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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Conventions of Royal and Select Masters

AND THE

ORGANIZATION OF THE

GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL

OF

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Published by Order of the Convention of 1880.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, PORTLAND, ME.,
GENERAL GRAND MASTER.

GEO. W. COOLEY, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.,
GENERAL GRAND RECORDER.

HISTORY

OF THE

CONVENTION OF

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS,

The first attempt to secure concerted action of Royal and Select Masters in the United States, was made by Comp. Mackey, who, in a letter to Comp. Chas. W. Moore, of Boston, in 1848, suggested that a convention be held to make an amicable settlement of the disputed question involved in the contest between the Councils and Chapters, and to make the mode of conferring the degrees uniform. An attempt was made to have this convention held at the same time as the convocation of the Grand Chapter in Boston, in 1850, but there does not appear to have been sufficient interest manifested at that time to insure it, and the convention was not called.

A convention was held at New York, June 12th, 1872, in response to the call of Comp. Drummond, of Maine, made at the request of his Grand Council. Subsequent conventions were also held at New York, in 1872 and 1873—at New Orleans in 1874—at Buffalo in 1877, and at Detroit in 1880, at which latter convention a Provisional General Grand Council was organized, which became operative on the 23d day of February, 1881. The proceedings of the various conventions are herewith published.

GEO. W. COOLEY,
General Grand Recorder.

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

CONVENTION

OF

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

HELD AT COUNCIL HALL,

IN THE

CITY OF NEW YORK,

June 12th and 13th, 1872.

TRANSACTIONS.

A convention of Illustrious Companions representing the interests of Cryptic Masonry, was held at the room of Adelphic Council, R. & S. M., No. 7, in Council Hall, Union Square, New York City, at 10 o'clock A. M. on Wednesday, June 12, 1872.

Illustrious Companion Josiah H. Drummond, of Maine, made a statement as to the object of the meeting, and read the following call, which had been sent to the various Grand Councils of the United States:

PORTLAND, ME., MAY, 10, 1871.

M. I. COMPANION:

At the session of the Grand Council of Maine, held on the third instant, after a conference with Companions from Massachusetts, I was directed to call a convention of Representatives from the several Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters, to meet in New York, in June, 1872, for the purpose of securing uniformity in the ritual, &c. of the Cryptic Rite.

Accordingly, I have fixed upon the second Wednesday in June of that year, and your Grand Council is hereby invited to be represented on that occasion; or if your Grand Council declines or neglects to act in the premises, we shall be happy to meet there any of the Companions in your State.

Massachusetts and Maine will be there prepared to exemplify their ritual, even if they have only themselves to witness it.

Due notice of the place of meeting will be given.

Yours fraternally,

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.

PORTLAND, MARCH 1, 1872.

M. I. COMPANION:

The Convention referred to in the foregoing call will meet at the Council Hall, No. 8 Union Square, New York, on the day named, at ten o'clock in the forenoon

Yours fraternally,

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.

The Convention was organized by the election of Ill. Comp. William P. Anderson, of Massachusetts, as temporary President, and Ill. Comp. Thomas J. Corson, of New Jersey, temporary Secretary.

The President appointed as a Committee on Credentials:

Ill. Comp. MARCUS HIGGINBOTHAM, of New Jersey,
" " J. EDWIN MASON, of District Columbia,
" " JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, of Maine.

The committee reported the following delegates as present, which report was accepted, and all the Companions named therein were received as members of the convention:

Alabama	Ill. Comp, R. D WEBB.
Arkansas	Ill. Comp. JOHN W. SIMONS, (Proxy).
Connecticut	Ill. Comp. JOSEPH K. WHEELER.
	" " I. W. CARPENTER.
	" " FRED H. WALDEN,
	" " W. R. HIGBY,
Illinois	Ill. Comp. JONATHAN J. FRENCH,
Maine	Ill. Comp. GORDON R. GARDEN,
	" " JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,
Massachusetts	Ill. Comp. CHAS. H. NORRIS,
	" " WM. P. ANDERSON,
	" " GEORGE TAPLEY,
	" " S. W. FAIRCHILD,
	" " E. A. DANIELS.
Missouri	Ill. Comp. W. A. PRALL,
	" " ALLEN MCDOWELL, (Proxy.)

New Brunswick.....Ill. Comp. G. FRED WILTSIE, (Proxy.)
New Jersey.....Ill. Comp. T. J. CORSON,
" " J. SHEVILLE,
" " J. T. SEYMOUR,
" " T. H. R. REDWAY,
" " M. HIGGINBOTHAM.
New York.....Ill. Comp. G. FRED. WILTSIE,
" " JACKSON H. CHASE,
" " GEORGE W. THORNE,
" " P. O. C. BENSON.
North Carolina.....Ill. Comp. THOMAS B. CARR.
Rhode Island.....Ill. Comp. STILLMAN WHITE.
Tennessee.....Ill. Comp. E. EDMUNDSON,
" " G. S. BLACKIE.
Wisconsin.....Ill. Comp. W. C. SWAIN.

The following Companions were duly accredited from Lafayette Council, Washington, D. C.:

EDWIN B. MCGROTTY, PHILIP S. CRAIG,
J. EDWIN MASON

The following Companions, not accredited as delegates, were present:

Maryland.....Ill. Comp. THOMAS A. CUNNINGHAM,
Ohio.....Ill. Comp. WILLIAM M. CUNNINGHAM.
South Carolina..Ill. Comp. ALBERT G. MACKEY,* P. M. P. G. M.

MARCUS HIGGINBOTHAM,
JOHN EDWIN MASON,
JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, } *Committee.*

The President appointed as a committee on permanent organization:

Ill. Comp. J. T. SEYMOUR, of New Jersey.
" " W. C. SWAIN, of Wisconsin.
" " R. D. WEBB, of Alabama.

The committee reported for permanent officers of the convention:

For President, Ill. Comp. GORDON R. GARDEN, of Maine.
For Secretary, " " T. J. CORSON, of New Jersey.

*Comp. Mackey stated that he was not present in an official capacity, but merely as visitor.—RECORDER.

Ill. Comp. Garden declined to accept the appointment, whereupon Ill. Comp. Josiah H. Drummond, of Maine, was placed in his stead. The committee susequently reported for Vice Presidents:

Ill. Comp. THOMAS B. CARR, of North Carolina.
" " W. A. PRALL, of Missouri.

The Convention unanimously elected the officers as follows:

President, Ill. Comp. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, of Maine.
1*st Vice Pres.*, " " THOS. B. CARR, of North Carolina.
2*d Vice Pres.*, " " W. A. PRALL, of Missouri,
Secretary, " " THOS. J. CORSON, of New Jersey.

On motion of Ill. Comp. A. G. Mackey, the President (Comp. Anderson) appointed the following Committee on Rules:

Ill. Comp. W. A. PRALL, of Missouri,
" " GORDON R. GARDEN, of Maine,
" " E. EDMUNDSON, of Tennessee,
" " G. F. WILTSIE, of New York,
" " T. B. CARR, of North Carolina.

The Committee made the following report, which was adopted:

Rule I. In the decision of all questions before the Convention, each State or District shall be entitled to three votes, to be cast by delegates, if such have been chosen, or in the absence of such delegates by their proxies, and in case no delegates have been elected or appointed, the votes may be cast by any past or present officer of such Council or Grand Council, the same having been accepted by the Committee on Credentials and reported to this Convention.

In case of there being two delegates or representatives present, the highest officer shall be entitled to two votes and the other to one.

Rule II. No member shall be allowed to speak on any question more than five minutes, without unanimous consent, nor a second time without permission from the President.

W. A. PRALL,
G. R. GARDEN,
E. EDMUNDSON,
G. F. WILTSIE,
T. B. CARR. } *Committee.*

On motion of Ill. Comp. T. H. R. Redway, Ill. Comps. G. F. Wiltsie, G. W. Thorne, and J. Sheville, of New York, were appointed a committee to procure a room for the meeting of the convention this evening. The committee reported that a room in this Hall would be at the service of this Convention, which report was adopted.

Ill. Comp. E. EDMUNDSON, of Tennessee,
" " J. E. MASON, of District Columbia,
" " R. D. WEBB, of Alabama,

were appointed a committee to report what matters should be brought before the Convention. The committee presented the following, which was adopted:

Your Committee on Business hereby report:

We recommend to the Convention the appointment of Committees as follows:

1st. On Nomenclature; to report proper names of officers of the Grand and subordinate bodies, and names of the meetings of the same.

2d. A Committee on the Order and Number of Degrees to be conferred in subordinate Councils; and

3d. A Committee on the Exemplification of the Work.

E. EDMUNDSON,
R. D. WEBB,
JNO. EDWIN MASON. } *Committee.*

The President (Ill. Comp. Carr in the chair) appointed the committees, as follows:

On Nomenclature.

Ill. Comp. J. H. DRUMMOND, of Maine,
" " T. J. CORSON, of New Jersey,
" " W. P. ANDERSON, of Massachusetts.

On Order and Number of Degrees.

Ill. Comp. W. A. PRALL, of Missouri,
" " JOHN W. SIMONS, of New York,
" " G. F. WILTSIE, of New York.

On Exemplification of Work.

Ill. Comp. JOHN SHEVILLE, of New Jersey,
" " A. G. MACKEY, of South Carolina,
" " C. H. NORRIS, of Massachusetts.

Comp. Anderson, of Masschusetts, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Convention that the Cryptic degrees should be under the exclusive jurisdiction of Grand Councils, and that no one should be recognized as a regular Companion of the Rite, who has not received the degrees under such jurisdiction.

Which, after discussion, was referred to a special committee, consisting of Comps. Carr, of North Carolina, Thorne, of New York, and Wheeler, of Connecticut.

On motion of Ill. Comp. G. W. Thorne, the Companions of Massachusetts and Maine were invited to exemplify the work of the different degrees this evening.

On motion of Ill. Comp. G. F. Wiltsie, it was resolved that when this Convention adjourn it adjourn to meet at 8 o'clock this evening.

On motion of Ill. Comp. Wm. P. Anderson, the Companions of New York were invited to exemplify the work of the degrees at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

On motion of Ill. Comp. G. F. Wiltsie, Comp. J. H. Murray, of Adelphic Council, No. 7, was employed to tyle for this Convention.

It was resolved that the hour for the morning session be nine o'clock.

During the session Ill. Comps. J. P. Doremus, M. P. G. M., Charles Bechtel, P. G. M., J. W. Pressey, C. W. Chase, Peter Dobbs, and Geo. Scott, of New Jersey. Ill. Comps. J. M. Knapp and Henry R. Sloat, of New York, and other Companions, were present as visitors.

Convention adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, June 12, 1872.

The Convention re-assembled at 8 o'clock P. M. on Wednesday, June 12, in the Hall of Adelphic Council, Comp. Carr presiding.

The work of the degrees was then exemplified with the following cast of officers:

SELECT DEGREE.

EDWIN B. MCGROTTY, of District of Columbia,	*M. I. Master.*
PHILIP S. CRAIG, " " "	*R. I. Master.*
GEO. TAPLEY, of Massachusetts,	*I. M. of Work.*
WM. P. ANDERSON, of Massachusetts,	*Capt. of Guard.*
GORDON R. GARDEN, of Maine,	*Conductor.*
JOHN EDWIN MASON, of Washington,	*Sentinel.*
J, H. MURRAY, of New York,	*Tyler.*

ROYAL DEGREE.

WM. P. ANDERSON, of Massachusetts,	*M. I. Master.*
PHILIP S. CRAIG, of District of Columbia,	*R. I. Master.*
GEORGE TAPLEY, of Massachusetts,	*M. of Cer.*
E. B. MCGROTTY, of District of Columbia,	*Capt. of Guard.*
GORDON R. GARDEN, of Maine,	*Conductor.*
JOHN EDWIN MASON, of District of Columbia,	*Sentinel.*

SUPER-EXCELLENT DEGREE.

PHILIP S. CRAIG, of District of Columbia,	*M. Ex. King.*
GORDON R. GARDEN, of Maine,	*Comp. Ged.*
WM. P. ANDERSON, of Massachusetts,	*1st K. of T.*
GEO. TAPLEY, of Massachusetts,	*2d K. of T.*
JOHN EDWIN MASON, of District of Columbia,	*3d K. of T.*

On motion of Ill. Comp. Wiltsie, of New York, the thanks of the Convention were tendered to the Companions of Maine, Massachusetts and District of Columbia, for the exceedingly interesting and proficient manner in which they have exemplified the work of the several degrees.

Convention adjourned.

TUESDAY, July 13, 1872.

The Convention re-assembled in the Hall of Adelphic Council at 9 o'clock A. M., Comp. Drummond in the chair.

The minutes of yesterday's proceedings were read and approved.

The work of the Royal and Select degrees was exemplified by the Companions of New York, (the work on the Super-Excellent degree being omitted, it being stated that the New York work on that degree was precisely the same as that exemplified the evening before) by—

Comp.	JACKSON H. CHASE,	as *T. I. M.*
"	J. J. MARTIN,	as *R. I. Deputy.*
"	J. SEARLE,	as *I. P. C. W.*
"	H. J. BOGLE,	as *C. of G.*
"	W. G. MCKNIGHT,	as *C. of C.*

On motion of Ill. Comp. W. P. Anderson, of Massachusetts, the thanks of the Convention were returned to the Companions of New York, for the able, efficient and beautiful manner in which they had exemplified the degrees.

On motion of Ill. Comp. Carr, of North Carolina, the Secretary was authorized to furnish the proceedings of the Convention to the press for publication.

The Special Committee to whom was referred the resolution offered by Ill. Comp. W. P. Anderson at yesterday's meeting, reported the following preamble and resolution, which 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 should 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.

T. B. CARR,
G. W. THORNE,
J. K. WHEELER. } *Committee.*

The Committee on Nomenclature made the following report, which was adopted:

The Committee on Nomenclature recommend the following for titles of Grand and subordinate Bodies of the Cryptic Rite:

Most Illustrious Grand Master.
Deputy Grand Master.
Grand Principal Conductor of Work.
Grand Treasurer.
Grand Recorder.
Grand Captain of the Guards.
Grand Conductor of the Council.
Grand Steward.
Grand Sentinel.

To which may be added Grand Chaplain, and Grand Marshal or Grand Master of Ceremonies.

For subordinate Councils omit the word "Grand," and in place of the word "Most," for first officer, use the word "Thrice."

They also recommend that meetings of Bodies of this Rite be denominated "Assemblies."

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,
THOS. J. CORSON,
WM. P. ANDERSON. } *Committee.*

The Committee on Order and Number of Degrees reported as follows:

To the General Convention of R. and S. Masters of New York:

Your Committee to whom was referred the subject of "Order and Number of Degrees," would respectfully report:

That in the opinion of your Committee the degrees of Cryptic Masonry should consist of

1st, Royal Master,
2d, Select Master.

In regard to the Super-Excellent Master's Degree, your Committee can

see no good reason why it should be retained in the American Rite, as it inculcates no lessons not better taught elsewhere.

G. FRED. WILTSIE,
W. A. PRALL,
JOHN SHEVILLE. } *Committee.*

On motion of Ill. Comp. W. P. Anderson, of Mass., the report was received and referred to the Committee on Exemplification of Work.

On motion of Ill. Comp. Sheville, of New Jersey, the title of the "Committee on Exemplification of Work" was changed to "Committee on Work."

On motion of Ill. Comp. T. B. Carr, of North Carolina, as amended by Ill. Comp. E. Edmundson, of Tennessee, it was resolved that the Committee on Work be increased from three to nine.

On motion of Ill. Comp. M. Higginbotham, of New Jersey, the President was granted discretionary powers in the selection of the Committee.

The President announced the following as the Committee on Work:

Ill. Comp. JOHN SHEVILLE, of New Jersey.
" " EDWIN B. MCGROTTY, of District of Columbia.
" " CHAS. H. NORRIS, of Massachusetts.
" " THOS. E. GARRETT, of Missouri.
" " SAMUEL M. TODD, of Louisiana.
" " WM. M. CUNNINGHAM, of Ohio.
" " R. D. WEBB, of Alabama.
" " E. EDMUNDSON, of Tennessee.
" " GORDON R. GARDEN, of Maine.

On motion of Ill. Comp. J. Edwin Mason, of District Columbia, it was

Resolved, That when this Convention adjourn, it adjourn to meet in the city of New York, on the second Wednesday of June, 1873, to receive the report of the Committee on Work. And that the President

be authorized to issue circulars to the different Grand Councils, inviting them to send Representatives to such meeting.

On motion, the thanks of the Convention were tendered to the grand Council of New York, Adelphic Council, No. 7, and the Masonic Bodies occupying this hall, for the use of the room and for fraternal attentions bestowed on the members of the Convention.

On motion of Comp. Anderson, of Massachusetts, the thanks of the Convention were tendered to the President, Vice Presidents and Secretary, for the satisfactory manner in which they had performed their respective duties.

On motion of Ill. Comp. P. S. Craig, of District of Columbia,

Ill. Comp. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, of Maine,
" " JACKSON H. CHASE, of New York, and
" " WILLIAM P. ANDERSON, of Massachusetts,

were appointed an Advisory Board, to act in conjunction with the Committee on Work.

On motion of Ill. Comp. T. B. Carr, of North Carolina, the President was authorized to publish officially the proceedings of this Convention in pamphlet form, and with them a circular to the Grand Councils.

The minutes of this day's session having been read and approved, the Convention at 2½ o'clock P. M. adjourned, to meet again on the second Wednesday of June, 1873.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.
President.

THOS. J. CORSON,
Secretary,

APPENDIX.

CIRCULAR TO THE GRAND COUNCILS.

To the Most Ill. Grand Masters, Officers and Members of the several Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters.

COMPANIONS:

The Convention of Royal and Select Masters held in New York, June 12, 1872, directed me, as their presiding officer, to issue a circular to you in reference to another session of that Convention, to be held by adjournment, in New York, on the second Wednesday of June, 1873.

From the foregoing official report of its transactions, you will perceive that *fourteen* Grand Councils, and the Council in the District of Columbia, where no Grand Council exists, were represented by duly accredited delegates, and members of two other Grand Councils were present and participated in the proceedings.

Several of the Grand Councils, not represented, had elected delegates, who from accident or other causes failed to attend; indeed, I find that *ten* other Grand Councils acted favorably upon the proposition for the Convention and expected to be represented in it. Of the few others, my circular failed to reach some, and only two acted adversely upon the proposition.

The foregoing report of the transactions shows only what was actually *done*, and omits all the discussions.

The first question presented was in reference to the expediency of cultivating the degrees at all; that was unanimously settled in the affirmative, and such was the decided sentiment of the Convention.

Upon the question of remitting the degreees to the Grand Chapters, which was fully and freely discussed, the Convention was unanimous against the proposition, and in most decided terms favored the system of Grand Councils. In connection with this, it was announced that the Chapters in the District of Columbia had ceased to confer the Council degrees, and that the Companions in Maryland and West Virginia are

taking active measures to separate these degrees from the Chapters, and place them under the exclusive jurisdiction of Grand Councils. This would leave the Chapter system prevailing only in Virginia and Texas. It was also announced that Councils had been formed in England under the authority of the Grand Council of New York, and that a Grand Council would be formed there at an early day.

Upon the exemplification of the work it was found that a serious difference of opinion existed in reference to the number and order of the degrees, and that there are substantial differences between the rituals of different jurisdictions. To settle these, required more time than the Convention could command, and it was determined to remit these matters to a committee, upon which Companions from Grand Councils not represented should also be appointed. This necessarily involved an adjourned session of the Convention, and it was decided to adjourn for a year to give the committee full time to agree upon a report, to afford the Grand Councils an opportunity to act upon the measures recommended, and especially to secure a more full representation.

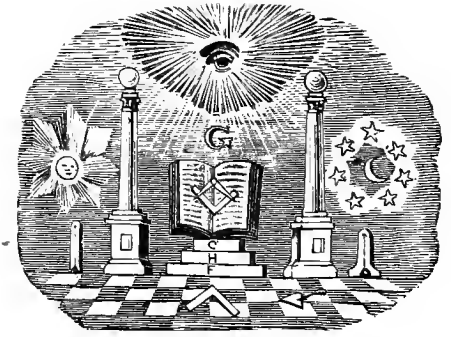
If the Council system is to be continued, it should be made uniform: it can be made uniform only by united action: we can secure united action only by means of such a Convention. I, therefore, in behalf of the Convention, most earnestly commend to your early and favorable consideration the recommendation it makes to you, and ask, in order to make its future action useful and to accomplish the purposes for which it was created, that you be represented at its adjourned session.

At that time it is expected that there will be presented the question of making the Council degrees pre-requisite to the Orders of Knighthood, in order to make the "American system" continuous and uniform.

By order of the Convention,

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, *President.*

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TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

CONVENTION

OF

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

HELD AT COUNCIL HALL,

IN THE

CITY OF NEW YORK,

June 11th and 12th, 1873.

TRANSACTIONS.

An adjourned Convention of Illustrious Companions representing the interests of Cryptic Masonry, was held at the room of Adelphic Council, No. 7, R. and S. M., in Council Hall, Union Square, New York City at 10 o'clock A. M. on Wednesday, June 11, 1873.

OFFICERS PRESENT.

Ill. Comp.	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, of Maine,	*President.*
" "	WILLIAM A. PRALL, of Missouri,	*2d Vice President.*
" "	THOMAS J. CORSON, of New Jersey,	*Recorder*

After the convention was called to order, the President appointed as a Committee on Credentials the following Ill. Companions:

CHRISTIAN F. KNAPP, of Pennsylvania.
G. FRED. WILTSIE, of New York.
WM. HACKER, of Indiana.

The Committee on Credentials reported as present and entitled to seats, the following duly accredited Representatives:

Alabama..... ....R. D. WEBB, M. I. G. M.
Arkansas.....T. J. CORSON, of New Jersey, Proxy for E. H. ENGLISH, M. I. G. M.
Connecticut.....I. W. CARPENTER, M. I. G. M.
J. H. BARLOW, D. G. M.
Illinois.....GEORGE E. LOUNSBURY, M. I. G. M.

Indiana. ... .WILLIAM HACKER, Proxy for M. I. G. M.
Louisiana.... ....JOHN W. JONES, M. I. G. M.
Maine.....JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, P. G. M.
GORDON R. GARDEN, P. G. M.
Massachusetts. .....E. B. MOORE, Proxy for M. I. G. M.
Michigan. .... .WILLIAM BROWN, M. I. G. M.
Mississippi. ... .P. M. SAVERY, M. I. G. M.
Missouri.....W. A. PRALL, D. G. M.
New Brunswick.....G. FRED. WILTSIE, of New York. Proxy.
New Hampshire.... JOHN A. HARRIS, M. I. G. M.
OLIVER C. FISHER, D. G. M.
New Jersey. .....T. H. H. REDWAY, M. I. G. M.
J. W. PRESSEY, D. G. M.
J. S. HARTLEY, G. I. M.
C. C. WELLS, G. P. C. of W.
T. J. CORSON, P. G. M.
New York.....G. FRED. WILTSIE, M. I. G. M.
JACKSON H. CHASE, Grand Lecturer.
HENRY J. BOYLE, Grand Steward.
GEO. MCGOWN, Proxy for D. G. M.
Pennsylvania..... CHRISTIAN FREDERICK KNAPP, M. I. G. M.
JAMES M. PORTER, D. G. M.
CHARLES E. MEYER, Proxy for M. R. MUCKLE, G. P. C. of W.
South Carolina .....WILMOT G. DESAUSSURE, M. I. G. M.
Tennessee.....E. EDMUNDSON, Representative of Grand Council.
Wisconsin.....JOHN W. SIMONS, of New York, Proxy.

Report was adopted and representatives admitted.

On motion of Ill. Comp. Edmundson, of Tennessee, it was

Resolved, That the titles adopted by this convention last year, be used in the record of its proceedings this year.

The President stated, that while this was *nominally* an adjourned session of the same Convention held last year, yet, inasmuch as the powers of the Representatives in attendance last year expired with the session of their Grand Council, which had been held since the adjournment, it was *really* a new Convention, and should

be organized accordingly; thereupon, on motion of Ill. Comp. Wiltsie, of New York, it was

Resolved, That the organization of last year be continued, so far as the officers are present.

On motion of Ill. Comp. Edmundson, Ill. Comp. R. D. WEBB, of Alabama, was elected 1st Vice President in place of Ill. Comp. T. B. CARR, of North Carolina, who was absent.

On motion of Ill. Comp. Corson, it was

Resolved, That all R. and S. Masters in good standing, who may present themselves, be admitted as visitors to this Convention.

On motion of Ill. Comp. Wiltsie, it was

Resolved, That all Past Grand Officers of Grand Councils who may be present are invited to participate in the discussions of the Convention.

The President announced that in the absence in Europe of Comp. Sheville, the Chairman of the Committee on Work, he had called a meeting of the committee at the Union Square Hotel, on the Monday preceding; that several members of the committee met accordingly, but not a majority as originally constituted; that under the circumstances he had assumed the power to appoint Comp. JACKSON H. CHASE, of New York, in place of Comp. Sheville; Comp. E. B. MOORE, of Massachusetts, in place of Comp. Norris, who had also appointed Comp Moore as his proxy; Comp WILLIAM A. PRALL, of Missouri, in place of Comp. Garrett, not present: and that Comps. Garden, Moore, Chase, Webb, Edmundson and Prall had met, organized by the choice of Comp. Garden as chairman, and Comp. Webb as secretary, and had been in almost uninterrupted session

since in discharge of their duties. He submitted his doings in the premises to the Convention for such action as should be deemed proper.

Voted, That the action of the President be confirmed by the Convention.

Ill. Companion Garden, from the Committee on Work, made a partial report, that the majority of the committee had voted to recommend that the order of degrees should be, 1st, Royal Master, 2d, Select Master, and that it be left optional with Grand Councils to confer the Super-Excellent Degree as an honorary degree; that the minority believed that the Select degree should be first and the Royal degree second; and that, as the decision of this question would necessarily affect the work, the whole committee desired the action of the Convention upon it.

Pending a motion to adopt the recommendation of the majority, Ill. Comp Moore moved to amend by substituting the recommendation of the minority, but his motion was lost, Maine and Massachusetts voting in the affirmative, and the other Grand Councils in the negative.

Thereupon, on motion of Comp. Harris,

Voted, That the order of the succession of degrees be: first, Royal Master's; second, Select Master's; and that it be left optional with each Grand Council to confer the Super-Excellent Master's Degree, as an honorary degree.

Comp. John W. Jones, of Louisiana, was added to the Committee on Work, in place of Comp. Todd, not present.

On motion, the Convention adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

JUNE 12, 1873.

The Convention assembled at 9 A. M. Officers and members same as at yesterday's session.

The Recorder presented a telegram which he had received from Ill. Comp. William T. Palmer, Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of Wisconsin, requesting that Ill. Comp. John W. Simons, of New York, be recognized as Proxy for the Grand Council of Wisconsin.

On motion, Ill. Comp. John W. Simons was received as such Proxy.

The Committee on Work presented their report.

The form for opening Council of Select Masters as reported by the committee, was adopted.

The form for opening Council of Royal Masters as reported by the committee, was adopted.

The form for closing Council of Royal Masters was adopted as reported.

So much of the report of the committee as relates to the station of offices was adopted.

The form for closing a Council of Select Masters was adopted as reported.

Voted, That the rules be suspended, and that upon the call of any members of the Convention, the vote upon any question be taken by Grand Councils, each having one vote.

Voted, That the work of the Royal Master's degree as reported by the committee, and amended by the Convention, be adopted:

Yeas 13, Nays 4, absent or not voting 2, as follows:

YEAS.—Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Illinois, Lou-

isiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Brunswick, New York, Tennessee, South Carolina and Wisconsin.

NAYS.—Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts and Michigan.

NOT VOTING.—New Hampshire.

ABSENT.—Pennsylvania.

On motion of Comp. DeSaussure, the vote adopting the form for opening Council of Select Masters, was reconsidered for the purpose of taking the vote by yeas and nays.

Upon taking the vote, the motion was adopted by 14 yeas to 2 nays, as follows :

YEAS. — Alabama, Connecticut, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, New Brunswick, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, South Carolina and Wisconsin.

NAYS.—Indiana and Michigan.

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.—Arkansas, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania.

The vote, adopting the form for opening a Council of Royal Masters, was reconsidered, and upon taking the same by yeas and nays, the motion was adopted by yeas 15, nay 1.

The vote was the same as the preceding, except that Indiana voted in the affirmative.

The vote, adopting the form for closing a Council of Select Masters, was reconsidered, and again adopted by yeas 16, nay 1, the vote being the same as the preceding, except that Arkansas (not voting before) voted in the affirmative.

The work of the Select Master's Degree, as reported by the committee, and amended, and after a full discussion, adopted by yeas 14, nays 2, absent or not voting 3, as follows :

YEAS.—Alabama, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Brunswick, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

NAYS.—Maine and Massachusetts.

ABSENT.—Pennsylvania.

NOT VOTING.—Arkansas and New Hampshire.

On motion the work of the Super-Excellent Degree, as reported by the committee last year, was adopted, the vote being taken by a show of hands, by a suspension of the rules. On this question South Carolina, Indiana and Mississippi declined to vote, as they had not received the degree.

On motion of Ill. Comp. DeSaussure, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be tendered to the Grand Council of New York, Adelphic Council No 7, and the Masonic Bodies occupying this hall, for the use of the room, and for fraternal attentions bestowed on the members of the Convention.

The thanks of the Convention were unanimously tendered to the Committee on Work, for the faithful and efficient manner in which they had performed their arduous labors.

On motion of Ill. Comp. Corson, it was

Resolved, That the proceedings of this Convention be published under the supervision of the President.

The Convention adjourned until three o'clock P. M.

At three o'clock P. M. the Convention resumed its labors.

On motion it was

Resolved, That a committee be appointed whose duty it shall be to memorialize the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, at its next triennial Conclave, to be held in the city of New Orleans, in December, 1874, asking that Grand Body to make the Degrees of Royal and Select Masters a necessary pre-requisite to the reception of the Orders of Knighthood.

The following Ill. Companions were appointed as such committee :

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, of Maine.
WILLIAM HACKER, of Indiana.
T. J. CORSON, of New Jersey.
G. FRED. WILTSIE, of New York.
WILLIAM A. PRALL, of Missouri.
P. M. SAVERY, of Mississippi.

Ill. Comp. Prall, of Missouri, offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Convention that the degrees of Royal and Select Masters should be made a pre-requisite to the Orders of Knighthood, and that we will use our best endeavors to secure legislation by the different Grand Commanderies looking to that end

On motion of Ill. Comp. Lounsbury,

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

On motion of Ill. Comp. Chase, it was

Resolved, That when this Convention adjourn, it adjourn to meet at 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.

Comp. Wiltsie invited the members of the Convention to unite with the Grand Council of New York, and

participate in the funeral obsequies of the late JAMES L. ORR, and thereupon

Voted, That the invitation be accepted.

Voted, That Comps. Drummond, Garden and Chase be a committee to promulgate to each Grand Council the ritual adopted by the Convention.

[The instructions to the Committee are omitted, the original resolution being in the hands of the Chairman.]

On motion of Ill. Comp. Edmundson, the thanks of the convention were given to the officers for their faithful performance of duty.

During the session the following Ill. Comps. were present as visitors:

ALBERT G. MACKEY, P. G. M., of South Carolina.
CHAS. BECHTEL, P. G. M., of New Jersey.
MARCUS HIGGINBOTHAM, P. G. M., of New Jersey.
GEO. SCOTT, of New Jersey.
C. L. STOWELL, of Pennsylvania.
J. L. YOUNG, of Pennsylvania.
FRANK L. STOWELL, of New York.

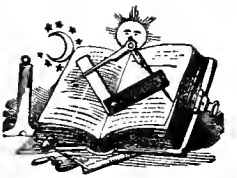
At five o'clock P. M. the Convention adjourned, with prayer by Ill. Comp. M. Higginbotham, to meet at New Orleans on the Monday before the first Tuesday of December, 1874.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.
President.

T. J. CORSON,
Recorder.

NOTE.—The Recorder desires to express his obligation to Ill. Comps. James M. Porter, Jr., of Pennsylvania, and Geo. McGown, of New York, for their kindness in keeping the records of the Convention, which he was unable to do himself on account of the enfeebled condition of his eyes.

T. J. CORSON.



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

CONVENTION

OF

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

HELD AT

NEW ORLEANS, LA.,

Nov. 31st, 1874,

Proceedings of the National Convention.

The convention met in the City of New Orleans, La., at Masonic Temple on Monday noon, November 31st, 1874, and organized temporarily by the election of

M.·. Ill.·. Companion JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, of Maine, as President.
M.·. Ill.·. Companion G. FRED. WILTSIE, of New York, as Recorder.

The committee on Credentials, M.·. I.·. Companions W. C. SWAIN, of Wisconsin, E. EDMUNDSON, of Tennessee, and GEO. L. MCCAHAN, of Maryland, reported eighteen (18) Grand Councils entitled to representation.

The temporary officers were then unanimously elected as permanent officers of the Convention, with the addition of

M.·. I.·. Companion JOHN FRIZZELL, of Tennessee, as 1st Vice Pres.
M.·. I.·. Companion C. F. GOODMAN, of Nebraska, 2d Vice Pres.

Rule 1 of the New York convention of 1872, was then adopted for the government of the present session, (the purport of which was the system of voting, each Grand Jurisdiction being allowed three votes.)

M.·. I.·. Companions EDMUNDSON, of Tennessee, WILTSIE, of New York, O'NEAL, of Ohio, MCCAHAN, of Maryland, and STINSON, of Arkansas, were appointed a committee on "Work."

M.·. I.·. Companions Brown, of Kansas, Bechtel, of New Jersey, Kirker, of Connecticut, Wheeler, of Nebraska, and Morrill, of Florida, were appointed a committee on General Business.

Evening Session at 7 o'clock.

M.·. I.·. Companion John Frizzell, of Tennessee, presiding.

M.·. I.·. Companion John H. Brown, of Kansas, from the committee on General Business, reported in favor of a General Grand Council of R. and S. M., which report, after a long discussion, was laid upon the table.

Several invitations were received and accepted to attend different festivities in the city of New Orleans during the sessions of the Grand Bodies.

Two vacancies occurring in the committee appointed by the New York convention to memorialize the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, to place the Cryptic degrees in their proper position in the American system of Free Masonry, by making them a pre-requisite to the orders of Knighthood, they were filled by the convention constituting the committee, as follows:

M.·. I.·. Companion J. H. Drummond, of Maine.
" " John Frizzell, of Tennessee.
" " G. Fred. Wiltsie, of New York.
" " W. A. Prall, of Missouri.
" " P. M. Savery, of Mississippi.
" " S. M. Todd, of Louisiana.

Convened again 7 p. m., December 1st, 1874.

M.·. I.·. Companion C. F. GOODMAN, of Nebraska, presiding.

The Committee on Work, after a lengthy session, reported to the convention that in their judgment no change was advisable in the Ritual as adopted in 1873, except to correct one or two clerical or chronological errors in the history of the Select Masters' degrees, concerning the *time* of the communication of the w—— to M—— and the lapse of time from its communication to its being lost. The report was unanimously adopted, all the Grand Bodies represented, many of which have adopted the work, expressing themselves highly pleased with it in every feature.

The question of the organization of a General Grand Council was then taken from the table, and a very long debate ensued, all of the different Grand Bodies, through their representatives, stating at length their views; a large majority of them were in favor of the immediate formation of such a body, but at the same time being desirous of making no movement except to aid in the advancement of Crytic Masonry, and of these degrees receiving the proper attention and position to which they are entitled, the following resolution was finally unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to prepare a Provisional Constitution for the organization of a 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 rejection.

M.·. I.·. Comp. JOHN FRIZZELL, of Tennessee,
" " G. FRED WILTSIE of New York,
" " JOHN H. BROWN, of Kansas,
" " W. C. SWAIN, of Wisconsin.
" " W. R. WHITAKER, of Louisiana,
Committee.

The following resolution was then adopted:

Resolved, That the present officers of this Convention be continu ed and that the Committee on Provisional Constitution for a General Grand Council, be, and they hereby are, directed to prepare such a document, which shall be submitted by the officers of this Convention, to the various Grand Councils in the United States, for their action thereon, and when two-thirds thereof shall concur therein, approving such Provisional Constitution, the same shall become operative, and a meeting shall be called by the President, for the purpose of duly organizing such body, which shall be provided for by said Constitution, at such time and place as may designated.

The Committee to memorialize the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, reported that they had performed the duty assigned them and that, after consideration, the Grand Encampment laid the matter on the table.

The following resolution of adjournment was then adopted, after several matters of minor importance had been disposed of:

Resolved, That this Convention do now adjourn to meet in the city of Buffalo, N. Y., on the Monday before the third Tuesday of August, 1877, and that the several State Grand Bodies be requested to send delegates to the same, unless the Convention should sooner be called together by the President.

The Grand Recorder was ordered to publish officially the proceedings of the Convention, as well as the report of the Committee on Provisional Constitution, in pamphlet form, and issue same to each of the Grand Councils.

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION.

To the Hon. Josiah H. Drummond, President, etc.:

ILL. COMPANION:

At the Convention of Royal and Select Master Masons, convened in the City of New Orleans, in December, 1874, the undersigned were con-

stituted a Committee for the purpose of preparing a Provisional Constitution for the organization of a General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, to be submitted for the consideration of the various Grand Councils, and to be operative when assented to by two-thirds of them.

The Committee submit herewith the result of their labors.

To avoid objectionable centralization on the one hand and at the same time give the proposed organization sufficient power to be efficient for good, has been rather a difficult task, but the result, it is hoped, will prove satisfactory.

The instrument submitted is brief while sufficiently explicit to express its meaning and purpose with clearness.

Our deliberate conviction is that an organization upon the basis here suggested will largely tend to promote the interests of Cryptic Masonry, and that, with harmony and concert of action, on the part of the Grand Councils much good will result.

Fraternally submitted,

Aug. 1st 1875. JOHN FRIZZELL,
Aug. 14, 1875, G. FRED. WILTSIE.
Aug. 20, 1875, JOHN H. BROWN.
Aug. 28, 1875, WILLIAM C. SWAIN.

MINORITY REPORT.

The undersigned can give only a qualified approval of the foregoing report. The draft of the proposed constitution appears to him almost unexceptionable, and he has no wish to suggest any modification thereof, but he cannot share with the other members of the committee in the hope that a satisfactory result has been obtained in the attempt "to avoid objectional centralization on the one hand, and at the same time give the proposed organization sufficient power to be efficient for good," such result seeming to him unattainable; nor does he, with them, hold the "deliberate conviction that an organization upon the basis suggested will largely tend to promote the interests of Cryptic Masonry," and that "much good will result" therefrom.

The undersigned, because of this difference of opinion, cannot join in the report of the majority. Fraternally submitted,

Aug. 13th, 1877. W. R. WHITAKER.

[The proposed Constitution was not presented at the Convention of 1877 and was therefore not acted upon.

GEO. W. COOLEY, *G. G. Rec.*]



TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

CONVENTION

OF

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

HELD AT

MASONIC HALL,

IN THE

CITY OF BUFFALO,

AUG. 20, 1877.

TRANSACTIONS.

An adjourned Convention of Royal and Select Masters was held at Masonic Hall in the city of Buffalo, N. Y. Aug. 20, 1877.

The Convention was called to order by the President, Ill. Comp. Josiah H. Drummond.

Representatives were present as follows:

ARKANSAS, E. H. English, Elias DuVal.
CONNECTICUT, Wm. Wallace Lee.
FLORIDA, R. J. Perry.
ILLINOIS, Arthur R. H. Atkins, Haswell C. Clark.
INDIANA, George H. Fish, Alexander Thomas, Thomas B. Long.
KANSAS, John M. Price.
KENTUCKY, L. D. Croninger, Jas. W. Staton, Henry Bostwick, G. D. Buckner.
LOUISIANA, Joseph P. Horner.
MAINE, Josiah H. Drummond.
MARYLAND, Geo. D. McCahau, Chas. F. Achey.
MASSACHUSETTS, Chas. W. Bromley, Smith B. Harrington.
MINNESOTA, Geo. W. Cooley.
MISSOURI, Allan McDowell, Oren Root, Jr.
NEBRASKA, D. H. Wheeler.
MISSISSIPPI, H. W. Walter. Jas. M. Howry.
NEW JERSEY, Geo. Scott.
NEW YORK, GEO. M. Osgoodby, John B. Hackett, Geo. VanVleit.
RHODE ISLAND, John F. Adams.
TENNESSEE, B. F. Haller, H. M. Aiken, John Frizzell. Joseph H. Bullock.

VERMONT, Ed S. Dana.
WISCONSIN, Wm. C. Swain.
ONTARIO, Daniel Spry, J. Ross Robertson, Chas. G. Fortier.

Companion Howry, of Mississippi, offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Convention, that if the General Grand Chapter of the United States shall sanction the conferring of the Council degrees by the chapters, whenever 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.

The resolution was seconded by Companion Lee, and on being put to vote was lost by a vote of 12 to 6.

On motion it was resolved that a committee of five be appointed to memorialize the Grand Encampment to place the Cryptic degrees in their proper position by making them a pre-requisite to the orders of Knighthood.

Carried by a vote of 12 to 6.

The following committee was then appointed :

GEO. M. OSGOODBY, of New York.
ALEXANDER THOMAS, of Indiania.
ED. S. DANA, of Vermont.
Z. C. LUCE, of Iowa.
I. W. WOODHULL, of Wisconsin.

On motion, the Convention then adjourned, subject to the call of the President.

TO THE M. ILL. GRAND MASTERS

OF

GRAND COUNCILS.

OF

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

M.·. Ill. . Companions:

The Convention of Royal and Select Masons, held in Buffalo in 1877, adjourned to meet upon the call of the President.

I have been requested by Most Ill. George W. Cooley, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Minnesota, in accordance with instructions of his Grand Council, to call a meeting of the Convention in 1880.

Concurring in his views, I hereby give notice that a meeting of that Convention will be held in Detroit, Michigan, on the twenty-third day of August, A. D., 1880, at eight o'clock in the evening.

It is earnestly desired that all the Grand Councils be represented. If no session of any Grand Council is to be held before that date, it is desired that the Grand Master will take measures to be represented; this can properly be done, as the purpose of the Convention is consultation, and its action only advisory.

That we have arrived at a most important era in the history of Cryptic Masonry, is evident from the situation. The degrees are now conferred in four different ways.

1. *In Chapters, as a part of the regular series of degrees.*

In this class are Virginia and West Virginia, where the degrees are conferred before the Royal Arch, the order being Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, Royal Master, Select Master and Royal Arch.

A Grand Council was formed in Virginia in 1820, which, yielding to a claim based upon a gross error, in 1841 surrendered the degrees to the Grand Chapter and dissolved.

2. *In Councils appurtenant to Chapters, but otherwise independent of them.*

In this class is Texas, whose Grand Council was dissolved in 1864; since that time, the degrees have been conferred in Councils of a *quasi* voluntary character, claiming to be held under the authority of a Chapter warrant, but entirely separate from the Chapter itself, without control by any Grand Body.

3. *In Councils appurtenant to Chapters, and under the control and authority of Grand Chapters.*

In this class are Arkansas, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska, South Carolina and Wisconsin. These Grand Councils have formally dissolved, but, previous to their dissolution they surrendered the degrees (so far as they had the power) to their several Grand Chapters, which accepted the trust and are now undertaking to confer and control the degrees.

The Grand Council of Illinois, in like manner, voted to surrender the degrees to the Grand Chapter, but still claims to be in existence.

Measures, looking ultimately to the same end, but not fully consummated have been taken by the Grand Councils of California, Missouri and North Carolina.

I understand that the Grand Chapter of Nevada (where there has never been a Grand Council) contemplates authorizing its Chapters to confer these degrees in "appurtenant Councils," and the same thing is favored in Oregon: by whose "surrender" they propose to obtain this authority, I am not advised.

Several of these Grand Chapters are awaiting the action of the General Grand Chapter, and I have no doubt that an effort will be made at its next Convocation to adopt the amendments to the Constitution offered by our Mississippi Companions, and now pending, and thus, by endorsing what is known as the "Mississippi Plan," *assume* control of the Cryptic degrees.

4. *In Council, under the jurisdiction of Grand Councils.*

In this class are Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Vermont, in the United States, and England, Ontario and New Brunswick, abroad.

This unparalleled confusion in the entire polity of the Rite, and necessary conflict even in the rituals of the different jurisdictions, peremptorily call for action to secure uniformity, or for the entire abandonment of the degrees, by the existing Grand Councils.

Experience shows that united action can be secured only by general consultation; and a Convention is the only method of having that.

The more important questions growing out of the situation are the following:

1. Shall the Grand Council system of organization be continued? If not, shall the degrees be abandoned, or the "Mississippi Plan" adopted?

2. If the Grand Council system is to be continued, what measures (if any) shall be taken to prevent a conflict between the Grand Councils and the General Grand Chapter?

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

4. What rule ought to be adopted in relation to the jurisdiction in States, &c., in which no regular Grand Council exisits?

The enumeration of these questions, of course, in no manner precludes the consideration of others.

Experience has shown that the comparatively brief time during which a Convention can remain in session, does not give opportunity for work by committees upon subjects under consideration; and the necessity of committee work, to secure proper action by any deliberative body, is universally acknowledged: indeed, it may be safely said that the action of the last two Conventions failed to exert its due influence in consequence of the failure to prepare in advance measures for consideration.

To obviate the danger of ill-considered action, I take the liberty of designating Companions to prepare, and have ready for presentation at the opening of the Convention, reports upon the four question above stated, for the consideration of the Convention, with resolutions embodying such action as they shall recommend should be taken in relation thereto:

1.—Geo. M. Osgoodby, Buffalo, New York.
Geo. W. Cooley, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
William W. Austin, Richmond, Indiana.

2.—Edward S. Dana, New Haven, Vermont.
Geo. L. McCahan, Baltimore, Maryland.
William Wallace Lee, West Meriden, Conn.

3.—Charles E. Meyer, Philadelphia, Pa.
Geo. J. Pinckard, New Orleans, La.
Hugh McCurdy, Corunna, Michigan.

4.—William M. Cunningham, Newark, Ohio.
John H. Derby, Saco, Maine.
John Haigh, Somerville, Mass.

Inasmuch as no provision has been made for the expenses of the meetings of committees, I trust the Companions will *at once* proceed, by correspondence, to interchange views, and prepare reports upon the subject committed them: there is ample time for that purpose.

I hope, also, no one of the Companions will ask to be excused, because he may not be a member of the Convention, or not able to attend it, inasmuch as the committees above announced are not committees *of the Convention*, but of *my own*, to assist me in presenting to the Convention matters for its action. And if any of the Companions prefer, they may submit their report to me, and I will have it presented to the Convention by the presiding officer. It would aid very materially, however, in the deliberations of the Convention, if each committee would print its report and circulate copies in advance of the meeting.

Seasonable notice will be given in what hall the Convention will meet: only Companions from jurisdictions in which a regular Grand Council exists will be admitted to participate in the Convention, until it shall otherwise order.

Companions, the time has come for decisive and *final* action in one direction or another: let us, therefore, come together and consult freely, deliberate fully and act wisely, to the end that when we separate, the united approval of our several Grand Councils shall crown our efforts, and the future of the Crypric Rite be irrevocably settled.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,
President of the National Convention of R. & S. Masters.

PORTLAND, ME., March 10, 1880.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

CONVENTION

OF

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

HELD IN THE

CITY OF DETROIT,

August 23d, 24th and 25th, 1880.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, of Maine,
PRESIDENT.

GEO. VAN VLIET, of New York,
SECRETARY,

PROCEEDINGS.

DETROIT, MICH., August 23d, 1880.

Pursuant to a call made by M. Ill. Companion Josiah H. Drummond, of Maine, a number of Royal and Select Masters assembled at the Masonic Hall, in the city of Detroit, Michigan, on Monday evening, August 23d, 1880, Anno Dep. 2880., M. Ill. Companion Josiah H. Drummond acting as Chairman.

On motion, George Van Vliet was chosen as Secretary.

On motion of Comp. O. A. B. Senter, of Ohio, a committee of three on credentials was appointed, the committee consisting of Comps. Orestes A. B. Senter, of Ohio, George P. Cleaves, of New Hampshire, and Garra B. Noble, of Michigan.

The Committee on Credentials submitted the following report:

That the several Grand Councils were represented by the Companions hereinafter named, which report was received and accepted, and the committee continued during the session.

Alabama—Comp. William D. Wadsworth.
Connecticut—Comp. John O. Rowland.

California—Comps. Henry S. Orme, William M. Petrie, and R. E. Hedges.

Lafayette Council, of Washington, D. C. (admitted to representation by a *vote* of the Convention.)—Comps. James P. Pearson, proxy, and J. C. Allen.

Florida—Comp. George M. Osgoodby, proxy.

Georgia—Comp. Charles R. Armstrong.

Indiana—Comps. Walter R. Godfrey, John M. Bramwell and Thomas B. Long.

Kansas—Comps. Albert D. McConaughy, Dwight Byington, Edwin D. Hillyer and James C. Bennett.

Louisiana—Comp. George J. Pinckard.

Maine—Comps. Josiah H. Drummond and Edward P. Burnham.

Maryland—Not represented.

Massachusetts—Comps. Alfred F. Chapman and John Haigh.

Minnesota—Comp. George W. Cooley.

Missouri—Not represented.

Michigan—Comps. Hugh McCurdy, D. Burnham Tracy, Garra B Noble, David Woodward and David Bovee.

New Hampshire—Comps. George P. Cleaves and John J. Bell.

New Jersey—Comps. John Woolverton and George Scott.

New York—Comps. George M. Osgoodby, John N. Macomb, Jr., and George Van Vliet.

North Carolina—Not represented.

Ohio—Comps. Orestes A. B. Senter, Rev. Thomas J. Melish and John D. Caldwell.

Pennsylvania—Not represented.

Rhode Island—Not represented.

South Carolina—Comp. C. F. Jackson.

Tennessee—Comp. Benjamin F. Haller, Memphis.

Vermont—Comps. Alfred A. Hall and William Brinsmaid, proxy.

On motion of Comp. George M. Osgoodby, of New York, Comp. George J. Pinckard, of Louisiana, was chosen as Vice President of the Convention, and it was then resolved that the present officers be continued during the session.

Comp. George W. Cooley, of Minnesota, presented the following, which was, on motion, received, accepted and ordered printed with the proceedings:

MR. PRESIDENT AND COMPANIONS:

When the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Minnesota, at its last assembly, passed a resolution instructing its chief officer to request our President to issue a call for another convention of Cryptic Masons, it did so with the belief that from the representations made to it the Order would be greatly benefited by an assembly held at at this time.

For many years we have been contesting the so-called Mississippi plan, among whose advocates we read the names of those from whom we had a right to expect earnest and hearty co-operation in our work; and their failure to support us has resulted in the loss of about one-fourth of our Grand Councils and the demoralization of several more.

Nor has the evil stopped here; the influence of their action has been felt and observed in jurisdictions whose Grand Councils have been earnestly engaged in the promotion of the welfare of the order, and in many States a few discontented companions have started a movement, which, but for the determined stand taken by others, would have resulted in adding more names to the list of sleeping sentinels, or, at least, have lessened the force which it now becomes our duty to hurl against any and all opposition to the maintenance of our rights and our privileges as Cryptic Masons.

We not only ask that our position as an independant Order shall be recognized by other branches of Masonry, but it is our duty to demand that we, and we alone, shall have full and supreme control of all that pertains to the degrees of Royal, Select and Super Excellent Masonry, a right that we have earned by years of patient toil in the secret vault, a right legitimately acquired from Scottish Masonry, and a right that we propose to maintain just as long as a few jurisdictions that I might mention will stand side by side with the Grand Council of Minnesota.

I do not apprehend that any other State will endeavor to follow the advocacy of the merging scheme; I do not believe that those who have the subject under consideration will ever act upon it to our detriment; nor do I believe that the leading spirits in Capitular Masonry will consent to receive among them Masons who so quickly desert their post of duty, or that they will become willing tools in the hands of men who are so anxious to shift the responsibility of supporting so many grand bodies, whose "excessive multiplication" has given them such uneasiness.

The subjects to be brought forward for our consideration at this time are few, but involve points of vital interest. The action of some Grand Councils in disbanding has thrown into our midst companions to whom we owe a duty as Masons, and yet who owe to us an allegiance which they cannot as readily absolve themselves from as did the Councils of which they were members. Peculiar cases will continue to arise, and

good policy requires that the action of this convention shall be such as to render strict masonic justice, tempered with brotherly love. Already in the jurisdiction from which I hail, as well as several others, questions have arisen regarding the status of certain companions of uncertain standing, which questions have been readily disposed of, and the report of the committee to whom was referred such matters will be looked forward to with great interest.

As an opponent of the Mississippi plan; I pledge the Grand Council of Minnesota to any action, consistent with our obligations and our duty, that has for its aim the perpetuation of Cryptic Masonry, and I may add that as long as three subordinate Councils exist in that State the pledge shall be kept.

To argue the question of our sole and exclusive right to these degrees would, in view of the reports soon to be presented, be superfluous. We are now in rightful possession of them, and under no circumstances should we listen to any proposition having for its aim their surrender to any other masonic body.

Since my connection with the order I have observed in many jurisdictions, and especially in Maine, New York and Pennsylvania, a persistent and growing determination to hold by all the force at command, those rights to which we honestly believe we are entitled, and never to surrender them either to the General Grand Chapter or to the subordinate Grand Chapters.

Cryptic Masonry, having passed its lowest ebb, is not now on the decline; Grand Councils are not disbanding on account of financial failure.

Is New York unable to maintain an organization? Is Pennsylvania? Maine? Minnesota?

Florida, with a Grand Master who had some energy and determination, placed the weakest of our sisters on a firm and substantial basis.

And is this. the most beautiful of masonic rites, to be thrown aside among the rubbish of side degrees because some of the workmen are weary? Let them make room for those who are willing to bear the heat and burden of another day, and let the good work go on. Companions, whatever may be the action of this convention, or of the General Grand Chapter, or of subordinate Grand Chapters; there will still exist Grand Councils who will claim jurisdiction over the Royal, Select and Super Excellent degrees, and who, in the future as to-day, will stand on record as champions of the Cryptic Rite. The relations of our Order under adverse circumstances would undoubtedly be unpleasant, not only as between ourselves and clandestine Royal and Select Masters, but also between the loyal Grand Councils and the Grand Chapters who have pretended to assume control of these degrees.

To avoid the complications which must necessarily arise in the future, to remedy the evils of the present, and to rectify the errors of the past, is our work to-day. Acting together in harmony we can accomplish much. As a General Grand Council our power would be felt where it is now unknown, and having undertaken the warfare in behalf of Cryptic Masonry, let us continue to fight until the opposition is entirely swept away and the Cryptic Rite fully recognized as an independent power throughout the masonic world.

GEO. W. COOLEY,
M. I. G. M., Grand Council R. & S. M., Minnesota.

On motion of Comp. Geo. W. Cooley, of Minnesota, a committee of *five* were appointed to report upon the advisability of forming a General Grand Council, and if they thought favorably thereof, to present the draft of a proposed constitution. Whereupon the following committee was appointed: Geo. W. Cooley, of Minnesota; O. A. B. Senter, of Ohio; Geo. M. Osgoodby, of New York; Geo. J. Pinckard, of Louisiana, and John J. Bell, of New Hampshire.

On motion, Comp. Geo. M. Osgoodby, of New York, was requested to read for the information of this Convention, the protest prepared by the Grand Council of the State of New York, for presentation to the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States.

After the reading of said protest it was

Resolved, That this Convention of Royal and Select Masters, representing the Grand Councils of the following States viz:

Alabama,	Connecticut,	Florida,	Georgia,	Indiana,
Kansas,	Louisiana,	Maine,	Massachusetts,	Minnesota,
Michigan,	New Hampshire,	New Jersey,	Ohio,	Vermont,

do hereby cordially endorse and adopt the protest of the Grand Council of New York to the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States, against any usurpation by it or by any of its constituents, Grand or Subordinate, of the control or jurisdiction of the degrees of

Royal and Select Master; and that we will severally, as Grand Councils, abide by our rightful possession, ownership and jurisdiction of these degress, regardless of any other Masonic Body; and regard as clandestine all who receive these degrees under any authority, other than that granted by a regular Grand Council, disconnected from a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

On motion, a committee consisting of Comps. Hugh McCurdy, of Michigan; John Haigh, of Massachusetts, and Geo. Scott, of New Jersey, were appointed for the purpose of procuring funds sufficient to defray the expense of printing the above mentioned protest and resolution.

On motion of Comp. Geo. J. Pinckard, of Louisiana, the Convention then adjourned until to-morrow (Tuesduy) evening at 7:30 o'clock.

SECOND DAY.

DETROIT, MICH., Tuesday, August 24 A. D. 1880, A. Dep. 2880, 7:30 p. m.

The convention of Royal and Select Masters resumed its session. Comp. Geo. J. Pinckard, Vice-President, in the chair.

On calling the roll, the representatives of seventeen Grand Councils were found to be present.

On motion, Comps. John D. Caldwell, of Ohio; Benjamin F. Moore, of Georgia, and Benjamin F. Haller, of Tennessee, were accorded the privilege of being present and participating in our deliberations.

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

On motion of Comp. Wm. D. Wadsworth, of Alabama, all committees appointed by Comp. Josiah H. Drummond prior to the opening of this convention were continued as permanent committees of this convention.

Comp. Geo. W. Cooley, of Minnesota, from the special committee of *five*, to consider the advisability of forming a General Grand Council, presented the following report:

To the Convention of Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters, now in Session:

Your committee to whom was referred the question of the advisability of organizing a General Grand Council, respectfully report:

That having given the subject that consideration to which its importance entitles it, we recommend for your adoption the following resolution:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this convention it is advisable to organize a General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters for the United States of America; and having been instructed to prepare and present a consitution in the event of our favorably considering such question, we desire to offer herewith the following as a proposed constitution for the consideration of this convention:

Whereas, at a convention of Royal and Select Masters assembled in the City of Detroit, Mich., this 24th day of August, 1880, it is considered expedient, for the welfare and perpetuation of the Cryptic Rite and the proper government of Councils of Royal and Select Masters, that a General Grand Council be organized for the United States of America, therefore, we do ordain and establish, subject to the approval of and ratification by our respective Grand Councils, or of a majority of them, the following

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1. This body shall be known as the General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the United States of America.

SEC. 2. The General Grand Council shall be composed of the following officers:

Most Puissant General Grand Master.
Right Puissant General Grand Deputy Master.
Right Puissant General Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.
Puissant General Grand Treasurer.
Puissant General Grand Recorder.
Puissant General Grand Chaplain.
Puissant General Grand Captain of the Guard.
Puissant General Grand Conductor of the Council.
Puissant General Grand Marshal.
Puissant General Grand Steward.
Puissant General Grand Sentinel,

together with all Past Most Puissant General Grand Masters, Past Right Puissant General Grand Deputy Masters, Past Right Puissant General Grand Principal Conductors of the Work; all Most Illustrious Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, and Grand Principal Conductors of the Work, or their proxies; all Past Most Illustrious Masters of the several constituent Grand Councils; and the first three officers of every Council, under the immediate jurisdiction of this General Grand Council, or their proxies, which officers of said constituent Councils shall, collectively, have one vote.

SEC. 3. On all questions to be decided by the General Grand Council, each State Grand Council shall be entitled to three votes, by its representative or representatives. The General Grand Officers when present, shall each have one vote, but no member of the General Grand Council shall be entitled to vote as proxy when the companion giving the proxy is present.

SEC. 4. The officers of the General Grand Council shall be elected by ballot, and installed at each triennial assembly, except the General Grand Chaplain and General Grand Sentinel, who shall be appointed by the General Grand Master, at the commencement of each stated assembly, and shall hold their offices until their successors shall be elected and installed.

SEC. 5. The duties of the officers of this General Grand Council shall be such as are appropriate to their several stations.

SEC. 6. The stated assemblies of the General Grand Council shall be held triennially, at such date and place as it shall determine. Provided, that if in the opinion of the General Grand Master, or, in case of his inability, then of the Senior Grand officer, there shall be danger to life and health, from sickness or other local cause, by any meeting being held

at the time appointed, he may change such meeting to some other time and place, and in the event of such change being made he shall immediately notify the General Grand Recorder thereof, who shall forthwith notify the other officers and members in such manner as he may deem best calculated to effect the desired object.

SEC. 7. The General Grand Master and General Grand Deputy Master shall have authority to call a special assembly of the General Grand Council whenever they consider it expedient or necessary, and it shall be their duty to do so when properly requested by a majority of the Grand Councils, of which four months' notice shall be given of the time and place of meeting.

SEC. 8. A quorum of the General Grand Council shall consist of the representatives of three Grand Councils.

SEC. 9. The General Grand Council shall watch over and protect the interests of Cryptic Masonry in the States, Districts or Territories which recognize its jurisdiction, and where there is no Grand Council regularly established; and shall settle all difficulties which may arise and be referred to it, and shall give such advice and instruction as may seem most conducive to the peace, advancement and perpetuation of Cryptic Masonry in its original integrity.

SEC. 10. The General Grand Master, or, in case of his inability to act, the General Grand Deputy Master, shall have power and authority to grant dispensations for new Councils of Royal and Select Masters, in any State, District or Territory in which there is not a Grand Council regularly established, and working independently of any other masonic body; such dispensation in no case to extend beyond the time of the next stated assembly of the General Grand Council, but no new Council shall be established in any State, District or Territory where there is a regular Council within a reasonable distance, without the consent of the Council nearest the place where such new Council is proposed to be located; and he shall immediately notify the General Grand Recorder of such dispensation, and make report of the same at the next triennial assembly of the General Grand Council, when the General Grand Council may grant said Council a charter.

SEC. 11. The fees for granting a dispensation shall be twenty-five dollars, and every Council holden by dispensation, or charter, from this body, shall pay into the treasury of the General Grand Council, the sum of one dollar for each companion greeted therein, and fifty cents annually for each member, until such time as a Grand Council shall be regularly established in the State, District or Territory in which such Council is located.

The General Grand Recorder shall be paid by the petitioners *five* dollars for his services in granting a charter. The fees in the several Councils under the immediate jurisdiction of the General Grand Council for conferring the degrees of Royal and Select Master, and the appendant degree of Super Excellent Master, shall not be less than ten dollars.

SEC. 12. Whenever there shall be three Councils regularly instituted in any State, District or Territory, a Grand Council may be established so soon as convenience and propriety may dictate.

SEC. 13. Each Grand Council constituent of this General Grand Body shall pay to the General Grand Recorder, annually, the sum of fifty cents for each chartered Council under its jurisdiction.

The Grand Recorder of each Grand Council shall be required to transmit to the General Grand Recorder, an official notice of the election of its Grand Officers within thirty days thereafter, and also transmit to the General Grand Recorder six copies of their proceeding as soon as the same are printed.

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

ARTICLE II.

SUBORDINATE COUNCILS.

SEC. 15. A Council of Royal and Select Masters, under the immediate jurisdiction of the General Grand Council, shall consist of the following officers: Thrice Illustrious Master, Right Illustrious Deputy Master, Illustrious Principal Conductor of the Work, Treasurer, Recorder, Captain of the Guard, Conductor of the Council, Steward, Sentinel, and as many members as may be convenient for working together.

SEC. 16. Every Council under the immediate jurisdiction of this General Grand Council, shall annually make a return to the General Grand Recorder of their name, number, location, and time of stated meetings, with a list of officers and members, degrees conferred, companions admitted, died, suspended or expelled, in accordance with a form furnished from the office of the General Grand Recorder.

SEC. 17. Every Council, under dispensation from this General Grand Council, shall, at the close of its period, return to the General Grand Recorder its dispensation and its records.

ARTICLE III.

SEC. 18. This Constitution may be amended at any stated assembly, by a majority vote of the Grand Councils represented.

SEC. 19. This Constitution shall take effect and be in force when it shall be ratified by nine (9) Grand Councils.

SEC. 20. Nothing contained in this Constitution shall be construed to derogate from the right or authority of any Grand Council which may not determine to become a constituent of this General Grand Council.

SEC. 21. Whenever this Constitution shall be ratified and accepted by any Grand Council, its Grand Recorder shall immediately notify the General Grand Recorder of such action, and whenever nine Grand Councils shall have so ratified and accepted it, the General Grand Recorder shall notify all the Grand Councils, and the officers of this General Grand Council, who shall thereupon assume their duties as such

Signed by GEO. W. COOLEY,
ORESTES A. B. SENTER,
GEO. M. OSGOODBY,
GEO. J. PINCKARD,
Committee.

John J. Bell declining to sign the report.

On motion, the above report was received.

On motion, it was decided that in acting upon the report of said "committee of five" on the advisability of forming a General Grand Council, as well as the constitution presented, *each* Grand Council represented shall have but *one* vote.

On motion, the report of said committee was laid upon the table for the present.

Comp. Geo. M. Osgoodby, of New York, from the special committee on the first question proposed by M.

Ill. Josiah H. Drummond, of Maine, in his call for this convention, presented the following report, which was received and their recommendations adopted:

To the National Convention of Royal and Select Masters of the United States:

Your committee named by the M. Ill. President of this Convention, in the call issued to the several loyal Grand Councils of the United States, and to whom was assigned the consideration of the following proposition set forth in such call:

"Shall the Grand Council system of organization be continued? If not, shall the degrees be abandoned, or the "Mississippi Plan" adopted?" would respectfully and fraternally report:

Your committee have with great interest and labor, since the question of merging the Cryptic with the Capitular degrees was proposed, carefully made a study of the subjects of the ancient landmarks governing the conferring and ownership of the degrees of Royal and Select Master; and as the result of such examination have satisfied themselves that the degrees never have been the property of the Royal Arch Chapters, either General, Grand or Subordinate.

We find that there was a regular Council in the year 1809, in the city of New York assuming to control these degrees, and to confer the same. This Council afterwards became the starting point, or beginning of the Grand Council of the State of New York, the organization of this Grand Council relating back to 1809, by the cession of this early Council of that year; and it is claimed by some, and the proof appears to be indisputable, from records in the archives of the Grand Chapter of New York, that this Council was in fact instituted in 1807, (instead of 1809) and we refer to such proofs, stated by the Grand High Priest of New York in his address to the Grand Chapter in 1850. This Council was instituted under authority of the Grand Consistory.

The Grand Council of Connecticut was organized in 1819; that of Georgia in 1825; that of Massachusetts in 1826, and so on; but it is unnecessary to state the dates of organization of others, for those we have stated are sufficient to show the earlier organizations.

The degrees of Royal and Select Master are in the lawful custody of the Grand Councils of the several States, and in the opinion of your committee they cannot be preserved in their original purity and beauty, and the important lessons by them inculcated, be perpetuated, by being

conferred as side degrees, or as appendant to an entirely different branch of Masonry, to which they are superior in rank.

We have, therefore, come to the conclusion that the Grand Council system of organization should be continued; that the degrees shall not be abandoned, nor should the "Mississippi Plan" be adopted.

Which conclusion we recommend be adopted by this convention of Royal and Select Masters.

(Signed) GEO. M. OSGOODBY,
GEO. W. COOLEY,
For the Committee.

Comp. Geo. J. Pinckard, of Louisiana, from the special committee on the third question proposed, presented the following report, which was on motion received, and their resolutions adopted:

PHILADELPHIA, July 28, 1880.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, ESQ.,
President of the National Convention of R. and S. M.

M. ILL. COMP:—In reply to your circular of March 10, 1880, the committee consisting of Comps. Charles E. Meyer, of Philadelphia, Pa., Geo. J. Pinckard, of New Orleans, La., and Hugh MCurdy, of Corunna, Mich., beg leave to report. The question submitted to them was:

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

And it was requested that answer be made in time to present to the convention to be held in Detroit, Mich., on the 23d of August, 1880.

The early history of the Council degrees is well known to you. It is not necessary to discuss the origin or working up to this time. Sufficient it is for us that they are so entirely different from the other degrees or systems, or rites of Masonry, as to have nothing in their ritual that can be taken and used by the other degrees without destroying them. While in so many particulars they are without any similarity, yet there is one point common to all degrees in Masonry, and that is the obligation of secrecy. The old charges say that a Mason is obliged, etc., etc., to obey the moral law. The violation of an obligation is a violation of the moral

law. In every degree of Masonry the same charge is given to keep inviolate its secrets, as particularly from the brother of lower degree as from the profane. These are certain particulars in which we all agree. It cannot be denied that every Cryptic or Council Mason has obligated himself not to be present at the conferring of the degrees except in the body of a lawfully warranted and duly constituted Council Conferred outside of a lawfully warranted and duly constituted Council it is done clandestinely, and there is no healing that can make such a clandestine regular, and he cannot be recognized in any manner or form whatever. One so made is shunned by all good Masons, and the finger of warning and contempt is continually pointing at him, and with like abhorence the true brother looks upon all those who in any manner or form whatever assists at the clandestine making. If such are the feeling engendered at the action of a companion, what must be the feelings toward a Grand Council or Grand Chapter that sanctions the conferring of degrees over which they have no control whatever? Grand Chapters can lawfully know nothing of a higher degree than is recognized by the fundamental principles which declare the Royal Arch the summit and perfection of Ancient Craft Masonry. A Grand Council is merely one of a number of custodians or trustees having in charge these degrees, it is only the agent entrusted with that in which each and every Grand Council is a part owner. If all were to cease to work, and lay down the trowel, and desert the secret vault—yet all are bound by their obligations as sacred as any taken and they cannot reveal or make public these degrees unlawfully except at their own peril—they would be and are foresworn, and leaving the work leave behind them broken promises and violated vows, and are guilty of gross unmasonic conduct.

It becomes those who are strong in the faith to stand upon guard and place upon record a declaration of what is right and proper, just and honorable, and masonic. Thus believing, be it

Resolved, That the degrees of Cryptic Masonry, viz., the Royal and Select Masters, can only be conferred in Councils of Royal and Select Masters working under regular Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters.

Resolved, That no Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons can lawfully confer or cause to be conferred, directly or indirectly, any of the degrees of Cryptic Masonry, commonly known as the Royal and Select Masters.

Resolved, That all Royal Arch Masons who have received the degrees of Royal and Select Master by the authority, direct or indirect, of Chapters or Grand Chapters of Royal Arch Masons shall be and are regarded as clandestinely made Royal and Select Masters, who cannot, in any man-

ner, 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.

Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be forwarded to each Grand Council, with the request that they take action upon and adopt the same, and that copies be also sent to the several Grand Chapters of Royal Arch Masons.

CHARLES E. MEYER,
GEORGE J. PINCKARD,
HUGH McCURDY.

The committees on the second and fourth questions proposed, were granted further time.

The convention was then adjourned until to-morrow (Wednesday) evening at 7:30 o'clock.

THIRD DAY.

DETROIT, MICH., Wednesday Evening, August 25, 1880, 7:30 o'clock.

The convention of Royal and Select Masters resumed its labors, Geo. J. Pinckard, of Louisiana, in the chair.

Present, representatives from the following States: Alabama, Connecticut, California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, and Ohio.

The reading of the minutes of yesterday's session was dispensed with.

On motion, the report of the special committee of five on organizing a General Grand Council was taken from the table and their recommendations adopted.

The committee on the second and fourth questions propounded by the President, were discharged and relieved from the further consideration of the subjects therein contained.

On motion, the election of provisional officers for the Provisional General Grand Council was proceeded with, with the following result:

M. P. G. G. M.	Josiah H. Drummond	of Maine.
R. P. G. G. D. M.	Geo. M. Osgoodby	of New York.
R. P. G. G. P. C. W.	Geo. J. Pinckard	of Louisiana.
P. G. G. Treas.	Orestes A. B. Senter	of Ohio.
P. G. G. Rec.	Geo. W. Cooley	of Minnesota.
P. G. G. C. G.	Wm. D. Wadsworth	of Alabama.
P. G. G. C. C.	Charles R. Armstrong	of Georgia.
P. G. G. M.	Edward P. Burnham	of Maine.
P. G. G. S.	Albert D. McConaughy	of Kansas.

On motion, it was ordered that 300 copies of the proceedings of this convention be printed and the bill therefor be sent to the M. P. G. G. M.

On motion, the time and place for the next assembly was left subject to the call of the Provisional M. P. G. G. M.

On motion, the Provisional General Grand Recorder was requested to procure the proceedings of the conventions held in the cities of New York, New Orleans and Buffalo, and have them printed.

On motion, it was resolved, that the thanks of this convention, being eminently due, are hereby tendered to Comps. Josiah H. Drummond, George J. Pinckard and George Van Vliet, for the valuable services rendered this convention.

On motion, the thanks of this convention were tendered to the companions of the City of Detroit, for the courtesies extended to us at this time.

On motion, the convention then adjourned, subject to the call of the Provisional M. P. General Grand Master, as previously provided for.

GEO. VAN VLIET,
Secretary.

To the M. Ill. Grand Council of Royal and Secret Masters of——

Herewith is sent the proceedings of a convention of Royal and Select Masters, held in Detroit the present week.

In view of the attack made upon the Rite in certain jurisdictions, and the attempt made to wrest from Grand Councils the degrees of the Rite, after mature deliberation, it was determined to take measures looking to the formation of a national body, in order to secure unity of action and the better to defend the interests of Cryptic Masonry.

The convention plan in ordinary times would, perhaps, be all that is required, but lack of authority possessed by its members renders its action ineffectual in the present emergency, while a regular body, with powers fully defined, would be able to speak with authority.

For these and other reasons, the question of the ratification of the action of the convention is submitted to your deliberate judgment, and you are requested to act thereon at an early day.

The convention in its action sought only the good of the Cryptic Rite, and its proceedings are submitted to you in the confident belief that they will be considered by you in the same spirit.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,
President of Convention of Royal and Select Masters.

GEO. VAN VLIET, Secretary.

DETROIT, Aug. 26, 1880.

GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL

OF

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS,

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

To.....

.....

OFFICE OF GENERAL GRAND RECORDER,
MINNEAPOLIS, FEBY. 23d, 1881.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 21, Article 3, of the Constitution of the General Grand Council, as adopted by the Convention held at Detroit, August 23d, 24th and 25th, 1880, I hereby officially announce that the action taken therein, and the Constitution adopted, has been ratified by nine Grand Councils, as follows:

BY THE GRAND COUNCIL OF

New York, September 9th, 1880.
Minnesota, October 11th, 1880.
Ohio, October 13th, 1880.
Indiana, October 20th, 1880.
Maryland, November 10th, 1880.
Tennessee, November 12th, 1880.
Massachusetts, December 8th, 1880.
Alabama, December 8th, 1880.
Louisiana, February 17th, 1881.

Therefore, according to Section 19 and Section 21, of Article 3, of said Constitution, the General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, of the United States of America, is duly organized, and its officers duly empowered to assume their duties as such.

I send herewith, for your information, a copy of the proceedings of the Convention, containing the Constitution as therein adopted.

Fraternally yours,

GEORGE W. COOLEY,
General Grand Recorder.

GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL

OF

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS,

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,
General Grand Master.

GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL

OF

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS,

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It is so evidently the wish of a vast majority of the Cryptic Masons to preserve the Grand Council system, that it is submitted in all fraternal kindness to those of opposite views, whether they should not yield to the majority. The "Mississippi plan" was started as one of mere expediency; no principle called for it, but it was put forward and adopted as an ex-

pedient for saving expense and the labor of supporting one set of Bodies, Grand and Subordinate. But, on the other hand, the large majority felt that the plan proposed involved the sacrifice of a principle, and that they had no right to consent to conferring the degrees in any other than a regularly warranted Council.

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

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

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