Body bearing date Nov. 5, 1887, and in connection with our review of the proceedings of Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Vermont, etc., have commented upon the subject matter thereof. As we have already said, we sincerely regret that this circular was issued. We think it was not called for under the present condition of the rite, and that its only tendency was to create a dissension among those who were in harmony, and *who will still remain so*. In connection with this we ask that our other reviews under the jurisdictions named be also read as a part hereof.

The circular is given at length, accompanying the address of Grand Master BROTHERS in these Proceedings. It is unnecessary to repeat it here.

The difficulty with our Companions of Illinois is simply that they have created "a man of straw" to knock down, as far as the *present* condition of the Rite is concerned in their jurisdiction.

The present standing of this Grand Council, as the governing power, having the sole control of the degrees of Cryptic Masonry in the State of Illinois, is, we believe, conceded by all other Grand Bodies of the Rite, including in the number the General Grand Council of the United States. If the Grand Council of

Illinois was still assuming to act as principal, delegating authority to an agent, *i. e.*, the Grand Chapter of Illinois, to work the degrees in Councils "appurtenant" to Chapters, then the case would be very different, and we could then see why it should, or might, take occasion to issue such a manifesto, for if that were the present condition in Illinois, the Section 14 of the Constitution of the General Grand Council, together with its edicts and written law as laid down upon pages 61, 62, and 63 of its Proceedings of 1880, and upon page 23 of 1883, and which are set forth at length in the circular above given, would be applicable, and, working in full force against the Chapter, made R. and S. Masters of Illinois, and they would under such law be *excluded from recognition*. Having stated our position, we now turn to consider the present status of the Grand Council of Illinois.

The history of this Body, as far as their circular gives, as it says, "the leading facts necessary to a knowledge of the situation of R. and S. Masters in Illinois," is not a full and ingenuous statement. It leaves off the history at the most important and material point for the proper and perfect understanding of the question under discussion, which we will state briefly. After stating the action in 1882, when the Grand Council was rehabilitated by the action of the Grand Chapter and those acting in behalf of the dormant or suspended Grand Council, other important action was taken by the latter Body which should have been considered before the circular spoken of was issued, and, if considered, should have effected the abandonment of the question now before us. We refer to the action of this Grand Body had subsequent to the reorganization or resumption of control over Cryptic Masonry in that jurisdiction after the act of 1882, referred to "in the leading facts" of the circular. And to get a good knowledge and understanding of the position of the Rite in that State at that date, we commend the careful reading of the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of that State, held Oct. 27, 1881, touching the subject; *i. e.*, the resolution appointing the committee of five by the Grand Chapter to confer with like committee from the Grand Council as to the best disposition to be made of the Council degrees; the letter to the Grand High Priest of Oct. 1, 1881, of R. . E. . Companion WADDLE, Chairman of Committee on Jurisprudence, dated Oct. 1, 1881, to M. . I. . Grand Master O'NEIL, propounding five interrogations to him on the subject, together with the answer of Companion O'NEIL, dated Oct. 19, 1881. The two last-mentioned letters, though brief, speak volumes upon the whole transaction between the Grand Chapter and Grand Council, and with the action of the Grand Council contained in Grand Chapter Proceedings of Oct. 25, 1882, which were preliminary to the resumption by the Grand Council, brings the history down to Oct. 25, 1882. The abrogation of the arrangement between the two Grand Bodies was not completed at this Assembly, but left to take effect at some future day when an edict should be issued by the M. . E. . High Priest, returning to the Grand Council the authority over these degrees theretofore conferred upon the Grand Chapter by it, and the issuing of an edict by the Grand Master, directing

the subordinate Councils of the State to resume work, etc. These edicts were thereafter issued, and thereupon by the terms of the resolution providing, all Companions who had received the R. and S. Master degrees were "declared regular non-affiliated Royal and Select Masters, entitled to all the rights and benefits of such," and by another resolution, "Chapter-Councils" that had conferred the degrees were requested "to certify over the seal of the Chapter" such fact, such certificate to "be considered equivalent to a demit and to be so accepted by all Councils of this Grand Jurisdiction." The next important action was had at the Assembly held Oct. 24, 1883, and now comes the material history left untold by the circular. The address by Grand Master O'NEIL gives a full and interesting history of the dealings between the Grand Council and the Grand Chapter, necessary to be read for the understanding of the question under discussion. Among the most important acts of this Grand Master during his official year reported by him to the Body and adopted and approved by it, was the following:

"Shortly after issuing the dispensation for the organization of Palestine Council at Chicago, I was informed that some of the officers mentioned in the dispensation had received the degrees of "Royal and Select Masters in a Council in connection with a Chapter, and that the question might "not be raised as to the legality of their work, I called the officers and members of the new Council together and healed them in due form."

Grand Master O'NEIL also rendered a decision which bears upon this subject, and which was approved and adopted by the Body as follows:

"A Companion Royal Arch Mason, who has been duly elected in a regular Council of Royal and Select Masters, but did not receive the degrees before the consolidation of the Council degrees with the Chapter in 1887, cannot be a member of the Council that elected him to receive the degrees until the ballot again be spread for membership and the applicant be duly declared "elected."

At this Assembly the whole question arising from the "Matter of the mode and manner in which the Companions made in Chapter-Councils should be healed, and if any further legislation was necessary upon the subject," was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, with instructions to report to the Grand Master as soon as possible.

We pass to the Assembly, held October 29, 1884, at which time the report of this committee was adopted and approved by it after it had been stated by the Grand Master as follows:

"At the last Annual Assembly the inquiry as to the proper mode, and in whom the authority to heal was vested, was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence; after due consideration the Committee reported their decision to me * * * * * I accordingly issued the following order, and at its conclusion promulgated the decision of the committee relative to the power and mode of healing: as

"1st. The power of healing is vested with Grand Council.
 "2nd. The Grand Puissant may issue his proxy to a present or past Thrice Illustrious, to heal "by adding the O.B. of fealty to the Grand Council. On application of Councils under "proper circumstances, I will issue my proxy to a present or past Thrice Illustrious to heal such "as may need or desire it."

This edict was issued January 23, 1884, and in accordance therewith the Grand Master reported that he had duly issued proxies to several Thrice Illustrious Masters "to heal * * * such Companions as may need or desire it," accompanied by instructions to each proxy "to make due return to the Grand Recorder of the action had thereunder."

The Body adopted and approved of this report of their Committee on Jurisprudence, and established it in effect as the law of that Jurisdiction a second time by adoption of a report of its Committee on Doings of Grand Officers, which recommended :

"That the appointment of 'Proxies to heal,' receive the approbation of the Grand Body."

At this Assembly, subsequent to the last quoted action, a new Constitution for the Body and By-laws for Subordinate Councils was adopted for the future government of the Rite in Illinois. Nowhere in this instrument is there a provision which can be construed into an endorsement or recognition of the regularity of Companions receiving Council degrees in a "Chapter-Council."

It is not to be supposed for an instant that the action of the Grand Chapter of Illinois, and of those representing the dormant or suspended Grand Council and of the Grand Council after it resumed authority over the Rite in 1881, 1882, 1883, and 1884, which we have referred to, was had by either Body or its members without a full knowledge and understanding of every act of the convention of 1883, at Detroit, which culminated in the provisional organization of the General Grand Council, together with the constitution adopted then, including section 14 thereof, which would naturally be the one of all others in which the Companions of Illinois would be interested. In fact, the very action of the Grand Council of Illinois relative to the "healing" was taken in consequence of such section, and of the adoption of a similar law by *every other* Independent Grand Council in existence, and it must not be lost sight of that every provision of the Constitution of the General Grand Council, and of the law as laid down upon pages 61, 62, and 63 of its Proceedings of 1880, referred to in this circular of Nov. 5, 1887, had been in existence for seven years before this circular was issued, and the edict of General Grand Master DRUMMOND, referred to by this circular as upon page 23 of Proceedings of this Body for 1883, had been known for over four years by our Illinois Companions. The several acts of the Grand Council of Illinois to heal those Companions receiving the Cryptic degrees in "Chapter-Councils" was to meet this law, universally adopted and recognized by every governing Body of the Rite which had kept aloof from Chapter complications.

To establish this proposition beyond question we have only to refer to the edict issued by the Grand Master, H. E. HUSTON, attested by the Grand Recorder under authority of the Grand Council of Illinois, dated Nov. 17, 1884, in the course of which these words were used :

"Companions who received the degrees in Chapters of this State up to the first day of January, 1883, stand as non-affiliates until they unite with regularly organized Councils. As far as this jurisdiction is concerned, such Companions are in good standing to all intents and purposes as if they had received their degrees in Councils, *but in some other jurisdictions they will not be recognized until lawfully healed.* It is therefore desirable that *such Companions should be healed without delay,* and on application I will issue my proxy to any present or past Thrice Illustrious Master to heal such as are in need of it in their respective Councils."

Now for a little more history upon this subject. We quote from the report on Correspondence of our late Companion GURNEY, of Illinois, presented to his Grand Body at the Assembly of October, 1884. In giving a brief synopsis of

the events that culminated in the organization of the General Grand Council, he recites that:

"A contest had existed between the Capitular Bodies of some States touching the control and propagation of the degree."

That in 1848 Companion MACKAY suggested that a Convention be held to adjust matters, etc. Nothing came of it then. In June, 1872, at the request of the Grand Council of Maine a Convention was called by Companion DRUMMOND to meet in New York. Fourteen Grand Councils were represented, including Illinois. At this convention this preamble and resolution were adopted:

"Whereas, In some jurisdictions the question has been mooted of surrendering the Cryptic degrees to the Chapters, and,

"Whereas, There are many Companions who have received the degrees in Chapters or from Sovereign Inspectors of the A. and A. Rite; therefore,

"Resolved, That it is the sense of this Convention that the Cryptic degrees be under the exclusive jurisdiction of Grand Councils, and that no one should be recognized as a Companion of this Rite who has not received the degrees in a lawfully constituted Council or by authority of the Supreme Council of the A. and A. Rite previous to this date, or been lawfully healed."

After some other work this Convention adjourned to June 16, 1873, which was held at such date, Illinois being represented by its M. I., Grand Master LONNBERRY, and on his motion the following was adopted:

"That in the judgment of this Convention it is expedient and proper to form a General Grand Council of the United States."

After considerable business relative to the Rite was transacted the committee adjourned to meet at as was voted:

"New Orleans on the Monday before the first Tuesday of December, 1874, for the purpose of forming a General Grand Council for the United States, and that the representatives be requested to bring this subject before their several Grand Councils for their action."

The committee accordingly met at New Orleans, Nov. 30, 1874. Illinois was represented with seventeen other Grand Councils. Among other matters acted upon at this Assembly, the following resolution was *unanimously* adopted:

"That a committee of five be appointed to prepare a Provisional Constitution for the organization of the General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the United States of America, which shall be submitted to the several State Grand Bodies for either their adoption or their rejection."

The committee was appointed, and the Convention adjourned to meet at Buffalo on Aug. 20, 1887, prior to which date the project of merging the Cryptic with the Capitular had been inaugurated by Mississippi and adopted by several jurisdictions under what was generally termed the "Mississippi plan."

At the Convention held at Buffalo, August 20, 1887, but little business was done. The standing of the Rite as an independent branch of Masonry was in jeopardy, and the main question before the Convention was this merging project, which was brought before it by a resolution offered by Companion HOWRY, of Mississippi, *i. e.*

"That it is the sense of the Convention that if the General Grand Chapter of the United States shall sanction the conferring of the Council degrees by the Chapters, wherever the Grand Council of any State is willing to concede this right, and the Grand Chapter of such State shall accept the same, then this action shall meet our approval."

This resolution was seconded as the original minutes, and the printed Proceedings of the Convention show, by Companion LEE, of Connecticut, and on being

put to vote was rejected by 12 to 6, although Companion GURNEY's report, above referred to, stated its "adoption," instead of "rejection," to which error we called attention in our review of the Illinois Proceedings of 1884, *vide* Proceedings of New York of September, 1885, page 28.

The Convention of 1877 adjourned to meet at call of its presiding officer, Companion DRUMMOND, and the Convention at Detroit in 1880 was the one so called, and at which the Provisional organization of the General Grand Council was effected and its Constitution adopted.

We have given this history in full, that a decision can be made by any Companion, *on the merits of the question involved* in this "circular" of Nov. 5, 1887. We might add that at the Assembly of the Grand Council of Illinois, held in 1885, further steps were taken to heal all of its "Chapter-Council" Companions. *Vide* pages 15, 16, 19, 25, 39, printed Proceedings of that year, which we will not quote at length.

We come to the conclusion then upon all of the facts upon the whole case :

1st. That our Companions of Illinois having by their own action recognized the necessity of healing, and having acted upon it so as to bring all of their Companions within the pale of the law that would accept thereof, the circular was not demanded in the interests of the Rite, or of any of its Companions.

2d. That the Grand Council of Illinois having taken such proper and legal steps to heal, such action should be recognized and approved by all other jurisdictions.

3d. That Companions within the interdiction of the law as laid down by *every* independent Grand Council which did not merge, and as ratified and confirmed by the Constitution of the General Grand Council, who refuse to accept of the edict or ordinance of healing, will still remain outside of the circle of recognition.

4th. That the conferring of the Cryptic degrees, and the status of Companions who may take the same under the authority of *any* Grand Council which is free from the complication of Chapter control or action, is solely within the jurisdiction of such Grand Council, and it is the judge thereof.

We think this is all our Companions of Illinois do or can ask—all they mean to ask—and that their action was hasty and unnecessary. We give them credit for meaning to do right and to be right. If one or more of their Companions of "Chapter-Council" paternity should reject the edict, or ordinance of healing, as promulgated, and refuse acquiescence therein, we believe that this Grand Council, for the preservation of its own dignity, would itself take action to rid its membership of such contumacy, and vindicate its own power and authority in so doing.

This question is of importance, and we have dealt with it at length in kindly feeling, and with the sole and only desire of ending any dissension which may exist.

Having given so much space to this jurisdiction we must refrain from taking up the able review of Companion JEROME, who covers nineteen jurisdictions, including New York for 1886, which has fraternal notice.

Companion JEROME is full of fight in his review, and although, personally, we would sometimes prefer a contest than not, we have come to the conclusion that our good Companion has by this time taken off his war harness and got in good humor, knowing that there are none in the different jurisdictions who desire to tread upon his corns, or to pay any disrespect to the present Grand Council of Illinois, but, on the other hand, are actuated by the most kindly feelings and desire for a continuance of fraternal intercourse.

We have tried simply to place the facts of history before our Companions to the end that harmony might be attained by a disinterested appreciation of those facts and of the present exigencies of the Rite. Mississippi and North Carolina having reorganized their Grand Councils, and Iowa alone being left with anything like a reasonable desire for all the Grand Bodies to work in harmony, there can be no doubt of the result.

Officers, Companions NATHANIEL BOWDITCH, Aurora, G. M.; GIL W. BARNARD, 78 Monroe Street, Chicago, G. Recorder. Next Assembly, Oct. 24, 1888.

INDIANA—1887.

The Thirty-second Assembly was held at Indianapolis, October 18-19, '87. M. L. ORLANDO W. BROWNBACK, G. M., presiding, with representatives from thirty-eight out of forty-one subordinates, together with representatives from fifteen Grand Jurisdictions, including Companion LUCIEN A. FOOTE, of New York. The address shows that the interests of the Rite are taken good care of and are advancing. One new Council chartered. An application was presented from one Council asking either that the dues might be reduced or that its Charter be surrendered without further action. This was sent to the Committee on Grievances and Appeals, which reported that its members could not agree on any plan to accomplish the desired object.

A capital Report on Correspondence is presented by Companion CHARLES, who reviews seventeen jurisdictions, including New York, which has its usual prominent place. We are unable to take from this report what we would have taken had it come earlier at hand, for the reason that in reviewing the Illinois question, and its kindred subjects under other States which we had prepared before "Indiana" came to hand, we are now in fear that the "printer's fund" will not hold out for the whole business, hence we must economize space. Companion CHARLES does not give much attention to the question himself more than to refer to it. It might have been, perhaps, as well if no one had mentioned it, but it is sometimes beneficial to a body to be put right on important subjects in which they have fallen into an error. We will, however, give the "Conclusion," of this able report:

"As we finish our labor, we turn to the pile of Proceedings that we have examined and regret that the last has been reached. We have derived more pleasure than ever from their perusal,

"and trust our Companions who may take the pains to read our report will derive as much pleasure from the synopsis we have arranged as we did in its preparation. The Cryptic Rite is upon a better footing than last year. Cheering words come from nearly every jurisdiction. We believe that the crisis is past, and that *forward* will be the order hereafter. The degrees and ceremonies are as beautiful, and their teachings as well worth preserving as any in Masonry, and Cryptic Masonry only needs to be placed upon its own merits, and then let alone, to secure proper appreciation."

This reads well and it tells the truth. We have felt just so in our own work, and we believe the time will come when a knowledge of Ancient Craft Masonry will only be deemed complete with an understanding and *full* knowledge of the Cryptic Rite, *under Grand Council jurisdiction*.

Companions HENRY W. MORDHURST, G. M., Fort Wayne, and JOHN M. BRAMWELL, G. Rec., Indianapolis. Next Assembly at Indianapolis, October 16, 1888.

IOWA—1887.

This jurisdiction is still one of those which went into the bosom of the Grand Chapter, and in which the degrees belonging to the Cryptic Rite are assumed to be conferred "appurtenant" to Chapters. With what success can be best described by the words of the Grand High Priest of the State in his address to that Body at the Annual Convocation held at Oskaloosa, October 4, 1887. He says, page 12, of Grand Chapter Proceedings,

"I have reason to believe that the Cryptic degrees are not generally conferred in our Chapters. In some cases a High Priest has been installed who has never received them. Some plan should be devised to secure a fulfillment of the requirements of the Grand Chapter in regard to these degrees, or they will pass into a state of 'innocuous *desuetude*.' It perhaps would be well to make it a part of the official obligation taken by the High Priest at his installation that he will as faithfully confer the Cryptic as the Capitular degrees upon all candidates."

This matter came before the Committee on the Address, and their report on this subject is as follows, and was approved and adopted by the Body :

"Under the Consolidation Act of the Grand Chapter, the Cryptic degrees are as much a part of the Chapter work as the Royal Arch, and every High Priest of a Subordinate Chapter in this Jurisdiction is as much in duty bound to see that they are conferred as the Constitution provides as any of the grades in Capitular Masonry. Your Committee therefore recommend that the incoming Grand High Priest be instructed by this Grand Chapter to issue an order to the High Priests of Subordinate Chapters in this Jurisdiction to that effect, and to instruct the Grand Lecturer to see that the order is enforced."

Past Grand High Priest DEWEY, from the Special Committee on Grand Lecturer and Sheville Work, presented his report, which, as far as touching the Cryptic degrees, we quote:

"The Cryptic degrees are surely in a condition to make it difficult to adopt a proper rule for government, more than the general provisions already prescribed by the laws controlling them. If the fear manifested by our Grand High Priest, that in some cases High Priests have been installed who have never received them, that some plan should be devised that would secure a fulfillment of the requirements of the Grand Chapter, etc., then surely the subject is more one of official discipline than in need of further regulations from this Grand Chapter. We can see no more excuse for a Chapter which fails to comply with the rule provided for the conferring of these degrees than to omit to confer the degree of Royal Arch in its order."

We find by actual count of the Chapters which made returns and paid at this Convocation that there were ninety-six Chapters contained in the Grand Secretary's list, pages 36-7. From the list of Chapters which conferred the Cryptic degrees, pages 66-7, we find that only twenty-one of the ninety-six conferred these degrees, and these only upon one hundred and fifty-eight Royal Arch Compan-

ions, as against four hundred and forty-three who were exalted in the Chapters during the same period of time, leaving two hundred and eighty-five Royal Arch Companions who did not, from some reason or other, take the degrees. Whether the reason was that the degrees conferred in this way were not proper or otherwise, it is impossible to tell from the Proceedings. We might fairly assume that these Companions of the Chapter did not value them, knowing that in most of the jurisdictions of the United States they would be held to have received them in an improper and unlawful manner, and consequently would not be recognized or admitted to visit in such jurisdictions.

We might go further, and suggest to the Companions of the Grand Chapter of Iowa that just as long as the Cryptic degrees are assumed to be conferred as they are at present in that State, just so long will there be a difficulty about the refusal of officers to assist in such work, as well as a lethargy amongst the Companions of their Chapters about receiving them under a questioned authority, and a suggestion of illegitimacy on their part personally in such reception, but such a suggestion would probably avail nothing at the present time. After time establishes the true position of these affairs in that State, we doubt not but that the Grand Council of Iowa will be reorganized, and the conferring of these degrees again taken in hand under what is by *all* conceded to be regular and beyond question as to rightful authority, leaving out of view the question whether the Chapter assumption is regular or not. When this time does come, there will be none who will rejoice and extend more heartily the welcoming hand than the Companions of the Grand Councils which are constituents of the General Grand Council. Those who have received the degrees under Chapters "appurtenant" could have their standing settled by action of the Bodies interested in a manner which we think would be satisfactory to all concerned, in Iowa as well as in other jurisdictions.

In this connection we would call attention to what we said in 1886 on this subject under "Iowa," page 24, New York Proceedings, and close up this review by saying: You went away with Mississippi. She has reorganized her Grand Council. Now, you should not stay alone; come with us and we will do thee good, and get good from you at the same time.

Iowa now stands alone, and by itself out of all the States which were with it in merging the Cryptic and Capitular degrees. One by one they have all retraced their steps back and reorganized their Grand Councils. Mississippi and North Carolina, the last two to reorganize, are moving along now under Grand Councils, independent, it is true, but we believe that even as independent Bodies they will be "hail Companion" with *every* Grand Council which is a constituent of the General Grand Body. If these reorganized Grand Councils do not desire to become constituents with those that are, *it is just nobody's business*. They have a *right* to be independent. We will gladly give each and every one of them the hand of fellowship, independent or constituent. Let us all work together in unity, harmony and peace to advance our common interests.

KANSAS—1888.

This Body held its Assembly February 14th. Its Proceedings are "in press." We have no information regarding its work. We are only able to give names of its officers.

Companions JAMES SNEDDEN, G. M., Wyandotte; JOHN H. BROWN, ditto, G. Rec.

KENTUCKY—1887.

This Grand Council met in Assembly at Louisville, October 17th, M. I. CHARLES H. FISK, G. M., presiding, with the representatives of nine Councils. Two others made returns and paid dues, leaving three with no returns or dues paid. The Representative of New York, Companion WILLIAM RYAN, was present with eighteen other Grand Representatives.

The address of the G. M. is an interesting one, not only in that jurisdiction, but in some respects it is of great interest to the Rite at large.

Two decisions reported as having been made by the G. M. They are local in their application. One involves the status of a Companion belonging to a Council which did not reorganize or return to work under the reorganization of the Grand Council, in which the Companion is held *not* entitled to a certificate from the Grand Recorder upon a Diploma, recently issued by the late officers of Paducah Council. This decision was approved by the Body, and, in our opinion, is right. The G. M. also called the attention of the Body to the fact that the records and property of the Body was, to some extent, in the hands of the Chapters of the State, and we quote,

"Some steps should also be taken to recover from the Chapters, in Kentucky the records and property belonging to this Grand Council, and to the constituent Councils thereof. This matter may be attended with some difficulty, but should not be neglected. The Masonic standing and history of hundreds of Companions may be put in jeopardy by the loss of the records of a Grand Body or of its subordinates. I trust some decisive action will be taken with regard to these subjects, at this Assembly. This Grand Council cannot too carefully guard the history of Cryptic Masonry in Kentucky."

This was referred to a Committee for consideration.

The G. M., some time prior to this Assembly, caused a circular letter to be sent throughout the jurisdiction relative to the coming Assembly and the work to be presented thereat, which is so good in some respects as to make its application generally in other jurisdictions result in the advancement of the Rite, and we shall accordingly give it in part.

"Heretofore, the meetings of this Grand Body have been irregular, and the hour of meeting uncertain. The action of the Grand Council has oftentimes been hurried, and that due attention to, and consideration of matters of great importance, demanded by the best interests of the Cryptic Rite, have been impossible. It is confidently hoped that the representation from subordinate Councils at the approaching Assembly will be full and complete, and that some means may be devised for infusing new life and renewed vigor into all the Councils, and for enlisting the active co-operation of every Companion in this Grand Jurisdiction in the proper rendition of the beautiful ritual appertaining to the degrees of Royal and Select Master. A more familiar acquaintance with the work of the Cryptic Rite must result in a greater appreciation of the importance of the degrees. Since the restoration of the Grand Council to its position as the Governing Body in Kentucky, there has been wanting that true spirit of emulation 'as to who can best work and best agree,' which all well informed Companions should ever exhibit. There is no member of the Chapter in search of light who can afford to lack the information furnished by a careful and painstaking study of the Council degrees. Royal Arch Masons throughout the State should promptly accept the opportunity offered by becoming familiar with the degrees of Royal and Select Master. Capitular and Cryptic Masonry should go together. Without the one, the other is incomplete."

If the Companions of every jurisdiction will take this as directly intended to apply to themselves, and work accordingly, the end would be most satisfactory. The effect of this letter was to cause a largely increased attendance at the Assembly. We again quote :

"Something must be done for Cryptic Masonry in this jurisdiction. Early and persistent efforts must be put forth. I speak not to complain, but to urge you unto the full performance of duty ; not to discourage you, but to stimulate you to renewed activity. Lead, and I will follow. Command, and I will obey."

Can we imagine a more conscientious worker than one who takes this position ? He stands right up to the exigencies of the hour, and is not only ready to have others work, but to take his own coat off and do more than his share of it.

Upon the subject of the General Grand Council, he says :

"I have ever been, as you know, an enthusiast with reference to the Cryptic Rite, and jealous of the jurisdiction of the Councils over the degrees of the same. As you are aware, I was opposed to the merger of these degrees with the Chapter, and when the matter was being mooted, my voice was ever for the resuscitation of the Grand and Subordinate Councils as sovereign authority and entities. Having been made a Royal and Select Master in a regular Council, I could not see my way clear, when High Priest of my Chapter, to the right of the Chapter Body to confer these degrees. Consequently, during my term of office as High Priest, the Council degrees were not conferred in my Chapter. In this view I did not stand alone. For four years, during which the merger was in existence in Kentucky, Cryptic Masonry neither thrived nor flourished. In some Chapters no Royal and Select Masters could be made because the High Priest himself did not have the degrees. In some instances, perhaps, the choice of the Chapter for High Priest could not be asserted by reason of the ineligibility of the preferred one, because he chanced not to be a Royal and Select Master. I fear the experiment was fraught with much mischief, and was detrimental in a very great degree to the best interests of Cryptic Masonry. The death knell of many formerly prosperous and influential Councils was struck, and I regret to say that no trumpet has yet been sounded which has been able to recall them into activity and being. After careful examination into the matter, and much study and reflection upon the subject, I am constrained to recommend to this Grand Council that it unite with, and enroll itself as a constituent of, the General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the United States of America.

"I believe the stability of Masonic institutions depends largely upon the union and co-operation of all legitimate Bodies of the same Rite. It is true that there is no General Grand Lodge of Symbolic Masons, and that the several States manage all matters pertaining to Symbolic Masonry for themselves by Grand Lodges and their subordinates. But we have a General Grand Chapter for Capitular Masonry, and the Grand Encampment for the Orders of the Temple.

"In these days of multitudes of degrees and conflicts of Rites and questions as to territorial rights and sovereignty, I think there should be a strong, united bond of fraternity, and one social Masonic preservation and integrity of the Cryptic degrees. We recognize the General Grand Council and its authority. We are respected by it. We hold fraternal correspondence and relations with Grand Councils, constituents of the General Grand Council. Why should we not then enlist with those constituent Grand Councils ; unite under the same general banner, and shoulder to shoulder and side by side with them march forward as a united, solid phalanx for the dissemination of light and Masonic truth from one border of our common country to the other ?

"By uniting with the General Grand Council this Grand Council will lose none of its powers—be shorn of none of its strength. The sessions of the General Grand Council are triennial. Interchange of opinion by the representatives of this Grand Jurisdiction with the representatives of other Grand Councils will be of advantage to all concerned. Light and knowledge will be both communicated and received.

"Of the twenty-eight Grand Councils in the United States twenty have already enrolled themselves as constituents of the General Grand Council. Eight only remain unenrolled; and of these some at least are making arrangements to become constituents of the General Grand Body.

"Three States only are claiming to work under the "merger" plan, and from these the reports as to the Rite are not at all encouraging.

"The expense is merely nominal, being but the sum of fifty cents per annum for each chartered Council in this Grand Jurisdiction.

"In the language of Companion RUFUS C. HATHAWAY, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Michigan, when advising that Body to unite with the General Grand Council, permit me to ask—"Is this Grand Body willing under these circumstances to pay this small sum for the benefit of the Rite or not ?" As suggested by Illustrious Companion SENTER, General Grand Treasurer, let us as Kentuckians remember and act upon the motto upon the Coat-of-Arms of the State, "United we Stand, Divided we Fall."

"I know that I am upon disputed ground in this Grand Jurisdiction, and I may be in advance of a majority of the Companions of this obedience. I speak to you words of warning, and urge you to that course which I believe best calculated to build up the bulwarks, and strengthen the borders of our beloved institution. It may be that you are not prepared to accept the same or to walk therein, but I feel assured that the more consideration you give to this matter, and the more carefully and unprejudicially you investigate and consider the subject, the more rapidly and certainly you will come to the conclusion to which I have arrived. That the Cryptic Rite and the degrees appertaining thereto might be preserved and secured from loss to the Masonic

"world, the General Grand Council was established. The purpose was good. The efforts of Companions devoted to the Rite have been well seconded by the Grand Jurisdictions in the States, and success has, I verily believe, been assured. Let us come up to their help.

"Should the Grand Council differ with me upon this point, at this time, I shall not feel chagrined or mortified, nor will I in anywise abate my zeal or efforts in behalf of Cryptic Masonry; but hoping always, trusting always, for the best and most beneficent results, I shall willingly and cheerfully submit to be guided by the wisdom and views of my Illustrious Companions.

"You may not now be prepared to take the step suggested, or even to properly consider and digest the proposition made. If such be the case, give attention, thought and study to the matter during the ensuing year, and let us have the benefit of your conclusions and information at our next Annual Assembly.

"This matter might be referred to a Special Committee for full investigation, to report next year. This course I recommend to you.

"Whatever may be the decision of this Grand Body, I shall say 'Peace be within your walls and prosperity within your palaces.' The Grand Council of Kentucky must prosper and flourish. Because of the great love I bear her and her subordinates, I will ever seek her good."

This subject was referred to a Special Committee; JAMES W. STATON, HIRAM BASSETT, and CHARLES DUNN, to report upon at the next Annual Assembly.

The Committee, to which was referred the address generally, reported amongst other items, by Companion HIRAM BASSETT, its chairman:

"We cannot too heartily approve the tone and spirit of the M.·I.· Grand Master's very instructive and excellent address, and earnestly commend it to the careful consideration of Cryptic Masons in this Grand Jurisdiction."

Other matters of interest were dealt with by the G.·M.· in the same vigorous manner, and we would gladly add to our review further from the address, but we have taken a good bit of space and must refrain, especially as the G.·M.· elect also made an interesting address, which we must also refer to later on. The G.·M.· presented the claims of the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home upon the Cryptic Masons of Kentucky with earnestness and ability, we hope with great effect, as well as the claims of the Masonic Home Journal. With respect to the latter, we wish that we had one like it in New York.

Upon election of officers for ensuing year, our brother of the "quill," Companion HENRY B. GRANT, was promoted to G.·M.·. We congratulate him, as well as the Grand Council of Kentucky. While we have fired paper wads at each other in the past somewhat, we do not hesitate to say that the Body have put one of their most earnest workers in the place of all others, where there is work to do which is to tell in the future years when the worker has passed over to the majority. We believe our M.·I.· Companion will do his work well, faithfully and with an honest purpose to advance the Rite in that Jurisdiction. He has the ability, the push, the confidence of his Companions, as well as the material at his command to send the Cryptic Rite up to the high standard that it of right should occupy there. We may differ in the way it should be done, but for all that, no one has the right to complain or find fault captiously with the honest work and intentions of another. He gave an address upon taking the gavel, which has evidences about it that a new era is to dawn in Kentucky of a prosperity in Cryptic Masonry, which will at least bring it up to the position which it occupied before the "from labor to refreshment" time of some years ago. A good many novelties are presented by Companion GRANT, but, we believe, they will work out well and the Rite be benefited thereby.

He who can make two spears of grass grow where but one has grown theretofore is a public benefactor, is a trite old saying, and will prove equally true in

the Cryptic field where there is as great a need of making several spears grow in what is, often, almost a barren waste. Cultivation will tell. After some preliminary remarks, he says :

"For one I am in favor of making the Rite in Kentucky what it ought to be, or abandon it forever, that we may devote the little span of life that remains to something of more practical good. Let us consider some of the causes of lukewarmness that have led to the extreme apathy that now unfortunately exists, in order that we may be better enabled to apply the remedy. We are a branch of a benevolent fraternity, yet as such do not contribute a penny towards the relief of human misery, and take no part in the burial of the dead. We adhere to an exploded theory that a vacancy in office, caused by death, removal from jurisdiction, or otherwise, cannot be filled except by a hap-hazard *pro tempore*, and will not permit an incompetent or unwilling officer to resign. For the life of me I cannot tell why. Sentiment may be well enough as a motive power to waken our dormant energies, but love and sound reason ought to be our guides. Already have some of the Grand Chapters north and east of us amended their fundamental laws so as to make it possible to fill vacancies and put active, energetic Companions where they will do most good. The business of Subordinate Councils is transacted in a slipshod way; their records are carelessly kept; the S. V. has thus become unattractive; the degrees are not impressively conferred and Companions seem to be asleep, even without the poor excuse of being at their posts. It is easy to point out defects, which I conceive to be a duty of the G. M., but with it, he ought to suggest the remedy."

And he proposed the following amendment to the Article of their Constitution touching the election of officers, adding thereto:

"Any officer of a Council may tender his resignation, and if the same is accepted by his Council and approved by the G. M., the latter shall issue a dispensation and fix the time for an election to fill the vacancy, of which the Recorder shall duly notify all resident members of the Council. If, in filling such vacancy, another be made, it may be filled at the same meeting. The Recorder shall immediately report to the Grand Recorder the names of the officers elect."

And he further suggests,

"I do not think that it would be greatly amiss to provide that any officer who fails to qualify himself within four months to confer the degrees, may be deposed with the honors of Past Rank."

We don't approve of the "past rank" to inefficient officers who, for their own fault, are deposed. We doubt whether such a rank would be an honor to take pride in. We believe that the idea included in the proposed amendment will prove to be beneficial to the Body, and might well be followed in other jurisdictions.

Upon the subject of the standing of those who have received the degrees in "appurtenant Chapters," he says:

"We, having authority over them (the degrees) in Kentucky, did authorize it, and Companions so receiving the degrees have, very properly and justly, been declared by you to be non-affiliated. Royal and Select Masters, the Councils having ceased to work. Facilities for making affiliation easy for them should now be provided."

Would it not be well, to get over this question for all time to come, that a sweeping provision of some kind be adopted by Bodies who have been working "appurtenant to Chapters," to the effect that all Companion Royal Arch Masons, who have in Chapters or Councils "appurtenant" received the obligation, be healed, or re-obligated, or recognized in some way that would harmonize all of the different jurisdictions in their different views on this subject? For our part we are willing, under the present circumstances of the Rite, to accept most any way that will harmonize and make us all once more of the same kith and kin. We do not care how, what *modus operandi* is taken to accomplish this object, but let some way be suggested that will fix up all these questions forever—and—let us have peace. In jurisdictions where a Grand Council has been re-organized, for our part we would be willing, personally, to accept a sweeping ordinance of healing or of recognition by the Grand Body thereof, but think

that such ordinance should in some way be accepted by those who come within its spirit and scope. What say you, Companions of the Guild; shall we all endorse some such proposition and end this discussion forever? There is no present necessity for the Grand Councils of the United States to be as set in their former position on this subject as they have been in times past. The standpoint has not changed in any respect, but most every one of the States has its Grand Council, independent, working under an undoubted authority and right, and the writer is inclined to believe that whenever such Grand Councils declare upon and determine the standing of its members, resident within its own jurisdiction, then it is best for the others outside to concur therein. We know that in this we may differ in opinion with some others who have been shoulder to shoulder with us in the past upon all questions intimately connected therewith, and with whom we would ever be in unison. The circumstances are now different; the Rite is under Grand Councils in nearly every jurisdiction. *Wherever it is under "Chapter" domination, we should still refuse to allow the legitimacy of the recipient of the degrees.* In order, however, to make a determination of an independent Grand Council of force on the subject, we think that those who thus come within the number who are especially interested should accept of the act of the Grand Body, who so establishes their standing, by some *overt act*. Cannot this be done? If one refuses to accept such an ordinance, who is of the number that received the degrees under what has been by the majority of the Grand Bodies deemed questionable authority, then the Grand Body itself, having jurisdiction over such an one, would undoubtedly, for the preservation of its own dignity and position, refuse to allow intercourse with such person, or to recognize him as a Companion of the Rite. If there is any way to get over this obstacle to a universal agreement amongst Grand Councils (not now considering a Chapter as being included in the line), we ask that it be suggested, considered and adopted. We have no doubt but what the General Grand Council would be equally willing and pleased to accept such a plan, if one can be arrived at, which will preserve the dignity not only of that Body, but also of the Grand Councils.

Companion GRANT also proposes the appointment of District Deputy Grand Masters, but which are to be of like character and duty with the visiting officers of many of the other jurisdictions. The committee on his address approved of most of his suggestions, and with others, recommended their consideration.

The Correspondence Report is from Companion GRANT, and is particularly able and thorough. We cannot give much from it, or we will have to cut other jurisdictions short. One thing we do not like about it, that is, the manner of its arrangement. It would be much more convenient if the States were in alphabetical order, not thrown in a hat and shook up and taken hap-hazard as they come out. The index to it, however, helps one out. He covers twenty-one jurisdictions, including New York for 1886.

Next Assembly, when? Officers: Companions HENRY B. GRANT, G. M., Louisville; L. D. CRONINGER, G. Rec., Covington, Ky.

LOUISIANA—1888.

The Thirty-third Annual Assembly of this Body was held at New Orleans, February 16th, M. . I. GEORGE J. PINCKARD, G. . M. ., presiding. Proceedings not printed. We have no information as to the number of Councils represented, nor whether our own Representative was present. The address of the G. . M. . is principally devoted to local matters, including, however, his position on the Illinois Circular of November, 1887. As the expressions of Companion PINCKARD embody, in all probability, the views of many other Grand Bodies on this subject, we quote :

"At the present time nearly all of the Grand Councils that merged with the Grand Chapters have receded, and re-formed Grand Councils. Some have become members of the General Body, and the unification of the Rite has once more become assured.
 "Nevertheless, I regret to say in some instances there still lingers a disposition to retard the progress being made in this direction.
 "This spirit appears to prevail pre-eminently in the State of Illinois, if we may judge from the tone of a circular which has been received by our Grand Recorder, bearing date the 5th of November, 1887, in which exceptions are taken to the several Grand Councils, requiring the healing or re-obligating of the Chapter-made material before they will recognize such as legitimate Royal and Select Masters. * * * * *
 "I am not quite certain if the circular was meant for us, seeing that this Grand Council is one of the constituents of the General Body, but assuming that it was intended for your action, and without any remarks tending to influence your conclusions on the subject to which it refers, I suggest it be referred to a special committee of three, with instructions to report during the session."

This portion of the address, with the circular referred to, was referred to a special committee of three, who subsequently submitted their report, but whether approved by that body or not we are not advised, as follows, that

"they have examined the circular, and are equally at a loss with the Grand Master to understand if it was meant for this or any other member of the General Grand Council. Assuming that it was, however, intended for our action or that it would not have been sent, we have given it our due attention.
 "Its main purport appears to be the expression of an unqualified objection to the process of healing its Chapter-made Royal and Select Masters; and, further, to band together those Grand Councils, which it states to be twelve in number, not members of the General Grand Council, in a clique or association with it, in order to enforce its own particular views on this Rite at large.
 "How far this attempt may prove successful we are not, of course, able to say, but to suppose that such Grand Councils as Michigan and Pennsylvania would enter into the scheme is to suppose them capable of reversing their own views and laws upon this subject. Others, no doubt, have passed upon this subject, and would be placed in precisely the same predicament."

In regard to ourselves, setting aside the General Grand Council, we have only to quote our law still existing, and passed to meet similar emergencies many years ago in regard to Texas. We quote :

"NEW ORLEANS, February 14, 1867.
 "I. . C. JOSEPH P. HONOR offered the following preamble and resolutions, which were adopted :
 "WHEREAS, The Grand Council of the State of Texas has seen fit to abandon her organization, to renounce her jurisdiction over Cryptic Masonry in that State, and to attempt to transfer that jurisdiction to the Grand Chapter; and
 "WHEREAS, This Grand Council cannot, in consistency with her own organization, recognize or tolerate such proceedings; be it therefore
 "Resolved, That the constituent Councils and Companions of this Grand Council be and are hereby forbidden to recognize or receive any Royal and Select Master hailing from the State of Texas who acknowledges the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of that State over Cryptic Masonry, unless he should be first healed.
 "Resolved, That the same rule shall apply to any other jurisdiction where the same state of facts prevail."

Again, in 1860, the Committee on Grand Master's address reported as follows :

"Your Committee are of opinion that Royal and Select Masters who were members of Councils which have abolished themselves by uniting with, or merging themselves into, Royal Arch Chapters cannot be recognized by us as Royal and Select Masters. We can recognize no one unless he is a member of some Council under the jurisdiction of a Grand Council recognized by us as legitimate and regular."

"The Grand Council of Illinois claims that it never disbanded; that it was organized in 1853, and has continued to hold meetings annually from that time.

"We are cognizant of the claim, but do not admit its validity, but that it abandoned its work is an historical fact; that many so-called Royal and Select Masters were made in Royal Arch Chapters it admits *per se*. They, however, claim the right to commission the Chapter *to do their work*. We cannot admit any such claim. If they have the right to commission the Chapter, why not the Lodge?

"Our law is, however, conclusive upon the subject, so far as this jurisdiction is concerned, and no further action appears to be necessary, except that a copy of this report be transmitted to the Grand Master of Illinois."

We have given our views on this subject in other places in this report, and it is unnecessary to repeat them. We would really like to have some plan devised by which all *seeming* differences as between the Independent Grand Councils and those united with the General Grand Council as to the status of the members recognized in the jurisdictions respectively of the Independent Bodies could be harmonized. We believe that our M. P. Companion PINCKARD would most cheerfully and gladly hold out the olive branch to all such bodies if there was any encouragement from them to do so, but while the disposition remains to "hold off," he cannot consistently surrender any of the positions which he has taken upon these subjects. The Ordinances of the General Grand Body could, if any real change is necessary, be easily adapted to the present situation, and as long as the Bodies are now of one mind as to conferring the Rite through and under Grand Council jurisdiction only (excluding "Chapter Appurtenants," from the communion table), it would be best to get together.

Officers elected, Companion WILLIAM T. BENEDICT, G. M., RICHARD LAMBERT, G. Rec., address, New Orleans. Next Assembly, when?

MAINE—1888.

The Thirty-fourth Annual Assembly of this Body was held at Portland, May 2d, M. I. CHARLES W. HANEY, G. M., presiding, with the representatives of eleven Councils present. Returns were received from all of its subordinates. The proceedings being in press, our review is limited. The business was of a routine character, and we have no further information, except that of officers elected. We regret the absence of the Report on Correspondence, which would be of interest, as it always is, coming from Companion DRUMMOND, and particularly so, as we would like to know his mind upon and to read his review of the matters presented by the Illinois circular.

Companions, ALBERT M. PENLEY, Auburn, G. M., and IRA BERRY, Portland, G. Rec. We are indebted to Companion BERRY for our information by written advices, for which, thanks.

MARYLAND—1887.

Was held November 9th, at Baltimore, three Councils represented. Business transacted of local interest; proceedings not printed.

Officers elected, Companions HENRY C. LARRABEE, G. M., GEORGE L. McCAHAN, G. Rec., Baltimore, to the latter of whom we are indebted for the above items.

MASSACHUSETTS—1887.

This Body met in Assembly at Boston, December 14th, M. . I. . SERANUS BOWEN, G. . M. ., presiding, with the Representatives of seventeen Councils present. The Grand Representatives from other jurisdictions were mostly present, but Companion WILLIAM P. ANDERSON, of Boston, Representative of New York, was *not* in place. For three years he has failed to have his name enrolled as being present at the Assembly of this Body, although resident of the same city where its Assemblies are held. An explanation of some kind seems to be proper on the part of Companion ANDERSON for failure in such attendance, and if not convenient for him to attend, then some Companion who can attend should be commissioned. We do not believe that this representation is all for "show," but that good does come from the interchange of Representatives—not, however, if they give no attention to their duties.

The address of the G. . M. . is of interest to the Crypts generally in some respects. We shall quote therefrom briefly. Upon the status of the Rite in his jurisdiction he says :

"Nearly all of the Councils have been visited, and some of them several times, and it is with much satisfaction that I report that there has been a marked improvement in the quality of the work since my term of service began, and, as a direct consequence, there has been an increased amount of prosperity in the Subordinate Councils. Taking the Councils as a whole, the last year has been the most prosperous one in the history of Cryptic Masonry in Massachusetts."

And again :

"Many of the Councils have been perfecting themselves in the Ritual, and have also procured new and appropriate paraphernalia, and in these the degrees have been conferred in such an efficient manner that the Council easily takes the position to which it is justly entitled in the American Rite. This is infinitely better than lamenting because these degrees are not pre-requisite to the Orders of Knighthood, for we must of necessity deal with the case exactly as it is, and not as some would like to have it. It is by no means certain that if this were done it would be of lasting benefit to the Rite. Possessed, as we are, of three degrees that are beautiful in themselves, and when rendered with the care, study, and good taste which ought to be exercised in their presentation, we can well afford to stand on our own merits, and justly claim that no Companion who really cares for Masonry can afford to pass them by."

And upon the subject of officers he says :

"No Companion has any right to accept the office of Thrice Illustrious Master of a Council unless he intends to give liberally of time, care and earnest work to the position, and if he does this, no matter how dull it may have been heretofore in his Council, he will find not only a great increase of work, but what is of equal importance, renewed interest on the part of the older members. If, on the contrary, he only accepts the honor for the rank it gives him, he will not only be worse than useless, but his Council will become but a mere apology for what any Masonic organization ought to be."

These words of advice are so good for other jurisdictions that we take them in for our own Companions to read and profit thereby. The address was approved by the vote of the body without the formality of a reference to a Committee. This year ended three years' service of Companion BOWEN as G. . M. .; able, faithful service, indefatigable in season and out of season, he has worked well, advanced the interests of the Rite, and placed an example of what a Grand Master should be before his Companions, as well as having aided other jurisdictions, in his words of advice and wisdom. His be the Laurel Crown of Victory.

The usual routine business was transacted. The Grand Recorder, in his report, says :

"The returns made show the year to have been one of the most generally prosperous in Cryptic Masonry in Massachusetts."

The decease of two eminent Companions was announced, M. I. RUEL J. WALKER, P. G. M., and R. I., and P. I. SYLVANUS COBB, JR, and suitable resolutions of respect adopted.

Companion DADMUN presented a statement upon the position taken by the Grand Council of Illinois on the subject of "healing," quoting the circular promulgated by such body November 5, 1837. (see Review of Illinois), and the consideration of the matter was referred to a committee of three, but we do not find that they made any report. The Report on Correspondence is as usual from Companion DADMUN, who is one of the best in the Guild, and who covers eighteen jurisdictions, leaving New York out in the cold altogether. Why? We are glad that these reviews by our esteemed Companion are resumed. We missed them for 1886, and could hardly "keep house" without them; in fact, we went hungry for their nutriment, and now know better how to appreciate them. In answer to Companion CASWELL, of California, who asked, "What has become of Companion DADMUN?" he responds thusly :

"Well, here we are, but we are going to 'draw it mildly' this year, and see how it takes. When the 'merger' was started we just 'spread ourself,' and predicted that it would end just where it is ending. And as we saw each jurisdiction must determine that question for itself, we just set back in our easy chair, and occasionally heard 'something drop.' Now we feel just like picking up some of the fragments, if any be left, in the ruined jurisdiction. Those of us who kept out of that 'scrape' can afford to be generous."

That's just as we feel. This is no time now to badger or worry others about matters that we could not agree upon as a matter of principle; but now, when the different jurisdictions are so nearly together, we feel that we can afford to be generous. Let us so be. See our review, under other States, hereon.

Officers elected, Companions DANIEL W. JONES, of Roxbury, G. M., and ALFRED A. CHAPMAN, Boston, G. Rec. Next Assembly to be held at —(?) on the —(?)

MICHIGAN—1888.

The Thirtieth Assembly of this Body met at Grand Rapids, January 16th; M. I. ALFRED G. GULLEY, G. M., presiding, with the representatives of forty-two Councils present, together with Grand Representatives from eighteen jurisdictions including Companion H. SHAW NOBLE, of New York.

The address states that greater interest is taken in the Council degrees, and that the Rite is becoming firmly established.

The Illinois "Circular" is given at length in the address, and the Body requested to express itself on the subject. A Committee thereon subsequently reported,

"That this Grand Council is not a constituent of the General Grand Council, and is not bound by its acts. It has no disposition to criticise what in its wisdom it may see fit to do. This Grand Body claims the right to manage its own affairs in its own way, always subject to the principles underlying Cryptic Masonry, and confides the same to Grand Councils of sister jurisdictions. It is in correspondence with the Grand Council of Illinois, and recognizes its right to control the degrees within its own jurisdiction, and will not presume to say that Royal and Select Masters of Illinois are clandestinely made when that Grand Council sets its seal of approval on them. It is enough for us to know that the Grand Council of Illinois says they were regularly made. This Grand Council does not believe that the interests of Cryptic Masonry are subserved by the action of the General Grand Council. It does not presume to advise that Body, but it ventures to respectfully hope, without protesting, that it may see fit to reverse its action."

If the acts of the Grand Council of Michigan, taken a few years since and set forth at length in its proceeding for those years, had been carefully examined before the Committee had made their report, the latter portion thereof, as to the "belief" of their Grand Council, etc., would have undoubtedly been left out.

We only refer to it here, and ask that what we shall have to say under "Illinois" and other jurisdictions on the same subject be read in connection with the above suggestion. It does seem a little absurd that this great cry is made at this late day, when every one of the facts connected with the whole subject as to the position of the General Grand Council *have been known and understood for years by every Grand Council in the country*, and our Companions of Michigan were "taken in," we fear. They acted too quickly to be consistent with former acts of their Body. To sustain us upon this question we cite :

At the assembly of this Body January 17, 1881, M. I. Companion DAVID WOODWARD, then Grand Master, in his address, which met the approval of the Body, gave in full the proceedings of the Detroit Convention, held August 23d, 24th and 25th, in which he, with four other eminent Companions, represented Michigan. He also gave the provisional constitution at length, *including this section 14*, now presented by this Circular, and to which the action of Michigan in this report, that they "hope, without protesting, that the General Grand Council may see fit to reverse its action," refers. Not an intimation was made by this Grand Assembly of January, 1881, that the least fault was to be found with the law as fixed and established by this section; indeed, it was tacitly approved by the Body, although refusing to unite in federation as a constituent thereof. If this section was of a character to work injustice to any jurisdiction, why was not its scope understood and criticised then? Seven years have elapsed since, almost enough to work a bar to invidious reflections at this late day. But the action of this Assembly has been followed and endorsed year after year ever since. At the Assembly held at Flint in 1882, G. M. HATHEWAY reported in his address several decisions made by him during his official year; among them we find one to this effect.

That a Royal Arch Mason who has received the Cryptic degrees in a Chapter can be admitted into a Council of Michigan *only by becoming a member of a Council that is untainted by the "Mississippi Plan," etc.*; that he must petition regularly, set forth the facts, and if elected, must be formally healed and thus become a member of the Council. This decision was approved by the Body, and is therefore a part of the *written law of this Grand Council on this subject*.

The Eminent Companion also says in his address that he is "of the opinion that the position taken by the Merging Grand Bodies fully justifies the action of those who called for the General Convention." And a Special Committee upon this address, etc., reported in favor of a ratification by the Body of the General Grand Council, and that Michigan become a constituent thereof. This committee went still further, for in its report, speaking of the edict of the General Grand Council (being the same one referred to in the Illinois circular), which

declares all Chapter-made Royal and Select Masters clandestine, and forbidding its constituents having any intercourse with them as such, it said :

"The action of this Grand Body (Michigan) has ever been in the right direction on this question, and we may add, without egotism, the first to plant itself squarely on the question of non-intercourse with all Masons receiving the Council Degrees in, under or by authority of a State Grand Chapter."

This report was adopted by the Body, although it made an erroneous statement as to its being the first to place itself squarely on the question. This Grand Body adopted substantially the same law that is laid down in this section 14 of the General Grand Council Constitution at its Assembly held January 21, 1879, (page 35, your proceedings), at which time its Grand Master recommended such action in his address, stating (page 27, your proceedings of that year) that nine sister Grand Councils, of which New York was one, had already preceded Michigan in enacting the same law.

January 15, 1883, at the Assembly of this Grand Body, the Committee on Jurisprudence thereof made a report thereto, which was adopted by the Body on this same subject matter, which again reiterates the law of the Body relative to the identical subject of the Illinois circular. We quote :

"Resolved, That this Grand Council unequivocally condemns the action of any of our sister jurisdictions favoring the merging of the Cryptic Degrees with those of the Chapter, and declare that the successful advocacy of such a policy will be fatal to the perpetuation of the Cryptic Degrees in their purity and sublimity wherever such plan is adopted."

"Resolved, That this Grand Council enters its solemn protest against the merging of the Cryptic Degrees into the hands of any Grand Chapter, and will hold any Companion who receives the Cryptic Degrees under such authority as clandestinely made; and, as such, cannot be received with fraternal greeting within this Grand Jurisdiction."

"Resolved, That Subordinate Councils are hereby interdicted from receiving or holding any Masonic intercourse with such clandestine Royal and Select Masters."

And upon the question whether "the interests of Cryptic Masonry are subserved by the action of the Grand Council," as stated in the present report of January, 1888, we will quote in addition to what we have already presented from Companion NOBLE's report in 1883, to his Grand Council, *i. e.*,

"We believe that the organization of the General Grand Council has placed Cryptic Masonry upon as firm a foundation as Capitular and Templar. Many of the Grand Councils which had become languid, whose sentinels were sleeping, have aroused and organized, thrown off their lethargy and gone to work."

January 14, 1884, at the Assembly of this Grand Body, the Grand Master urged the Body to become a constituent of the General Body, and devoted nearly one-fourth of his address to that subject, and a resolution favorable thereto was offered, but action thereon was postponed. Companion NOBLE, however, supplemented his report of 1883, above quoted, with the following :

"We find a general healthy reaction in the Cryptic Rite throughout the whole country; and, as we said last year, we still believe the organization of the Grand Council has placed Cryptic Masonry upon a solid footing. The statistics given all tend to show an advance in membership and a disposition to place the Rite equal to Capitular and Chivalric Masonry."

What, we ask, are we now to conclude from the report of the committee upon the subject matter of this circular? Are we to come to the conclusion that the Grand Council of Michigan seeks by this latter action to retrace its steps and modify or reverse its law and position as laid down year after year? We do not believe that this is the solution of the inconsistency between that portion of this

latter report as to the non-belief of this Grand Council, "that the interests of Cryptic Masonry are subserved by the action of the General Grand Council," and as to its "hope, without protesting, that it" (the General Grand Council) "may see fit to reverse its action." But we believe this addition to the report was made hastily and unadvisedly as to the true position heretofore occupied by their own Body, and without appreciating the "aid and comfort" they were rendering upon one of the vital questions relating to the integrity of the Cryptic Rite. Let the General Grand Council repeal this law as embraced in section 14 of its Constitution and its edicts based thereon, and it would destroy the sole motive for and object of the organization of the Body. Those who are working under Grand Chapters would be "hail Companions," and the Grand Council of Michigan would be the *first* one to denounce the General Grand Body for its imbecility and such illegal interpretation of the law. This section 14 and the edicts based thereon do not affect any present question, nor the powers of any *Grand Council* to heal or to fix the standing of its Companions. It *does* affect those under Chapter domination only. And the Grand Council of Michigan should have repealed its own actions and laws on this identical subject (which we have cited hereinbefore) before it finds fault, even by inference, with the General Grand Body *for holding to the same law*. The committee were used to pull chestnuts out of the fire, like a cat's paw we have heard of, but, when they or their Grand Council deliberate on this question, understanding both sides thereof, and no new position has been taken which would affect the Companions of *independent* Grand Council, they will hasten to place themselves right, which is of more importance than anything else. Our criticisms are *all* in reference to the last two sentences of the report. Our Companions of Michigan simply "took it for granted," etc., and in their zeal, pressed for time, took a step which we believe they will gladly reconsider. See Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Ohio, etc., for more on the main question.

The Report on Correspondence is by our old friend, Companion GARRA B. NOBLE, and is, like all of his work, thoroughly able, pleasant and interesting. It covers twenty-four jurisdictions, including the General Grand Council and New York for 1887.

Under Illinois, speaking of the proposition there to amend their Constitution so as to allow the Cryptic degrees to come in immediately after that of Master Mason, and the report of their committee,

That while we think that the proposed change should be fraternally discussed by the Grand Council, yet we are of the opinion that it would be inexpedient to adopt the amendment at the present time, etc., he says :

"Inexpedient at the present time! Can it be that the committee anticipate that the time will come when it will be expedient to adopt it? Do so, and at once every Royal and Select Master hailing from the jurisdiction of Illinois would be refused all intercourse with the Grand Councils."

And it would be so. Companion NOBLE knows the pulse of the Companions of the Cryptic Rite so well in the several jurisdictions of the United States, that he

could well assume to announce in advance for all of them just what would become of the Companions of Illinois in the event of any such arrogation of power to change the fixed principles and law of the Rite. There are some laws relative to Masonry that, thank God, cannot be changed at will by any Grand Body and that Body live thereafter. Relative to the circular issued by Illinois, referred to above, he simply refers to it, and drops the subject; having had his fill of the last proposition above stated, he does not attempt to express himself on this.

Under Kentucky, speaking of Companion GRANT, he says:

"We see he is still wedded to the 'merger,' and thinks it would be of more strength to the Chapters than the General Grand Council is to the Councils. As to the General Grand Council, there are very many in other Grand Councils who do not favor the cumulation of General Grand Bodies; but when you come to the 'merger' plan, we fail to see where the Cryptic Rite has any place, or ever did have, in the Capitular."

Companion GRANT is in earnest in his work. We give him credit for talking and acting as his convictions impress him as to right. We believe that he will make things "hum" in old Kentuck' in the Cryptic line, and we believe that the time will come when he will be satisfied that the Rite will advance by a connection with the General Grand Council and that he will be one of the first to take hold and bring about such a consummation. As to the "merger," that is dead in Kentucky, and let us bury the word out of sight and devote ourselves to building up the Rite and inculcating fraternal feelings amongst all of the Companions of the Rite, wherever situated.

Under Maine, he says, speaking of Companion DRUMMOND's report:

"He says, that in early times, *five* was the constitutional number to compose a Council, and such was the law of several Grand Jurisdictions down to within less than twenty-five years, and the number nine was fixed by an arbitrary constitutional provision in reference to the General Council. He says, the fact is there is no provision in the constitution fixing the least number to whom a Dispensation could be issued; that is left to the general law. What is the general law? We think it is not less than nine, and as many more as may see fit to unite in the application."

We agree as to the number being nine. We have always been so taught, and we find nothing now to change such impression.

Under New York, our Companion gives us a pleasant notice, quotes what we said last year relative to the difficulty in getting proceedings of the different jurisdictions, and adds, that he has had the same experience in writing, and feels the same way.

After quoting at length what we said relative to Michigan yet becoming a constituent of the General Grand Council, he adds:

"We are afraid, Companion, that your prophecy will not very soon be realized. Michigan does not oppose the General Grand Council, but does accord to her a just appreciation of all her efforts to extend the Rite throughout the world. The experience the Companions of Michigan have had in the General Grand Bodies heretofore is such as to give them no confidence in their power or use."

Well, so be it. We don't give up our prophecy, however. We may not live to see the "wedding," but it *will come off*.

After other pleasant references to our report, etc., Companion NOBLE quotes our closing remarks at length, saying:

"All of which we can fully endorse."

Under Pennsylvania, after quoting a portion of the address, he asks the question,

“Can it be possible the Grand Master has the ‘merger’ flea in his ear?” To which we can assume to reply, there is no flea of that particular breed in the whole State of Pennsylvania. It didn’t even get the chance of having “died a bornin.” The Grand Master might have been reading up some old Proceedings, dated back in the “seventies,” we opine, and did not notice the dates of the pamphlets. We would like to follow this report through and take more from it, but must refrain, except to refer to the General Grand Council review briefly. He says, speaking of our address, “The General Grand Master delivered a very interesting address,” etc., and quotes therefrom, but does not “impress” with the significance of certain letters included in the Seal of that Body, which he seems to think are peculiar to that Body and not of general applicability to other bodies. How we wish that we could just whisper in your ear, but we must wait until we meet.

The review of this last Body is pleasant, and is not tinged with the feelings that seem to actuate some of the reviewers who are connected with the independent Grand Councils. We, for our part, cannot see the need of there being any feelings other than those of cordial good nature existing between the General Grand and the Grand Bodies. They are all, or should be all, taken up with the work of advancing the interests of the Rite, and should accordingly stand shoulder to shoulder in the good work; if not united in one Circle, still should be of unity in the one object. Nothing but the utmost fraternity of good feeling and mutual interest should make its appearance between any of these Bodies, and we gladly note the entire fraternity existing in the great heart of Michigan towards all other Bodies.

Officers elected, Companions ALLEN MCKEE, Manistee, G. M.; GARRA B. NOBLE, Detroit, G. Rec. Next Assembly, Jan. 14th, 1889.

MINNESOTA—1887.

This Grand Body met in Assembly at St. Paul, October 10th, M. I. John R. CAREY, G. M., presiding, with the representatives of six Councils and Grand Representatives from ten jurisdictions, not including New York, our Companion COOLEY’S name not appearing as being present during the Assembly, although he was heard from by his Report on Correspondence.

The address of the G. M. shows that a reasonable activity exists in the Rite within their borders. The address is of local interest, and denotes an earnest desire on the part of the G. M. to advance the interests of the Cryptic Rite in his jurisdiction. There is no particular subject discussed, other than those mentioned, to which it is necessary to refer.

The Proceedings come to us with a fine phototype of M. I. E. C. CROSS, the third Grand Master of the Body. We approve of the preservation of the features of our distinguished Companions in this way. It would be a source of

much pleasure if we could see every Grand Master put forth to his Companions in this way.

The Report on Correspondence was by Companion GEORGE W. COOLEY, who in his usual able manner and style serves up a readable and interesting *resumé* of fifteen other jurisdictions, as well as the General Grand Council, not including New York, however. In the modesty with which our Companion is always enshrined, he only gives himself credit for a review upon *twelve* jurisdictions, while Companion MEYER, of Pennsylvania, takes even that number from him and gives them *all* to our worthy Companion LEVI C. GOODALE, of Ohio. We knew that Companion GOODALE would do most anything within the reach of his C. . . . T. . . , to advance the interests of Masonry, particularly in the Cryptic Rite, but we did not think that he would write the Correspondence Report for his outside sisters. Take it back, Companion Meyer, or—another *case of non-intercourse* to worry the sisters over. Companions COOLEY-GOODALE, give us some of your own ideas, such as we have heretofore had when only one of you made this report. We like to use the “scissors” ourselves, but we don't encourage others in doing it, if the result is to cut off the original ideas of the reviewer. We want your views, opinions, hard hits and pleasantries about the questions continually coming up; they will aid us often in coming to a conclusion as to what ought to be done in relation to the “knotty points” of the law, as well as to make things “spicy.”

In concluding his report, he says:

“Of one thing we are satisfied, however, that the Cryptic Rite was never in better condition. All are doing well and all are satisfied.”

Now, one thing further, we wish that Companion COOLEY would initiate us into the secret by which he “roped” Companion GOODALE into his assistance, so we can try him on ourself; and again, Companion MEYER, who gave them away to you? There must have been a cowan around. Officers elected, Companions A. Z. LEVERING, Minneapolis, G. M.; WILLIAM CHENEY, Minneapolis, G. Rec. Next Assembly at St. Paul, October 8, 1889.

MISSISSIPPI—1888.

The news from this Grand Jurisdiction is very encouraging. Mississippi was the birth-place of the project of merging the Cryptic into the Capitular branch of Masonry. This idea was presented by Eminent Companions of this State in such glowing terms that its example was followed by many other jurisdictions. With the organization of the General Grand Council the further progress of merging came to an end, and one by one the several jurisdictions which had adopted this idea, and which was known as the “Mississippi Plan,” began to retrace their steps, to reorganize their Grand Councils, and some of them have gone so far as to become constituents of the General Grand Council, and at the present writing only *one* jurisdiction is now conferring the Cryptic degrees as appurtenant to the Capitular under this scheme. That one is Mississippi, we

are pleased to state has reorganized its Grand Council and we bid them a sincere and hearty welcome to the circle of Grand Council organizations.

At the Fortieth Convocation of the Grand Chapter of this State, held at Columbus, February 8th, we find that the following action was taken, introductory to which a decision of the Grand High Priest was announced upon the following subject :

"A number of the members of MacDonald Chapter were applicants for Chapter degrees, and there not being enough members of the Chapter who were already Council Masons to make a quorum (nine), I was asked for a dispensation making a less number answer the purpose. I submitted the matter to Companions SPEED and PAXTON, of the law committee, and then made this reply: 1st. Dispensation is unnecessary. 2d. Having less than nine Companions, a Council of R. & S. Masters cannot be opened preliminary to conferring the degree. 3d. The act of Merger provides the remedy in authorizing the H. P. to communicate the degrees in the body of the Chapter. Open the Chapter and then obligate the Companions desiring the degrees; after this, if desired, the degrees can be exemplified—that is, open the Council regularly and go through the work with one of the Companions.

"In this connection permit me to remark that if it was the intention when the Council degrees were absorbed by the Chapter that they should be communicated to, or conferred upon all R. A. Masons in this jurisdiction who had not already received them, and upon all candidates who should subsequently be exalted, that the intention and wish of the Grand Chapter has been quite generally disregarded. So far as Natchez, No. 1, is concerned, I do not think there has been a degree conferred or communicated since the Merger, and I suggest that if in the opinion of this Grand Chapter the subject or the degrees are of sufficient importance, the several Subordinate Chapters be required to put all members in possession of the Council Degrees. To this end it would probably be as well during our spare time at this convention to have an exemplification of the ritual of the degrees, the obligations at least, so that the representatives present may become sufficiently familiar with the work to be able to intelligently communicate it to others.

"The degrees of Royal and Select Masters when properly conferred are amongst the most beautiful and impressive of all the degrees of Masonry, and when I reflect upon this fact, and the further fact that the Merger acted as a death blow to the Order of Cryptic Masonry in this State, I am inclined to the belief that we made a mistake. The ostensible reason for the action was the deadness of the order, and the possibility that if the Councils were obliterated, it might result in a revival of R. A. Masonry. Such being the case, I beg to refer you to the steady decline of Capitular Masonry during all the years since the Merger, and to ask whether the Merger or killing off of the Councils did not have something to do with the present unhappy and unprosperous condition of Chapter Masonry in this jurisdiction? I trust the Grand Council will pardon this reference to what was at one time almost a vexed question, as my only reason for so doing may be found in the fact of the paucity of matter about which to talk."

This portion of the address was referred to a Special Committee of five, who reported that they deemed that the interest of both Cryptic and the Capitular Degrees would be materially promoted by a dissolution of the merger, etc., and offered the following :

"Resolved, That the Grand Royal Arch Chapter hereby releases control of the Cryptic Degrees, and recommends that the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters reassume its former jurisdiction of the degrees.

"That Chapters are hereby prohibited from communicating and conferring the Cryptic Degrees, recognizing the authority of the Grand Council in all matters pertaining to said degrees."

The resolution was adopted. Here endeth the first lesson.

The Grand Council has been reorganized, with Companion W. G. PAXTON as Grand Master, and we are advised that all who received the degrees in Chapter are required to be healed by re-obligation, and that this work is going on. We do not find that anything has been said in reference to this Grand Council becoming a constituent of the General Grand Council, and we presume that at the present time it will not desire to be such. We cordially welcome the Grand Council of Mississippi and its Companions into our circle of Grand Councils. We have no advice as to when the next Assembly will be held. But the Rite has taken a new life upon itself. In our Council, when the Chapter had refused to work the Cryptic Degrees or accept the merger, ten Companions have been recommended this year. Well done.

MISSOURI—1888.

The twenty-third Assembly was held at St. Louis, May 9th, M. I., WILLIAM H. STANSBURY, G. M., presiding, with representatives from five Councils and Grand Representatives, including Companion NOAH M. GIVAN, of New York.

The address of the Grand Master and the proceedings were local, and the usual routine of business was transacted. The Rite appears to be fairly prosperous here. No report on Correspondence. Officers, H. C. CHRISTOPHER, St. Louis, G. M., and WM. H. MAYO, St. Louis, G. Rec. Next Assembly April 25, 1889, at St. Louis.

NEW HAMPSHIRE—1888.

This Body held its Assembly May 14th. We have no information regarding its work of any kind. No proceedings. No letters. We learn from circular of General Grand Council that its Assembly was held, and that there was no change in its officers.

Companions W. A. RUSSELL, Concord, G. M.; GEO. P. CLEAVES, ditto G. Rec.

NEW JERSEY—1888.

The thirtieth Assembly of this Body was held at Trenton, January 24th, M. I. JAMES B. SMALL, G. M., presiding, with the representatives of six Councils present. The representative of New York, being the Grand Master, was present, but in the list of Representatives present his name does not appear as such.

From the address of the G. M., it appears that the Rite is not as prosperous as it was in former years. Two of its important subordinates are about to succumb, Warren Council and Scott Council, and in reference to these Bodies the G. M. says that it is

"A question in my mind whether either of these Councils are, in their present condition, any benefit to Cryptic Masonry. Deceased humanity is decently interred, and these Councils having gone through the embalming process, at the expense of the Grand Council, would it not be well to assemble the Craft in funeral procession, and decently deposit the remains of our deceased relatives, extend to them the honors, and over their remains erect tablets, displaying their past record of efficiency, the virtues of their busy lives, and suitable resolutions, sympathizing with their gradual decay and untimely decease? While the sympathy of this Grand Council is, and should be, free as the pure air of heaven, and as such has been bountifully extended to these weak sisters, of what does it avail? Has it benefited them, and are they to-day in any better condition than a year ago?"

The Committee on the address, upon this portion of it, reported with approval a recommendation that the Warrants of these "weak sisters" be suspended for one year, and that at the next Assembly they each show cause why such suspension should not be made permanent.

We think that the field in this jurisdiction is such that it ought to sustain the Rite in a first-class manner. The experiment of uniting in the General Grand Council Union has benefited others, which were not as strong as New Jersey. Why not try it, Companions? It cannot injure you in the least, and the chance of an improved condition is surely worth what little inconvenience or expense might possibly attend the change.

No report on Correspondence. When shall we have another? Officers elected, Companions GILBERT B. SLACK of Trenton, G. M., and CHARLES BECHTEL, of Trenton, G. Rec. Next Assembly at Trenton, January 22, 1889.

NORTH CAROLINA—1888.

The Grand Council of this State has been reorganized and a separation decreed as between the Grand Chapter and the Grand Council by the mutual acts of those Bodies.

At the Fortieth Convocation of the Grand Chapter, held at Goldsboro, May 15, 1888, action was taken relative to a return of the Cryptic degrees to the government of a Grand Council of the Rite. We quote from the report of the Grand Secretary on this subject.

The following resolution was passed at the last Annual Convocation :

"Resolved, That the action of the Grand Chapter of North Carolina, at its Annual Convocation of the year 1883, consolidating the Capitular and Cryptic degrees and merging the two systems, is hereby repealed, subject to the action of the Grand Council of R. and S. Masters, of North Carolina, and that the last presiding officer of the Grand Body be requested to convene said Body as soon as possible, for the purpose of reorganization and taking control of the R. and S. Master's degrees as formerly."

I communicated this action of the Grand Chapter to Companion J. I. MACKS, the late Most Illustrious Grand Master elect of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, under whose order an Assembly of R. and S. Masters from the several former Councils was convened in the City of Raleigh, Wednesday, June 22, 1887.

A legal quorum was present on that occasion, and the following resolutions were adopted :

"Resolved, That the action of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of North Carolina, at its Convocation at the City of Charlotte, on the 24th day of May, 1887, relegating the Cryptic degrees of R. and S. Masters to the Grand Council of the same, subject to the action of the said Grand Council, be and the same is hereby ratified, and that this Grand Council do hereby resume control of said degrees.

"Resolved, That the organization of the Grand Council of R. and S. Masters, as it existed at its last Annual Assembly, in 1883, and the same is hereby confirmed and continued until our next Annual Assembly, provided any official vacancy by death or removal from the Jurisdiction, now existing, may be filled by an immediate election.

"Resolved, That all Companions who have received the degrees of R. and S. Master in Chapters under the authority of the Grand Chapter, according to the plan of consolidation adopted in 1883, shall be recognized as regular Royal and Select Masters *after being healed in a regular Council of such, or by the Grand Master.*"

The Grand Council having thus effected a formal reorganization and resumed control of the Council degrees, and official notice of the same was given to Chapters and Councils of this Grand Jurisdiction.

This report was adopted by the Body. We find in the Address of the Grand High Priest that he states that Capitular Masonry is more prosperous throughout the State, and he adds :

"I believe the cause of this renewed energy to be the removal of the Cryptic degrees, and giving them back to the proper authority. At first I may have had some misgivings as to the expediency, but the result has more than justified the action. Not taking into consideration the right of jurisdiction over these degrees, the greatest argument is that, as we all know, the real labor and working knowledge of Royal Arch Masonry of every Chapter in this State is confined to the few. This being the case, all additional work only gave the willing laborers more toil. I therefore congratulate this Grand Body upon the success of its wise legislation, and for the peace and harmony which reign within our borders."

We gladly welcome our Cryptic Companions of North Carolina into the circle of Grand Councils, even though it be an independent one. Our principal desire is that the Cryptic Rite shall be controlled and its degrees conferred strictly and only by or under Grand Council organizations and wholly untrammelled by a connection with the Capitular or any other branch of Masonry as far as the control of the degrees are concerned, and we therefore greet the organization of every Grand Council cordially and in sincerity. The question as to whether such Bodies become constituents of the General Grand Council is one of secondary consideration with us. Iowa now stands by itself of all the States which merged the Cryptic into the Capitular Rite, and that, we believe, will soon fall into line with the other Grand Councils. We are without advice as to the date of the next Assembly. Companions J. I. MACKS, G. M., Wilmington; DONALD W. BAIN, G. Rec., Raleigh.

OHIO—1887.

The Fifty-seventh Assembly of this Body was held at Steubenville, October 5th. M. I. D. C. WINEGARNER, G. M., presiding, with the representatives of forty-three Subordinates, together with the Grand Representatives of the several Grand Bodies of the Rite, including Companion W. M. CUNNINGHAM, Representative of New York.

The Address of the G. M. is a good one, and shows that the Rite is making deserved advancement in that Jurisdiction. Two hundred and thirty-seven Companions advanced during the year. Several decisions are noted, one of which shows the different law existing there (as with us) from that of Penn. to which we referred under our review of that State, *i. e.*, that it requires nine to be present for the transaction of *any* business in a Council. Another is :

"There is a R. A. M., a Member of our Chapter, who has a Certificate of having received the degrees of Royal and Select Master under the Chapter organization in Wheeling, W. Va. He desires to become a member of our Council. What course shall we pursue?"

Answer :

"If the Companion holds a dimit from said Chapter, showing him to have been in good standing, you will pursue the same course as in the case of a Companion petitioning for membership, with a dimit from any other Jurisdiction."

The Grand Master adds,

"In rendering the above decision I labored under no small degree of embarrassment, and I made it with a determination to lay before you the nature of the difficulties by which I was surrounded."

"At the Assembly of this Grand Council in 1884, the following statement of a case and question was submitted, viz.:"

"There is in this Grand Council Jurisdiction a Companion who received the Council degrees from a Chapter in Texas. He holds a dimit therefrom, and wishes to know what course to pursue to attain Council membership in Ohio."

"This was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, which reported :"

"Your Committee are of opinion that whenever a Council is satisfied that a petitioner for membership has received the Council degrees in a legal manner, and holds a dimit showing him to have been in good standing in the Body having jurisdiction over the Council degrees of which he was last a member, and by ballot is found worthy, he is entitled to admission into a Council in Ohio."

" This report was adopted, and the very next action of the Grand Council was the adoption, by a vote of 42 to 2, of an amendment to Article 1, Section 3, of the Constitution, which made the Section read as follows :"

" The Grand Council shall have the sole government and superintendence of the several Subordinate Councils in this State, subject, however, to the Constitution, Rules, By-laws and Decisions of the General Grand Council of the United States, to which this Grand Council is Subordinate, and shall be invested with power to assign their limits, prescribe the fees for admission, and settle all controversies that may arise between them, etc., etc."

" This action placed us squarely under the government of the General Grand Council, and subject to its Constitution, Section 14 of which reads :"

" Every Council of Royal and Select Masters must have a Charter or Dispensation from the General Grand Council, or from some Grand Council working independently of any other branch of Masonry, and no Council shall be deemed legal without such Dispensation or Charter, and Masonic communication, both public and private, is hereby interdicted and forbidden between any Council or any member of it, and any Council or Assembly that may be so illegally formed, opened or holden without such Charter, or any person assumed to be received or greeted therein."

As the legislation of 1884, cited, was in direct conflict with this Section of the Constitution of the G. G. Council, the Grand Master recommended that action be taken to remove the difficulties presented by the situation.

The G. M. also stated that he had been often asked whether candidates should be obligated to support the General Grand Body, and that he had held that they should be obligated. The decisions were referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, which reported approval, and upon the principal one, reported that they

" Have also had under careful consideration for special report so much of the address as relates to a report of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence in 1884, made concerning the status of a Companion who had received the degrees of R. and S. Master in a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the State of Texas (Proceedings of 1884, pp. 47-8), and are clearly of the opinion that the M. I. Grand Master is correct in his views, that said report was in conflict with Article 1, Section 3, of the Constitution of this Grand Council and of Section 14 of the General Grand Council.

" Your Committee therefore recommend that the opinion so expressed or inferred by the action of this Grand Council in adopting said report in 1884, be and is hereby reversed, that the subsequent action of the Grand Council had at the same session by which it declared its acquiescence in and fealty to the enactments of the General Grand Council be affirmed, and that Section 14 of the Constitution of the General Grand Council is the law within this Jurisdiction in relation to the question under consideration."

This decisive action on the part of this Grand Body will put at rest for all time to come any question as to the position of the Body on this subject.

The Grand Council of Ohio has done itself great credit by this action at the first opportunity it had to consider the question after it was brought before it. Ohio always tries to be right, even if its citizens are so diffident about offering themselves up as sacrifices upon the altar of " public offices " of the country. They probably believe that " a public office is a public trust," for a consideration.

One of the best Reports on Correspondence that has been presented for our reading comes from the gifted pen of Companion S. STACKER WILLIAMS, covering eighteen jurisdictions in addition to the General Grand Council, including New York for 1886, which has a goodly share of its notice. Under Illinois, our Companion gives some good advice. Speaking of the " Declaration " of 1886, before referred to by us, he says :

" At all events we hope the Companions of Illinois will *come to an agreement among themselves* before harsh measures with regard to those of other jurisdictions are resorted to.

" Now *we* are no *healer*, neither do we advise our Companions in Illinois as to the propriety of *their* healing their Chapter made Royal and Select Masters. But we do think it more consistent to adopt a rule to heal *all*, or to heal *none*. Either stand by all the work done or do it all over. We are sorry to say the resolution was adopted. We have no fears of any contagion from the introduction of an unhealed Illinois Companion into *our* camp, but we fear such Companion might get where he would not be welcome, and then—what? *An edict of non-intercourse.* Companions of Illinois, should a case arise, let us ask you '*not to do it.*' It is bad medicine, and should only be used in *extreme cases.*

Well, this seems to meet the exigency from one eminent source. We would think with Companion WILLIAMS, that the better way would be "*not to do it.*" We have said so much upon this subject under other jurisdictions that we must stop here.

Under New York he is pleasant, although disagreeing with the ruling of the G.·M.· for 1886, in decision relating to "dormant Councils" Jurisdiction over material. Speaking of our report of that year he says:

" He reviewed the Proceedings of all Grand Councils that have been printed, as well as those that have not, and then reviewed *the States* that have no Grand Councils. For the compliment "he pays Ohio, we say, Hello!"

His report covers twenty-two pages, closely printed matter. Officers elected, Companions D. C. WINEGARNER, Newark; JOHN D. CALDWELL, G.·Rec.·, Cincinnati. Next Assembly at Springfield, October 2, 1889.

OREGON—1888.

The Third Assembly of this Body met at McMinnville, February 1st, M.·I.· CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR, G.·M.·, presiding, with the Representatives of three Councils present. The Grand Representative of New York is not noted as being present.

The address of the G.·M.· is devoted to and the business of the Body was of local character. The Rite appears to be in a flourishing condition in this jurisdiction.

The Report on Correspondence is from the pen of Companion WALLACE BALDWIN, who reviews in an able and pleasant manner the Proceedings of eighteen Grand Bodies, not including, however, New York. Our Proceedings are regularly mailed to Oregon, and why we are left out in the cold is more than we can explain. This review is chiefly upon years for which we took our "bat" last year, hence we cannot go over the ground again. We are satisfied that this Body is advancing, and we particularly like to see progress made in this, the youngest sister of the Circle. The workers there are in earnest, and will not give up the course of triumph that they have entered upon. They mourn the decease of a Companion, who, while hunting, was shot and killed, being taken for a *bear*, to which we suggest, do not take any more "stupids" out when hunting bears; if you do, just muzzle their guns, or give them a quill pop-gun with a slice of raw potato for ammunition, and thus save your Companions' lives from danger.

The next Assembly will be held at Corvallis, February 6, 1889. Officers elected: Companions SAMUEL BULLOCK, East Portland, G.·M.·, and FRELON J. BABCOCK, Salem, G.·Rec.·.

PENNSYLVANIA—1887-8.

The Forty-first Assembly of this Body was held at Greensburg, February 16, 1887, M. I. GEORGE W. KENDRICKS, JR., G. M., presiding, with the representatives of ten Councils.

There is no mention of the attendance of any Representatives of Grand Councils, and no Report on Correspondence, except a verbal one, which we did not catch.

The Address was of local interest and the business of a routine character. Fifteen Councils made returns and paid dues. Officers elected, Companions CHARLES K. FRANCIS, G. M., Philadelphia; CHARLES E. MEYER, G. Rec., Philadelphia.

1888.

The Forty second Annual Assembly was held at Erie, February 15th, M. I. CHARLES K. FRANCIS, G. M., presiding, with the representatives of eight Councils. No note of attendance of Grand Representatives.

The Address of the G. M. is a beautiful piece of work. He has established his reputation as a worker. He made thirty-four visits to Councils, conferred the degree of Royal Master upon *seventy* candidates—that of Super-Excellent upon *seventy-two* and that of Select Master on *sixty-eight*, during his year of office. Where throughout the jurisdictions of the "sisters" can a Grand Master be found who has even equalled Companion FRANCIS? One new Council instituted.

The great beauty and value of this Address is to be found in the historical part of its contents. Were it possible, we would give the whole of this history. It is of untold value, being verified by the authorities in the history of the Rite, and no one who desires to become well acquainted with the Rite, its history, progress and origin can afford to pass by this interesting portion of the Address. We advise every Companion in search of information on these subjects to get a copy of the Proceedings of 1888, and study the same well, and he will never have reason to regret his doing so. His faith will be well grounded, and his interest in the Cryptic Rite greatly enhanced thereby. No one can afford *not* to know this history.

The G. M. gives some good advice, which is applicable to other jurisdictions as well as their own. He says:

"The measure of success to be attained by Cryptic Masonry in Pennsylvania will be determined by the action of the members of the Subordinate Councils. Companions, assert and maintain for the degrees of the Council the position to which they are entitled as 'The summit and perfection of Ancient Craft Masonry.' Properly represent to worthy Royal Arch Masons the importance of acquiring the degrees of the Council, without which their Masonic education will remain incomplete. Elect competent officers, and support them faithfully. The greatest general cannot win victories unless sustained by brave and faithful soldiers. Even the hand of Moses could not give final triumph to the army of Israel until upheld by Aaron and Hur. Attend regularly the stated Assemblies of your Councils. Learn the work, and, at every Assembly exemplify one of the degrees, even if there should be no candidate to initiate. Growth is the fruit of work, but without work decay appears, and then comes death."

He recommended that the S. E. degree be placed in order after S. M. degree, holding that it was out of its proper place in being (as heretofore in this

Jurisdiction) conferred between R. M. and S. M. The Committee agreed with him, and their report was adopted, thus making the order of the conferring of the Cryptic degrees uniform throughout the several Jurisdictions — the S. E. degree to be hereafter conferred as an appendant degree, either at length or by communication, as the Council conferring it may elect.

A Report on Correspondence was presented by Companion CHARLES E. MEYER, who reviews twenty-two Jurisdictions as well as the General Grand Council. New York has its proper place in this Review and is pleasantly remembered and spoken of, with several quotations from our Review of 1886. The Report is well written, arranged and thoroughly workmanlike. Under Illinois our Companion thus raps the knuckles. Speaking of the Resolution, which we commented upon last year, terming it a "Declaration of Intention," for want of a better name, after quoting the Resolution, he says:

"We do not like threats by Grand Bodies, for it looks childish in Masonry, whose teachings are that brethren should dwell together in unity. We do not think that the Grand Council duly considered the matter, although it had been laid over one year. The non-intercourse would be all on one side. We hold the resolution entirely useless, for in our opinion whatever may have been done under Chapter merging had been healed by the Grand Council recognizing these Companions so previously irregularly made. If the Grand Council of Illinois says that Companion A. B. is a regular Select Master Mason, he must be so received throughout the Masonic or Cryptic world—unless it is proved beyond doubt that the Grand Council had been deceived."

We thought when we read this resolution the first time that it was, to say the least of it, a great mistake. There was then, and we do not believe there is at the present, any need of such a document. No Grand Council had taken or were about to take any step which would affect the standing of the Companions of Illinois in the least to our knowledge. *We*, personally, had taken for granted that the "healing" process which had been applied to those Companions who had been recipients of the Rite in "Appurtenant" Bodies was in fact a genuine all-healing balm and had accomplished the purpose for which it had been applied; that it was a universal cure-all. The Grand Council of Illinois seems to have lost faith in it, for before *any* have refused to receive their Companions as visitors or as Companions of the Rite, it sprang to the front with a warlike declaration, that only called attention to the question, which, until so brought up, was resting quietly. We believe that the language of the edicts and resolutions of the General Grand Council would have been taken and construed, by tacit consent, as referring simply to those who were not only received in Chapters "appurtenant," but who still remain in the same communion, so to speak, and still under Chapter domination, and not as applying to one who had been "healed" or who had now become a Companion of a Council under the jurisdiction of a Grand Council, independent of Chapter domination or interference, and who by the solemn action of the Grand Council, re-organized and in full authority as the governing Body of the Jurisdiction in which he claimed his home, had been healed and recognized as being in full and regular standing as a Companion of the Rite. This was the condition as it existed at the time this resolution was sent forth on a mission, which, we submit, has raised more feeling than any other for years and was detrimental to the best interests of the Rite. Believing as we do, we

must agree with Companion MEYER in his conclusion as to the wisdom of the act on part of our sister, the Grand Council of Illinois. We shall again have to touch upon this subject under "Illinois" and other jurisdictions.

Companion MEYER is quite witty in his "battle of pens" with Companion GRANT of Kentucky, and furnishes a good bit of amusement to the lookers-on. He holds his own. He quotes the portion of the Address of the G. M. of Kentucky, which we have already given, *supra*, and also quotes from the Address of Companion GRANT as the incoming G. M., and winds up his review, speaking of Companion GRANT's Report, etc., with the following :

"He writes in wondrous good humor, having reviewed us last year and gotten rid of us. He seems bitterly opposed to the General Grand Council, and pitches into them whenever and wherever he can. Why, Companion GRANT, if you don't like it, don't object to those that do. *Bid them God speed!* If they attempt to coerce Kentucky, call on us fighting Quakers, and we will talk for our little sister, who once thought she would go away from home, but soon came back, 'merely to satisfy outsiders.' Let them alone. Some day they may give a party, and if you don't behave, they won't invite your family or yourself."

Oh, yes, we will; our latch string hangs out.

We note a difference in the manner of working and in doing the business of the Council and that which holds in other Jurisdictions. Under "Missouri," Companion MEYER says :

"In Pennsylvania we permit three Select Masters (one of whom must be one of the first three elective officers) to open and do the routine work of the Council, but not less than nine can confer the degrees. We know that it took three to found the degree and make the deposit, and so we believe that three should be permitted to maintain the life of the Council. What we mean by the routine work is to read the minutes, receive the moneys, relieve the poor, pass such orders as may be necessary for the life of the Body, such as rent, Grand Council fees and dues, salaries of secretary, inside sentinel and other officers."

This may, and probably does work well. With us in New York the law is different, but we can see no reason, except that, why the law of Pennsylvania is not a decided benefit to the work. We shall refer to Companion MEYER's report again, under other jurisdictions, however. We dare not take more space now. Pennsylvania has always been right on the main questions touching the Cryptic Rite and—she can be trusted to keep right every time,—but don't keep Nebraska in your list of "independent Grand Councils" any longer. And you may put Mississippi in its proper place as an independent Grand Council. See? North Carolina, ditto. Officers elected, Companions JOHN L. YOUNG, G. M., Philadelphia; CHARLES E. MEYER, G. Rec., Philadelphia. Next Assembly at Johnstown, the third Wednesday of February, 1889.

RHODE ISLAND—1888.

The Twenty-eighth Assembly of this Body was held at Providence, April 9th, M. I. OSMOND H. BRIGGS, G. M., presiding. As the Proceedings are not printed annually, we are without advices, except of the routine character.

The degrees of Royal and Select Master were exemplified by the officers of Providence Council.

This jurisdiction keeps on in the even tenor of its way, independent of all others, and keeps up as much interest in this branch of Masonry as in any of the other branches there. The comments of reviewers, as to its positions on the

vital subjects of the day, refer to former years, and are covered by our former reviews, and which it is unnecessary to repeat.

Companions WILLIAM J. HUNTINGTON, of Newport, was elected G.·M.·., and WILLIAM R. GREENE, Providence, G.·Rec.·., to whom we are indebted for our information. Thanks.

SOUTH CAROLINA—1888.

The Twenty-ninth Annual Assembly of this Body was held at Charleston, February 14; Representatives from six Councils present, M.·I.·. Companion G. P. BERGH, presiding.

The business was of a routine character, and the Rite is moving along in the usual channel, with some encouraging prospects of advancement. No Report on Correspondence printed.

The next Assembly is to be held at Charleston, February 12, 1889.

Companions A. DOTY, G.·M.·., and ZIMMERMAN DAVIS, ditto, G.·Rec.·., and to whom we are indebted for a written report from which we glean the matters which we give herein. Thanks.

TENNESSEE—1885-6-7-8.

The Proceedings of this Body for the above years come to us under one cover, and show that the Thirty-fifth Assembly was held at Nashville, January 26, 1885, presided over by M.·I.·. PITKIN C. WRIGHT, G.·M.·., with Representatives from eight Councils present, and a goodly number of Grand Representatives, amongst whom we note our own Representative, Companion JOHN FRIZZELL. There was no Report on Correspondence.

The address of the G.·M.·. is of local interest, and but one suggestion we desire to present therefrom, and that on the subject of the amount of fees to be charged for conferring the degrees of the Rite. He says:

“One thing which I think will materially aid in our rise and progress, is an increase in the minimum fees allowed to be charged for the degrees. Our brethren and Companions have a well-defined and fixed aversion to cheap Masonry, and the pitiful sum charged for these degrees is enough to bring discredit on any body of Masonry. People rank them according to their price, and these being cheap in cash will be held cheaply in esteem. They are three beautiful and necessary degrees, and twenty or twenty-five dollars is little enough to charge for them.”

And he earnestly requested the Body to fix one of these sums as the minimum fee for the degrees. He further says:

“Raise the price and you will elevate the standard and increase the desirability of this branch of our Order; obtain more money, and I believe, more members. I have carefully watched this matter for several years, and cannot avoid coming to the conclusion that their cheapness is an element of weakness; at any rate, a change can do no harm, and one year's experience can work no damage.”

This matter was referred to a committee for consideration, who reported in favor of raising the minimum fee to fifteen dollars.

Companion WILLIAM C. HENSLEY, of Nashville, elected G.·M.·., and JOHN FRIZZELL, Nashville, G.·Rec.·.

1886.

The Thirty-sixth Assembly was held at Nashville, January 25th, M.·I.·. HENRY C. HENSLEY, of Nashville, G.·M.·., presiding, with the Representatives of five Councils present. The list of Grand Representatives was quite full, and included our own, Companion FRIZZELL.

The address and business was of local interest only.

We note that the increase of the minimum fee for the degrees did not work to the advantage expected, and the amount was reduced to five dollars again. We incline to think that not sufficient time was given to try the workings of the change, and the time was not an auspicious one for its trial. We believe that the fees are altogether too low, and that the reasoning of Companion WRIGHT was sound, and whenever the trial is made by a universal adoption of the suggestion, and held to, *for a term of years*, that the wisdom of such a change will be made manifest; a change for one or two years would avail nothing, and would not test the principle. No Report on Correspondence.

Officers elected: Companions JAMES R. CROWE, of Pulaski, G.·M.·., and JOHN FRIZZELL, G.·Rec.·.

1887.

The Thirty-seventh Assembly was held at Nashville, January 24th. M.·I.·. JAMES R. CROWE, G.·M.·., presiding, with the Representatives of six Councils, and Grand Representatives from fifteen jurisdictions.

The address of the G.·M.·. was delivered orally, and as we didn't expect it that way we failed to have our telephone connected with their temple, and must ask to be excused from referring particularly to its interesting matters. The business was routine in its character. We judge that the condition of the Rite improved during the preceding year, and that our Companions are encouraged to persevere in their work for its advancement.

Officers elected: Companions A. S. MYERS, of Memphis, G.·M.·., and JOHN FRIZZELL, of Nashville, G.·Rec.·.

1888.

The Thirty-eighth Annual Assembly of this Body was held at Nashville, January 23d, M.·I.·. ANGEL S. MYERS, G.·M.·., presiding, with the Representatives of six Councils present, together with Grand Representatives from fourteen jurisdictions.

The address of the G.·M.·. was *not* oral this time, and we got a connection on it. From appearances the state of the Rite is improving here. One new Council has been added to the Circle, and the G.·M.·. takes deserved credit and pride in the advance after so many years of quietness. He also notes the decease of Past G.·M.·. JOHN S. DASHIEL in a beautiful eulogy to his memory.

No Report on Correspondence. Give us one. The Constitution is printed with the Proceedings. Officers elected: Companions JOHN B. GARRETT, Nashville, G.·M.·., and JOHN FRIZZELL, ditto, G.·Rec.·.

Next Assembly, January 29, 1889, at Nashville.

VERMONT—1888.

The Thirty-fifth Assembly of this Body was held at Burlington, June 12th, M. I. HENRY H. ROSS, G. M., presiding, with the representatives of eighteen Councils and Grand Representatives from fifteen other jurisdictions. Our own Jurisdiction being unrepresented, our former Representative having deceased at Burlington, March 27, 1888.

The Address of the G. M. contains items of interest to all, although it treats principally of local matters. The condition of the Rite is good, as a whole. Upon the subject of the officers of the different bodies being concentrated amongst the same Companions and brethren, a few to do the work of all of the bodies, he says:

"If offices of the different Masonic bodies were distributed among more men, all the bodies would be the gainers, particularly so the Council. It may sometimes happen that all ability and zeal resides in a few, but this is seldom true, much less often than is thought. Responsibility creates interest and develops power. In too many cases we are adopting the 'Mississippi plan,' in having the Council degrees in the hands of Chapter or other officers, their lists and that of the Council embracing essentially the same men, but fail to obtain the advantages, if any there are, of such concentration of parentage. Expand the circle of officers, and we shall certainly gain vitality and power. Better a live Lilliputian than a sleeping Gulliver. Choose as officers Companions who *love* the Cryptic Rite for what it is; who recognize the value of its teachings and appreciate the beauty of its ritual. In neither of these particulars is the Council second to any of the Masonic bodies, and without its light much of the history and tradition of our Order remains obscure and unexplained."

We quote the above for the reason that this is the true explanation of the apathy and dullness that too often exists in the Councils. To follow the suggestions given will ensure the renewed vitality of every *quiet* Council in the land. It depends upon the officers of every Council to make their Body a success, or to kill it by neglect of duty, pledged under the solemn obligations taken voluntarily by those in authority. You Companions, who complain of a lack of vitality in your Bodies, just try the course suggested, and we will be willing to wager that your complaints will change into thanksgivings for the liveliness of your Council, the advancement of the Rite with you, and the increased satisfaction which surely comes to those who, knowing their duty, perform it conscientiously. One new Council is reported as having been chartered.

Upon the "Illinois" question so often referred to in this report, he says:

"The position of this Grand Council would seem to be plain regarding its relation to the General Grand Council, and its sentiments concerning those Councils that a few years since adopted the plan of merging with their respective Chapters. The position of the General Grand Council respecting such Chapter made Royal and Select Masters is expressed in a resolution found on pp. 62-3, of its Proceedings of 1880 (given elsewhere in this report in full). To this resolution, and the endorsement given it by most of the Grand Councils, the Grand Council of Illinois took exception and issued a Circular bearing date November 5, 1887, expressing their feeling and suggesting the forming of an association among Grand Councils to resist what it indicates to be an unwarranted assumption of power on the part of the General Grand Council. As the Grand Council of Vermont is a member of the General-Grand Council, I am at a loss to know why the circular was sent to us, or on what grounds it can expect this Body to recede from the stand it has already taken."

This particular subject was referred by the Body to the Committee of Foreign Correspondence, which reported that

"they have examined the circular and are equally at a loss with the Grand Master to understand why it was addressed to this or any other constituent Grand Council of the General Grand Council. The General Grand Council has decided that all those Companions who were made in any Council not independent of any other branch of Masonry must be healed to be received in

"any Council subordinate to the General Grand Council, or any Grand Council in allegiance to that Body. It is not therefore within the province of the Grand Council of Vermont, in loyalty to the General Grand Council, to take action on the circular from Illinois. Yet, as Cryptic Masons, we may wish them better counsel and the obedience to their own Rite taught in Masonry."

This decisive declaration of Vermont on this question ought to satisfy even Illinois that the issuing of their circular was a mistake. That every Grand Council, constituent of the General Grand Body, will take the same position, we have not the least doubt; much better would it have been if the matter had been left as Illinois had before settled it, that is, under their plan of universal healing. Then all would have been well and satisfactory to all Bodies. The introduction of the dissension is to be deprecated. It has done no good to any one, and it has been a firebrand, which we think, in all sincerity of heart and kindness of feeling toward our Illinois Companions, had better been left untouched for the general good and benefit of the Rite.

The decease of several of the Companions in Vermont during the year preceding the Address is mentioned, with a testimonial to the departed. A touching tribute is given to our late Representative near that Body, which closes with the following:

"One of the strongest traits in the character of Companion BIGELOW was loyalty, whether to his Alma Mater, the University, his country, the Masonic Institution or his private friends. A true-hearted man, a keen antagonist, a genial and courteous gentleman, few men had so many friends as he, and he deserved them all."

May his memory be enshrined with us, his example followed and our lives meet at their ending—a tribute as good and as well deserved.

The Proceedings are adorned with a portrait of NATHAN B. HASWELL, the second in their series of portraits.

No Report on Correspondence, which we regret. Give us one next time, and we'll forgive you "just this once." Officers elected, Companion HENRY H. ROSS, G. M., Burlington; WARREN G. REYNOLDS, G. Rec., Burlington. Next Assembly, June 11, 1889.

WISCONSIN—1888.

This Grand Body convened in Annual Assembly at Milwaukee, February 22d, M. I. MARSENA TEMPLE, G. M., presiding, with the Representatives of twenty-six Councils present. The address and Proceedings were of local interest. The Illinois circular of November 5, 1887, and comments thereon, comprise the principal part of the printed Proceedings. This circular was endorsed by the Body, which united in the protest therein contained. No Report on Correspondence. Date of next Assembly not given. The G. M. was re-elected, and Companion JOHN W. LAFLIN, of Milwaukee, re-elected G. Rec., to whom we are indebted for our information.

We can see no reason why the Cryptic Rite should not flourish in Wisconsin, nor why we should not all agree in harmony to work together for its advancement.

GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL.

The interests of this Body are identical with the interests of the several jurisdictions which we have already considered, and there is nothing to add upon the subjects which have taken our attention. A careful reading of our review of the different States and jurisdictions will give all the information we have received, and familiarity with such jurisdictions will present the present condition of the General Grand Council as fully as though we were to reiterate what has been already said under this head. Our new Council has been instituted under dispensation of the General Grand Master, at Deming, New Mexico, with fifteen members to start off on.

In the list of Independent Grand Councils sent out September 1st, as "revised to August 15, 1888," Mississippi and North Carolina are omitted to be given their proper places, probably because news of the action of reconstruction of the Grand Councils of those States respectively had not been received by the officers of the General Grand Council. However, they can find it *all* in our report. If *we* have left anything out, it was for the same reason, *i. e.*, that we didn't know it.

Officers, M. P., GEORGE J. PINCKARD, G. G. M., New Orleans, La.; R. P., HENRY W. MORDHURST, G. G. Rec., Fort Wayne, Ind.

IN CONCLUSION.

Our work is done. We submit the result to our Companions of the Rite. We have reviewed the Proceedings for every jurisdiction except three in this country, and those have not sent us their Proceedings. Of two of these three, we give the officers' names as sent to us by General Grand Recorder MORDHURST, leaving only one, Nebraska, unaccounted for. The general cause of Cryptic Masonry is advancing, and there is nothing to discourage the most fearful. The signs of the times indicate that the day of shadows and misgivings has passed away forever. From every direction comes news of prosperity and renewed interest in the Rite. Only one State now adheres to the plan of conferring the degrees under the consolidation which was inaugurated under the "Merger" of 1877 and 1878, and that one we believe will soon take rank with all of the rest in a Grand Council organization, and we bespeak for those who have reorganized, and for this one when it comes in, the most friendly and fraternal greetings, the welcome that belongs to each one. Let the dead past be buried with the dead past, and nought but a lively emulation as to who shall best work and best agree be known in the years of prosperity for the Rite that is surely approaching.

We have reviewed thirty jurisdictions in number, and covering an aggregate of proceedings of some of these for several years each. We lay down our pen with regret, for we have enjoyed the work. We send forth now the result, trusting that our Companions will take the "will" to be kindly meant in all that

we have said, and the " words " as only indicative of an earnest and sincere desire to advance the interest of the Rite. If we have in any way said aught which may appear to be harsh, consider that it was not meant in that way, and —" Finis."

Geo. M. Osgoodby

Chairman for Committee.

The Grand Council was then called from labor until 1.30 o'clock this afternoon.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th, 1888—1.30 o'clock, P. M.

The Grand Council resumed its session.

Officers and Representatives as at the morning's session.

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

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

TO THE M. P. GRAND COUNCIL, ETC. :

Your Committee on Unfinished Business report that, after careful research of the records, they are unable to find any business left undone by the Grand Council at its last Annual Assembly, to be acted upon at the present time.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD A. STAHLBRODT, }
 JAMES M. THOIRS, } *Committee.*
 W. A. WICKES, }

The exemplification of the work at this Annual Assembly was, on motion, dispensed with.

The Special Committee appointed to report upon the circular issued by the Grand Council of R. and S. Masters of Illinois presented the following, which was received, and their recommendations adopted :

TO THE M. P. GRAND COUNCIL, ETC. :

Your Committee, to whom was referred so much of the Grand Master's address as relates to a communication from a Committee of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Illinois, dated Chicago, Nov. 5, 1887, respectfully report :

We concur fully in the conclusions of the report of the Committee on Correspondence regarding this subject, and presented to this Grand Body at its present session—but we beg to say, further, that the question contained in said communication is one that can only be determined by the General Grand Council ; and your Committee therefore believe that the Grand Council of the State of New York can take no action whatever concerning this communication.

If the Grand Council of Illinois is dissatisfied with the laws of the General Grand Council, its remedy lies in presenting its grievance by petition to the General Grand Body.

Whatever may be said regarding the subject matter of this communication, your Committee do not lose sight of the fact that New York, even before the

organization of the General Grand Council itself, refused to recognize any one as a Royal and Select Master who had not received the degrees within a Council of Royal and Select Masters, or who had not been properly healed.

Fraternally submitted,

CHARLES W. BROWN,
GEORGE MCGOWN,
EDWARD M. L. EHLERS, } *Committee.*

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

TO THE M.°. P.° GRAND COUNCIL, ETC. :

Your Committee on Constitution and By-Laws report :

That no decisions of the Grand Master or other matters have been presented to this Committee for their consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE M. OSGOODBY, }
JOHN W. COBURN, } *Committee.*
JOHN N. MACOMB, JR., }

M.°. P.°. GEO. M. OSGOODBY presented the following resolution, which was, on motion, adopted :

Resolved, That the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of New York sends hearty congratulations to the Grand Councils of Mississippi and North Carolina, with its sincere wishes for an era of prosperity to those bodies, and that an exchange of Grand Representatives with those bodies be asked by the incoming Grand Master.

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

TO THE M.°. P.° GRAND COUNCIL :

Your Committee on Grievances and Appeals report that nothing has been presented to them requiring their consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A. W. FORCE,
EDWIN A. QUICK,
JOHN CUNNINGHAM, } *Committee.*

On motion, the Finance Committee was instructed to report an appropriation of Twenty-five Dollars as a contribution on the part of this Grand Council towards the erection of a monument to the memory of our late Grand Chaplain, Rev. JOHN G. WEBSTER.

A favorable report was made by one of the Grand Officers on the condition of Central City Council, No. 13; since the dispensation was granted them, and attributed the absence of their report of proceedings to the failure to properly notify them of our requirements.

On motion, the *second* Tuesday in September, 1889, at 10 o'clock A. M., and Masonic Hall, New York City, were made the time and place for the next Annual Assembly of this Grand Council.

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

TO THE M. P. GRAND COUNCIL, ETC. :

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

We recommend the payment of the following sums :

To Grand Recorder, for salary and expenses.....	\$263.80
Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence.....	50.00
Grand Master, for expenses.....	15.00
Grand Sentinel, for services and expenses.....	10.00
Rent of room and safe.....	20.00
J. W. Coburn, for per diem expenses at last Assembly.....	3 00
Toward the Webster Monument Fund.....	25.00
Pay of Representatives at this session.....	375.16
J. F. Baldwin, for printing.....	9.00
Dues to General Grand Council.....	37.50
Total.....	\$809.66

We also recommend the expenditure by the Grand Recorder of a sum sufficient to print 500 copies of the proceedings of this Annual Assembly.

In relation to the pay of Representatives of Sister Grand Councils, your Committee, after due deliberation, have come to the conclusion that, while acknowledging the justice of their receiving compensation for attendance and expenses while it is made obligatory on them to be present at the annual assemblies of the Grand Council or forfeit their commissions as Grand Representatives, we do not feel that, from the existing finances of the Grand Council, they can recommend the establishment of a precedent which in the future may assume proportions which it will be unable to bear.

We therefore recommend that the resolution making it obligatory on the Representatives to be present at the Annual Assembly be so far modified that an appearance in person or a report in writing, forwarded to the Grand Master previous to the Annual Assembly, shall be deemed as a representation.

Respectfully submitted,

ALEX. B. KING,
WM. H. WYMAN, } *Committee.*
P. VERHOEVEN,

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 W.: M.: POSTLEY and CONRAD WEHNES, when the Grand Council proceeded to the election, with the following result :

RALPH C. CHRISTIANCE, of Ithaca, elected Grand Master.

JOHN N. MACOMB, Jr., of Branchport, elected Grand Deputy Master.

ALEX. B. KING, of Troy, elected Grand P. C. of W.

JOHN F. BALDWIN, of New York City, elected Grand Treasurer.

GEO. VAN VLEIT, of New York City, elected Grand Recorder.

[M.: I.: Comp. JOHN L. BROTHERS was unanimously re-elected Grand Master, but declined.]

The Grand Master made the following appointments :

GEO. A. NEWELL, of Medina, Grand C. of the G.

THOS. J. BISHOP, of Albany, Grand C. of the C.

REV. W. D. DOTY, D. D., of Rochester, Grand Chaplain.

SAMUEL C. PIERCE, of Rochester, Grand Marshal.

ABRAHAM OPPENHEIMER, of Buffalo, Grand Lecturer.

JOHN B. HARRIS, of Brooklyn, Grand Steward.

JOHN HOOLE, of New York, Grand Sentinel.

The Officers elected and appointed were installed (with the exception of Comps. DOTY and PIERCE, whom the Grand Master was authorized to install at his convenience) in their several stations by M.: P.: GEO. M. OSGOODBY, Past General Grand Master of the General Grand Council of the United States, as Installing Officer, assisted by M.: I.: JOHN W. COBURN, Past Grand Master of this Grand Council, as Grand Marshal.

The following resolution, offered by Comp. JOHN W. COBURN, was, on motion, unanimously, and by a rising vote, adopted :

Resolved, That the Companions of this Grand Council deeply sympathize with our retiring Grand Master, JOHN L. BROTHERS, in the affliction with which he has had to battle during the past year ; and while we regret his inability to serve us during another year, we bear testimony to his untiring efforts for the advancement of Cryptic Masonry and his unflinching fidelity to the trusts reposed in him during his term of office.

The Grand Master appointed the following Committees :

On Foreign Correspondence.

GEO. M. OSGOODBY, JOHN W. COBURN, WM. DOWNS.

On Library.

GEO. VAN VLEIT, CHARLES W. BROWN, JOHN G. BARKER,
P. M. W. VERHOEVEN.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FRATERNAL DEAD.

TO THE GRAND COUNCIL ROYAL AND SELECT MASONS, S. N. Y. :

Your Committee on Fraternal Dead, deeply appreciating the responsible as well as solemn duty resting upon them, perhaps more so at this Annual Assembly than at any previous one, would report that words can but feebly express the deep sentiment that overshadows us, and the sad thoughts that present the past so vividly before us, as we miss from our Council one who was ever with us, always ready and willing to perform his work, and more especially so as Chairman of this important Committee, and who, but a twelvemonth past, presented to this Grand Council, in all his vigor and strength of manhood, an able and exhaustive report for the year then closed, and in a very short space of time the Craft in general and the members of this Committee were called upon and did pay the last sad tribute of respect to his memory in old St. Peter's Church, Albany, where, as a faithful priest and servant of God, he had frequently ministered at its altar in holy things, and where, as well as at our various Masonic altars, his genial presence was ever felt, cause us to feel almost inadequate to our task, more especially as our Most Illustrious Grand Master, in his able address, has so faithfully and earnestly referred to the death of our Grand Chaplain, JOHN G. WEBSTER, giving his Masonic career so concisely, we therefore conclude, in few words, to add to all that has been said our sad tokens of respect, regard, veneration, and esteem to his memory, and our sympathy to his bereaved family, friends, this Grand Council, and the Masonic Craft in general. And we would also recommend that a suitable memorial page be set apart in the proceedings of this Annual Assembly, not only to our beloved Grand Chaplain, but also to Companions M.:I.: JAMES MCCREDIE, R.:I.: GEO. H. BIGELOW, R.:I.: FRANK L. STOWELL.

As space will forbid us to enter upon an extended eulogy in each case, suffice it to say: They will one and all be missed from the Cryptic Vault, where they

have most faithfully "wrought their regular hours," but those who are left still "to bear the heat and burden of the day" will ever endeavor to imitate their virtues and good works.

Respectfully submitted,

G. FRED. WILTSIE,
JOHN J. MARTIN,
THOMAS J. BISHOP, } *Committee.*

The Grand Master was requested to apportion the various Councils in this Jurisdiction to the several Grand Officers for visitation.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Van Hook". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed title "Grand Recorder".

Grand Recorder.

R.:I.:Companion

Rev. John C. Webster

Grand Chaplain of the Grand Council of
Royal and Select Masters of
the State of New York.

Died September 27, 1887.

Gathered into the Garner of the Lord.

N. J. Companion

James Mc Credie

Died May 21, 1888.

His Work is Finished.

R. I. Companion

Frank E. Stowell

Died February 10, 1888.

Gone, but Not Forgotten.

R. I. Companion

George H. Bigelow

Grand Representative of this Body
to the Grand Council of
Vermont.

From Labor to Rest.

Officers, Location and Date of Meetings of Subordinate Councils.

NAME.	No.	MASTER.	DEPUTY MASTER.	P. C. OF W.	RECORDER.	WHERE LOCATED.		DATE OF MEETINGS.
						City or Town.	County.	
COLUMBIAN.	1	Joseph A. Britton.	Thos. Cunnington	Wm. F. J. Thiers.	P. Verhoeven.	New York.	New York.	2d or 4th Monday.
UNION	2	W. M. Postley.	M. W. Goodyear.	M. H. Conklin.	Howell Vail.	New York.	New York.	3d Saturday.
BROOKLYN.	4	John B. Harris.	A. H. Topping.	Wm. M. Smith.	Geo. Nicholson.	Brooklyn.	Kings.	3d Saturday.
ADELPHIC.	7	Royal E. Deane.	Fred'k Kanter.	Edward Adams.	John W. Coburn.	New York.	New York.	1st Saturday.
BLOSS.	14	Wm. M. Peckham.	Arthur T. Smith.	Rob't B. Stiles.	John H. Tappin.	Troy.	Rensselaer.	1st Friday.
BRUCE	15	Charles N. Palmer	Wm. J. Jackman.	Perry Stowell.	V. N. Douglas.	Lockport.	Niagara.	1st and 3d Wednesdays.
SOUTHERN TIER.	16	Conrad Wehnes.	S. D. Wadhams.	J. A. Baty.	W. A. Kingsbury.	Elmira.	Chemung.	3d Monday.
BUFFALO.	17	T. L. Wadsworth.	Wm. J. Donaldson	Wm. H. Cass.	Geo. L. Kingston.	Buffalo.	Erie.	3d Thursday.
DORIC.	19	E. A. Stahlbrodt.	Edward Schafer.	Thomas Gliddon.	John Alexander.	Rochester.	Monroe.	1st and 3d Wednesdays.
KEYSTONE	20	Levi S. Gates.	W. F. Chandler.	H. McMichael.	Wm. S. Riselay.	Buffalo.	Erie.	3d Saturday.
DEWITT CLINTON.	22	Thomas J. Bishop	John L. Godley.	Rich'd T. Lockley	J. E. Allanson.	Albany.	Albany.	3d Thursday.
ONTARIO	23	Edward Kendall.	J. Henry Smith.	Nelson Hyatt.	J. N. Macomb, Jr.	Penn Yan.	Yates.	Last Tuesday.
DUNKIRK	25	Henry J. Gibbs, Jr	Benj. L. Harrison.	John L. Hilliard.	Charles Blood.	Dunkirk.	Chautauqua.	1st Wednesday.
PALMYRA	26	Mark C. Finley.	Charles Deyo.	E. B. Anderson.	George McCown.	Palmyra.	Wayne.	2d Monday.
UTICA.	28	James M. Thoires.	James V. Anthony	Herman L. Caley.	Nathan Overend.	Utica.	Oneida.	Last Friday.
KING SOLOMON.	31	Alfred B. Smith.	William Scott.	Henry Hasbrouck.	E. M. Weeks.	Poughkeepsie.	Dutchess.	.....
OLEAN.	33	Martin Southeron.	Albert A. Swarts.	Wm. L. Myrick.	C. L. Hanks.	Olean.	Cattaraugus.	1st Wednesday.
HORNELLSVILLE.	35	James H. Sprong	H. H. Carney.	J. I. Bentley.	John W. Williams	Hornellsville.	Steuben.	1st Wednesday.
CORNING	53	J. S. Billington.	Chas. V. Huchins.	John Comosh, Jr.	Geo. Hitchcock.	Corning.	Steuben.	1st and 3d Thursdays.
PEEKSKILL	55	David Griffin.	John Halsted.	Robert Brown.	Thos. J. Hodgkins	Peekskill.	Westchester.	2d Monday.
HUDSON.	62	C. F. T. Beale.	Geo. N. Pierson.	Henry Kertz.	F. C. Hanks.	Hudson.	Columbia.	1st Monday.
ITHACA.	68	H. E. Estabrook.	H. M. Hibbard.	Geo. W. Melotte.	A. W. Force.	Ithaca.	Tompkins.	2d Monday.
NEPPERHAN	70	Henry S. Sproull.	Rufus B. Lisbrow.	Jos. M. Tompkins	John E. Murphy.	Yonkers.	Westchester.	1st and 3d Wednesdays.
ALPHA-OMEGA.	71	Charles D. Ross.	G. S. Hutchinson.	I. M. Thompson.	John Bidelman.	Albion.	Orleans.	2d Wednesday.

REPRESENTATIVES
— OF —
OTHER GRAND COUNCILS
NEAR THE
Grand Council of New York.

—*—

ALABAMA.....	John W. Coburn.....	Morrisania.
ARKANSAS.....	C. S. Hanks.....	Olean.
CALIFORNIA.....	Thomas Gliddon.....	Rochester.
CANADA.....		
CONNECTICUT.....	P. M. W. Verhoeven.....	New York City.
ENGLAND, WALES, ETC.....		
FLORIDA.....	John F. Baldwin.....	New York City.
GEORGIA.....	Geo. M. Osgoodby.....	Buffalo.
INDIANA.....	Hawley Klein.....	"
ILLINOIS.....	W. M. Postley.....	New York City.
KANSAS.....	John D. Williams.....	Elmira.
KENTUCKY.....	E. M. L. Ehlers.....	New York City.
LOUISIANA.....	Philander Reed.....	"
MAINE.....	G. Fred. Wiltsie.....	Albany.
MARYLAND.....	William Downes.....	New York City.
MASSACHUSETTS.....	John J. Martin.....	Albany.
MICHIGAN.....	Peter Forrester.....	New York City.
MISSISSIPPI.....		
MISSOURI.....	John L. Brothers.....	Buffalo.
MINNESOTA.....	Alex. B. King.....	Troy.
NEW HAMPSHIRE.....	Geo. Van Vliet.....	New York City.
NEW JERSEY.....	Royal E. Deane.....	"
NORTH CAROLINA.....		
OHIO.....	Darwin E. Morgan.....	Buffalo.
OREGON.....	William Sherer.....	Brooklyn.
PENNSYLVANIA.....	John Hodge.....	Lockport.
RHODE ISLAND.....	Charles W. Brown.....	New York City.
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	A. W. Force.....	Ithaca.
TENNESSEE.....	John N. Macomb, Jr.....	Branchport.
VERMONT.....	Ralph C. Christiance.....	Ithaca.

REPRESENTATIVES

— OF THE —

Grand Council of the State of New York

NEAR OTHER GRAND COUNCILS.



ALABAMA	Benjamin F. Pope.....	Mobile.
ARKANSAS.....	Logan H. Roots.....	Little Rock.
CALIFORNIA.....	Charles Lord Field.....	San Francisco.
CANADA	Daniel Spry	Toronto.
CONNECTICUT.....	James S. Gould.....	Bridgeport.
ENGLAND, WALES, ETC.	Nathaniel George Philips.....	London, Eng.
FLORIDA.....	James A. Chaffin.....	Milton.
GEORGIA.....	Anselm Sterne.....	Albany.
INDIANA.....	Lucienne A. Foote.....	Crawfordsville.
ILLINOIS.....	James Douglass	Chester.
KANSAS	David Brockway	Topeka.
KENTUCKY	William Ryan	Louisville.
LOUISIANA.....	Richard Lambert, M. D.....	New Orleans.
MAINE.....	Josiah H. Drummond	Portland.
MASSACHUSETTS.....	Wm. Porter Anderson	Boston.
MICHIGAN.....	H. Shaw Noble	Monroe.
MISSISSIPPI.....		
MISSOURI.....	Noah M. Given.....	St. Louis.
MINNESOTA.....	Geo. W. Cooley.....	Minneapolis.
NEW HAMPSHIRE.....	Henry F. Glidden	Dover.
NEW JERSEY.....	James B. Small.....	Newark.
NORTH CAROLINA.....		
OHIO.....	Henry Newbegin.....	Circleville.
OREGON.....	Milton S. Woodcock.....	Corvallis.
PENNSYLVANIA.....	Geter C. Shidle	Pittsburgh.
RHODE ISLAND.....	A. H. Cushman	Providence.
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	W. H. G. Gaillard.....	Pendleton.
TENNESSEE	John Frizzell	Nashville.
VERMONT.....		

OFFICERS FOR 1888-9.

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RALPH C. CHRISTIANCE	... of Ithaca	Grand Master.
JOHN N. MACOMB, JR. of Branchport	...	“ Deputy Master.
ALEXANDER B. KING	..... of Troy	.....	“ P. C. of W.
JOHN F. BALDWIN	..... of New York	.....	“ Treasurer.
GEO. VAN VLIET	..... of New York	.....	“ Recorder.
GEO. A. NEWELL	..... of Medina	.....	“ C. of the G.
THOMAS J. BISHOP	..... of Albany	.....	“ C. of the C.
REV. W. D. DOTY, D.D.	..... of Rochester	.....	“ Chaplain.
SAMUEL C. PIERCE	..... of Rochester	.....	“ Marshal.
A. OPPENHEIMER	..... of Buffalo	.....	“ Lecturer.
JOHN B. HARRIS	..... of Brooklyn	.....	“ Steward.
JOHN HOOLE	..... of New York	.....	“ Sentinel.
GEORGE M. OSGOODBY,	Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence, Buffalo, N. Y.		



GRAND RECORDER'S ADDRESS:

Cor. of West and Bethune Streets,

NEW YORK CITY.

NEXT ANNUAL ASSEMBLY, SEPT. 10, 1889.

