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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

CONVENTION

OF

ROYAL & 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.

DETROIT:
POST AND TRIBUNE JOB COMPANY, PRINTERS, LARNED STREET.
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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 Councils, 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 exists?

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 questions 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 S. 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 to 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 Cryptic Rite be irrevocably settled.

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

Portland, Maine, March 10, 1880.

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.

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 benefitted by an assembly held 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 independent 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 Minn., 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 degrees, 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 (Tuesday) evening at 7.30 o'clock.

SECOND DAY.

DETROIT, Mich., Tuesday, August 24,
A. L. 1880, A. D. 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 constitution 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 General 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 proceedings as soon as the same are printed.

SEC. 14. Every Council of Royal and Select Masters must have a charter for 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. George 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 McCurdy, 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 sys tems, 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 heal_ ing 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 feelings 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, an ay 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 forsworn, 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 manner, be recognized or admitted into any lawful Council of Royal and Select Masters.

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

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, represensatives 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.

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