MASONS IN SESSION.

THE GRAND LODGE OPENS WITH QUITE A FULL ATTENDANCE.

The Order Reported to Be in a Fine Condition—Business of the Body—To-Day's Programme.

The Grand Lodge of Virginia Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons met in 115th grand annual session at the Masonic Temple last night. The following officers were present: Right Worshipful W. H. Pleasants, grand master; Right Worshipful Mann Page, deputy grand master; Right Worshipful J. P. Fitzgerald, grand warden; Right Worshipful A. R. Carter, grand junior warden; Right Worshipful Wm. Mayer, grand treasurer; Right Worshipful William B. Isaacs, grand secretary; R. F. A. Reed, grand senior deacon; R. T. W. Duke, grand junior deacon; George W. Deane, grand chaplain; Charles A. Cosby, grand pursuivant; Lawrence, grand steward; William T. Reed, grand tiler.

The grand treasurer was assisted by Worshipful Hilton, his deputy grand treasurer, and Grand Secretary was assisted by his son, R. B. Isaacs, jr., and George W. Poe.

A LARGE SESSION WELL ATTENDED.

The following past-grand masters were present: Worshipfuls W. B. Palmiferro, R. B. Francis H. Hill, K. T. Craighill and J. Wm. Wilson.

There was a very large attendance of worshipful masters, wardens, district deputies and visitors.

Business after the opening ceremony consisted of the Grand Master's report, a very interesting and instructive document, an eloquent introduction the reader of the official acts of the ruler of the craft during the year, including the numerous decisions, and dispensations.

Master alluded feelingly to the prominent members of the Grand Lodge, chairman of the Finance Committee, W. T. Allen, Grand Treasurer, whose service caused by the death of the lamented Worshipful Charles E. Wright, and the vacancy caused by the death of Grand Treasurer he appointed John Mayer.

Master in his report commended in terms that noble Masonic charity—Home—and made several recommendations to promote the interests of the craft.

He was referred to a committee of six, on which past grand masters named Grand-Master W. F. Drinkard.

REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS.

Secretary then read a number of reports from the report of the trustees, and tabulated statements from the Home Association, showing the affairs of the institution in a sound and flourishing condition. Numerous resolutions were offered and disposed of in the usual way.

Grand Master appointed the usual committees, and the early transactions of this morning.

R. M. Fisher was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the Grand Lodge to fill the place caused by the death of I. S. Wise.

At 10 o'clock the Grand Lodge was called from refreshments. The brethren enjoyed a bountiful supper, prepared by the ladies, under the supervision of the Committee, of which Worshipful Wm. Mayer is the venerable chairman.

The lodge will have an interesting session to-morrow, when the afternoon, Dave Pollett Conway, worshipful master, will confer the Master Masons degree, the Committee performing the ceremony.

The lodge will elect grand officers to-morrow. Grand-Master Pleasants's first nominees will hold a meeting to-morrow afternoon, the Royal Arch tabernacle, in the Temple, and receive a large number of candidates, one or two past grand masters, and officers of the Ark Mariners in Mount Vernon Wertham, and on this occasion a number of officers will be assisted in the work by Hartley Carmichael, the Rev. Dr. Williams Ryan, and other grand officers of Sovereign College.

OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Inspected for the Benefit of Visitors from Winston, N. C.

Board of Fire Commissioners yesterday made an official house-to-house inspection of the Department for the benefit of a party from Winston, N. C., who are in Richmond for a week inspecting the various departments with a view of getting a first-class department for Winston, which has recently suffered so much by reason of fire. The party consisted of R. R. Kerner, Mayor of Winston, Capt. J. H. Pierce, and J. W. Hanes, of the board of aldermen of that city. They were accompanied by their personal friends, Mr.