

UTAH.—First Council organized in 1895 under the General Grand Council. No Grand Council organization.

VERMONT.—Cross introduced Cryptic Masonry into this state in 1817. Grand Council organized in 1854. Subordinate to General Grand Council.

WASHINGTON.—First Council organized in 1891 by General Grand Council. No Grand Council organization.

WISCONSIN.—Grand Council organized in 1857. Merged in 1878. Reorganized in 1881. Independent.

WYOMING.—Councils organized in 1895 by General Grand Council. No Grand Council organization.

THE CRYPTIC RITE IN MICHIGAN.

Monroe Council No. 1.

The first of Cryptic Masonry in Michigan began at the institution of a Council in the city of Detroit, when Monroe Council, No. 1, was organized. There was an irregularity about the first formation of Monroe Council, as the degrees were conferred within a Royal Arch Chapter, and they found that the membership would not be recognized, so steps were taken toward a legal organization.

Edward A. Elliott went to New England and while there secured from the Grand Council of Connecticut a dispensation for a Council to be known as Monroe Council, No. 23. The only records of this now historical matter are to be found in a bound volume of early proceedings of the Grand Council of Connecticut, in the library of that Grand Council, and the writer is under obligation to Grand Recorder James McCormick, of Hartford, for a written extract of those proceedings. And yet some Companions still question the propriety of accumulating a library of such proceedings.

"In 1856 at the annual assembly of the Grand Council of Connecticut, held May 13, 1856, the M. P. Grand Master, Francis Turner, was sick, but sent a report saying that he had granted a dispensation to Monroe Council, No. 23, Detroit, Michigan, and that a competent Companion had been authorized to heal such Companions as had taken the degrees in a Royal Arch Chapter.

"It was voted that the doings of the M. P. Grand Master be approved by the Grand Council and the dispensation be continued in force to the next annual assembly.

"At the annual assembly, May 12, 1857, Alexander Hamilton was also sick, reported that he had granted a dispensation to Monroe Council, No. 23, at Detroit, Michigan, and one for St. Clair Council, No. 25, St. Clair, Michigan; also a dispensation for a Council in New Hampshire, Adoniram, No. 24, and recommended that should the dispensations be returned, charters be granted to them.

"On motion it was voted the communication of the M. P. Grand Master be referred to a committee of three.

"The Committee reported: The only official acts alluded to in the address are the granting of dispensations for the establishing of four new Councils, one in Meriden, in this state, one in Manchester, New Hampshire, one in Detroit, and one in St. Clair, Michigan. On motion it was resolved, that the charters be granted to Hamilton Council, No. 22, Meriden, and Monroe Council, No. 23, and St. Clair Council, No. 24, in the State of Michigan, agreeable to the prayer of the several petitioners for the same."

So far as known not a charter member is now living to give us a verbal account of that important event, but fortunately for posterity the records have been carefully preserved, from which the writer gathers some of the details of this sketch.

The first entry is of the meeting held to receive the dispensation from Connecticut and is as follows:

"Detroit, May 19th, 1856.

"A special communication of Monroe Council, No. 1, of Royal and Select Masters, held at Masonic Hall this evening, for the purpose of hearing the report of Companion Elliott, he having returned from the State of Connecticut.

"Companions present: N. B. Carpenter, T. I. G. M.; N. P. Jacobs, T. G. M.; E. Rood, P. C.; E. A. Elliott, C. G.; Chas. Jackson, Treasurer; Wm. Barclay, Recorder; S. B. Morse, Grand Chaplain; Chas. D. Howard, Sentinel; L. B. Willare, C. T. Tyler, and others.

The T. I. G. M. opened a Council of Royal and Select Masters in due form. Companion E. A. Elliott made his report that he had procured a dispensation from the Grand Council of the State of Connecticut, which was then presented, the fee for the same was \$15.00, incidental expenses \$3.00, leaving balance in favor of treasury of \$12.00, which amount was paid over to Recorder. On motion the report was adopted, and the thanks of the Council tendered to Companion E. A. Elliott, for the efficient manner in which he had procured said dispensation.

"The dispensation was then read and accepted and ordered to be placed on file. It was then unanimously, Resolved: That this Council shall be known by the name and style of Monroe Council, No. 23, of Royal and Select Masters of Detroit, Michigan. On motion a committee of three, consisting of Companions E. A. Elliott, William Barclay, and S. B. Morse, were appointed to prepare a code of by-laws for the government of this Council, and report the same on Monday, the 16th day of June, next.

There being no further business the Council was then closed in harmony.

WILLIAM BARCLAY, Recorder."

At the next meeting, June 16, 1856, the committee previously appointed, reported a code of by-laws which was adopted. Many of the signers of this document have since become conspicuous in the annals of Masonry in Michigan, and in other walks of life, and gone to their reward. Among them are such names as Nathan B. Carpenter, Nathaniel P. Jacobs, Ezra Rood, Edward A. Elliott, William

Barclay, Charles Jenkinson, Charles D. Howard, Stephen B. Morse, A. C. Caniff, Francis A. Blades, Senica Caswell, D. B. Nichols, J. P. Whiting, Sylvester Farmer, Ezra Platt, William P. Innis, Gerra B. Noble, Benjamin F. Doughty, D. Burnham Tracy, L. H. Corsön, Edward D. Benedict, Oliver Bourke, Edward M. Doan, H. B. Shank, William V. Griffith, D. Brayton Lyon, and others.

The first petitions received after organization under the dispensation were those of William H. Barse, Charles Terry, F. A. Wormley, F. H. Blood, R. H. Jenks, and S. S. Barrows. This closed the work for the year 1856.

At the meeting held January 2, 1857, a petition was received from "John Clark, and later from G. B. Engle, and eight others (not named), Royal Arch Masons of St. Clair County, praying for the degrees conferred in this Council, if found worthy, this Council to recommend them to the Grand Council of the State of Connecticut to grant a charter or dispensation to entitle them to open a Council in said county of St. Clair, State of Michigan."

The prayer of the petitioners was unanimously granted. John Clark was given his degree but the others probably received them in the new Council.

At the meeting held January 14, 1857, petitions were received from twelve Royal Arch Masons residing outside of Detroit, who were attending Grand Chapter meeting, and the degrees were conferred upon them.

April 20, 1857, a petition was presented from T. A. Flower, A. B. Cudworth, D. C. Jacobs, F. Darrow, and five others, requesting that they be recommended by Monroe Council to the Grand Council of Connecticut, for a charter to form a new Council in Pontiac. Thus were two new Councils started out of Monroe Council within a few months.

At a meeting held July 6, 1857, the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved: That any Companion formerly a member of Monroe Council, No. 1, may become a member of this Council by being properly recommended by two members of the same and balloted for in accordance with Article 8, of the by-laws, without further charge."

The election of officers held at this meeting resulted in a reelection of the principal officers, and the new charter from Connecticut was presented and read. A copy is here given:

"To all whom it may Concern:

The Grand Council of Select Masters of the State of Connecticut sends Greetings:

Whereas, Sundry Illustrious Companions, to-wit: Nathan B. Carpenter, Nathaniel P. Jacobs, Ezra Rood, Edward A. Elliott, Wm. Barclay and others in behalf of themselves and their associates,

have presented their petition to this Grand Council, praying for a charter empowering them to hold a legal Council in the City of Detroit, Michigan, and pledging themselves to conform in all things to the laws and regulations of this Grand Council, and,

Whereas, The Prayer of said petition was granted at our regular assembly held May 12, A. D. 1857;

"Therefore, Be It Known, That by virtue of the power in us vested, we, the presiding officers of the Grand Council of Connecticut, do hereby constitute, ordain and establish said Council in the said City of Detroit, State of Michigan, to be known by the name of

MONROE COUNCIL NO. 23.

Authorizing the said Illustrious Companions, their associates, and successors, who must be legally made, Select Masters, to meet from time to time in regular council, to elect their officers in a constitutional manner, to confer the degrees of Royal Master and Select Master upon candidates duly qualified, and none other, and to transact any other proper business for a regular Council.

"And we hereby enjoin upon the officers and members of said Council, a strict conformity to the Constitution, Bylaws and Regulations of this Grand Council, otherwise this charter will be null and void.

WILLIAM L. BREWER, G. P.

GEORGE F. DASKAM, D. G. P.

HIRAM WILLEY, G. T. I.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto affixed the seal of the Grand Council at New Haven, the 14th day of May, 1857.

(Seal)

E. G. STORER, Grand Recorder."

The following was the dispensation to Companion Elliott to "enstall" the officers and start the new Council out upon its long journey:

"To all whom it may concern:

Be it known—

"That at the annual assembly of the Grand Council of Select Masters of the State of Connecticut, May 12, 1857, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That Illustrious Companion Edward A. Elliott, of Monroe Council, No. 23, be and is hereby fully authorized, and empowered to enstall the following officers of the several Councils, which have been chartered in the State of Michigan, by this Grand Council.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto affixed the seal of the Grand Council of Connecticut at New Haven, this 27th day of June, 1857.

(Seal)

E. G. STORER, Grand Recorder."

On November 3, 1857, the following Companions who had been members of the original Monroe No. 1 were elected. William G. Moore, Henry Metz, Alexander Mathison, M. P. Stewart, John Lovett, M. C. Fechheimer, John Scott, T. P. Whiting, Richard Ash, T. R. Mehling, William Penfield, T. T. Rhodes, T. B. Rhodes, D. B. Nichols.

On December 28, another list of names was presented consisting of Czar Jones, Garra B. Noble, Thomas Hurst, Sylvester Harmer, Senica Caswell, Andrew J. Clark, Hiram R. Andrews, George F. Kellie, E. B. Paxton. These Companions were then duly "healed" by Companion Edward A. Elliott, who had received the power to do so direct from the state of Connecticut.

During another Grand Chapter meeting held January 14, 1858, these Companions from other parts of Michigan were elected and received the degrees: David F. Lumsden, John Moore, David B. Tracy, Goel G. Goff, L. H. Corson, Benj. F. Douhgty, D. Brayton Lyon, Edward D. Benedict.

Former members of Monroe Council No. 1 were also received as follows: O. Marsh, Thomas Anderson, D. Michael, John Farrar, Ezra Platt, A. C. Caniff, William Davis, Fred Hall, F. W. Noble, G. W. Latimer, E. Ives, Charles Terry, S. S. Brown, E. P. Worden, D. S. Leavitt, David B. Reid.

The fee for the degrees was \$7.00 but the preachers were favored at reduced prices, they paying only \$1.00. The dues were made fifty cents per year.

January 25, 1858, three more of the old members of Monroe, No. 1, E. M. Clark, K. C. Barker and Joseph J. Barker, were admitted. The following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas, There was a convention of representatives from Detroit Council, No. 23, St. Clair Council, No. 24, and Pontiac Council, No. 25, of Royal and Select Masters, holding charters from the Grand Council of the State of Connecticut, which convention was held pursuant to notice given, at Masonic Hall, in the City of Detroit, on the 13th day of January, A. D., 1858, for the purpose of forming a State Grand Council in the State of Michigan, and whereas, at said convocation it was resolved that it was for the best interest of Royal and Select Masonry, that a State Grand Council be formed in the State of Michigan, and whereas said convention did proceed to form a State Grand Council by adopting a constitution and by-laws for its own and the government of subordinate Councils, and whereas, it was Resolved, that a charter be granted by said Grand Council, to this Council by the name and style of Monroe Council, No. 1, of Royal and Select Masters, therefore be it

"Resolved, That this Council do accept of said charter so granted by the Grand Council of the State of Michigan, and hereby and thereby become subordinate in all things within their sphere, to said Grand Council."

This action changed the number and allegiance to Monroe Council, No. 1, of the Grand Council of Michigan.

At a meeting held March 29th, 1858, this resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, That this Council will advance to the Grand Council, as a loan to the Grand Council of this state, a sum sufficient

for the printing and seal ordered by said Grand Council at its convocation in this city on the 13th day of January last, and that the T. I. G. M. draw his warrant upon the Treasurer for the amount, and the Recorder present the bill to the Grand Council for payment at its next session."

From that date there seemed to be a lull in the activities of the Council, there being only two candidates received between that meeting and March 5, 1860.

January 28, 1861, a recommendation was passed in favor of a new Council at Ypsilanti, to be called Union Council.

From this on the records show a steady growth and increasing interest in the Cryptic degrees, varying somewhat with the condition of the times but continually advancing in numbers and in perfection of its work.

*** St. Clair Council No. 2.**

This Council was organized in 1857 as No. 24, under a dispensation granted by Alexander Hamilton, M. P. Grand Master of Connecticut.

It was first chartered by the Grand Council of Connecticut on May 12, 1857, and the officers were installed by Edward A. Elliott, who was deputized by the Grand Puissant of Connecticut to perform that duty.

On the organization of Grand Council this Council was issued a new charter and given the number of two. The officers who were filling the stations when the convention was called were: G. B. Engle, T. I. G. M.; S. B. Brown, D. I. G. M.; A. J. Cummings, P. C. P. T.; B. W. Jenks, Treasurer; F. H. Blood, Recorder; E. White, C. G.; John Clark, Conductor; William Cook, Marshal; E. Carlton, Steward.

This Council continued with an indifferent interest until it was dropped from the records of Grand Council in 1878. The last returns were made in 1874, when thirty-three members were reported as follows: John Clark, T. I. M.; Simeon B. Brown, D. M.; A. J. Cummings, P. C. W.; I. G. Hurlburt, C. G.; Samuel Bendit, Recorder; D. D. O'Dele, Treasurer; Chas. W. Bailey, Sentinel; James H. White, H. J. Bockius, George S. Cornell, Ezra Rust, R. H. Jenks, F. H. Blood, Edgar White, W. T. Mitchell, O. D. Conger, Wm. Livingston, N. S. Carleton, M. H. Miles, Ralph Wadhams, E. W. Harris, I. W. Loucks, Jr., Eber W. Cottrell, Chas. Flugal, James Gleason, E. W. Cady, James Moffat, Jacob Weis, A. Stewart, Chas. E. Norton, John Kelby and E. W. Philips.

The moving spirits of this Council were Rev. George B. Engle and John Clark, and with their departure the interest seem

to wane. No records were ever preserved as efforts to find them have been fruitless.

Pontiac Council No. 3.

Pontiac Council was first organized as No. 25 on a petition of nine Companions residing in the village of Pontiac, presented to the Grand Council of Connecticut, at its session held May 12, 1857. The petition was referred to a committee who reported the following resolution:

"Resolved: That the petition of sundry Illustrious Companions residing in Pontiac, Michigan, for a Council of Royal and Select Masters be and is hereby granted and that a charter be issued in due form by the name of Pontiac Council, No. 25.

"Resolved: That Illustrious Companion Edward A. Elliott of Monroe Council, No. 23, is hereby fully authorized and empowered to install the officers of the several Councils, which have been chartered in the State of Michigan by this Grand Council."

The records of this Council have been preserved and the following are the minutes of the first meeting held for organization:

"At a special communication of Pontiac Council, No. 25, held at Masonic Hall, December 14, 1857, the following Companions were present: T. A. Flower, A. B. Cudworth, and F. Darrow. Visitors from Monroe Council, No. 23: E. A. Elliott, N. B. Carpenter, S. B. Morse, E. Rood, C. D. Howard, Wm. Penfield, G. F. Gardner, K. C. Barker, I. B. Mehling, I. S. Barrows.

"N. B. Carpenter, T. I. G. M.; S. B. Morse, I. D. G. M.; E. Rood, M. E. P. C.; E. A. Elliott, C. G.; I. S. Barrows, G. S.; I. B. Mehling, G. T.; F. Darrow, G. Recorder; C. D. Howard, G. Sentinel.

"On motion a Council of Royal and Select Masters was opened in due form.

"Companion E. A. Elliott proceeded to install Companions T. A. Flower as T. I. G. M., and A. B. Cudworth as D. I. G. M. by virtue of the power in him vested by the Grand Council of the State of Connecticut, a copy of which is hereunto annexed, viz.:

"To all whom it may Concern: Be it known that at the annual assembly of the Grand Council of Select Masters of the State of Connecticut, held May 12, 1857, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved: That Illustrious Companion Edward A. Elliott of Monroe Council, No. 23, be and is hereby fully authorized and empowered to install the officers of the several Councils which have been chartered in the State of Michigan by this Grand Council.

"In testimony whereof I have hereunto affixed the seal of the Grand Council of the State of Connecticut, at New Haven, the 27th day of June, 1857.

(Seal) Signed: E. G. STORER, Grand Recorder.

"The Council was called from labor to refreshment until six o'clock.

"Council met at six o'clock when the following petitions were received and referred to a committee: Robert W. Davis, Aug. C.

Baldwin, Levi Bacon, Jr., Richard H. Elliott, A. B. Mathews, J. A. Corbin, John L. Smith, William Scott, H. C. Thurber, Abiram Parker, Charles Pittman, Joseph A. Hough.

"The committee reported favorably on the above petitions, which report was accepted and on motion the ballot passed severally for the candidates and found clear.

"On motion the following candidates, viz.: R. W. Davis, A. C. Baldwin, Levi Bacon, Jr., Richard H. Elliott, J. A. Corbin, John L. Smith, and William Scott and A. B. Mathews, were introduced and received the Royal Master's degree.

"On motion the same Companions were introduced and received the Select Masters degree, and paid \$5.00 each and signed the by-laws.

"On motion the foregoing by-laws were read and adopted.

"On motion this Lodge of Royal and Select Masters was closed.

F. DARROW, Recorder."

Of these early members there is only one living and of him the Recorder says:

"In looking over the record of the first Assembly I find but one of the first petitioners for the degrees, Abiram Parker, is living. The others, together with all the first officers, have passed on to mysteries we know not of. Companion Parker is still in very good health, is president of the First Commercial Bank in Pontiac, and gets down to business regularly as most men get to their several avocations."

The next meeting, a week later, was the annual meeting for election of officers and the record thereof appears thus:

"At a regular communication of Pontiac Council, No. 25, held at Masonic Hall on Monday evening, December 21, 1857, the following Companions were present: T. A. Flower, A. B. Mathews, A. B. Cudworth, A. C. Baldwin, F. Darrow, G. R. Hixson, S. Bacon, Jr., Wm. Scott, J. S. Smith, J. A. Corbin, R. H. Elliott.

"This being the first annual communication, on motion proposed to elect the officers for the ensuing year by ballot, which resulted as follows: F Darrow, T. I. G. M.; A. B. Cudworth, D. I. G. M.; A. B. Mathews, P. C.; Levi Bacon, Jr., Treasurer; R. H. Elliott, Recorder; A. C. Baldwin, C. G.; J. A. Corbin, Conductor; R. W. Davis, Marshal; G. R. Hixson, Steward.

"On motion an order was drawn on the treasury for \$11.88 in payment for the charter and frame.

"On motion that the expenses of Companions from Detroit at the last Communication be paid by this Council. On motion an order was drawn on the treasury for \$30.00 that being the amount of their expenses.

"On motion \$1.00 was allowed and ordered paid to H. S. Reinhart for services rendered.

"On motion this Council of Royal and Select Masters be closed.

R. H. ELLIOTT, Recorder."

No records were made from this time until a year later at the annual meeting when the old officers were re-elected. Com-

panion Darrow was allowed \$7.00 for charter fee to Grand Council of Connecticut. Companion A. B. Cudworth was appointed to represent the Council at the coming meeting of Grand Council. The record of this meeting is that of Pontiac Council "No. 3," although no entry of any kind is made to show that this Council participated in any way in the organization of a Grand Council for Michigan, nor that they had received a charter changing its number from No. 25 to No. 3. They were however represented by Companions Francis Darrow, T. A. Flower, R. W. Davis, and A. B. Cudworth, who were elected on the first staff of officers.

Companion Darrow on the following year, 1859, presided over the Grand Council in the absence of Companion N. B. Carpenter who was sick, and in January, 1860, was elected Thrice Illustrious Grand Puissant and re-elected in 1861. He achieved distinction in the Grand Lodge of Michigan by being elected M. W. Grand Master in 1862. Several of the first members of this Council filled official positions of honor and trust in the other Grand Bodies of the state. From the organization of the Grand Council, Pontiac Council played a prominent part in its conduct and management.

GRAND COUNCIL OF MICHIGAN.

By previous agreement a convention of Representatives and delegates from the three Councils in Michigan was called to assemble in Masonic Hall in the city of Detroit on January 13, 1858, for the purpose of organizing a Grand Council. The following Councils were represented:

Monroe Council No. 23.

N. B. Carpenter, T. I. G. M.; N. P. Jacobs, D. I. G. M.; E. Rood, P. C.; C. Jackson, Treasurer; W. Barclay, Recorder; E. A. Elliott, C. G.; J. J. Rhodes, Conductor; D. B. Nichols, Marshall; S. S. Barrows, Steward.

St. Clair Council No. 24.

G. B. Engle, T. I. G. M.; S. B. Brown, D. I. G. M.; A. J. Cummings, P. C.; B. W. Jenks, Treasurer; F. H. Blood, Recorder; E. White, C. G.; John Clark, Conductor; Wm. Cook, Marshal; E. Carlton, Steward.

Pontiac Council No. 25.

F. Darrow, T. I. G. M.; A. B. Cudworth, D. I. G. M.; A. B. Mathews, P. C.; Levi Bacon, Jr., Treasurer; R. H. Elliott, Re-

corder; A. C. Baldwin, C. G.; J. A. Corbin, Conductor; R. W. Davis, Marshal; G. R. Hixson, Steward; T. A. Flower, P. T. I. G. M.

On motion, Reverend George B. Engle, of St. Clair, was appointed Chairman of the Convention and Frank Darrow, of Pontiac, was appointed Secretary.

The following resolution was presented and unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That this convention deems it for the best interest of Royal and Select Masters in this state that a state Grand Council be formed."

A form of Constitution and By-laws was then presented, read and on motion adopted for the government of the new Grand Council of Michigan. These laws were so well framed that with very few amendments they have served the body for fifty years, which speaks volumes for the wisdom of the founders of the Rite in Michigan.

After the adoption of a Constitution the Grand Council proceeded to the election of its first corps of officers and the following were declared elected unanimously:

N. B. Carpenter, as Thrice Illustrious Grand Puissant.
 S. B. Brown, as Illustrious Deputy Grand Puissant.
 F. Darrow, as Grand Thrice Illustrious Puissant.
 E. Rood, as Illustrious Grand Treasurer.
 N. P. Jacobs, as Illustrious Grand Recorder.
 T. A. Flower, as Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard.
 G. B. Engle, as Illustrious Grand Chaplain.
 R. W. Davis, as Illustrious Grand Conductor of the Work.
 A. J. Cummings, as Illustrious Grand Marshal.
 A. B. Cudworth, as Illustrious Grand Steward.
 Charles D. Howard, as Illustrious Grand Sentinel.

A commission had been received from the Grand Council of Connecticut authorizing Companion G. B. Engle to install the officers elect. The following is a copy of the instrument:

GRAND COUNCIL OF CONNECTICUT.

"By virtue of the power in me vested, as Most Puissant Grand Master, I do hereby authorize and empower T. I. Com. G. B. Engle, G. M., of St. Clair Council, No. 24, to install the officers of the Grand Council of the State of Michigan, whenever they shall have been duly elected.

"In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto signed my name, and caused the Seal of our Grand Council to be affixed, at Norwich, in the State of Connecticut, the 28th day of December, 1857.

(L. S.)

WM. L. BREWER, M. P. G. M.

Attest: E. G. STORER, Grand Recorder."

After the officers were installed charters were granted to the Councils now made subordinate of the newly born Grand Council of Michigan, under the following resolution:

"Resolved, That charters, without fee, be issued to Monroe Council, as Monroe Council, No. 1, Detroit; St. Clair Council, as St. Clair Council, No. 2, St. Clair, and Pontiac Council, as Pontiac Council, No. 3, Pontiac."

A dispensation was then granted to St. Clair Council, No. 2, to elect officers for the ensuing year. For what reason does not appear.

No further business coming before the Grand Council, it was then closed in due and ample form until the next regular communication, unless sooner convened by the Thrice Illustrious Grand Puissant.

1859.

The next Annual Assembly was held in Detroit on the second Tuesday in January, 1859, with the following Grand Officers present:

Frank Darrow, Thrice Illustrious Grand Puissant.
Ezra Rood, Illustrious Grand Treasurer.
Nathaniel P. Jacobs, Illustrious Grand Recorder.
T. A. Flower, Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard.
R. W. Davis, Illustrious Grand Conductor of Work.
G. B. Engle, Illustrious Grand Chaplain.
A. J. Cummings, Illustrious Grand Marshal.
A. B. Cudworth, Illustrious Grand Steward.
C. D. Howard, Illustrious Grand Sentinel.

Owing to the sickness and consequent absence of the Thrice Illustrious Grand Puissant, Nathan B. Carpenter, no address was delivered. The Grand Recorder made a verbal report as to the condition of the Rite in the state.

"Returns were received from Monroe Council, No. 1, with fees—four dollars—for the conferring of degrees of Royal and Select Masters, in said Council; and from Pontiac and St. Clair Councils, showing no change therein the previous year."

What a transformation. The last annual returns of Monroe Council No. 1, show 987 members, 83 passed the circle, and their total dues to Grand Council were \$304.75. This gives a fine example of the splendid growth of this, the pioneer Council of the State of Michigan. At the election of Grand Officers the same officers were unanimously re-elected for the ensuing year.

1860.

Detroit was also the scene of the third Annual Assembly of Grand Council which met on the second Tuesday in January, 1860. Thrice Illustrious Grand Puissant was present this time but still no

address was delivered. The Credential Committee reported that in addition to the Grand Officers the following members were present:

FROM MONROE COUNCIL No. 1.

S. B. Morse, T. I. G. M.; Wm. P. Innes, proxy for N. P. Jacobs, D. I. G. M.; E. A. Elliott, P. C. W.

FROM ST. CLAIR COUNCIL No. 2.

G. B. Engle, T. I. G. M.; John Clark, D. I. G. M.; A. J. Cummings, P. C. W.

FROM PONTIAC COUNCIL No. 3.

J. B. Hamilton, as proxy for Frank Darrow, T. I. G. M.; C. K. Williams, as Proxy for A. B. Cudworth, D. I. G. M.; A. B. Mathews, P. C. W.

Grand Recorder Jacobs reported as follows:

"The Grand Recorder would represent that, since the last session of this Body, held on the second Tuesday of January, A. D. 1859, he has, under the instructions of the T. I. Grand Puissant, issued dispensations to form Councils at Monroe, to D. B. Tracy, T. I. G. M.; John Tyrell, D. I. G. M., and S. Blanchard, P. C. W.; at Jonesville, to L. H. Carson, as T. I. G. M.; Euthychus Champlain, as D. I. G. M., and B. F. Doughty as P. C. W.; at Coldwater to Seaman L. Dart, T. I. G. M.; Richard H. Drake, D. I. G. M., and Abram McCrea, P. C. W., which dispensations are herewith annexed and made part of this report, receiving for each the sum of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) in accordance with the constitution; and that satisfactory information has been rendered to him as to the work performed, and future prospects of these Councils; and would therefore recommend that charters be granted to them. Other charters or dispensations will doubtless soon be asked for by our Brethren, in different sections of the State, making good the statement of your Grand Recorder, at the last meeting of this Body, that a brighter day was about dawning on Cryptic Masonry in this jurisdiction.

"A petition is now in his hands, from certain Brethren who were desirous to establish a Council at Three Rivers. For reasons, satisfactory to the Grand Puissant, the dispensation was not granted."

The following has a prophetic ring and is also indicative of that unrest and foreboding of trouble which was being felt at that time and which later culminated in the dark days of the civil war.

"Encouraging as is the aspect of the past, that of the future is still more so. The rapid increase of subordinate and State Grand Councils indicates, at no distant day, their organization in every State and Territory of the Union. And if the diffusion of the sublime principles of the Order is attended with that moral effect which reasonably should be anticipated, great and beneficial must the result be upon the peace and happiness of our country."

In a short report which Companion Jacobs calls a "Digest of Proceedings of Sister Grand Councils" we see that the condition of

other states at this time was about like this: Alabama had sixteen Councils; Connecticut, fourteen; Florida, four; Georgia, seventeen; Illinois, seven; Indiana, twelve; Kentucky, thirty-four; Maine, seven; Mississippi, fifteen; New York, three; Ohio, thirty-three; Texas, nineteen; Vermont, ten; Wisconsin, three.

At this session charters were granted to the following Councils: River Raisin, No. 4, located at Monroe; Jonesville, No. 5, located at Jonesville; Mt. Moriah, No. 6, located at Coldwater; and Three Rivers, No. 7, located at Three Rivers. They were duly authorized to hold their election of officers at their next regular "communication." At the election of Grand Officers the following staff was chosen for the ensuing year:

Frank Darrow, Pontiac—Thrice Illustrious Grand Puissant.

John Clark, St. Clair—Illustrious Deputy Grand Puissant.

D. B. Tracy, Mt. Clemens—Grand Thrice Illustrious.

B. F. Doughty, Three Rivers—Grand Principal Conductor of Work.

S. B. Morse, Detroit—Grand Captain of Guard.

Ezra Rood, Detroit—Grand Treasurer.

Nathaniel P. Jacobs, Detroit—Grand Recorder.

L. H. Corson, Jonesville—Grand Chaplain.

Wm. P. Innes, Grand Rapids—Grand Steward.

Charles D. Howard, Detroit—Grand Sentinel.

Upon the retirement of the first Grand Puissant the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, That the thanks of this Grand Council are eminently due, and are hereby tendered to T. I., N. B. Carpenter, P. G. P., for the able, impartial and dignified manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of this Grand Council since its organization."

Two hundred copies of the proceedings of Grand Council for the years 1859 and 1860 were ordered printed and distributed. The total receipts for the two previous years were \$123.00.

1861.

January 8th was the date of the fourth Annual Assembly, held in Detroit with Companion Frank Darrow in the chair. Seven Councils were represented. Charters were granted to three new Councils, Romeo, No. 8; Battle Creek, No. 9; and Tyre, No. 10, Grand Rapids, and the representatives were at once given seats in the Grand Council.

The time of meeting was changed from second Tuesday of January, to the Wednesday following the first Tuesday of June, and thus for a time this Grand Body broke away from the meeting time of Grand Chapter, and met at the same time as Grand Commandery.

The Grand Recorder reported all money received immediately "absorbed by previous liabilities," also that he had arranged for a new seal and press at an expense of \$30.00. This "Ponderous weapon" is still in the Grand Recorder's office but only as a relic as it was retired from active duty on the adoption of the new seal in 1904 which only cost \$6.50. The records of Monroe Council show that the Grand Council was so financially embarrassed that offers of a loan sufficient to pay for printing the proceedings and buy the "Great seal" were made by Monroe Council to the Grand Council. \$113.00 was the amount of the year's receipts.

Companion Francis Darrow, of Pontiac, was re-elected Thrice Illustrious Grand Puissant.

Companion John Clark, of St. Clair, to whom had been entrusted the matter of ritual and work, made a verbal report and exemplified the work, whereupon a Committee of the first three officers and the Grand Recorder was appointed and the matter referred to them to report at the next meeting.

June, 1861.

This year on account of the change in Constitution, two meetings of the Grand Council were held, January 8 and June 5.

The Grand Recorder reported dispensations granted to form new Councils at Ypsilanti, Ionia and Sturgis, and that Councils had been organized and were in successful operation. Another effort to change time of meeting, this time to August, was offered but tabled.

This was the first time the Grand Council was favored with a published address from the Grand Puissant, though short and of little importance, historically. The Grand Recorder was "allowed the sum of five dollars for postage."

John Clark, of St. Clair, was elected Thrice Illustrious Grand Puissant.

1862.

Masonic Hall, Detroit, was the scene of the next assembly of the Grand Council, held June 12, 1862. Four Grand Officers were absent and their places supplied. Grand Puissant Clark in his annual report deplored the fact that the nation was engaged in a deadly warfare. In opening his report he said:

"Would to high heaven we could say, as on former anniversaries, that peace and harmony prevailed through our once happy land, and that Cryptic Masonry stood forth in all her former beauty and loveliness. But, alas, a dark cloud has come over our beloved Union; it is to be feared that in this lamentable struggle, that Companions have been arrayed against each other in deadly strife. Let us, my beloved Companions, look up to Him, who holds the destinies of nations in His hands, with one heart, and earnestly im-

plore his interpositions to stay this fearful strife, and once more send blessings of peace to this unhappy country."

Many of the active Council workers in the country as well as many destined in the future to be such, were away from home and friends on the bloody battle fields fighting against each other, for what each believed to be a just cause. To the younger generation it is a matter of intense interest and wonder to attend the annual assemblies of the national bodies and see these same brothers come together and talk over those days of strife and struggle; to describe to each other the particular spots occupied by them, many times finding they are hotly contesting for victory on the very same field. That they can come together now and hold each other by the hand, gaze into the eyes of each other with the fire of love flashing forth instead of hate, is enough to convince the most sceptical that "Masonry unites men of every country, sect and opinion into one common bond of friendship and brotherly love."

The Grand Puissant gave a list of twenty-four Grand Councils then at work together with the date of organization of each. New York was the oldest ranking at 1807, followed by the Mother of our own Grand Council, viz., Connecticut at 1819.

He called attention to the Super Excellent Masters Degree and recommended that it be conferred in the subordinate Councils.

Companion David Burnham Tracy, of Detroit, was elected Thrice Illustrious Grand Puissant.

At this meeting the proposition to change the time of meeting to August was lost.

Evidently some hitch in financial matters had occurred, as the charter fees of several Councils had been held up by some one, and by special resolution it was ordered that all funds should be paid to the Grand Treasurer and that none be drawn without a warrant signed by the Grand Recorder and Grand Puissant.

The Grand Puissant deplored the absence of Companion Nathaniel P. Jacobs, Grand Recorder, but that Companion sent in his annual report of Finance and Correspondence, in closing which he gives a parting farewell as follows:

"In closing this report, the last which in all human probability the chairman of your committee will have the pleasure of making to your Grand Body, I can but congratulate you on the progress which, since its organization four years ago, the Craft has made in this State. For years, Monroe Council, of Detroit, was the only organized body of Royal and Select Masters, her jurisdiction being co-extensive with the boundaries of the State itself. From her loins sprung St. Clair and Pontiac Councils, the Representatives of which, together with her own, met in the ante-chamber of the Chapter room, in Masonic Hall, and organized the Grand Council of Michigan. Gathered to our assembly in June last, we saw the delegates of twelve Councils, still further to be increased when you

again meet. Surely, peace and prosperity have been within our borders. Whilst upon each breeze from the South comes the sound of strife, from her blood-stained hills and plains, where the hand of man is lifted against his brother, and the maddened passions and hatred of years, long treasured up, burst forth in unchecked ferocity, carrying with them slaughter and devastation; here our Heavenly Father has blessed us with abundant harvests; and each can repose under his own vine and under his own fig-tree in quietness and peace, and with none to molest or make him afraid.

"Midst this unseemly and unnecessary strife, it is pleasant to know that the principles and teachings of Masonry are neither forgotten nor held in abeyance. From the lips of those returned to us from the prisons of the South, I learn that our brethren there still recognize the obligations of universal brotherhood, and, though closely watched by malignant eyes, have yet repeatedly relieved the distressed and comforted the weary and war-worn stranger in their midst.

"In bidding you, as Companions, farewell, I can but hope that the blessings, so abundantly poured forth upon you heretofore, may still be continued. From the midst of my duties in the new field of labor destined to me upon the opposite side of the globe, in spirit I shall still be with you, and my prayers and supplications will still ascend to the great Architect of the Universe for your future prosperity and happiness."

Companion Jacobs thus closed four years of service as the first Grand Recorder, and he was succeeded at this meeting by Oliver Bourke, of Detroit, who served nine years.

David Burnham Tracy was elected T. I. Grand Puissant.

1863.

Detroit, June 3rd, 1863.—The Grand Puissant reported the continuation of the dispensation for another year, for Hiram Council, at Marshall. He urged the matter of uniformity of work and lectures in the subordinate Councils and suggested the appointment of a special committee to arrange the same and report. In closing he said:

"This Grand Council is as yet in its infancy. We have much to learn by caution and experience. Of the latter I had hoped to have supplied myself in part by the perusal of the proceedings of our sister Grand Councils through the United States, who have had so much more experience than we, and from which much valuable information might be derived; but of this I have been disappointed, owing to the unhappy rebellion which now prevails to such an alarming extent throughout a large portion of our once happy but now distracted and bleeding country. While we are in the enjoyment of peace and comfort, the temples of our Companions in many of our sister Councils have been desecrated, their altars overthrown, their homes made desolate, and their fair lands laid waste by the horrors of civil war. It is our duty to do all in our power to assuage the horrors of this unnatural war, and make use of all honorable and legitimate means to aid in bringing it to a happy termination."

Companions David B. Tracy, E. A. Elliott, and G. B. Noble were appointed special Committee on work and lectures. A charter was issued to Hiram Council at Marshall to be number 14. St. Clair, No. 2, was given permission to hold their meetings at Port Huron if desired. A minority report on this matter was lost, but the report is not printed in the proceedings.

The special committee on the subject of the Super Excellent Masters degree reported:

"Your Committee on Super-Excellent Master's degree, report that they do not deem it expedient, at present, to change the work or add thereto. G. B. Noble and E. A. Elliott, Committee."

The Grand Recorder was directed to "settle with Monroe Council for gas consumed."

Edward A. Elliott, of Detroit, was elected Thrice Illustrious Grand Puissant.

1864.

Like the preceding sessions this one was held in Detroit. June 8th was the date. The Grand Puissant calls Jonesville Council No. 5, to account, as but one return had been received since it was chartered in 1860. The matters of returns are mentioned in the proceedings at various points and Companion Seaman L. Dart presented this resolution:

"*Resolved*, That the Grand Recorder procure a sufficient number of blanks and returns, and transmit two of them to each subordinate Council in this jurisdiction, previous to the Annual Session of this Grand Body."

Notwithstanding this the earliest returns in the Grand Recorder's office are for the year 1869.

The Grand Recorder reported as the Committee on Correspondence that proceedings had been received from but six Grand Councils, less than one-fourth of the entire number. Thus we can see how demoralizing upon the regularity of the Councils had been the war then gradually drawing to a close. Connecticut reported proceedings received from Louisiana which indicates that the tie was not entirely severed.

The Committee on Work was given further time. Garra B. Noble, of Detroit, was the newly elected Grand Puissant.

1865.

Grand Puissant Noble in his address rejoices that the dark cloud of war and bloodshed has at last cleared away and that herald of Peace proclaimed all "clear in the South!"

He had issued dispensations for new Councils at Hillsdale, Hudson, and Fentonville, and announced that during the previous Decem-

ber the hall of Jonesville Council was burned and their charter destroyed. River Raisin, No. 4; Three Rivers, No. 7, and Ionia, No. 12, were reported delinquent in returns, discipline was recommended and they were ordered to return their charters. Charters were ganted to the new Councils under dispensation and a duplicate charter for Jonesville.

By resolution the report of the Committee on Work was laid over to a special meeting called for January, 1866.

In closing his review and report on Correspondence, Companion Bourke commented thus:

"While all other social ties were severed, we have abundant evidence that Masonry was true to its mission, and smoothed many a rough road, alleviated sorrow and sickness, fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and visited those sick in prison. Many a valuable life has been spared through the instrumentality of our beloved Order, and we know and feel that, under Providence, Masonry will do more to bring together the relations between the two sections of the country than all other influences combined. Let us do our part in this good work of reconstruction. Masonry is universal, not sectional. Its field is the world. Its sphere is limited from east to west, between north and south—from the earth to the heavens, and from the surface to the centre. To our Southern Brethren we owe many, very many obligations, which, they are assured, shall be held in grateful remembrance and duly appreciated. We hold out to them the hand of fraternal brotherly love and friendship, and shall always welcome them as co-laborers in our exalted and sublime mission of 'Peace on earth, and good will towards men.'"

Companion David Bovee, of Coldwater, was elected Grand Puissant.

1866.

Pursuant to call by Grand Puissant David Bovee, the Grand Council assembled in Masonic Hall, Detroit, January 9, 1866, for the special purpose of "taking into consideration the importance and necessity of uniformity of work," and a good representation was present.

Companion Edward A. Elliott, Chairman, exemplified the opening and closing which was accepted and adopted. The balance of the work was recommitted to the Committee and Companions Seaman L. Dart and Ebenezer Sprague added to the Committee, which was instructed to report at the annual meeting.

Annual Meeting.

The Ninth Annual meeting was held in Detroit, June 6, 1866. Grand Puissant Bovee granted dispensations for new Councils at Adrian and Niles. A resolution was adopted as follows:

"*Resolved*, That at this convocation, and hereafter, the Grand Officers, and one delegate from each Council, be entitled to a per diem allowance of three dollars."

An amendment changing the time of meeting to the second Wednesday in January was proposed and laid over for action. Charters were granted Councils at Adrian, Niles and Saginaw.

At this meeting the work of opening and closing which was adopted at the special meeting in June was rescinded. Companion Bovee then read the work prepared by the Committee and the same was adopted. Seaman L. Dart, of Coldwater, was elected Grand Puissant.

1867.

June 5th, 1867, the Grand Council met in Detroit with all Grand Officers present. After the appointment of a Credential Committee the meeting was off until four o'clock p. m., but "in consequence of the session of the Grand Commandery having been prolonged beyond the limit of time allotted, the Grand Council did not hold their adjourned meeting as expected" and did not convene till ten the next morning. Three of the nineteen Councils were not represented.

Grand Puissant Dart reported one Council organized under dispensation which was at St. Johns.

The detailed returns of each Council was ordered omitted from the printed proceedings and thus have been lost some of the valuable records of early membership. The Constitution was again amended whereby the Grand Council returned to the month of January for holding meetings which were to follow the sessions of Grand Chapter and Grand Lodge, which met at the same time and place. By orders issued to the Grand Recorder the lives of the "dead" Councils was again threatened.

William S. Edwards, of Hillsdale, was elected Grand Puissant.

1868.

At the Annual Assembly held January 8, 1868, Grand Puissant Edwards delivered the longest address on record up to that time, viz., six pages. During his short term of office he found the Councils growing, with a new zeal for the work and a larger number of members in attendance. For the first time in several years every Council made returns. The Grand Puissant issued a dispensation for a new Council at Petersburg, under care of D. B. Tracy, to be known as Mosaic Council. St. Johns Council was constituted under its charter.

He calls attention to the lack of uniformity of work in the several Grand Jurisdictions; the difference in requirements regarding the Super-Excellent degree, and the wide range of titles given to the various officers. He appends a table showing the results of his investigations, which may be of interest at this time:

GRAND COUNCILS	OFFICERS AND TITLES IN GRAND COUNCILS				OFFICERS AND TITLES IN SUBORDINATE COUNCILS		
Alabama	GP	DGP	GTI	GPCW	TIM	DIM	PCW
Arkansas	MPGM	RPDGM	RPGIM	RPGPCW	TIM	DIM	PCW
Connecticut	"	DPGM	TIGM	GPCW	TIGM	DGM	PC
Florida	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Georgia	TIGM	IGHT	IGHAB	"	TIM	IHT	IHAB
Illinois	TIGP	MIDGP	IGTI	IGPCW	TIGM	DIGM	PCW
Indiana	MPGM	DPGM	TIGM	GPCW	"	"	"
Iowa	"	RIDGM	RIGM	"	TIM	RIM	IM
Kentucky	GP	DGP	GTI	"	"	DIM	PCW
Louisiana	MPGM	DGM	TIGM	"	"	DIGM	"
Maine	"	DPGM	RPGM	PGM	"	RIM	IM
Massachusetts	"	RPGM	PGMW	GMC	MIGM	RIGM	IGM
Michigan	TIGM	DIGM	DTI	GPCW	TIGM	DIGM	PCW
Mississippi	MPGM	DPGM	GTIGM	"	"	"	IPCW
Missouri	GP	DGP	GTI	"	"	DTI	PCW
New Hampshire	MIGM	RIGM	IGM	"	"	"	"
New Jersey	MPGM	RPDGM	RPGIM	RPGPCW	TIM	RIM	IPCW
New York	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
South Carolina	"	TIDGM	"	IGPCW	TIGM	IHT	IHAB
Ohio	TIGM	IDGP	GTI	GPCW	"	DIGM	PCW
Pennsylvania	MPGM	RPDGM	RPGIM	RPGPCW	"	"	"
Rhode Island	"	DPGM	IGM	GPCW	"	MJM	"
Tennessee	"	DMPGM	"	"	"	"	"
Texas	"	RPDGM	RPGM	RPGPCW	TIM	RIM	IPCW
Vermont	"	PDGM	TIGM	RIGW	TIGM	RIGM	IGM
Wisconsin	"	RPDGM	RPGTI	RPGPC	"	"	"

The subject of a manual or monitor of the Council work was considered by him and he recommended the adoption of the new Mackey's Cryptic Masonry for the purpose and which was recently from the press. On the recommendation of a Committee it was adopted and Grand Recorder authorized to purchase some and furnish at cost to the Subordinate Councils.

Companion David Bovee was authorized to furnish all Subordinate Councils with the newly authorized ritual who might apply and pay him for the same.

Charters were granted to Mosaic Council, No. 22, at Petersburg, and Portland, No. 23. The \$3.00 per diem heretofore paid to representatives was extended to Past Grand Puissants. The receipts were \$224.77. Grand Council was again lenient with the "delinquents," and they were granted "further time to report to Grand Recorder and settle up all arrearages."

Joseph T. Hayden, of Hillsdale, was elected Grand Puissant.

1869.

At the next Annual Assembly held January 13, in Detroit, the Grand Puissant failed to put in an appearance but his report was sent and was read by the Grand Recorder, from which it appears that a goodly number of visits had been made, and he found Cryptic Masonry in a healthy and prosperous condition. Dispensations were granted for new Councils at Manchester, Big Rapids and Clinton,

which received charters at this assembly. Like his predecessors he adverts to the Super-Excellent degree as conferred in sister jurisdictions and the matter was referred to a Committee of five, consisting of William P. Innes, D. B. Tracy, N. P. Jacobs, D. Bovee and John P. Fiske, to procure the ritual from an authentic source.

A national convention had been called to meet in St. Louis, Mo., to perfect a uniform work and ritual. Companion T. A. Flower was appointed to represent Michigan, but for some reason the "Convention" failed to convene.

The time of meeting was again changed, to Monday preceding the second Wednesday at seven o'clock p. m.

A Council at Pentwater was granted a charter direct without a dispensation. The charter fee was raised to \$25.00, \$15.00 of which must be paid for the dispensation. Representatives present from Councils U. D. were by resolution given same privileges as those from chartered Councils.

Charles H. Putnam, of Hudson, was elected Grand Puissant.

1870.

Peace and continued prosperity was the report received at the twelfth annual "Convocation," held in Detroit, January 10, 1870. "Several distinguished visitors from this and other jurisdictions were present and gave their valuable counsel and assistance."

Charters were granted to Dowagiac, No. 28, and Lansing, No. 29, and conditioned that the charter fee should be paid, to Northville, No. 30, and Reading, No. 31. The Grand Puissant had received from Companion John H. Barlow, of Connecticut, the ritual of the Super-Excellent degree, and the Committee appointed at the previous assembly proceeded to enlighten the uninformed and exemplified the beauties of the Super-Excellent. There seemed to be a "division in the house" and after a long discussion it was decided that the "whole subject" should be "indefinitely postponed." The Grand Recorder was authorized to purchase jewels for the Grand Council "whenever the state of the exchequer will warrant that expenditure."

The Grand Recorder made heroic efforts to get the Records to furnish the returns in systematic form and properly tabulated. The blanks however furnished by Grand Council were not in a businesslike form to begin with.

Oliver L. Spaulding, of St. Johns, was elected Grand Puissant.

1871.

The Thirteenth Annual was held in Detroit, January 9th. The Grand Puissant was again absent and his report was read by the Grand Recorder, in which it was stated that "Cryptic Masonry is

assuming the position to which it is entitled. Masons are beginning to recognize its importance and its merits." The matter of a Grand Lecturer was introduced but it was decided that the Grand Council could not afford "the luxury" but that "the Grand Puissant had the power to go or send his proxy to any Subordinate Council wishing instruction and the Council receiving the benefit could defray the expense."

What more "fair" proposition could be offered? To be sure the ones needing it the most were least able to afford it, but they could pay or die.

Dispensations had been granted to Councils at Jackson, and Ithaca, and charters issued later to them and to Tecumseh and Union City on petition.

The following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, That a Companion residing thirty miles or over distant from an organized Council of R. & S. Masters may petition any Council within the state for the privilege of receiving the degrees, or for membership, and such Council is authorized to receive and act on such petition."

At this time the great "Prerequisite" question made its first appearance in the form of a preamble and resolution which was adopted:

Whereas, Action has been taken by a large number of Grand Councils to solidify the structure of Masonry, and more intimately connect its several component parts, so as to form a perfect and complete whole; and

Whereas, In this Jurisdiction a most important connecting link between Cryptic and Templar Masonry has for years been suffered to remain unconnected to the great detriment of both orders; therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by this Grand Council to present this subject to the Grand Commandery of Michigan, and urge that Grand Body to pass a resolution making the Council degrees prerequisite to a candidate receiving the Templar orders or petitioning therefor.

At the following conclave of the Grand Commandery, Grand Commander John L. Mitchell reported the action of Grand Council thus:

"While we recognize Cryptic Masonry as worked by the Grand Council of this State, no action has ever been taken to make a possession of these degrees a preparatory to the reception of our Orders. At the last Convocation of the Grand Council of this State, steps were taken looking to this Grand Commandery making the possession of the Council degrees a requirement before conferring on a candidate our Knightly Orders. It is within your province to make such an edict, but it is a question of the greatest importance, and only to be acted on after the most careful consideration."

The matter was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence who ignored the whole subject, whereupon Companion Oliver Bourke, on behalf of the Committee appointed for the purpose by Grand Council, introduced a resolution that the Royal and Select Masters degrees should be prerequisite to receiving a petition for the Templar degrees, and he advocated its adoption, when on motion of Companion Garra B. Noble, an amendment to the Constitution was proposed incorporating this requirement and the matter laid over till the next year. Grand Commander Smith gave considerable prominence to the subject in his report the next year and called attention to several decisions of Grand Masters and Committees of Grand Encampment, which it seemed must control the action of Grand Commandery. No farther action was taken on the amendment and it died from desertion. Thus ended the first effort at "Prerequisite."

At this session Companion Oliver Bourke closed his nine years of service as Grand Recorder, on account of the demand upon his time in other lines, and appropriate resolutions of thanks and appreciation were adopted by Grand Council.

Ebenezer Sprague, of Lyons, was elected Grand Puissant.

1872.

The spirit of unrest in relation to the time of holding annual assemblies seems to have been rampant and now two "annuals" are held in the year 1872. The first was in January, the second day, at Detroit. At this time there were thirty-five Councils on the rolls.

Grand Puissant Sprague reported peace and harmony among the Councils. He quoted in full the circular issued by Josiah H. Drummond, of Maine, dated May 10, 1871, and calling for a "Convention" for the representatives of the several Grand Councils to convene in New York City, the second Wednesday in June, 1872, for the purpose of endeavoring to secure a uniformity of Rituals among Grand Councils. Massachusetts united with Maine in the call. No recommendation is made by Companion Sprague except "That you take the subject of this call under advisement and give it such thought and consideration as its merits appear to demand." It was his judgment that "the time is not far distant when it (Cryptic Masonry) will be approved by the Grand Encampment of the United States, and be adopted by all the Grand Commanderies under its Jurisdiction." That was thirty-five years ago and the time seems far more distant now than then.

Notice was given of the organization of a Grand Council in the territory of our neighboring cousin, Ontario. In reporting it Companion Sprague noted that this new child had appropriated to its Jurisdiction the degree of "Red Cross of Babylon," its source

of authority had been recognized by the Grand Encampment of the United States which seemed to prophesy an early recognition of the entire Rite of Cryptic Masonry. He closed his report with a mild appeal for the adoption of the Super-Excellent degree which had already been turned down.

The "three first" officers were made a Committee to attend the Ritual Convention at "no cost to the Grand Council." "Owing to other business" none of the Grand Officers attended and Michigan did not take part in the "convention work."

The following resolution was referred to the "three first" officers for report the next year:

"Resolved, That in order to place Cryptic Masonry in the State of Michigan more in harmony with Sister Grand Councils, that there be incorporated into the system now conferred in Councils in this jurisdiction the degrees of Super-Excellent Master, to be conferred after the Select Master's degree, and without additional charge."

Henry Shaw Noble, of Monroe, was elected Grand Puissant.

1873.

The next Annual Assembly was held on New Year's eve, December 31, 1872, for opening and adjournment was taken till the next morning. Dispensations had been granted for new Councils at Charlotte and Constantine. Grand Puissant Noble reported that:

"The Grand Commandery of the State of Michigan saw fit, in what by them considered great wisdom, not to take any action in regard to making the Royal and Select Masters' degrees a prerequisite to the Orders of the Temple.

"The Grand Commandery having decided that Templar Jurisprudence did not give them the right to place these degrees in the regular order, we are left as heretofore 'to paddle our own canoe,' and it behooves us to stand by and see that the degrees are not tampered with, but be placed in that exalted position in the front rank which they so much deserve, and I have no doubt, from the spirit manifested by all the Companions that we shall still flourish like the green bay tree, and that the circle of perfection will remain complete and without a single star having its lustre in the least obscured."

On request for information as to the proper aprons and collars for a Council he recommended Mackey's description:

"The apron and collar must be black, lined and edged with red. The apron should be of a triangular form, in allusion to the sacred Delta. The Jewel of a Select Master is a silver trowel within a triangle of the same metal."

The financial situation was not satisfactory to Companion Noble and attention is called to it thus:

"Companions, it is a well known fact that money is absolutely necessary to the success of any business, institution or society, and

it is equally well known by you that the finances of this Grand Council are not adequate for its requirements. Therefore to make this Grand Council independent and self-sustaining, I would recommend that the Constitution be so amended as to increase the income from the subordinate Councils."

He did not attend the "National Convention" in New York but quoted the circular in full which was issued, from which it appeared that fourteen Grand Councils met in convention. Ten other Grand Councils acted favorably but probably like Michigan they failed to furnish the "wherewith" for their representatives to travel, and railroads require "cash in advance." The convention decided that the degrees should be cultivated; that they should not be remitted to the care of Grand Chapters but that Grand Councils should be formed; Councils had been formed in England on authority from New York and a Grand Council was organized. The ritual, number and order of degrees were much discussed and left to a select committee to report on at an adjourned Convention to be held a year later.

The matter of making the Council degrees prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood was also to be considered.

The Jurisprudence Committee "sat down hard" on the Super-Excellent degree thus:

"That in the opinion of your committee the degrees consist of: First, Royal Master; second, Select Master. And that in regard to the Super-Excellent Master's degree, your committee entirely concur in the unanimous vote of this Grand Council two years ago, to postpone indefinitely the consideration of this question. And your committee would further add that, in their opinion, no reason can be conceived why the degree of Super-Excellent Master should ever be adopted by this Grand Council as any part of Cryptic Masonry."

The nomenclature was not changed, pending the action of the next convention. A representative was authorized and expenses provided, and Companion William Brown was elected as such representative.

Charters were granted to Charlotte, No. 36, and Nebuzaradan, No. 37, at Constantine. A Constitutional amendment was proposed and laid over providing for Grand Council revenue by per capita dues of twenty-five cents per member, and one dollar for each member passing the circle. The Grand Recorder's salary was made \$50.00.

William Brown, of Battle Creek, was elected Grand Puissant.

1874.

January 19, 1874. Sixteenth Annual Assembly.

Grand Puissant Brown reported his attendance as representative of Michigan at the National Convention held in New York in

June, 1873. Nineteen Grand Councils were represented. He noted a "slight inclination of some members to adhere to their time-honored rules and let well enough alone," and he was not an exception, but the great necessity existing for uniformity induced all to put aside personal preferences. Maine and Massachusetts yielded more than any other Jurisdiction.

He recommended the adoption of the "Convention Ritual" but the matter was referred to a Committee to report the next year. The Convention "Resolved" that the degrees of Royal and Select Master should be made a "necessary prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood" and a committee was appointed to convince the Grand Encampment of the fact. The Convention adjourned to meet in New Orleans in December, 1874, to form a General Council.

The sudden death of Past Grand Puissant Francis Darrow was reported as occurring April 11, 1873, at Ionia, while on his way to the station to take a train for home.

A constitutional amendment making Grand Council fee for degrees conferred \$1.00 and dues twenty-five cents per member was adopted. In the matter of "clothing" the Committee reported: "That owing to the intimate connection between Chapter and Council degrees, they recommended for the present the use of Chapter Clothing." At this meeting the "nomenclature" recommended by the convention was adopted as follows: Titles of Grand Officers—Most Illustrious Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of Work, Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder, Grand Captain of the Guard, Grand Conductor of the Council, Grand Steward, Grand Sentinel. To which may be added Grand Chaplain, and Grand Marshal or Grand Master of Ceremonies.

For Subordinate Councils, omit the word "Grand," and in place of the word "Most" for first officer, use the word "Thrice," as follows: Thrice Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of Work, Treasurer, Recorder, Captain of the Guard, Conductor of the Council, Steward and Sentinel. The meetings of the bodies were now called "assemblies."

By resolution the formation of a General Grand Council was disapproved but the Grand Master was made a delegate to the convention "personally or by proxy."

William Brown was re-elected and made the first "Most Illustrious Grand Master" in Michigan.

1875.

Seventeenth Annual Assembly. Detroit, January 18, 1875.

A dispensation was granted for a new Council at Corunna, with Companion Hugh McCurdy as Thrice Illustrious Master.

Grand Master Brown made more visits to subordinate Coun-

cils than his predecessors, and reported them in good condition. He was not able to attend the National Convention and his proxy could not leave home so Michigan was not represented. Charters were granted Corunna Council, No. 38, and Holly, No. 39. The Ritual Committee reported as follows:

"Your Committee to whom was referred the Work and Lectures on Cryptic Masonry, as adopted and recommended by the Convention held in New York, June, 1873, would respectfully report that they have had the same under consideration, have given it a careful and critical examination, and find it to be not only a systematic arrangement of work, containing many beautiful and impressive lessons, but also encumbered with long, needless and impracticable ceremonies, errors and contradictions of history and tradition.

"Your committee, therefore, cannot recommend its adoption by this Grand Council, without its revision and correction.

"Your committee further report that they have so revised and corrected the work as they believe will not only retain its general uniformity, but strictly adhere to the history, traditions and landmarks of the Order, as practiced in all the intermediate degrees of Masonry, and recommend its adoption."

After the ritual as revised had been communicated to Grand Council, these resolutions were adopted:

"*Resolved*, That this Grand Council does not desire to change its ritual, unless it be for the purpose of securing uniformity in the work of the various Grand Councils of the Union.

"*Resolved*, That the further consideration of changing our ritual be deferred until the next annual Assembly of this Grand Council."

Mortimer Mansfield, of Coldwater, was elected M. I. Grand Master. The Grand Officers were installed by Companion Brown and Companion Hugh McCurdy acted as Grand Marshal.

1876.

Eighteenth Annual Assembly, Detroit, January 17, 1876.

Grand Master Mansfield granted dispensations for six new Councils to be held at Centreville, Newaygo, Lapeer, Lawrence, St. Joseph and South Haven, and also made a goodly number of official visitations.

Charters were granted to all the new Councils under dispensation except Newaygo, which was continued under dispensation. A charter was also granted to Manistee.

George Hill, of Portland, was elected M. I. Grand Master.

1877.

Nineteenth Annual Assembly, Detroit, January 15, 1877.

The Grand Master reported the death of Past Grand Puissant John Clark, February 19th, 1876. Dispensations were granted to

Ludington and Hastings. The matter of "Prerequisite degrees" was the all absorbing topic at this annual assembly and the sentiment had become fixed in the minds of many members throughout the country that the only salvation of the Councils was to secure action by the Grand Encampment, making the degrees in all jurisdictions prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood, and committees were given power to arrange terms on any basis which seemed best. Some jurisdictions had become tired of carrying the load and were looking for some convenient place to lay it down. Mississippi came forth with a scheme which for long years afterward was given the cognomen of "The Mississippi Plan." This was none other than to turn the Councils over bodily to the Chapters and disband Grand Council, and this particular State proceeded to set the example and show the rest how to do it. A circular was circulated entitled: "Cryptic Masonry—The Multiplication of Grand Bodies." The following extract gives the gist of the idea as presented by the Grand Master of that State:

"The Royal Arch Degree, stripped of most of its real beauties by the severance of the Royal and Select Degrees from it, proves of but little attraction to its recipient. Dissatisfied with the Exalted Degree, he seeks no further advancement in Ancient Freemasonry, and, without any knowledge of the real beauty and value of our degrees, hastens to the more attractive, but, perhaps, not less beautiful and instructive degrees of the Encampment. The result is that many Royal Arch Masons are such in name only, possessing the form but destitute of the spirit of the degree. The evil is a serious one. What shall be the remedy? I can but repeat, in part, what I said in closing my address a year ago. In my opinion, the crying evil of our Order is the splitting of degrees and the multiplication of Grand Bodies. Had I the power, I would blot out every Council and Grand Council in existence as independent organizations. I would yield the Past Master's degree to the Grand Lodge, where it properly belongs, as an honorary degree, and would blend the Most Excellent Master with the Master's and the Royal and Select Master with the Royal Arch, making it the Royal degree it should be and giving to it its ancient form and beauty. I would create Grand Chapters that would work this and the Mark degree alone. I would cut down the Reports of Proceedings and Committees of Foreign Correspondence, and would no longer tolerate our many Grand Bodies to eat up the substance and waste the charity funds of our Order, and from this saving would erect some Grand Charity, that would gladden the hearts of "helpless orphans and destitute widows," and that would challenge the respect and win the admiration of mankind. This change of ritual and organization cannot, however, be done by this Grand Council alone, nor do I recommend it. It cannot be affected by the joint action of the several Grand Bodies of any number of states, but they may advise, and could thus, probably secure some Grand Convocation of the Cryptic and Capitular Grand Bodies of all countries, that might produce uniformity of work, recall the Ancient Charges and Regulations, and make the Mason

of every clime and nation confer the same degree and speak the same Masonic language."

This was rather a stupendous undertaking but they set the wheels in motion which eventually caused the hybernating of many individual Grand Councils, some of which have not yet emerged from their hole.

Mississippi adopted these resolutions:

"Resolved, That the Grand Recorder be instructed to forward a copy of this report to the several Grand Masonic Bodies with whom this Grand Council, the Grand Chapter and Grand Lodge of Mississippi, are in fraternal correspondence—respectfully inviting their attention and consideration.

"Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to confer with the Grand Chapter of Mississippi, or its committee, on the subject of the propriety of uniting the degrees of Royal and Select Masters with those of the Chapter."

Charters were granted new Councils at Newaygo, Ludington and Hastings.

Companion Jex J. Bardwell had been commissioned to write a history of Cryptic Masonry in Michigan for the Centennial Exposition, and he rendered a bill of \$5.00 for expenses incurred therewith, which was allowed, although no report was ever filed in the archives. Had it been done, much of this work now being written by the Grand Recorder would have been unnecessary.

Any members of the Grand Council who might attend the next Triennial of the Grand Encampment were created a Committee to co-operate with other Grand Councils to secure the adoption of such proceedings as would make the Council degrees prerequisite of the Orders of Knighthood.

John R. Everard, of Jackson, was elected Most Illustrious Grand Master.

1878.

Twentieth Annual, Detroit, January 14, 1878.

Fifty Councils were on the roll at this session but Hudson Council, No. 16, and Mosaic, No. 22, had their charters arrested on "account of inactivity and non-payment of Grand Council dues."

Grand Master Everard made numerous visits to inspire Councils with interest and enthusiasm. The treasury showed a balance of \$806.40, receipts for the year being \$615.00. A charter was granted Leslie Council, No. 50. The salary of Grand Recorder was raised from \$50.00 to \$125.00.

Andrew J. Utley, of St. Louis, was elected Grand Master.

1879.

Twenty-first Annual Assembly. Jackson, January 20, 1879.

This was the first annual assembly held outside of Detroit.

Grand Master Utley gave quite a voluminous address and reported that while Michigan stood seventh among Grand Lodges in number of its subordinates, and it was sixth among Grand Chapters, in the Cryptic Rite we stood in second place, only one jurisdiction, Ohio, having more Councils. He stated that the Grand Council was sound, morally, Masonically and financially, and had not become infected with the Mississippi "delusion." Neither did they think it "necessary in order to maintain existence" that the degrees should be made "prerequisite," but he thought such action "would mutually benefit both Chivalric and Cryptic Masonry." He showed that in three-fourths of the states in the union the Grand Councils outranked the Grand Commanderies in age, ranging from one to thirty-four years. He submitted a table showing the standings.

The Grand Master recommended the reprint of the early proceedings which had become exhausted, and the collection and binding of the proceedings of Grand Councils with whom the Grand Council was in correspondence, both of which recommendations were approved. He urged the adoption of the Representative system which was also approved. He devoted thirteen pages to a thorough exposition of the history, cause and effect of the "Mississippi Plan." Since the last annual Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky and Iowa had remitted the Council degrees to the tender mercies of the Chapter and ceased to work. North Carolina, California, Arkansas and Nebraska were considering the matter seriously.

The Grand Master delivered a scathing rebuke to any who would assume to deliver to another Grand Body the right to confer the Cryptic degrees as a side show without cost, to any who should ask for them. Some had claimed that the degrees originally belonged to the Chapters and they were simply receiving back "their own" and that the General Grand Chapter had claimed jurisdiction over them up to 1829. The legal mind of Companion Utley took up the history of the matter and thoroughly sifted the evidence. No reference whatever is made in the Constitution of that body that they recognized any jurisdiction over the degrees of Royal and Select Master. In fact these resolutions were in 1853 introduced by the celebrated Masonic writer, Dr. Albert G. Mackey:

"Whereas, The members of this General Grand Chapter have received the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and the Holy Royal Arch only, and in that order in the several Chapters which they were exalted, and have not as Royal

Arch Masons been instructed in any other and intermediate degrees, therefore,

"Resolved, That this General Grand Chapter will not sanction any other than the above degrees in the Chapters working under its jurisdiction."

A competent Committee passed upon them with approval and recommended these further resolutions which were adopted:

"Resolved, That this General Grand Chapter, and the governing bodies of Royal Arch Masonry affiliated with, and holding jurisdiction under it, have no rightful jurisdiction or control over the degrees of Royal and Select Masters."

"Resolved, That this General Grand Chapter will hereafter entertain no question or matter growing out of the government or working of those degrees while in their present position."

The prayer of the Grand Chapter of Mississippi in 1877 to the General Grand Chapter for permission to take jurisdiction of the Council degrees was not granted.

The stirring remarks of the Grand Master under the heading "The Effect of the Mississippi Plan on the Chapter" are worthy of reproduction here. He said:

"The plan adopted by the several Grand Councils and Grand Chapters, in those jurisdictions where the Council degrees have been turned over to the Chapter, not only tends to degrade Cryptic Masonry by placing it under the control of an organization beneath it in rank in our American system of Freemasonry; but it will result in incalculable injury to Capitular Masonry, because it will introduce confusion into that body, and destroy the symmetry and harmony, that have existed therein from time immemorial. Many of the Grand Councils will not surrender to the Chapter in their jurisdictions, nor to any other organization the control of these degrees. Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine, Indiana, Florida, Minnesota, Louisiana, and several other Grand Councils have already passed resolutions severely censuring the course pursued by the disbanding Grand Councils, and refusing to recognize, in any manner, Royal and Select Masters who receive the degrees in a Chapter, by communication or in any manner other than in a regularly constituted Council of the Cryptic Rite. Hence, in those jurisdictions, the Chapter will continue in the future, as in the past, to confer four, and only four, degrees; while in other jurisdictions, the Chapters will have control over and will confer six degrees. A Royal Arch Mason in good standing in the first jurisdiction, although he might be thoroughly posted in Capitular Masonry (perhaps even High Priest of his Chapter,) would, necessarily, be refused admission as a visitor, in the second jurisdiction—at least during a portion of their work—because he had received only four degrees, while they had received and conferred six.

"Again, should the Craft recognize the innovation inaugurated by Mississippi, and blindly followed by some other jurisdictions, it is impossible to calculate the injury that may result. If it is true that a Grand Council can, by a vote of its members, dissolve its organization and transfer its degrees to some other Masonic Body, then it is equally true that a Grand Chapter can, by a similar pro-

cess, dissolve its organization and transfer its degrees to the Blue Lodge and authorize them to be conferred upon all Master Masons, without fee or reward, or under such restrictions as the Blue Lodge may see fit to impose; or a Grand Commandery may dissolve its organization and authorize its degrees to be conferred by any other organization. In fact, the work of demolition has already commenced. Ancient Craft and Capitular Masonry have already been assailed by these modern innovators. Companion Walters, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Mississippi, who was mainly instrumental in inaugurating the raid against Cryptic Masonry, in a recent address before the Grand Chapter of Mississippi, strongly recommends the total remission, to the Grand Lodges, of the Past Masters and Most Excellent Masters Degrees, and the making of the former a mere chair degree, and the latter the capstone of the Master's degree. The moment we recognize the power of any Grand Body to annul, infringe or tamper with the landmarks of Masonry, and tolerate a spirit of innovation, that moment we strike a blow that will shake the very foundation of Masonry. And unless the spirit of innovation can be checked and the landmarks restored and kept inviolate, we will tumble the superstructure about our heads, and bury ourselves beneath the ruins of our Grand Masonic edifice.

"In view of all these facts, I recommend the adoption of a resolution denying to all persons, who receive the Royal and Select Masters degrees by communication, "on the Mississippi plan," or in any other manner than in a regularly constituted Council of Cryptic Masonry, duly chartered by a Grand Council of the Cryptic Rite, any recognition as Cryptic Masons, and that the doors of the secret vault in Michigan be closed against them."

He apologized for the unusual length of his address but justified it on the ground that "the peculiar circumstances surrounding Cryptic Masonry at the present time seemed to demand it."

Companions had been deterred from organizing new Councils because the information that had been circulated that in Michigan after this annual assembly Cryptic Masonry as a separate organization would cease to exist and money spent in organizing would be thrown away and that Royal Arch Masons who desired the degrees could soon get them in their Chapters without expense. The promulgators of this information must have received a serious jolt when this resolution was passed:

"*Resolved*, That this Grand Council unequivocally condemns the action of any of our sister jurisdictions favoring the merging of the Cryptic degrees with those of the Chapter, and declares that the successful advocacy of such a policy will be fatal to the perpetuation of the Cryptic degrees, in their purity and sublimity, wherever such plan is adopted.

"*Resolved*, That this Grand Council hereby enters its solemn protest against the merging of the Cryptic degrees into the hands of any Grand Chapter, and will hold any Companion, who received the Cryptic Degrees under such authority, as clandestinely made; and as such cannot be received with fraternal greeting within this Grand Jurisdiction.

"Resolved, That Subordinate Councils are hereby interdicted from receiving or holding any Masonic intercourse with such clandestine Royal and Select Masters."

Taken as a whole the address of Grand Master Utley was one of the most thorough, stirring and forceful reports ever delivered in Grand Council.

A sufficient number of the proceedings of Grand Council were ordered to be bound in book form and one copy sent to each Council in the State.

Hugh McCurdy, of Corunna, was elected M. I. Grand Master, being elected directly from the "floor" to the presiding office, an honor accorded to but one other since the organization of Grand Council.

1880.

Twenty-second Annual Assembly was held in the city of Jackson, January 19, 1880. As a matter of history it is unfortunate that the Grand Recorder did not in some way indicate in the reports of the Credential Committee which of those Companions "entitled to seats" were there in person and responded to the roll, but it did not yet seem to appear to them that they were "building history" instead of saving printer's ink.

Grand Master McCurdy's address was a good report of his work and the condition of the Rite, covering eight pages. He gave his imagination as to the condition of Freemasonry full sway, when in his opening he said:

"Kingdoms have crumbled and empires have fallen—races and tribes of men have been annihilated, and scarce a tradition of them has been preserved; yet Freemasonry today stands essentially the same that it was when the first temple with all its glory, crowned Moriah's height."

But that can be safely charged up to the enthusiasm of "youth."

He reported the demise of a pioneer of the Order, Companion Benjamin F. Doughty, Grand Chaplain and Third Grand Principal Conductor of Work. Companion McCurdy was not called to exercise the judiciary powers granted to the Grand Master in the way of rendering important decisions. He gave a fine exposition of the position occupied by Cryptic Masonry in the galaxy of governing Grand Bodies and explained the nature of its mission, giving a short review of its history in Michigan since the organization of this Grand Council. He is the first Grand Master to officially acknowledge the assistance of the Grand Recorder, by noting the labors of Companion Garra B. Noble, who served faithfully since 1871.

David Woodward, of Clinton, was elected Grand Master.

1881.

Twenty-third Annual Assembly, East Saginaw, January 17, 1881.

Grand Master Woodward reported the deaths of two distinguished Past Grand Masters, William Brown, who died September 23, 1880, and Edward A. Elliott, November 15, 1880. These Companions had both been earnest laborers in the Cryptic work of this State and the results of their labors still live. Beautiful memorials were adopted.

The Grand Master arrested the charter of Blanchard Council, No. 34, of Tecumseh, as they were unable to get out a quorum. He gives in full the proceedings of the Convention held August 23, to 25, 1880, for the purpose of organizing the

General Grand Council of the United States.

This convention having been held in Detroit, August 23, 1880, and Michigan representatives participating, it may be proper to note here some of the matters of general interest. The reason for the organization was given as advancing the general interest in the Rite, and to combat the "Mississippi Plan" which was spreading quite rapidly. The degrees were conferred in four different ways, which were described in the circular issued by Josiah H. Drummond calling the convention, as follows:

"1. In Chapters, as a part of the regular series of degrees. In this class are Virginia and West Virginia, where the degrees are conferred before the Royal Arch, the order being Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, Royal Master, Select Master and Royal Arch. A Grand Council was formed in Virginia in 1820, which, yielding to a claim based upon a gross error, in 1841 surrendered the degrees to the Grand Chapter and dissolved.

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

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

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

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

"Measures, looking ultimately to the same end, but not fully

consummated, have been taken by the Grand Councils of California, Missouri and North Carolina.

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

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

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

The questions growing out of the peculiar situation then existing were reduced to an outline and about as follows:

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

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

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

"4. What rule ought to be adopted in relation to the jurisdiction in States, etc., in which no regular Grand Council exists?"

Each question was referred to a special committee for investigation and report. Companion Hugh McCurdy, of Michigan, was on the committee which considered the third question.

At the convention Companions Hugh McCurdy, D. Burnham Tracy, Garra B. Noble, David Woodward, David Bovee, and Rufus Hatheway, represented Michigan.

An eloquent appeal for the preservation of the Cryptic degrees in their purity and independence was presented by George W. Cooley, of Minnesota, after which a committee of five was appointed to report upon the advisability of the organization of the General Grand Council.

A protest made to the General Grand Chapter by the Grand Council of New York against the usurpation by it or any of its constituents, Grand or Subordinate, the control of the degrees of Royal and Select Master, was read and a fund raised to print and circulate the same.

The Committee on organization reported in favor of the formation of a General Grand Council. They reported a constitution for adoption, same to become operative when formally ratified and accepted by nine Grand Councils.

The Committee on the third question presented resolutions declaring that the Cryptic degrees could only be conferred in Councils working under Grand Councils; that no Grand Chapter could lawfully confer them directly or indirectly and that any Royal Arch Masons who so received them should be considered clandestine and not recognized or admitted to any lawful Council; that any Royal and Select Master who should be present or assist in conferring the degrees outside of a regular Council duly warranted by a Grand Council should be liable to expulsion.

Grand Master Woodward said that the General Grand Council was not organized by "unanimous consent," as many preferred to wait till their individual Grand Councils had been consulted. Michigan was among the number. He closed his report on the subject as follows:

"Cryptic Masonry in our jurisdiction is in a healthy state. The old maxim, "let well-enough alone," is safe. Give the subject your careful consideration. Should you, in your wisdom, see fit to ratify the action of the convention, you will, in justice to the General Grand Council, appropriate five dollars towards the necessary expenses of printing, etc., and forward the same to Illustrious Companion George W. Cooley, G. G. Recorder of the General Grand Council."

The Committee on Finance recommended that instead of paying the Grand Master a salary or monied consideration for his services, that the Grand Council vote him a "suitable jewel," which was adopted. Companion Woodward was the first Grand Master to receive a jewel.

The committee to whom the matter of affiliation with the General Grand Council was referred, reported as follows:

"For nearly a quarter of a century Cryptic Masonry has lived and flourished in Michigan, having grown from three to fifty Subordinate Councils. It today promises a prosperous future; a wise management and a strict fidelity to the landmarks of this branch of the Order has given it this success. The degrees of Royal Master and Select Master have been kept as we believe they ought to be, in a separate body.

"The Grand Council of the State of Michigan has in the past been sufficient in government and ample in jurisdiction, for all our needs, and we believe can better oversee and control us than any other body.

"What is good for us is of like value to any jurisdiction in the United States.

"Our Grand Council having proved sufficient in all things, and at all times for us, we can but recommend the same kind of a guiding hand to our sister States.

"The General Grand Council, for us, we believe, would be a piece of useless and expensive machinery.

"For these and many other reasons that we might enumerate, we deem it advisable, for the present, at least, that this Grand Council do not favor the organization of a General Grand Council."

Rufus C. Hatheway, of Ionia, was elected M. I. Grand Master.

1882.

Twenty-fourth Annual Assembly, Flint, January 10, 1882.

Grand Master Hatheway met with personal loss during the year which he described as follows:

"Companions, no doubt there will be many items of my official doings that may have been overlooked or forgotten in this report. For that reason that while peacefully at work in the Secret Vault at Petoskey in September last, the torch of the incendiary was applied to my loved home in Ionia, and the house, and all it contained, including the numerous minutes of my official acts, were entirely consumed, leaving me simply the clothes I had on. Thus, if any discrepancies occur you will understand the cause and willingly drop over me the broad mantle of one of the greatest boons to mortals given."

He reported forty-three working Councils and two more under dispensation, with a membership of over two thousand.

Of the seventeen Grand Representatives near other Grand Councils appointed by the Grand Master, seven are still holding that office at the end of twenty-five years, and of those recommended to other Grand Masters, five are still living and serving. Many questions were submitted and decisions rendered. Several of the Councils were officially visited and inspected. Dispensations were granted for new Councils at Grand Haven and Petoskey. Attention was called again to the General Grand Council and the matter referred to a committee consisting of Hugh McCurdy, D. B. Tracy and P. F. Blosser, who after a review of the situation closed their report recommending the adoption of this resolution:

"*Resolved*, That the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Michigan hereby ratifies and accepts the constitution of the General Grand Council; and the Grand Recorder be and is hereby instructed to notify the General Grand Recorder of our action in the premises."

The matter was referred to the individual Councils to act on and deferred one year. A resolution to employ a Grand Lecturer was laid on the table. The Grand Master was directed to enforce the by-laws requiring the arrest of the charter of Councils not holding meetings for twelve months or failing to pay dues, and being represented at Grand Council for two years in succession.

William G. Hudson, of Ludington, was elected M. I. Grand Master.

1883.

Annual Assembly was held in Detroit, January 15th, at 7:30 p. m. Grand Master Hudson in his address reported the death of Companion William V. Griffith, which occurred in Detroit, April 25, 1882, at the age of sixty-seven. He had been Grand Sentinel for seventeen years and the committee on obituaries paid him a fitting tribute for his faithfulness and devotion to the Craft.

Grand Master Hudson granted dispensations for Romeo to hold a meeting of their Council at Mt. Clemens and confer the degrees. He urged the adoption of some plan of official visitation. He arrested the charters of Hiram Council, No. 14; Dowagiac, No. 28; Reading, No. 31; Three Rivers, No. 7, and Centreville, No. 41. Newaygo, No. 47, was on the list but escaped.

The percolating effect of the "Mississippi Plan" seemed even to reach Michigan as seen from this resolution adopted by Saginaw Council, No. 20:

"Resolved, That the T. I. Master of this Council be and he is hereby instructed to call the attention of the Grand Council to the feasibility of abandoning the Grand Council, and taking such action as will authorize the conferring the degree of Royal and Select Masters by the Chapters of Royal Arch Masons."

The Jurisprudence Committee to whom this resolution was referred, reported that the matter was fully settled for Michigan by the resolution adopted by this Grand Council in session in 1879.

The resolution submitted by the committee at the annual assembly in 1882, to ratify and accept the Constitution, and laid over for action by the Subordinate Councils—no action having been reported by the several Subordinate Councils—on motion of P. M. I. G. M., H. Shaw Noble, was laid over until the next annual assembly.

David Woodward presented an amendment to the Constitution adding to the list of Grand Officers a Grand Lecturer and the matter was laid over under the rules.

George H. Greene, of Lansing, was elected M. I. Grand Master.

1884.

Annual Assembly held in Detroit, January 14. Grand Master George H. Greene issued a dispensation November 13, 1883, to form a new Council in Bay City. He made fitting allusion to the death of Past Grand Master Mortimer Mansfield, on December 20, 1883.

A reprint of the proceedings from 1871 to 1876 inclusive was recommended by the Grand Master and asked for by Grand Recorder, but the committee could not see the use of it, stating that it would be cheaper to ask for contributions of spare copies to supply the deficiency.

The Grand Master took up the much discussed subject of the General Grand Council and tossed it before the assembly with these words:

"It is also well known to you that prior to its organization, Cryptic Masonry was fast going into chaos and confusion; quite a number of Grand Councils had already adopted the "Mississippi Plan" and surrendered jurisdiction of these beautiful degrees to a foreign body, which cared little whether it survived or perished. I am strongly in the belief that its organization and influence has been the means of staying these ruinous proceedings of merging, which, in my opinion, is equivalent to an abandonment. Already quite a number of those Grand Councils which had surrendered their jurisdiction to the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of their respective States, have resumed control and are again in good working order and on a surer foundation than ever before. Michigan's Grand Council, in whose jurisdiction this organization was made, has not yet ratified or accepted its constitution, nor in any way become a constituent part thereof. The propriety of doing so was presented to you in a very able manner two years ago in the Grand Master's address, and also in the report of a committee appointed to consider the matter and make recommendations. Permit me here to quote a few lines from the report of this committee. In speaking of the dogma of merging or closing the Secret Vault, it says:

'Our jurisdiction has not been troubled with any dogmas or isms upon this subject. The true light of Cryptic Masonry has burned brightly upon our altars, and the workmen in the Secret Vault have worked their regular hours unmolested and undisturbed. 'Peace has been within our walls and prosperity within our palaces.' But not so with many of our sister Grand Jurisdictions. The sound of the working tools has been unheard; the Bible has been closed upon the altar; the lights extinguished in the temple; and sleepers found at their posts. Shall we permit this state of things to exist, or will we cast our influence in favor of order, God's first law, and assist in bringing order out of chaos and confusion; to re-light the extinguished tapers, and restore Masonic peace, happiness and prosperity among the workmen in the Ninth Arch? Your committee agree with the M. I. Grand Master, and are of the opinion that this Grand Body should become a constituent part of the General Grand Council, and submit this resolution:

"Resolved, That the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Michigan, hereby ratify and accept the Constitution of the General Grand Council, and the Grand Recorder be and is hereby instructed to notify the General Grand Recorder of our action in the premises."

* * * * *

"This resolution was laid over one year, and to be submitted to the subordinate Councils for their action, and at our last annual assembly it was found that not a sufficient number of Councils had acted on it to warrant our taking any action and it was again laid over until this Assembly. It will doubtless come before you at this session for adoption or rejection, and from what I have been able to learn of the results of its organization, the order which is coming out of confusion, I can most heartily recommend its adoption."

In spite of his efforts the resolution was indefinitely postponed.

The charter of Newaygo Council, No. 47, was "arrested" after being pursued into an "old garret" but the "records" were more successful in escaping, and were never found.

Grand Recorder Noble reported, that of the Councils that reported their action on the ratification of the General Grand Council, nine were in favor and two against. The amendment to add a Grand Lecturer to the corps of officers was voted down and the Grand Master authorized to appoint a lecturer as occasion required, "the Subordinate Councils to pay all expenses."

James H. Cummins, of Holly, was elected Grand Master.

1885.

The Twenty-seventh Annual was held in Detroit, January 19th.

Grand Master Cummins said in his annual address:

"It is with profound gratitude that I see so many familiar faces here assembled, and to note the fact that Father Time has dealt so kindly with us. Peace and prosperity abounds throughout this beautiful land of ours; that we are on friendly relations with all the world, and that our beloved Cryptic Rite does not slumber or sleep within this Grand Jurisdiction. And while doing a large amount of work, we do no work but good work, such as will pass the scrutiny of the Grand Overseer."

He received information that the records of Newaygo "had been saved from the fire," and requested that they be sent to the Grand Recorder but nothing farther was heard of them.

He refused a dispensation for Petoskey Council to open and confer degrees in Cheboygan as he considered the degrees of Royal and Select Master of too much importance to be conferred in that migratory manner. He granted a dispensation for a new Council in Muskegon, which was chartered later. He urged every Royal and Select Master in Michigan to carefully read the proceedings and the correspondence reports that he might be thereby better informed of the customs and work of other Grand Councils.

The Grand Treasurer's report showed \$667.12 on hand. The Grand Recorder reported all returns received and notwithstanding the depression in business and the excitement of Presidential election the Councils showed a fair state of prosperity. He reported the expense of a reprint of proceedings from 1871 to 1878 to be not over \$250.00 and the reprint was authorized. By correspondence he had received six copies of the missing years. Several questions had been received from the Grand Council of Indiana relative to the making of the Council degrees prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood. The committee to whom they were referred reported as follows:

"Your Committee to whom was referred so much of the M. I. Grand Master's address as related to the question of the M. I. G. M. of the Grand Council of the State of Indiana, respectfully submit the following report: The first question is—

1. Do you deem it advisable or possible to have the Cryptic Degrees made prerequisite to the Order of the Temple?

Answer—Yes; as we believe it would tend to strengthen and build up the Cryptic Rite.

2. If so, what is the best manner to obtain that end?

Answer—To have the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States repeal its law upon the subject, and enact one, making the Council degrees prerequisite to the Order of the Temple.

3. Would making Cryptic Masonry prerequisite to the Temple be detrimental to the latter?

Answer—In our opinion, it would not."

Garra B. Noble, Hugh McCurdy, and R. C. Hatheway were appointed a Committee to procure suitable jewels and clothing for Grand Officers.

George H. Stephenson, of St. Johns, was elected Grand Master.

1886.

The Twenty-eighth Annual Assembly was held in Detroit, January 18. In opening his address Grand Master Stephenson said:

"The Grand Masters who have preceded me left our ship in such good trim that little remained for me to do but occasionally touch the helm. My labors have been light and no questions of importance asked, indicating the good sense shown by Subordinate Councils in electing officers so well versed in Cryptic lore."

He recommended a duplicate charter to Portland Council to replace the one burned with their hall, which was granted. Notice of the organization of the Grand Council of Oregon was received and a welcome extended and representatives exchanged.

The Grand Master was able to report that at last the elusive records of Newaygo Council had been corraled and safely lodged in the Grand Recorder's office. The present incumbent would like to know where they went to as they are still missing.

The death of Past Grand Treasurer William Barclay was officially reported as occurring January 22, 1885, aged seventy-three years. He was a charter member of the Grand Council.

The Committee on Jewels and Clothing reported the purchase of those articles at cost of \$145.00.

Alfred Baldrey, of St. Joseph, was elected M. I. Grand Master.

1887.

The Twenty-ninth Annual Assembly was held January 17th at Detroit. Grand Master Baldrey reported that Cryptic Masonry had been very quiet during the year. He decided that suspension

from a Chapter suspends from the Councils. He got after Grand Representatives with a sharp stick who did not perform their duties, and called it "scant courtesy indeed."

The Grand Council of Nebraska was welcomed.

The Grand Master said:

"If the Subordinate Councils will hold monthly instead of quarterly, semi-annual or annual meetings; if the officers will qualify themselves to confer the degrees as they should be conferred; if they will adopt such other means of enjoyment as the case will admit of, they will make their meetings both a pleasure and a profit to all participating, and my word for it, they will have no more cause to complain of the apathy evinced by their members.

"It sometimes seems strange to those who already possess the secrets of the Crypt, that so many R. A. M. neglect to secure them, but Companions, don't blame the commanderies for it. How can you expect those outside to take an interest in the Rite if you, who already possess them, can hardly get up enough enthusiasm to hold a meeting once or twice a year?"

He again revived the General Grand Council question and recommended affiliation. He also recommended a Grand Lecturer. By recommendation of Committee the Grand Recorder was instructed to have one hundred copies of the proceedings to date bound at a cost not to exceed fifty cents each, and they were to be distributed as follows: One to each Subordinate Council, one to each P. M. I. Grand Master, free of charge, and the Grand Recorder was authorized to sell to any R. & S. M. in good standing, copies for \$2.

These edicts were adopted:

"Whenever a Council shall have Masonic information that a Companion has been suspended in his Chapter, it shall be the duty of the Council to cause a like sentence to be entered in the Council, and a reinstatement in the Chapter shall be equivalent to a reinstatement in the Council."

"No Companion shall be suspended for non-payment of dues except upon charges and specifications duly filed in the Council and trial had thereon."

Alfred G. Gully, of South Haven, elected M. I. Grand Master.

1888.

At the end of the first thirty years of the history of the Grand Council there were forty-two Councils which made returns and showed signs of life.

The Thirtieth Annual Assembly was held in Grand Rapids, January 16, 1888. Alfred G. Gully presided. He reported that while fifteen Grand Councils outranked Michigan in age only three had a larger membership and only one had a larger number of Subordinates.

A request for a dispensation to confer the Super-Excellent degree met the response that it was not recognized by the Grand Council. Cheboygan made a move for a Council but the effort flashed in the pan.

He favored annulling the commissions of Grand Representatives who failed for two years to comply with regulations. He reported a communication from the Grand Master of Illinois which suggested that the twelve independent Grand Councils form an association for the defence of the sovereignty of Grand Councils in the United States. This was on account of a stand taken by the General Grand Council on the subject of "Chapter made" Council members. The Jurisprudence Committee reported in favor of recognizing all members on which Illinois or any other Grand Council in correspondence should set the seal of their approval, without further question.

Grand Recorder Noble could only find enough proceedings to bind up seventy-five volumes of complete proceedings and a volume was distributed to each Council. The salary of Grand Recorder was raised to \$200.00. David Bovee deposited the original ritual of the work of the Grand Council in the Grand Recorder's office.

These regulations governing Grand Representatives were adopted:

"1. That the Grand Representatives be required to perform any duties which this Grand Body has with the Grand Body to which he is commissioned.

"2. That he shall report to the Grand Recorder of this Grand body any doings of the Council to which he is accredited, affecting the craft of this jurisdiction.

"3. Commissions shall expire at the end of three years from their date of issue, but the same may be revoked at any time by the Grand Council or the Grand Master."

The absence of Ebenezer Sprague, who had been a member for over twenty-five years, was noted and \$50 was sent to him.

Past Grand Masters' jewels were ordered for the two oldest Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters, Tracy and Noble.

Allen McKee, of Manistee, was elected Most Illustrious Grand Master.

1889.

Again the Annual Assembly was held in Grand Rapids. January 14 was the date. Grand Master McKee reported a lack of general interest in the degrees, and went on record as a "prerequisite" advocate and hoped to see it accomplished "in the near future."

The death of the Poet Laureate of Masonry, Companion Robert Morris, on July 31, 1888, aged seventy years, was reported.

The Obituary Committee reported of Companion Robert Morris that he was born in Massachusetts, August 31, 1818, removed to Kentucky in early manhood, devoted himself to theology and united

with the Presbyterian Church. He devoted forty years of his life to Masonry, was crowned "Poet Laureate of Free Masonry of America," at New York City, in 1855, before a vast assemblage.

The Grand Master established a new precedent by granting dispensation for a Council at Edmore, a place where no Chapter existed. That the Council soon died proved it to be an unwise precedent. He arrested the charter of Genesee, No. 17.

This ruling of the Jurisprudence Committee was adopted:

"It would be competent for the Grand Master to authorize a meeting, if a Council has failed for good cause to hold its annual meeting as prescribed in the by-laws. But until such a contingency has arisen there is no occasion for intervention of the Grand Master. It is the failure, not the anticipated failure to hold the meeting, that invokes the exercises of this prerogative of the Grand Master."

Nebuzaradan Council, No. 37, was permitted to move to Three Rivers. The dispensation for Edmore was continued.

Jewels were ordered for the Grand Master and for Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters Bovee and Spaulding.

Thomas G. Greene, of Centreville, was elected Most Illustrious Grand Master.

1890.

Grand Rapids, January 20, was the place and date of the Thirty-second Annual Assembly. Thomas G. Greene, Grand Master, reported on the "Merger," that eleven years' trial had demonstrated that Chapters had not benefited by it, and it was demonstrated that Councils would succeed better independent. Never before in its history was the condition of the Cryptic Rite more hopeful and encouraging, yet on the whole the Grand Council had not advanced. Many Councils had no dues, begged fuel and lights of Lodges and assembled but once or twice a year, raised Grand Council dues by special assessments if no work appeared. One out of every five Councils chartered by this Grand Council had ceased to exist, while only one in thirteen of the Lodges became extinct, part of them being consolidations. A suggested remedy was a thorough system of inspection. In eight years but twelve Chapters had been visited and half of those were to arrest the charters. His conclusion was thus:

"I would not depreciate the advantages of a comfortable balance in our Grand Treasury, but there is such a thing as false economy; and I submit that it is not a good policy for this Grand Council to sacrifice the best interests of its subordinates for the purpose of piling up money in its treasury.

"The responsibility for the success or failure of Cryptic Masonry rests not upon the Order of the Temple, but upon Royal and Select Masters. It is for you, and those who come after you, to determine what shall be the future history of this Grand Council."

Dispensations were granted for Councils at South Haven and Reed City. Thirteen Councils were visited and inspected by deputies, and eight by the Grand Master. The Masonic Home was commended to the attention of the Royal Craft. Mississippi was welcomed back to the fellowship of the Order. Charters were granted to Reed City and Flint. Mackey's Cryptic Monitor was adopted and a copy presented by D. B. Tracy.

Travers Phillips, of Hastings, was elected Most Illustrious Grand Master.

1891.

Thirty-third Annual Assembly held in Detroit, January 19.

Grand Master Phillips granted a dispensation to Albion Council; recommended that Grand Commandery be asked to make Council degrees prerequisite as so many Royal Arch Masons went direct to the Commandery, thinking the Council degrees were of little account.

Grand Recorder Noble reported the final receipt of the records of Genesee Council, defunct. On a petition from seventeen members of Hudson Council, No. 16, the charter of that Council was restored to them. A charter was granted to Albion Council.

The ritual of the Royal Master degree was amended and Grand Council was requested to use its "influence" at the next triennial of the Grand Encampment to have the Council degrees made prerequisite.

Charles R. Bagg, of Detroit, elected Most Illustrious Grand Master.

1892.

Thirty-fourth Annual Assembly, Detroit, January 8.

Charles R. Bagg, Most Illustrious Grand Master, presiding. He reported the deaths of A. J. Sawyer, John R. Everard, and Ebenezer Sprague past officers of the Grand Council.

All that was mortal of Edmore Council, U. D., after several years of sickly childhood, seemed to be the place where they had met, as no records could be found. River Raisin Council, No. 4, was removed to Dundee. Inspections of Councils seemed to have given the Councils new life. The death of that Eminent Mason and writer, Albert Pike, was announced as occurring May 22, 1891.

Horace E. Hatch, of Detroit, was elected Most Illustrious Grand Master.

1893.

The Thirty-fifth Annual was held in Scottish Rite Cathedral, Detroit, January 16, Horace E. Hatch presiding. He commented on the change just made in the passing of the administration from one

political party to another, also the preparation for the great World's Exposition in Chicago. He appointed the usual inspectors and assigned the various Councils for visitation and inspection. He granted dispensations for new Councils at Marine City and Cheboygan. Lawrence Council was given permission to meet in Paw Paw, in its jurisdiction, and receive candidates.

With sorrow he called his Companions to join with him in extending to Grand Recorder Noble their deepest sympathy with him in the loss of his dear wife, saying:

"Few of us realize what it is to be left alone in the last few days of our pilgrimage here below; when we have grown old together, then to be separated is of all things the most to be deplored; it causes a loneliness that no one can satisfy."

Most Illustrious Grand Master John Hetherington, of Canada, was received and welcomed with the grand honors.

Charters were granted to Marine City and Cheboygan. The Jurisprudence Committee "approved" the dispensation granted Lawrence Council but recommended that no more dispensations be granted for such purpose. Duplicate charter was granted Hastings.

Frank N. Clark, of Northville, was elected Most Illustrious Grand Master.

1894.

Saginaw was the place of holding the Thirty-sixth Annual, January 15th the date, and Frank N. Clark presided. These proceedings contain the first portraits published of Grand Officers, being those of Grand Recorder Garra B. Noble, P. G. M.; Frank N. Clark, Grand Master, and H. E. Hatch, Past Grand Master.

Grand Master Clark welcomed the dawn of the new era marked by the closing of the great exposition. He reported the death on August 2, 1893, of William P. Innes, who was very prominent in all departments of Masonry in Michigan.

He permitted a Council to "communicate" the degrees to a candidate living out of town but in the jurisdiction, by obligating him and then communicating the balance of the degree, signs, etc. He recommended that arrangements be made with the Grand Lecturer of Grand Chapter to act as Grand Lecturer of the Council.

Companion Hugh McCurdy delivered an eloquent eulogy on the life and character of General William P. Innes.

All answering roll call at every session were allowed five dollars. This resolution was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That when a Companion has been elected to receive the Council degrees, and fails to present himself for the same within one year after receiving notice of such election, such election shall be null and void."

A committee recommended the appointment of a Grand Lecturer and visitor at a salary of \$200, but the report was tabled. Councils were required to file returns at least ten days before the annual meeting of Grand Council.

A committee was appointed to submit a ritual of the Super-Excellent degree at the next meeting of Grand Council.

Emerson M. Newell, of Holly, was elected Most Illustrious Grand Master.

1895.

The Thirty-seventh Annual was held in Detroit, January 14, Emerson M. Newell presiding. He welcomed the members as the representatives of nearly 3,400 Royal and Select Masters. The following is reported:

"I received a communication from our Grand Treasurer, H. Shaw Noble, under date of October 6, stating that circumstances over which he had no control, had rendered it impracticable for him to longer act as Grand Treasurer and thereby tendered his resignation, to take effect upon the appointment of his successor.

"I promptly accepted his resignation and, after due consideration, immediately appointed P. M. Ill. Grand Master George H. Greene to fill the vacancy, who, without delay, complied with the requirements by executing a bond with sureties in the sum of \$4,000 which I accepted, approved and delivered to our Grand Recorder for filing, guarding thereby many unforeseen dangers that man is subjected to, especially if not buoyed by higher and loftier ambitions extending beyond gratifying one's own cherished desires, to the reproach of numberless hitherto well-wishers.

"I would recommend for your earnest consideration that hereafter this Grand Council shall have its own separate treasurer, irrespective of the other Grand bodies."

The incorporation of Grand Council was ordered. Portraits of Hugh McCurdy, Charles R. Bagg, Emerson M. Newell and William G. Hudson are printed in the proceedings. The constitution was amended to read as follows:

"That the persons so chosen shall continue in office until their successors are elected and installed. Hence, the old officers of Adoniram are yet in office, and so continue until their successors are elected and installed."

Councils without seals were directed to procure same. Bonds of Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer were ordered procured in some Indemnity or Assurance company, the premium on the bond to be paid by Grand Council. A ritual for the Super-Excellent degree was prepared and reported and adopted as the official work of the Jurisdiction.

George A. Cross, Lawrence, was elected Most Illustrious Grand Master.

1896.

George A. Cross presided at the Thirty-eighth Annual at Detroit, January 20. The year was fraught with severe depressions in the business and financial affairs throughout the land, yet Cryptic Masonry advanced as never before. The Grand Master suggested that candidates should not be received in classes and then have no more work for the year, but that regular meetings be held oftener and candidates received one at a time. He represented the Grand Council at the laying of the cornerstone of Detroit Masonic Temple, January 23, 1895. He commended the adoption of Grand Lecturer system and appointed A. B. Bisbee as that officer, and the phenomenal success of the year was attributed to the work of that officer. He granted dispensation for new Councils at Traverse City, Grand Ledge, Kalamazoo, and Williamston.

He reported the organization during the year of the Grand Councils of Indian Territory, Washington and Colorado. A detailed account of the difficulties of the latter with the General Grand Council was given.

The balance due from the Noble property was reported as \$1,154.04 and a detailed report was received from Trustee Wentz.

The membership reported by Grand Recorder Noble was 4,006, net gain 256.

The constitution was amended permitting Councils of Super-Excellent Masters, also to amend the constitution without notice at previous meeting, and that no Companion should be eligible to office in the Grand Council higher than attained in subordinate Council. The name of Hudson Council was changed to "Putnam" in honor of deceased Past Grand Master C. H. Putnam. The Grand Lecturer was continued another year. Ionia and Northville Councils were ordered to procure seals.

Committee on Revision of Ritual was continued and six more added. A long report was made by Grand Lecturer.

Portraits of Grand Master Cross and Past Grand Master Charles H. Putnam are printed. The Obituary Committee paid fitting tribute to the latter who died May 15, 1905.

The following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, That the members of the Finance Committee and the Committee on Returns, whose duties begin in advance of the regular session, be paid \$3 in addition to the regular per diem."

George P. McMahon, of Grand Rapids, elected Most Illustrious Grand Master.

1897.

Saginaw was the scene of the Thirty-ninth Assembly which was presided over by George P. McMahon.

Grand Recorder Garra B. Noble, who since 1861 had been a regular attendant and who since 1871 had served as Grand Recorder, was missed from his post of duty, being detained at home by an illness from which he never recovered. Jefferson S. Conover was appointed acting Grand Recorder. A letter of condolence was ordered sent by special messenger to Companion Noble.

The Grand Master stated that the year passed had been one of unusual business depression, thousands had been reduced to poverty and want had invaded many homes. He reported the death of that distinguished Craftsman who in his modest, humble way had for so many years guarded the outer door of the Grand Bodies of Michigan, Alexander McGregor, who had become endeared to the hearts of thousands of Masons of the State, as they had annually greeted him at his post of duty. Another Grand Master had also been called, Rufus C. Hatheway, who presided over the Grand Council in 1881, and who was Grand Master of Masons in 1887. Dispensations were granted for Councils at Manistique, Marquette and Crystal Falls, all in the Upper Peninsula which heretofore had had no Councils.

Companion J. S. Conover made the annual report for the Grand Recorder but on account of the confusion in sending of returns to two addresses and delinquency of some, no statistical report could be made.

A resolution was adopted accepting with the other Masonic Grand Bodies the title to the Michigan Masonic Home at Grand Rapids. Grand Lecturer Bisbee reported that the adoption by Grand Council of the Super-Excellent degree had greatly stimulated the Councils in their work and interest. The Committee on Ritual reported against "adopting a work so different from the present ritual in point of verbiage, and arrangement," as that proposed by Companion Bovee, because so many had committed the old work and would "involve much labor on their part." Thus was the idea of improvement and the harmonizing of the traditions and chronology of the Cryptic degrees with those of Lodge and Chapter sacrificed to the convenience of those who "had already committed the present ritual."

The incorporation of Grand Council was accomplished and the Committee reported the act. The Finance Committee recommended that Councils visited by the Grand Lecturer be required to pay his hotel bills. A nominating committee recommended the following to act as first board of the Masonic Home and were duly elected: Trustee, George P. McMahon, Board of Control, James H. Cummins, one year; A. D. Woodward, two years; Charles L. Fitch, three years.

At the election of officers, Loyd B. Hess, of Grand Rapids,

was elected Grand Master, Garra B. Noble was elected Emeritus Grand Recorder, with salary for life, and Jefferson S. Conover was made Grand Recorder. Companion Noble did not live long to enjoy the honors granted as on the 9th of February he peacefully closed his eyes upon earthly scenes.

1898.

The Fortieth Annual was held in Grand Rapids, January 17. Companion Francis A. Blades, Grand Chaplain was absent on account of the death of his wife. Grand Master Loyd B. Hess granted dispensation for new Council at St. Louis. On March 29, 1897, the deed to Masonic Home was executed in favor of the four Grand Bodies and appeals for support were sent out to the subordinate bodies. On suggestion of the Grand Recorder, Councils were required to file returns within ten days after December 27, each year. The Grand Lecturer reported an increasing interest in the degrees. He had seen the degrees conferred on ninety-seven candidates in the presence of over seven hundred members. Provision was made for succession in office of Board of Control of Masonic Home, also for amending the Constitution without previous notice, and members over seventy years of age were allowed to be placed on Emeritus roll and exempt from dues. The Committee on Returns was discontinued and the duties thereof assigned to the Grand Recorder.

Charles M. Norton, of Lansing, was elected Grand Master.

1899.

Detroit, January 16, was the place and date of the Forty-first Annual Assembly. Grand Master Norton congratulated the craft on the success of the year, notwithstanding, the unexpected call to arms which fell upon the nation in the Spanish war. He reported the death of Past Grand Master Joseph T. Hayden, April 24, 1898, aged seventy-two. The following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, That the Grand Council pay the actual expenses of its representatives on the Board of Control, when attending meetings of the Board, the same to be paid by warrant on the Grand Treasurer after an itemized statement of such expenses has been submitted to and approved by the Finance Committee."

A charter was granted to Grayling Council, No. 70, but future events proved it to be a mistake. On motion of Companion Hugh McCurdy a committee of three was authorized to prepare a "key" to the work of the Council degrees, and when prepared, the Grand Recorder to have same printed, and distributed—three copies to each Council and one to each Grand Officer and Past Grand Master. J. S. Conover, L. C. Goodrich and H. S. Maynard were appointed such committee.

George D. Smith, of Muskegon, was elected Grand Master.

1900.

With the dawn of a new century the Forty-second Annual Assembly was held in Detroit, January 15. Grand Master Smith reported the deaths of Past Grand Master George H. Greene, Grand Treasurer, and Charles R. Bagg, Chairman of the Finance Committee, also Oliver Bourke who was the second Grand Recorder of Michigan.

Dispensation was granted for a new Council at Cadillac. The charter of Grayling Council, No. 70, was recalled as the Companions did not appear to want it. A bill of \$50 for services while Grand Master in 1880 was presented by David Woodward and allowed. The Ritual as amended and published was officially adopted.

The charter of Bronson Council, No. 40, was revoked. By resolution of Companion Maynard the first three officers of a Council were authorized to communicate the Super-Excellent degree to a sufficient number of members to enable the Council to confer the degree.

Richard A. Catton, of Detroit, was elected Grand Master.

1901.

The Forty-third Annual Assembly was held in Detroit, January 14. Grand Master Catton in his address announced the death of Past Grand Master David Bovee who was father of the Council ritual used in this jurisdiction. The mortgage indebtedness on the Noble property was taken up by the Grand Bodies. The balance in the treasury had grown to \$1,015.28.

On motion of Companion Lou B. Winsor, for three years Chairman of Correspondence Committee, the duties of preparing that report were vested in the Grand Representatives of the various jurisdictions, each of whom was to prepare the report of the jurisdiction he represented. This was a capital plan so far as it served the purpose of the Chairman of that Committee, but not otherwise. As fast as funds would permit it was voted to pay the Past Grand Masters from 1882 to 1889 sums equal to that now annually appropriated, \$50 each.

Voluntary non-affiliation for six months in Lodge or Chapter was made to work the same disabilities as suspension. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Lecturer were made a Committee to report on the advisability of making the Super-Excellent degree the working degree of the Council. The Grand Recorder was directed to procure aprons and jewels for Grand Officers not supplied.

Ithamer T. Smith, of Hudson, was elected Grand Master.

1902.

The Forty-fourth Annual Assembly was held in Detroit, January 20. Grand Master Smith commented on the untimely death by an assassin of President William McKinley. The Grand Council lost two Past Grand Masters in the deaths of Loyd B. Hess and George H. Stephenson.

The charters of Marquette Council, No. 66, and Northville Council, No. 30, were surrendered. Acting under instructions of Grand Council to close his books promptly on January 7, the Grand Recorder reported five Councils delinquent. He was able to report that Michigan stood first in numbers of Councils and third in number of members of the Grand Councils of the United States. The Monroe property was deeded to Grand Lodge, by Trustee Wentz. A telegram of greeting was read from Hugh McCurdy, who was in California for his health, and a reply was sent with prayers for restoration to health.

The subject of correspondence reports was referred to a committee of five who made a minority and majority report. The majority report signed by four members and favoring the continuance of correspondence reports, and that said reports should be prepared by the Grand Recorder, was adopted. A new resolution on payment of representatives and officers was adopted. The jewel usually purchased by resolution and sent to the retiring Past Grand Master was this time presented in open Grand Council by Horace S. Maynard, to Past Most Illustrious Grand Master Smith, in a very happy address feelingly responded to by Companion Smith. The committee on working degree of the Council recommended that the Select Master degree remain the working degree, which was concurred in.

Byron C. Hill, of Jackson, was elected Grand Master.

1903.

The Forty-fifth Annual Assembly was held in Detroit, January 19. Grand Master Hill was pleased to report unusual prosperity with larger numbers and greater power than ever attained. He announced the death of Past Grand Master Richard A. Catton, and bespoke for his Companions their heartfelt sympathy with the Grand Recorder in the recent loss of his wife. He expressed the opinion that nothing would so increase the interest as visits to Councils by Grand Officers. The Grand Recorder submitted his sixth and last annual report, showing receipts to be \$1,948. Nine Councils delinquent. A petition was received from the former members of Blanchard Council, No. 34, for the return of their charter, which was granted. A duplicate charter was granted to Corunna Council,

No. 38, their original having been burned in their hall. A committee of three was appointed to compile the constitution and laws and have them bound substantially in book form and distributed to the Councils. An effort was made to separate the ritual into two parts, and issue only to those Councils which work the degree the ritual for the Super-Excellent, but the matter was tabled.

John H. Kingsley, of Manchester, was elected Grand Master.

1904.

The Forty-sixth Annual Assembly was held in Lansing, January 18, in the beautiful new Masonic Temple.

Grand Master Kingsley delivered a strong address, brilliantly depicting the steady and remarkable growth of the country and fraternalism particularly. He had found the Councils visited finely equipped. He opened Blanchard Council, No. 34, at Tecumseh on the restored charter, and the Council was started on a successful career. He made more visits than usual for Grand Masters. He recommended the adoption of a new seal. One of his first duties as Grand Master was to assemble the Grand Council to attend the funeral of Grand Recorder Jefferson S. Conover, who died in Ann Arbor Hospital, April 5, 1903, after a serious operation. During the illness of the Grand Recorder, his son Charles A. Conover, was appointed Acting Grand Recorder, and on May 18, he was installed as Grand Recorder.

Forty-eight Councils with a membership of 5,310 are reported, the net gain in membership 322. The sum of \$250.00 was appropriated to be used by the Grand Lecturer in holding schools of instruction. Bay City Council, No. 53, having lost its charter by fire a duplicate was granted. The Grand Recorder's bond was placed at \$2,000. The Committee on Compilation was directed to include in the manual the ceremonies, forms and blanks, used in Cryptic work. A jewel was presented to Past Grand Master Kingsley by Companion Hill.

Dallas D. Alton, of Fremont, was elected Grand Master.

1905.

Detroit, January 16, was the place and date of the Forty-seventh Annual Assembly. Grand Master Alton was snowbound and delayed by belated trains, and Grand Council was opened by the Deputy, Companion Bayard A. Church. All but four of the fifty-eight Councils were represented. The Grand Master arrived after the opening. For the first time in several years the Grand Master was able to report that death had passed by the official circle of the Grand Council. He visited Masonic Home and found all in good order. He recommended that the weaker Councils be visited by

Grand Lecturer; that filing cases be provided for Grand Recorder's office and that the time of annual meeting be changed to April or May. The Grand Treasurer's balance had grown to \$2,587.42. Grand Recorder reported a membership of 5,643 members, net gain of 381.

The Royal and Select Masters degrees were exemplified by Monroe Council, No. 1. The Grand Recorder was authorized to procure the binding of the proceedings of other jurisdictions for the Grand Council library. The sum of \$100 was appropriated for the furnishing of a room at the Masonic Home to be known as Grand Council Room, under the direction of the Grand Council members of the Board.

Bayard A. Church, of St. Louis, was elected Grand Master.

1906.

Saginaw, May 14, was the place and date of the Forty-eighth Annual Assembly. The Grand Chapter having changed its time of meeting from January to May it consequently changed the Grand Council meeting accordingly.

A black bar in the line of Grand Officers opposite the title of Grand Lecturer indicated a loss in the official circle. Lewis C. Goodrich died suddenly, August 7, 1905, while holding a Chapter school of instruction at Sault Ste. Marie. The Grand Council also lost Grand Chaplain Francis A. Blades, who died April 24, 1906. Also Past Grand Master D. Burnam Tracy, who died February 19, 1906, and Past Deputy Grand Masters Marcus D. Elliott, who died September 23, 1905, and Sanford Hunt, who died January 6, 1906.

Grand Master Church granted dispensation for new Councils at Houghton, Marquette and Howell, equal in number to those chartered for ten years. On the suggestion of the Grand Recorder the minimum fee for the degrees was raised from \$5.00 to \$10.00. The annual report of the deceased Grand Lecturer was written by his wife from memoranda left by him. Probably the first time on record of such an occurrence. On invitation from the General Grand Council to become affiliated with it, a committee of three was appointed to visit the triennial at Boston and report.

The Masonic Home Board reported the selection and furnishing of a room at that institution as Grand Council room.

Arthur H. McCloud, of Detroit, was elected Grand Master.

1907.

The Forty-ninth Annual Assembly held in Port Huron, May 20. A letter of greeting and regret at his absence was received from Past Grand Master Hugh McCurdy. Grand Master McCloud made

many visits and also instituted a new Council at Port Huron which was chartered at this session. The Grand Recorder called attention to the approaching semi-centennial anniversary. The membership was reported at 6,365 with 762 passed the circle and the largest net gain, 563. The total receipts were \$2,479.19.

Grand Lecturer Maynard reported seventeen schools of instruction. The committee which visited the Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Council at Boston made a full report and recapitulated the history of Michigan's position since the organization but reported in favor of no further action which was concurred in, so the Grand Council remains independent and sovereign. The representatives on the Masonic Home Board were authorized to join with those of the other Grand Bodies in a plan by incorporation or otherwise to enable the Board to act as trustees for bequests and endowment funds.

A committee of three was appointed to revise and codify the Constitution, Laws and Decisions and report at the next assembly. The sum of \$100 was appropriated to the Masonic Home.

Frank O. Gilbert, of Bay City, was elected Grand Master.