A. L. 5873. A. D. 1873.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

THIRD ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATION

OF THE

Most Worshipful Grand Lodge

OF THE MOST ANCIENT AND HONORABLE FRATERNITY OF

Free and Accepted Masons

FOR THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

Held in Masonic Hall, Montgomery, Ala., commencing Saturday, June 21st, 1873.

M. W. Grand Master—F. D. TAYLOR, P. O. Box 697, Mobile, Ala.
R. W. Grand Secretary—W. H. McCANTS, P. O. Box 697, Mobile, Ala.



MOBILE:
THOMPSON & POWERS, PRINTERS, 32 NORTH WATER STREET.
1873

TRANSACTIONS.

MONTGOMERY, June 21, 1873.

On this day, appointed for the third annual session of the M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Alabama, a Lodge of Master Masons was opened in the Hall of King Solomon's Lodge No. 4.

Franklin D. Taylor,....M. W. Grand Master.
L. J. Williams,.....R. W. Deputy Grand Master.
B. T. Collins, ...R. W. Grand Senior Warden.
J. T. Cashin,.....R. W. Grand Junior Warden *pro tem.*
C. Blackledge,.....R. W. Grand Treasurer.
W. H. Vaughan,.....R. W. Grand Secretary.
J. H. Kennedy,.....R. W. Grand Senior Deacon *pro tem.*
Simon Burchett,.....R. W. Grand Junior Deacon *pro tem.*
Robert Green,.....R. W. Grand Master of Ceremonies.
T. H. Raymond,.....R. W. Grand Chaplain.
W. H. McCants, ...R. W. Grand Sword Bearer.
G. W. Thomas,.....R. W. Grand Pursuivant *pro tem.*
J. H. Alston,.....R. W. Grand Senior Steward *pro tem.*
T. W. Gorham,.....R. W. Grand Junior Steward.
J. E. James, ...R. W. Grand Tyler *pro tem.*

The Grand Master appointed the following Committee on Credentials:—Bros. G. W. Thomas, T. W. Gorham, and J. T. Cashin, who reported the following legal representatives:—Rob't Green, W. M., W. H. McCants, S. W. and G. W. Thomas, J. W. of Olive Branch Lodge, No. 1; Charles Blackledge, W. M., W. H. Vaughan, S. W. and T. H. Raymond, J. W., of Hiram Lodge, No. 3; L. J. Williams, W. M., C. C. Bennefield, S. W. and T. W. Gorham, J. W. of King Solomon's Lodge, No. 4.

REPRESENTATIVES TO FOREIGN GRAND LODGES.

W. H. Vaughan, Tennessee, Delaware and Pennsylvania; Charles Blackledge, Florida; S. S. Ashe, District of Columbia and Ohio; F. D. Taylor, Louisiana and Arkansas.

The Grand Master then proceeded to appoint the following Committees:

On Foreign Communications.—Bros. Wm. H. Vaughan, John Orlando Roberson, and J. T. Cashin.

On Accounts and Claims.—Bros. L. J. Williams, Chas. Blackledge and W. H. McCants.

On Work.—Bros. W. H. Vaughan, George W. Thomas and James H. Alston.

On Dispensations and Charters.—Bros. Benjamin T. Collins, W. V. Turner and J. H. Kennedy.

On Unfinished Business.—Bros. William H. Councill, W. H. McCants and Joseph E. James.

On Ways and Means.—Bros. L. J. Williams, Robert Green and Charles Blackledge.

On Grievances.—Bros. Thos. H. Raymond, William Vaughan Turner and W. H. Councill.

On Grand Master's Address.—Bros. William H. Vaughan, L. J. Williams and Benjamin T. Collins.

On Returns of Lodges.—Bros. Benjamain T. Collins, W. H. Councill and Rob't Green.

On Constitution and By-Laws.—Bros. Rob't Green, William V. Turner and John T. Cashin.

On Jurisprudence.—Bros. Charles Blackledge, L. J. Williams and Joseph E. James.

On Pay Roll.—Bros. John T. Cashin, Charles Blackledge and William H. Vaughan.

Hour of Meeting.

Bro. W. H. McCants offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the meetings of this Grand Lodge be held as follows: from 9½ o'clock A. M. to 1 o'clock P. M., and from 3 o'clock P. M. to 6 o'clock P. M.

The Grand Master delivered the following Address:

Brethren of the Fraternity:

We are permitted again to assemble for the fourth time in the capacity of a Grand Lodge, and myself, your humble servant, acting as Grand Master—which position I have, to the best of my ability, filled to the interest of the Craft—but with what amount of satisfaction I am unable to say; however, I hope the Craft will overlook my shortcomings and take the will for the deed.

Since we last assembled, many or our kind friends and beloved associates have fallen by the way, yet we should return our heartfelt thanks for the many blessings which we have enjoyed since we last met.

Let us be stimulated to press forward in the path of duty, not turning to the right nor to the left, but striving ever to keep in view those true masonic virtues "brotherly love, relief and truth." Let our charity extend to all created beings upon the face of the habitable globe; then can it be said that we are masons indeed; then will the time come when vice, malice and hatred will pass away as a vapor before the breeze.

I regret to announce to you that dire necessity has compelled me to suspend the St. John's Lodge, No. 2, after every effort had been exhausted to save such action; that body, in direct violation of masonic law, holding a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of the Missouri Compact, while working under the Grand Lodge of this State by warrant. After their suspension, they were visited by one R. W. Lawton, claiming to be the Grand Master of Missouri, but what has since become of him or them, I am unable to say. I would further state that the jewels, moneys and implements of St. John's Lodge have never been secured, on account of the individual dishonesty of its Master.

You will pardon your humble servant for alluding to the National Compact, (so called,) which is crumbling to dust—and seeing the fast decaying, self-constituted useless innovation, I resolved not to let it die without giving it a passing notice, as it is my opinion, we will not long be troubled with that illegal body, which took its rise in 1847. Some of its most zealous supporters are now counseling their votaries to cease adhereing to the grand humbug and establish Grand Lodges in keeping with our Ancient Rules and Regulations. We will then be united into one common band of friends and brethren.

My correspondence has been very interesting, though not very large, among which, are the following Lodges, viz: Arkansas, Michigan and Ontario; the latter was formed October 22d, 1872, and the Grand Officers installed by M. W. G. Master W. T. Boyd, of Ohio. I respectfully recommend that this Grand Lodge pass suitable resolutions of welcome to them. I have appointed the proper representatives near those Grand Bodies, while they have made their appointments near this.

I have had correspondence with the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, Florida, Tennessee, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Michigan, California, District of Columbia and the Grand Orient of France.

This year, I am proud to say, has been fraught with good for the fraternity; the genuine principles of Masonry are being diffused, while innovations of whatever nature, are fast decaying—though the whites maintain the stubborn resistance toward acknowledging the colored Free Masons. My brethren, let us rejoice, notwithstanding that the time is not far distant, when every Mason of whatever shade or complexion will unite in the grand design of communicating happiness. Much has been said by our white brethren concerning our affiliation with the Grand Orient of France, which body is established upon the true principles of Ancient Craft Masonry, which regards no man or set of men on account of nationality, but looks upon the institution (as founded by our forefathers, and handed down to us by tradition—not as a national institution, if it had been, it would have long since lost its virtue,) but as an universal order, recognizng all men who would be the suppressors of vice and the inculcators of virtue.

I have visited all the Lodges in this jurisdiction, and find them all in a healthy condition, their numbers have been greatly augmented, with care has the timber been selected.

I regret to announce that our outer door has been alarmed during this masonic year by the grim monster death, and removed from our midst our dear and beloved brethren R. F. Butler and R. W. Simon Bartlett, Grand S. D., both of Olive Branch Lodge, No. 1; and we find that our sister Grand Lodges has suffered to great extent. Tennessee has lost one of her brightest lights in the demise of Bro. Oliver Thompson, of Rock City Lodge, Nashville. Permit me to call your attention to the death of Bro. Nelson Cook, of Olive Branch Lodge, San Francisco, California—he was a devoted christian. I respectfully recommend that a suitable place in these proceedings be inscribed to their memory. Their walk in life was an assurance that they dwell in that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are forever at rest. Let us do our duty as Masons, though others fail, then can we enjoy the happy reflection consequent upon a well spent life, and die in the hope of a glorious immortality.

This world's to them a shadow,
They have not worked in vain,
They've climbed the top of Jacob's Ladder,
They therefore heaven hath gained.

To dwell forever with the just,
In peaceful, joyful love,
Where all good Masons hope to rest,
In the Grand Lodge above.

I respectfully recommend the repeal of Article IX, Sec. 3—all therein contained, empowering the Grand Lodge to levy a tax of Two Dollars for Diplomas, and One Dollar be inserted in lieu thereof—also, Sec. 5 of Article X, so that the charge may not exceed Forty Dollars,—Ministers of the Gospel excepted—by so doing, it would in my opinion, conduce to the interest of the Craft, and would disseminate the Order throughout the interior of the State.

Respectfully submitted,
FRANKLIN D. TAYLOR, *Grand Master.*

The Deputy Grand Master submitted the following Address:

To the M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Alabama:

Brethren—again through the benificence of the Supreme Architect of the Universe, to whom we all should with worship and adoration most humbly bow, we are permitted to assemble as a Grand Lodge.

In compliance with the requirements of our Constitution, it becomes my duty to submit a report of my official acts as Deputy Grand Master since the last Annual Communication of this M. W. Grand Lodge.

The principles of Free Masonry having survived through so many ages, it is a pleasure to me to inform you that they are still honored and revered in every civilized community throughout the entire globe, and that in our own State we have received during the present masonic year many valuable acquisitions of good and true men to our brotherhood. Proud am I to inform you that the outer door has been *well guarded* and that the *timber* selected well adapted for the edifice, and by the proper application of the Plumb, Level and Square, doubtless many, if not all of them, after they have ended their labors on this terrestrial sphere, and are called by the Great Grand Master of the Universe to refreshment above, will be admitted into that Celestial Lodge—that house not made with hands, "but eternal in the heavens."

Our M. W. Grand Master has so efficiently discharged the functions devolving upon him officially, that there has been very little for me to do as Deputy Grand Master.

I have granted the following Dispensations to King Solomon's Lodge, No. 4, to initiate, pass and raise the following named persons, residents of Montgomery, being deemed cases of emergency:—J. K. Green. T. L. Ivey and Pat Mosely; and to enter, pass and raise the following from Greenville, Ala.:—H. S. Storey and Joseph Robinson, who were desirous of having a Lodge in their city subject to this jurisdiction.

While I am opposed to innovations, or even infringements upon the long established and ancient landmarks of our time-honored institution, I deemed the cases indicated as proper ones, in the absence of the Grand Master, for the exercise of my prerogative as Deputy Grand Master, and went forward in the discharge of my plain and indispensable duty and granted dispensations.

In conclusion, I would say, "Freemasonry" is an institution based on the never failing charity which upholds universal love, calms the troubled sea of our evil passions and leaves a smooth surface, in which all men who are sincere and conscientious worshipers of God, and unexceptionable in moral deportment, may unite, bless each other, and practically realizing the sublime sentiment that God hath made mankind one mighty brotherhood—Himself their Master—and the world His Lodge.

Respectfully submitted,

L. J. WILLIAMS, *Deputy G. M.*

The Secretary and Treasurer submitted their reports, as follows:

Grand Secretary's Report.

Montgomery, June 21st, 1873.

W. H. Vaughan, in account with the Grand Lodge of Alabama:

1872.					Dr.	
June 24.	To	Dues of	Olive Branch Lodge			$ 20 50
" "	"	"	St. John's	"		29 75
" "	"	"	Hiram	"		29 00
" "	"	"	King Solomon's Lodge			25 75
Sept. 9.	"	Cash	from Minutes			6 75
Feb. 5.	"	"	from Dues			7 00
May 5.	"	"				50
" "	"	"	from Diplomas			24 00
" "	"	"	"	"		18 00
June 6.	"	"	"	"		4 00
						$164 25
		To balance on hand at last report				1 70
						$165 95

1872.				Cr.	
June 24.	By	Fare for Delegates			$ 20 00
" "	"	Order No.	2, Ice		50
" "	"	"	3, to Grand Secretary		21 00
" "	"	"	4. Stationery		25
July 23.	"	"	5, "		50
" 27.	"	"	6, "		1 50
" 29.	"	"	7, Envelopes		1 00
Aug. 29.	"	"	8, Printing Proceedings		50 00
Sept. 9.	"	"	9, Purchasing one dozen Diplomas		15 00
Oct. 22.	"	"	10, Envelopes		1 00
1873.					
Feb. 5.	"	"	11, Lock and Notice		4 00
" 11.	"	"	12, Envelopes		1 00
April 3.	"	"	13, Post Office Box		2 50
" 15.	"	"	14, Stamps,		1 00
" 29.	"	"	15, "		1 00
May 1.	"	"	16, "		50
" 29.	"	"	17, G. M. for Stamps		1 25
" "	"	"	18, Envelopes and Desk		4 60
					$126 60
	By balance on hand,				39 35
					$165 95

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. VAUGHAN, *Grand Secretary.*

Grand Treasurer's Report.

Montgomery, June 21st, 1873.

Grand Treasurer in account with the Grand Lodge of Alabama:

1872.			Dr.	
June 24.	To	Balance on hand		$ 1 70
" "	"	Cash		56 75
" "	"	"		20 50
" "	"	"		27 75
Sept. 9.	"	"		6 25
Nov. 20.	"	"		7 00
1873.				
May 5.	"	"		24 00
" "	"	"		18 00
" 29.	"	"		2 00
June 4.	"	"		2 00
				$165 95

1872.				Cr.	
June 24.	By	Order No.	1		$ 20 00
" "	"	"	2		50
" "	"	"	3		21 00
" "	"	"	4		25
July 13.	"	"	5		50
" 23.	"	"	6		1 50
" 29.	"	"	7		1 00
Aug. 29.	"	"	8		50 00
Sept. 9.	"	"	9		15 00
Oct. 22.	"	"	10		1 00
1873.					
Feb. 5.	"	"	11		4 00
" 11.	"	"	12		1 00
April 2.	"	"	13		2 50
" 14.	"	"	14		50
" 28.	"	"	15		1 00
May 2.	"	"	16		1 00
" 29.	"	"	17		2 00
June 14.	"	"	18		3 85
" 19.	"	Balance on hand			39 35
					$165 95

Respectfully submitted,

C. BLACKLEDGE, *Grand Treasurer.*

Received and referred to Committee on Accounts.

The Junior Warden observed the time, and called the Grand Lodge from labor to refreshment.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

SATURDAY, June 21st, 1873.

Grand Master presiding.

Visitors—R. Mastin, W. H. Councill.

Prayer by the Grand Chaplain.

Roll called. Minutes read, corrected and approved.

Committee on Foreign Communications submitted their report, as follows:

To the M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Alabama:

Your Committee to whom was referred the Foreign Correspondence, beg leave to state that they have, during this masonic year, endeavored to have correspondence with all known Grand Lodges, wherever held, but in this they have failed to some extent. They have, however, been in communication with the following:

ARKANSAS.

This is a new body on the roll of Grand Lodges, having been formed as late as March 31st, 1873, when the following proclamation was issued:

OFFICE OF THE GRAND SECRETARY,
LITTLE ROCK, ARK., May 5th, 1873.

To all Grand Lodges of Masons—Greeting:

KNOW YE, That on the 31st day of March, Anno Lucis 5873, the Worshipful Masters, Past Masters and Wardens of three regularly warranted Lodges of Ancient York Masons, located in the State of Arkansas, viz: J. M. Alexander Lodge, No. 4, of Helena; Richmond Lodge, No. 10, of Little Rock; Widow's Son Lodge, No. 18, of Fort Smith; being met in convention in the City of Little Rock, did, pursuant to instructions from their respective Lodges, proceed to form the Grand Lodge aforesaid, and to elect and install the officers thereof in due and ancient form, as follows:

Wm. H. Grey,.....M. W. Grand Master.
Henry C. George.....R. W. D. G. Master.
Wesley F. Lewis.....R. W. S. G. Warden.
Arthur Armstead.....R. W. J. G. Warden.
A. L. Richmond.....R. W. G. Treasurer.
J. C. Corbin.....R. W. G. Secretary.

Wherefore, the M. W. G. L. of A. Y. Masons for the State of Arkansas, doth, by these presents, make known the facts herein, that the brethren, wherever assembled, having due and timely notice, may govern themselves accordingly. Fraternally, &c.

Your Committee would state that representatives have been exchanged, and the most fraternal feeling exists between us, and we are proud to record that they stand a just and upright Grand Lodge, and we hail them with joy. We also recommend that suitable resolutions be passed, welcoming them to the sisterhood.

CANADA.

The Grand Lodge of Ontario like that of Arkansas has been formed during this masonic year, and quite ahead of some of our grey headed sisters, has printed and sent abroad her proceedings, in which we find the following circular:

Pursuant to the call for a Convention of all the Master Masons of the Province of Ontario, assembled in the town of Chatham, in the Hall of St. John's Lodge, No. 9, October 22d, 1872, the Convention was called to order by E. C. Cooper, Chairman of the Committee, who read the following call.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

"An appeal to the Masons of the Province of Ontario, for a Convention to be held in the Town of Chatham, on the 22d day of October, A. D. 1872, for the purpose of organizing a Grand Lodge for the Province of Ontario."

"We, the undersigned, offer the following as just and lawful reasons why a Convention of Free and Accepted Masons should be held:

1st. Because we have no legally acknowledged Grand Lodge in Ontario.

2d. Because there are four different Grand Lodges holding jurisdiction over subordinates in said province, which is a violation of the ancient landmarks of masonry.

3d. Therefore, we deem it expedient that all the Masons of this Province should be thoroughly united and working under the jurisdiction of one legally acknowledged Grand Lodge."

Therefore, the undersigned Masons and members of the different Lodges named, do most earnestly solicit your attendance at the above named Convention, and there and then, by virtue of three warranted Lodges, we do organize and establish a Grand Lodge for the Province of Ontario, according to ancient usages and the established landmarks of the order, which shall be sovereign within itself."

These, your Committee would state, are the reasons laid down in said circular.

They went forward and established their Grand Lodge in due and ancient form.

This circular is signed by the Masters, Wardens and members of three warranted Lodges. In the Convention appeared afterward, members and Wardens of ten different Lodges. They held an election, and Rev. Benjamin Steward was elected G. M., I. Holden, D. G. M., Wm. T. Plummer, Grand Secretary.

R. W. Brother J. F. Scott is our Representative near the Grand Lodge of Ontario.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Your Committee have before them the Grand Officers of this Grand Lodge, but their proceedings they did not print; therefore, your Committee cannot say much concerning them. We give you a list of the Grand Officers as sent to us by the Grand Secretary:

M. W. John F. Cook, Grand Master, R. W. John Battle, Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Wm. A. Talliaferro, Senior Grand Warden, R. W. Wm. P. Ryder, Grand Treasurer, R. W. John G. Goines, Grand Secretary.

DELAWARE.

This Grand Lodge did not print her proceedings, the business transacted at the last Convention being altogether of a local nature.

They have set up a new Lodge in the City of Wilmington.

The Grand Master elect is Rev. Peter S. Williams. E. H. Anderson, Sr. the efficient Grand Secretary, was re-elected.

The Grand Lodge of Delaware stands formost among her sisters; may she ever live and prosper. Statistics, ten Lodges, membership not given.

FLORIDA.

Your Committee has been in correspondence with this Grand Lodge during the first part of the year, but toward the latter part they have failed to answer. R. W. Brother R. Kinlock, the Grand Secretary, is our Representative near the Grand Lodge of Florida.

From what we can learn, they are in a prosperous condition, peace and harmony prevailing, the Nationals are fast decaying in that jurisdiction, and your Committee look forward to the day when there will not be found one to advocate its cause.

ILLINOIS (NATIONAL.)

Your Committee have before them the printed proceedings of this Grand Lodge, a neat pamphlet of thirty-five pages, containing an account of their doings for 1872.

At that communication the following resolutions were offered by Brother John Jones:

"WHEREAS, it became patent to all well informed Masons that there cannot exist legally any masonic power above a State Grand Lodge; and,

WHEREAS, the so-called M. W. N. G. L. has arrogated to itself the supreme masonic authority of these United States, and thereby making the State Grand Lodges and Grand Masters subordinate to the said Compact: and,

WHEREAS, all masonic authority, both ancient and modern, have decided and now maintain that a State Grand Lodge when in session is supreme in the State and its jurisdiction, and when not in session, the Grand Master assumes supreme power and authority; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Illinois and its jurisdiction, now working under the M. W. N. G. L. of the United States of America, after paying all dues to the date of this session, will, and do by these resolutions, absolve all relations and connection whatsoever with the above named Compact;

Resolved, That this Grand Lodge and its subordinates will and do recognize all genuine Masons, after due trial, strict examination, or lawful information, wheresoever we find them.

Resolved, That the M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Illinois do by these resolutions instruct the M. W. Grand Master to be elected at this communication, to notify the M. W. N. G. Secretary, by sending him a copy of these resolutions, or cause the same to be done, of the action of this M. W. Grand Lodge.

Resolved, That this M. W. Grand Lodge do order the warrant and all dues or money that may be owed to or claimed by the M. W. N. Grand

Lodge to be forwarded to that Compact, if such a body of Masons can be found, without delay.

Resolved, That this M. W. Grand Lodge call a Convention to convene on —— date and place, for the purpose of organizing an independent Grand Lodge for the State of Illinois and its jurisdiction."

These resolutions were laid on the table, to be brought up at the next session of the Grand Lodge.

Statistics—12 Lodges, 343 members.

INDIANA.

This Grand Lodge has been formed nearly two years, and your Committee is sorry to say that they have never received a line from them, though they have written to the Grand Secretary, Brother John G. Britton, several times, but from some cause or other he has failed to answer, and knowing none of the other Grand Officers, we could get no information from them.

LOUISIANA.

This Grand Lodge is one among the oldest of the independents, has three Lodges under its jurisdiction, all situated in the City of New Orleans—membership not given. It is impossible for your Committee to say anything concerning their proceedings, as it seems next to impossible to get a letter from our Louisiana Brethren, and your Committee would here state that this prevails to a great extent among our brethren of the West. We do not think that there is a more important trust reposed in the Grand Secretary or Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, than to keep the brethren of other jurisdictions informed of their proceedings, except such as pertain to local matters.

MISSOURI.

From this Grand Lodge, or one of its members comes the following circular, recommending their withdrawal from the Compact:

CIRCULAR.

To—— W. M. of——Lodge No.——of A. Y. M.,
Wardens and Brethren—Greeting:

May Brotherly Love and Union Cement our Grand Old Order; may Wisdom, Prudence and Fortitude Guide and Protect the Craft to future Usefulness and Blessings.

Brethren, matters of the gravest importance to our well being will be presented for your serious consideration at our next annual communication. The first that will claim our attention are matters pertaining to the National Grand Lodge. You will remember when we assembled in our last Grand Communication, it was the general supposition the National would not meet again; many believed that we had seen the last of her work, when they illegally closed at Chicago, October, A. D, 1871.

Brethren, we were mistaken. The National, or what purports to be that body, after laying dormant seventeen months, was called to meet in the City of Philadelphia, March 10th, 1873. But how the mighty had fallen! Out of nineteen Grand Lodges that composed the National Grand

Lodge, there were but eight that were present by representatives—ONLY EIGHT. Where were the majority? Gone and declared their independence, and severed their allegiance to that useless body. And now they are Grand Lodges indeed, and not shadows.

Brethren, it is well known that for several years I earnestly supported the continuance of the National, believing that it was established for the good of the craft, and that its perpetuity would be a lasting benefit to Masonry. But the action of that body in their Eighth Triennial Session, held in the city of Chicago, was so foreign to the true principals of Free Masonry, that I was caused to enter into an impartial investigation of the intention, meaning and objects of this innovation. The following plain questions were suggested to my thoughts for answers, and I now submit them to you, as true members of the craft, for your decision.

QUESTIONS.

1st. What is the National Grand Lodge?

2d. For what purpose was it organized?

3d. What position does the National Grand Lodge hold to Ancient Craft Masonry?

4th. Of what benefit is the National Grand Lodge to A. Y. Masons?

5th What are the powers of the National Grand Lodge?

6th. Can the National Grand Lodge prevent Grand Lodges now under her authority from throwing off the yoke?

7th. How will it affect a Grand Lodge to withdraw from the control of the National Grand Lodge?

8th. Is it possible for the National Grand Lodge to continue to exist in its present form?

9th. Can two Grand Lodges exist in one State or Territory and both be legal?

ANSWERS AND CONCLUSIONS.

1st. The National Grand Lodge holds jurisdiction over and subordinates Grand Lodges.

2d. In the declaration of sentiments adopted by the convention of 1847, (consisting of the following Grand Lodges: Grand Lodge of Boston, First African Grand Lodge, and Hirum Lodge of Boston,) the only real matter expressed was to grant warrants to all State Grand Lodges. But its true working shows it to have been organized to give the Grand Lodge, the Grand Chapter, and the Grand Encampment of Pennsylvania, control over all Masonic bodies in the United States. Examine for yourselves.

3d. I have traced the organization of Grand Lodges to their source, and I cannot find in any country, or at any time in Masonic history, where a Grand Lodge held jurisdiction over Grand Lodges; hence, we cannot arrive at any other conclusion than that our *National* is a grand innovation.

4th. A strict and impartial examination into the history of the *National*, shows that it has never been any benefit to Masonry; it has never advanced our interest with the Free and Accepted Masons (white) of the United States, nor has it helped us any in Europe, Asia or Africa; while some of our State Grand Lodges are in correspondence with most of the Grand Lodges of Europe and Asia, the National remains inactive; on the

contrary, it has been a bone of contention ever since its organization; it has succeeded in keeping us divided and in continual confusion.

5th. We have only to examine the Constitution of the National, adopted October A. D. 1868, to see that its power is complete over all Grand Lodges that acknowledge its authority. The National Grand Master can enter your Grand Lodge and assume full control; he has the power to suspend your work, or to arrest your warrant, and the National Grand Lodge can blot your Grand Lodge out of existence. With this power over us, are we a Grand Lodge, or are we a grand subordinate? Look well and then answer.

6th. This question has been discussed at large in the last few years. So many Grand Lodges have severed their connection with the National, and declared their independence, and so many good reasons have been given, all proving that the National is powerless to prevent when a Grand Lodge wishes to withdraw its allegiance, I wish to give this plain reason why we should throw off the National yoke—it is that the National is an innovation, plainly proven by Masonic history. We cannot and must not encourage an innovation. A higher power than a Grand Lodge is unknown in Masonry. This you well know. No obligation can bind a *Free Mason* to support and perpetuate an innovation. Mark well and hear.

7th. The effect of our withdrawal from the National will place us in our proper position as a Grand Lodge, with the power and prerogatives that only belong to Grand Lodges, with nothing to hamper our onward progress in the Grand design. We will at once take our place by the side of the following progressive and successful Grand Lodges:

Ohio, Pennsylvania, (Hirum G. L.) Alabama, Delaware, (Hirum G. L.) California, District of Columbia, Florida, Louisiana, (Eureka G. L.) New York, Ontario, C. W., Tennessee, Virginia, Michigan, Indiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, (African G. L.), New Jersey, (Union G. L.)

The above sovereign Grand Lodges are not trammelled or hampered by the National. Free and independent they are. It is the only true position for a Grand Lodge. Well may we be proud of the brilliant prospects of most of these Grand Lodges, with large number of subordinates and membership. Remember they are our brothers.

8th. We can only compare the past with the future in this case. When the National was organized, it met with strong opposition from a large number of brethren, who doubted the legality and and regularity of its erection. Every year adds to the number that oppose the National: each year the National gets weaker. Grand Lodge after Grand Lodge drops out. This year we find the sovereign Grand Lodges largely in the majority. The truth is, the better the honest Masons become acquainted with the laws, rules and regulations of our *time honored institution*, the more thoroughly he is convinced that the National Grand Lodge has no true masonic ground to stand on, and it is plain to every intelligent Mason that it must soon be a thing of the past, and ever remain a monument in history of the grandest mistake we, as A. Y. Masons, ever made. So mote it be.

9th. This question needs no lengthy argument. The history of Grand Lodges show and speak for themselves. Two Grand Lodges have and do

exist in many countries and States. One may call the other illegal, but that does not make it so. A Grand Lodge that is properly erected, is legal under the true intent and meaning of the landmarks, to which I refer you.

You will remember that we passed a vote of censure on Capt. Wm. D. Matthews, the Putative Grand Master for the Grand Lodge of Kansas, at our last communication, for his many unmasonic acts, *with certain penalties*. I am sorry to say that our executive officer has failed to execute it, in any part, thus ignoring and making null and void the unanimous action of our Grand Lodge. This emboldens Matthews to come out in a pamphlet, in what he (Matthews) purports to be an answer to the Chairman of the Committee, and the Grand Lodge for Missouri. This pamphlet is a model in its way. It is *Capt. Wm. D. Matthews*, and proves him to be all that he was thought to be—a notorious *traducer, calumniator*, and a *maker of calumny*. He is in every way an unfit associate for true Masons and gentlemen. In this pamphlet he takes occasion to threaten the Grand Lodge for Missouri, as well as to *calumniate* some of its subordinate officers; and still we hear nothing from our Grand Head, either in defence of the Grand Lodge or its subordinates. It is plain that Matthews must receive aid from the National Grand Lodge, or he would never try to trample on the Grand Lodge for Missouri. It will be your business at our next session to speak in a way that will not be misunderstood.

The M. W. Grand Lodge for Missouri is losing its prestige as a leading Grand Lodge; this is so plain that all can see it. Brethren, this must not be! We are proud of our past success, and a glorious future is before us if we will only have it. *Mark well*, and let your actions at our next session tell. Make no pledge to any person, but when you meet act for the best interest of the craft. Instruct your delegates for the best good, that our Grand Lodge may receive the respect and commendation of every true brother of the right hand. Come to the Grand Lodge fully prepared to act on the above suggestions. May T. G. A. O. T. U. guide and protect you in this hour of our utmost need.

Yours, fraternally,

MOSES DICKSON, P. G. M.

We have their proceedings of 1872 before us, showing a membership of nearly one thousand, and yet the Treasury seems to be in a precarious condition, showing a balance of eight dollars and a few cents. They also contain lengthy arguments between Bro. Clark and the Editor of one of the papers in the City of LaCrosse. This your Committee feel inclined to condemn. We would say to Bro. Clark, in the language of the Scriptures, "let them alone, for Ephraim is joined to his idols."

MICHIGAN.

We bring before you this Grand Lodge, formed during this masonic year by convention held in the City of Detroit, September 23d, 1872. We have before us their proceedings, in which we find the following preamble and resolutions:

WHEREAS, On account of the numerous innovations and schisms that have crept among us as a body of Masons, from various causes, we laid ourselves open to criticism; and

WHEREAS, Those to whom we have looked as our leaders have been leading us according to the dictates of the so-called National Grand Lodge, until we find ourselves stripped of all means of affording charity to the weary sojourner, and relieving the distresses of the widow and orphans of a deceased brother Master Mason; and

WHEREAS, We, as adherents to the so-called National Grand Lodge are forbid to hold masonic communication with our brethren of the District of Columbia, Florida, Tennessee, Louisana, Ohio and various other Lodges; and

WHEREAS, we believe that we have the inalienable right to choose with whom we will associate, without the dictation of any one man; and

WHEREAS, the National Grand Lodge does not appear to us to advance our recognition as Masons before the Grand Lodges of the world, in any proportion greater than those who do not adhere to that innovation; and

WHEREAS, we are claimed to be irregular, clandestine and spurious, and in order to correct any irregularity that may accrue, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the M. W. Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons for the State of Michigan, is forever declared dissolved and defunct by us.

Resolved, That we do now organize a Sovereign State Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of Michigan, and that all Lodges holding charters from the defunct Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons will, upon surrender of said charters to this Grand Lodge, receive a warrant or charter from this Grand Lodge at the nominal cost of the documents.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to draft a Constitution and Code of By-Laws to be submitted to the Lodges for their adoption; and said Constitution to be printed with the proceedings of this Assembly, and if it receive the sanction of three-fourths of the Lodges adhering to this Grand Lodge, then it shall be by the Grand Master declared the Constitution and By-Laws of the same, and shall be in full force from such promulgation of the Grand Master.

Resolved, That we do now perfect the organization by the election of a Grand Master, D. G. M., S. G. W., J. G. W., G. T. and Grand Secretary, and the other necessary appointed officers pertaining to a Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.

Resolved, That the transactions of this assembly be printed as soon as possible and forwarded to all the Grand Lodges on the face of the globe, asking their acknowledgement and approbation, and for the correctness of our intentions and the purity of our motives we do ask sanction of the G. A. O. T. U., and all true Free and Accepted Masons, wherever dispersed.

These resolutions were received and adopted.

The Grand Lodge of Michigan having been formed according to ancient law and usage, then proceeded to hold their first communication, September 23d, 1872. Past Grand Master, H. D. Vena, thereupon installed M. W. H. J. Lewis as Grand Master.

The report of the committee on Foreign Correspondence is a lengthy document reviewing the proceedings of seven Grand Lodges, and is from the pen of Bro. J. F. Rickards. Wilmot A. Johnson, Grand Secretary.

MARYLAND.

This Grand Lodge did not print her minutes. Your Committee has been in correspondence with them during the year. Their business at the last session was altogether of a local nature. We have before us the list of Officers elected, as follows: M. W. Lemuel G. Griffin, Grand Master, R. W. David B. Nelson, Deputy Grand Master, J. H. Owens, R. W. Senior Grand Warden, Benjamin Nicholson, R. W. Junior Grand Warden, John H. Scott, R. W. Grand Treasurer, Daniel S. Ringgold, R. W. Grand Secretary, Baltimore.

OHIO.

Your Committee have before them the proceedings of this Grand Lodge for 1872, a document well worthy of perusal from beginning to ending. The report on Foreign Correspondence is from the pen of M. W. Bro. W. T. Boyd, the able writer of Ohio, and covers sixty-four pages, reviewing the proceedings of thirty-three Grand Lodges, giving credit to a few, while severely censuring the remainder. Your Committee suffered somewhat at his hands themselves.

The proceedings contain an address from Bro. Boyd, which should be read by all Masons, in which is devoted considerable space to the memory of our departed associates. Your Committee feel it their duty to lay before you the latter clause of the address in particular, which reads as follows:

"I am, therefore, the more earnest to have us come up to the full stature of perfect manhood in all our actions—that our work be approved by all Masons everywhere; that we 'shall work honestly on working days, that we may live creditably on holy days.' That honesty, sobriety and all that is honorable characterize our actions. 'I would have you seek honorable avocations.'"

This part of the address your Committee recommend to the especial notice of all the brethren in this jurisdiction as well as elsewhere.

Ohio, though one among the older Grand Lodges, is still green with youth, and to her may the enquiring mason turn for information at any time, and rest assured that he will always receive it. Under her jurisdiction is 32 warranted Lodges and 18 U. D., making in all 50 Lodges; membership 995. Bro. Boyd was re-elected M. W. Grand Master, and R. W. J. R. Blackburn Grand Secretary.

The grim monster Death has invaded her ranks during this masonic year, and removed from their midst that distinguished Jurist, R. W. Bro. John Cousins. In his death the Grand Lodge of Ohio has lost one of her most valuable members. "Peace to his ashes."

PENNSYLVANIA.

Your Committee have before them the minutes of this Grand Lodge, containing the proceedings held December 16th, 5872. The business transacted at that communication being altogether of a local nature, your Committee do not deem it necessary to lay it before your honorable body.

The Corresponding Secretary, Bro. J. D. Kelly, reviews the proceedings of thirteen Grand Lodges—Alabama included—and says of us, "We have tried to open correspondence with the Grand Lodge of Alabama, but up to the present time we have not received an official reply to our letters." Perhaps the brother does not consider a letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence official, for it is in the knowledge of the Chairman of said Committee that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, with a great many others, have been so informed—and the answers from them—Pennsylvania with them—for your Committee now have the letter before them.

The address of the Grand Master is short, and pertains to his own jurisdiction only. There are three pages dedicated to the memory of the following Bros.: Frank Vaughan, Grand Secretary of Alabama, Emanuel Cohen, Grand Tyler of the Grand Lodge, and Samuel P. Saunders, Past Grand Tyler.

Statistics—22 Lodges—membership 691.

Bro. Jonathan Miller was re-elected Grand Master, and R. W. Joshua D. Kelly, Grand Corresponding Secretary.

TENNESSEE.

We have before us the proceedings of this Grand Lodge. The Grand Communication was held Wednesday, June 19th to 20th, 1872, inclusive. The address of Grand Master Nelson McGavock, refers to his own jurisdiction only.

The report on Foreign Correspondence is lengthy, and shows that the Committee has done its duty—reviewing the proceedings of 21 Grand Lodges, and commenting at some length on some of them. That Committee has from appearances, spared no pains to come in correspondence with all the Grand Lodges of the world, for we notice that they mention Africa, Hayti, Ireland, England and France. Bro. Nelson W. McGavock was re-elected Grand Master, and R. W. Bro. Abram Smith, Grand Secretary.

There are five pages dedicated to the memory of the following brethren: R. W. Wm. A. Sumner, Grand Secretary of Tennessee, Frank Vaughan, of Alabama, O. J. Dunn, P. G. M. of Louisiana, Jonas W. Toer, Grand Master of Florida, and Oliver Thompson, of Rock City Lodge, No. 1, of Nashville, Tennessee. The proceedings also contain a lengthy address to all Masons, which is recommended to the brethren everywhere by your Committee. Owing to its length it is not here inserted. The Grand Lodge of Tennessee has under her jurisdiction 10 Lodges with a member- of 157.

VIRGINIA.

Your Committee has never seen the proceedings of this Grand Lodge for 1872, and cannot tell whether they have been printed or not. We have written several letters to the Grand Secretary and Grand Master, but owing to causes unknown to your Committee, some were returned from the Dead Letter Office and others have never been heard from.

FRANCE.

The proceedings of the Grand Orient of France is before us, from June 1872 to May 1873, which we are proud to state we have received regularly. They recognize us as the Grand Lodge of Alabama and speak very highly of us, for which we tender our heartfelt thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. VAUGHAN, Chairman.

Committee on Grand Master's Address submitted the following:

To the M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Alabama:

Your Committee on Grand Master's Address, respectfully report, that they coincide with the Address in full, and recommend that the same be spread upon the minutes.

L. J. WILLIAMS, W. H. VAUGHAN, } Committee.

Report received.

Committee on Work reported as follows:

To the M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Alabama:

Your Committee on Work would respectfully announce that they find a uniform mode of Work practiced in all the Lodges under this jurisdiction.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. VAUGHAN, JOSEPH E. JAMES, } Committee.

Report received.

Committee on Jurisprudence rendered their report, as follows:

To the M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Alabama:

Your Committee on Jurisprudence would respectfully state that they have had the same under advisement, and respectfully recommend a continuance of the use of Mackey's Jurisprudence.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES BLACKLEDGE, L. J. WILLIAMS, JOSEPH E. JAMES, } Committee.

Report received and Committee discharged.

Committee on Dispensations and Charters reported as follows:

To the M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Alabama:

We, your Committee on Dispensations and Charters would respectfully report that there are no Lodges working under Dispensations, and that there is no Warrant to recommend.

Respectfully submitted,

B. T. COLLINS, J. T. CASHIN, } Committee.

Report received.

The returns of the different Lodges were read and received.

The Junior Warden observed the time, and the Lodge was called off.

MORNING SESSION.

MONDAY, June 23d, 1873.

Grand Master presiding.

Visitors—H. Willis, T. B. Goins, S. Burchett, F. Jackson, J. O. Howe, S. Allen, Paul Grigg, J. Caldwell, J. Scroggins, Rev. I. H. Welch.

Prayer by the Rev. W. G. Strong, Grand Chaplain.

Roll called. Minutes read, corrected and approved.

Committe on Returns of Lodges made the following report:

To the M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Alabama:

We, your Committee beg leave to submit the following as our report, We have examined the Returns of the different Lodges, and find them correct.

Respectfully submitted,

B. T. COLLINS, Chairman.

Report received.

RESOLUTIONS.

Bro. W. H. McCants offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That this M. W. Grand Lodge receive and acknowledge the Grand Lodges of the following States:—Arkansas, Michigan and of the Province of Ontario, Canada, and highly commend their course of action.

The following resolution was offered by Bro. Charles Blackledge, and adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Tyler receive the sum of $1.75 per day for his services, and the Grand Secretary $25.00 as his salary.

Bro. Blackledge offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to wait upon the Elder of the A. M. E. Zion Church, in relation to procuring said Church for the installation of the Grand Officers. Committee appointed, as follows: Bros. W. G. Strong, S. Burchett and F. Jackson.

Committee on Constitution and By-Laws submitted their report:

To the M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Alabama:

Your Committee on Constitution and By-Laws, would state that they have examined the By-Laws of the different Lodges, and find them correct.

Bro. McCants offered a resolution, that the fees for conferring the three degrees be reduced to thirty-five dollars. Lost.

The Junior Warden observed the time, and called the Grand Lodge from labor to refreshment.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

MONDAY, June 23d, 1873.

Grand Master presiding.

Prayer by Rev. W. G. Strong, Grand Chaplain.

Roll called. Minutes read, corrected and approved.

The committee appointed to procure the Church for the Installation of Officers, reported as follows:

To the M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Alabama:

Your Committee appointed to wait on the Pastor of the Church, would respectfully state that said Church has been procured, and is now ready for the Grand Lodge whenever they feel disposed to use it.

Respectfully submitted,

W. G. STRONG, Chairman.

Report received.

A resolution was then adopted that the Installation of the Grand Officers take place in the A. M. E. Z. Church at 8 o'clock, Tuesday Evening, and that Bro. I. H. Welch deliver a Masonic Address on that occasion.

Committee of arrangements appointed as follows: Bros. Simon Burchett, W. Stephens and J. H. Alston.

Committee on Accounts submitted their report, as follows.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Alabama:

We, your Committee on Accounts would respectfully report, that we have examined the accounts of this Grand Lodge, as furnished by the Secretary and Treasurer, and find them to be correct.

Respectfully submitted,

L. J. WILLIAMS,
C. BLACKLEDGE,
W. H. McCANTS,
} Committee.

Report received.

PROCEEDINGS TO BE PRINTED.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Proceedings of this Grand Lodge be printed, and that each Subordinate Lodge under this jurisdiction be taxed to defray the expenses of the same, and each Subordinate be entitled to one-fourth of the copies, the others to remain in the hands of the Grand Master.

The hour of 6 having arrived the Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment.

MORNING SESSION.

TUESDAY, June 24th, 1873.

Grand Lodge called to labor at 9½ o'clock A. M.

Grand Master presiding.

Prayer by Rev. I. H. Welch.

Roll called. Minutes read, corrected and approved.

Committee on Unfinished Business made the following report:

To the M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Alabama:

Your Committee on Unfinished Business would respectfully report that the Jewels of the Grand Lodge will cost $135 in Mobile, (15 pieces heavily plated with gold,) and in New York, at any price, with 10 per cent. discount.

W. H. McCANTS, Chairman.

Report received.

RESOLUTIONS.

Bro. McCants offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Lodge bear one-half the expenses of the delegates to this session.

Bro. Green offered a resolution, which was adopted, tendering the thanks of this M. W. Grand Lodge to the officers of the Mobile and Montgomery Railroad, for passing delegates to this session at half fare.

Committee on Ways and Means made the following report:

To the M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Alabama:

Your Committee on Ways and Means beg leave to report that in their judgment there are enough funds on hand to defray the expenses of the Grand Lodge and need no further appropriation.

Respectfully submitted,

L. J. WILLIAMS, Chairman.

Report received.

Committee on Pay-Roll submitted their report, which was received:

To the M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Alabama:

Your Committee would respectfully report that they have examined the Pay-Roll and find the same to be correct.

Respectfully submitted,

J. T. CASHIN,
C. BLACKLEDGE,
W. H. VAUGHAN,
} Committee.

The hour of 1 o'clock having arrived, the Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

TUESDAY, June 24th, 1873.

Grand Master presiding.

Prayer by Rev. W. G. Strong, Grand Chaplain.

Roll called. Minutes read, corrected and approved.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following was offered by Bro. McCants:

Resolved, That the thanks of this M. W. Grand Lodge is hereby tendered to King Solomon's Lodge for the cordial entertainment given to this Grand Lodge during its session.

Adopted.

By Bro. Blackledge:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Grand Lodge is hereby tendered to Rev. Allen Hannon, for the gratuitous use of the Church.

Adopted.

Resolved, That the next annual session of this Grand Lodge be held in the City of Mobile, unless the Grand Master should see fit to do otherwise.

Adopted.

A resolution was passed repealing Section 5 of Article x, and Section 5 of Article x of the Constitution, so as to read $1.00 for Diplomas, in lieu of $2.00, and $40.00 for the three degrees, in lieu of $50.00.

There was a resolution adopted instructing the Secretary to use sufficient pages in the Proceedings to the memory of deceased members.

There appearing no further business, the Grand Lodge went into an election, when the following Officers were elected:

Franklin D. Taylor, Mobile, ... R. W. Grand Master.
L. J. Williams, Mobile, ... R. W. D. Grand Master.
B. T. Collins, Mobile, ... R. W. S. G. Warden.
Robert Green, Mobile, ... R. W. J. G. Warden.
C. Blackledge, Mobile, ... R. W. G. Treasurer.
W. H. McCants, Mobile, ... R. W. G. Secretary.

APPOINTMENTS.

Paul Grigg, Mobile, ... R. W. Grand S. Deacon.
Rev. S. Derry, Montgomery, ... R. W. Grand J. Deacon.
W. H. Vaughan, Mobile, ... R. W. Grand Lecturer.
W. G. Strong, Mobile, ... R. W. Grand Chaplain.
Simon Burchett, Montgomery, ... R. W. Grand Master of C.
Washington Stephens, Montgomery, R. W. Grand Marshal.
J. H. Kennedy, Mobile, ... R. W. Grand S. Bearer.
F. Jackson, Mobile, ... R. W. Grand S. Steward.
Joseph Scoggins, Montgomery, ... R. W. Grand J. Steward.
S. S. Ashe, Mobile, ... R. W. Grand Pursuivant.
Philip Ballard, Mobile, ... R. W. Grand Tyler.

Bros. W. H. Vaughan and J. O. Roberson were removed from the Committee on Foreign Communications, and Bros. William V. Turner, J. T. Cashin and W. H. McCants placed thereon.

The Grand Lodge was closed, and the officers proceeded to the Church, where the following Address was delivered by Rev. Bro. I. H. Welch:

Brethren: In entering upon the performance of the very arduous task, we are considerably perplexed to secure a starting point. The great field into which we are about to enter, presents objects worthy of careful investigation. The most gigantic minds have consumed much time and means to thoroughly master the subject, that claims the calmest and most dispassionate consideration possible. Masonry has been the topic of much discussion by the pen and the most eloquent lips for centuries past.

When we revert to some of the bloody revolutions through which Masonry has passed, we are perfectly astonished that it has maintained an existence. Institutions of various characters have grown up and died since Masonry began to breathe the breath of life. Every institution of which the people have a limited knowledge meets with vigorous opposition, especially from those totally ignorant of its operations.

Our institution, like christianity, has met with persecution that, at times, endangered its interests and the lives of its advocates; her pathway has been stained by the blood of her votaries; her ancient altars have been discolored by the crimson tide—not of bullocks, heifers nor lambs, but by that which coursed its way through the veins of human beings—the blessed ashes of some who have sacrificed their lives for the perpetuity of Masonry as memorials. Those sleeping martyrs to the cause of Masonry went forth bearing precious Masonic seed, but were deprived of returning with sheaves as trophies of their victory. Their survivors have, and are still returning with joy, bringing their sheaves. Those who suffered so intensely for the establishment of Masonry will not lose their reward.

Methinks some who have been elevated to the sublimity of the Masonic mastery will be received among those eternally blessed. By the loss of life, shedding of blood and tears, have many valleys, mountain-sides and plains been consecrated to the cause of masonry. The very violent opposition presented to our institution, has had an accelerative effective upon it. Amid persecution, ridicule and defamation, masonry has exsisted, much to the discomfort of its adversaries. Masonry has surmounted barriers that seemed impassable; wherever civilization has gone with her lighted torch, masonry has followed. Sometimes this illuminating fagot is borne by an adventurer of our order. Masons are accused of making incessant efforts to exalt the design of their organization above that of Christianity; a more malignant accusation could not be hurled against any set of men. No intelligent Mason will try to impress the ignorant that his institution has for its object the salvation of souls. It is a moral nstitution; therefore, has to do with the moral and not with the immortal

nature of man. Religion and Masonry have their specific work, which is performed in very different spheres. There is no war between these two institutions, only where total ignorance reigns in both. We should speak what we know and testify to what we have seen. Whenever masonry claims supernatural influence, then will many of her present votaries turn their backs upon it in disgust. We are happy to say she disclaims any such influence over the soul. The glory of our intstitution depends upon the antiquity and moral purity of its origin. Masonry has an antiquity of which its advocates are proud.

The institution of masonry existed previous to the 15th century in all its ancient purity. Assyria claimed to have had a Lodge in excellent working order, prior to the century just mentioned. From the proficiency made by the Assyrian Lodge in the use of their implements, masonry must have existed years previous. We infer from the shape and variety of jewels common to the order, that it must have existed when men received their first impressions of moulding metals.

Masonry was never designed to be other than a moral institution. Its origin, operations and end are all moral and not christian. Then if morality and antiquity add anything to the worth of an organization, we think we have it strongly in our favor. Our avowed enemies concede that we have antiquity on our side.

Before Columbus entered upon his perilous voyage on the pathless deep, masonry had asserted her right to an existence, and awaited a favorable opportunity to unite the two Continents in masonic bonds. Shortly after the pioneers of America pierced the desert wilds, masonry began to breath upon this Continent.

Inconsistencies are damaging and retarding to the progress of masonry. A high order of consistency should be one of the distinguishing features of masonry. We have groaned under an innovation known as the N. C.; we continued under this unmasonic fixture till the proper light dawned upon us. After the lapse of a few years, many subordinates rose up in strength and threw of the yoke, and are now conforming to what they regard strictly masonic.

The incongruity of the N. C. is obvious to every Mason, but they will not come to the light that their deeds may be made manifest. The time will come when they will love light rather than darkness. The existence of the N. C. is not the outgrowth of intelligence, but of ignorance and ambition. We are persuaded from present indications, that we will yet see one great masonic brotherhood on this Continent. We earnestly hope the time is not far distant, when one Mason will recognize an other as a brother. It is high twelve, brethren, let us lay aside all useless burdens preparatory to the race before us; let us be more consistent, united and brotherly, as the strenuous efforts to defame the character of our institution have not ceased. Strange to say, the assailants of the order seldom do us justice when they abuse the institution—they seize the most shabby and worthless of the order to represent the whole. Is this not flagrant injustice? I hear a voice from conscience, as though from the heights of Mt. Sinai, saying yes. The poorest material in a superstructure

is generally exposed to view. Those whom we would cover with the blanket of charity, render themselves most conspicuous in the community.

What an urgent demand there is for more consistency in the masonic life. We are regarded as being deluded. If this be true, we are comforted to know that we have some of the most intelligent sympathizers the country affords. If masonry is a grand delusion, woe to the clergy, laity, statesmen, and the most profound instructors of the youth. It is said we are in constant communication with the Kingdom of Darkness, and that Satan appears in every masonic hall in the most hideous form. His appearance is not any greater in masonic assembles than in the Church. We ask then, where is it he does not appear in some form, when the great truth has gone forth that he goeth about seeking whom he may destroy. If he cannot be kept out of christian assemblies effectually, how can he be debarred from moral conventions. My prayer is, that masonic recognition in this country will be based upon citizenship, and not upon color or previous condition, or upon manhood in its purest sense. Then will masonry shine in all her moral grandeur, from the Atlantic on the east to the Pacific on the west, and from the proud waters of the Gulf on the south to the cooling lakes on the north. We can rejoice that regions of perpetual summer are enjoying the benefits of Free Masonry.

I. H. WELCH,
Pastor Emmanuel A. M. E. Church, Mobile.

The Officers were then installed as follows:

F. D. Taylor, Mobile, ...M. W. Grand Master.
L. J. Williams, Montgomery, ...R. W. D. Grand Master.
B. T. Collins, Mobile, ...R. W. Grand S. Warden.
Robert Green, Mobile, ...R. W. Grand J. Warden.
C. Blackledge, Mobile, ...R. W. Grand Treasurer.
W. H. McCants, Mobile, ...R. W. Grand Secretary.
Paul Grigg, Mobile, ...R. W. Grand S. Deacon.
S. Derry, Montgomery, ...R. W. Grand J. Deacon.
W. H. Vaughan, Mobile, ...R. W. Grand Lecturer.
W. G. Strong, Mobile, ...R. W. Grand Chaplain.
S. Burchett, Montgomery, ...R. W. Grand Master of C.
W. Stephens, Montgomery, ...R. W. Grand Marshal.
J. H. Kennedy, Mobile, ...R. W. Grand S. Bearer.
F. Jackson, Mobile, ...R. W. Grand S. Steward.
Joseph Scoggins, Montgomery, ...R W. Grand J. Steward.
S. S. Ashe, Mobile, ...R. W. Grand Pursuivant.
P. Ballard Mobile, ...R. W. Grand Tyler.

ATTEST:

WM. H. McCANTS, *Grand Secretary.*

W. H. VAUGHAN, Compiler.

PAY ROLL OF THE GRAND LODGE.

Receipts.

By Olive Branch Lodge, No. 1,	$ 41 50	
" Hiram Lodge, No. 3,	31 50	
" King Solomon's Lodge, No. 4,	29 50	
		$102 50

Disbursements.

To Delegates Fare,	$ 58 00	
" Ice,	75	
" Grand Tyler,	7 00	
" Grand Secretary,	25 00	
		$ 90 75
Balance on hand June 24, 1873,		$ 11 75

Annual Returns of Subordinate Lodges for the year ending June 17th, 1873.

OLIVE BRANCH LODGE, No. 1, MOBILE.

Officers.

R. Green, W. M.
W. H. McCants, S. W.
G. W. Thomas, J. W.
H. P. Washington, Treasurer.
W. B. Taylor, Secretary.
W. L. Ballarial, S. D.
Alfred Williams, J. D.
Albert Wilson, S. S.
——— ——— J. S.
P. Ballard, Tyler.

Members.

B. T. Collins, P. M.
J. H. Bryant, P. M.
S. S. Ashe, P. M.
Henry C. Royal,
R. L. Starr,
C. B. Williams,
J. H. Ashe,
S. Andry,
Green Merritt.
W. H. Bryant,
Lewis Bowen,
Geo. C. Foster,
A. Evans,
C. Davis,
Wm. Littell,
S. B. Somerville,
E. Meggerson,
B. H. Jones,
W. Taylor,
W. Carson,
G. M. Washington,
W. Mason,
A. Evingston,
S. W. Jones,
Lewis Johnson,

Intiated—twelve. Passed—ten. Raised—ten.
Admitted—S. W. Jones, C. Davis.
Suspended—J. T. Collins.
Died—R. F. Butler, Simon Bartlett.

HIRAM LODGE, No. 3, MOBILE.

Officers.

Charles Blackledge, W. M.
W. H. Vaughan, S. W.
T. H. Raymond, J. W.
M. J. Hawkins, Treasurer.
J. E. James, Secretary.
Paul Grigg, S. D.
J. O. Howe, J. D.
J H. Palmer, S. S.
J. Caldwell, J. S.
James Ross, Tyler.
W. G. Strong, Chaplain.

Members.

C. D. Nicholas,
Spencer Allen,
J. W. Armistead,
J. M. Taylor,
T. W. Johnson,
C. Fernandez,
J. Kennedy.
F. Jackson,
F. D. Taylor, P. M.
P. Patterson,
C. Crusette,
E. Madrid,
J. McNeil,
J. O. Roberson, P. M.
Rev. E. D. Taylor,
R. E. Tartt,
Rev. A. C. Fisher,
J. H. Kennedy,
H. J. Pell,

Initiated—eight. Passed—seven. Raised—three.
Admitted—C. Crusette, J. H. Kennedy.

KING SOLOMON'S LODGE, No. 4, MONTGOMERY.

Officers.

L. J. Williams, W. M.
C. C. Bennefield, S. W.
T. W. Gorham, J. W.
M. M. Turner, Treasurer.
T. B. Goines, Secretary.
J. T. Cashin, S. D.
Simon Burchett, J. D.
J. Scoggins, S. S.
T. N. Harris, J. S.
Rob't Mastin, Tyler.
Rev. W. Stephens, Chaplain.

Members.

A. H. Curtis,
Hilliard Willis,
W. V. Turner,
G. W. Cox.
W. H. Councill,
H. S. Storey,
William Coleman,
Jackson Coleman,
Alonzo Mitchell,
J. H. Alston,

Initiated—eleven. Passed—ten. Raised—nine.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GRAND LODGE OF ALABAMA NEAR FOREIGN GRAND LODGES.

Names.	*Residences.*	*Grand Lodges.*
J. C. Corbin,	Little Rock,	Arkansas.
J. F. Scott,	Chatham,	Ontario.
E. H. Anderson,	Wilmington, 820 Buttonwood st.	Delaware.
J. G. Goines,	Washington,	D. C.
W. Merand,	Jacksonville,	Florida,
John Parsons,	New Orleans,	Louisiana.
J. F. Rickard,	Detroit,	Michigan.
Richard Freeman,	Baltimore,	Maryland.
Alfred Holland,	Kaignsville,	New Jersey.
J. L. Winters,	Philadelphia,	Pennsylvania.
W. T. Boyd,	Cleveland,	Ohio.
J. H. Jones,	Petersburg, Box 214,	Virginia.

In Memoriam.

Sacred to the Memory of

R. W. SIMON BARTLETT,

Grand Senior Steward for the State of Alabama.

Died November 25th, 1872.

To the Memory of

REV. RICHARD F. BUTLER,

Died November 2d, 1872,