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REPORT

OF

COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.

GRAND COMMANDERY

OF

MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND.

1898.

REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island:

With some added sense of responsibility we enter upon the preparation of this report. For a number of years we have shared with another the pleasant task of reviewing the Proceedings of sister Grand Commanderies, and remarking upon the various important matters thus brought to attention. Our accomplished associate in such service, since 1894, has removed to another jurisdiction; and this year, in accordance with the designation made, the entire work devolves upon ourself—a committee of one. If there is an increase of honor in such an allotment, so also is there an increase of responsibility.

It requires not a little of time to turn the pages of the various Proceedings of Templar Grand Bodies, issued in a single year, and to make one's self sufficiently acquainted with their contents to give an intelligent review of the same. Time must be taken for needful scrutiny, besides which there must be a due exercise of thought and of a discriminating judgment, if anything like an up-to-date report is to be furnished. One year ago we ventured to point out some of the features which characterize the ideal Report on Correspondence; but we were painfully conscious then, as we are now, that it is much easier to fashion an ideal than to realize it. It is well, however, in this line of service, as in other pursuits, to have the large, clear vision, and the understanding of what there should be in the performance. Pope's praise of the successful reviewer of general literature is not

without its suggestiveness. He is described as one who is able

> Happily to steer
> From grave to gay, from lively to severe,
> Correct with spirit, eloquent with ease,
> Intent to reason, and polite to please.

We enter upon the writing of this report at a time most propitious in the history of Masonic Templarism. The present year discloses our Order advanced to a high position of honor and influence, and favored with ample opportunities for useful service according to what are its benign purposes. Here at home we have special cause to rejoice over the continued progress of the Templar organization, under the wise and efficient supervision of the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. In this jurisdiction the Order was never stronger in numbers and resources than now; and never did it command a more loyal and intelligent following than at the present time.

The organic life of the Grand Body to which we address this paper began at Providence, May 13, 1805, its first title being "The Grand Encampment of Rhode Island and Jurisdiction thereunto belonging." An amendment to the constitution, made March 3, 1806, changed the designation to "The United States Grand Encampment." Other changes were subsequently made, but it was not until June 8, 1819, that this Grand Body became officially known as "The Grand Encampment of Massachusetts and Rhode Island." On December 13, 1845, a revised constitution was adopted, one section of which declared the title to be "The Grand Encampment of Knights Templars and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island;" and so it remained until 1868, when the present nomenclature, Grand Commandery, etc., was adopted. Through all changes of title and administration it has been one and the same Body. It was organized by less than a score of representative Knights Templars, with an entire constituency of not more than two hundred members. Out of weakness it has grown strong—passing through various experiences, some of them adverse and most discouraging, until, in the later period,

coming under the observation of the present generation, a most remarkable enlargement has been witnessed, justifying a reference to the ancient prophecy: "There shall be a handful of corn in the earth upon the top of the mountain; the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon; and they of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth."

Throughout the whole land this same forward movement may be traced, so that to-day we may as Knights Templars congratulate ourselves upon being identified with a strong and resourceful organization, which has nobly gained the vantage ground it now occupies, from which it is privileged to survey the broader field of usefulness now most invitingly stretching itself before the vision.

To do a reviewer's work at such a propitious time in the history of the Order is a pleasant task, and yet, in some respects, there is not so much of prompting for the service as in the former days, when there was less of harmony and good fellowship prevailing—when there were more "burning questions" presented for discussion—and more matters of historic interest to be passed upon and made clear. The year covered by this review has not been an eventful one in the expression of Templary. As a rule everything has been done according to well considered rules and precedents, but there has been no special enthusiasm manifested, such as sometimes has attracted attention. Grand Commanderies and their subordinates have been getting ready for the Pittsburg Triennial, but the preparations seem to have been made in rather a quiet sort of way, at least they have not been attended with so much of outward demonstration as have characterized similar arrangements in former years.

But while there has been this quiet, orderly course of procedure in the expression of our Order during the past year—this lack of excitement respecting questions pertaining to Templar history and polity—it has been far otherwise in the world outside. As citizens, as well as Knights Templars, we have been under the touch of a patriotic and humane feeling such as is only now and then aroused. The whole country seemed on fire for a time with a holy purpose to redress injury and wrong inflicted upon a weak people

close to our own doors, and to exalt freedom and justice in places where a most oppressive rule had long been maintained. As President McKinley said, the conditions became insufferable, and war with Spain was declared. The justification for that war, in our opinion, could only come from the fact that human rights were in peril, and that the American nation, by its position and by its strength, was so placed as to be able to defend those rights—to repress the cruel hand of the persecutor. The war, thus undertaken in the name of justice and humanity, practically ended in a few months, has resulted, we may hope, in a substantial gain for the interests of truth and civilization. It has served important purposes in developing the feeling of unity and patriotism among the citizens of our whole country, in showing that the chivalric spirit still lives in the hearts of American freemen, and in attesting the strength of a republican government such as ours.

Now cometh peace after victory. Masons and Knights Templars, in common with other brave men not of our Fraternity, have done their duty on land and sea, and have helped to make the glorious record that has gone out to all the world. The story will long be told, not only of the fierce conflict at Manila and Santiago, but of that gentle, generous sentiment shown by the victors toward the vanquished, which furnishes a beautiful illustration of that true chivalry the world so much admires. The war has given to us a new list of heroes—men of the regal stamp, like Hobson, and Dewey, and others, whose names even now are as household words throughout the length and breadth of our land—men whom we delight to honor because of their brave deeds, but who attract us not the less because of their tenderness and humanity. Yes, "the bravest are tenderest;" and we may well rejoice that we have the new object lessons attesting this truth, as when the commander of one of the American war ships called out to his men, flushed with triumph at the destruction of Admiral Cervera's fleet, "Don't cheer, boys, the poor fellows are dying." Magnanimity, gentleness, and a reverent tenderness, characterize the great soul, and serve to mark the genuineness of that chivalry which

may be shown in every-day life, in the time of peace as well as in war.

As Knights Templars we wear the sword and promise to wield it, if need be, in the cause of right; but we hold confidently to the thought that the time comes hastening on when all the nations and peoples of the earth shall be at peace,—when the law of God and the love of God shall be universally recognized, and when there shall be no war. We wait patiently and hopefully for that day, long prophesied of, to dawn—that day in which

> All men's good shall
> Be each man's rule; and universal peace
> Lie, like a shaft of light, across the land.

Alabama, 1898.

The Thirty-eighth Annual Conclave was held at Selma, May 11 and 12, 1898. Grand Commander Henry H. Matthews presided, and delivered a brief address. In reporting on the condition of the Order in Alabama, he points out some of the causes which in his opinion operate against its enlargement. He says:

> The slow growth of most of our Commanderies may be attributed to several causes. Among them can it be a lack of interest on the part of some of our Fratres in the Royal Arch Chapters? A lively interest in Capitular Masonry would, in my opinion, produce results which would materially develop and build up our Commanderies, and thus would new life be infused into Templar Masonry, in Alabama, as certain as "the waves make toward the pebbled shore."

There can be no question that the more of interest there is in Freemasonry the more of prosperity will attend Masonic Templarism. Make the Lodge and the Chapter more attractive by a wise administration of the affairs of each organization, by conferring the degrees in the best manner possible, and by bringing out the social and moral purposes of Freemasonry, and the result will be as declared by Grand Commander Matthews.

Grand Commander Armstrong in his report names but six

Commanderies as now active in the jurisdiction. The aggregate membership of these Bodies, May 1, 1897, was 303; May 1, 1898, the membership had decreased to 288. Nineteen Companions had been knighted during the year, while the number lost by suspension was 32. Five Sir Knights had affiliated, three had been re-instated, but as offsetting this gain four members had died and five had dimitted during the year, making the net loss fifteen. These figures are not encouraging, to say the least.

A Report on Correspondence, by Sir Knight George F. Moore, accompanies the Proceedings. It comprises thirty-two closely printed pages. Under the heading "Historical," Bro. Moore summarizes the rise and progress of Masonic Templarism in Alabama, and points with justifiable pride to the list of able men connected with the Order in that jurisdiction. Under the heading "Grand Encampment of the United States," he expresses his very decided opinion against the activity of that Body. He quotes a number of writers who hold like views with himself, and sums up the matter as follows:

> The consensus of opinion among those who have closely observed the Grand Encampment, except, of course, those who are officeholders in, or attaches of, that Body, is that it has outlived its usefulness, even if it ever had any, which appears to be matter of grave doubt.

To impugn motives and to suggest a selfish and base reason for another's opinion, which does not happen to accord with our own, is pretty poor business. The question as to the value of the Grand Encampment may well be argued on its merits. There are two sides to the case.

Philip Mihons, Selma, was elected Grand Commander; H. Clay Armstrong, Montgomery, Grand Recorder, and Geo. F. Moore, of the same city, was appointed, Committee on Correspondence.

Arkansas, 1898.

Grand Commander George G. Latta presided over the Twenty-sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Arkansas, held at Fayetteville, April 19 and 20, 1898. One

of the decisions announced by him in his annual address, in answer to the question whether it is proper for Sir Knights to keep their uniforms at home, and to wear them to and from the Commandery meetings, was as follows:

It is not proper for a Knight Templar, as a rule, to wear his uniform to and from meetings of the Commandery. There should be a place provided for the keeping of the uniforms at the Asylum. If such a place is not provided, then the proper thing for a Knight Templar to do is to put his uniform in his box and his sword in his scabbard, and thus carry them to the place of meeting. It is against the established rule of our Order for Knights Templars to do anything that might subject themselves to the criticism of making an effort to display themselves in their Templar uniforms; and Knights Templars should only appear in public with their uniforms on Masonic occasions.

He spoke a word in commendation of the Triennial at Pittsburg, urging all Sir Knights who could do so to attend. The Grand Commandery appointed a committee to make arrangements, and appropriated $200 to meet the expenses of headquarters.

The following resolutions, having the approval of the Committee on Jurisprudence, were adopted:

Resolved, That from and after this date no subordinate Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction be permitted to receive and act upon a petition for the orders of knighthood when the petitioner is engaged in the saloon or liquor traffic, either as employer or employee; and that no Sir Knight now a member of a subordinate Commandery in the jurisdiction be permitted to engage in such traffic and retain his standing as a Knight Templar.

Resolved, further, That should there be any Sir Knights engaged in such business at this time, that they may be given six months from the date hereof to disengage themselves therefrom, and in case of failure to do so shall be suspended indefinitely from the rolls of the Commandery of which they may be members.

Summarizing the report of Grand Recorder Henry, we note the following particulars: The 12 Commanderies in Arkansas have an aggregate membership of 502. Twenty-nine Companions were knighted during the year ending April 1, 1898. Eleven Sir Knights were affiliated. The losses by death, suspension, and dimits, were 32, thus leaving a net gain of 8. The condition is every way encouraging.

Jesse Mapes Dill, Little Rock, was elected Grand Commander; James Austin Henry, Little Rock, Grand Recorder; and Charles Edward Rosenbaum was appointed Committee on Correspondence, a resolution being passed that his report should be published with the Proceedings. There is no Report on Correspondence accompanying the Proceedings of the present year.

Canada, 1897.

The Fourteenth Annual Assembly of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada was held in Montreal, August 19, 1897. The Supreme Grand Master, Bro. W. H. Whyte, presided. He delivered an annual address, evidently prepared with care, and covering a broad range of affairs related to his successful administration. He congratulates the Great Priory on the acceptance by the Encampment of St. John, N. B., of the proposition to become one of its constituents. He says:

> As expressed in my address last year, the consummation which we wished for regarding the affiliation of Scottish Knights at St. John, New Brunswick, has now become "un fait accompli." In January I received word that our Fratres had finally decided to come under the banner of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, and in February I granted to them a dispensation to work until such times as a charter was issued. The terms and agreement by which this gallant Body has affiliated were duly approved and ratified last session, and the Encampment of St. John is now a component part of this Great Priory, under their old name, and numbered 3*a* on our roll.

He refers to petitions presented by several of the Preceptories, requesting the conferring of the rank of Preceptor upon members who have not held the office by the usual course of election, and advises caution as to such proposed conferring of honorary rank. He suggests that the granting of the petitions now before Great Priory may establish a troublesome precedent. He says:

> Occasions may arise when it is deemed unwise to advance Fratres to the chair of the Preceptory, but if it is thought this Great Priory will confer rank upon the request of every subordinate, you will find that Preceptories will consider it the easy solution of dropping an incompetent aspirant

by asking Great Priory to grant, as a sop to his wounded feelings, the rank of Preceptor.

It seems to us exceedingly unwise to confer official rank and titles in the way desired. Such a practice would be liable to abuse, and in the nature of things would lead to not a little of log rolling and ill feeling on the part of members. We are glad to notice that the subject was referred to a committee, instructed to report at the next annual assembly.

By the report of the Grand Registrar we are gratified to learn of the flourishing condition of Masonic Templarism in Canada. The Great Priory now includes 37 Priories in its allegiance; and these Bodies have a total membership of 1,764, an increase of 268 for the year under review.

Bro. Henry Robertson again presents the Report on Correspondence. He is a forcible writer, and his opinions always deserve consideration. In preparing the paper to which we now refer he has used the scissors somewhat more than the pen, but his selections cover a wide range of subjects, and his report is by no means lacking in variety or interest.

The Great Priory elected Daniel F. Macwatt, Barrie, Ontario, Supreme Grand Master; J. B. Tresidder, Montreal, Grand Registrar; and continued Henry Robertson, Collingwood, as Correspondent.

Colorado, 1898.

It was the Twenty-third Annual Conclave which was held at Masonic Temple, Denver, June 7, 1898. Representatives from 22 of the 25 chartered Commanderies were present, together with all of the Grand Officers and a large number of permanent member and visitors. We note the presence of the Grand Representative from Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Lawrence N. Greenleaf.

Grand Commander George J. Dunbaugh delivered an interesting address, referring at the outset to the war with Spain which was undertaken "for a just and righteous cause." In this connection he made the following expression of wholesome purpose:

As true Knights, it is not necessary for me to say we will with one accord, casting aside every political feeling or political aspiration, declare our allegiance to our country and our flag, for there is no more loyal body of men in Christendom than the Knights Templars of America, and we rejoice to see the stars and stripes unfurled side by side with the banner of Templarism.

In reporting his official acts during the year he announced his constituting of Cripple Creek Commandery, No. 26, stationed at Cripple Creek, on June 26, 1897. Colorado now has 26 Commanderies, with a total membership of 1,668.

The Grand Commandery took action against the pending amendment to the constitution of the Grand Encampment, which proposes to reduce the rank, and change the method of selecting the Grand Prelates by Grand Commanderies. The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the representatives of this Grand Commandery, in the Triennial Conclave, to be held at Pittsburg, Pa., on the second Tuesday of October, 1898, be invoked to sustain by their votes the present rank of Eminent Grand Prelate as fifth (5th) in line of officers, *elective*, and the present rank of Prelate in all constituent and subordinate Commanderies as fourth (4th) in line, and *elective*, in accordance with prescription ever since the formation of the Grand Encampment.

The Grand Commandery adopted a report presented by its committee on the Triennial, and appropriated the sum of $500 to procure headquarters and meet other expenses at Pittsburg.

Bro. Harper M. Orahood furnishes an excellent Report on Correspondence. He notes the general prosperity attending the Order, and remarks upon "the absence of contention, dispute, and bitterness." He says at the close of his review: "Scarcely a difference of opinion is expressed, and when this does occur it is in the most kindly and courteous language."

Under California, whose Grand Commander, in 1897, called attention to the cost of preparing and publishing Reports on Correspondence, and to the comparatively few readers of such papers, Bro. Orahood makes a statement of his own views on the general subject. He says:

We have called attention several times to the question of whether the making and printing of Reports on Correspondence is worth the outlay. On the mere statement as made by the Grand Commander it may seem doubtful. Yet it must be conceded that these reports are read by the Grand Commanders and other officers for the time being of the Grand Commanderies, and that usually they have in mind what may be said of them when they write their addresses and make reports and perform official acts. The men who read these reports, as well as those who write them, have great influence in making and maintaining the high character and standing of our Order. In our opinion, this high character could not have been attained, and cannot be maintained, without the general diffusion of information and knowledge effected by these reports. Yet we join in the regret that they are not more generally read.

Reports prepared with care, up-to-date in their presentation of the doings of the various jurisdictions, and suggestive in their treatment of important topics, would seem to have value. Such reports deserve to be read. They are not without their use and influence, as is stated in the foregoing excerpt, even though their readers are comparatively few.

In his kindly notice of our jurisdiction he refers approvingly to what we said in last year's report as to the responsibility which devolves upon the Templar Order, in this day of its growing strength, of taking a right stand respecting great questions of ethics and morals, and of making its influence felt on the side of humanity as against oppression and persecution of every sort. He endorses the position we took one year ago in the expression of sympathy with the Cubans and the Armenians. So in his "Conclusion" he touches again upon the same subject. We quote him, as follows:

The "Armenian Question," suggested by Brother Hedges, of Montana, has received some attention, but the present Cuban war, in which our nation has become suddenly so important a factor, overshadows everything else in this line. Let us hope and pray that this war may continue as it commenced, a war for the freedom of our downtrodden, suffering, and oppressed neighboring isle. May it place us before all the nations of the world on the side of liberty, right, and justice, and show that we not only have the force of character to protest by words against the oppression of the Armenians in Europe, but the courage to fight against and prevent similar wrongs and oppression on this side of the ocean. God speed the right and give us victory.

John M. Maxwell, Leadville, was elected Grand Commander; Ed. C. Parmelee, Denver, Grand Recorder; Harper M. Orahood, Denver, Committee on Correspondence.

Connecticut, 1898.

It is an attractive volume of Proceedings, containing nearly two hundred pages, which sets forth the transactions of Grand Commandery at the Seventy-first Annual Conclave, held at Hartford, March 15, 1898. Grand Commander Samuel M. Bronson, whose portrait forms the frontispiece, presided.

All the Commanderies of the State, eleven in number, were represented; all the Grand Officers, except the Grand Treasurer, Wm. R. Higby, detained by sickness, were in their places; and there was an unusually large number of visitors, including Grand Master Warren La Rue Thomas, Grand Treasurer H. Wales Lines, and Grand Warder Joseph A. Locke, of the Grand Encampment of the United States.

Grand Commander Bronson delivered a brief and business like address. He made several recommendations, one of them being as follows:

> That Christmas Day, at high 12, be observed to do honor to the M. E. Grand Master, and at that Conclave a voluntary collection be taken, as a Templar Hospital Fund for the sick at the Masonic Home, at Wallingford.

We are glad to note that the Grand Commandery endorsed the recommendation, and directed that such an offering should be made by each Commandery in the jurisdiction.

Grand Inspector F. A. Spencer presented his fourth annual report, showing that he had visited officially all the Commanderies, and had witnessed the work of the Red Cross as presented by each Body. Referring to the question of paraphernalia, he says:

> The question of paraphernalia, being the one most prominent brought to my attention, induces me to express an opinion regarding it, which may be justly criticised, but upon which (relating to paraphernalia) this report is based; which is, that the work in the Order of the Red Cross is in reality a drama, and each one taking a part in it should be robed to represent the

character assumed, in order to produce the best effect, and that the Commandery whose costumes, etc., are the most complete, is entitled to the credit of having the best paraphernalia.

The Committee on Jurisprudence presented an important report, as follows:

Your Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the memorial of Henry K. Simpson, Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery of the District of Columbia, and others, concerning rank of Prelate in Grand Encampment, and Grand and Subordinate Commanderies as this may be affected by proposed amendments to the constitution of the Grand Encampment, recommend that no instructions be given to our representatives in the Grand Encampment concerning this matter.

The Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred certain resolutions passed by the Grand Commandery of Tennessee, at its last Annual Conclave, concerning the use of the Maltese cross, submit that while we regret the use of this sacred emblem for any purpose and by any organization of which it has no significance, we believe that it would be unwise for this Grand Commandery, or for the Grand Encampment, to attempt by their votes to control such use of it.

The printed Proceedings do not show whether or not the report was adopted, but we assume that such action was taken.

The committee reported on the Mississippi proposition relating to powers of the Grand Encampment, and asked permission to report to the Grand Commander for his approval, with the understanding that he might cause such report, if approved, to be brought to the attention of the Grand Encampment at its Triennial Conclave in Pittsburg. The record does not state what was done with this paper, but we have no doubt that leave was granted as desired.

The Grand Commandery appropriated the sum of $350 for expenses of headquarters at Pittsburg.

Sir Knight John W. Fellows, of New Hampshire, presented to the Grand Commandery the jewel of Past Grand Commander John D. Patterson, of New Hampshire, deceased, who for a number of years had been the Grand Representative of the Grand Commandery of Connecticut near the Grand Commandery of New Hampshire. This disposition of the jewel was made in accordance with the wishes of

the deceased. Bro. Fellows' excellent remarks in presenting the jewel are printed in the Proceedings.

Two pages are devoted to a record of a reception given by Washington Commandery, of Hartford, on the evening of March 14, 1898, to Grand Master Thomas, Grand Commander Bronson, and other officers of the Grand Encampment and of the Grand Commandery, respectively. The occasion is described as "one of the most brilliant, successful, and enjoyable receptions ever given in the State."

The Report on Correspondence by Hugh Stirling, occupies eighty-six pages, on which we find a review of forty-two jurisdictions, showing both skill and care in its preparation. Under Illinois Bro. Stirling expresses his opinion that a man may be a zealous Templar without being much interested in the Blue Lodge. To Correspondent Smith, of Illinois, who maintains the opposite view, reply is made as follows:

> We beg to differ with our esteemed Frater, not that ancient Craft Masonry does not give tone and character to Templarism; in that we fully agree. Our difference is on the question of whether one cannot be a zealous Templar and yet be a very indifferent member of the Ancient Craft; our observation is that many are members of our Commanderies because of the special attractions of that body, not necessarily the "sword and feathers," but rather because of the beauty and impressiveness of its teachings and ritual; would that all were zealous in every brauch of Masonry, but that is next to impossible.

There is some force in the words just quoted. We have in mind a worthy Craftsman and Knight Templar, who has often told us that while he has sincere respect for Freemasonry in all its branches he has a peculiar regard for the Order of Knights Templars. The Templar ceremony, he says, attracts and edifies him as does no other ceremonial. He is not a military man; he is rarely seen in the ranks of his Commandery when on parade, but he is an enthusiastic Knight. Men are affected very differently; we can understand how it is possible for one who is not very much interested in the Lodge, to be specially devoted to the Commandery by reason of what is peculiar to the last named Body. All the same, however, we hold that both Lodge and Chapter should be held in high estimate by the zealous Templar,

and that, unless for very exceptional reasons, he should not think of withdrawing his membership in either of these organizations.

Massachusetts and Rhode Island receives a courteous and extended notice. Referring again to the question of perpetual jurisdiction over candidates, he quotes from our report of last year favoring a modification of the old rule, and follows with a statement of some of the reasons why he holds an opposite opinion on this subject. He says:

> The main trouble is not in the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction, but rather in the unlawful use of the black ballot. We maintain that one has no more right to cast a black ballot because of personal differences or business jealousies, or for any other cause that does not affect the moral character of the man, than he has to give his consent to the admission of one that he knows is morally disqualified, but allows his acceptance because he is a "good fellow." We believe also that any modification of this doctrine will be a stepping stone for changes along other lines, the existence of which has placed the Masonic Fraternity in the position it occupies, which is one no member thereof need to be ashamed.

We quite agree with Bro. Stirling as to the use of the ballot. No adverse ballot should ever be cast except for sufficient cause, and that justifying cause must be found quite outside of any personal feeling or prejudice; but with human nature as it is, even among Masons, there is a constant liability to a wrong use of the black ballot, hence we would not vest so much of power in one man's hand for an unlimited period as is allowed by the rigid rule of perpetual jurisdiction. If a change in one respect seems warranted by justice and right, we could not hold back from making it because of fear that other changes less desirable might be urged. Let each proposed modification stand or fall according to its own merits.

The closing words of the report indicate the spirit and purpose of Sir Knight Stirling in its preparation. He says:

> Our aim in the foregoing has been to give a general idea of the transactions of the several Grand Commanderies, together with the opinion of those in command on matters pertaining to the Order, without any extended criticism. In a few instances, however, we have endeavored to "maintain our position by argument" on the subject under consideration.

We have arrived at that period of life's journey to know "that the older one grows the more he wishes he thought he knew what he used to know he knew," and therefore accord to the opinion and labors of others the same consideration we trust they will bestow upon ours.

William E. Withey, New London, was elected Grand Commander; Eli C. Birdsey, Meriden, was re-elected Grand Recorder; and Hugh Stirling was continued as Correspondent.

Florida, 1898.

Grand Commander James W. Boyd presided at the Fourth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Florida, held in Masonic Temple, Jacksonville, May 12, 1898. After a word of appropriate greeting, he called attention to the condition of the country, and specially to the fact that Florida had been utilized to so considerable an extent for warlike purposes. We quote from his address, as follows:

Sir Knights, we meet under circumstances to which this country has been a stranger for over thirty years. We are at war with one of the great nations of the earth, battling for the liberties of an oppressed people, whose heroic struggles for the past three years have had our sympathies. We see our brave volunteers marshaling to the support of our regulars, and witness the fond mothers of our land kissing their boys Godspeed to the fight.

Our fair State is the camping ground of a vast army, such as has not been assembled in this Union since the memorable civil war, equipped for active warfare, and momentarily expecting orders to move against the enemy.

Off our coast and in the Philippines are assembled formidable fleets of ironclads, whose steel tongues have already spoken in no uncertain tones, to the world, that war with the Americans is the most serious business that any nation can engage in. As Knights Templar we owe two unfaltering allegiances—spiritually to God, whose blessing and protection we invoked at the opening of this session; materially to the country and government under whose protection we live, and it seems fitting at this time that we, as Knights Templar and Americans, again declare that allegiance to our country and government, and pledge our undivided support in upholding and maintaining its honor and integrity, and if need be, our fortunes and our lives in its defense. Let us bid Godspeed to our army and navy to the end that victory may perch upon their banner, and white-winged peace thereby have an honorable and permanent abiding place, at least on this hemisphere, if not the world at large. War is deplorable, but

it is not without some compensation; in this instance it has proven that the people of every section of this country, not alone now, but since Appomattox, are true to the government, and only needed an opportunity to prove their allegiance, and sets at rest any question as to our united strength against the foreign foe.

He announces a decision, made in response to the question as to whether Templar work by a Commandery could properly be engaged in on Christmas Day, as follows:

I find nothing in the laws of the Grand Encampment or of our Grand Commandery prohibiting it—except when the 25th of December falls on Sunday. I see no reason why the orders of Knighthood could not be conferred on that day, especially in case of emergency, when the work is arranged so as not to interfere with the appropriate religious observances of the day.

The Grand Commandery adopted the system of Tactics approved by the Grand Commandery of Iowa, "as being best suited to the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida."

A vote was passed authorizing an assessment on each subordinate Commandery, of fifty cents per member, for the purpose of defraying the necessary expenses for the proper representation of the Grand Commandery at the Triennial in Pittsburg.

Florida has five Commanderies, with a total membership of 210.

William N. Jewell, Orlando, was elected Grand Commander, and William A. McLean, Jacksonville, was re-elected Grand Recorder.

Georgia, 1898.

A fine portrait of Sir Knight Charles M. Wiley, Grand Commander in 1897, adorns the Proceedings for the current year.

The Annual Conclave, held at Macon, April 20 and 21, 1898, began with a cordial greeting by the local Commandery, followed by refreshments. Grand Commander Wiley delivered an address pervaded with patriotic and Christian sentiments. His words respecting the duty of the hour,

spoken just after the declaration of war with Spain, attest the strength and manly feeling which prompted their utterance, and we are glad, in this connection, to quote the following paragraph:

We had devoutly hoped that we should long be spared a repetition of the horrors of thirty years ago. But we are already in the midst of conflicts, the deadly engagements have begun. The places of those slain must be filled by others. Some of us, or those dear to us, must go. The pall of apprehension is already on the hearts of our wives and sisters. May the God of all the living save them from more sorrowful experiences. May our conflict be short, quick and decisive, and may we soon see the black cloud swept far away upon the distant horizon, while Peace, sweet angel of Heaven, comes once again to preside over the lives and destinies of our people, leaving our flag waving victoriously, and the proud Eagle of America pluming himself for higher flights.

He reports that he had made a visit of inspection to each of the ten Commanderies in the jurisdiction, and that he had found them in a generally satisfactory condition. While he commends, he also criticises as follows:

While I am so well satisfied with the condition of the Order, as before stated, I feel it my duty, as your Grand Commander, to condemn the conduct of Sir Knights in all the Commanderies that had work when I was present on my official visitations; that is, talking and moving around the Asylum while the orders are being conferred. The beauty and effect of the ceremony through which the candidate passes is destroyed, thereby being a great injustice to the candidate, and depriving the Sir Knights that desire to enjoy the pleasures and teachings of the orders from doing so.

Who has not suffered from the practice here complained of? Thoughtless and inconsiderate Brethren, in Lodge, Chapter, or Commandery, not infrequently detract from the impressiveness of the ceremony by their ill-timed movements and improper behavior. The officers cannot do their best in the rendering of the work when Brethren are talking and moving about while degrees or orders are being conferred.

The Grand Commandery by vote commended the address of Grand Commander Wiley, and emphasized his recommendation pertaining to the behavior of Sir Knights in the Asylum when the Commandery is in session.

A report made by the Committee on Returns shows that 46 Companions were knighted during the year, 10 affiliated, 22 were dimitted, 14 suspended, and 11 died—leaving the present membership 728, a net gain of 9 during the year.

Among the appropriations we note $100 for music at the next Annual Grand Conclave, and $200 for the Committee on Correspondence.

Knightly greetings were exchanged with the Grand Commandery of Alabama, that Body being in session at the same time, and a telegram of sympathy was sent to Grand Recorder S. P. Hamilton, who was detained from the Conclave by reason of sickness.

The Report on Correspondence, comprising 100 pages, is the tenth report furnished by Roland B. Hall. It gives evidence of thoughtful preparation. He agrees with Bro. Berry, of Maine, that it is in the fitness of things to charge a fee for dispensations issued to shorten the time on a petition, such fee to be paid into the charity fund. We hold to the same opinion. Under Massachusetts and Rhode Island, he expresses dissent to a decision made by Grand Commander Walker, at the Conclave of Grand Commandery held in May, 1897, growing out of a protest made by members of De Molay Commandery against allowing an applicant to sign the by-laws of that Body, on the ground that at the time when he was declared elected to membership no cubes were available in the ballot box. Grand Commander Walker, after making himself acquainted with the facts, sustained the protest, and his decision was approved by Grand Commandery, on recommendation of its Committee on Jurisdiction. Bro. Hall says: "In our opinion they have wrongly construed the law bearing on the case. It appears to us that the only recourse left to the objectors was to prefer charges." We cannot see by what process of reasoning he reaches such a conclusion. Does he rest his case on the assumption that "objection after ballot" only applies to balloting on candidates for the orders—not to candidates for membership? This would be a technical construction of the law governing the case, not in keeping with the equities concerned. He can hardly hold that the protest was not

equivalent to an objection such as recognized by the statute. Against whom would he prefer charges? We still think that our Grand Commander took the lawful and right course in this matter.

Bro. Hall gives generous notice to Massachusetts and Rhode Island, presenting several selections from addresses and reports. We appreciate his courteous references to our Grand Commandery and to ourself.

We quote from his "Conclusion," as follows:

> Again, and for the tenth time, we conclude our labors as correspondent. We are pleased to report that perfect peace and harmony prevails throughout the Templar world. Not a single ripple disturbs the calm and placid sea of Templarism. No question of vital import occupies a place in its ranks. The Mississippi resolution, calling for a change in the constitution of the Grand Encampment of the United States, asking that that instrument be modeled after the constitution of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, has been presented to most of the Grand Commanderies. Some have given it endorsement; some have refused to endorse it, and others take no notice of it. From information obtained by a review of the different Proceedings, we venture the assertion that the present constitution will not be amended to conform to the proposed resolutions. For words of approval of our work, both at home and abroad, we are thankful.

The Grand Commandery elected Almoran W. Walton, Rome, Grand Commander; Samuel P. Hamilton, Savannah, Grand Recorder, and Roland B. Hall, Macon, Correspondent.

Illinois, 1897.

The volume in hand is fair to look upon. It has an attractive appearance by reason of its clear print, the skillful arrangement of its subject matter, under well defined headings, and its numerous embellishments. It comprises about 400 pages, containing not only the doings of the Grand Body at its Forty-first Annual Conclave, held at Chicago, October 26, 1898, but likewise the sparkling Report on Correspondence, by Sir John Corson Smith, which includes "My Winter in the Tropics" beautifully illustrated; besides which there are shown valuable statistical tables, regulations of

the Grand Commandery, proposed amendments respecting uniform, ceremony to be followed in constituting a Commandery, ritual for the installation of Grand Officers, and a standard set of by-laws for the use of subordinate Commanderies. Surely this substantial volume will be deservedly appreciated at home and abroad.

Grand Commander Edward C. Pace delivered an address of much merit. We quote from it as follows:

> The Grand Commandery of Illinois, ranking fourth in point of numbers and second only in the number of Commanderies, among the Grand Jurisdictions, is an organization of which every Templar in this State may well feel proud. Founded on the Christian religion and the practice of the Christian virtues, with its vast army of intelligent and earnest Knights, what a wonderful influence for good it is capable of exerting. Sir Knights, "May our light so shine before men that they, seeing our good works, may glorify our Father which is in heaven." The year has been a fairly prosperous one.

Illinois is a strong jurisdiction, and stands near the right of the line; but the fact that it is second in the number of its Commanderies does not seem to count as an element of strength. It is easy to multiply organizations. The Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island has refused several applications for the establishment of new Commanderies in recent years, holding to the opinion that it is unwise to create additional organizations except in cases where the best reasons are shown for such a course.

Among the decisions announced by the Grand Commander, is the following sensible affirmation:

> Whenever and wherever there is an apparent conflict between the Ritual and the Tactics, the Ritual should govern. The Ritual is the order of the Grand Encampment to which the Grand Commandery is subordinate, while the Tactics is simply a code adopted by the Grand Commandery, and anything in Grand Comandery Code conflicting with Statutes of the Grand Encampment is illegal and void.

Another decision reported strikes us less favorably. It is as follows:

> I decided that neither of the first three officers of a Commandery can dimit during their official term.

Inasmuch as the law of the Grand Encampment provides for the order of succession in case of vacancy in the office of Grand Commander, it would seem that a dimit might be allowed without prejudice to the interests of the Grand Commandery. In Illinois, however, the feeling seems to be otherwise, as no exception was taken to the decision reported.

The Grand Commander declares that a system of rigid inspection of Commanderies had been applied, and that excellent results had followed such careful scrutiny. On this point he says:

> Many of the Commanderies of the State are to be complimented on their proficiency, both in tactics and rituals, and they are and will be known to the Grand Commanderies, while the others, who fail in these respects, will be known also. Many of the Commanderies that have submitted to rigid inspections feel that they have been benefited thereby, and I trust that all will catch the inspiration and vie with each other in their efforts to attain perfection.

We note with gratification the strong endowment of the Masonic Orphans' Home, and the Home for Aged Masons. Both institutions are commended to favorable consideration.

The Grand Commandery refused to concur in the Tennessee resolutions relating to the use of the Maltese Cross. The Mississippi resolutions as to powers of the Grand Encampment were considered, but went over without definite action. The sum of $500 was appropriated to the Masonic Orphans' Home, thus emphasizing the good words of Grand Commander Pace, spoken in its behalf. The sum of $1,500 was appropriated for Grand Commandery uses at Pittsburg.

Past Grand Commander John Corson Smith presents the Report on Correspondence, making 158 pages, including an interesting paper, entitled "My Winter in the Tropics." This paper is profusely illustrated with views of scenery, places, people, etc., taken for the desired use by Bro. Smith during his visit to Jamaica, Carthagena, United States of Columbia, and Costa Rica. Bro. Smith has eyes to see and a ready pen to make record of what he sees, hence his description of places, events, and notable experiences during his trip reads most interestingly.

His review of Proceedings—the *ninth* report presented by him—abounds in well chosen selections and clearly expressed opinions regarding several important matters of Templar interest. He favors continuous membership in Lodge and Chapter as prerequisites to good standing in the Commandery. He opposes the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction over rejected candidates, holding such a rule to be absurd and unjust. He favors the parades incidental to the Triennial occasions. He expresses an adverse opinion regarding any attempt to limit the freedom of affiliation. "Enforced membership," as he says, "is not conducive to strength."

Brother Smith reviews the whole Templar field with a discriminating scrutiny, and shows his usual courtesy in treating all matters passing under his notice. We appreciate his kindly reference to the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and to ourself.

James P. Sherwin, Chicago, was elected Grand Commander; Gilbert W. Barnard, Masonic Temple, Chicago, was re-elected Grand Recorder, and John Corson Smith was continued as Correspondent.

Indian Territory, 1897.

The Third Annual Conclave was held at Purcell, November 2, 1897. The four Commanderies of the jurisdiction were represented, and all the Grand Officers, with one exception, were in their places.

Grand Commander James E. Humphrey delivered a brief address. We present herewith the wholesome words of its conclusion:

> In conclusion, we wish to say that as Knights Templar we ought to come in closer touch with one another. Charity should be our watchword, not only with our purse, but our good counsel and friendly heart greetings. If a Knight be in distress, mental or financial, go to him as a brother soldier of the Cross and not wait for him to come to you. All men are proud, and pride may keep your Frater from coming to you; a touch of the hand and expression of sympathy in his ear, coupled with an offer of aid, will make him your dearest friend for life, and give to him a higher insight into the sublime principles of our magnanimous Order.

But little business was transacted. We notice the passage of a resolution, making the *Indian Mason*, published at Chelsea, Ind. Territory, the organ of the Grand Body, and inviting all Sir Knights in the jurisdiction to subscribe for the same. Hospitality and good cheer marked the occasion —witness the following:

The retiring Grand Commander made the announcement of the banquet arranged for visiting Fraters and companions at the Hotel Love for the evening, after the close of the Grand Commandery, and extended a cordial invitation to all Templars present in Purcell to attend. The same was accepted, and not only the delicions spread but the feast of reason and flow of soul was enjoyed by all. Sir Knight Humphrey presided upon the occasion as Master of Ceremonies.

Edmund H. Doyle, So. McAlester, was elected Grand Commander, and Joseph S. Murrow, Atoka, was elected Grand Recorder.

Indiana, 1898.

Thirty-nine Commanderies, the whole number in the jurisdiction, were represented at the Forty-fourth Annual Conclave, held at Logansport, April 20, 1898. The Grand Commandery was escorted to Masonic Temple, the place of meeting, by twelve Commanderies, who made a fine appearance on the line of march through the principal streets of the city.

Before the transaction of any business a hearty address of welcome was made to the Grand Body, by Hon. George P. McKee, to which a felicitous response was made by Past Grand Commander N. R. Ruckle.

Grand Commander John E. Redmond presided. He delivered an interesting address, containing a complete report of his official acts during the year of his service, and accompanying papers. One case reported by him is of general interest, as bearing upon the question whether or not residence needs to be considered in receiving petitions for affiliation from dimitted Sir Knights. Four Sir Knights dimitted from Gorin Commandery, Olney, Illinois, and, still resident in Illinois, made application for membership to the Commandery at Vincennes, Ind. Grand Commander Redmond

decided that the petitions might be received without any waiver of jurisdiction, not finding any law prohibiting dimitted Sir Knights from thus applying without regard to residence. Afterwards, before action was taken, he asked the judgment of Grand Master Thomas, who ruled that the dimitted Sir Knights, "being still residents of Illinois, could not become members of any Indiana Commandery, without the consent of Gorin Commandery, expressed through, and approved by the Grand Commandery of Illinois." On receiving this communication Grand Commander Redmond gracefully revoked his decision. In presenting the facts and correspondence to his Grand Commandery, at the close of his report, he says:

Now, in conclusion, I obeyed the mandate of my superior, but I do not believe that the statutes limit the locality as to where a Sir Knight holding a dimit may ask by petition to become a member. The decision of Grand Master McCurdy in the case at Maryville, Mo , was approved by the Grand Encampment, not that the statutes required residence, but I think in kindly courtesy to an able jurist. It was, in my judgment, the enactment of additional legislation. I notice in the report of the Committee on Revision, page 238, Section 4, that they specify plainly that it shall be deemed irregular for any Commandery to entertain a petition for membership or to confer the orders of Knighthood, or either of them, upon any sojourner whose place of residence is within any State, district or territory in which there is a Commandery regularly at work, unless the consent of the Commandry having territorial jurisdiction and of the Grand Commandery, where there is one, is first obtained. This is plain law, and no one need plead ignorance when that is adopted by the Grand Encampment. Section 5 explains the discipline of a Commandery violating Section 4. Now, I passed through this controversy with pleasant correspondence with all parties concerned, but would like for the Representatives of Indiana to Pittsburg at the Triennial to question the right of a Grand Master to interpret the statutes other than what they read, or if it is his prerogative to enact additional legislation by a simple decision upon a question propounded.

The Grand Commander's position as here stated was sustained by the Committee on Jurisdiction, in the words following:

Your committee agree with the R. . E. . Grand Commander, that the decision of Grand Master McCurdy was in the nature of legislation by

decision on a matter upon which the Grand Encampment had not up to that time specifically legislated. Up to the date of such decision the general practice in Grand Commanderies favored the right of a Templar to choose his affiliation without regard to jurisdictional lines.

Your committee are opposed to the Grand Master making law by decisions upon matters upon which the Grand Encampment has refrained from legislation.

However just the criticism may be as against the propriety of a Grand Master deciding a matter which the Grand Encampment had not legislated upon, it must be conceded, we think, that after such a decision has been reported to the Grand Encampment, and no adverse action taken, it has some degree of binding force. Grand Master Thomas could not have been expected to nullify the decision of Grand Master McCurdy, reported in 1895, and indirectly if not directly approved by the Grand Encampment, even if his feeling was sympathetic with the position taken by Grand Commander Redmond. Looking at the question as open to be considered on its merits, we should stand with those who would allow a dimitted Sir Knight to choose his affiliation without regard to jurisdictional lines. Such an allowance seems best to recognize all the equities involved, and to permit such full liberty of choice would sometimes prove a great blessing.

The Report on Correspondence occupies 140 pages. It is from the pen of Bro. N. R. Ruckle, who writes both interestingly and instructively. Massachusetts and Rhode Island, 1897, receive courteous notice. He quotes with seeming approval Grand Commander Walker, in his criticism of the practice of stating in notices sent out that certain Companions (naming them) will receive the order of the Red Cross at the next meeting of the Commandery, when, at the time of issuing the notices, no report has been received from the committee to whom the petitions of the Companions had been referred. He also quotes from the Committee on Jurisprudence, who reported, 1897, that an objection, after ballot, to the signing of the by-laws, in the case of an applicant for membership, was valid, and expresses his dissent from the conclusion reached by the committee. He refers to some of the positions taken by the present writer, and does not seem

to be troubled at our suggestion that something less than a unanimous ballot might answer in passing upon a petition for affiliation.

John H. Nicholson, Richmond, whose portrait forms the frontispiece of the Proceedings, was elected Grand Commander; William H. Smythe, Indianapolis, was re-elected Grand Recorder, and Nicholas R. Ruckle, Indianapolis, was continued as Writer of Correspondence.

Iowa, 1898.

It is pleasant to read of the annual gatherings of Knights Templars at their beautiful park on the shores of Spirit Lake, where the Grand Commandery has been accustomed to meet at midsummer time each year. Brethren are drawn to Templar Park for rest and refreshment on each occasion when the Grand Commandery convenes; many of them plan for an "outing" of a week or more, having the company of families, at the time of such meetings.

The gathering at Templar Park last July included Sir Knights from all parts of the State, who were drawn together and brought into closer fraternal relations by the conditions of time and place.

It was the Thirty-fifth Annual Conclave thus convened on July 12, 13, 14, and 15, 1898. Four days were not needed for the transaction of business; but, assembled at Templar Park, there were many things properly claiming attention, and it was not deemed advisable to protract the sittings of the Grand Body at any of the sessions.

The conclave was attended by representatives from thirty-three of fifty-eight Commanderies of the jurisdiction, all of the Grand Officers except one, a goodly number of permanent members, Grand Representatives, and visitors. The number of Commanderies unrepresented was larger than usual.

Grand Commander Francis H. Loring, whose portrait, a steel plate engraving, forms the frontispiece of the Proceedings, delivered an address alike comprehensive and timely. Referring to the war not then ended, he reminded the Sir

Knights of their duties thus made clear and urgent. We quote a part of his remarks on this subject:

Sir Knights, if there is a time when you should wield your swords in defense of innocent maidens, it is when the passions of men are excited to the pitch of uncontrollable frenzy by the horrors of war. If there is a time when destitute widows are in need of protection, it is when those from whom they should expect it are laid low in death on the field of battle, or detained in the field or hospital with the many discomforts of army life. If there is a time when helpless orphans cry out for aid, it is when the father's guiding and protecting hand is snatched away by the destroying angel of carnage.

In that portion of his address setting forth dispensations granted, and applications for the same received, we find the following statement:

There was one experience occurring during the year to which I deem it proper to refer: I have been requested to grant dispensations to enable the Commanderies to confer the orders on Companions for the express purpose of rendering them eligible to membership in the Mystic Shrine. Not conceiving it the province of the Grand Commander to precipitate the conferring of orders for any purpose except that of inculcating the principles of the Order, I felt it my duty to decline to issue dispensations in response to such requests.

Under the heading, "Templar Park," he notes the improvements made at this Templar resort, and its growing attractiveness. He reports the failure of endeavors to exempt the property from taxation. He says:

During the past year an effort was made to have the taxes abated, under the claim that our Order is exempt from taxation under the law. The matter was referred to Sir Knight J. W. Corey, of Spirit Lake, who submitted it to the district court of the county for adjudication.

After a hearing, the court decided that the social features of our Order were so prominent a part of our stay in the Park that it removed it from the list of exemptions for taxes.

He announced a bequest to the Grand Commandery from Mrs. Amanda E. Parish, who had recently died, one clause of whose will reads as follows:

I direct my executor to pay over to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Iowa the sum of three thousand ($3,000) dollars, to be kept

and denominated "The Parish Fund;" the same to be under the care of three trustees, and their successors in office annually elected by said Grand Commandery; the said amount to be kept invested in some safe securities, at interest, the interest to be payable as often as once in each year, and said interest to be expended by said trustees as they may think best for purposes of charity.

The Grand Commandery took suitable action for the carrying out of the intent of Mrs. Parish, who, as the wife of a devoted Sir Knight, John C. Parish, Past Grand Recorder, had become greatly interested in the Order, and who was gratefully appreciative of the kindness and fraternal friendship manifested both to herself and her husband during long years of sickness. She made the bequest in testimony of such appreciation.

The Grand Commandery, on report of a committee, took action on the subject of uniforms for Prelates and for the Grand Prelate, and prescribed the following attire and uniform:

First. PRELATE'S ROBES.—An undergarment of plain white, open behind, reaching to the feet, with flowing sleeves reaching to the middle of the hand; a black cloak of merino or silk, with wide flowing sleeves; for a girdle a black silk cord with tassels; on the left breast a crimson Templar cross, outlined with gold. A stole of white silk, marked with three black crosses, outlined in gold, trimming of gilt lace and fringe. For a head-dress a baretta of black velvet or silk, marked in front with a triple triangle in silver.

Second. UNIFORM OF A PRELATE OF A SUBORDINATE COMMANDERY.—He shall wear the ordinary dress of a Templar, as prescribed by the Grand Encampment in 1862, but without the baldric. Upon his chapeau and cap and on the cuff of each sleeve he shall wear as insignia the triple triangle, embroidered in silver. His belt and hangers shall be black, edged with a row of silver braid. His sword hilt and scabbard shall be black, with silver mountings, and on a square buckle of black he shall wear the triple triangle in silver.

Third. The uniform of the Eminent Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery shall be the same, except that insignia, mountings, and lacings shall be of gold. During the year only of his incumbency as Grand Prelate he shall wear the shoulder straps of an officer of the Grand Commandery, in accordance with the prescribed regulation of the Grand Encampment in 1862, modified in 1892, viz.: "Bright red silk velvet, two inches wide by four inches long, bordered with one row of embroidery of gold a quarter of an inch wide, the Templar's cross of gold, with the

initials of the office, respectively, to be embroidered (old English characters) in silver on the lower end of the strap."

The sum of $500 was appropriated to be placed at the disposal of the Grand Commander for Triennial purposes.

Seventy-two pages are taken by the excellent report on Correspondence furnished by Rev. J. C. W. Coxe, D. D.

Under California, referring to Grand Commander Ward's suggestion to dispense with the report on Correspondence, because of its cost—about $400—and for the additional reason that "out of a membership of 3,033 only a few, a very few, about 100, read these reports," Bro. Coxe says:

We are confident that his estimate—it could be no other; he had no reliable figures before him—of the number of readers was entirely too low; and it could not have escaped his intelligent observation that the men who come to the front and rule the craft are invariably from these readers. The mass of the people of the country never attend our higher schools and colleges; but the schools and colleges are essential for the training of the men who are to be the leaders and rulers of the incompetent masses. Who would abolish West Point or Annapolis because but few boys seek and receive a military or naval training? These trained boys are the nation's reliance in time of war; Manila pays well for a naval training for Dewey. The Committee on the Doings of Grand Officers took a sensible view of the case, and recommended that the reports "should be placed in the hands of every Templar in this jurisdiction"—to which Frater Davis will say "amen."

Under Georgia he expresses his opinion regarding the office of Prelate, touching upon some related questions, as follows:

While the work of the Prelate is important, ranking, indeed, with that of the Commander and the Wardens, the office has not been accorded the rank and dignity to which it is really entitled; and, moreover, it has not been regarded as a position which placed one in the line for promotion, but rather as an honorary office, which practically shelved the incumbent, like the office of lieutenant-governor in some of our States. Occasionally a clergyman is found who has the military instinct, and who does not care to be put in the list of non-eligibles for the highest office in his Commandery; he will naturally decline the office of Prelate, preferring to take his chances of promotion from the floor. Once and forever place the office of Prelate on the same basis of manhood and merit as are the other offices in line, and men of character and worth will no more hesitate to accept this position than any other in the gift of their fraters. But so

long as the odor of professionalism attaches to it a manly man may be pardoned if he declines the empty "honor."

Our thought is that no office in a Commandery, except that of Eminent Commander, is more important than that of Prelate, and in the "fitness of things," where conditions are favorable, the office should be held by a clergyman. But the holding of that office by clergyman or layman should by no means bar his advancement to a higher office in rank.

Bro. Coxe enlightens us in the matter of his reference to the "Stub-Toe Fratres" of Montana. He says: "If Montana is popularly known as the 'Stub-Toe State,' are not its Sir Knights 'Stub-Toe Fratres?'"

He gives courteous and ample notice to Massachusetts, referring with approving words to Grand Commander Walker's address, and to various reports of committees. He kindly mentions the paper presented by the present writer in memory of Past Grand Master Benj. Dean. In the "conclusion" of his report, Bro. Coxe indulges in the expression of pensive feelings, as he calls to mind the constant falling of shadows across our way; but he does not write as one in doubt and fear. We quote a paragraph from this conclusion:

> These reflections are sobering but not cheerless. "The night is mother of the day." A cherished friend once wrote for us in a much prized autograph collection: "Should the sun of thy hopes lie cold and low, the long shadows will point to the morning." The teachings of our Order are full of hope. We are glad to have known so many of these honored Fratres. The memory of their friendship will brighten all the future days of our pilgrimage.
>
> "The music in my heart I bore
> Long after it was heard no more."

Geo. W. Bever, Cedar Rapids, was elected Grand Commander; Alfred Wingate, Des Moines, was re-elected Grand Recorder, and J. C. W. Coxe, Washington, was appointed Committee on Correspondence.

Kansas, 1898.

A fine steel engraved portrait of Grand Commander Will C. Chaffee meets the eye as one opens the volume of Pro-

ceedings now in hand. The face indicates a man of energy and determination, and corroborative evidence is not lacking to substantiate the inference thus drawn.

He presided over the Twenty-ninth Annual Conclave, held at Topeka, May 10 and 11, 1898, forty-one of the forty-six Commanderies comprising the jurisdiction being represented in the attendance.

He delivered an address recounting his official acts, and important movements of Templar organizations during the year of his administration as Grand Commander. He writes in a glowing and somewhat figurative style, not without its attractiveness. Thus he advocates the giving of a generous support to the Masonic Home of Kansas. He says:

No act of the Masons of Kansas in its history has ever been more commendable than that which has led to the erection of an enduring monument to the unselfish impulses of the Fraternity of Kansas. Our duty is to the living, our respect to the dead. How more creditably may we exemplify the broad Christian principles of humanity, interlined in the teachings of our Order, than by the thorough establishment and upbuilding of such a magnificent institution as the Masonic Home of the State of Kansas? We may rear our stately granite piles that, in the midst of leafy boughs and in the fragrance of sweet flowers planted by tender hands, mark the resting place of departed Fratres, but we can the more thoroughly exemplify the underlying principles of our Order by the care of the living and the rearing of their dependents. Flowers upon the tomb exhale fragrance that reaches not him to whom we pay tribute, but kindness, humanity, and true Christianity to the living, pervades and permeates the very soul in the fragrance of our Maker's love that lingers long after the petals of the flower have withered and decayed.

He reports ten decisions—among them the following:

A Commandery cannot waive its jurisdiction over a candidate with any condition, implied or expressed. An understanding or agreement to divide the fees is a conditional waiver, and makes said act nugatory.

Just why this naming of a condition nullifies the action taken, or proposed to be taken, in a waiver of jurisdiction, we fail to see.

A Commandery cannot go to a neighboring city in its jurisdiction for the purpose of conferring the orders of Templarism. Its work must be done within its own Asylum.

A Past Commander, elected as Generalissimo or Captain General, should wear the shoulder straps of the office to which he has been elected, when on duty in such official capacity.

Among the five distinctive recommendations presented we find the following:

In addition to what I have said regarding the use of ritual, I would most earnestly recommend that Eminent Commanders be instructed to "clear the deck" of all "jiggers" or cipher books, which some Commanderies, I am sorry to state, seem to have in their possession. Their use should not be countenanced.

We say Amen.

Grand Recorder A. M. Callaham shows by returns made to him that there has been a gain in total membership, for the year reported, of 17. The 46 Commanderies in Kansas have an aggregate membership of 3,230.

A report of the Committee on Necrology, presented by Sir Knight Samuel E. Busser, attracts our notice. It contains some fine writing by the author, with quotations from classical writers, intended to show the natural basis of a belief in immortality. We appreciate the tendency and value of human longings for another life, as these desires have been manifested in all ages, but better than all these intimations are the statements of Christ our Lord, attested by his own resurrection and his ascension. "If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith also is vain."

The Grand Commandery, by formal vote, extended a "Knightly and courteous greeting" to the "Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star," at that time convened in annual session. Such a procedure, probably intended only as an act of harmless courtesy, does not commend itself to our judgment.

Grand Commander Chaffee in his address advanced the opinion that the time had gone by for the securing of suitable headquarters at Pittsburg, and that only such an appropriation should be made as would cover the expenses of members of the Grand Encampment, from Kansas, who might attend its session. The Grand Commandery thought differently, appointed a committee to secure headquarters,

and made a generous appropriation subject to the use of the committee.

No action was taken on the Mississippi resolution. The Tennessee resolution was disposed of by adopting the report of a committee, recommending "that this Grand Commandery should not undertake to dictate what other societies shall do."

Bro. A. M. Callaham furnishes the Report on Correspondence, reviewing the Proceedings of forty-two jurisdictions with his characteristic care and ability. The topical department—an appendix to the report proper—contains the personal views of Correspondents on topics of Templar interest, brought together under suggestive headings. Evidently the reporter regarded this part of his work with a good degree of satisfaction. He says:

> We take pleasure in introducing to you those dear Fratres, correspondents of their respective Grand Commanderies, whose words of wisdom have made our Topical Department a garden of flowers, a mine of wealth, a collection of gems.

Then follows the names and titles of the Correspondents whose opinions (some of them) have been thus presented. This department of the report has value as showing in a classified form the opinions of some thirty writers of Templar Correspondence on topics of vital interest.

Correspondent Callaham disapproves of affiliation fees. So do we. A Sir Knight who is obliged by his business considerations or professional interests to change his residence, perhaps several times, is unduly taxed by being subjected to the payment of an affiliation fee each time his membership is transferred from one Commandery to another. A high affiliation fee seems unjust.

He favors charging a fee for the issue of a dispensation to receive and ballot on a petition for the orders in less than the regulation time. The Commandery asking for the dispensation should pay the fee, collecting the same from the Companion who is anxious to get forward in the shortest time possible. The cases are very rare where dispensations to shorten the time on ballots seem justifiable. Certainly

the rule ought not to be set aside merely to accommodate the individual who desires to become a Knight Templar in order to participate in some "pilgrimage" or other festival occasion soon to occur.

Under Massachusetts and Rhode Island he reviews the somewhat peculiar case of a protest made by members of De Molay Commandery, Boston, against allowing an applicant for affiliation, who had received a clear ballot, but under suspicious conditions as to the arrangement of the ballot-box, to sign the by-laws and so complete his membership. Correspondent Callaham quotes the decision of Grand Commander Walker sustaining the protest, and also gives the report of the Committee on Jurisdiction approving the decision, they being of the opinion that the protest was equivalent to an objection after ballot, and that the law in such cases provided "applies to candidates for membership as well as for the orders."

To this conclusion, as to the judgment rendered, he objects. He says:

> We cannot agree with the committee that the law applies to applicants for membership also. We have no doubt if the question was asked the committee as to the status of one who had received the orders of Knighthood, but for any reason had not signed the by-laws, that they would say that he was a member of the Commandery that knighted him; that the neglect to sign the by-laws did not vitiate his membership.

Following the ballot on an application for membership there is no ceremony as in the case of a clear ballot on a petition for the orders, hence the distinction noted. If the objection has force it is on the ground that *membership* in the case cited was not acquired by the ballot, but needed, to make it valid, the signing of the by-laws by the applicant. Except this distinction is recognized the point made by Bro. Callaham has force.

He quotes our expression of opinion that the withdrawal of a petition for the orders, when such petition has been presented in open Commandery, is improper, and says:

> With us, when a petition is read by the Recorder, a motion to receive and refer to a committee is required to be made and adopted before it be-

comes the property of the Commandery. No vote had been taken on the motion. It had not become the property of the Commandery, inasmuch as it had not been received by the Commandery. The 13th decision of M.·. E.·. Grand Master McCurdy reads: "A petition for the orders of Knighthood cannot be withdrawn after having been *properly received by the Commandery*, under Section 10, Title 45, of the Code; that is, unless it shall appear that the Commandery has no jurisdiction over the petitioner." We think our law which prescribes the method of receiving a petition does not conflict with Section 10, Title 45, and is in harmony with the decision above referred to.

In the jurisdiction to which we address this report, it needs no motion to refer a petition for the orders, but such reference follows as a matter of course, unless objection be made. Should objection be made it would require a majority vote to have the desired force. In Kansas, however, a slightly different order of procedure prevails. Under the practice there, and in view of the decision of Grand Master McCurdy as cited, we are inclined to modify our opinion expressed in last year's report respecting the decision of Grand Commander Holmes, and the supporting action of the Grand Commandery. We have a strong feeling, however, that it is not wise to permit the withdrawal of a petition after it has been presented to a Commandery in regular conclave assembled.

George H. Jenkins, Kansas City, was elected Grand Commander, and A. M. Callaham, Topeka, was again chosen Grand Recorder and Correspondent.

Louisiana, 1898.

Grand Commander Robert Strong presided at the Thirty-fifth Annual Conclave, held in New Orleans, February 18, 1898.

The four Commanderies comprising the jurisdiction, were all represented.

Sir Knight H. B. Stoddard, Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment, was received with the honors due his exalted rank.

The Grand Commander made a brief report of his official

acts. He announced the death of Past Grand Commander J. Q. A. Fellows, deservedly respected and honored by Brethren and Sir Knights throughout the land. In memory of the departed Sir Knight it was ordered that the jewels and furniture of the Commanderies be draped in mourning, and that the Sir Knights wear the usual badge of mourning for sixty days.

Bro. J. Q. A. Fellows was a man excellently well informed in all matters pertaining to Freemasonry and Masonic Templarism. He had held the highest positions in the various Grand Bodies with which he was identified, and in these honorable stations he had shown signal ability both as a scholar and an administrator. For more than a generation he exercised a large measure of influence both in symbolic Masonry and in the Templar Order. While holding the office of Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States—1871–1874—the "Order of the Grand Cross of the Temple" was instituted in England, to consist of thirty members and no more. Sir Knight Fellows was selected as one of these thirty members. The following is the official note, in part, addressed to him by the Secretary of the Order:

> I rejoice to make more certain to you that the Prince of Wales, of his own motion and peculiar favor, has conferred upon you, his Brother and Sir Knight, the insignia of the Grand Cross of the Order, in order that the bonds of fraternal love between the nations, united in blood, may be more thoroughly drawn together.

There is no Report on Correspondence. Sir Knight Fellows had usually written the report, always having something to offer as the result of his thought, reading, and observation, and always making expression of his views with equal vigor and courtesy. We mourn the taking away of this large minded, true hearted Sir Knight, who wrote so interestingly on numerous topics of Masonic and Templar concern. But he has gone, and another takes his place as Correspondent—a worthy and accomplished Sir Knight—who will no doubt grace the position to which he is called.

Robert Strong, New Orleans, was elected Grand Com-

mander; Richard Lambert, New Orleans, was re-elected Grand Recorder, and Samuel M. Todd was appointed Correspondent.

Maine, 1898.

The volume in hand contains 144 pages and is without special embellishment. It is attractive in appearance, however, by reason of clear print, the good quality of paper used, and the arrangement of its contents under the skillful hand of Bro. Berry. It comprises the transactions of the Grand Commandery, at the Forty-seventh Annual Conclave, held at Portland, May 5, 1898, with accompanying papers of much interest, including a complete roster of the membership of the nineteen Commanderies within the Templar jurisdiction of the Pine Tree State.

Maine is our Alma Mater in Templarism. As we turn the pages of the Annual just now received our thought goes backward to the delightful associations of former days. We think of the evening when in company with Ballou, McLellan, Hayes, and others, we took upon ourselves the obligations of a Knight Templar in the Asylum of Maine Commandery, No. 1, and of the quickly following organization of Dunlap Commandery, at Bath, then our home, with which Body, during the first years of its establishment, we were pleasantly identified. We think of Owen, and Ballou, and Hayes, and McLellan, and Fuller, and Shaw, and Duncan, and the others with whom we walked and worked in the communion of Knights Templars, during that first period of the organic life of Dunlap Commandery, when the early love of Masonic Templarism was strong within the soul, and we are conscious of a quickened and gratified feeling in such a review. We do not forget—we would not forget—our former associations with the Masons and Knights Templars of Maine.

Grand Commander Fritz H. Twitchell, one of the prominent members of Dunlap Commandery in the early days of its history, whose helpful influence has been felt all along the way of its expansion, presided over the conclave, and delivered a well considered and timely address. He was able

to report the Order throughout the State as united and prosperous. We quote his words on this point, as follows:

> It is especially gratifying to witness the pleasant relations which now exist among the members of the various Commanderies. A desire to work together for the interest of the Order is everywhere manifest. For the past few years there has been a growing tendency to increased interest in the accurate rendering of the ritual and of perfection of the floor work. This, added to the commodious and convenient quarters of nearly all of the Commanderies, has been, in my opinion, one of the causes of the great increased interest.

He reported the adjustment of the Henry M. Hartleb matter. Sir Knight Hartleb was "legally healed" by the Grand Commander, at a stated conclave of Dunlap Commandery, held February 1, 1898.

The Committee on Jurisprudence, referring to this matter in their report, approved the action of the Grand Commander in the words following: "We congratulate the Grand Commandery upon the satisfactory adjustment of a matter which was liable to create friction with a sister Grand Commandery." The Grand Commandery adopted the report of its committee.

It was voted that legislation is inexpedient in relation to the resolutions of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee concerning the use of the Maltese cross.

It was voted that the Mississippi resolutions "be referred to the representatives of this Grand Commandery in the Grand Encampment, for such action by them as they may deem wise."

The sum of $289.35 was "appropriated to the fund for the use of the Grand Officers for entertainment at the next Triennial."

The reports of the Grand Recorder and of the Grand Treasurer show a year of numerical and financial advance. A net increase of 191 members is reported, the aggregate membership being 3,344, April 1, 1898. The receipts were $1,619; disbursements, $1,434; balance in treasury, $2,010.87.

The Report on Correspondence, by Bro. Stephen Berry, is one of his best. He gets an inspiration for his work of review at the very beginning, by the beautiful white squadron

then swinging at its anchors in Portland harbor, amidst surroundings all so delightful in the summer time. He quotes a competent authority, as follows :

> Superintendent Hilgard of the Coast Survey once said to us that he had worked along the whole Atlantic coast from the Gulf of Mexico to Quoddy Head, but that the coast of Maine was the most picturesque and striking, for it was here that are first found bold headlands, and the denticulated foliage of the fir and spruce.

He quotes from Whittier to show the longings of those familiar with these scenes, and separated from them—longings which have been felt, we are sure this present year, by many a soldier from Portland and the vicinity, held in the sickly camps of the south :

> And many a homesick tear is shed
> By wanderers miles away
> As memory whispers of Old White Head,
> And the islands of Casco Bay.
> Ah, rarest mosses that ever were seen
> Grow brightly on Old White Head ;
> Orange, and russet, and emerald green
> Wide o'er the rocks are spread ;
> And when the sweet June sunlight shines,
> The gossiping zephyr tells
> Where ruby and golden columbines
> Are swinging their myriad bells.
> Ah ! thus, as I lie on my tiresome bed,
> I cheat the dreary day,
> By summer pictures of Old White Head,
> And the billows of Casco Bay.

After such a preface adorned with true sentiment, Sir Knight Berry applies himself to the more prosaic duties of a reviewer's vocation.

Under Colorado, commenting upon the display and social features which mark Triennial occasions, he says :

> Even if the Triennial display does indicate "the desires of the great body of the Order" it is not wise to infer that the Order does not pursue noble aims and ends Men who expend lavishly on display often give more in charity of their incomes, in proportion, than those who are thrifty and economical. Some practice better than others preach. We cannot

tell how much the lofty ideal of chivalry inculcated by our rituals influences the lives of the members, but we may reasonably hope that many good deeds blossom from it, that many evil impulses are checked by it, and that it is a leaven always working for good in the community.

Wholesome and timely words are these. We have an acquaintance with a number of men belonging to the Templar Order who are fond of the "pilgrimage" and the parade, and contribute liberally to ensure the success of all such occasions, but whose generosity in quiet ways has been attested over and over again. A man may be attracted by the display and social features attendant on Templarism, and yet appreciate and practice the noblest principles.

Under Kentucky, he quotes Bro. Woodruff, Dean of Correspondents, who, reviewing Pennsylvania, 1897, presents the following query:

"Pittsburgh" or "Pittsburg," how should the name be spelled? The Pennsylvania Grand Recorder spells it about as often one way as the other, rather inclining to the use of the "h," while the Grand Commander and the Correspondent are at one in dropping the "h," and Mayo's Grand Encampment Proceedings retains it invariably.

We are almost persuaded to side with Bro. Mayo, in view of his well known orthographical proclivities; yet in glancing over the Pennsylvania Proceedings we have made a computation which shows no partiality for either termination, standing sixteen to sixteen for the "g" and the "h,"—quite a singularly suggestive "parity" in one sense, and a most inexplicable *dis*-parity in another. Who shall decide when *Pittsburghers* disagree.

The Grand Encampment, meeting on the spot, would make an admirable tribunal in which to settle this important matter, as its members have learned to spell in school districts widely separated, but unfortunately, that august body solemnly declared, a quarter of a century ago, that it "has no authority to determine questions of historic truth, literary usage, and the philology and grammar of the English language." So that unless Congress shall fix upon a long standard or a short standard for this perplexing name, writers will be at liberty to use "burg" or "burgh" at their own sweet will.

Having this text given him, Bro. Berry adds the following:

Why not enjoy a little liberty in spelling when we can have it? The man who never liked Shakspear because he could not spell his own name twice alike, was pedantic and illiberal. Shakspear's versatility was his

great charm. There are sixteen correct ways given of spelling Cimetar, and we are always gratified to find that we can never remember one of them except by accident.

We cannot forego mention of our own experience in this matter. After looking into the matter a little, finding that authorities differed as to the use of the "h," but that it appeared in the official documents sent out by the Grand Encampment, we decided to adopt the form thus sanctioned. Having call to write a magazine article on the "Triennial at Pittsburg," we were careful to attach the "h" in our every naming of the place. When the proof came to us the intelligent compositor had struck out what to him seemed the superfluous letter, and so we concluded to accept the common usage. It does not much matter, as Bro. Berry says; but we cannot follow him in his spelling of the name of the great dramatist. We think it should be Shakespeare.

Courteous treatment is accorded Massachusetts and Rhode Island. In his reference to our expression of opinion respecting the Mississippi resolution, he says:

Bro. Rugg is opposed to the Mississippi "Limitation" resolutions, on the ground that everything being quiet it is better not to disturb the existing relations. Logically, we should say that the best time to reform existing relations is when no dispute exists. But practically we know that it will not be done until some abuse of the power makes the possibility obvious.

If we believed there was need of reform, it would be no question of "time" that would deter us from advocating a change; but holding as we do to the opinion that the present polity works to the prosperity of the Order, and is generally acceptable to its members, we see no occasion to revive the old controversy as to relations.

Correspondent Berry adds to the value of his report by furnishing a carefully prepared table of statistics. Following the exhibit, he makes this statement:

The gain in the United States is 2,879, equal to 2½ per cent., against 2,365, or 2 per cent. last year. The percentage of Templars to Master Masons is again advancing, and exceeds 1896. Massachusetts and Rhode

Island easily maintains her lead over Pennsylvania, while New York is no longer a dangerous competitor.

We quote his conclusion :

We began our report with a picture of the beautiful white squadron brooding like doves upon the peaceful waters. Now its color is changed to the leaden hue of war, and its guns are thundering death and destruction among the Spaniards, while the noble Maine has gone up to immortality in a chariot of fire. Every generation has for itself to learn what war is: 1750, 1776, 1812, 1845, 1861, 1898. Let us earnestly hope and pray that this war will soon be over, and that our brave boys may come marching home again, safe and sound. Then will our good ships again put on their fair robes of white and come sailing back into peaceful waters, where the sun will not smite their gallant crews by day nor the pestilence by night.

The prayer is answered. Peace returns. Together we rejoice that the war has ended. But, alas! not all "our brave boys" return. As is always the case there is the minor tone mingling with the peans of joyful exultation.

Frank E. Sleeper, Sabattus, was elected Grand Commander; and Stephen Berry, Portland, was re-elected Grand Recorder, and again made chairman of Committee on Correspondence.

Maryland, 1897.

All the Commanderies of the jurisdiction, twelve in number, were represented at the Twenty-seventh Annual Conclave, in Baltimore, November 23, 1897. Grand Commander George Cook, whose portrait forms the frontispiece of the volume now in hand, presided, and delivered an address occupying in its printing twenty-five pages. Referring to the matter of personal equipment, he says :

During the past few years the proportion of uniforms procured to the number of Companions knighted is so small that it really mars the appearance of our Order on public occasions, especially as you see the Sir Knights who have no uniform lined along the sidewalks instead of being in the ranks with their Commanderies, where they properly should be; and more particularly is this often used by some Sir Knights as an excuse, that they might more conveniently shirk their duty on occasions when all should be prepared to do their share, namely, that of assisting at the

funerals of our deceased Fratres. While I agree with some that morally and theoretically a man may be just as good a Templar without as with a uniform, yet I can not see how a Sir Knight can practically comply with the edicts and usages of the Order unless he is fully equipped to perform his part of the law.

In accordance with his recommendation the Grand Commandery took action by passing the following resolutions:

Resolved, That no Companion of the Red Cross shall, after January 1, 1898, be DUBBED until he shall have been fully uniformed as a Knight Templar.

Resolved, That all the subordinate Commanderies within the jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery are hereby ordered to have printed at the bottom of the form of petition the Standing Resolution passed at this Annual Conclave, which requires a Companion of the Order of the Red Cross to equip himself with a full regulation Knight Templar uniform before he can receive the Orders of the Temple or Malta.

This, no doubt, will go far to remove the evil complained of. The better practice, however, is for the Commandery to furnish the uniform, and include its cost in the fee prescribed for the orders.

One of the disagreeable duties reported by Grand Commander Cook was the deposing of an Eminent Commander from his office on account of charges preferred against him by the Lodge of which he was a member.

The Grand Commander uses forcible language in resenting the "aspersions" of certain Brethren on those who had attained higher degrees. We quote him on this subject, as follows:

It is with chagrin and regret that I have noted on a number of occasions when speeches were made by some who are looked upon as examplars of Masonic conduct and deportment, but who have not attained the so-called "higher" degrees of Masonry, that in their remarks they have referred to the Masons of the "higher" degrees in terms not at all edifying, and in language sarcastic to our noble Order.

As Grand Commander I desire to protest against such remarks in the strongest manner possible, but as I did not feel myself called upon to refute such remarks at the time, I take this opportunity to resent the same, and will simply say that as Masons, we do not propose to interpret any man's motives. Yet, we Masons of this Templar degree feel that we are legitimate members of the Masonic family, and are not an annex composed

of a chosen few who have attached themselves to this family, and do not propose to let anyone, who knows nothing of our Order, interpret our prerogative for us.

One might suppose that Templars are the arch enemies of the Masonic Fraternity, but, my dear Brethren, let me inform you that we are of your own Brethren and kindred; that we are deeply interested in all that interests you, and in addition we have assumed graver responsibilities than those by which you are bound to the Masonic Fraternity. We have at heart all that is noble, good and true.

I have never, in my experience of a number of years of active service, heard the least word derogatory to the Masons of the "lower" degree spoken by a Templar. Such is a far too unexemplary vocation and as Templars we are too busy inculcating the beautiful teachings of our noble Order to stop to engage in such work. It is not square work, true work, or such work as the Sublime Grand Overseer of the Universe would have us do. I need not further enlarge upon this subject. The Holy Bible will remind all of us of our obligations to one another, and that as you judge here below so you will yourselves be judged hereafter by one who has not to submit, like our earthly and self-constituted judges, to the sad necessity of inferring the motives, intentions and purposes of other men from the uncertain and often unsafe testimony of their acts and words.

The fitness of time and place for such comment may be questioned, and those to whom the rebuke applied were not present to hear it; but there is no doubt as to the provocation to such an utterance. We have heard Masons criticise Knights Templars, as a body, in terms of unsparing severity. It is certainly unkind and unfraternal to indulge in this wholesale condemnation. As a rule, Sir Knights are loyal to symbolic Freemasonry, and active in promoting its interests.

The Grand Commandery adopted the report of a special committee to whom the subject was referred, "that in their opinion the proposition of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi should not be approved."

Grand Master Warren La Rue Thomas was present, being received with the honors due his official position. He conducted the service of a public installation of the officers elect, at Music Hall, Baltimore, on December 11, 1898. The occasion was made attractive by music and spectacular features, as well as by the presence of brave men and fair women.

The report on Correspondence, by Past Grand Commander Ferdinand J. S. Gorgas, bears the marks of ability and care-

ful preparation. It is the twenty-first report furnished by him—and the last, according to his announcement. We regret his withdrawal. For a dozen or more years we have read his reports, and always with a large degree of satisfaction. He cannot pass out of the remembrance of the Guild with whose members he has walked all so pleasantly; the older members of that band will be specially touched by his retirement, and they will render unto him the meed of praise for good work done and kindly fellowship shown.

Correspondent Gorgas in this last report reviews forty-one jurisdictions. He gives several pages to Massachusetts and Rhode Island, summarizing the doings of Grand Commandery at the semi-annual conclave held in Providence, May 26, 1897, seemingly finding nothing to disapprove in the transactions of that date. His kind reference to the present writer is appreciated.

Dr. Gorgas, in retiring from his position as Correspondent, introduces his successor—our friend for many years—in the following graceful words, with which his report closes:

> For our successor, R.·. E.·. Sir Edward T. Schultz, a distinguished Templar who is most favorably known to the Order throughout the United States, and who is now the chairman of the Committee on Correspondence of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery of Maryland, we respectfully request the same kind and courteous consideration which we have always received from the Correspondents during our twenty-one years of service. With good will for all, and enmity toward none.

Thomas J. Shryock, Baltimore, was elected Grand Commander; John H. Wilber, Baltimore, was re-elected Grand Recorder, and E. T. Schultz, Baltimore, was named as Correspondent.

Michigan, 1898.

Fair to look upon, as usual, is the substantial volume containing the transactions of the Forty-second Annual Conclave, held at Port Huron, May 17, 1898, with accompanying papers. The Proceedings are printed in large type, plenty of space being taken for the special designation of subjects,

the paper is of excellent quality, so that with a skillful arrangement of the text and artistic ornamentation, this Michigan annual presents a most inviting appearance.

A portrait of Grand Commander Albert Stiles forms the frontispiece.

In his address the Grand Commander announced a number of decisions, some of them of interest, but for the most part covering replies to enquirers who only needed to be referred to the code of Templar law to have their questions answered.

The Grand Commander favors a more rigid inspection of Commanderies. He says:

> I am fully convinced that there is the same necessity for an inspector or instructor for the rendition of the work and drill in opening of our subordinate Commanderies as there is of a Grand Lecturer in Chapter or Blue Lodge, and I believe it for the best interest of Templar Masonry that some method should be adopted to bring about a reform of the manner in which the work is now being done by many of the Commanderies in our Grand Jurisdiction; fully believing that the candidate for the orders is entitled to the very best efforts of the Commadnery in conferring the orders of Knighthood upon him, for which they have demanded his money as well as obligations, and the Commandery has no moral right to render to him a farce or defraud him of what he has a right to expect and has paid for, than he has to pay the fees in Mexican dollars.

We are surprised to learn that the important jurisdiction of Michigan is not quite up-to-date in this matter of inspection. Doubtless the Grand Commander's words of criticism and suggestion will bear good fruit.

Grand Recorder John A. Gerow in his report shows the generally prosperous condition of the Order in Micihgan. He says:

> An analysis of the returns show that there were Knighted 286; admitted from other Commanderies, 21; reinstated, 15; dimitted, 61; suspended for U. M. C., 2; suspended for N. P. D., 70; died, 76; leaving a net gain of 113, making a total membership of 5,635.

The Grand Commandery, having before it the report of a special committee on the subject of inspections, took action as follows:

Resolved, That the Right Eminent Grand Commander-elect, and his successors in office, be hereby authorized and empowered to appoint said official inspector, who shall be subject to the direct orders of the Right Eminent Grand Commander, and who shall visit and instruct any Commandery or Commanderies which in the opinion of the Right Eminent Grand Commander shall be in need of such instruction; said inspecting officer shall receive for his services his necessary traveling expenses and three dollars per diem for actual time so employed.

This resolution shall not be construed as abolishing the customary official visits of the Right Eminent Grand Commander, or such Grand Officers as may be deputized by him to perform such duty.

We shall look with interest upon the results of this new departure. The plan of an official inspector has worked so well in Connecticut that we are inclined to look upon it far more favorably than we did at the first. But everything depends on the selection. He ought to be elected for a term of years, and not be subject to re-appointment from year to year.

Bro. John A. Gerow, who declines to serve a longer time as Correspondent, furnishes a sensible, well balanced report, which we have read with much satisfaction.

Under the District of Columbia he presents Past Grand Commander George H. Burnham's plea in favor of "Permanent Headquarters," a part of which we copy, although quite possibly the matter will be passed upon and settled before the publication of this report:

Such an establishment as is indicated does not necessarily imply that the body would meet exclusively at Washington, though that would seem desirable, but that its headquarters would be permanently there; neither would it imply that the great triennial gatherings of Knights Templar would be dispensed with, for that would seem to be wholly undesirable; but it might, and probably would, have the effect of causing a less extravagant expenditure of money on such occasions if these meetings were all held at the same place, because the local societies would not then feel called upon to outdo those stationed in the jurisdiction where the previous conclave was held. Conclaves have now been held in all the great cities, and none others can well accommodate the constantly increasing numbers which attend to be a part of, or to witness the parade and participate in the festivities of conclave work. Is it not time, then, to consider whether the condition of the Order will not now permit, and the dignity of the Grand Encampment demand, that its banners be set up in its own house, and that house located in the city of Washington?

Bro. Gerow gives ample notice to the doings of the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, 1897, and makes kindly reference to Sir Knight St. John and ourself. In his "Conclusion," he gracefully presents his successor as follows:

With this report we close our labors as Correspondent, and in saying adieu we wish to thank the corps reportorial for the knightly and courteous treatment we have received at their hands. Our work has been done, for the most part, in the hours usually devoted to rest and refreshment, and we have found the task, pleasant though it was, more than we could sustain.

The Grand Commander has been pleased to relieve us of this portion of our labors, and we ask for our successor, Sir Henry L. Anthony, P. G. C. a hearty welcome to the Guild. He is a Sir Knight worthy of the honors that the Grand Commandery of Michigan has conferred upon him, one whom to know is to love. Sir Knights of the Guild, I introduce to you R. E. Sir Henry L. Anthony as the future Correspondent for the Grand Commandery of Michigan.

Francis M. Moore, Marquette, was elected Grand Commander; John A. Gerow, Detroit, was re-elected Grand Recorder, and Henry L. Anthony, Sturgis, was appointed chairman of Committee on Correspondence.

Minnesota, 1898.

Grand Commander Benjamin F. Farmer, whose portrait forms the frontispiece of the volume we now review, presided over the Thirty-third Annual Conclave, held at Faribault, June 24, 1898.

Nineteen of the twenty-five Commanderies were represented, and these Sir Knights, with Grand Officers and permanent members, made an actual attendance of 65 persons present who were entitled to vote.

The Grand Commander in his address called attention to the unlawful practice of admitting clergymen to the Order without charge. The following is his timely word on the subject:

It has come to my knowledge that some of our Commanderies have conferred the orders of Knighthood on ministers of the gospel, without col-

lecting the fee required for conferring the orders on candidates. I quote from the code, which forbids this practice, and which should govern all Commanderies in this State: "Title 24, Section 1. The fees for the orders cannot be remitted, directly or indirectly, by vote of money to the candidate. Sec. 2. No custom, however long it has existed, justifies the conferring of the orders upon anyone without payment of the prescribed fees."

The Grand Recorder presented a report showing that the Order in Minnesota had made a net gain of 87 members during the year. The present membership is 2,534.

The report of the Grand Treasurer indicates financial prosperity. Receipts have exceeded disbursements; balance on hand is $3,065.68.

Correspondent Thomas Montgomery presented his ninth annual report. He makes free use of the scissors, and, as a rule, comments but briefly or not at all, on the excerpts thus used. At times, however, he uses the pen gracefully and forcibly.

He furnishes an elaborate statistical table, showing many features of interest. By his figures, compiled in July, 1898, the total membership of the Order is 121,400. The number of members in the United States is 115,135.

Wm. E. Richardson, Duluth, was elected Grand Commander, and Thomas Montgomery, St. Paul, was re-elected Grand Recorder, and was also appointed chairman of Committee on Correspondence.

Missouri, 1898.

The portrait of Grand Commander John Gillies is shown on the first page of the Proceedings. The face indicates a thoughtful and self-reliant man. Another portrait also embellishes the volume—that of James Francis Aglar, who was Grand Commander in 1868 and 1869, and whose popularity among the Sir Knights and Brethren has not waned with his advancing years.

At the Thirty-seventh Annual Conclave, held at St. Louis, April 26, 1898, fifty of the fifty-six Commanderies were represented.

Grand Commander Gillies, in a clear and concise way, set before the Grand Body his official acts. He had no "decisions" to report, having been able to dispose of all questions presented to him by referring the parties interested to the existing law. His sensible course of procedure deserves recognition.

The Grand Commandery appropriated the sum of $1,500 for headquarters at Pittsburg, and other expenses of the Triennial.

The Grand Commandery accepted an act of incorporation from the State of Missouri. It thus becomes a State corporation in accordance with its own petition, and under the articles of association duly presented and approved.

The following amendment was passed, not without considerable opposition, however, allowing the transfer of membership without first obtaining a formal dimit. It seems to be a sensible course of procedure. The amendment thus made valid is in these words:

A Knight Templar desiring to change his affiliation in this jurisdiction may do so without formally dimitting. He shall give written notice of such intention, stating the Commandery with which he desires to affiliate, to his own Commandery, and shall procure from it a certificate that he is in good standing and not in arrears for dues, which certificate shall accompany the petition for affiliation in place of the now customary dimit. Said petition shall take the usual course, and the Commandery receiving it shall certify the result of the ballot to the former Commandery, which shall, if the petitioner be accepted, at once forward to the Commandery selected a certificate of transfer, which shall terminate the former affiliation. The petitioner shall pay dues to the former Commandery up to the date of issuance of said certificate of transfer, and to the Commandery selected from the same date. If the petitioner is rejected by the Commandery with which he desires to affiliate, he remains a member of his original Commandery.

We note the election of several of the Grand Officers "by acclamation." We do not question the lawfulness of such action, but we prefer the ballot when any elective office is to be filled.

Grand Recorder Wm. H. Mayo again fulfills the duties of a Correspondent. His report is the twenty-first such paper furnished by him. We have read, or at least examined with

considerable care, all these reports, and are ready to testify that they contain much excellent writing on a variety of topics more or less important. Now that he has attained his majority we may expect that he will do even better things.

Under Massachusetts and Rhode Island, he presents the action taken in the case of an application for membership in De Molay Commandery, where a protest was made against allowing the applicant, said to have been elected by an improper use of the ballot-box, to sign the by-laws. Grand Commander Walker held the protest to be equivalent to an objection after ballot, and his judgment on the matter was endorsed by the Committee on Jurisprudence, whose report was adopted by Grand Commandery; Correspondent Mayo dissents. After quoting the decision and report, he says:

> We are inclined to think that the above ruling would be set aside if taken to the Grand Encampment, if on no other ground than that the officers of the Commandery were negligent of their duty in not providing black balls. If there was one black ball in the box when the first vote was taken, what became of it when the second ballot was taken?

Some of the elements in this case may suggest doubt as to the correctness of the action taken in sustaining the protest; but the point made, that the officers of De Molay Commandery were negligent of their duty in not attending more carefully to the preparation of the ballot-box, does not seem to have force. Suppose they were thus negligent, the fact remains that members intending to cast an adverse ballot were precluded by the conditions from doing so, and as soon as possible entered their protest against allowing the applicant, declared elected under such circumstances, to sign the by-laws. Whatever more they might have done, however else they might have proceeded in seeking to fix the blame for what had occurred, the vital question is as to whether or not their "protest" was equivalent to an objection after ballot; and whether or not such "objection" applies to candidates for affiliation, or only to candidates for the orders.

We quote from the "Conclusion" of Bro. Mayo's report:

> We have paid our respects rather briefly to forty-four Grand Bodies, after carefully perusing some 6,690 pages of printed matter, and have

done our best to boil it down into 100 pages and give the most important and interesting matter we could glean from so much of interest.

We are pleased to note an improvement in the make-up and style of the various pamphlets and books as they reach us; nearly all are now embellished with good half-tone cuts or steel engraved portraits of past presiding officers and distinguished Fraters, with short biographical sketches. This is very important and satisfactory to all readers of the official Proceedings of our various Masonic Grand Bodies, and will be appreciated far more by future generations.

Morris Fred Bell, Fulton, was elected Grand Commander, and William H. Mayo, St. Louis, was re-elected Grand Recorder and re-appointed Correspondent.

MONTANA, 1897.

We made a brief notice of Montana, just at the conclusion of our last year's report. A somewhat more extended review seems in order.

The Tenth Annual Conclave, held at Helena, Sept. 13, 1897, was attended by the representatives of the eight Commanderies which form the jurisdiction.

Grand Commander Cornelius Hedges, in presenting a report of his official doings, offers a number of valuable suggestions. Referring to the Triennial, he says:

> We should either apppoint a committee on Triennial arrangements at this Conclave, or leave it for the Grand Commander to appoint such committee when it is ascertained who will be in attendance. Perhaps if times improve many Sir Knights will desire to attend and join in the parade. We would do or say nothing to discourage such, but would not expend our general funds for that purpose. It would yield us much more satisfaction to have a general meeting of all our own Commanderies in the year following the Triennial, or perhaps for the year 1900, by which time we may reasonably expect to have our old-time prosperity back with us. It is not too long ahead to be preparing and for our several Commanderies to begin out-door drill.

Notwithstanding the above we think there will be a goodly representation of Montana Sir Knights at Pittsburg, including Bro. Hedges.

A thoughtful address, delivered by Grand Commander Hedges, at Helena, on Christmas Day, 1896, is published

with the Proceedings, and there is also printed an excellent discourse delivered by the Grand Prelate, Rev. Sir John F. Pritchard, to the officers and members of the Grand Commandery, on Sunday, Sept. 12, 1897.

The report on Correspondence, furnished by Grand Commander Hedges, is a vigorous paper. It will be remembered that at the time of his election to the highest office the Grand Commandery passed a resolution asking him to appoint himself Correspondent. He reviews thirty-nine jurisdictions.

Bro. Hedges favors limiting the powers of the Grand Encampment, and enlarging those of the General Grand Chapter. We quote his words on this subject:

> The constitution of both General Grand Bodies needs change. The General Grand Chapter needs more powers, and the Grand Encampment less. Evidently the same questions are to be solved as when our present national constitution was adopted. The Grand Encampment and the Grand Commanderies should have well defined spheres of action, and greater powers should be given to the Grand Commanderies, which meet oftener, are nearer to the body of the Craft, and are better adapted to mature useful legislation. Unless something is done at Pittsburg very different from recent Triennials experiences, we should favor the calling of a general constitutional convention of all the Grand Commanderies, to frame a fundamental law to be submitted to the Grand Commanderies and to become operative when adopted by three-fourths of them.

We dissent. Dividing the subject into two parts, we may, in the first place, express our opinion that it would be exceedingly unwise at this time to attempt to increase the powers of the General Grand Chapter. Strong opposition would be encountered, and its very life would be imperiled. As has well been said, "The General Grand Chapter will live, and it will continue its career of great usefulness so long as it stands within its powers. But it transcends those powers at its peril."

Secondly, as regards the Grand Encampment. It has large powers delegated to it, and is specially recognized in the legislation and practice of Grand Commanderies, willingly allegiant to their Templar mother. Why seek to abridge these? Does the "yoke," such as it is, press heavily? "Let

well enough alone" seems a good motto to apply to both bodies, as pertaining to their authority and relations.

Bro. Hedges' report is interesting and thoughtful. We quote approvingly its closing words, as follows:

> The peninsula of Florida points us toward Cuba, where a still more barbarous war is being waged by a so-called Christian nation The Cubans too are our neighbors, whom we are taught to love as ourselves, by the Great Book of the Law, older and more binding than any other code of international law. In congratulating ourselves that our country is at peace and at the day-break of a new season of prosperity which is dawning, we are not doing our whole duty as men, citizens, and professed Christians. Without violating any exaction of recognized international law, we can at least enter our protest loud enough to awake Justice from her slumbers, and recall Mercy from her sacred flight. We propose as our last word to our confreres at this time, a toast to ransomed Greece, redeemed Palestine, regenerated Armenia, and "Cuba Libre."

William E. Chamberlain, Great Falls, was elected Grand Commander; Edward D. Neill, Helena, was re-elected Grand Recorder, and Cornelius Hedges, Helena, was continued as Committee on Correspondence.

Nebraska, 1898.

The Proceedings for 1898 appear in the usual form, rather somber in appearance, albeit the black covers are relieved by print and symbolic ornamentation in other colors.

The frontispiece shows a fine steel engraved portrait of Grand Commander Edwin C. Webster, who presided at the Annual Conclave, held at Omaha, April 21, 1898.

Nineteen of the Commanderies composing the jurisdiction were represented in the attendance. The report of Grand Recorder Bowen shows the total membership to be 1,655—a loss of 24 during the year.

The Grand Commander reported the year as "an uneventful one." He sets forth the general duties of Knights Templars in earnest and comprehensive words.

The Grand Commandery expressed its disapproval of the proposition for the establishment of Grand Encampment headquarters at Washington, D. C., or elsewhere. The fol-

lowing resolutions were adopted and ordered to be sent to all members of the Grand Encampment residing in the West:

Whereas, There is now pending and under consideration a proposition to permanently locate the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States at the city of Washington: therefore,

Resolved, That the Grand Commandery of Nebraska is opposed to such location.

Resolved, That the Representatives of this Grand Commandery to the Grand Encampment of the United States be, and are hereby, instructed to vote against the location named.

Resolved, That the members of the Grand Encampment of the United States from this jurisdiction are earnestly requested to vote with the Representatives of the Grand Commandery in opposition to the location as indicated.

There is no record of any discussion on this matter, and the only reason advanced for taking this adverse action, so far as the printed report shows, was that the designation of permanent headquarters for the Grand Encampment would result in abolishing the triennial reunions. Perhaps the desired action in locating permanent headquarters might have a tendency to restrict the large gathering of Sir Knights every three years, and the elaborate parades; but "Reunions" could be provided for from time to time, even though not held in the place designated as headquarters. The proposition to establish permanent headquarters seems to the present writer a movement in the way of progress. It is certainly in the line of an orderly and dignified course of procedure.

There is no report on Correspondence.

Wilton K. Williams, York, was elected Grand Commander, and William R. Bowen, Omaha, was re-elected Grand Recorder.

New Hampshire, 1897.

Seven of the eleven Commanderies were represented in the attendance at the Thirty-eighth Annual Conclave, held at Concord, Sept. 28, 1897.

Grand Commander John Hatch reported having visited nine Commanderies during the year, finding them in an effi-

cient and prosperous condition. In reporting his official visits, he says:

The interest and zeal shown by the Brethren was so manifest that no extended admonition or criticism was necessary, and our labors were limited to the pleasant office of observing and praising that which has been well and faithfully done. I have called attention, with gratification, to the constant and healthy growth of the Order, due, I believe, in part to the evidence of the great magnitude and wide extent of the Institution as a whole, shown at the last Triennial Conclave in Boston, and also to the bond of fraternal union and personal regard which is shown by the interchange of courtesies and visits between neighboring Commanderies.

We are pleased to notice that he favors adherence to the old rule in the matter of asking permission of a Grand Commander, when a Commandery of another jurisdiction desires to enter upon the territory under the Templar control of that Grand Commander. On this point he remarks:

The practice of asking permission of the Grand Commander of a neighboring jurisdiction for a Commandery to enter or pass through his territory, has, in some of the correspondence with my esteemed Fraters of adjoining States, been criticised as a useless piece of red tape; but it is a formality which, if of no great value in itself, is certainly of no harm in this bustling age when acts of courtesy and politeness are apt to be forgotten. The custom is observed with scrupulous care by our Fraters in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The Grand Commander announces several decisions of interest.

Replying to the request of the Commander of De Witt Clinton Commandery, as to whether or not a Companion who has a stiff leg is eligible for the orders, he lays down the rule that "the petitioner should be capable of enduring pilgrimage and warfare, and should not, by his presence, mar the symmetry of a parade." He moralizes on the subject, as follows:

A duty is owed to the Commandery and to the Order at large to see that the candidates for Knighthood are of due fitness. Many evils, as we regard them, exist in this world, the reasons for which we fail to understand. Some men suffering from natural deformity are in a measure deprived of the advantages and enjoyments granted to others, and this without our fault and beyond our power to remedy. They must bear their

own heavy burden alone until the Creator in His wisdom shows us the reason for these things, and they are made perfect in a better world than ours.

On a question presented by the Commander of Trinity Commandery, as to the propriety of receiving a petition from a Companion not a citizen of the United States, his ruling was the following:

I decided that an application for the orders of Knighthood could not be received from a foreign subject. I the more readily reached this conclusion as the decision, if erroneous, could be reviewed at this Annual Conclave, and the only injury done being a few months delay to the petitioner; and I recommend that the question raised be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence.

We note that the Committee on Jurisprudence was not prepared to express their opinion, and so action was deferred another year. Our thought is that the Grand Commander well summed up the case by his statement, a part of which we quote in this connection:

If foreigners are to be admitted there is no limit to the number, even to the formation of a Commandery of men hostile to our form of government. Societies of foreigners in this country have proved anything but beneficial, and in their own land have perverted the institutions of Masonry to political and selfish ends. Our Commanderies acknowledge allegiance to our flag. See resolution of Grand Commandery, Annual Conclave, 1895. The flag is the symbol of sovereignty. Unless the applicant is prepared to march under the banner of the United States as well as the grand standard of the Order, he cannot loyally perform his duty as a Knight Templar in this jurisdiction.

The report on Correspondence, by Past Grand Commander Albert S. Waite, covers 114 pages. Evidently he is a careful reader and has a keen discernment. He quotes from Proceedings but sparingly. He summarizes the doings of Grand Bodies in a pleasing and instructive manner. He has views of his own, which he does not hesitate to express on important subjects. He holds the social features of Masonic Templarism to be of importance. Under Iowa, he has this to offer:

We have no great predilection for the fuss and feathers, but we are much of the impression that when the Templar orders, if they ever do, get out of touch with the social tendencies of the world, they will have lost the influence which they are now so manifestly exerting upon society. If this is ever the case, the spirit of Knight Templary will have gone out of them and their value for any purpose will have departed.

John Hatch, Concord, was re-elected Grand Commander; George P. Cleaves, Concord, was re-elected Grand Recorder, and Albert S. Waite, Newport, was again appointed Correspondent.

New Jersey, 1898.

Sixteen Commanderies comprise the jurisdiction; fourteen of these were represented in the Fortieth Annual Conclave, held at Trenton, May 10, 1898.

A special conclave, held on the day preceding, May 9th, was called for the purpose of trying six Sir Knights, on charges preferred against them by the Grand Captain General. Two of the number were found guilty, and were expelled from all the rights and privileges of Masonic Templarism. The charges against the other four were dismissed.

The printed record does not show the nature of the charges preferred against the accused, nor does it set forth any details of the trial. This was the sensible course of procedure.

At the regular conclave, Grand Commander John E. Rowe delivered an address setting forth his official acts, and adding to his report several timely suggestions. One of these suggestions has reference to an order which he had issued under date of June 5, 1897, bearing upon the duties of inspecting officers, etc. The following is a part of the order:

Want of care has, at times, been noticeable in the freedom with which the cipher ritual is handled and used in the conclaves of some Commanderies. To guard against this, Eminent Commanders are hereafter directed to see to it that neither the cipher ritual, nor a copy of any part thereof, is allowed to be exposed or used by officers, in the opening of the Commandery, or during the progress of the work in either of the orders. Officers will qualify themselves for their several stations *between* conclaves.

In his address Grand Commander Rowe again calls attention to this free use of the cipher ritual in the Asylum, and recommends that the Grand Commandery should "set the seal of its disapproval on the habit of using the open ritual in the presence of candidates, or indeed in any of the work or technical drill of the Asylum." The committee to which the address was referred endorsed the views of the Grand Commander, and recommended that an edict should be issued prohibiting the obnoxious practice, and the Grand Commandery, we are glad to note, adopted the recommendation.

The Grand Commandery appropriated the sum of $200 to the Masonic Home.

Correspondent Peter McGill reviews forty-one jurisdictions in an able and courteous manner.

Under Illinois, he expresses dissent to the proposition that continuous membership in the Lodge and Chapter should be required for the maintenance of good standing in the Commandery. He says:

> We do not feel like compelling a Knight Templar to drop his Commandery and Chapter and stick to his Blue Lodge if he cannot afford all three. A compulsory member of any body is not likely to be a valuable one in any sense, except as a source of revenue.

Bro. McGill gives five pages to his courteous review of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and copies with approving words the introduction and conclusion of our 1897 report.

He closes with stirring words, charged with patriotic purpose and great hopefulness for freedom and the right. We say amen to the paragraph here quoted:

> The future of our beloved Order is a glorious one if she is but true to her teachings, traditions and profession, and we trust that the star of the Order may shine steadfastly through the clouds of danger and sorrow, now lowering over our beloved country; that if necessary, thousands of Knights Templar, with brave hearts and willing hands, may carry side by side the Flag of Freedom and the Flag of the Cross, and that unnumbered blessings and privileges may follow first to the unhappy creatures we are called upon to assist, and next to those who have stricken off the shackles of slavery from the arms of an oppressed people and given

to them the second greatest of God's gifts to his creatures—Freedom. Truly, it may then be said, "It is better to give than to receive."

Wm. H. Sebring, Plainfield, was elected Grand Commander; Charles Bechtel, Trenton, was re-elected Grand Recorder, and was also appointed Correspondent.

New York, 1897.

The Eighty-fourth Annual Conclave, held at Jamestown, on the shore of beautiful Lake Chautauqua, was numerously attended. Fifty-six of the fifty-eight Commanderies were represented. The date was September 14, 1897.

As is the custom in the Empire State, there were addresses of welcome by the official representatives of the civil authority and of the local Commandery, respectively, before the Grand Commandery was opened for business. Suitable responses were made to these addresses of hospitable salutation.

Grand Commander John A. Mapes, whose portrait forms the frontispiece of the Proceedings, delivered a thoughtful address. He announced several decisions, all of which were endorsed by the Committee on Jurisprudence, and approved by the Grand Commandery. One of these decisions, having reference to the suspension of Sir Knights by Lodge and Chapter, was passed upon by the Committee on Jurisprudence, which recommended that section 87 be amended to read as follows:

Section 87. Unaffiliation or suspension for non-payment of dues by Lodge or Chapter: That fact having been duly certified to the Commandery under the seal of such Lodge or Chapter, shall, after thirty days' notice, and the Knight having failed to reinstate himself in those bodies, deprive a Knight of membership in the Commandery until such unaffiliation or suspension shall cease, or his dues be paid.

The Grand Commandery adopted the regulation as thus modified, but it goes over, under the constitution, another year for ratification.

Grand Commander Mapes closed his address with the words following:

We enter upon a new year with bright prospects; with everything to cheer and encourage us; our Order was never more prosperous; never more fully or deservedly commanded the respect of the communities in which we live. Our aims are high, our mission is a noble one. We shall surely reach those aims and fulfill that mission, if we live up to our high professions and duly improve our opportunities. The favor of a kind and loving Father ever rests upon those who, recognizing the brotherhood of man, earnestly seek to elevate the standard of true manhood, and to make life sweeter and better for all to whom that life is given. With this as our aim and purpose, and God as our helper, our future success is fully assured.

The report on Correspondence, by Past Grand Commander Jesse B. Anthony, deals interestingly with various topics now uppermost in the thought of the Templar world, and shows careful preparation. He reviews the Proceedings of forty-three Grand Commanderies.

He expresses an opinion in favor of the Mississippi resolutions, and thinks the constitution of Grand Encampment should be modified so as to recognize more explicitly the rights of self government by each Grand Commandery. On this point we quote him, as under Mississippi he presents his views:

We believe that the constitution and code of the Grand Encampment should be simplified, and by classification embrace (1) the organic law applicable to the Order in general, fundamental principles and regulations; (2) Constitutional provisions applicable to Grand Commanderies, limited to essentials, leaving to each Grand Commandery the adoption of statutes and regulations for its government and that of its subordinates, conformable to the special requirements and obligations of the law of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of its jurisdiction; and (3) any special regulations necessary for the government of the subordinate Commanderies holding warrants direct from the Grand Encampment. It does not appear to us that any such arrangement will be perfected by the Grand Encampment at the coming Triennial. There is an indispensable necessity for the present constitution and code of laws being made harmonious in various particulars, a classification and revision of the various decisions in the Digest of Templar Law, that provisions for the government of Subordinate Commanderies under the immediate jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment should be specific, and that every Grand Commandery should be allowed to regulate its own internal affairs between it and its subordinates, conformable, of course, to the general law of the Supreme Grand Body.

Let the general law of the Grand Encampment have governing force, and great latitude may well be allowed Grand Commanderies within their respective jurisdictions.

Bro. Anthony gives kindly notice of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. He quotes approvingly our opinions expressed in report of 1896, respecting the Knight of Malta ceremony, the relation of Masons dimitted from Lodge or Chapter, to the Commandery, and the creed of a Knight Templar. We appreciate such extended notice of our views on these matters, as we do their endorsement by so competent an authority.

Arthur McArthur, Troy, was elected Grand Commander; John F. Shafer, Albany, was elected Grand Recorder, and Jesse B. Anthony was continued as Correspondent.

North Carolina, 1898.

The Eighteenth Annual Conclave was held at Raleigh, May 18 and 19, 1898.

North Carolina has 12 Commanderies, the total membership of which is 362, a gain of 13 during the year.

Eleven of these Commanderies were represented.

Grand Commander J. H. Hackburn delivered an address containing several pointed suggestions of local application. Among other reminders is the following:

> I must here call the attention of the Finance Committee to the necessity of looking into our financial condition: We are now one year ahead of our receipts. In other words, the expenses of this year have to be paid out of next year's income. This matter if neglected may lead us into a very unpleasant situation.

The Grand Commandery ordered the Grand Recorder to call in the charter of one of the Commanderies which has been in a dormant condition for several years.

The Grand Commandery expressed its judgment on the Tennessee resolution by adopting the report of a committee, as follows:

> The special committee to which was referred that part of the address of the Grand Commander relating to the communication of the Grand

Commandery of Tennessee in regard to the Maltese Cross, having duly considered the same, now report that, while we fully concur with the Grand Commandery of Tennessee in the sentiments expressed in said communication and heartily desire that the object proposed could be obtained; yet we are of the opinion that there is no remedy for the evil complained of, and therefore recommend that no action be taken by this Grand Commandery in the premises.

Sir Knight John C. Chase furnishes a report on Correspondence of 132 closely printed pages—a creditable report in quantity and quality for a jurisdiction of only 362 members.

The Proceedings of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, for 1897, receive careful and extended notice. Bro. Chase throughout his sprightly report shows the impulse of a kindly, sympathetic feeling, as witness the following, under Mississippi:

Come up to the Triennial next fall, Brother DeLap, and meet your brother Correspondents. They will be more than glad to see you, and if you do not want to attend the sessions of the "Excrescence" we will go a-fishing in the opaque waters that flow by the "Smoky City," and you will find that the trip will not harm you "one little bit;" and who knows but what it would be the death blow to the arch fiend dyspepsia which has tormented you for so long. We are pleased to learn of the improvement in your health and trust that your reports may wax more and more "sunny" as the years go by.

Mumford D. Bailey, Winston, was elected Grand Commander; Horace H. Munson, Wilmington, was re-elected Grand Recorder, and John C. Chase, Wilmington, was appointed Correspondent.

North Dakota, 1897.

The seven Commanderies comprising the jurisdiction were all represented at the Eighth Annual Conclave, held at Devil's Lake, July 1, 1897.

Grand Commander Wm. T. Perkins presided. In his address he announces two decisions, both of which are clearly in accord with the code of statutes of the Grand Encampment. We see no sufficient reason for giving a "decision"

and reporting the same, when the question proposed is explicitly answered by the code of statutes. It would seem that nothing more need be done in such cases than to refer the enquirer to the law.

Grand Recorder F. J. Thompson in his report sets forth the propriety of encouraging Companions to become Knights Templars, and a committee endorses the suggestion, recommending parades, competitive drill, and other means, as reasonable and Knightly efforts to be put forth in seeking to increase the membership. It is all right to seek to increase the membership, keeping within well understood limitations, but we question the expediency of holding competitive drills and other spectacular exhibitions for the purpose named.

The Grand Commandery voted to provide itself with a new banner.

There is no report on Correspondence. Under the heading "Episode," the Grand Recorder describes a visit made by the Grand Commandery to Fort Tothu, on the borders of Devil's Lake, where several thousand Indians were in camp. We copy herewith a part of the account:

> The Grand Commandery had the pleasure of witnessing a Squaw Dance, the participants of which were not only matronly looking squaws, but the dusky belles of the aborigines of our country. And also witnessing what is known as the Grass Dance, in which the braves, or, as called in the West, the "bucks," participated, a scene which to be appreciated must be witnessed; for no language can describe the grotesque, unique and bizarre costumes, and lack of costumes, which these dowdy red-men possessed, or did not possess. We shall not mention names, but a number of the members of our Grand Commandery are old frontier men, who had hunted the buffalo, and, no doubt, in the past have had many an Indian scalp dangling at their belts, were so vividly reminded of old times that they leaped into the arena and kept time to the beating of the tom toms, and gave vent to such blood curdling yells that not a few of the Indians were scared from the ring.

John D. Black, Valley City, was elected Grand Commander, and Frank J. Thompson, Fargo, was re-elected Grand Recorder.

Ohio, 1897.

The handsome volume of Proceedings, about 400 pages, has a *Preludium* of 18 pages, giving an account of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of Toledo Commandery, which took place at Toledo, on the first day of the meeting of Grand Commandery, September 8, 1897.

This anniversary, we are told, "was fittingly celebrated by many of the Commanderies of the State, accompanied by ladies innumerable, and by the citizens of Toledo, generally." The occasion appears to have been successful in all respects. Masonic Templarism is popular in Toledo, as elsewhere.

The Proceedings record the doings of a special conclave called to pay a deserved tribute of respect to the late Prelate, Rev. Thomas J. Melish.

Before entering upon the business of the annual conclave the Grand Body was the recipient of cordial words of welcome by Sir Knight Samuel M. Jones, Mayor of Toledo, and Sir Knight Asa S. Bushnell, Governor of Ohio. Sir Knight Wm. B. Melish responded for the Grand Commandery in his usual eloquent manner.

Fifty-four of the Commanderies in the jurisdiction—all but one—were represented in the attendance.

Grand Commander Barton Smith, whose portrait appears opposite the title page, delivered an able address. He pays a graceful tribute to "Our honored dead." Making special reference to our old time friend, he says:

> Few men have ever so closely endeared themselves to this Grand Commandery as Em. Sir Melish. He was the embodiment of knightly courtesy and Christian kindness. The sweet courtliness of his manner, his ever-ready glad and genial welcome, his sterling honesty and unbounded generosity, stole like sunshine into our hearts, to open them with love and reverence for him.

The Grand Commander expresses his views at considerable length with regard to the inspection of Commanderies. The reports of the inspecting officers are printed in full, occupying fifty-four pages of the Proceedings. Referring to these reports he states the conclusions to which he had come by their examination. He says:

The reports of these inspections show that the Commanderies of Ohio are generally in a most satisfactory and prosperous condition. They show at the same time (and the verbal reports of the inspecting officers indicate even more clearly) that the inspections had come to be needed. While the great majority of the Commanderies were carrying on their work with the highest regard for regularity and uniformity, some were permitting little irregularities and improprieties to creep in to mar the symmetry and beauty of the work, and in some Commanderies the discipline had become lax, so that the members were deficient in true knightly courtesy to their officers and to each other.

He also remarks:

There is a tendency to make the inspection a social reception to the distinguished visitor, but it seems to me that we have succeeded, to some extent, this year in establishing the real purpose and duty of the inspecting officer, leaving the pleasures and sociability to occupy a more subordinate place.

The more we consider the matter the more inclined we are to favor the plan adopted in Connecticut, of having a rigid inspection by an officer elected for that purpose, and paid for his services. A thoroughly competent man must be chosen, or the plan will fail. He should be elected for three or five years. He ought to be considered as holding an office entirely apart from those which are considered in the line of promotion. Such an officer would be able to do a work of careful inspection, giving counsel and admonition, which seemingly has promise of the best results. Then the Grand Officers might make visits, on which occasions the social features, including the banquet, would be in the ascendency.

The Grand Commandery was liberal in its appropriations. It appropriated the sum of $800 to pay the salary of Grand Recorder Bell, with the addition of $150 for office expenses, and $300 to its Committee on Correspondence, Bro. Enoch T. Carson. It also adopted the following recommendations of its Committee on Finance:

We recommend that the E.·. Grand Recorder be empowered to arrange for the printing of 1,200 copies of the proceedings of this conclave, and draw an order on the Grand Treasurer for the cost of same, subject to the approval of the R.·. E. Grand Commander.

We further recommend that the sum of $1,500.00 be donated to the Ohio Masonic Home.

We also recommend that the sum of $500.00, payable to L. F. Lyttle, chairman Committee of Arrangements, be paid to Toledo Commandery, No. 7, as the usual appropriation for conclave and entertainment of the Grand and subordinate Commanderies.

We also recommend that an appropriation of $1,500.00 be made to defray the expenses of the entertainment upon the part of the Grand Commandery at the Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment at Pittsburg, Pa., in 1898.

The Grand Commandery put itself on record as favoring the Mississippi resolutions. There would be little justification for the continued existence of the Grand Encampment if it were to be divested of its powers in the way proposed. If its existence was continued, it would have a name to live by. Bro. Carson would have opposed the action, judging by the opinion on the subject expressed in his report on Correspondence. He says:

The organic law of the General Grand Chapter is a great big nothing. Follow it and in a few years the Grand Encampment would be as maudling as the General Grand Chapter.

Bro. Carson's characteristic and able report covers 156 pages. He has pronounced ideas respecting many matters of Templar interest. He thinks as we do, that much of benefit to the Order would follow if the Grand Encampment had an abiding place—if its headquarters were located at the capital of the nation. He says:

We hope that the time is very near when the Grand Encampment of the United States will be permanently located in the city of Washington, and that the Templars will have erected and own a magnificent temple, corresponding in elegance of architecture and beauty with the grand national architectural monuments which now adorn that great capital.

He praises the Templar pageant in Boston at the Triennial of 1895, regarding it as "the greatest the world has ever seen;" but he criticises the poverty of the legislation in the Grand Encampment and hopes for better things at Pittsburg. So do we.

He does not hold the orders of the Eastern Star in esteem. He thinks it a mistake to allow its meetings to be held in Masonic halls and Templar Asylums.

Under Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Bro. Carson returns once more to the *ritual* question, expressing his opinion that our former associate, Bro. Finch, made some unwarrantable imputations. But all this has passed by and is no longer a live issue. Figuratively, we would join the hands of Brother Finch and Brother Carson, both of whom are royal good fellows and sound in the faith.

Brother St. John in his review of Ohio, last year, replied somewhat at length to Correspondent Carson's criticisms on the Order of the Eastern Star. He does not seem to have converted him, however, as the following rejoinder shows:

> Our Brother's sympathy as bestowed upon us is wasted. Of what we have said on the subject of Androgynal Freemasonry and the Eastern Star we have not one word to retract, not a word of apology to make to any man or woman either. It is an ugly and offensive excrescence on Freemasonry and should be shunned by everyone who loves the dignity of the Order. It was gotten up as a paying adventure, as two of the very prominent founders or organizers of the Eastern Star in the United States were Masons for revenue mostly, if not only, notwithstanding the high character that some would give them. "*De mortuis nil nisi bonum.*" We believe, however, in changing the Latin apothegm slightly, "*De mortuis nil nisi veritas!*"

We regret Brother Carson's impaired health. May abundant blessings crown his days on the earth, pointing the way to light and peace in the land of the immortals.

Robert V. Hampson, Salem, was elected Grand Commander; John Nelson Bell, Dayton, was re-elected Grand Recorder, and E. T. Carson was continued as Correspondent.

Oklahoma, 1897.

The Second Annual Conclave was held at El Reno, February 1, 1897. The three Commanderies which comprise the jurisdiction, having 148 Sir Knights for their total membership, were represented.

Grand Commander Cassius M. Barnes delivered an address, the printing of which required but two pages.

One of the Commanderies, which had been working under a dispensation, was granted a charter.

A resolution was adopted requiring the Commanders of the several Commanderies to report to the Grand Recorder the nature and character of the Christmas observance held by these bodies respectively.

By the Grand Recorder's report it appears that the candidate has to pay an extra charge when proceedings in his favor are hastened by dispensation. This might well be made the rule in all jurisdictions.

De Forest De Francis Leach, Oklahoma City, was elected Grand Commander, and Harper S. Cunningham, Guthrie, was elected Grand Recorder.

Oregon, 1897.

The Eleventh Annual Conclave was held in the city of Eugene, October 14, 1897. Six Commanderies were represented; eight Grand officers were in their places, and the representatives of seventeen Grand Jurisdictions answered to their names at the calling of the roll.

Grand Commander Robert S. Bean, in his address, expresses his opinion that Masonic Templarism is stronger in Oregon than ever before. We notice, however, by reference to the Grand Recorder's figures, that there has been a net loss of 16 in the aggregate membership, during the year covered by his returns. The present membership, as reported, is 414.

The Grand Commandery endorsed the Tennessee resolutions pertaining to the Maltese Cross. We appreciate the feeling prompting the Tennessee Sir Knights to take the action they did on this matter, and impelling the members of other jurisdictions to endorse such action; but we do not see that anything can be done in the direction proposed. The use of the Maltese Cross is not within the control of the Grand Encampment. As Knights Templars we cannot claim the emblem to be our property. We have made it a distinguishing sign of our Order, and it is not altogether pleasant to notice that other societies employ it in the same way—making it their peculiar badge. But we cannot see that there is any tenable ground of protest.

The Grand Commandery, wisely as it seems to us, adopted the following amendment to the constitution :

No Commandery shall expel or suspend a member for non-payment of dues, but in case any member shall have refused or neglected to pay his regular dues during a period of one year, he may be notified by the Recorder that unless at the next stated conclave either his dues be paid or sickness or inability to pay be shown as the cause of refusal or neglect, he will be dropped from the roll and deprived of all the rights and privileges of a Knight Templar. But any Knight Templar thus dropped from the roll, may at any time restore himself by paying the arrearages due at the time he was dropped from the roll, and such other dues as may be imposed upon him by law.

The Mississippi resolution, proposing to limit the powers of the Grand Encampment, was adopted.

A public installation, reception, and banquet made up the evening's programme. The Grand Recorder summarizes the delights of the occasion, as follows :

No more pleasant assembly has ever been held in Eugene than was this one. The music of the evening was something of which our people were all proud. A noticeable feature of all the addresses was the emphasis laid upon the coöperation of the Eastern Star workers. The decoration of the rooms was the work of the ladies. The dahlia cross in front of the Commandery was one of the prettiest floral pieces ever made in Eugene. The temple, which has long been the pride of Eugene, looked its prettiest. The visiting Knights and ladies were more than pleased with their reception, and Eugene is more than pleased with their visit; they will always receive a hearty welcome.

Past Grand Commander John M. Hodson furnishes the report on Correspondence, occupying seventy-four pages, and reviewing forty jurisdictions. Bro. Hodson has opinions to which he gives clear expression. There is no ambiguity in his declarations of faith and judgment. He does not like the use of the word "Templarism." He deems it a mistake to make the Order an *ism*. Our preference is for Templary, yet we frequently use the term Templarism, and in so doing find ourself in pretty good company. He criticises Bro. Berry for the use of the old Masonic phrase "calling off," and the Maine Correspondent replies as follows :

Calling from labor and to labor has so long been termed "calling off" and "calling on," that we have used them without thought, but if they are incorrect we have no special objection to dropping them, save that we are somewhat inclined to preserve the old Masonic terms, even though modern grammar condemns them, because they indicate the antiquity of the Craft. We think no apology necessary for using expressions of the Craft in connection with Templary.

Bro. Hodson devotes four pages to his review of our home jurisdiction, 1896, and quotes approvingly from our Correspondence report of that year. He thinks we take a too charitable view of non-affiliates, and says:

Brother Rugg has more patience with and love for non-affiliates than we have, and his arguments would almost persuade us if we did not know that in at least ninety-nine cases out of every hundred the non-affiliate who strives to maintain Templar standing is entirely unworthy of either sympathy or love. Such Templars are a stumbling block, a rock of offence, a concentrated nuisance which we desire to have abated.

Our observation has been quite different, else we should not hold to the opinion we have heretofore expressed on this subject. In many cases judgment may be pronounced as Bro. Hodson declares; but there are other cases—more than one in a hundred—where no such unworthiness exists.

The report closes with the words following:

The questions we have discussed are not new, but they are of abiding interest and should command the careful and intelligent consideration of all Templars until properly settled. We trust we shall be honored by a persual of this report by nearly, if not all, the Fraters of our jurisdiction. For each one of you there is a copy prepared, and we are sure that our quotations are very worthy of careful consideration, no matter what may be said of the comments. It has ever been our object, in our humble way, to diffuse true Masonic light—and in giving you the latest news from the Templar world we trust that every sentiment expressed and every selection made may be for widening and deepening of the best thought in our magnanimous orders. The past, at least, is secure, and it remains for each of us to act well his part that the future may indeed be ours. That the orders whose principal tenet is the practice of the Christian virtues shall continue to wield their mighty influence for the betterment of mankind.

L. C. Marshall, Albany, was elected Grand Commander; J. F. Robinson, Eugene, was elected Grand Recorder, and J.

M. Hodson was appointed chairman of Committee on Correspondence.

Pennsylvania, 1898.

There is an individuality, so to speak, stamped on the Pennsylvania Proceedings. The covering is of strong paper, violet in color, on which appear text and emblem printed in green. There is considerable of embellishment in the book itself, with no crowding of matter as if paper was scarce. A portrait of Grand Commander Harry M. Van Zandt forms the frontispiece.

The Forty-fifth Annual Conclave was held at Harrisburg, May 24 and 25, 1898. On the morning of the first day named there was a parade, moving in three divisions, participated in by thirty-two Commanderies. The Sir Knights made a fine appearance; they were complimented by the Grand Commander for their knightly bearing and orderly movements.

Just previous to the opening of the Conclave for business an address of welcome was made by the Mayor of Harrisburg, Hon. J. D. Patterson. The Grand Prelate, Rev. Thomas N. Boyle, responded for the Grand Commandery.

The Grand Commander presented his annual report—a paper which occupies twenty-two pages in the Proceedings—clearly setting forth his official acts for the year.

Under the heading "Anonymous Communications" he stigmatizes the anonymous letter writer as he deserves. He says:

> A Sir Knight who will indite a communication to his Grand Commander, and is not man enough to attach his name thereto, is unworthy of the name of man, much less fit to be a member of this Order. This stricture applies without any reservation to the writer of a letter received by me from Philadelphia, signed "A Sir Knight," and to the author of another communication from Wilkes-Barre having no signature whatever.

Among his decisions we note the following:

> A Sir Knight having been suspended and afterwards restored to good Templar standing, and in the meantime having taken up his residence

outside of this State, becomes an unaffiliated Knight Templar and can apply for membership only in the Grand Jurisdiction where he resides, unless the Commandery nearest which he resides waives jurisdiction and the same is approved by the Grand Commander of that Grand Jurisdiction.

We subscribe to the foregoing as being the governing law. In equity, however, the unaffiliated Sir Knight might be allowed to make his application for membership without being subjected to any limitation as to residence.

In passing upon the following case the Grand Commander shows a strict construction of the law—over strict, perhaps, unless the address had reference to the secrets of the Order. If of that character the refusal to grant permission would be universally sustained.

——— Commandery, No. ———, proposed to have delivered in their Asylum an address on Templarism by one of its members, and also upon the occasion have music furnished by other Sir Knights, members of the Commandery. They also asked permission "to have the popular young violinist participate," who is not a Knight Templar. In reply I said, "I cannot approve of an innovation such as you suggest, to wit: the introduction of one into your Asylum for any purpose whatever who is not a Knight Templar. It would be perfectly proper for you to do what you suggest at a banquet or social gathering, but not to admit him to your Asylum even, as I presume would be the case, when the Commandery was 'called off.'"

The Grand Commander closes his address with noble and patriotic words. He says:

In answer to the call of war a large number of our Fraters who have been called upon to take up arms in behalf of our beloved nation, and it is a matter to be deeply lamented that at this advanced age of the world, it should be necessary for this nation to resort to force of arms for the maintenance of its integrity and the relief of a downtrodden and oppressed humanity; yet, if this great nation, founded upon the fundamental principles of personal liberty, equality of man, human progress, fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, has forced upon it an issue such as it is now face to face with, it is only to be expected that in the foremost ranks of brave defenders will be found many members of the valiant and magnanimous Order of Knights Templar, whose teachings and traditions are along these same lines. We therefore invoke the blessings of The Deity upon our absent Fraters, and hold ourselves in readiness to join

with them in the defense of our country should necessity demand it. May the God of Battles be with our arms.

The Grand Recorder's report is very complete. His exhibit shows that the seventy-four Commanderies in Pennsylvania have an aggregate membership of 11,969, being an increase for the year of 478.

The Grand Commandery voted to grant a charter for the formation of a new Commandery (name to be approved by the Grand Officers) to be located at Carnegie, Allegheny county.

Approval was given to the long and interesting report of the Special Committee on the Triennial, and the Grand Recorder was authorized to distribute copies of the same "to the Templars of the United States."

A public installation of the Grand Officers elect took place in the Opera House, on the evening of May 26th. The programme included musical and devotional exercises, and an address by the Grand Commander elect. The address is printed in full in the Proceedings. In has the ring of true Americanism and true Templary. We quote the following:

> Templarism at all times and everywhere has been the staunch, unswerving friend of humanity, of progress, of good morals and good government; and to-day we have cause for rejoicing at the universal manifestation in this country of that spirit of the Divine Master that gave life for life. It is in such testing times as the present that the true value of the principles, teachings and practical work of Templar Masonry can be measurably understood and appreciated. He who presides over the destinies of this nation, in this, its trying hour, is a gallant, courteous Knight of this Illustrious Fraternal Order; the chief magistrate of a nation, of whose government there is none other in existence so bent upon upholding the divine principles of humanity, equality and rational liberty, which are the supporting pillars of peace.

The report on Correspondence is by Brother Lee S. Smith, who reviews in an able manner the Proceedings of forty Grand Commanderies.

Under Iowa, he discourses briefly upon the value of Correspondence reports. He regards them as of some worth, although he admits they are not read as they should be, and sums up the matter by the following sensible words:

At the same time, there are many new representatives coming upon the field of action every year, being elected to the office of Grand Commander or the other subordinate to that office, who have had little or no experience in Commandery or Grand Commandery work, especially the latter, and consequently must find the reports of the various correspondents of benefit in seeking for light.

At any rate, we must say that some of the Proceedings that come to our hands would be illy worth perusal were it not for the report on Correspondence, which furnishes the spice, and this is but natural. Inasmuch as the work of the Grand Commanderies is largely routine, it is seldom that any one Grand Commandery can furnish anything of interest enough to write a book about; but the culling from all of the various Proceedings forms a volume that is certainly interesting as well as instructive to those who are seeking in that direction.

Under Kentucky, referring to the question as to the proper spelling of Pittsburg, he has this to offer:

Well, as a Pittsburger, and old-timer also, we pronounce in favor of ending with "g." We do not think it is necessary to waste ink in adding the additional "h." We do not need to say that it is unnecessary to waste our breath, because even if the "h" is there, it is so silent that it is not recognized except when it is put in printed or written form. It matters little whether you come to Pittsburg ending with "g" or "h" in 1898, we won't question your credentials on that account, Brother Woodruff, but will admit you to our hearts and homes, and try and make you see that our way of spelling is the correct one, provided the question of spelling comes up on that occasion.

Brother Smith gives ample space and courteous attention to the transactions of our Grand Commandery, semi-annual and annual conclaves, 1897, and kindly notices our report of last year, albeit Pennsylvania was omitted in the review. He seems to apprehend what the cause was, viz., the lateness of date when the Proceedings came to hand. This year Pennsylvania is on time, but with slight margin, for the present paper was well advanced in its preparation when we were gratified by receipt of the volume.

His "Conclusion" contains noble and generous sentiments, forcibly expressed.

Henry H. Keehn, Johnstown, was elected Grand Commander; William W. Allen, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, was re-elected Grand Recorder, and Lee S. Smith, announced

officially as of Pittsburgh—Pittsburg with an "h"—is continued as Correspondent.

South Dakota, 1898.

Grand Commander Joseph T. Morrow, whose portrait fronts the title page of the Proceedings now in hand, presided at the Fifteenth Annual Conclave, held in the city of Sioux Falls, June 17, 1898.

He delivered an address, brief and to the point. He had no decisions to announce, or disagreeable experiences to recount. Referring to the condition of the Order, he says:

> There seems to be no controversies or difficulties to settle; no grievance has been presented by any one. And notwithstanding the long continued stringency of the financial world and consequent hard times, our Order has made very substantial increase in members, and is generally in a prosperous condition.

The Grand Commandery adopted the report of its Committee on Tactics, and ordered that an official manual should be printed and distributed among the Commanderies of So. Dakota, embodying their recommendations, and showing the "tactics" to be observed. The sum of $125 was appropriated to meet the cost of such printing and distribution.

Brother Samuel H. Jumper furnishes the report on Correspondence. Evidently his heart is in his work.

Under Iowa, quoting Bro. Coxe, who criticises the wine drinking in connection with the Christmas observance by Knights Templars, he says:

> Would it not be well for all of us to halt for a moment and weigh well the influence? We have always upheld the custom, but if its practice has caused a single heartache in the family of one Sir Knight, then by all means let it be stopped. Would it not be well for the "Guild" to take the subject up for discussion in the correspondence? Much good may come of it.

We make place for this excerpt because it indicates the temper of mind with which we should pass judgment upon the question presented, or any other of like character. We should ask what will be the effect on others? How will the

general good be best promoted? St. Paul acted on this principle. He says: "If meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend."

Correspondent Jumper approves the suggestion of Grand Commander Walker, of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, in the matter of sending out notices, stating that certain Companions (giving their names) will receive the order of the Red Cross, *if elected*. Such an announcement is declared to be undignified as well as unnecessary.

South Dakota has eleven Commanderies, with a total membership of 752, being a net loss of 4 for the year covered by the report of Grand Recorder.

William T. Doolittle, Sioux Falls, was elected Grand Commander; Geo. A. Pettigrew, Flandreau, was re-elected Grand Recorder, and Samuel H. Jumper, Aberdeen, was appointed Committee on Correspondence.

Tennessee, 1898.

The promptness with which the Proceedings were sent out merits a special word of commendation. We find this statement on the cover: "Grand Commandery closed May 26, Proceedings issued May 27." "Issued," as used in this connection, probably means that the record of the conclave went into the hands of the printer on the day next following the close of the session, the accompanying reports, etc., having been previously put in type. But the mailing quickly followed. We received our copy in the early days of June. Grand Recorder Foster may pass to the right of the line. Others have done well, "but thou excellest them all."

The Proceedings attest the good work of the printers, who did not allow the shortness of time to interfere with their turning out a first-class job. The frontispiece shows a fine portrait of Grand Commander William J. Ely, who presided at the conclave—the twenty-sixth—held at Franklin, May 25 and 26, 1898.

Before the formal opening of Grand Commandery there were antecedent proceedings of interest. The officers and

members of the Grand Body, under the escort of several Commanderies, marched from the Masonic Temple to the Tabernacle where an eloquent address of welcome was extended, to which the Grand Commander responded in well chosen words. At this greeting there was present a numerous audience, including ladies.

Following the opening ceremonies, Grand Commander Ely delivered an address of a business-like character. "The general condition of the Order is good," he says, "and the outlook is one of promise and encouragement."

Under "Decisions," he reports the following enquiry, and his answer thereto:

In January last I received a letter from the Eminent Commander of Cœur de Lion Commandery, No. 9, in which he stated they had a Companion Royal Arch Mason with one leg shorter than the other, which caused him to limp when walking, but was strong otherwise and all right as far as they knew. I was asked to interpret Title XLVIII, page 62 edition 1889 of Digest Grand Encampment, with regard to qualifications to orders. I did not have the above edition, but supposed that he alluded to Title XLII, edition 1894, which reads as follows:

"If the candidate can give all the signs and go through all the ceremonies, he is eligible, and not otherwise; but the Commandery should be more exacting than the Lodge or Chapter, and the petitioner should be capable of enduring pilgrimage and warfare, and should not by his presence mar the symmetry of a parade."

I decided if this was the edict referred to, it was left to the discretion of the Commandery.

The Grand Recorder presented an interesting report, with statistics. The sixteen Commanderies comprising the jurisdiction, are credited with a total membership of 1,075, a loss of 16 during the year covered by the report.

The Grand Treasurer reported a balance on hand of $143.16.

Action was taken by the Grand Commandery on several important subjects. A plan of life membership was adopted, copied after that of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The Triennial committee reported that they had secured headquarters for the Triennial, in the Municipal Building at Pittsburg. Their report was approved, and the committee was continued.

Reports were made by the "Grand Visitors," suggesting a

better system of inspection than the present one; and the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Commander appoint a committtee of three to report to the next Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery the best method of making the system of inspection effective and beneficial to subordinate Commanderies.

Correspondent W. F. Foster uses one hundred and thirty pages for his very complete and intertaining report. He writes like one who has great love for the work of a Templar reviewer.

Under Iowa he expresses liberal views respecting non-affiliation. He says:

We do not think the Lodge or Chapter should have the power to make the Commandery the court in which they shall punish delinquent members, or capture non-affiliates, and force them into their own ranks.

Under Illinois he makes the following presentation of his views respecting continuous membership:

We are opposed to the principle of enforced membership in any organization whatever; Masonic or otherwise. We do not believe that one who has attained to that particular Masonic field where he finds his tastes, inclinations, and training to be in sympathy with the especial work to which it is devoted, should be forbidden to give himself exclusively to its promotion by the threat that he will be disgraced, even in his chosen field, unless he maintains equally his zealous work in every other grade. The principle is wrong; it is unjust, and the analogy is everywhere against it. Its absurdity, even, would be recognized at once in almost every other condition to which it should be applied; in the army, in the navy, in business organizations, in every profession, in politics, in everything on earth where advancement is by progressive steps. And yet this writer would not be misunderstood. If it became necessary to surrender affiliation and association with every department of Masonry but one, the Lodge would be that to which he would cling with most tenacious love. Neither do we believe that in the ordinary sense there is any superiority attained in the successive steps of advancement; but, as we pass from one step to another, new truths are developed, new lessons are taught, new methods prevail. Each has its especial charm, and the Brother whose zeal prompts him to devote himself to the work of imparting the impressive lessons of the Council or Chapter should be allowed to do so, if it pleases him, to the exclusion of everything else.

Brother Foster gives ample space to a review of the Proceedings, 1897, of our home jurisdiction. He has a kind notice of our report. He does not regard with favor our suggestion that affiliation should be made easier by requiring somewhat less than a unanimous ballot for the admission of a petitioner. To relax the rule would, in his opinion, tend to increase the number of non-affiliates. We cannot see the logic of such a conclusion. The suggestion may be all wrong as making the way of entrance too easy, or as calling for a change of an old rule which it would be an innovation to set aside or modify, but it does not appear to us that its practical working would cause the number of non-affiliates to increase. In the nature of things the result would be otherwise.

We quote the following paragraph from the "Conclusion:"

> There is a flash of pride in every eye. Men step quicker and stand several inches taller. "Old Glory" floats to the breeze everywhere, and everybody is eagerly telling every other body how the gunboat "Nashville" and her gallant Tennessee commander struck the first blow to avenge the "Maine," and for the freedom of Cuba.

Samuel B. Dow, Knoxville, was elected Grand Commander, and Wilbur F. Foster, Nashville, was re-elected Grand Recorder, and was re-appointed Committee on Correspondence.

Texas, 1898.

A fine portrait, steel engraved, of Grand Commander L. T. Noyes ornaments the Proceedings, a handsome volume of some two hundred and fifty pages.

The Forty-fifth Annual Conclave was held at Dallas, April 12 and 13, 1898. Twenty-five of the thirty-one Commanderies were represented.

Previous to the opening the Grand Commandery was escorted to the Methodist Church, where the Sir Knights were welcomed on the part of Dallas Commandery by Rev. J. Frank Smith, who closed his address as follows:

> When the invading hosts of that knightly Southern chieftain, Robert

E. Lee, were marching to Gettysburg, they passed a stately mansion; the ladies of the house stood at the gates and watched the veterans go by. A little girl stood and flaunted a star-spangled banner in the faces of the Confederates. When General Lee passed, the little child pushed open the gate, stepped on the curbing and let the folds of her flag fall in his face. He reined up his horse, lifted his hat and saluted the little Unionist. In her surprise and confusion, she dropped her banner, ran into the gate and said: "Mamma, don't you wish he were ours?" This morning we welcome you because of your chivalry, your charity and your Christianity, and we fling wide open our temple and our hearts, and welcome you because you are ours.

After a fitting response by the Grand Commander, the acting Grand Prelate, Sir Knight J. R. Carter, not a clergyman, delivered a discourse from the text, "Quit you like men: be strong." He set forth and well maintained the proposition that man's real, abiding strength lies in his moral nature, which must be cultivated if we would attain to ideal manhood.

Immediately following the opening of the Grand Commandery Past Grand Commander H. B. Stoddard, the Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment, was received with the honors due his official station.

The Grand Commander at the outset of his able address expresses his gratification that Templar Masonry is firmly established in Texas. He says:

The subordinate Commanderies, thirty-one in number, are, with a few exceptions, in good condition, while among the Sir Knights, nearly 2,200 in number, peace reigns supreme, few contentions exist to mar the fraternal feeling that everywhere prevails. The increase in membership is not as great as in some previous years, but I am gratified to report a marked improvement in attention to ceremonial duties by the officers of the subordinate Commanderies, a commendable desire to excel in Asylum tactics, and impressive and proper rendition of our beautiful ritual.

Among the decisions announced by the Grand Commander, we note the following:

Question—Can the Recorder of the Commandery cast the vote of the Commandery when only one Sir Knight is in nomination?

Answer—Title XX, Section 1, Code of Statutes: All elections in all Templar bodies must be by ballot.

I know of no authority that would allow the vote of a Commandery to be cast by the Recorder, or any one else. The ballots must be cast by the individual voters, and in no other way.

The Grand Recorder made an excellent report. The Grand Treasurer reported a balance in the General Fund of $739.74—in the Triennial Fund a balance of $1,500.00.

The Grand Commandery adopted a plan of life membership almost identical with that adopted by the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island two years ago.

A movement was made to establish the office of Drill Master in Commanderies. It failed, properly as we think, because of the feeling that to appoint such an officer would tend to decrease the sense of responsibility on the part of the regular officers who have a present duty in the way of instructing in all tactical movements.

The Committee on Jurisprudence reported upon one matter, previously passed upon, concerning which a review had been asked. The committee in their renewed dealing with the question as to whether or not the code permits a ballot, except at a stated conclave, says:

There is a direct conflict between Title VII, Section 1, and Title XLV, Sections 13 and 14. The history of the enactment of these conflicting enactments, is that Title VII, Section 1, was the deliberate enactment of the Grand Encampment, while the others seem to have grown out of decisions of Grand Masters, which were approved without proper investigation.

Grand Master Thomas had been appealed to in the matter. He responded in the words following:

Yours received, and in reply would say that the sections referred to cover only one of the many inconsistencies or conflicts of our code of statutes, or digest, which we hope the Grand Encampment at the Conclave in Pittsburg will rectify. Some of the Grand Commanders are following one law and some the other, according to the practice in their respective States, and as each has a law on his side to back him up, I have not thought it wise to interfere.

Sensible on the part of Grand Master Thomas, who evidently does not care to add to the perplexity by rendering another decision.

Correspondent R. M. Elgin presents a report of much value. It would have been well, we think, notwithstanding the expense, to have followed the suggestion made to put the Proceedings here reviewed, including the report on Correspondence, into the hands of every Sir Knight in the jurisdiction.

The report makes eighty-eight closely printed pages. He expresses his opinion on various matters of Masonic and Templar interest. He does not look with favor on the movement to permanently locate the headquarters of the Grand Encampment at Washington. Under Tennessee, replying to Bro. Foster, he says:

> Take away the grand displays and you eliminate much that inspires enthusiasm and interest in our Triennial Councils. Few will attend them, and there is danger of their degenerating into a sort of close corporation, governed and administered by a few who will become little known or appreciated. We prefer too little rather than too much legislation.

Bro. Elgin believes in continuous membership, and holds that the first duty of a Mason is to his Lodge. He does not favor the suggestion of Bro. Coxe that each officer in a Commandery be provided with his part of the ritual in a book. Our thought is that it would be better to have the authorized ritual furnished as proposed, rather than keys and unauthorized helps, but we do not see the need as strongly as does our Iowa Brother, and we think it quite sufficient if one copy of the official ritual is made available for the use of the officers of a Commandery.

Brother Elgin notes some of the difficulties in the way of maintaining a strong Commandery. He says:

> The nature of the Knights Templar organization is such that under ordinary circumstances it cannot flourish in thinly settled communities. In most communities it cannot be expected that more than one-third of the Royal Arch Masons will go into the Commandery, and it requires about fifty members to support a live, vigorous Commandery. It takes young, enthusiastic men, with ambition and taste, to learn and practice the tactics, as well as capacity to appreciate the religious teachings of the Order. A dozen or two of old Masons may start a Commandery, but they are apt to get tired when it comes to the exercises of the drill and tactics, and never feel at ease under a showy uniform. They soon begin to neglect

the Commandery meetings for the enjoyment of the quiet comfort at home, and leave the young men with a taste for "fuss and feathers" to keep up the organization.

We concur in the main with the foregoing. We suggest, however, that if Templary is set forth and exemplified in the broad way of its teachings and purposes the prosperity of the organization will not depend upon its military features. Men are wanted in the Commandery, as in the Lodge, whether young or old, who appreciate the humane, social, and moral elements of the Institution. The love of this class of men for the Commandery does not grow cold, even though they may no longer march in the parade nor conform to all the movements prescribed by the last approved system of tactics.

A. A. Johnston, Dallas, was elected Grand Commander; J. C. Kidd, Houston, was elected Grand Recorder, and R. M. Elgin, Houston, was re-appointed Correspondent.

Vermont, 1898.

The Fifty-sixth Annual Conclave was held at Burlington, June 14, 1898.

Immediately following the opening ceremonies Sir Knight Joseph A. Locke, Grand Warder of the Grand Encampment, was welcomed within the Asylum. He responded in fitting words to the hearty greeting.

Grand Commander Robert J. Wright, at the beginning of his address, refers to the favorable conditions under which the present meeting was held. He says:

To-day we meet for the first time in our new temple, for which we have looked forward for many long years; besides we have the representative of the Grand Master of Templars, V. E. Sir Joseph A. Locke, a peer among his brother Masons. It seems more than my due to have the honor of being at the head of the Grand Commandery in such a climax.

The Grand Commandery expressed its dissent to the proposition to change the rank of Grand Prelate, and of Prelates in the subordinate Commanderies. It ordered the purchase

of an "American flag," with pole and belt, suitable for the use of this Grand Commandery on public occasions. It made due arrangements for representation and headquarters at Pittsburg.

Brother Kittredge Haskins, of well earned fame as a Mason and a Templar, furnishes an interesting report on Correspondence, of ninety-two pages. He writes in an oracular sort of way, but interestingly. Under Ohio he quotes approvingly from Correspondent Carson, on the creed question, as follows:

> Nothing sectarian in our view, Brother Davies. We profess that a belief in the Christian religion is sectarian; we believe it is so taken by some. When, as Knights Templar, we make this profession, we simply want to know what is the true definition of the Christian religion. Certainly, good acts, moral deportment and charity, by a Mahomedan, would not qualify him to be a Knight Templar, even though he should profess to be a firm believer in the Christian religion. Moral deportment and charity may be possessed by Mahomedans and Christians in the same degree, but it won't make the Mahomedan a Christian. This is the extent of our Templar sectarianism, only this and nothing more.
>
> Don't mistake us, we don't mean to say that good acts are not necessary in a good Christian, but they don't make him a Christian. We still adhere to the old orthodox idea of Christianity. For "wheels" or "bicycle" Christianity, that some are advocating at the present time, we have no use. There is no half-way station, it is either Christianity or Ingersollism.

After presenting this excerpt he adds, with evident satisfaction, as if scoring a point, the following:

> We are in hearty accord with the foregoing, and invite our Rev. Sirs Rugg and St. John, of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, to use their hammer on the above nuts and crack them, if they can.

The present writer speaks only for himself in responding to the suggestion of Correspondent Haskins. In the first place, then, we would say there are no nuts for us to crack in the statement made by Brother Carson. We concur in his declaration that good deeds do not make a man a Christian. Cornelius was a devout man who gave much alms to the poor, but while his prayers and his alms had gone up "for a memorial before God," he was not a Christian until he had been instructed by the Apostle con-

cerning Jesus the Christ and had come to believe in Him. Worthy deeds—good works—do not make a man a Christian. There must be positive faith, not so much a formal, propositional faith, as a genuine mind and soul conviction that Christ is the Eternal Son of God, the Divine Leader, Teacher and Savior of men. When one believes in Christ thus heartily and unreservedly and is ready to pledge obedience to Him as the Great Captain of our Salvation, he is a Christian, no matter to what sect he belongs or in what precise forms his religious beliefs find expression.

In the second place, that we may not be misunderstood, we may add that we accept the Apostles' Creed and have no trouble with the doctrine of the Trinity as therein set forth; but we do not deem it wise or just to make any doctrine or specific creed a test in determining the eligibility of candidates for the Order. We deem it sufficient that an applicant should declare himself to be a firm believer in the Christian religion and be ready to pledge himself to follow our crucified and risen Lord. Templary is a Christian Order; its ritual, symbolism, and most essential principles, bear the stamp of Christian faith and Christian service.

Under Illinois Brother Haskins avows the liberal view he has always maintained respecting the position of non-affiliates. Replying to General Smith, he says:

> We cannot agree with him that it should be made obligatory upon a member of the Commandery to hold "continuous membership in Lodge and Chapter." Nor would we fix the status of the "non-affiliate," holding a dimit, the same as that of a member who has been suspended for non-payment of dues, especially if the effect of suspension is to deprive the member of all Masonic rights.

Courteous and generous consideration is given to our home jurisdiction. Extracts are presented from Grand Commander Walker's address at the Annual Conclave in 1897, and the doings of Grand Commandery receive a liberal notice. The "Conclusion" of our last year's report finds place among the excerpts.

Jesse E. Thomson, Rutland, was elected Grand Commander; Warren G. Reynolds, Burlington, was re-elected

Grand Recorder, and Kittredge Haskins, Brattleboro, was continued as Correspondent.

Virginia, 1897.

Grand Commander Edward H. Miller presided over the members of Grand Commandery, convened at Petersburg, December 6, 1897. There are twenty Commanderies in the jurisdiction, nineteen of which were represented in the Seventy-fifth Annual Conclave.

The Grand Commander congratulated the Sir Knights on the favorable auspices of their assembling. We quote from his address:

> Three-quarters of a century have passed since the organization of this Grand Body, and this meeting to-day might with great propriety be termed the "Diamond Conclave" of our Grand Commandery, and if I am rightly informed, there are but two other Graud Bodies in our beloved Order in this country having the proud distinction of an earlier origin than the Grand Commandery of Virginia.
>
> We are here, my beloved Sir Knights, to plant another mile-post along the highway of time in the history of Templar Masonry in our State, and God grant that this landmark, and the inscription we leave upon it, may, like diamond, reflect those acts of knightly love and brotherly affection, that spirit of fraternity, of good will and faithful devotion to the welfare of our Order, with such brilliancy that they may sparkle and shine along the pathways of time and prove to be of help and comfort to many a weary pilgrim warrior or valiant Sir Knight, who, following on after us, plodding down life's pathway towards the goal, out into that great ocean of eternity, where, as we are promised if we but continue faithful to the end, we shall be with the prince in his glory.

The Grand Commander announced several decisions, all of which were approved by Grand Commandery, in accordance with the following report of the committee:

> Your committee recommend the approval of the Grand Commander's decisions:
>
> 1. That a Knight Templar can apply for affiliation in any Commandery in the Grand Jurisdiction in which he resides.
>
> 2. "The law of the Grand Encampment does not permit dual membership." To which the committee add, that under this law a Sir Knight can

not be elected to membership while holding membership in another Commandery.

3. "A Royal Arch Mason must apply to the Commandery in whose jurisdiction he resides." It is quite apparent to your committee that conditions can exist where the family of a Companion may reside within the jurisdiction of one Commandery and he reside within the jurisdiction of another. The decision is in accordance with the law of the Grand Encampment.

The last of these decisions is all right, we assume, but a man should not too quickly or easily be allowed to gain a residence apart from his family. If he temporarily goes away from them for the benefit of his health, or for business purposes, he should not thereby establish a new residence.

The Grand Commandery adopted Grant's Tactics. Legislation was voted inexpedient on the Tennessee resolutions, in accordance with the following report of a special committee to which the subject was referred:

Your committee appreciate the spirit which prompted the memorial from the Grand Commandery of Tennessee, and recognize with them that the adoption by other organizations of our insignia, the Maltese Cross, is, in most cases, meaningless and inappropriate. And while we would gladly join them in any effort which would give promise of the result desired, viz., the disuse of said emblem, we are of the opinion that neither the Grand Commandery nor the Grand Encampment has a "fee simple" title to any form of that emblem which symbolizes the love of God which "gave" his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him might not perish, but have everlasting life. We therefore recommend that it is inexpedient to memorialize the Grand Encampment on the subject.

In the evening the Grand Commandery attended religious services in the Tabb Street Presbyterian Church, where the Grand Prelate, Rev. F. T. McFaden, delivered an able and timely discourse. After the religious services came an enjoyable banquet, at which there were "eloquent and soul stirring addresses," with "charming tenor solos," and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" by the Sir Knights at the hour of low twelve, when the Grand Commandery closed.

J. H. Capers, Richmond, was elected Grand Commander, and James B. Blanks was re-elected Grand Recorder.

West Virginia, 1898.

The Proceedings are embellished by four portraits, viz.— John A. Zorn, the present Commander; John W. Morris, Grand Commander in 1891; D. W. Emmons, the present Grand Treasurer, who has held the office continuously since 1886, and the honored and mourned Sir Knight, Odell S. Long, first Grand Commander, in 1874.

Brother Long, who died at his home in Charlestown, December 24, 1897, at the age of sixty-one years, became a Mason when he was but twenty-one years old, and soon after joined the Order of Knights Templars. He had been active and prominent in both organizations for many years. He held second place in the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite at the time of his death. Our acquaintance with Bro. Long, although not intimate, was very pleasant. We are glad that the orbits of our lives touched.

Grand Commander L. N. Tavemer presided at this Twenty-fourth Annual Conclave, held at Parkersburg, May 11, 1898, and delivered an address evidently dictated by an earnest and hopeful spirit. After referring to the gratifying gains in membership shown by the returns of the year, he says:

> Whatsoever may have existed, all differences seem to be healed, all discords and dissensions abated, and throughout our midst there prevails harmony without lethargy, energy and ambition without strife or contention, save that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who can best work and best agree.

The Grand Commandery voted an increase of salary to the Grand Recorder. He is now paid $250. A charter was granted to Hinton Commandery, No. 12. The twelve Commanderies have a total membership of 1,037.

The report on Correspondence is the second furnished by Sir Knight W. W. Van Winkle, who writes both sensibly and interestingly. He has no occasion to deprecate his work, or to feel any apprehension that he has made himself "a target to be shot at." The criticisms of the "Guild," Brother Van Winkle, are mild and harmless.

Under Iowa, he joins Brother Coxe in expressing disap-

probation of the use of wine in connection with the Templar observance of Christmas. "It is not creditable," he says, "to do this, and if the occasion can only be observed by the use of wine, then omit the Templar observance of the day."

Under Kentucky, he quotes from the Grand Commander's address, as follows:

> The custom of soliciting Masons to apply for the Orders of knighthood, sometimes before they have taken the third degree, and then rushing them through the Chapters, in order to get into the Commandery in the shortest possible time, is an evil greatly to be deprecated. It lowers the dignity of Knighthood and degrades the Templar orders. It is grossly unjust to Capitular Masonry; and equally so to the unfortunate victim of that zeal without knowledge, which hurries him through the whole system of Masonry, with no opportunity to learn its mysteries, or see its beauty, and with no end in view but the poor gratification of wearing a Templar charm dangling at his watch chain. It is a violation of the ancient landmark which requires the postulant to come of his own free will and accord.

Brother Van Winkle emphatically endorses the foregoing —and so do we.

Massachusetts and Rhode Island receives courteous attention. He signifies his approval of our position, that a petition for the orders cannot be withdrawn after it has been presented to and received by the Commandery.

John A. Zorn, Wheeling, was elected Grand Commander; Robert C. Dunnington, Fairmont, was elected Grand Recorder, and W. W. Van Winkle was appointed the chairman of Committee on Correspondence.

Wisconsin, 1897.

Twenty-six Commanderies, all but one of the whole number, were represented in the Twenty-ninth Annual Conclave, held at Milwaukee, October 12, 1897.

Grand Commander Edmond C. Deane delivered a thoughtful address. We quote the following, as showing his strong faith in the future of Templary:

> Sir Knights, I am not of those who are of opinion that our Order is growing too fast. I cannot believe that the sublime truths, the divine

teachings of our lectures, can be too often imparted to our worthy Companions. The field from which we draw recruits has been cultivated and improved by the ballot in Lodge and Chapter. Those who come to us are, as a rule, the best in intelligence, attainments, and all that goes to make applicants desirable.

Then let us not be afraid to display our banners, to let our light shine before our Companions, that they may be attracted to us, and, if found worthy, be admitted to a participation in our labors. Templar Masonry is no longer a subject of conjecture. Its merits are known, and its name familiar in almost every home in the land. As members of our Order we should be proud, though not boastful. The past has been grand, the present is assured, the future will be what we make it.

In reporting his official visitations he refers to one as follows:

On October 15, 1896, I visited Ivanhoe Commandery, No. 24, and witnessed the advancement of a class of twenty-one candidates to the illustrious order of the Red Cross. The work was followed by an elaborate banquet and reception, at which a large number of ladies and invited Templar guests were present. The beautiful building, which is the Templar home of this fine body of Templars, and is owned by the Commandery, was thrown open to the guests, and the occasion was greatly enjoyed by all present.

This wholesale way of conferring the order does not commend itself to our judgment. The candidates could hardly have been very much impressed by the ceremony through which they passed with celerity—a score and four of Zerubbabels who must have received abbreviated instruction concerning the teachings and legends of the order of the Red Cross.

The Grand Commander reports a "unique incident" in connection with another of his official visitations. He says:

On the evening of February 12th it was my pleasure to take part in the most elaborate Templar festivity ever held in Mineral Point. The occasion was the installation of the officers of the Commandery. A large number of guests had been invited, an orchestra from Milwaukee was in attendance, the hall had been profusely and handsomely decorated, and a bountiful supper provided.

All these features have been duplicated at other Masonic and Templar gatherings, but the unique incident worthy of record was the presence in that little city, in a far away corner of the State, of the respective heads of the several Masonic Grand Bodies of the jurisdiction.

The first ceremony, after the Commandery, fully equipped, had marched into the hall, was the formal reception of Brother Aldro Jenks, M. W. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge; Companion J. Thomas Pryor, Jr., Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and Miss Annie Phillips, Worthy Grand Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star. The Grand Commander was then formally received with the honors due the incumbent of that high office.

This recognition of the Eastern Star Order must have been peculiarly grateful to those who regard that Order as a "Department of Freemasonry," but rather distasteful to those who look upon the Eastern Star Order as "contrary to the true principles of Freemasonry, and unworthy of any official or legal connection with our Ancient Order." We have no strong feeling on the subject; but our thought is that such recognition, intended to mean much or little, was uncalled for and out of place on such an occasion as that reported.

The Grand Commandery adopted the sensible report of a committee to whom was referred the Tennessee resolutions pertaining to the Maltese Cross. We copy the report herewith:

Your Committee on Knightly Courtesy and Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the preamble and resolution adopted by the Grand Commandery of Tennessee at its last Annual Conclave, report that they have had the same under consideration; that they fully agree with the statements set forth in the preamble, but are not impressed with the desirability of making a protest or of memorializing the Grand Encampment upon this subject matter, believing that it is more in keeping with the dignity of the Order to quietly ignore the appropriating of any of the emblems of the Order, than to call the attention of the public thereto by protesting against such use, so long as it is impossible to enforce any set of resolutions upon this matter, the parties offending being beyond the jurisdiction of the Order. We are of the opinion that no formal action should be taken upon this matter.

We, therefore, recommend that this Grand Commandery, for the reasons above given, respectfully decline to give its support to the preamble and resolutions submitted.

The Grand Commandery made a new departure in the matter of providing for the inspection of Commanderies, by approving the selection of a special inspector to make rigid examinations and full reports, such reports to be printed in separate form and not included in Proceedings.

The sum of $750 was appropriated for headquarters at Pittsburg.

The Correspondence report, by Brother William C. Swain, covers ninety-one pages. It is creditable to its author, who has written the reports for Wisconsin during the last fifteen years.

He expresses his opinion in a clear and positive manner on the various mooted questions now under consideration in the Templar world. He opposes the legislation framed against dealers in intoxicating liquors. On this subject, under Tennessee, he remarks:

> The trouble is, Brethren are afraid to speak their minds, for fear of being classed as favoring intemperance. Wines and whiskeys, *et al.*, are in themselves good things and useful servants. But because they are abused, and because the traffic is abused, we are too apt to condemn the whole. Our grandfathers did not see anything wrong in the business. Is that evidence that they were immoral? De Lap does not think so, because he says the world has degenerated since then. And yet he is the strongest advocate of Masonic prohibition. Let us be logical. In these days it is next to an impossibility for a man to be a politician and not indulge in methods which he would condemn in private life. Shall we, therefore, cease to go to the polls, or take an interest in the government of our country? Saloonkeepers are responsible for bringing their business into disrepute by disreputable practices. Therefore, keep such saloonkeepers out of our Lodges, by means of the black ball, but not by legislation.

Elsewhere in his report Brother Swain frees his mind on this subject and gets in several hard hits at the proscriptive legislation of a number of Grand Commanderies. He does not altogether convince us; but we concur in the suggestion that the use of the black ball is quite efficient to keep saloon keepers out of our Asylums.

He takes issue with our proposition that a Commandery *under dispensation* has no organic life, and says:

> Commanderies under dispensation are formed under definitely laid down rules, have officers appointed for them, rules to govern them. Why have they no organic life? Chartered Commanderies are bound by the terms of their charter and by the laws of the Grand Commandery under which they hold. Commanderies under dispensation are bound by the same laws, and also by the terms of their dispensation. The laws for the two differ, but it seems to us they equally have organic life, and there is noth-

ing to prevent giving the U. D. Commandery the power to give membership.

"Why should they have no organic life?" Simply because they are but temporary associations, existing under limitations, and precluded by the very terms of the dispensation issued from assuming the responsibilities or sharing in the full prerogatives of a chartered Commandery. The power to give membership could hardly exist before there was the grant of a charter and the adoption of by-laws.

Charles D. Rogers, Milwaukee, was elected Grand Commander; John W. Laflin, Milwaukee, was re-elected Grand Recorder, and William C. Swain was continued as Correspondent.

ADDENDA.

[The Proceedings of California and Kentucky came to hand too late for review in their proper place, according to alphabetical order. We give them due notice as follows. In this connection we mention with regret our failure to receive the Proceedings of several jurisdictions, this non-receipt preventing the desired notice.]

Kentucky, 1898.

The Fifty-first Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery was held at Maysville, May 18 and 19, 1898.

The members of Grand Commandery attended public worship in a body, just previous to the formal opening. The pastor of the church, Rev. J. L. Sims, delivered a sermon from the text: "And Pilate said unto them, Behold the Man." The discourse, which is printed in full in the Proceedings, contains a strong plea for the study of the Christ life as setting forth the highest type of manhood. We quote a single paragraph:

Incomparable greatness is the rightful heritage of the truly good. He only is a true Knight who in his heart fosters that divine grace which Jesus Christ imparts to righteousness and purity of life Let thy sword

remain forever in its scabbard, unless it be drawn in the cause of that leadership the heroism of whose manly heart exemplifies in conduct and experience the life of him whose only passport to the confidence of man was the singleness of his purpose, the integrity of his character and the purity of his life. Behold the Man, my Fratres. Hear and heed him. He is now our ascended Lord and Master. He inspects our work. However unlimited our benefactions, nothing avails unless we follow the leadership of him to whom all the prophets give witness.

At Masonic Hall addresses of welcome were made and responses offered thereto, following which the Grand Commandery was opened in Ample Form.

Grand Commander Eugene A. Robinson delivered a thoughtful address. We quote his recommendation under the head of "Inspection," as follows:

I did not appoint inspectors for the various Commanderies for the reason that it entails a loss of time and an expense that some of our officers can ill afford. Our system of inspection in this Grand Jurisdiction has never impressed me as being as beneficial to the Order as it can be made. I have always believed that there should be an inspection of the subordinate Commanderies once a year, and that should be made from purely a business standpoint. To secure this the Grand Commandery should elect an inspecting officer, one that will visit each Commandery, inspect it, and report as to its *actual* condition. My belief is that you would soon realize the good effects of it, and it would bring your subordinate Commanderies up to a much higher standard. I recommend that you take action on this at this Conclave.

The Grand Commandery did not concur with the Grand Commander in the matter of appointing an inspecting officer, but adopted the following resolution offered, by the Committee on Work, to which that part of the address was referred:

Resolved, That the inspection of subordinate Commanderies be performed by the Grand Officers of the Grand Commandery, under the direction of the Grand Commander.

The veteran Grand Recorder, Sir Knight L. D. Croninger, was unable to attend the Conclave, being detained by illness. The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this Grand Commandery has heard with profound regret of the serious illness which has detained from our fellowship our beloved

Frater L. D. Crouinger. We tender to him and his family our most affectionate and sincere sympathy in this his great affliction. We miss his venerable form, his sweet and cheerful spirit, which contributed so much to the past Conclaves of this Body, and we pray that our Heavenly Father may lighten his burdens and grant him that peace that passeth knowledge.

The social features added much to the enjoyment of the occasion. There were elegant entertainments, receptions and excursions, signifying the graceful fellowship and cordial good will which were everywhere manifest. We judge the fifty-first annual to have attained high water mark.

Brother Charles R. Woodruff, Dean of the Correspondents, furnishes a report which is both instructive and interesting. He holds decided views, which he does not hesitate to make known when the challenge is given. He believes in the Grand Encampment and does not wish to see its authority lessened. Under Indiana he says:

The Grand Encampment has very different duties from the General Grand Chapter, and being partly military in its organization it must, of necessity, be invested with amply sufficient powers to maintain its dignity and enforce its laws and commands. The magnificent ritual of the Knightly Order presents a strong contrast to the less attractive degrees of the Chapter, and Chapters would soon disappear from the Masonic horizon were it not for the diligent and difficult labor of Knights Templars to sustain them in rallying the reluctant Companions to form a quorum in the almost obsolete Chapter.

It has long been a surprise to us that the Templars have continued to permit this "old man of the mountain" to impede the progress of the Commandery, and we hope the present agitation of this matter will result in a boomerang deflection, and accomplish the desirable object of cutting away the Chapter as a door to the Commandery.

Evidently Brother Woodruff allows only one side of the case to come into the line of his vision when he passes judgment on the question as to whether or not the St. Louis ritual was in substance that which was in use in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Referring to the statement of Past Grand Master Fellows, of blessed memory, that "the ritual presented by the committee at St. Louis was that delivered to the committee by Grand Master Dean," Correspondent Woodruff attempts to close the case as follows:

This authoritative declaration should act as a quietus upon any further assertions to the contrary from the Massachusetts Templar Correspondents.

We have no desire to revive dead issues, nor have we any taste for personalities in discussion. Certainly we should not allude to this irritating subject again, were it not that our silence might be misunderstood. Therefore we say that the ritual reported by the committee at St. Louis, said to be the old ritual of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, was not that ritual. There are many Sir Knights allegiant to the Grand Commandery, and to which we address this report, who have the same knowledge, for they have used both rituals. We impugn the motives of no one; we accuse no one of bad faith in the matter; but we do assert that the St. Louis ritual shows the marks of many changes from the old ritual known and practiced in the jurisdiction of Massachusetts and Rhode Island for many years.

Brother Woodruff, in reviewing Massachusetts and Rhode Island, favors the idea expressed by the present writer in last year's report as to the granting of centenary warrants by the Grand Encampment. He suggests that the time is close at hand where a number of Templar organizations will be entitled to such a certificate.

Correspondent Woodruff, in the "Conclusion" of his report, modestly refers to the fact that it is the twenty-fifth such paper which he has furnished to the Grand Commandery of Kentucky. After calling attention to the growth of the Order during the last quarter of a century, he adds the following:

The progress of the Order has not always been steady and regular; but after having maintained a solid organization through the trying period of the political persecution of Free Masonry, it soon recuperated with a renewed energy, so that within the last quarter of a century its muster-roll has been augmented nearly three-fold. This is surely a most encouraging consummation and an overwhelming evidence of the excellence of the principles inculcated by our Order and of the wisely conceived plans upon which it is founded, presenting at the same time the strongest possible reasons to "remove not the ancient landmarks which our Fathers have set."

Charles C. Vogt, Louisville, was elected Grand Commander;

Lorenzo D. Croninger, Covington, was re-elected Grand Recorder, and Charles R. Woodruff, Louisville, was continued as Correspondent.

California, 1898.

Grand Recorder Thomas H. Caswell, on an inserted leaf of the Proceedings, explains the cause of delay in their publication. The delay was caused by reason of the Grand Commandery having adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Grand Recorder be, and he is hereby instructed to delay the issuance of the annual Proceedings until after he shall have received the certificates of election of officers from the subordinate Commanderies, and that the lists of officers, so certified, be added as supplements to the returns of the respective Commanderies.

Some of the certificates called for did not reach the Grand Recorder until after the middle of August, hence the lateness of the publication, for which, of course, he is not responsible.

April 21st, 1898, was the date of meeting. Grand Commander George D. Metcalf, presided. He had the pleasure of welcoming Brother R. H. Lloyd, then Deputy Grand Master, now Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States, to the Grand Asylum.

The Grand Commander gave a report of his official doings and offered several suggestions intended to promote the usefulness of the Order. Referring to Past Grand Commander Sumner's "Tactics and Monitor," which the Grand Commander had promulgated as the official work for use in California, he adds the following words of just commendation:

I cannot commend this work too highly. The benefits it will confer upon all subordinate Commanderies that make faithful and studious use of it, are inestimable. It should be very generally and generously distributed, and this body should take some action to cause more general use of same among subordinates, for their benefit and for the promotion of Templar knowledge in forms, ceremonies, laws, etc., etc.

Grand Recorder Caswell presented a valuable statistical report, showing that the Order had been fairly prosperous

during the past year. On February 1, 1898, according to the returns, California had 3,101 affiliated Sir Knights—an increase for the year of 63.

The following recommendation was adopted:

The Triennial Committee respectfully recommend that for the purposes of Grand Commandery headquarters at Pittsburg, and the expenses of the delegates of this Grand Body to the Triennial Conclave, an appropriation be and is hereby made as follows: For headquarters, the sum of $750, and for each delegate and member of the Grand Encampment from this body who shall attend and serve at the sessions of the Grand Encampment, the sum of $125.

Brother William A. Davies furnishes a thoughtful, comprehensive report on Correspondence. He begins by reference to the table of statistics accompanying his report, giving due credit to the "accomplished Grand Recorder" of our jurisdiction, Sir Knight Rowell, for such statistical exhibit.

Under Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Correspondent Davies responds to our question in last year's report, respecting Grand Commander Ward's statement made in 1897, viz: that "if they were allowed, a large majority of the Sir Knights of California would have their dimits in their pockets, and pay no dues, and would affiliate only with the Commanderies." We expressed surprise at the statement, and asked if it were possible that over 1,500 Sir Knights were kept in Lodge and Chapter only by compulsion. This is the response:

Grand Commander Ward made his statement on the ground of "firm belief." This, to the writer, seems a very careless statement, and with equal facilities for diagnosing the pulse of the Templars of California upon this or any other question touching the relations of Templar Masons with Lodge and Chapter, and any desire to "cut loose" from those bodies to whom their first allegiance is due, the writer records it as his "firm belief" that the number desiring to sever their relations by carrying their dimits in their pockets would be more nearly expressed by the figures 15 than 1,500. In our Masonic system the Templars of California are not secessionists.

For want of time we pass over portions of the report which we had marked for notice and review. Brother

Davies always writes interestingly, and has a good faculty of selection.

Robert M. Powers, San Diego, was elected Grand Commander; Thomas H. Caswell, San Francisco, was re-elected Grand Recorder, and William A. Davies, San Francisco, was continued as Correspondent.

The Grand Encampment, 1898.

The Triennial Conclave of 1898, held at Pittsburg, Penn., has passed into history. For four days—from October 11th to October 14th, inclusive—the members of the Grand Encampment, assembled in the Iron City, gave diligent attention to business.

The Conclave week began on Saturday, October 9th, and continued until Saturday, October 15th, and on all these days the busy streets of Pittsburg were thronged by crowds of visitors, while the plumed Sir Knights were everywhere in evidence. All sections of the country were represented in the vast gathering called together by the holding of the Triennial Conclave, yet, as we were told by one of the officials of Pittsburg, the vast crowds were easily handled, and there were but few accidents. The prevailing good order reflects credit upon those who were in charge of streets, public buildings, conveyances, etc., while it speaks well for the intelligence and courtesy of the great army of occupation.

Pittsburg gave hospitable greeting to the Grand Encampment, and to the accompanying hosts of Sir Knights. The city put on its holiday garb, and signified in various ways its purpose to make the occasion memorable and pleasant. There were profuse decorations in all the principal streets. Some of the ornamentation was specially noticeable by its artistic form and fashioning, and by its suggestive symbolism. The electrical display, which made the night radiant as with noonday sun, was alike conspicuous and delightful. The decorations as a whole deserve unstinted praise. We are sure that they were highly commended by the Sir Knights and other visitors who took into account the thought and skill, as well as the time and money, which they represented.

But there was something more than this outward show of greeting and good will. There were the living actors on the scene—the "men behind the guns"—for the personal element was often in evidence, expressing itself in thoughtful attentions and generous service. There were committees representing the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, the host of the occasion, as also committees representing the Commanderies of Pittsburg and Allegheny. At the head of the General Committee was Grand Commander Henry H. Kuhn, and at the head of the Executive Committee was Past Grand Commander Lee S. Smith, who rendered an untiring service in the way of preparation and administration, and who was ably supported by his associates of the same committee. Great credit is due these painstaking Sir Knights for what they planned so wisely and executed so well.

The parade, over a long route through the cities of Allegheny and Pittsburg, was witnessed by a vast multitude, who gave hearty acclamations of welcome to the Commanderies, which appeared at their best as they marched over the designated course to the strains of inspiring music. It was a magnificent spectacle. The parade, under charge of Past Grand Master General John P. S. Gobin, was successfully carried out, albeit the last part of the march was made in a drenching rain. Grand Master Warren La Rue Thomas reviewed the Sir Knights as they marched all so steadily before him, with Templar banners and "old glory" conspicuous in every passing battalion. On the reviewing stand with Grand Master Thomas were the other officers of the Grand Encampment, and many of its members, besides prominent officials.

The first session of the Grand Encampment was held on the afternoon of Tuesday, at the Carnegie Music Hall, which had been selected as the place of meeting on account of its ample accommodations for committees, etc., as well as for the presence of Sir Knights desiring to witness the deliberations of the Grand Body. All the sessions were held in this large and beautiful hall, but the number of onlookers was comparatively small. The galleries showed a "beggarly account of empty boxes." Evidently the attractions elsewhere were too strong to permit any considerable attendance of Brethren,

not members of the Grand Encampment. In the body of the house were gathered some two hundred and fifty men, representatives of the various Grand Commanderies throughout the country. Venerable Sir Knights were included in this representative gathering — Withers, Parvin, McCurdy and others, who have rendered long and faithful service to the Order—but the absence of Past Grand Masters Fellows, Dean and Hurlbert, and other prominent Brethren present at the Boston Triennial, and now departed to the land immortal, caused the hearts of many to throb with a tender, pensive feeling. Drummond, Carson, and Palmer, present and active at the Conclave three years ago, were unable to attend; and there were others detained who have been prominent in the Triennials during the last twenty years or more.

As already intimated, however, the Conclave was well attended. Men of character and influence, some in their age, and some in early manhood, were seated together, all intent upon the promotion of the interests of Masonic Templarism. The new constitution was considered, section by section, the consideration and discussions occupying a good part of three days, and, after being amended in several respects as it came from the hands of the committee, was unanimously adopted. So also the code of Statutes and Regulations was carefully passed upon, and the governing law approved was brought into harmony with the constitution. The Triennial Conclave of 1898 was a working body, and its action, in the main, we believe, was wisely taken.

We may not attempt to set forth at this time any of the details of legislation, nor to describe the special courtesies extended to the Grand Master and officers of the Grand Encampment, so numerous and graceful. We may say, however, that there was a happy innovation at the official banquet, ladies being invited. At this banquet eloquent addresses were delivered by prominent Sir Knights, members of the Grand Encampment and others. On Thursday evening the privileged few, known as the "Society of the Mutuals," dined together, and enjoyed a delightful communion. Past Grand Master Hopkins presided. Eloquent

addresses were made, which were not reported. The writers of Correspondence, who thus touched elbows and hearts at Pittsburg, will recall with pleasure that evening at the Duquesne Club rooms, as some of them remember the preceding meetings at Washington, Denver, and Boston. Thus having in mind these reunions we shall gladly anticipate the next meeting of the Guild, at Louisville, in August, 1901.

As already intimated we regard the Pittsburg Triennial as a success. There was a numerous gathering of Sir Knights, who bore themselves creditably in all respects. There was a hearty welcome accorded to visitors by those who were their hosts. The business of the Grand Encampment was transacted in an orderly and dignified manner, and a gratifying harmony of views was shown both in the deliberations and in the election of officers. Of right we may rejoice in the successful Triennial of 1898.

Conclusion.

We would have the closing words of our report charged with a grateful and hopeful feeling. As American citizens and as Knights Templars we may well rejoice that our country is again at peace with all the world. The war with Spain, engaged in by the American nation, because of the interests of justice and humanity which were involved, has happily ended, and in a way which we can but believe will be promotive of Christian civilization and the highest welfare of mankind. Most certainly our great republic comes out of the war with augmented power and prestige, as also with some increase of responsibility, as pertains to the affairs of other nations and peoples, which cannot be avoided. We may rejoice in the advancement of the United States to a position of larger influence, even though the added obligations are many and great. A nation does not live for itself alone, but has a ministry of grace and help to exercise in behalf of the weak and oppressed peoples of the earth. It must accept this position, if it is to justify its right to stand among the foremost powers of earth. It must be a contributor toward those things which mark human

progress and the deliverance of the human world from ignorance and oppression. God be thanked that the hearts of the best citizenship of our land are throbbing to-day with these lofty purposes of patriotism and humanity!

And we may rejoice and be thankful that Masonic Templarism has made such mighty strides during the year covered by this review, holding an assured position to-day of honor and usefulness such as before had not been attained. There have been notable gains in numbers, in material strength, and in the various elements which constitute a great and beneficent Order. The principles of Templary are better understood and applied than ever before; its opportunities for good are enlarged; and the opening way before it is luminous with the revealings of Christian faith and the calls to Christian duty. As Knights Templars we march on, cheered and sustained by the feeling of fraternity and true comradeship, not forgetful of our dear friends and fellow workers who have passed on to the rewards of the faithful in the land celestial, but who are still with us in the sweet communions of thought and spirit. While we stay here on the earth let us be valiant workers for God and humanity. Let love rule our hearts and direct our lives, that so we may walk and work together in Christian love—in perfect peace!

Touch hands, Sir Knights, touch hearts and lives;
At Friendship's shrine we kneel—
The compact of fraternity
Within this presence seal!

We tread earth's pathway side by side,
The blue skies bend o'er all,
The sunbeams on each life descend,
On each the shadows fall.

Then let us strew the way with flowers,
With deeds that never die,
With words that shine immortally,
As stars gleam in the sky!

Forgive past wrongs, forget past slights,
Ignore the weeds that thrive,
Look to the hills whence cometh strength,
Keep chivalry alive!

Pluck not the thorns ; the roses bloom,
Their fragrance fills the air—
Life's sunshine far exceeds its shade,
Hope triumphs o'er despair !

Touch hands, touch hearts, then, Brother Knights,
Beneath the conq'ring sign
We'll march to reach the heavenly land
And gain its peace divine !

Be brave, be true—the Holy Grail
We seek, as Knights of old ;
'Tis found where noble deeds are done,
When for the right we're bold !

Beneath earth's outward show we see
The virtue that's concealed—
Fragrant as arbutus in spring,
To patient search revealed.

The art of living is to love
The best, where'er it be ;
To know the good, to do the right,
Makes true nobility.

Touch hands, touch hearts, 'tis better so
To walk the pilgrim way ;
The evening shadows soon will come
To end life's little day ;

But morning dawns beyond the clouds,
Love conquers even death;
And in the cross there's vict'ry, though
We lose life's fleeting breath.

Fraternally submitted,

HENRY W. RUGG.

OCTOBER, 1898.