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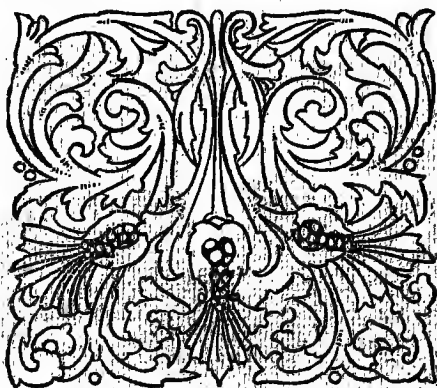
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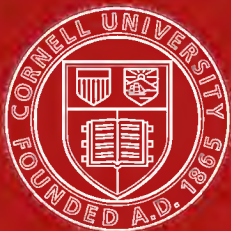
A SKETCH OF
CAPITULAR
MASONRY

DEVELOPED IN ILLINOIS

FROM ITS INTRODUCTION
UNTIL THE YEAR EIGHTEEN
HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE



By GEO. W. WARVELLE, LL. D.
CHICAGO: NINETEEN HUNDREDY



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Dedicated to

EX. COMP. GILBERT W. BARNARD

IN TOKEN OF FRATERNAL ESTEEM AND
REGARD, AND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS
EMINENT QUALITIES AS A MAN AND
MASON

P R E F A C E .

At the Annual Convocation of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Illinois, held at the City of Chicago on October 27, 1898, the Grand High Priest, M. E. Comp. Eugene L. Stoker, in his annual address, directed the attention of Grand Chapter to the approaching semi-centennial anniversary of its organization and recommended the appointment of a committee for preliminary work in connection therewith. The next ensuing Convocation would be the fiftieth in point of numerical arrangement, but fifty years would not, in fact, have elapsed since the date of organization, wherefore he suggested that the celebration should not be held until the annual Convocation of 1900. The recommendation was referred to the Committee on Accounts, which reported back an indorsement of the recommendation and Grand Chapter concurred.

Nothing, however, was accomplished during the year and at the ensuing annual Convocation, held on October 26, 1899, the Grand High Priest, M. E. Comp. Wm. B. Grimes, renewed the suggestion of his predecessor, and recommended that the first four officers of the incoming administration, together with the Grand Secretary, be appointed a committee to take such steps as to them might seem necessary or expedient to carry out the theretofore expressed wishes of Grand Chapter, which recommendation was also concurred in by Grand Chapter. As a result of the annual election the committee became formed of the following Companions: M. E. Comp. Nathaniel Bowditch, R. Ex. Comps. Geo. W. Warvelle, Chas. H. Patton, Alfred A. Whipple, and Gil. W. Barnard.

The Committee, in pursuance of prior instructions and suggestions and after due deliberation, decided to commemorate this epoch of our history by striking a medal, by a memorial volume, and by a fraternal banquet. In the present work they have brought together a brief summary of the introduction of Capitular Masonry into the jurisdiction; a sketch of its development and progress, and the salient features of its history during the last fifty years. To this has been added brief biographical sketches of distinguished members of the craft, both living and dead, who, during the semi-centennial period now ending have been actively engaged in the work of Grand Chapter, and, whenever same could be obtained, their portraits have also been shown. This has been

supplemented by such details of the exercises attending the semi-centennial celebration as in the opinion of the committee were worthy of preservation and perpetual remembrance. The volume is submitted to the craft in the belief that it contains much intrinsic merit and in the hope that it will receive their favorable consideration, and that it will be and remain a lasting memorial of the first fifty years of Royal Arch Masonry in Illinois.

Fraternally submitted,


NATHANIEL BOWDITCH, G. H. P.
GEO. W. WARVELLE, D. G. H. P.
CHARLES H. PATTON, G. K.
ALFRED A. WHIPPLE, G. S.
GIL. W. BARNARD, G. Sec.



A SKETCH OF CAPITULAR MASONRY IN ILLINOIS.

By GEORGE W. WARVELLE.

INTRODUCTION.

OSSIBLY the most profound of all the mysteries of Masonry is the origin of its legendary histories and esoteric liturgies,—that truly wonderful system of moral symbolism and allegorical teaching which we now denominate degrees. We know but little concerning them prior to the last half of the eighteenth century, and much of the knowledge that has come down to us from that period is, at best, but fragmentary tradition. The Masonic romancer has indeed essayed to depict in glowing colors the scenes and incidents that have marked the course of Masonry from primeval man to the present time, but under the piercing light of critical inquiry his pictures have dissolved like frost before the morning sun. The "Legend of the Craft," as preserved in the ancient charges, is probably the only authentic memorial we now possess which antedates the beginning of the year 1700, and this but faintly outlines a very few of the many symbolic allegories that vitalize the esoteric rituals of the Masonry of to-day. Nor have these remarks special reference to the high grades only; they apply to all alike, for the entire system of speculative Freemasonry, as now practiced, contemplates a progressive expansion of but one thought, and that is the sanctity and preservation of the Holy and Ineffable Name. Toward this pivotal principle gravitate all the degrees of Masonry of all rites and systems, and to the elucidation of the mysteries which encompass the subject are they all devoted. Inseparably connected by continuity of thought and design they bear internal evidence of a common origin, and from the meager historical data now at our command we are led to infer that they assumed their present shape about the middle of the eighteenth century.

At the time of the revival, in 1717, there is every reason to believe that there existed no degrees, as that term is now understood, and that the esoteric ceremonials were of the most simple and informal character.

The symbolism was crude and undeveloped and the philosophical teachings scarcely more than a suggestion. The fifty years that next ensued were marked by a restless and ever increasing activity. The schism of 1738 produced a keen rivalry that soon begat competition. The Scottish lodges abandoning their operative character entered the speculative field; Ireland did the same; and soon five grand lodges struggled for supremacy in the British Islands. Then it was that the simple legends that formed the basis of the early ceremonial were eagerly seized upon by the enthusiast, the visionary, and, not infrequently, by the schemer. Allegory and symbol pieced out the fragmentary traditions of the Ancient Craft, and imagination furnished historical evidence where the facts were wanting. Beyond the seas rites and systems arose like the exhalations of magic, and the fundamental ideas of primitive Masonry were expanded to the last stage of attenuation through the extended scale of degrees which in many cases were adopted. These years may well be called the period of the Masonic renaissance. A new impulse was imparted to the fraternity by the development and expansion of its old legends; an impulse that in many cases was made to serve the purposes of the charlatan and trickster, but in the end was productive of the highest good, and from the confused and ill-digested mass that marked this epoch have been evolved the great rites that now dominate the Masonic world.

* * *

With the exception of the three primary degrees of the Symbolic Lodge no degree in Masonry is so well known or widely diffused as that of the Royal Arch. When, where or how it originated is not definitely known, but the favorite theory of the students is, that it was fabricated by one Lawrence Dermott at or about the time of the so-called schism of the fraternity in England. This latter event occurred in the year 1738, and the first mention of the Royal Arch, so far as known, was in the year 1743. It was employed as an adjunct by both of the rival Grand Lodges of England and by them was introduced into the American Colonies, where it continued to be practiced in connection with craft lodges, the lodge warrant serving as a full authority for its conference upon candidates.* Until the latter part of the eighteenth century its government was that of the lodge, but about 1790 a separation commenced to take place. The convocations in which it was conferred were called Chapters, and certain detached degrees as well as new fabrications were about this time added to and included in the chapter jurisdiction. This was largely accomplished through the labors of Thomas Smith Webb, who may with propriety be styled the founder of the American Masonic system. From the fact that the Royal Arch and its subsidiary degrees are conferred in bodies called Chapters they have now come to be generally styled the Capitular Degrees.

* The oldest mention of the degree in the United States occurs in the minutes of Fredericksburg Lodge (Va.), under date of Dec. 22, 1753.

Prior to 1797 the Capitular degrees, in this country, were in a confused and ofttimes chaotic state. With no recognized form of government and no organic connection with each other, the few scattered chapters were without influence or power, and the Masters' Lodges continued to exercise their ancient prerogative of conferring the Royal Arch degree at their pleasure. But in October of this year, at the instigation of Webb, a convention of "committees" from chapters at Boston, Newburyport and Albany met at Boston and addressed a circular to all of the chapters within the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont and New York, inviting them to send delegates to a convention to be held at the city of Hartford, Connecticut, the year following, for the purpose of organizing a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and establishing a constitution for the government and regulation of all chapters "that now are or may hereafter be erected within the said States." The convention was held, as proposed, on January 24, 1798, and an organization effected under the name "Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Northern States of America." In 1799 the word "General" was prefixed to the title of the body, and in 1806, on the extension of its territorial jurisdiction, the old title was abolished and in lieu thereof was adopted the name "General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the United States of America," which name it still retains. From this body has emanated nearly all of the State Grand Chapters* and all of the Royal Arch Masonry of the West, including that of Illinois.

* * *

With the re-establishment of the Grand Lodge in 1840 came also a desire for the cultivation of the Capitular degrees. Prior to this time the only bodies within the State were those of the Symbolic Lodge, and "high Masonry" of every description was practically unknown. On July 19, 1841, the first chapter of Royal Arch Masons was organized at the city of Springfield, by virtue of a dispensation from M. E. Comp. Joseph K. Stapleton, the Dep. Gen. Grand High Priest, and on September 17th following, at the triennial session of the General Grand Chapter, a charter was issued to same. Springfield Chapter, No. 1, remained in full possession of the entire State until July 2, 1844, when a dispensation was issued for the formation of a chapter at Chicago. The printed abstract of the transactions of the General Grand Chapter does not show that any charter was granted in pursuance of this dispensation, yet it would seem that on September 12, 1844, at the regular triennial session of that year, a charter did issue for a chapter at Chicago to be known as La Fayette, No. 2. At the succeeding triennial convocation, held in 1847, charters were granted for chapters to be known as Jacksonville, No. 3, Horeh, No. 4 (Henderson), Quincy, No. 5, and Shawneetown, No. 6. These were all of the charters granted by the General Grand Chapter for chapters within this State.

* Every grand chapter in the United States, except Pennsylvania and Virginia, descended from this parent body.

THE GRAND CHAPTER.

1850.

On April 9, 1850, in pursuance of a call issued by William B. Warren, a convention of representatives from all of the chartered chapters in the State, except Shawneetown, No. 6, assembled at the city of Springfield to concert measures for the formation of a Grand Chapter. The meeting was held under the authority of Willis Stewart of Louisville, Ky., G. G. K. of the General Grand Chapter, and the action of the convention was approved by that body at its triennial session in September of the same year.

Comp. Warren was called to the chair and Comp. E. R. Roe was chosen secretary. It was then resolved that the convention do "now proceed to form a Grand Chapter for the State of Illinois," and the organization was completed by the election of the following officers:

W. B. Warren, Jacksonville.....	G. H. P.
J. H. Holton, Quincy.....	D. G. H. P.
J. V. Z. Blaney, Chicago.....	G. K.
Peter Sweat, Peoria.....	G. S.
Mason Brayman, Springfield.....	G. Secy.
Thos. H. Campbell, Springfield.....	G. Treas.
W. S. Hurst, Jacksonville.....	G. M.

By resolution Shawneetown Chapter, upon signifying its assent to the proceedings, was permitted to come into Grand Chapter on equal terms with the other chapters; the By-Laws of the Grand Chapter of Ohio, with slight modifications, were adopted provisionally, and the matter of a constitution was deferred until the regular annual convocation. From the day of the convention until the present time Grand Chapter has met regularly in annual convocation. During the entire period it has enjoyed a career of uninterrupted prosperity and unbroken continuity, and the original six chapters that participated in the organization have been augmented by lawful increase until, at this writing, one hundred and eighty-five are borne upon the roll.

The regular annual convocation was held at Alton, in October of the same year (1850), with Wm. B. Warren presiding and the representatives of four chapters present. The first dispensation for a chapter under the new organization was issued to Comp. Wackerlee, and others, at Meredosia, Morgan county, but inasmuch as the General Grand Chapter, at the time of the formation of Grand Chapter, had dispensations in force in several localities in the State, the chapters so under dispensation were permitted to come in and receive a priority of number on the registry. The chapters availing themselves of this privilege were Peoria, No. 7, Howard, No. 8 (Upper Alton), Stapleton, No. 9 (Rushville), Union, No. 10 (Barry). Meredosia Chapter, therefore, although the first to be created by Grand Chapter, became No. 11, of the registry.

J. H. Holton was chosen Grand High Priest, and J. L. Anderson, Grand Secretary. Jacksonville was selected as the place of permanent location.

1851.

The convocation of 1851 was held at Jacksonville. The provisional constitution was continued in force for another year; the project of a representative fund was considered, and all chapters in the jurisdiction were ordered not to confer the degrees of Royal and Select Master.

J. V. Z. Blaney was elected G. H. P., and Harman G. Reynolds, Grand Secretary—a position he continued to occupy for many years afterwards.

1852.

At the convocation of 1852, held as before, at Jacksonville, neither one of the first three officers was present. A permanent constitution was adopted; a committee was appointed to procure a Charter of Incorporation from the State; a resolution was passed opposing the project, then being agitated, of the dissolution of the General Grand Chapter, and the order prohibiting the conferring of the degrees of Royal and Select Masters by the chapters of its obedience was reaffirmed. Levi Lusk was elected G. H. P.

By the terms of the Constitution, adopted at this session, the official name of Grand Chapter became "The Grand Royal Arch Chapter, of the State of Illinois," a name by which it still continues to be designated.

1853.

The convocation of 1853 was held at Jacksonville, M. E. Levi Lusk, presiding. By resolution R. A. Masons hailing from Pennsylvania were denied the privilege of visitation in any chapter in the jurisdiction. The reason for this singular action is not apparent in the record and the act itself was the subject of much unfavorable comment in other jurisdictions. It would seem that the question originally arose in La Fayette Chapter at Chicago, where a companion hailing from Pennsylvania was denied admission by the High Priest, on the ground that the work of Pennsylvania was essentially different from the work of the General Grand Chapter. An appeal was taken to the Grand High Priest, who sustained the decision. This in turn was approved by the Committee on Jurisprudence, with the result above indicated. For several years the leading spirits in Grand Chapter endeavored to defend their illiberal position by specious reasoning, until finally the force of popular sentiment compelled a repeal of the obnoxious resolution.

The "Act of Incorporation" was approved, and from thence hitherto the Grand Chapter has preserved its dual existence, acting both under its own Masonic constitution and that emanating from the State. The Act of Incorporation provided the same name for the aggregate body as the Constitution, to-wit: "The Grand Royal Arch Chapter, of the State of Illinois." It is a somewhat noticeable fact that neither the words "Mason" nor "Masonry" anywhere occur in the Act. Comp. M. J. Noyes, of Pittsfield, was elected G. H. P.

1854.

The convocation of 1854 was held at Jacksonville, with M. E. Michael J. Noyes presiding. The proceedings were mainly routine. A committee of seven was appointed "to revise the mode of conferring the Past Mas-

ter's degree," and "to report and exemplify the work as soon as possible." After wrestling with the subject for twenty-four hours the committee reported that they "had been unable to agree on any mode," and recommended the appointment of a committee of one who should "perfect himself in the work and report at the next Grand Convocation." Comp. Levi Lusk was selected as such committee.

Just why the "higher" bodies, with far less revenue than Grand Lodge, should so excel the latter in the matter of charitable disbursements is among the unsolved problems. A comparison of records, however, unmistakably discloses the fact. At this session (1854), with about \$500 in the treasury, after making the usual appropriations, Grand Chapter gave \$100 to relieve the necessities of the widow of a worthy Past Grand Master, and donated the sum of \$50 annually toward the education of two of the orphan children of deceased companions. This generous policy still characterizes the body, as its liberal annual appropriations to the organized Masonic charities of the State abundantly testify.

Comp. Louis Watson, of Quincy, was elected G. H. P.

1855.

On September 27, 1855, the annual convocation was held at the Masonic Hall in Jacksonville, M. E. Louis Watson presiding.

Comp. Lusk, appointed at the convocation of 1854 as a committee to prepare a report on the mode of conferring the Past Master's degree, submitted a verbal report, "which was unanimously adopted and recommended as a proper mode of work to be adopted by the subordinate chapters." There are still chapters in this jurisdiction that possibly might profit by the report. Why was it not preserved?

The Grand Lodge, having then but recently taken measures for the establishment of a library, Grand Chapter offered to co-operate and bear part of the expense. Accordingly \$50 was appropriated for such purpose.

Comp. Ira A. W. Buck, of Aurora, was elected G. H. P.

1856.

The annual convocation of 1856 was held at Jacksonville, M. E. Ira A. W. Buck presiding. Business routine and of temporary interest only.

By the terms of the Constitution the location of Grand Chapter was fixed at Jacksonville until the year 1856. This period having now expired an amendment to the Constitution became necessary. Accordingly such amendment was made by providing for an annual convocation "at the place of, and three days before, the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge." Thus the Grand Chapter became ambulatory and dependent upon the actions of another body. Inasmuch as Grand Chapter paid mileage and per-diem to representatives, the necessity for the move is not fully apparent; and while it was sought to be justified at the time on the score of convenience, yet this is shown by subsequent events to have been untrue. However, for a number of years this custom prevailed, all of the bodies meeting at the same place and about the same time.

Comp. Edward M. M. Clarke, of Rushville, was elected G. H. P.

1857.

The annual convocation of 1857 was held at Springfield, and immediately preceding the session of Grand Lodge, M. E. Comp. Edward M. M. Clarke, presiding. The embargo against the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania was raised, Grand Chapter having vindicated to its own satisfaction its "inherent and inalienable right to admit or exclude visitors" in its own discretion, and Royal Arch Masons from Pennsylvania were permitted "to visit upon the same terms as others, hailing from any sister jurisdiction." Another appropriation was made for the library, and the perusal of Masonic publications was recommended "as a means of disseminating Masonic intelligence."

The death of the beloved companion, Wm. A. Dickey, was duly commemorated.

The election resulted in the choice of James H. Hibbard as G. H. P., and he, together with the remaining officers, was installed by the retiring G. H. P. (Comp. Clarke) "with ease and elegance, and in an impressive manner."

* * *

The only incident to disturb the serenity of the session was caused by the presentation of a petition from Comp. J. W. Spalding and others, praying for the erection of a new chapter at Galesburg. The committee to which same was referred found that the usual application for a recommendation from the nearest chapter, in this case Horeb, No. 4, at Knoxville, was denied by such neighboring chapter, "upon pecuniary considerations alone," and recommended the granting of the prayer. Comp. H. G. Reynolds, the Grand Secretary, raised the question of jurisdiction of Grand Chapter over the subject, as a point of order. The G. H. P., Comp. Clarke, held the point well taken and decided that Grand Chapter had no jurisdiction over the matter, under Sec. 7, Art. II, of the General Grand Chapter Constitution. That the reader may judge for himself as to the correctness of this ruling the section in question is here given, viz.:

Sec. 7. No dispensation or charter for the institution of a new chapter of Royal Arch Masons shall be granted except upon the petition of nine regular Royal Arch Masons, which petition shall be accompanied with a certificate from the chapter nearest to the place where the new chapter is intended to be opened, vouching for the moral character and Masonic abilities of the petitioners, and recommending that a dispensation or charter be granted them.

Thereupon Comp. Spalding and twenty-seven others entered of record a protest and memorial, urging that the section only applied to those cases where the General Grand Chapter was exercising original and exclusive jurisdiction in States or Territories where no Grand Chapter existed; that same did not apply to State jurisdictions in the obedience of State Grand Chapters; wherefore they appealed from the decision of the M. E. Grand High Priest to the Grand Chapter. This produced a counter protest from Comp. Reynolds and the officers of Horeb Chapter, and was in turn followed by a second "memorial" by Comp. Spalding. The result was that the whole matter was referred to the incoming Grand High Priest (Comp. Hibbard), with power to act.

Acting under this power, Comp. Hibbard visited Galesburg and Knoxville (the towns are only five miles apart) and endeavored to effect a compromise alike honorable to both parties. In this he was signally unsuccessful. It would seem that by Horeb Chapter he was treated with much indignity; and when, in the exercise of his powers, original and delegated, he granted a dispensation for Galesburg Chapter, the companions of Horeb Chapter issued an incendiary and disloyal manifesto addressed to all of the chapters of the jurisdiction.

1858.

This was the situation when Grand Chapter met in its annual convocation in 1858. The Grand High Priest, M. E. James H. Hibbard, presented a report of his actions in the premises, as well as of the action of Horeb Chapter and certain of its officers and members. The Grand Chapter sustained Comp. Hibbard, censured Horeb Chapter, and appointed a committee to "recommend what action is necessary on the part of this Grand Chapter to sustain its dignity in the person of its chief officer." In the meantime Horeb Chapter, by its officers, presented a petition asking for an annulment of the dispensation to Galesburg Chapter and denying intentional disrespect towards Grand Chapter, "although they claimed and exercised the right of commenting upon the official acts of the Grand High Priest, and condemning those acts when they deemed them contrary to Masonic law, and subversive of the rights and privileges of Horeb Chapter." But Grand Chapter thought otherwise, for it confirmed the dispensation and granted a charter to Galesburg Chapter; required "full and ample retractions and apologies" to Comp. Hibbard from certain of the officers of Horeb Chapter, under pain of suspension, and directed the incoming G. H. P. to call "a full convocation of said Horeb Chapter at such a time as may suit his convenience and require that a suitable apology be made to this Grand Body and to M. E. Comp. Hibbard, for the insults and indignities aforesaid," and in case of a refusal to make such apologies the Grand High Priest was instructed to suspend the charter until the next annual meeting.

At the meeting of 1858 Comp. Nelson D. Elwood was elected G. H. P.,—a position to which he was twice re-elected and which he continued to occupy until the day of his death in 1861.

Comp. Elwood, who is described as having been a man of most gentle and agreeable manner, proceeded to pour oil on the troubled waters of Knox county Masonry. He visited Knoxville; called a meeting of Horeb Chapter; presented the mandate of Grand Chapter, and in every way sought to close the breach that had been opened. But Horeb Chapter had made up its mind in advance as to what it should do in this event, and now reiterated all that it had said and refused to recede from what it had done. As a result the charter was arrested, and at the session of 1859 all of the rights and privileges of the chapter were declared forfeited to Grand Chapter; the members in attendance at the meeting called by the G. H. P. and voting to sustain the contumacious position then taken were suspended, and the members remaining loyal to Grand Chapter were accorded certificates of good standing to have the force and effect of

dimits. So ended one of the most painful episodes in the history of Grand Chapter.

But the baneful root from whence sprang all this trouble has never been eradicated, either in this or the other branches of Masonry, and "pecuniary considerations only" still interfere with the interest and convenience of many brethren in many localities. If a Masonic body cannot support itself in any given locality without a "protective tariff," it is time for such institutions to close. The only object of a recommendation from the nearest body is, or should be, to advise the Grand body of the moral and Masonic character of the petitioners. The question as to the propriety of a charter should be the sole prerogative of the Grand body. But, as a matter of fact, the primal sin of Horeb Chapter has many times since been repeated and recommendations withheld for no other reason than that the grant of a charter to the petitioners might reduce the revenues of the body so refusing.

1859.

The General Grand Chapter met in Chicago in 1859, but the event does not seem to have been particularly noticed by Grand Chapter; nor does it appear that any official welcome was tendered to the distinguished visitors. This, however, was simply an oversight, and the Grand High Priest (Comp. Elwood), on his own responsibility, maintained the honor and reputation for hospitality of the Grand Chapter of Illinois.

Grand Chapter met as usual at Springfield, with M. E. Comp. Elwood presiding.

The definition of the clothing of a Royal Arch Mason as made by the General Grand Chapter was adopted; the constituent chapters were prohibited from conferring the degrees on non-affiliates, and another appropriation was made for the library.

M. E. Comp. Elwood was re-elected G. H. P.

1860.

At the eleventh annual convocation, held at Springfield, September 28, 1860, Comp. Wm. W. Mitchell, D. G. H. P., presided, a domestic affliction detaining the G. H. P. (Comp. Elwood) at his home; and while the Grand Chapter evinced its affection for its absent chief by re-electing him to the East, yet he was destined never again to preside in that body. Before another year had rolled around Comp. Elwood was gathered unto his fathers. The session presents no features of more than temporary interest.

1861.

At the convocation of 1861, held at Springfield, the chair was occupied by Comp. Wm. W. Mitchell, D. G. H. P., who paid a tribute of sorrow and respect to the memory of the late Comp. Elwood. The Civil war was then the paramount theme with all men, but the Acting G. H. P. decided that the matter had "become too formidable for us to meddle with it as a Society," and that the "discussion of the subject would embarrass us and be liable to misapprehension and misconstruction;" and Grand Chapter wisely concurred.

For the benefit of some of the latter-day representatives it may be here stated that the regular hour for convening was eight o'clock a. m.; and if the record is to be taken as importing verity the officers and representatives were always in their places at that time.

The accounts disclosed the fact that, either through insufficient revenue or over appropriation, the funds had fallen short, and that, after the necessary allowances, there would be a deficiency. The mileage and per-diem rate was then scaled twenty per cent and a corresponding reduction made in other "incidental expenses."

Comp. Wm. W. Mitchell was elected G. H. P.

1862.

At the convocation of 1862 Comp. Mitchell was absent from the State, and Comp. A. W. Blakesley occupied the East of the Sanctuary. The only subject of moment was the still depleted condition of the treasury. To remedy this \$500 was raised by a loan, and a repetition of the heroic measures of the year preceding with respect to mileage and per-diem was had, the final result being the repeal of the law granting same. The printing of the proceedings was deferred until better times.

This year seems to mark the lowest ebb of Grand Chapter. This was due to the unsettled conditions of civil life, the prevalence of war, and the general absorption of public interest by the great political questions of the hour.

Comp. James H. Hibbard was elected G. H. P.

1863.

The convocation of 1863 opened brighter than its immediate predecessors. Several dispensations for new chapters had been issued, including one military chapter; and a petition for a further military chapter to be attached to Gen. Grierson's Cavalry Division was presented and the prayer denied.

It would seem that "substitutes" were permitted in those days, as a resolution prohibiting chapters from exalting less than "three genuine candidates at one and the same time" failed of passage.

The election resulted in the selection of Comp. H. W. Hubbard as G. H. P.

1864-5.

The year 1864 did not vary much from its immediate predecessors. The business of Grand Chapter was meager and strictly routine. The finances were so far recovered as to permit the payment of mileage and per-diem.

Comp. Wiley M. Egan was elected G. H. P.

The year 1865 exhibited a decided advance when the Grand Chapter assembled in its sixteenth annual convocation at Springfield. The war was now over and with a general resumption of the arts of peace came a corresponding increase of Masonic interest. The number of dispensations for new chapters greatly exceeded that of any former year in the history of Grand Chapter and throughout the jurisdiction there was evidence of a healthy growth of Royal Arch Masonry.

The business of the session was brief. The restored finances permitted the continuance of the payment of mileage and per-diem, and from the surplus an appropriation of one hundred dollars was made for the Lincoln Monument Association, a like sum for the Douglas Monument Association, and a like sum for the relief of Comp. A. G. Mackey, of South Carolina, "in consideration of his faithfulness to his Masonic obligations, his contributions, personal attention, medical services, and cordial sympathy in behalf of sick, wounded, and destitute Masons from Illinois, while prisoners at Charleston and beyond the reach of their brethren, relatives and friends."

On motion of Comp. J. M. Bailey, a special committee was appointed to prepare an appropriate burial service for the use of Royal Arch Masons, with instructions to report at the next annual. The committee did not report at the next annual, however, nor at any succeeding annual. Presumably Grand Chapter became convinced that a funeral service for a chapter was as unnecessary as it was unwise; that the simple yet beautiful ceremony for the interment of a Master Mason, where all distinctions of rank are abolished and all meet on the level, was all-sufficient for every need. At all events no report seems to have been called for and none was made.

Comp. L. L. Munn was elected G. H. P.

1866.

The year 1866 was one of continued prosperity. The number of exaltations greatly exceeded those of any previous year, while dispensations were issued for the creation of seventeen new chapters. The returns showed that a very large number of chapters were employing "substitutes," whereupon such practice was declared irregular and by resolution the conferring of the Royal Arch Degree "on less than three actual candidates at a time" was expressly forbidden. This continued to be the rule until 1899.

Comp. O. H. Miner was elected G. H. P.

1867.

The year 1867 was marked by a healthy growth both in membership and new chapters, eleven dispensations having been issued for the latter.

Up to this time no "work" had ever been formally adopted as the authorized lectures of Grand Chapter. The work then in use throughout the jurisdiction was substantially that prepared by a committee of the General Grand Chapter in 1859, but this work had never received the formal sanction even of the body for which it had been prepared. To secure a uniformity of ritual and substantial conformity to a standard, a committee, consisting of Comps. Hubbard, Munn, Egan, Miner and Pearson, was appointed "to determine the work of this Grand Chapter and prepare a manual of constitutions, laws, forms and ceremonies, for the use and guidance of the Chapters under its jurisdiction."

The returns this year disclosed the fact that certain chapters had omitted the P. M. degree in the advancement of candidates, conferring the M. E. immediately after that of M. M. It was presumed this had

been done only in cases where the candidate was already an actual Past Master, for at this time no Master could assume the chair of a symbolic lodge until he had been invested with the P. M. degree; but Grand Chapter decided to make the matter sure and by resolution all candidates were required to receive the P. M. degree before advancement to the M. E.

About this time there was much dissatisfaction throughout the country with respect to the General Grand Chapter. The matter came before Grand Chapter in a series of resolutions looking toward a release of allegiance and a severance of relations with the former body, but no action was taken. Two hundred dollars was donated to relieve an old and infirm brother. Chapters employing "substitutes" were again warned to desist, under penalty of forfeiture of charter.

Comp. G. W. Lininger was elected G. H. P.

1868.

The increase and general prosperity of the year 1868 was in advance of all prior years. Seventeen new chapters were organized under dispensation.

The Committee on "Work" submitted a report, which was adopted; and the lectures which were reported at that time remained in use as the standard ritual of the jurisdiction until the year 1899, when they were supplanted by the authorized ritual of the General Grand Chapter. Two weeks were devoted to the preparation of the report by the committee, during which time they examined "almost" every system of work then practiced in the State and of several other jurisdictions, the merits of which were discussed and considered. The result of their labors was the "Black-Hawk" lectures, a compilation which the committee confidently reported "will stand the test for all time." Of the zeal, learning and ability of the committee there can be no question, and of the three members who are still with us time has only deepened our respect; yet it is just among the possibilities that the system which they reported may be susceptible of improvement. The experience of two hundred years in the manufacture of rituals is not favorable to any system standing the test of twenty-five years, much less "for all time." At this writing (July, 1900) a new and untried system, promulgated by the General Grand Chapter, is in force, but whether it is superior to the old article that for thirty years did service in this jurisdiction, remains to be seen.

Subordinate Chapters were by resolution directed to "purge themselves of intemperance and profanity," under penalty of arrest of charter; candidates were "required" to pass an examination in open chapter before being advanced; petitioners were required to state whether they had ever before petitioned for the degrees; and the Grand Treasurer was directed to invest the surplus, \$4,000, in Government bonds. How far these requirements have all been carried out those familiar with this branch of Masonry can tell. Thirty dollars was made the minimum sum for the degrees.

Comp. James H. Miles was elected G. H. P.

1869.

The annual convocation of 1869 was held at Springfield. The year had been peaceful and fairly prosperous. The new work having been promulgated, the office of Grand Lecturer was left vacant as being, in the opinion of the G. H. P. "an unnecessary and expensive appendage," and that, "the published work being in the hands of the several High Priests throughout the jurisdiction," they would thus be enabled "to constitute themselves lecturers of their own Chapters, if they desired so to do." Apparently Grand Chapter held the same views, but only those who, like the writer, have spent long and weary hours pondering over that masterpiece of "Choctaw" composition known as the "History of the Black-Hawk War," are in position to state how thoroughly a High Priest may be his own lecturer after a perusal of that document. If the "old residents of the Military Reservation" had designed their work as a new and refined instrument of torture they could not have succeeded better.

About this time Grand Chapter commenced the practice, which it has since regularly observed, of giving to each of its presiding officers, on his retirement, an official jewel; the first to receive the honor of this decoration being the authors of the "History of the Black-Hawk War." After an unsuccessful search for a jewel indicative of past rank in Grand Chapter, the ordinary insignia of a P. H. P. of a Chapter was selected, to which was added a mitre, as a mark of increased honor. This was formally adopted as the official jewel of the jurisdiction, and has since remained in use.

Comp. John M. Pearson was elected G. H. P.

* * *

Grand Chapter had now been in existence twenty years. At the time of its organization Freemasonry was just beginning to resume its old time popularity; the "higher degrees" were commencing to attract notice, and the old anti-Masonic prejudice was dying out. The State was emerging from its pioneer condition and the people were emulous of the manners and customs of the Eastern States. All the conditions, therefore, were favorable to rapid and healthy growth. The few obstacles which intervened during the early years were soon overcome, and at the completion of its second decade Grand Chapter found itself in affluent circumstances with a large and constantly increasing list of constituents. There were at this time 138 chapters working under charter, with an aggregate membership of 7,581 Royal Arch Masons. The treasury showed a cash balance of \$12,234.23, of which upwards of \$4,000 was invested in Government bonds.

1870.

The twenty-first annual convocation was held at Chicago, October 7, 1870, and since then the annual session has been held each year in the same city.

Notwithstanding that the published work was in the hands of the High Priests of constituent chapters, it was still deemed necessary to have some "skilled workman" act as instructor, for we find Grand Chapter adopting the following:

Resolved, That the M. E. Grand High Priest appoint a Grand Inspector of the work in this jurisdiction for the ensuing year, with instructions to proceed from Chapter to Chapter, and correct errors in phraseology, the manner of communicating lectures, and to see that the mode of working be uniform in all the Chapters; for which service he shall be paid the sum of twelve hundred dollars, and his expenses shall be paid by the Grand Chapter.

It does not seem, however, that this resolution was acted upon, or that such "Inspector" was appointed.

About this time there was again much dissatisfaction with the methods, operation and practical workings of the General Grand Chapter. Several States, exclusive of those which seceded from the National Union, had during the decade preceding withdrawn their allegiance, and Illinois now seemed ready to join the disaffected sisterhood. A motion to withdraw from the alliance was presented, but failed to pass. The sentiment, however, was favorable to a dissolution of the General Grand, and in pursuance thereof the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Representatives of this M. E. Grand Chapter to the M. E. General Grand Chapter of the United States be instructed to advocate and vote for the dissolution of the same.

From the time of its organization until this year Grand Chapter had been a satellite of Grand Lodge, meeting immediately before or after that body and always at the same place. The time consumed by the two bodies, as well as those which also met in conjunction with them, was greater than many of the representatives cared to devote to the purpose. It was also thought that a more complete disassociation would be beneficial to both bodies in many ways; accordingly it was decided to hold the annual convocation toward the end of the month instead of at the beginning, as had been the custom theretofore, and the "first Thursday after the fourth Tuesday in October" was the day selected. This provision has ever since continued in force.

Comp. Augustus A. Murray was elected G. H. P.

1871.

The convocation of 1871 presents nothing of special permanent interest. The representatives to the General Grand Chapter disregarded their instructions when they attended that body and became convinced that it was a good thing to keep same intact; to all of which Grand Chapter assented.

Comp. James A. Hawley was elected G. H. P.

* * *

Immediately after the close of the annual session occurred the famous "Chicago Fire." To relieve the distress occasioned by that event the G. H. P. (Comp. Hawley) called upon the craft to bring forward their offer-

ings and at the same time appointed a committee, consisting of Comps. W. M. Egan, James H. Miles and R. H. Foss, to receive and disburse the contributions sent in. The report of this committee showed total receipts of \$3,404.30. The money, or such of it as was deemed necessary, was employed in the assistance of worthy Royal Arch Masons.

1872.

The convocation of 1872 was the first held under the rule providing for a later date than had previously been the custom. The transactions were routine and of temporary importance only; \$500 was appropriated "to purchase suitable jewels and regalia." At the convocation of 1871 a committee on lectures was appointed, but with no specific definition of duties disclosed of record. Evidently the committee found nothing to do, for at this session it presented the following report and was discharged:

Your Committee on Lectures, appointed at the last Convocation, have given the subject such consideration as their opportunities would allow, and respectfully report that they find the subject one fraught with many difficulties, and that in their opinion, with the work now promulgated in this jurisdiction, and the monitors published by Eminent Companions, there really exists no pressing need of any system of lectures more than we now have, and recommend no action in the case, and asked to be discharged from any further consideration of the subject.

Comp. A. W. Blakesley was elected G. H. P.

1873.

The year 1873 found the chapters in a prosperous and healthy condition, but nothing transpired to engage the historian's pen and the year closed in peace. The proceedings of the annual convocation were strictly routine.

Comp. Geo. E. Lounsbury was elected G. H. P.

1874.

The convocation of 1874 marked the twenty-fifth year of the organized existence of Grand Chapter. During this period it had grown from feeble infancy to lusty youth, with no set-backs or other depressing incidents to mar its symmetrical development. Peace and prosperity had been its attendants, and as a result the returns showed 152 active chapters, with a total membership of 10,430.

Wm. A. J. Delancey was elected G. H. P.

1875-6.

The convocation of 1875 presented nothing of special interest at this time. Comp. Haswell C. Clarke was elected G. H. P. He was succeeded at the convocation of 1876 by Comp. Arthur R. H. Atkins.

1877.

At the convocation of 1877 Grand Chapter was again confronted with a deficit. For several years in fact the expenses had exceeded the receipts and a reduction in taxation had brought the income to a point where it failed to meet expenses. To remedy this condition of affairs the per-capita tax was increased and a loan of \$1,500 negotiated to tide

over until the next harvest. A proposition to charter chapters to work in the German language was considered and rejected. The present division of the jurisdiction into districts was made and assigned to the Grand officers.

During this year occurred the famous "merger" of the Council degrees. This consisted practically of a dispensation from the Grand Council to the constituent chapters of the Grand Chapter to organize councils and confer the degrees. The constitution of Grand Chapter was so amended as to permit of this, and the new order of things was accomplished in a very easy and simple manner. As this episode forms a part of the history of the Grand Council the subject will not be further considered in this connection.

Comp. James C. McMurty was elected G. H. P.

1878.

The only special feature of the convocation of 1878 was the legislation necessary to carry out in a constitutional manner the conferring of the Council degrees under the authority of Grand Chapter.

Comp. John D. Hamilton was elected G. H. P.

1879-80.

The year 1879 was one of peace and apparently of prosperity. The proceedings were strictly routine.

Comp. Samuel W. Waddle was elected G. H. P.

The reports of the officers at the session of 1880 displayed a gratifying condition of harmony throughout the jurisdiction, with no cause of grievance of a sufficiently serious character to require the attention of Grand Chapter. Comps. L. R. Jerome and Henry G. Perry were admitted to "honorary" membership. Both of these worthies have since passed "beyond the veils," venerable with years and long service. The question of "honorary" membership in a representative body is one which must be left to the jurists of the craft to determine; but these companions, the only ones ever thus honored, were received in pursuance of a law of the body. At all events Grand Chapter was not without precedent, for Grand Lodge upon one occasion had done the same thing.

A resolution was introduced to discontinue the practice of granting testimonial jewels to retiring officers, and on being put to passage was adopted; but before the session closed the representatives relented, repealed the resolution, and presented to Comp. Waddle on retirement the usual testimonial of "a beautiful Past Grand High Priest's Jewel." At this session was inaugurated the initial legislation giving to the G. H. P. a salary which was fixed at \$100. The sum has since been increased to \$400; but, in view of the time and labor now demanded from the presiding officer, even this sum is scarcely adequate.

Comp. Silas O. Vaughan was elected G. H. P.

* * *

The question as to the value or expediency of Cryptic consolidation was now again being discussed. The plan had not worked as well as

had been anticipated, nor had it been adopted in many parts of the country. During this year a new element of strength had been added to the Council by the formation of a league of Grand Councils, known as the General Grand Council, and pressure was being brought to bear upon the merging Grand Chapters to discontinue their further protectorate over the Cryptic degrees. The principal reason advanced by the promoters of the merger movement was, its economy in obviating the expense of maintaining the Cryptic organizations in councils and Grand Councils; but while this may have been an important factor of the movement in the State where it originated it was hardly worthy of serious consideration in Illinois. Nor had the plan worked well merely from the "preservative" point of view, for the degrees, having no very responsible management, were becoming lost sight of in the chapters, and so the leaders began to suggest the propriety of a return to the old ways.

1881.

The convocation of 1881 found the general condition of Capitular Masonry throughout the State more vigorous and healthy than at any time since the organization of Grand Chapter. There were now 171 constituent chapters on the rolls and the majority seemed to be doing well. The present rule limiting the commissions of Grand Representatives near other Grand Chapters to three years from date of issue was established.

The matter of relinquishment of control of the Council degrees was presented, and it was:

Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed by this Grand Chapter to confer with a like Committee from the Grand Council as to the best disposition to be made of the Council degrees, and that they report to this Grand Chapter at the next Annual Convocation.

Comp. John P. Norvell was elected G. H. P.

1882.

At the convocation of 1882 a communication was received from the Grand Council asking Grand Chapter to take such steps as it might deem necessary to recommit the degrees of Royal and Select Master to their original custody. At the same time the special committee raised by the resolution of 1881 reported back that they had carefully considered the matter referred to them in conference with a like committee appointed by the Grand Council; that it was the earnest desire of the Grand Council to again resume control of the degrees, and in furtherance of such desire the committee recommended the repeal of such parts of the Constitution as should leave it in the same condition as it was in the year 1877. The practical effect of the proposed amendment would be to eliminate all reference to the Council degrees. The committee further recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That on and after January 1, 1883, the Chapters of this jurisdiction cease to confer the Council degrees, and that the Grand Council be requested to take such action in reference thereto as they may deem proper, and that the Grand High Priest issue his edict to that effect.

The report was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, which approved the recommendations of the special committee, and Grand Chapter concurred.

A resolution was offered by Comp. E. C. Pace directed to the Committee on Jurisprudence and inquiring by what authority the esoteric work of the lodge is used by the chapters; but the committee, after cogitating upon the matter for a year decided that the subject was so inseparably connected with the "legends of the misty past" that they could throw no light upon it.

Comp. Samuel Shannon was elected G. H. P.

1883.

The session of 1883 presents nothing of importance. The last links that bound the Council degrees were severed and William L. Orr was elected G. H. P.

1884.

At the convocation of 1884 the G. H. P. (Comp. Orr) recommended,

"That this Grand Chapter select a competent companion to prepare a history of this Grand Chapter, from the date of its organization to the present time. I deem it a matter of necessity and great importance, as many of those who were conversant with the organization and early history of this body have passed away, and ere long all will be gone. It will be of great value and benefit to the present and coming generations of the Royal Craft that this history be compiled."

It is much to be regretted that the recommendation did not meet the concurrence of Grand Chapter.

The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England was extending its "colonial possessions" just about this time, and, it seems, had chartered lodges within the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Quebec. For this alleged invasion the G. H. P. was directed to issue his edict interdicting all fraternal communication with the Grand Mark Lodge of England until Quebec should signify that the difficulty had been adjusted. Presumably this was all right. Indeed, as Grand Chapter had said it, then it must be all right; but as a matter of fact the Mark Lodges, controlled by the Grand Mark Lodge of England, are about as little related to American Capitular Masonry as are the chapters of that Scottish exotic known as Royal Ark Mariners. If identity of degree—lectures, ceremonies, etc.—is to form the basis of jurisdictional rights and not mere similarity or even identity of names, then the Grand Mark Lodge of England might plant bodies of its obedience in Illinois without in any way invading the jurisdiction. The Mark degree of the American system, beautiful and impressive though it may be, is not the old Mark degree so long preserved and worked in the North England and Scottish lodges.

As in religion the worshiper too often forgets the thing symbolized and worships merely the symbol, so in Masonry the form too often hides the substance, and men pay reverence to the letter and ignore the spirit. Upon several occasions this fact has become unpleasantly manifest in Illinois. An impression prevails in certain of the Masonic circles that

Masonry consists of degrees and a governmental hierarchy of some kind. The extremists confine these degrees to three in number, the government and superintendence of which is vested in the Symbolic Lodge. But with these views the writer cannot agree; for, if his conception is right, Masonry does not consist of degrees at all. Degrees are but convenient subdivisions of the general subject which may be compressed into one degree or expanded into one hundred. But, then, others think differently, as they have a perfect right to do, and not infrequently these persons are men of brilliant minds and strong aggressive intellects. The late Comp. T. T. Gurney was one, and at this session (1884) he discussed his views in the report on Correspondence, asserting that the Royal Arch Chapter was not a "duly constituted Masonic body." Thereupon Comp. Wm. E. Ginther offered the following:

Resolved, That all that part of the Report of the Committee on Correspondence, expressing the opinion that our Masonry is not legitimate, and that the Chapter is not regular and duly constituted, be and is hereby emphatically rejected,—

Which after debate was made a special order for a later hour. This brought up the subject broached by Comp. Pace two years before with reference to the use of the esotery of the lodge in chapter ceremonies, and Comp. D. C. Cregier presented the following, which was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence:

Whereas, This Grand Chapter is the only source of authority and exercises exclusive jurisdiction in all matters pertaining to Capitular Masonry in the State of Illinois; and

Whereas, This declaration includes the possession of, exclusive authority over, and control and custody of, all and every one of the esoteric and exoteric ceremonies and rituals pertaining to the several degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch; and

Whereas, These claims are essential to and consistent with the sovereign powers and dignity of this Grand Chapter, as well as to other bodies of Masons; therefore,

Resolved, That the M. E. Grand Chapter of the State of Illinois hereby interdicts the use or practice of any of the esoteric ceremonies or rituals, pertaining to any of the degrees over which it has jurisdiction, by any companion of its obedience, in any Masonic body or organization of Masons, other than this Grand Chapter or the constituent chapters under its jurisdiction; and be it further

Resolved, That the use or practice of any esoteric ceremony or ritual pertaining to any Masonic body or organization of Masons, or of any degree or degrees of Masonry, other than that of M. M., P. M., M. E. M. and R. A., are hereby interdicted in this Grand Chapter and in every constituent chapter under its jurisdiction; and be it further

Resolved, That any companion violating any of the mandates herein specified shall be subject to discipline therefor.

The committee, having duly considered the matter found it too heavy to carry, and therefore gracefully deposited same in this manner:

Your Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom were referred the preamble and resolutions offered by Ex. Companions Cregier and Ginther respectively, fraternally report that at the last Convocation of this Grand Body, your committee reported on a resolution offered by Ex. Comp. Pace, which resolution involved the same questions, in part, as are involved in the resolution now under consideration; that an intelligent report would

involve an investigation amongst the legends and history of the Craft, which would, in all probability, force the committee to the conclusion that they could throw no light on the subject. Your committee feel, however, that the time has now arrived when the controversies growing out of the discussion of the subject matter of these resolutions must be met and definitely decided. We are of the opinion that, to give perfect and entire satisfaction to the Royal Craft in this Grand Jurisdiction, the decision, whatever it may be, shall be reached only after a careful, thorough and exhaustive consideration of the subject in all its bearings, not only as to the merits of the case, but also as to its effect on Capitular and Ancient Craft Masonry, and, recognizing the amount of labor and research necessary to arrive at a clear and satisfactory understanding, we recommend that the whole subject be referred to a committee of five members of this Grand Chapter, with instructions to report at the next annual Grand Convocation.

When the hour for the special order arrived it precipitated a lengthy debate, until finally Comp. Pearson offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the resolutions of Comp. William E. Ginther, together with the subject matter of the Report on Correspondence, be referred to the Special Committee, already raised, who have under consideration the resolutions of Comp. D. C. Cregier, to report at the next annual convocation; and that in the meantime the Report on Correspondence be printed with the proceedings of this Convocation.

Comp. John A. Ladd was elected G. H. P.

1885.

The convocation of 1885 presents little of permanent interest aside from the disposition of the special matters raised by the correspondence report of the year preceding and the resolutions which same called forth. The special committee held sessions during the recess, at which, it seems, the parties directly interested were present, and after a full and careful consideration of the questions involved, the investigation and comparison of authorities and a free discussion of all controverted points, formulated its conclusions in the premises. At the session of 1885 these conclusions were presented, through its chairman, John M. Pearson, as follows:

The degree of R. A. M. has no existence in Masonic history prior to the "revival" of A. D. 1717. If conferred at all prior to this, it probably was received as the conclusion of the Master's degree. Shortly after this date, however, we find historic mention of it—about the middle of the last century it appears to have been authorized by the Grand Lodge of England and in 1813 duly recognized by the United Grand Lodge of England.

Since this last date all Grand Lodges have acquiesced in the relationship and some have specially endorsed it in terms. On the other hand, no Grand Lodge has ever taken offense at, or endeavored to cut off the relationship, or imposed any restrictions relative thereto.

Surely the weight of all the history we have, is almost entirely in favor of maintaining the present friendly connection.

The committee wishes to add a few words relative to the propriety of the present position occupied by this Grand Chapter.

Freemasonry is defined by some of our best scholars as "a progressive moral science," illustrating moral truths by familiar symbols,—Your committee believes that to this "progressive" idea we owe much of our success, and power.

The foundation of all lies in the first three degrees, just as the foundation of mathematics lies in its definitions and the four fundamental rules; yet no one will claim that the science of mathematics is concluded by these first rules, while all allow that no operation can be performed without their use. So with the chapter and symbolic lodge. In all the years no occasion of offense has arisen. The lodge has not felt that it was wronged and the chapter has not abused its privileges. Your committee believes that both have benefited thereby.

The general "consensus" of the craft agrees with this. It would be difficult to find a R. A. M. upon whom the chapter degrees were duly conferred, who does not at once confess and believe that there is an "intimate connection" between ancient craft Masonry and the H. R. A. and the Master Masons of the whole country universally believe this. If there be an exception it is not among our younger men—who appear generally to be contented—but only among those, fond of technicalities and speculations, which, in the opinion of your committee, would result in damage to our whole Masonic fabric.

This leads to the consideration of what evils would naturally follow if the resolutions presented by Comp. Cregier should be adopted and enforced. All branches of the order would lose the benefit of the idea of "progression" mentioned before.

There would be no further search for more light, none could be given. The tale would be told, at the start. Each branch of our order must stand alone and so further lose the force of association that to most of us is very dear.

Time, in all probability, would lessen and finally dissolve even the semblance of connection.

Our system of work must be reorganized—all traces of kindly reference to Ancient Craft Masonry must be effaced. This, to be sure, would not impair the work of the symbolic lodge, but it would sorely lessen the force and beauty of our beautiful ritual.

Furthermore,—this matter of "work" and "uniformity of work" is conceded (very generally) to be under the control of the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America, and to their outline of plan our very complete ritual now conforms,—any radical change would conflict with this almost universal custom and put all R. A. Masons in our State "with-out the pale," as regards other Grand Chapters.

In short, the committee sees no good reason why the above resolutions, as offered by Comp. D. C. Cregier, should be adopted, and therefore respectfully reports back the same, with the recommendation "that they do not pass."

We respectfully report back the resolution offered by E. Comp. Ginther, with a substitute therefor, and recommend that the substitute do pass,—to-wit:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Grand Chapter there exists an intimate connection between Ancient Craft Masonry and the august degree of the Holy Royal Arch; that we do not endorse any expression, or implication, or influence, by any member, or officer, of this Grand body, that seems to deny the Masonic character of our order; that we will, by all honorable means, strive to maintain and perpetuate the present intimate, friendly and mutually profitable relations that have always existed and now exist between the M. W. Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. of the State of Illinois and this Grand R. A. Chapter.

On motion the report was received, adopted and the recommendations concurred in. This practically closed the question of the severance of Symbolic and Capitular Masonry, and for fifteen years past but little has been heard upon the subject. Occasionally some zealous brother ventures to suggest that the Royal Arch is not a Masonic degree, and the few

extremists still contend that all true Masonry is confined to the Masters' Lodge, but, by the majority of the craft, this is now regarded as a heresy. The true doctrine, as it appears to the writer, is correctly stated by the committee.*

At the time the affair produced a ripple of excitement in Royal Arch circles, which extended from Maine to California. All eyes were turned on Illinois, and the outcome of the "revolutionary" movement was anxiously awaited. The result was received with satisfaction on all sides. As an indication of how the movement was regarded elsewhere the subjoined excerpt from the pen of J. H. Drummond, of Maine, one of the highest Masonic authorities in the country, may not be out of place nor without interest:

While the particular portions of the report to which reference is made are not indicated, we presume that they are the portions which sustain the resolutions introduced by Comp. Cregier. These resolutions are the logical result of the heresy originated by Comp. Gurney, that Chapters, Councils and Commanderies, as now constituted, are not Masonic bodies. The argument is, "These bodies are not Masonic bodies, and therefore can not rightfully use Masonic rituals." He and Comp. Cregier have reversed the argument and the conclusion; the fact is, they do use, and rightfully, Masonic rituals, and, therefore, are Masonic bodies.

The position that Chapters, Councils and Commanderies are merely organizations composed of Masons, and thus on a level with Masonic Relief Associations, Veteran Associations, and the like, is directly in conflict with the history of the Institution from its earliest organization. We regard the attempt to deprive Chapters of their Masonic character, and the right to use Masonic rituals, precisely as we would an attempt to confiscate their property, or to deprive them of any other thing to which they have a right equal to that of the lodge. We hold, and history shows, that the Chapter has the same right to use portions of the lodge work as the lodge has, and it would be no more presumptuous for the Chapter to forbid the lodge to use them than it would be for the lodge to forbid the Chapter to use them. The same remark applies as between the Chapter and Commandery. The action of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in fixing a limit to the use of rituals, has been very sharply criticised, but the proposed action of Illinois goes infinitely further. The criticisms of Illinois, however, have been consistent with her proposed action.

The chapter was organized as a continuation of blue Masonry, and the Council and Commandery were organized as continuations of Capitular Masonry. The fundamental idea of each was that it, and the degrees upon which it was founded, are one system, each portion, however, governing its own degrees. None save a Master Mason could be a Royal Arch Mason; as a necessity, he must prove himself in open Chapter to be a

* Discussing the nature and relation of the Royal Arch degree, the learned Dr. Mackey says: "As an independent degree, given under a distinct jurisdiction and furnished with a separate but appropriate ritual, it is undoubtedly a modern degree, of comparatively recent establishment; but as a complement of the Master Mason's order, as supplying the deficiency of that degree in Masonic symbolism, it is, and of course must be, as old as the organization of which it forms so important and so necessary a part. The third degree is a symbolic memorial of events which took place at the first temple. The Royal Arch is equally a symbolic memorial of events that occurred at the second, and as the one would be incomplete without the other, we have every reason to suppose that each was adopted at the earliest period of the modern organization of Freemasonry as a memorial system. Indeed they must go together. The Royal Arch is the capstone of the Masonic edifice, but the third degree is its foundation, and without the presence of both the building would be incomplete. The Royal Arch is absolutely necessary to the perfection of the Master's degree as a science of symbolism, and the latter cannot be understood without the developments of the former. They are the first and second volumes of a continuous history, and the absence of either would mutilate the work."

Master Mason; as a consequence, the Chapter must know the essential qualifications of a Master Mason, and itself teach them to those of its members who may have forgotten them. The Chapter was organized as a Masonic body, using certain portions of the ritual of the lodge, one of its main objects being to give more light upon matters taught in the lodge. This was perfectly well known in the lodge, which not only acquiesced, but admitted the claims of the Chapter; more than this, it surrendered portions of two of its degrees to become two degrees of the Chapter. From the beginning the Lodge and Chapter have walked side by side upon this foundation, the Lodge recognizing the Chapter as a Masonic body, and entitled to use its rituals in accordance with the common system and the Chapter recognizing the exclusive power of the Lodge over its own members, and the Lodge itself as the foundation of the Chapter. The same is true of the relations between the Chapter and the Commandery. It may be true that the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of Illinois have never expressly committed themselves to this doctrine (although we have no doubt they both have), it was the fundamental law of the craft when they were formed, and it is as binding on them as upon all other Masons.

We regard the resolutions as revolutionary, and if they are adopted, and the Chapters forbidden to require or use the fundamental tests of eligibility of candidates, we do not perceive how the Chapters under her obedience can be regarded as regular Chapters of Royal Arch Masons.

Comp. John O'Neill was elected G. H. P.

1886.

The convocation of 1886 was uneventful. Peace and harmony prevailed while the returns showed that the Royal Craft throughout the jurisdiction was in a prosperous and flourishing condition. The business transacted was mainly of a routine character. The old proposition of a "history" was still in abeyance, but the G. H. P. (Comp. O'Neill) offered a valuable contribution thereto in the shape of a number of carefully prepared statistical tables. The work is not only a monument to the zeal and industry of the G. H. P., but a lasting benefit to the craft generally and the Masonic student in particular.

Comp. Geo. W. Curtiss was elected G. H. P.

1887.

The year 1887 witnessed no interruption of the peace and harmony which had long characterized the internal affairs of the jurisdiction or the relations of Grand Chapter with foreign bodies. The reports of the officers showed that the year, while not one of great activity, had been productive of sound and healthy growth.

At the convocation of 1884 Comp. J. R. Wilkins introduced a resolution relative to the keeping of a "lodge book of marks" by the constituent chapters—which was not acted upon. A year later the G. H. P. (Comp. Ladd) again directed attention to the subject, resulting in its reference to a special committee, but without results. At the convocation of 1886 a further resolution relating to same was introduced, as was also an amendment to the By-Laws, and at this session (1887) Comp. Curtiss once more called upon Grand Chapter to take some action thereon. Being thus pushed the representatives finally gave the matter serious consideration and on motion of Comp. Thomas Austin the following was adopted as a standing resolution:

Resolved, That each subordinate chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction forthwith provide itself with a "Book of Marks," which shall be in the lodge whenever the Mark Master Degree is conferred; that its use be explained to every candidate upon his advancement and the request made that he choose a "Mark" and record the same therein, either then, or previous to receiving the Royal Arch Degree.

Resolved, That all Royal Arch Masons members of chapters in this jurisdiction, who have not already adopted and recorded "Marks" be requested to do so at once.*

Comp. P. W. Barclay was elected G. H. P.

1888.

At the session of 1888 the G. H. P. (Comp. Barclay) reported the condition of the Royal Craft as not only peaceful and harmonious but prosperous, beyond his most sanguine expectations. The business of the session was routine and of temporary interest only. As usual the grievance committee had no complaint to hear or wrongs to redress.

Comp. Sylvester O. Spring was elected G. H. P.

1889.

The convocation of 1889 marked the fortieth year of the organized existence of Grand Chapter and found the craft enjoying the same fraternal relations as had characterized same for so many years preceding. If the historian is unable to find any stirring incidents he at least may notice a kind act, the donating of \$1,000 to the Illinois Masonic Orphans' Home. This, however, was only one of the many benefactions of a similar nature which this truly fraternal body has bestowed upon the same beneficiary.

Comp. Joseph E. Dyas was elected G. H. P.

1890.

The convocation of 1890 differed in no material respect from those of its immediate predecessors. The reports and returns showed a degree of health, activity and general prosperity never before attained in the history of Grand Chapter.

Comp. E. C. Pace was elected G. H. P.

1891.

The only question of moment before the convocation of 1891 was the oft-mooted subject of "substitutes." Much pressure was exerted to repeal

* The Mark, whose peculiar use is practically exemplified in the fourth degree, is the appropriate jewel of a Mark Master. It is generally made of gold or silver, usually of the former metal, but may be of stone, and must be in the form of a keystone. On the obverse or front surface the device or "mark" selected by the owner must be engraved, within a circle composed of the following letters: H. T. W. S. S. T. K. S. On the reverse or posterior surface the name of the owner, the name of his chapter, and the date of his advancement, may be inscribed, although this is not absolutely necessary. The "mark" consists of the device and surrounding inscription on the obverse.

It is not requisite that the device or mark should be of a strictly Masonic character, although Masonic emblems are frequently selected in preference to other subjects. As soon as adopted it should be drawn or described in a book kept by the chapter for that purpose, and it is then said to be "recorded in the Book of Marks," after which time it can never be changed by the possessor for any other, or altered in the slightest degree, but remains as his "mark" to the day of his death.

the old regulation, but Grand Chapter, in view of past experience and present conditions, concluded that it was inexpedient to make any changes.

Comp. Jacob Krohn was elected Grand High Priest.

1892-4.

The session of 1892 was strictly routine. Comp. Richard T. Higgins was elected G. H. P. The session of 1893 resulted in the choice of J. W. Hutchinson as High Priest, and at the session of 1894 William L. Milligan was elected to that dignity.

1895.

The session of 1895 marked the forty-sixth annual convocation of Grand Chapter. The proceedings were of a routine character, and Comp. Geo. M. Moulton was elected G. H. P. The returns show that at the time of this convocation there were 186 active chapters in the jurisdiction, having a total membership of 16,414; that of the charters issued since the date of organization, twenty-five had been forfeited or surrendered; and that the craft was increasing throughout the State at the rate of about 500 a year. The reports of the financial officers disclosed that Grand Chapter had invested in corporate bonds the sum of \$7,000; that there was then in the treasury an additional cash balance of \$12,653.21, and that the income of the body from all sources was upward of \$10,000 per annum. The general condition of the "Royal Craft" was fully up to the standard of former years, while the prospects for the future were never more bright.

1896.

The forty-seventh convocation disclosed a continuance of the favorable conditions shown the year preceding, but the minutes exhibit nothing of a startling character.

Notwithstanding that all High Priests were in possession of the "History of the Black Hawk war," it would yet seem that differences of interpretation were common, and in some instances the High Priests were not sufficiently versed in the language in which it was written to comprehend its full import. By virtue of a resolution passed in 1892, the G. H. P. (Comp. Moulton) appointed a Board of Lecturers, consisting of Comps. C. C. Nichols, Frank Hudson and J. L. Waller, and this Board has since been performing the duties of custodians and inspectors of the work. The results seem to have been highly beneficial, but as the new rituals are more open than the history of the late Indian uprising the necessity for such a board has been greatly diminished.

An effort was made at this session to establish "schools of instruction" similar to those authorized by Grand Lodge, but the committee, to which the matter was referred, reported that the measure was not expedient, and Grand Chapter concurred.

For some time the question of changes in the authorized lectures had been agitated and the premonitions of coming changes were evident at this session, although a resolution looking toward such changes failed of passage.

Comp. F. C. Winslow was elected G. H. P.

1897.

The returns for the year exhibited a fair degree of prosperity while peace and harmony prevailed in all parts of the jurisdiction. The G. H. P. (Comp. Winslow) called the attention of the representatives to the near proximity of the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of Grand Chapter and recommended the appointment of a committee to prepare historical and biographical data suitable for the occasion. No action, however, was taken further than an approval of the suggestion by committee on address.

The proceedings were routine and of temporary interest only.

Comp. Eugene L. Stoker was elected G. H. P.

1898.

The forty-ninth annual convocation was held Oct. 27, 1898, with M. E. Comp. Stoker presiding.

Business routine and of temporary interest only, except that Past Grand High Priests were allowed same mileage and per diem as representatives and a committee was appointed "to consider the propriety of this Grand Chapter adopting the ritual of the General Grand Chapter," with instructions to report at the next annual convocation.

Comp. Wm. B. Grimes was elected Grand High Priest.

1899.

The fiftieth annual convocation was held at Chicago Oct. 26, 1899.

The reports and returns showed that Grand Chapter was in a most prosperous condition, financially, numerically and socially. Peace and harmony prevailed in all parts of the jurisdiction and the outlook for the future was equally bright.

While the transactions were mainly of a routine character, several incidents marked radical changes in former methods and policy. For thirty years then next preceding the standard ritual had been the compilation known as "Black Hawk." From time to time suggestions for changes had been made, but nothing had come of them. At the session of 1898 the suggestion was renewed by the Grand High Priest (Comp. Stoker), who intimated that the G. G. C. ritual might profitably be employed. The suggestion was referred to committee with instructions to report at this convocation. This the committee did, and the report resulted in the passage of the following:

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter substitute the ritual of the General Grand Chapter, United States of America, for the ritual authorized by this Grand Chapter and now in use in the several Chapters in this jurisdiction; and that the Grand High Priest be instructed to procure a sufficient number of said rituals from the Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter for the use of the said Chapters and the Grand Officers of this Grand Chapter.

Resolved, That the said rituals of the General Grand Chapter, when received, be distributed by the Grand Secretary of this Grand Chapter to the High Priests reported elected and installed at the forthcoming annual elections in the several Chapters of this jurisdiction.

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary shall take a receipt from the High Priest to whom rituals shall be delivered, which receipt shall be filed and kept in the office of the Grand Secretary.

As the new ritual has only been in use for about a year, at this writing, it is impossible to predicate its future.

The question of "substitutes," for many years much mooted, was again presented. The Grand High Priest (Comp. Grimes), in his annual address "earnestly recommended" their use, urging as a reason therefor that the practice, if adopted, "will at once give life to many small, weak Chapters, now almost, if not quite, dormant, and many others struggling for a bare existence." The recommendation was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, which reported back adversely; but Grand Chapter thought otherwise, for after a lengthy debate the motion to adopt the committee's report was lost, and as a compromise measure the By-Laws were amended as follows:

Sec. 18. No Chapter in this jurisdiction shall confer the Royal Arch degree on more or less than three Most Excellent Masters at a time; Provided, that one substitute may be used, in the discretion of the E. High Priest.

And thus Grand Chapter made two radical departures from its time-honored rules and traditions, the wisdom of which remains to be seen. It is strongly contended, however, that both are in the right direction, and possibly this may be the case.

Comp. Nathaniel Bowditch was elected Grand High Priest.

* * *

During the year three of the fathers passed away—James A. Hawley, Asa W. Blakesley and A. A. Murray. All had labored long and earnestly and all had enjoyed the highest honors of the craft.

* * *

The statistics and returns to the annual convocation of 1899 showed that 214 charters for subordinate chapters had been issued by Grand Chapter since the date of its organization, of which number 184 were then in force, and that a grand total of 17,095 Royal Arch Masons were then in its obedience.

The Treasury showed a cash balance, after all disbursements, of \$16,882.28, with a further sum of \$7,000 invested in four per cent bonds. The total receipts for the year were \$11,088.01, while the total disbursements amounted to \$8,699.76. Compare these figures with the conditions existing when the mileage and per diem accounts were first scaled and then abolished and Grand Chapter was forced to negotiate a loan to meet its necessary expenses.

* * *

It may be said, and with much truth, that the foregoing brief and imperfect digest affords but a poor synopsis of the transactions of a large and influential body of Masons during a long period of years. But the limitations of time and space preclude a more exhaustive treatment. Nor is it intended that these sketches should be more than brief notices of the salient features of the years under review. To attempt more would be to

transcend the limits imposed by the scope of this report and possibly an abstract of the proceedings, with their multitudinous details of petty acts of routine business, would lack the interest for the general reader which it is the desire of the writer to retain. To the student, or those who may desire to prosecute some special inquiry, the printed reports are all accessible.

The object of the writer has been to show in brief epitome the inception of the Royal Craft in this jurisdiction and to trace its history during the fifty years of the organized life of Grand Chapter. For this purpose a chronological review has been adopted. There are, however, some matters which can better be shown by topical treatment, and these matters will form the substance of what follows.

* * *

It will be perceived, from the foregoing digest, that Grand Chapter, with one exception, has changed its presiding officer every year. This line of action is based to some extent upon the theory that every companion competent to discharge the duties of government in a constituent chapter is qualified to assume the grave responsibilities of Grand High Priest, but more, perhaps, on the theory that the office is one of honor and that he who has once been installed can receive no greater or additional honor by subsequent re-election. The plan has worked well and Grand Chapter has been fortunate in its selection of a long line of able, zealous and learned men to fill the chief office within its gift. The succession of Grand High Priests has been preserved in the digest, to which the reader is referred.

At the organization meeting in 1850 Mason Brayman was elected Grand Secretary. He was not present at the first annual convocation held in October of the same year, and the name of James L. Anderson appears as Secretary. At the election of that year Comp. Anderson was chosen Secretary, but he does not appear to have been present at the following annual convocation of 1851, and his duties were performed pro tem. by John S. Roberts. At the election of this year Comp. H. G. Reynolds was chosen to fill the station, and for eighteen years in succession received a re-election. During much of this time his dominating influence is apparent in Grand Chapter legislation and administrative policy.

At the annual convocation of 1869 Comp. James H. Miles was elected Secretary and each succeeding year until 1878 was re-elected, thus making a period of incumbency of about ten years.

In 1878 Comp. Gil. W. Barnard was elected and has since continued to perform the duties of the office. It will be seen, therefore, that during its entire career Grand Chapter has had practically but three Secretaries. Each of the persons who have filled the office was eminently qualified. Of the present incumbent, Comp. Barnard, but little need be said, as he is, without doubt, the best known Mason in the State of Illinois. His administration of the office has been a model in every particular, and it is sincerely to be hoped that he may be spared for many years to adorn the positions he has long occupied and acceptably filled.

The Treasurer of the organization meeting was Thos. H. Campbell, but he, like Comp. Brayman, did not attend the first annual convocation

in October, 1850. At this session Comp. Elias Hibbard was elected Treasurer, and in 1851 was re-elected. He did not attend the session of 1852, when Wm. S. Hurst was elected in his stead. Comp. Hurst served one year and in 1853 was succeeded by Comp. James H. Hibbard. At the next election, in 1854, Comp. William McMurtry became Treasurer, a position he retained until 1862, when he was succeeded by James R. Mack. In 1864 Comp. Mack gave way to Comp. Harrison Dills, who remained the custodian of the funds until 1875. At the convocation of 1875 Comp. A. A. Glenn succeeded and remained in the office until 1878. He was succeeded by Comp. Orlin H. Miner, who held the office until 1880, since which time the present incumbent, Comp. W. M. Egan, has been continuously elected to receive the trust. It will thus be seen that Grand Chapter has had a comparatively large number of Treasurers. Two of these officers, Comps. Dills and Glenn, retired through stress of circumstances and pecuniary failures in their own business, but as Grand Chapter had but little funds in those days no loss was entailed.

* * *

The committees of Grand Chapter resemble those of Grand Lodge and the committee work is performed in much the same manner. There is, however, a noticeable difference in some of the reports. Thus it rarely happens that the grievance committee has any work to perform, and many sessions have passed with the pleasing statement that no matters have been referred to or considered by them. Matters of administrative policy are frequently considered by the body, and so of a number of subjects that in Grand Lodge always go to committees in the first instance. For many years the "pay roll," or account of mileage and per diem, was prepared and presented by the Secretary as part of his official duties, and it is only recently that this subject has been referred to a committee.

The two principal committees are those on Jurisprudence and Accounts. The latter is both the Finance and Auditing committee of Grand Chapter, and is, perhaps, the most important of all the committees.

* * *

The organization meeting of Grand Chapter in 1850 was held at Springfield. The first annual convocation held in October of the same year occurred at Alton. In 1851 the sessions were held at Jacksonville and this continued to be the place of meeting until 1856. In 1857 the convocation was held at Springfield, and each succeeding convocation until 1865 was held at that place. In 1866 the convocation was held at Chicago. In 1867-8-9 at Springfield. In 1870 the session was held at Chicago, where all subsequent meetings have been convened.

For many years Grand Chapter regulated the time and place of its annual convocations by the actions of Grand Lodge. At first the sessions were held immediately prior to the annual communication of Grand Lodge, and this continued to be the rule until 1861, when the Friday succeeding the meeting of that body was substituted. This continued to be the time

of meeting until 1870, when it was decided that the business of the session could be more advantageously transacted if an interval were allowed to elapse between the meetings of Grand Chapter and Grand Lodge. Accordingly the "first Thursday after the fourth Tuesday in October" was selected as the day for the annual convocation, and all subsequent meetings have been held at that time.

* * *

Like the other Masonic bodies of the State, and agreeably to ancient usage, Grand Chapter authenticates its official acts under its great seal. At the convocation of 1850 the Grand Secretary was instructed to procure a seal for the use of Grand Chapter, and in connection with the Grand High Priest was authorized to "select a suitable device for the same." This duty was apparently duly performed, but aside from the act of authorization Grand Chapter has never given any further attention to the matter.

The design selected by the committee is simple and chaste, the distinctive feature consisting of the symbol. For this part of the device the committee selected the interlaced triangles, Masonically known as the sign of the Macrocosm, or Seal of Solomon.

* * *

In all works of charity and fraternal benevolence the Grand Chapter of Illinois has ever been prominent. Upon all occasions of public calamities, whether by fire, flood, or famine, it has freely and cheerfully responded. To the aged and indigent of its own household it has ever given with an open hand, while for many years the organized Masonic charities of the jurisdiction have been the recipients of its generous bounty. Scarcely a session has elapsed since the date of its organization that has not witnessed some manifestation of philanthropic endeavor. In all of this may be seen a true appreciation of the sublime precepts and lessons of the system and a substantial evidence that the lessons have not been without effect.

* * *

Royal Arch Masonry is essentially an embodiment of high morality. This has always been recognized and proclaimed by the Grand Chapter of Illinois, and while no sumptuary laws have ever been enacted, the observance and practice of the cardinal virtues of Masonry has frequently been enjoined upon the Craft in its obedience. This has not only been done by the approval of the actions and reports of its officers and committees, but also by positive resolutions passed by the body. Thus, at the session of 1856, it was

Resolved, That the cardinal virtues of Fortitude, Prudence and Justice are dependent on the maintenance of the cardinal virtue of Temperance; that every intemperate man is liable to lose that fortitude which might never forsake him in his hours of sobriety; nor can any such man be either prudent or just.

Resolved, That the Subordinate Chapters are hereby strongly urged to root out the evil of intemperance from among them, and to exercise a wholesome, prompt and efficient discipline upon the subject.

These resolutions were given the force of general regulations and remained as the expressed sentiment of the body for over thirty years. In 1868 Grand Chapter again spoke in unequivocal language respecting the vice of intemperance. The subject was presented to the session by the G. H. P. (Comp. Lininger), who, after a statement of facts, urged Grand Chapter to take some decisive action "to the end that we do not retrograde, that we may show to the world without that while we are willing to throw about the foibles of a brother the broad mantle of charity, yet are we so governed by immutable principles that wickedness and excess will ever receive our hearty rebuke." The Committee on Address endorsed the Grand High Priest's views, and Grand Chapter concurred by the passage of the following:

Resolved, That each subordinate Chapter within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter shall purge itself of intemperance and profanity; and that it be the duty of this Grand Chapter to arrest the Charter of any Chapter failing to comply with this resolution.

This also became a standing resolution.

* * *

When the first permanent constitution was adopted in 1852 a code of By-Laws was framed to accompany same, and among the other standing committees therein provided was one on Education. At the same session Comp. H. G. Reynolds moved

That the Grand Lodge of Illinois, A. F. and A. Masons, be requested to appoint a Special Committee to confer with the Committee on Education of this Grand Chapter, and devise ways and means to raise a fund for the education of the children of indigent and deceased Masons in this State.

The motion prevailed and Comp. Reynolds was appointed to make the request. Grand Lodge met on the Monday following the passage of this resolution, but it does not appear from the record that the request was preferred. The standing committee, appointed at this session, consisted of Comps. M. J. Noyes, W. H. Turner and A. W. Blakesley; and while the record of Grand Lodge does not disclose any action by that body it would yet seem that a conference was had, for at the convocation of 1853 this committee reported back as follows:

The undersigned, Committee on Education, appointed at the last annual convocation of your Grand Body, having attended to the duties of their said appointment, and having, in pursuance of the intimations given them, conferred with the committee on the same subject, appointed by the Most Worshipful, the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, of Illinois, beg leave respectfully to report: That in our opinion it is inexpedient for the Grand Bodies aforesaid to take any present action for the establishment of an Institution or Institutions of learning, to be under the guardianship and control of said bodies, or either of them; believing that the local Masonic bodies will generally, if not always, be able to extend to the destitute orphan children of our deceased brethren such assistance in regard to Education, as their several circumstances may require.

No further reports seem to have been received from this committee until 1856, when Comp. Noyes submitted the following, which was adopted:

The undersigned, two of the Committee on Education, appointed at the last annual convocation of your Grand body, beg leave respectfully to report:

That they have had but little opportunity to consult upon the subject committed to them; Comp. Hayden, not being present, has not been consulted.

The undersigned, having considered the subject, think that the limited means of this Grand Body precludes the practicability of its undertaking, at present, to establish any school or institution of learning, although we trust and believe that this most E. G. Body, with each and all of its members and subordinates, fully appreciates the importance of general education as the only safeguard of the civil institutions of our beloved country, the best means of advancing the interests of the rising generation, and of securing a succession to Masonry; and we hope at some future period (not far distant) this M. E. G. Body may be enabled to unite with the M. Worshipful Grand Lodge of Illinois in the establishment of an institution of learning that shall prove an honor to said Grand Bodies, and redound to the greatest good of generations to come.

At the convocation of 1857 the committee again reported that the conditions were not favorable for the establishment of any institution of learning. In 1859 a report of similar tenor was presented, and for several years thereafter perfunctory reports were occasionally made until finally the committee was abolished. Without the co-operation of Grand Lodge it was felt that nothing could be accomplished, and although Grand Chapter kept the educational project alive long after it had ceased to be discussed in Grand Lodge the changed conditions of civil society resulting in the establishment of common schools finally caused its abandonment.

In the charitable movements afterwards inaugurated looking toward the nurture and education of Masonic orphans, Grand Chapter has always evinced the deepest solicitude and interest, and by generous contributions has fully sustained its old-time prestige in this line of Masonic work.

* * *

Grand Lodge, on several occasions, has permitted the creation of movable lodges. The majority of these nomadic lodges resulted from the Civil war and were attached to Illinois regiments in the service of the United States.

Fortunately the movement was mainly confined to Craft lodges, and the only dispensation for the organization of a movable chapter was granted by James H. Hibbard, G. H. P., during the year 1863. The warrant was issued to Comps. Silas O. Vaughan, A. D. Clark, L. J. W. Underhill and others, and authorized them to form and open a chapter at Columbus, Ky., to be called "Asboth Military Chapter." It would seem that this chapter was attached to the Second Regiment Artillery; yet the dispensation, as appears from the report of the Grand High Priest, authorized the opening of a chapter at a definite location within the jurisdiction of a Grand Chapter with which the Grand Chapter of Illinois was on terms of amity and in fraternal correspondence. Whether this act was justified by the then condition of the country must be left for the jurists to decide. This dispensation empowered the chapter to work "until the close of the war" unless sooner revoked. The chapter remained at Columbus until the

winter of 1863-4, when it was removed to Vicksburg, holding its convocations in the Masonic Temple of that city. At the end of the war the dispensation was returned and the record of the proceedings thereunder is now among the archives of Grand Chapter.

While it may be that the institution of Masonic bodies to follow the armies was of questionable legality, as well as doubtful expediency, yet there can be no question as to the beneficent influence which Masonry itself exercised over the combatants during the sanguinary struggle. The many acts of kindness and fraternity exhibited by the brethren in either army, on the field, in the hospital and in the prison, all show that even in the midst of war's alarms the teachings of the lodge and the sacredness of obligations were not forgotten, and many a man owes personal comfort, liberty and life itself to the fact that his captor was bound to him by the "mystic tie."

* * *

The Grand Chapter of Illinois is a constituent of the body known as the General Grand Chapter, and all Royal Arch Masons of its obedience are required as a condition of exaltation, to vow allegiance thereto. As there are other "General Grand" bodies which are not recognized in this State a word of explanation may not be out of place.

The system of Royal Arch Masonry practiced in Illinois, and in all of the jurisdictions within the General Grand Chapter constituency, is essentially American in ritualistic expression and arrangement of degrees. It is now generally conceded to be the work of Thomas Smith Webb, and to have had its origin about the year 1798. Prior to this time there were but few chapters, and such as perchance did exist worked under the sanction of a Master's warrant or by self-constituted authority. There was a chapter of the latter description in New York prior to 1796, called "Washington," which claimed and exercised the right to work the R. A. degree independent of the Master's Lodge, and to grant charters of constitution. Of this body but little is known. In 1796 a convention of "committeemen" was held which passed a resolution requesting Washington Chapter not to issue charters for a chapter except upon the recommendation of the nearest chapter; so there must have been chapters in those days. But the systems of these chapters were very dissimilar. Some used the Irish ritual—Royal Arch of Dublin, a ritual very much like our own; some employed the English Royal Arch of Dermott, or other English adaptations. Some conferred only the Royal Arch, others had one or two subsidiary degrees. Out of this chaos Webb compiled a system of his own. The Mark degree was a "modification" of an existing ritual; the Past was simply an installation service, retained because all of the systems agreed upon the fundamental point that the Royal Arch could be conferred only upon one who had "regularly passed the chair;" the Most Excellent seems to have been a pure invention and has no prototype in any of the systems theretofore practiced. There was a degree bearing the name "Excellent" in the old English Royal Arch system, and it is not unlikely that Webb, desiring that his own scale should resemble in nomenclature the English rituals,

applied the old name to a new creation of his own, he being ignorant of the English ritual. This theory is supported by the fact that he did practically the same thing in his arrangement of the degrees of the Com-mandery, giving the name "Red Cross" to an arrangement of his own simply because the chivalric orders in England comprised only the degrees of Red Cross* and The Temple.

At all events, a new system was prepared, and that system was given to the organization which in 1798 was instituted under the name "Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Northern States of America," and which by 1806 had become the "General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the United States of America." The system was then the property of that body and it alone had the right to say how, when and to whom it should be communicated. It alone had the right to disseminate it or to prescribe rules for its government. The General Grand Chapter, therefore, is the fountain from whence all of the Webb Masonry of the Royal Arch flows; and while, in 1859, the body saw fit to surrender a large measure of its powers, resulting in virtual emasculation, it nevertheless is still the possessor of the original and ultimate title to the system. In Virginia, Pennsylvania and Texas the Grand Chapters are independent, yet the work of the two former, save as they may have "absorbed" it, is not the Webb system; and while the latter does work the standard ritual, it does so only upon the same authority as he who, having borrowed my coat, now claims it for his own and continues to wear it. Texas was originally a constituent, but "drew out." Undoubtedly every Grand Chapter has the inalienable right to withdraw from the General Grand whenever it may desire and refuse longer to recognize its governing authority; but no Grand Chapter has a right to withdraw and take with it the Royal Arch system, which is the property of the parent body.

Therefore, Illinois is, and will undoubtedly remain, a constituent of the General Grand Chapter, and certainly so long as it continues to use its system it cannot, in common fairness and honesty, do otherwise. There was a time when Illinois desired a separation; when it instructed its delegates to procure such on honorable terms; and it is possible that time and circumstances may again produce such a feeling; but should the separation ever come, then we should surrender our ritual to the power from whom we derived same, and secure the right to use some other.

* * *

The "History of the Black Hawk War" is a compromise. The "residents of the Military Reservation" were probably as well qualified to assume the task of compiling the history as any that could have been selected, and that their work was faithfully and conscientiously performed no one acquainted with the men will for a moment doubt. But, from the comparisons which we have recently been enabled to make, it will be perceived that it differs materially from the standard ritual of the General Grand Chapter. The authors think it is better, and possibly it is, but

* The English Red Cross degree is the one now popularly known as Red Cross of Constantine.

it is not the original Webb lectures. However, the venerable historians of that sanguinary war may derive some satisfaction from the fact that the standard ritual of the General Grand Chapter is not the original work of Webb, but, like their own production, a melange, contributed by a number of equally talented and versatile ritualists.

In other words, the lectures of the chapter, equally with those of the lodge, are subject to the mutations of time and caprice of men. Webb changed and altered them in his own lifetime. His successors have done the same; and, while the lectures which for so many years we continued to employ, as well as those we now use, are substantially the same as they were one hundred years ago, some very salient features have been eliminated and a few less noticeable matters added.

It will be seen, therefore, that, while the only real bond between the Grand Chapter of Illinois and the General Grand Chapter lies in the fact that we are using the General Grand's system, yet for fifty years our lectures were not the ones promulgated by that body; and we have the further seeming anomaly that, with all of the Grand Chapters of the Union, save three, under the direct supervision of a general central body, scarcely any two jurisdictions work in all respects alike. This arose primarily from the fact that while the General Grand did control and disseminate a system, it did not, until many years had elapsed, promulgate a ritual; and while all of its constituents were supposed to use the Webb lectures it is easy to perceive how the lectures, left to the caprice of the lecturers, might become debased upon the one hand and improved upon the other. After a particular school of lectures had become popular in a locality it became difficult to displace them. Hence the numerous variations.

* * *

The connection which subsists between the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Illinois and the General Grand Chapter has ever been of the most fragile character. To the majority of the craft the General Grand is little more than a vague abstraction. They know that it exists, and that, in a general way, they are in its obedience; but that is about all.

The provisional constitution under which Grand Chapter was organized makes no mention whatever of the General Grand, and does assert a complete independence, the opening lines being, "This Grand Chapter has the sole government and superintendence of the several Royal Arch Chapters, and Lodges of Mark, Past, and Most Excellent Master Masons, within the State of Illinois; with authority to settle all controversies; * * * to prescribe laws and regulations for their government; to review, confirm or annul their decisions." All of the other provisions are equally emphatic in the assertion of sovereign powers. The By-Laws which accompanied this Constitution recognized the General Grand, but only in a perfunctory sort of a way.

It must not be understood, however, that in all this there was any intentional disrespect to the parent body or any desire to disregard any claims which that body might lawfully possess or assert. Grand Chapter was organized under the direct auspices of the General Grand; Article 2

of the Constitution of the G. G. C., with slight variations, was in fact its provisional constitution, and under this it continued to act until 1852, when a "permanent" constitution was adopted.

The permanent Constitution expressly recognized the G. G. C. by providing a declaration of fealty or allegiance to be made by "each Grand officer previous to entering upon the duties of his office." The same requirement was prescribed for the officers of subordinate chapters at the time of installation, while the esoteric ceremonies have always imposed this upon every candidate at the time of exaltation.

From time to time murmurs of discontent have been heard against the G. G. C. About the time of organization of Grand Chapter these evidences of dissatisfaction were rife, and a large number of State Grand Chapters were seriously considering the project either of a dissolution of the G. G. C. or a withdrawal from its communion. Illinois, having but lately left the maternal fold, was influenced by this fact, and at the convocation of 1852 placed on record its views in a resolution which declared

That this Grand Chapter is in favor of the continuance of the General Grand Chapter, and will strenuously oppose its dissolution.

By the year 1870, however, Grand Chapter seems to have experienced a decided change of heart. The G. G. C. was no longer considered a necessity, and scarcely a luxury, of capitular life. The extremists advocated withdrawal, but the conservative element, which was in the majority, effected a compromise by the introduction and passage of a resolution instructing the representatives to advocate and vote for a dissolution of the body. As a matter of fact, the representatives did neither, for they seem to have been "waited upon" when they made their appearance and completely converted. By making all Past Grand High Priests permanent members the G. G. C. has done much to perpetuate its own existence; and while the tie which unites the constituent Grand Chapters is but a slight one, yet the mild and inoffensive course of the body has practically silenced cavil. For many years there have been no suggestions for a dissolution.

* * *

The Grand Chapter, like the Grand Lodge, is a civil corporation as well as a voluntary association, and like the Grand Lodge it pays but little attention to the charter from the State and performs all its work under a constitution of its own devising and which it changes at pleasure.

The permanent constitution of Grand Chapter was not adopted until 1852, but immediately thereafter, on motion of Comp. L. Lusk, it was

Resolved, That Comps. Reynolds, Warren and Lively be appointed a committee to apply to the Legislature of this State for a Charter of Incorporation of this Grand Chapter, and Chapters subordinate to this Grand Chapter.

At the session of 1853 the committee reported the performance of this duty and submitted the Act of Incorporation, which was approved.

The Act of Incorporation was passed by the General Assembly in February, 1853, and has been in force from that time. The civil corporation is composed of the same persons which constitute the Masonic body and

is called "The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Illinois." Whether the body which meets annually at Chicago is this civil corporation or whether same is a voluntary organization existing in conformity to ancient Masonic usage the writer does not decide. Certain it is, however, that in the deliberations of that body the charter is never alluded to and the body claims and exercises, as of right, sovereign powers, prerogatives and attributes based upon the fundamental principles of Masonry.

The civil corporation possesses the usual delegated powers; may sue and be sued, prosecute and defend, in all manner of actions at law or in equity; may make rules and regulations for its own government; may purchase and hold real estate; may maintain funds for charity and educational purposes, but for no other uses or benefits whatever; shall not at any one time hold personal or mixed property to an amount exceeding \$50,000, nor real estate to an amount exceeding 1,000 acres of land; may loan its money and take evidences of debt; may borrow money in sums not exceeding \$500* at any one time, and may appoint all proper officers, agents and attorneys for the management of its business that it may deem proper.

Sec. 8 of the Act further provides as follows:

Each Subordinate Chapter under the jurisdiction of the aforesaid Grand Royal Arch Chapter, now in existence, or which may hereafter be Chartered by the same, is also hereby declared to be a body politic and corporate, by and under the name, style and number set forth in their respective Charters; and by such designation they may respectively sue, and be sued, plead, and be impleaded, defend, and be defended against, in all suits arising in law or chancery, in all the Courts of this State, and by said respective names and numbers. The said Subordinate Chapters respectively, shall be capable in law of purchasing or receiving, by purchase, gift, or otherwise, and of selling and conveying, real and personal estate, for the benefit of said Subordinate Chapters respectively: Provided, That neither of said Subordinate Chapters shall, at any one time, possess more than five hundred acres of land, or hold real estate exceeding in value Twenty-Five Thousand dollars each.

So far as applicable the provisions relating to Grand Chapter are also applicable to each of the subordinate chapters. The following is the provision relating to dissolution of chapters:

In case any Subordinate Chapter under the jurisdiction of said Grand Royal Arch Chapter, should cease to exist, or forfeit its Charter, then all the estate, real and personal, together with all the records, books, papers, vouchers, furniture, jewels, seals and fixtures belonging to such Chapter, shall immediately vest in the said Grand Royal Arch Chapter; and all personal property, the books, records, papers, vouchers, jewels, seals, furniture, deeds, moneys, evidences of debt, leases or mortgages, belonging to said Chapter so forfeiting its Charter, or ceasing to exist, shall be delivered over by the last Secretary or Treasurer of the same, to the proper officer or agent of said Grand Royal Arch Chapter, on demand; and on failing to do so, each and every member of such delinquent Chapter shall be individually liable to said Grand Royal Arch Chapter, in an action of debt, for the full value of the same.

As originally passed the Act required Grand Chapter to annually file with the Secretary of State a printed copy of its proceedings, list of officers

* Grand Chapter seems to have violated this provision in 1877 when a loan of \$1,500.00 was negotiated.

and of its subordinate chapters, together with a list of their officers and members; but this requirement was subsequently repealed by a rider annexed to amendatory act of 1855 incorporating Grand Lodge.

It will be observed that the charter provides for individual liability in case of dissolution of subordinate chapters. There were many objections urged against this clause at the time, but as the years roll by and no one has yet been mulcted it has lost its early terrors. But the clause is there just the same.

ORDER OF HIGH PRIESTHOOD.

Among the many degrees, orders and dignities which have obtained recognition or secured adoption in the jurisdiction of Illinois, is the auxiliary capitular grade of High Priesthood; but when, where or how it originated is not definitely known. It is conferred, as an honorarium, upon the High Priests of Royal Arch Chapters, and since the organization of Grand Chapter has been wholly under the auspices and control of that body.

The degree finds its first mention in the second edition of Webb's Monitor, published in 1802, under the head, "Observations on the Order of High Priests;" and the general opinion of Masonic scholars is that it originated about that time and emanated from Webb himself. It is not known outside of America. It was probably formulated by the Committee on Constitutional Revision of the General Grand Chapter in 1799, as this committee reported back a form for the installation of High Priests, which provided, at a certain point in the ceremonies, for the exclusion of all who were not High Priests; and "after the performance of other necessary ceremonies, not proper to be written," the excluded persons were to be permitted to return. It is surmised that the "other necessary ceremonies, not proper to be written," were the present ceremonials of consecration and anointing to the Priesthood. Webb was a member of the committee and the controlling spirit of the General Grand Chapter at that time.

But while the original idea seems to have been that the consecration, even though performed in private, should be an integral part of the installation of High Priests, and indeed so remained, in theory at least, until 1853, when the section relating to same was repealed, yet in practice it soon became a separate ceremonial; and Cross in his Masonic Chart, as early as 1826, had so arranged it. Since this time, if not before, it has been entirely disconnected with the ceremony of installation.

* * *

The first mention of the conferring of the Order of High Priesthood, in this jurisdiction, is found in the proceedings of the Grand Chapter for the year 1851. On the evening of Friday, Oct. 3, 1851, at the town of Jacksonville, a Council of High Priests was opened with Comp. J. V. Z. Blaney as President, and six persons, High Priests of their respective Chapters, "were introduced, duly consecrated, and admitted to the Order in solemn form." The Companions, the first to receive this honor within the

State, were M. J. Noyes, of Barry; Charles Howard, of Upper Alton; Louis Watson, of Quincy; William S. Hurst, of Jacksonville; John Jewell, of Peoria, and Daniel C. McNeil, of Cambridge.

It does not seem that any further conventions were held until 1853, or if such were held no record of the same has been preserved. In this year, however, a council was opened and the order conferred on three candidates. Sept. 28, 1854, seven High Priests, "being possessed of the requisite qualifications," were "severally received and admitted to the Order of High Priesthood, with solemn ceremonies." After which, on motion of Comp. Shirley, it was

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to consider upon the propriety of forming a Council of High Priests, and if deemed advisable, to prepare a Constitution and By-Laws and report at the next meeting of the Grand Chapter.

On Sept. 7, 1855, the Convention again met, with Comp. Levi Lusk as President. Nine candidates were admitted. A Constitution was then adopted, and the Association, under the name and style, "Grand Council of High Priests of the State of Illinois," became a permanent organization. From 1855 until the present time (1900) the Council has met regularly each year with the annual convocation of Grand Chapter, and during this period there have been "admitted, anointed, consecrated and set apart unto the Order of High Priesthood" a total of 1,270 persons, which, together with those received in the temporary councils prior to organization, makes a grand total of 1,286 Companions consecrated to the "sacerdotal office" in Illinois.

The control and direction of the affairs of the council is vested in a President, Vice President, Recorder, who is also custodian of the funds, Master of Ceremonies and such other officers as are required in the rendition of the traditional ceremonies. By the unwritten laws of the Council the office of Tyler is always filled by the immediate Past Grand High Priest, M. E. Comp. Wm. B. Grimes, being the last person to occupy the station at the time of writing this review.

The first President under the Constitution was the venerable Levi Lusk, who served until 1861. He was succeeded by M. J. Noyes, who continued to serve until the time of his death, in 1867, when the present incumbent, Loyal L. Munn, was elected. It will thus be seen that the organization has had but three presiding officers during the entire period of its existence; and as Comp. Munn bids fair to remain with us for many years, it will probably be long ere the list is extended.

While the Council has for many years collected an "honorarium" from the novices, the sum has been small and designed only to cover the actual expenses of the session. No money is kept in the treasury over night, and after the disbursements incidental to the session have been made the balance remaining is devoted to some work of charity or benevolence.

At the convocation of 1895 a new feature was introduced. Immediately upon the adjournment of the Council the companions repaired to the Sherman House, where they partook of a dinner and listened to the edifying addresses of Comps. Munn, Smith, Milligan, Goddard, Montgomery and

others. A pleasing incident of this gathering was the presence of Comp. R. C. Cabeen, the oldest anointed High Priest in Illinois, he having been consecrated to the Priesthood in 1854, one year before the organization of the Council. The address delivered upon this occasion by Comp. J. C. Smith is replete with much curious and valuable information. The occasion was graced by the attendance of many of the old Patriarchs, among whom were A. W. Blakesley, anointed 1857; Jno. M. Pearson and Silas O. Vaughan, of the vintage of 1859; J. R. Gorin, 1861; and W. M. Egan, 1862.

* * *

It has now come to be regarded as practically a matter of obligation for a High Priest to present himself for consecration at the earliest practicable moment after his election or installation. Mackey says, "It is the duty of every companion, as soon after his election to the office of High Priest as is consistent with his personal convenience, to apply for admission to the Order of High Priesthood, that he may be fully qualified properly to govern his chapter;" and the monitors generally reiterate this statement.

As a matter of fact, however, no duty of this character rests upon a High Priest elect, nor does the investiture impart any special qualifications. The General Grand Chapter, at its convocation in 1853, passed upon the question in the adoption of the following:

Resolved, That while, in deference to the long established usages of Royal Arch Masonry in this country, it is recommended that every newly elected High Priest should, as soon as it is convenient, receive the order of High Priesthood; his anointment as such is not necessary to his installation, or to the full and entire discharge of all his powers and duties as the presiding officer of his Chapter.

Nor is there any historical or legal precedent for the conferring of the degree in a regularly organized Council of High Priests. While the Grand Council of Illinois is venerable with years, and as such is entitled to our respect, yet its organization rests on no firmer a foundation than general consent. Mackey says, "The order should not be conferred when a less number than three duly qualified High Priests are present;" and further, that "the High Priest of every regular Royal Arch Chapter, having himself been duly qualified, can confer the order, under the preceding limitation as to number." He intimates, however, that it is desirable, when circumstances will permit, that it should be conferred by the Grand High Priest or some person deputized by him for the purpose.

The early conventions of High Priests in this jurisdiction were of a temporary character, organized for the purpose of the hour and dissolved as soon as the objects of the convention had been accomplished. Since 1855 the order has been controlled by the "Grand Council of High Priests of the State of Illinois," a permanent, constitutional organization, and under the rules of comity which now prevail in all of the recognized Masonic bodies, such organization must be regarded as having full and exclusive dominion over same. Grand Chapter has never made a ruling with respect to the Grand Council of High Priests, though it has continued to

recognize the body from its establishment, while the General Grand Chapter, at its session in 1853, decided "that it is not within the province or the control of this General Grand Chapter, or of any State Grand Chapter, to define the duties or powers of a Council of High Priests."

* * *

The symbolic design of this degree, as expounded by Mackey, appears to be to present to the candidate the bond of brotherly love which should unite those who, having been elevated to the highest station by their companions, are thus engaged in one common task of preserving the landmarks of the order unimpaired, and in protecting, by their high authority, the integrity and honor of the institution. Thus, separated from the general mass of laborers in the field of Masonry, and consecrated to a sacred mission as teachers of its glorious truths, those who sit in the tabernacle as the representatives of the ancient high priesthood, are, by the impressive ceremonies of this degree, reminded of the intimate friendship and fellowship which should exist between all those who have been honored with this distinguished privilege.

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