

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

Convention of Royal and Select Masters

HELD AT

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

November 31, 1874

TRANSACTIONS

The Convention met in the City of New Orleans, La., at Masonic Temple on Monday noon, November 31, 1874, and organized temporarily by the election of

Companion JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, of Maine, as President.

Companion G. FRED WILTSIE, of New York, as Recorder.

The Committee on Credentials: Companions W. C. Swain, of Wisconsin, E. Edmundson, of Tennessee, and George L. McCahan, of Maryland, reported eighteen (18) Grand Councils entitled to representation.

The temporary officers were then unanimously elected as permanent officers of the Convention, with the addition of

Companion JOHN FRIZZELL, of Tennessee, as 1st Vice-President.

Companion C. F. GOODMAN, of Nebraska, 2d Vice-President.

Rule 1 of the New York Convention of 1872, was then adopted for the government of the present session (the purport of which was the system of voting, each Grand Jurisdiction being allowed three votes).

Companions Edmundson, of Tennessee, Wiltsie, of New York, O'Neal, of Ohio, McCahan, of Maryland, and Stinson, of Arkansas, were appointed a committee on "Work."

Companions Brown, of Kansas, Bechtel, of New Jersey, Kirker, of Connecticut, Wheeler, of Nebraska, and Morrill, of Florida, were appointed a committee on General Business.

EVENING SESSION AT 7 O'CLOCK.

Companion John Frizzell, of Tennessee, presiding.

Companion John H. Brown, of Kansas, from the Committee on General Business, reported in favor of a General Grand Council of R. and S. M., which report, after a long discussion, was laid upon the table.

Several invitations were received and accepted to attend different festivities in the city of New Orleans during the sessions of the Grand Bodies.

Two vacancies occurring in the committee appointed by the New York Convention to memorialize the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, to place the Cryptic Degrees in their proper position in the American system of Free Masonry, by making them a pre-requisite to the orders of Knighthood, they were filled by the Convention constituting the committee, as follows:

Josiah H. Drummond, of Maine.
John Frizzell, of Tennessee.
G. Fred Wiltsie, of New York.
William A. Prall, of Missouri.
P. M. Savery, of Mississippi.
Samuel M. Todd, of Louisiana.

Convened again 7 p. m., December 1, 1874.

Companion C. F. Goodman, of Nebraska, presiding.

The Committee on Work, after a lengthy session, reported to the Convention that in their judgment no change was advisable in the Ritual as adopted in 1873, except to correct one or two clerical or chronological errors in the history of the Select Master's Degrees, concerning the *time* of the communication of the w— to M— and the lapse of time from its communication to its being lost. The report was unanimously adopted, all

the Grand Bodies represented, many of which have adopted the work, expressing themselves highly pleased with it in every feature.

The question of the organization of a General Grand Council was then taken from the table, and a very long debate ensued, all of the different Grand Bodies, through their representatives, stating at length their views; a large majority of them were in favor of the immediate formation of such a body, but at the same time being desirous of making no movement except to aid in the advancement of Cryptic Masonry, and of these degrees receiving the proper attention and position to which they are entitled, the following resolution was finally unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to prepare a Provisional Constitution for the organization of a General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the United States of America, which shall be submitted to the several State Grand Bodies, for either their adoption or rejection.

JOHN FRIZZELL, of Tennessee,
G. FRED WILTSIE, of New York,
JOHN H. BROWN, of Kansas,
WILLIAM C. SWAIN, of Wisconsin,
W. R. WHITAKER, of Louisiana,
Committee.

The following resolution was then adopted:

Resolved, That the present officers of this Convention be continued and that the Committee on Provisional Constitution for a General Grand Council, be, and they hereby are, directed to prepare such a document, which shall be submitted by the officers of this Convention, to the various Grand Councils in the United States, for their action thereon, and when two-thirds thereof shall concur therein, approving such Provisional Constitution, the same shall become operative, and a meeting shall be called by the President, for the purpose of duly organizing such body, which shall be provided for by said Constitution, at such time and place as may be designated.

The committee to memorialize the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, reported that they had performed the duty assigned them and that, after consideration, the Grand Encampment laid the matter on the table.

The following resolution of adjournment was then adopted, after several matters of minor importance had been disposed of:

Resolved, That this Convention do now adjourn to meet in the City of Buffalo, N. Y., on the Monday before the third Tuesday of August, 1877, and that the several State Grand Bodies be requested to send delegates to the same, unless the Convention should sooner be called together by the President.

The Grand Recorder was ordered to publish officially the proceedings of the Convention, as well as the report of the Committee on Provisional Constitution, in pamphlet form, and issue same to each of the Grand Councils.

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION.

To the Hon. Josiah H. Drummond, President, etc.:

ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANION:

At the Convention of Royal and Select Master Masons, convened in the City of New Orleans, in December, 1874, the undersigned were constituted a Committee for the purpose of preparing a Provisional Constitution for the organization of a General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, to be submitted for the consideration of the various Grand Councils, and to be operative when assented to by two-thirds of them.

The committee submit herewith the result of their labors.

To avoid objectionable centralization on the one hand and at the same time give the proposed organization sufficient power to be efficient for good, has been rather a difficult task, but the result, it is hoped, will prove satisfactory.

The instrument submitted is brief while sufficiently explicit to express its meaning and purpose with clearness.

Our deliberate conviction is that an organization upon the basis here suggested will largely tend to promote the interests of Cryptic Masonry, and that, with harmony and concert of action, on the part of the Grand Councils much good will result.

Fraternally submitted,

Aug. 1, 1875, JOHN FRIZZELL.

Aug. 14, 1875, G. FRED WILTSIE.

Aug. 20, 1875, JOHN H. BROWN.

Aug. 28, 1875, WILLIAM C. SWAIN.

MINORITY REPORT.

The undersigned can give only a qualified approval of the foregoing report. The draft of the proposed constitution appears to him almost unexceptionable, and he has no wish to suggest any modification thereof, but he cannot share with the other members of the committee in the hope that a satisfactory result has been obtained in the attempt "to avoid objectional centralization on the one hand, and at the same time give the proposed organization sufficient power to be efficient for good," such result seeming to him unattainable; nor does he, with them, hold the "deliberate conviction that an organization upon the basis suggested will largely tend to promote the interests of Cryptic Masonry," and that "much good will result" therefrom.

The undersigned, because of this difference of opinion, cannot join in the report of the majority. Fraternaly submitted,
Aug. 13, 1877.

W. R. WHITAKER.

[The proposed Constitution was not presented at the Convention of 1877 and was therefore not acted upon.]