THE VICKSBURG WEEKLY HERALD

Vicksburg, Mississippi, Wednesday, February 6, 1867.

THE WEEKLY HERALD

SATURDAY, FEB. 30, 1867.

Annual Address of the M. E. Grand Commander of Mississippi Knights Templar.

SIR KNIGHTS—Through the merciful protection of our Heavenly Father, we have safely passed another year of pilgrimage, and are permitted once more to assemble in the peaceful asylum of our Order—there to offer up our thanksgivings to the Giver of All Good, for the manifold blessings He has given us to enjoy; to renew our vows of fidelity to our beloved Order; exchange congratulations upon the uninterrupted harmony that prevails within our borders, and to deliberate how best to advance its usefulness and interests. It is a source of deep regret that I cannot confine this communication entirely to any subject more in the angel of Death made his appearance at the door of our asylum and two of the brightest lights of our Commandery have been extinguished forever. Notwithstanding these sad events are known to all, and are still fresh in the mind of all, it becomes my duty to officially announce the deaths of our illustrious E. Grand Commander, Wm. H. Stevens, and of my predecessor, Past R. E. Grand Commander, B. S. Tappan. Our brothers died in this city, and their mortal remains were consigned to the tomb, with the solemn and impressive burial service of the Masonic Fraternity, by Ledge No. 26. But a year ago, at our annual conclave, I met them for the first and only time. But memory delights to recall the impression then made of the obliging friends, the true gentlemen, and the courteous and zealous Templars. We remember them in scenes to which the world was not witness, and where the better feelings of humanity were exhibited without disguise. That they had faults and foibles, is but to repeat what their mortality demonstrated—that they had a human nature, not divine. Over those errors, whatever they may have been, we cast, while living, the mantle of charity; it should, with much more reason, enshroud them in death.—The memory of their virtues lingers in our remembrance, and reflects its shining lustre beyond the portals of the tomb. The earthen vase which has contained precious odors, will lose none of its fragrance though the clay be broken and shattered. So be it with our brothers' memory! "Brothers Sir Knights, farewell! Light be the sod upon you; and may the sunshine of Heaven beam bright on your waking!" It is not my purpose, nor am I sufficiently acquainted with their private and Masonic life to pronounce an eulogy upon your departed brothers, but shall leave it for a more able pen than mine, as I doubt not this Grand Commandery will do themselves the honor of appropriately noticing their deaths.

In April last, I received official notice of the death of Past M. E. Grand Master, Wm. B. Hubbard. He was a "wise and accomplished Mason;" and the fact of his having held the exalted station of Most Eminent Grand Master of Knights Templar of the United States for twelve years, is ample evidence of the esteem and regard in which he was held by the Sir Knights of the Union. I would here call the attention of the Grand Commandery to the fact that during the war, in which we ceased to meet, many true and courteous Templars were summoned hence! No official notice could be taken of their death. I would recommend that a record monument for each Commandery, containing the names of its deceased Sir Knights, be published with the proceedings of the Conclave. From the returns I find that Mississippi No. 1, has lost—; Magnolia, No. 2,—; Vicksburg, No. 3,—; Holly Springs, No. 4,—; Rosalie, No. 5,—. Among the native draped in the habiliments of mourning is my own Commandery in that of Sir C. H. Mott, one of Mississippi's noble and gallant sons, who gave his life in her defence. I cannot forbear recording here my feeble testimony to his worth as a Man and Mason. A complete eulogy might be pronounced by saying "He was most loved by those who knew him best." He was a kind, generous, warm-hearted friend, true brother, faithful companion, and with what truthfulness can we, in the language of our Ritual, say of him, "He was a true and courteous Knight, and has fallen in life's struggle, full knightly, with his armor on, prepared for knightly deeds."

You will be called upon at this Conclave to consider the resolutions offered at the last, touching our future connection with the Grand Encampment. It is a question of great importance, and one that demands your earnest thought and consideration. Having derived our existence from that body, and having pledged obedience to it, I cannot believe that the right exists for us to sever that connection; but aside from the question of right, I doubt the propriety of such a step. He who studies the history of our Order will find that it has been with the necessity of a supreme governing head. My own opinion is fully expressed in the following extract from the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania: "Before we destroy the work of our fathers let us pause and consider what will be the probable condition of American Knighthood in a few years, without the restraining and directing influence of a Supreme Head. Different qualifications for membership would soon be required in different States.—Some would throw open their asylums to those who are not Freemasons, while others would perhaps require candidates to be proficients in all the degrees of the Scottish Rite. The work, the regalia, the weapons, and the drill would become every year less and less uniform, until the Templars of the different States could no longer recognize each other."

At our last Annual Conclave a change was made in the Constitution, [illegible] the Orders from forty to twenty-five dollars, which, in the impoverished condition of our people, has had a prejudicial effect upon the Order, by debarring many good and true companions from receiving the Orders. Lexington and Holly Springs Commanderies passed resolutions requesting me to call a special Conclave to legislate on this subject; but as it was a part of the Constitution, which can only be altered at a stated annual meeting, I could not grant their request, but would now recommend this subject to your consideration.

My attention has been called to the omission in our Constitution to state what constitutes a quorum for business, by a difficulty among the Templars of Missouri, from this cause.

The second section of the Constitution states who shall be members of this Grand Commandery, but nothing is said as to how many shall be present to form a quorum for the transaction of business; fortunately nothing has ever occurred to raise this question, but it is an important omission that should be supplied.

In April, I received from Sir Henry L. Palmer, M. E. Grand Master, the ritual of Knight of Malta, a copy of which was forwarded to each subordinate Commandery, with instructions that it be used in conferring that order.

On the ———, I received a petition from a competent number of Knights Templar for a commandery to be opened and held in Grenada. Their petition was recommended by the three nearest Commanderies: Lexington, Mississippi and Holly Springs. I granted and issued a dispensation to the petitioners, to open and hold Grenada Commandery, No. 6, and appointed Sir John K. Fulson, E. Commander.

On the 11th of July, in company with our E. Grand Prelate, I had the pleasure of meeting and working with them, conferring the Orders on several companions during my visit. The officers are well instructed, and entered upon their duties with a zeal and determination truly commendable, and which will insure success. The petition, dispensation, together with the record of their transactions, will be presented for your consideration. I am happy to report their Commandery in a flourishing condition, and recommend their application for a charter to your favorable consideration.

At the last triennial session of the Grand Encampment, a costume or uniform for Knights Templar was adopted, and earnestly recommended to be adopted by all Knights Templar throughout its jurisdiction. Several different systems of drill and tactics were exemplified. The drill, as exemplified by Sir Darrin Welch, of New York, was approved. As uniformity of work in our subordinate Commanderies is greatly to be desired, these subjects will doubtless claim your attention. In furtherance of such uniformity, I would recommend the adoption of a code of by-laws, which, besides obtaining a uniformity in government, would save the time of the body, in examining the by-laws of its subordinates.

In conclusion, Sir Knights, allow me to express the hope that this Conclave may be characterized by peace and harmony, and that what we do at this time may promote the prosperity and usefulness of our glorious Order.

EDWARD LEE,
Grand Commander.

Officers of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Mississippi, for 1867:

Sir Knight C. A. Maslow, Vicksburg, E. G. Commander; Sir Knight Thomas Palmer, Jackson, E. G. Generalissimo; Sir Knight H. H. Hubbard, Vicksburg, E. G. Captain General; Sir Knight Stuart Stevens, Lexington, E. G. Treas.; Sir Knight W. H. Watson, E. D. Secretary; Sir Knight W. K. Fulson, Grenada, E. G. Sword Bearer; Sir Knight C. F. Reed, Sir Knight R. S. Jones, Grenada, Sir Knight John H. Shook, Jackson, E. G. Standard Bearer; Sir Knight G. F. Foster, Jackson, E. G. Pursuivant; Sir Knight Geo. Wilson, Vicksburg, E. G. Warder; Sir Knight Geo. W. Wright, Holly Springs, E. G. Sentinel; Sir Knight Geo. Ratcliff, Natchez, E. G. Captain of the Guard.

A BAR by the name of Noland, who stole a horse from a Mississippian in this county some two weeks ago, and sold the same to a party in this place, killed himself at Lodwater Depot, on last Saturday, by taking laudanum.—People's Press, Jan. 17.

[illegible] elected United States Senator from Kansas.

Mississippi Legislature.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 30, 1867.

SENATE.—Mr. Lyles, of Noxubee, offered a resolution (the House concurring) That a joint committee of three on the part of the Senate, and ——on the part of the House, be appointed to inquire into the relations and interests of the State of Mississippi in the different Railroads in the State, and that said committee sit during the recess of the Legislature with power to send for persons and papers. Adopted.

Messrs. Lyles, of Noxubee, and Martin were appointed on the part of the Senate.

House bill amendatory of the exemption laws of the State, was, on motion of Mr. Miller and Mr. King amended by the following additional sections:

Be it further enacted, That in addition to the personal property exempted by law, there shall be exempted ——pounds of lint cotton for the use and consumption of every family.

Sec. —Be it further enacted, That tenancies by courtesy be exempted to the extent of 240 acres in other cases of homestead exemption.—And the bill as amended was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Taylor offered a resolution, That His Excellency, B. G. Humphreys, Governor of the State of Mississippi, be and is hereby requested to lay before the Legislature all matter in his possession touching our State and Federal Relations.

House.—Mr. Webb, from the Special Committee appointed to wait upon the Governor, reported that His Excellency, the Governor, would, as soon as his health permitted, submit a message for the consideration of the Legislature. Report received and agreed to.

Mr. Beauchamp offered the following amendment, which was adopted: That the County Court of Noxubee be held every two months instead of every three months, as by the amended act now provided. The bill passed as amended.

Mr. Lane offered a resolution, That the Judiciary Committee be instructed to prepare and introduce a bill providing for a system of punitive labor in all the counties of this State. Adopted.

Mr. Williams introduced a bill to increase the salary and perquisites of District Attorneys in this State. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Lyles offered a resolution (the Senate concurring), That the Public Printer is hereby directed to publish in pamphlet form five hundred copies of the public acts passed at the October session of the Legislature. Placed on the Calendar.

Mr. Lewis introduced a bill to legalize the assessment of county taxes in Claiborne county. Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Cope introduced a bill to repeal arts. 65 and 66, sec. 9, chap. 36, Revised Code, approved March 12, 1857, and for other purposes. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Isby offered a resolution, That the Judiciary Committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing the Boards of Police of the several counties of this State to increase the salaries of the Judges of the County Courts in their respective counties, with certain limits, and to report by bill or otherwise. Adopted.

Mr. Cameron—a bill to regulate the practice of medicine in the State of Mississippi. Referred to the Committee on Education.

Mr. Graham—a bill to incorporate the town of Lake in this county of Scott. Placed on the calendar.

Mr. Lewis presented a petition which was referred without reading, to a select committee of three, consisting of Messrs. Lewis, Kendall and Burton.

Mr. Beauchamp introduced a bill to amend an act to establish county courts, approved Nov. 25, 1865. Placed on the calendar.

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY.—The Clarion says: Since Monday last the Board of Trustees of the State University have been in session in this city—the Governor presiding over the Board as its President—J. M. Howry, Secretary.

The other members in attendance were Senator Brown and Representative Hillyer, Ex-Gov. Clark, Rev. Dr. Boster, Col. Pegues, and Gen. Edward C. Walthall. The latter gentleman has recently been appointed a Trustee to fill the vacancy on the Board occasioned by the resignation of Hon. J. W. Clapp, who, we understand, has removed from the State.

We learn with much pleasure and satisfaction that Rev. L. Q. C. Lamar has been elected to the professorship of Governmental Science and Law, in place of H. F. Simall, who declined its acceptance, and S. C. Garland, L. L. D., late President of the Alabama University, to the chair of Experimental Philosophy. These are regarded as excellent appointments, and must give satisfaction to the country.

[illegible] has been coming into Hazlehurst from the present crop, and has been commanding good prices—some selling for 26½ cents. Copiah, Jan. 19th.

Miscellaneous.

The New York Herald says:

No [illegible] in human affairs is more certain to come to pass than the impeachment and removal of President Johnson from office. This thing will be done because it has become a necessity to the consummation of this revolution. Congress has no alternative when the suspension of its authority over the rebel States for two years yet to come is morally certain under President Johnson.

It says the present House will impeach. The Senate, after March 4th, will elect Fessenden as presiding officer—will then arraign and suspend the President, and Fessenden at once take his place. Before May, Johnson will be convicted, and Grant and Farragut chosen by a special election to fill out his term.

The New York World says, the prospects of the country have not, even during the darkest periods of the war, opened so startlingly as at the present moment. [illegible] Congressional committee in Washington [illegible] conditions and consequences that Americans are now [illegible] to meet.

[illegible] Lake.—The Albany papers mention a lake, specially adapted for use as a reservoir, which has recently been discovered by an ingenious mechanic of that city. The intelligence expressed is "We can only explain its working by saying that on the two keys, and when the wheel is placed upon freight cars, it opens and closes until their place of destination is reached, or the gates be opened at every way station. Just as the agent pass station, if the agent wishes the car to go through, the keys in the hands of the agents are useless; if he wishes the car to stop one or more of them, the lock can be opened at the starting point. It is unquestionably a model arrangement and will doubtless be adopted by railroads generally, when the true merits of the lock are fully known. Mr. Lewshe, the inventor, is now negotiating for the manufacture of these locks in such numbers as may be required."

THE OXFORD EAGLE, of the 18th inst., says:

"The great majority of freedmen have already made contracts and some [illegible] shall now who are looking [illegible] and exhibit an indifference to work. Having [illegible] they are now idling around town [illegible] a general [illegible] under the [illegible] for labor [illegible] Exodus [illegible] Quite a [illegible] brought in from South Carolina, [illegible] the planters [illegible] once [illegible] in the country [illegible] for the [illegible]."

THE NEW ORLEANS Crescent describes the mansion of Governor Moore of La., on his plantation. He rode to his residence and when passing through a grove of some large magnificent oaks, saw deer, which were feeding in beds in apparent [illegible]. 1500 there were now [illegible] cultivated and [illegible] cotton [illegible] $100,000 a year. Nothing is left of this splendid estate but the land and the charred walls of the once elegant, spacious and comfortable building. And yet amid all this desolation the active old Governor maintains the philosophic equanimity of a sage, with character undaunted by perversities to which he attributed fortunes, and prospect [illegible] and proper all his [illegible].

[illegible] proceedings of the [illegible] of trade on the [illegible] occurs: "There [illegible] union of the [illegible] with [illegible] that [illegible] to force the [illegible] payment [illegible] Harrison [illegible] Monday [illegible] block. [illegible] shops, cigars, [illegible] sugars, [illegible] flour, [illegible] used the [illegible] a very [illegible] pleasing [illegible] in the country [illegible] for the [illegible]."

THE NEW ORLEANS Crescent describes the mansion of Governor Moore of La., on his plantation. He rode to his residence and when passing through a grove of some large magnificent oaks, saw deer, which were feeding in beds in apparent [illegible]. 1500 there were now [illegible] cultivated and [illegible] cotton [illegible] $100,000 a year. Nothing is left of this splendid estate but the land and the charred walls of the once elegant, spacious and comfortable building. And yet amid all this desolation the active old Governor maintains the philosophic equanimity of a sage, with character undaunted by perversities to which he attributed fortunes, and prospect [illegible] and proper all his [illegible].

[illegible] proceedings of the [illegible] of trade on the [illegible] occurs: "There [illegible] union of the [illegible] with [illegible] that [illegible] to force the [illegible] payment [illegible] Harrison [illegible] Monday [illegible] block. [illegible] shops, cigars, [illegible] sugars, [illegible] flour, [illegible] used the [illegible] a very [illegible] pleasing [illegible] in the country [illegible] for the [illegible]."

[illegible] Stevens to the Arkansas [illegible] who waited on him, the Memphis *Gazette* says: "It is [illegible] to notice as serious anybody [illegible] even of a small [illegible] [illegible] really [illegible] Arkansas [illegible] Mr. [illegible] county trouble they took in waiting upon Thaddeus Stevens."

[illegible] Journal.—The remains of this hero were removed from New Orleans last Wednesday, to be interred on the soil of the State where he claimed his home, Texas. The New Orleans Times says:

"The removal of the remains of General Albert Sydney Johnson, from the tomb which they have occupied in this city since 1862, was as unlike a military funeral as any thing which can well be imagined. There were no reversed arms, no trailing banners, and, as in the case of Sir John Moore, "not a drum was heard, nor a funeral note."—Russian people, and especially the fairer and better half of our population, showed their respect for the virtue and heroism of him who had had been long so long "alone with his glory"—the gallant General, who lost his life by dispatching his surgeon to attend to the wants of a wounded enemy.

THE WASHINGTON *Republican* says: "The word 'white' does badly in states where negroes are very scarce." A motion has been made in the Minnesota Legislature to have it stricken from the constitution of that State.

THE GOVERNOR of Arkansas has [illegible] all the relief of wounded and disabled soldiers, and widows and orphans of deceased soldiers, and to providing those maimed with artificial limbs.

[illegible] National Democratic Convention.

We see it suggested that the Convention is to be held in May next, at Louisville, Ky. The object as we understand it is not to revive an old and time-honored party, but to reconcile and heal the wounds created by a terrible sectional strife. That our national affairs are now in a more critical and dangerous situation than on the day when Lee surrendered to Grant, no true and honest statesman in the country can deny. A fanatical Congress, which is opposed to the Administration, opposed to the Supreme Court, the only palladium of the Constitution is bent on evil and the ruin of the country for political purposes. That branch of the Republican party who were once whigs, but who in an evil hour, valued the lease of slavery, which had the effect to sever years of attachment to their sires the worst class of fanatic abolitionists, and themselves now in the minority and [illegible] to obey the lash [illegible] [illegible] are days, with [illegible] [illegible] in our [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]