The National Republican.

VOL. XXVI.---NO. 252. WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 29, 1886. THREE CENTS.

ROYAL ARCH.

Their Semi-Centennial Gathering in This City.

To Attend Their Twenty-Sixth Triennial Convocation.

A Fine Parade and Most Cordial Reception.

Commissioner Webb, for the Citizens, Bids Them Welcome.

Also the Grand High Priest and Grand Master for the District Craft.

Happy Response Made by the Visiting Companions.

Sketches of the Prominent Officers and History of the Royal Arch.

The exercises attending the opening of the twenty-sixth triennial meeting of the General Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons began at 10 o'clock sharp yesterday morning, when Grand Marshal J. P. Pearson told the 3d United States artillery bugler to sound the call to fall in. Immediately 300 or more Knights Templar, mounted and on foot, and Royal Arch Chapter members obeyed the command. A few minutes later the command march was given, and the procession started from Eleventh and G streets to the Riggs House to escort the visitors to Masonic Temple. Grand Marshal Pearson, on account of ill health, rode with Mr. Allison Nailor in a light carriage behind two white horses. Then came in order the following: Grand marshal's aids, all mounted and handsomely uniformed; they were as follows: Chief of staff, Companion Robert Ball; adjutant general, Companion M. Throp. Aids—From General Grand Chapter, Companion Arthur G. Pollard; Grand Chapter District of Columbia, Companion E. B. Hay; Washington Commandery, No. 1, K. T., Companion E. G. Davis; Columbia Commandery, No. 2, Companion John Wilson; Potomac Commandery, No. 3, Companion J. W. Lee, jr., De Molay Mounted Commandery, No. 4, Companion Martin O'Connor.

Then came mounted buglers of the 3d artillery, and next seventy mounted members of De Molay Commandery, No. 4, K. T., resplendent in their uniform and their equipments bright and burnished. The commandery never before appeared to better advantage or presented a finer appearance. E. C. George A. Sheehan, Generalissimo Robert T. Huston, and Capt. Gen. Lewis M. Clephane were in command. Following close was the Marine band, under the charge of Prof. J. P. Sousa. Next came Washington Commandery, No. 1, K. T., under the command of W. G. Moore, E. C.; John H. Olcott, generalissimo, and Henry K. Simpson, captain general. This commandery kept up its reputation for soldiery bearing and fine appearance. Columbia Commandery, No. 2, K. T., came next, officered as follows: E. H. Chamberlain, E. C.; Joe M. Yznaga, generalissimo, and E. C. Elmore, captain general. This commandery turned out strong and looked excellent. Potomac Commandery, No. 3, was commanded by A. B. Jackson, Acting E. C., and R. W. Darby, captain general. Following these commanderies was the 3d United States artillery band, William Innenfeldt leader, escorting the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of the District, which was headed by George E. Corson, grand high priest. The Grand Chapter wore the regulation suit, black clothes and silk hat, Grand Chapter apron and jewel of office. When the column reached the Masonic Hall the members of the General Grand Chapter were drawn up in line, and after the procession had passed in review the distinguished visitors took carriages, as did the Past Grand Masters, and were escorted away, followed in the rear of the procession. The route of march was carried out as follows: Up Fifteenth to K, to Eighteenth street, to Pennsylvania avenue, to the white house, to Fifteenth street, to Pennsylvania avenue, to Tenth, to I street, to Ninth street, to F street.

The line of march was filled with spectators, who looked and applauded admiringly the fine appearance and bearing of the participants. From all points of the ceiling to the middle chandelier were strung American streamers, forming a beautiful canopy. On the wall in the rear of the stage were also festoons, garlands, shields, and above printed in gilt letters was the following: "Grand R. A. Chapter, D. C., greeting General Grand Chapter, U. S. A." Beneath this inscription and on each side of a large American shield was a large compass and square with the letter G in gilt.

In front of a table that stood in the center and to the front of the stage sat Grand High Priest Alfred F. Chapman, of Boston, Mass., G. H. P.; Companion Nobile L. Larner, Washington, D. C., Dep. G. G. H. P.; Companion David F. Day, Buffalo, N. Y., general grand king; Companion Joseph P. Hornor, New Orleans, general grand scribe; Companion Kenning G. Cleaveland, Toledo, Ohio, general grand treasurer; Companion Christopher G. Fox, Buffalo, N. Y., general grand secretary; Companion Thos. McP. Patton, Portland, Oregon, general grand captain of the host; Companion Benj. F. Hallet, Memphis, Tenn., general grand principal sojourner; Companion Roger W. Woodbury, Denver, Col., general grand R. A. captain; Companion Wm. H. Moyo, St. Louis, Mo., general grand master third vail; Companion Lansing Burrows, Augusta, Ga., general grand master second vail, and Companion John J. Sumpter, Hot Springs, Ark., general grand master first vail.

On the left side sat the following officers of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia: Geo. E. Corson, grand high priest; W. G. Powers, deputy grand high priest; Will A. Short, grand king; Robert Ball, grand scribe; L. G. Stephens, grand secretary; M. R. Throp, grand treasurer; John Lockie, grand visitor and lecturer; Wm. Pitts, grand chaplain; E. S. Holmes, grand captain of host; Alex McKenzie, grand principal sojourner; J. M. Fernandez, grand royal arch captain; H. M. Gilman, grand master third vail; Thos F. Gibbs, grand master second vail; H. Dingman, grand master first vail, and Leonard Stoddard, grand sentinel.

On the right of Right Worshipful Grand Chapter at Commissioner Wm. B. Webb. The seats in the auditorium were quickly filled by members of the commanderies, representatives of the Grand Chapter, and their ladies.

Promptly at noon G. H. P. Alfred F. Chapman let fall his gavel, and silence prevailed, during which Grand Chaplain Wm. Pitts delivered a solemn and impressive invocation to the Deity. At the close the Franz Abt Club, under the leadership of Edwin S. Holmes, sang with good effect a "welcome song."

COMMISSIONER WEBB'S WELCOME.

Hon. Wm. B. Webb, president of the board of commissioners, was introduced by G. H. P. George E. Corson, and delivered the following address of welcome on behalf of the citizens of this District:

Gentlemen of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States and ladies and gentlemen: The people of Washington city greet you with heartfelt pleasure to-day. They are more than gratified that you have chosen their city for this grand convocation. It is with pride and pleasure that as the years go by they find that this capital city is more and more recognized as the great central city of our country, and that more and more it is becoming the city sought for such assemblages. We are told that it is fifty years since this Grand Chapter held its meeting in this city, and we are proud to show you that our city has made such progress as makes it now a city that the nation may well be proud of. The progress of this nation is nowhere better typified than in this city and in its progress. In the name of its citizens, as as their representative, I bid you welcome to this capital city, and in their name give you assurance that every house is open to you, every heart warms to you, and every citizen extends to you the right hand of true friendship and earnest fellowship. We congratulate ourselves that an order so honorable in every way as the order of Royal Arch Masons is to be the guest of our community. It is no ordinary privilege to have such men in our midst. The history of your order is a part, and no mean part, of the history of the world and of its civilization and advancement. In all lands and in any age the great work of the order of Masons has been acknowledged, and to it more than to

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER WEBB.

anything else, aside from the church, is to be attributed the preservation of morality and purity of character among men. This must be so from the very nature of the case. Your order has for its great object the preservation among men of virtuous principles and the instigation to honest, honorable actions. You place a premium upon virtue and make honorable deeds a condition precedent to advancement in your order. Besides all this, and in addition to it, you make that charity which acts upon the presumption of worth attaching to any member of your order the primal stimulant in cases of relief. Thus guarded and controlled, limited and methodized, your action in every case is the best that can be devised by men, and the wisest because of these very limitations. Uncontrolled, unchecked giving ceases to be charity—it readily unmitigated wrong and injustice—and an order that gives to benevolence a character that relieves it from the charge of recklessness and injustice does the human race a great and lasting benefit.

You come to us as representative men from all parts of this broad land of the west—representative in no narrow meaning of that word—not as wearing the insignia of any party, but representing that broader and better sense, in that you represent the higher and nobler principles of mankind and are here to give them expression. You do not come here to build up party platforms, to inaugurate party strifes and dissensions, to fabricate resolutions full of false promises made to be broken, and worded so as to bear any interpretation that selfish ends and selfish purposes may put upon them. No sordid, selfish purposes sent you here to do its bidding for the gain of party ends. No, we welcome you here to-day not only as representatives, honorable citizens, but as men banded together in the cause of truth and humanity, men bound to love another by the holy ties of human brotherhood, convened to do good not to this or that section or party, not in the interests of this or that society, but of the whole human family. Your constitution is the great family of man, the object of your discussion will be the best interests of man, the greatest good for poor, tempted, frail human nature. Your platform antedates Christianity; it had its origin in times so distant that we must resort to legends earlier than recorded history if we would speak with accuracy concerning it; it was inaugurated when man first became aware that human virtue and human truth and love were his most precious possessions; it was confirmed and strengthened and put into lasting form when the nations of Europe in sight of every Israelite, when the walls of Zion, the sacred city of Jerusalem, upon the desert sands of Arabia, forgetting all former strifes and differences, pledged themselves to one another in the great brotherhood of Christ; the great Mason, the great Prince of Peace, passed away. The wars of the crusades have become matters of story. We wonder to-day at the sufferings, the toils, the martydom of the men who braved all dangers, suffered and died to wrest from the infidel the tomb of the Nazarene, the great work then accomplished is bearing its fruit among us at this distant day, and here in this capital city of a nation then unknown, a constituent member of your order has met once more to renew the pledges made in that almost forgotten day. Men must pass away, their deeds may be forgotten, but the great principles of humanity are eternal. Through all ages, in every land and in every land of the civilized world your association has kept these principles alive in spite of all the changes that time has wrought in the history and destiny of nations.

To your order we owe its greatest debt of gratitude. More valuable than the discovery of continents, because of their lasting benefit to man's highest interests, have been your laws of morality, more than the development of nation's laws and forces, because such things are of no avail if man's character continues vile; richer than the unfolding of nature's treasury, because riches take to themselves wings, but man's brotherhood endures forever.

You are the men we love to take to our hearts. You are the men with whom we love to exchange friendly greetings. Our homes are your homes, our firesides your firesides. This beautiful city with its grand streets, its splendid buildings, its parks, its statues, its fountains, is yours to-day. We are proud to be partners with you in its ownership. To it and to all that we have and hold most dear, we welcome you one and all.

Alfred F. Chapman, of Massachusetts, general grand high priest, in response, spoke as follows:

HONORABLE SIR: The things we have seen in the District of Columbia are fair to look upon, and the official words you have spoken are all the more grateful because of their evident sincerity.

Coming from other scenes recently enacted we cannot but recall the profusion of plumes and banners and gleaming swords which characterized the march of the thousands of our fellows, and made the streets of St. Louis brilliant with their glittering display.

From the tramp and bustle and press of that occasion we turn to this with a sense of relief, no doubt, and experience a better appreciation of the serener atmosphere which here surrounds us, and gives promise of a season profitable for business, healthful for pleasure, fruitful of friendship, and glowing with comfortable delight.

On many stated occasions the General Chapter of the United States has been welcome in its chosen places of meeting, where the cheer of hands and of hearts has been lavishly given, the homes of individuals opened, and a generous local population have contributed in liberal measure to entertain strangers, who were thus made to feel themselves to be

"No stranger to the original."

Sweet as is the memory of any of those occasions, made more charming by the enchantment of distance, it will not detract from their honor to say, never before has the General Grand Chapter been more graciously welcomed; never before has it come to the transaction of its business under more favorable circumstances, or witnessed a superior display of royal taste.

To tell you that these kindly efforts are appreciated would only be to speak of that which throbs within us, and to voice our otherwise unspoken thanks, therefore—

"We praise not Hector, though his name we know is great in arms."

The assembling of this sovereign body cannot be devoid of interest, either to the Freemasons of America, or to the place wherein it meets in convocation. Thirty-four state and two territorial grand chapters, together with a many subordinate chapters in other territories, send their representative to it, and the people behind these are better and happier because its works are beneficent and its ways lead through paths of peace.

If we say that 125,000 Royal Arch Masons, obedient to this General Grand Chapter, will also applaud your kindness, as they will criticise our legislation, it will but faintly represent the mental and moral force subject to the will of this vast number. States are improved, territories enlightened, their people educated, and a higher type of manhood evolved by reason of the tenets of their Masonic profession, for these tenets are allied to the beginning of God's goodness and to the ending thereof in everlasting life.

We come to you, therefore, with a sense of responsibility, hoping that in some way we may bring our sheaves with us, and that from these golden grains may be dropped to local advantage as well as for our own permanent good.

Once in three years this body meets in convocation, and there seems to be a fitness in holding this session in the city of Washington.

In 1883 the session was held in Denver, the magic city of a state whose territory was unknown to the dominant race until long after this city had become famous, but cosmopolitan in character, and in this respect both are in harmony with the institution whose interests we are here to consider. These interests "unite men of every country, sect, and opinion, and conciliate true friendship among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance."

"Tis the sublime of man,
Our noontide majesty, to know ourselves
Parts and proportions of one wondrous whole!
This fraternizes man, this constitutes
Our charities and bearings.

At the conclusion of Mr. Chapman's address, Prof. Sousa moved his arm above his head and as he brought it down slowly to measure time, the Marine band in full uniform, and stationed in the gallery, sent forth sweet strains of music. On concluding, a burst of applause greeted the rendition of the choice selection.

M. E. Geo. E. Corson, grand high priest of this District, on behalf of the Grand R. A. Chapter and R. A. Masons of this jurisdiction, delivered the following address of welcome:

ADDRESS OF GRAND HIGH PRIEST CORSON.

M. E. George E. Corson, grand high priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of this District, delivered the following address of welcome: Most Excellent General Grand High Priest, officers and members of the General Grand Chapter: In December, 1835, a little more than half a century ago, the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the United States of America held its ninth convocation in this city. It is not probable that any of those of our companions, only twenty in number, who assembled here on that occasion are now among the living, but their names adorn a bright page in the history of Capitular Masonry. The eminent statesman, diplomat, jurist, scholar, and philanthropist, Edward Livingston, was at that time the general grand high priest, and to him and his equally fearless and devoted associates do we owe the perpetuity of the Masonic institution in our country, for they lived and labored at a time when "darkness and doubt hung over the future prospects of Masonry in many parts of our land; when proscription and persecution went forth at noonday against every one, who dared vindicate his own or his brother's rights; when the evil passions of men, guided and directed by those high in power and influence for the worst of purposes, were exerted against the members of this institution."

At this day of advanced enlightement, in these pining times of peace and tranquility, both within and without our gates, when our order is generally recognized and respected as not only the oldest but the best of human institutions, we little appreciate the dauntless characters of those who stemmed and staid the tide of anti-Masonry, which at one time threatened to engulf an order whose tenets are founded on the immutable principles of benevolence, truth, and justice.

A glance backward to the time when this General Grand Chapter held its ninth convocation here in Washington, and comparing the condition of things of that period with the condition of things of our day, we can see what progress has been made by us as a people and by our institution during the fifty years, the most momentous since the sacred treasures of the first temple were brought to light, that since then has been added to the great immeasurable past. This magnificent city, with its more than 250,000 inhabitants, to which you have been so cordially and so eloquently welcomed by the chief of our triumvirate, then contained but 40,000 souls. Our vast country, with its 60,000,000 of people to-day, had then a population of but one-seventh that number. At that time our companions in journeying to these conventions traveled over many a "rough and rugged road" by the slow and tedious stage coach, as the "iron horse," which has revolutionized the traffic of the world, transporting in its train the products of every land and industry, and behind which you all came speeding over plains, flying over rivers, and rushing through the mountains in luxurious coaches, rivaling in ease, comfort, and magnificence the palaces of kings, and whose tracks now span a continent with steel, was then just developing its power and usefulness. The modern wonders of electricity, now so essential to the well-being of the business and social world, then existed only in the brain of a Morse and a Henry.

We have enlarged the area of the United States one-third by treaty and conquest. All that immense territory west of the Rocky mountains was foreign soil and an unexplored wilderness. The pathway over these mighty hills and through the great wilderness to the Pacific coast, where now are established those great states and territories whose fruits and grains and inexhaustible stores of gold and silver have added hundreds of millions of dollars to the wealth of the world, and the representatives of whose Grand Royal Arch Chapters we are proud to greet here to-day, had not then been found. Since this grand body last assembled here we have successfully waged two wars—one of conquest, one for the preservation of our national unity. In the latter, state was arrayed against state, house against house, and brother against brother. But happily the clash of arms lasted but since ceased. The warriors' swords have been beaten into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, and peace—white-winged peace—sits smiling at every threshold. Liberty has been proclaimed throughout our blessed land. The several bends and broken ties have been reunited, and the hands that were raised to strike are now clasped in fraternal affection. Well may we exclaim, as we reverently kneel at our sacred altars, "What wonders God hath wrought!"

My companions, your presence here to-day in such numbers, this magnificent assemblage of the royal craft here and around me, is evidence of the fact that Royal Arch Masonry has kept pace with the advance of the age and grown in strength, power, numbers, and influence with the growth of our republic. It has ever followed closely in the wake of our armies, and our brethren and companions have often been the pioneers in establishing communities and states, in "discovering and bringing to light" the hidden treasures and resources of our land, and in building up and beautifying its waste places. The altars of Masonry have oftentimes been set up at those outposts of civilization in advance of the altars of the church. Some of you, most excellent masters, who have come up here to-day from those far western states to assist in the noble and glorious work of this twenty-sixth triennial convocation, may have taught from the rostrum of the master or high priest in your communities the sublime principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth, a belief in the existence and attributes of a Supreme Being, and due reverence for His great and sacred name, before the like were there proclaimed from the pulpit of the divine.

With less than twenty grand chapters and not more than 20,000 Royal Arch Masons in the United States fifty years ago, you, my companions, represent here to-day more than two score of grand chapters, and 120,000 Royal Arch Masons now wear beneath your banners the crowns whereon are inscribed, "Holiness to the Lord." Actuated and inspired, as I know you to be, by the noblest and best of purposes—that of diffusing wisdom—the true Masonic light; of making men better and happier, and improving the moral and spiritual well-being of our race, I believe that your present convocation will result in "still further and more important discoveries," which will redound to the honor and glory and the advancement and prosperity of capitular Masonry.

Most excellent, and companions, on behalf of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia, and in the name of the eight chapters and 1,500 Royal Arch Masons of its obedience, I welcome you, thrice welcome you, to its jurisdiction and to our beautiful city, which bears the imperial name of your illustrious, revered, and beloved brother, whose monument standing on the bank of yonder historic river, belitling the character of him to whose memory and in whose honor it is erected, appropriately extends higher toward Heaven than any other work of man; I welcome you to the capital of our beloved country, to this center of the great constellation of states which form our Union; to the political, legislative, judicial, and executive center of our nation—a nation in whose greatness, grandeur, and glory, and in whose power, profound peace, and peerless prosperity we all rejoice with exceeding gladness. I greet you not as strangers but as brethren—brethren in the "sacred mysteries," and of a common ancestry—for are you not of our own tribe and kindred descendants of those noble Gibeonites who wrought so faithfully at the first temple?

To you, who come to us from the pine forests, the granite hills, and busy marts of New England; from the Empire state and its great metropolis; from the flourishing middle states; from the shores of the great lakes; from the fragrant and fertile savannas of the sunny south; from the prairies, the mountains, and the valleys of the great west, and from the golden shores of the far off Pacific, I extend to each and all a warm, sincere, and fraternal welcome to this Mecca of every true American; welcome to our grand jurisdiction, to our sacred altars, to our homes and hospitalities, and to our heart of hearts.

COMPANION DAVID F. DAY,

of New York, general grand king, responded as follows: Most excellent grand high priest: For the words of fraternal welcome which you have addressed to the General Grand Chapter, I return you, in its name, the heartiest thanks. Three years ago the General Grand Chapter, then in session at the city of Denver, beneath the shadows of the Rocky mountains, by a unanimous voice, determined that it would hold its next triennial convocation here. I did not then question, nor do I now, the wisdom of the selection. Three years before we had met in the beautiful city of Detroit, the commercial capital of the state of Michigan. In 1877 we had held our assembly in Buffalo, the city of my home, at the foot of Lake Erie, beside the voicing waters of the Niagara. In 1874 we had enjoyed the abounding hospitality of our companions of Nashville and the state of Tennessee. Three years before that our meeting was in the city of Baltimore, where we had met the overflowing kindness of our companions of Maryland. Thus, within some small compass of years, we had visited the north, the south, the east, and the west of our country. Big it was near half a century since a convocation of the General Grand Chapter had been held at the capital of the republic.

You have already adverted to the fact that in 1835, when last this body met at this place, Edward Livingston, a companion distinguished for his talents, his virtues, and his great public services, not only in New York, his native state, nor in Louisiana, the state of his adoption, but throughout the country, was the presiding officer of this body. It was for Masonry a troublous period. What counsel was then given to this grand body by its high priest the records of the grand secretary do not disclose. But we may be sure that his mind and heart, both capable of the highest and best conceptions, gave to the General Grand Chapter counsel, admonition, and encouragement, such as, in that inauspicious time, were most wise, prudent, and salutary. Far different for Royal Arch Masonry is the promise of to-day. We have now no adverse public sentiment to confront. Our foes, if any, are within. Our dangers are the dangers of too great prosperity.

Of the Royal Arch Masons living here fifty years ago probably not one is living now. Surely no one survives who participated in the affairs of that convocation. Quite as surely, when another half century shall have passed, no one who is now a member of the General Grand Chapter will be found among the living. Few, indeed, of us will be then personally remembered. Our names will be strange sounds, even as to us are those of our companions of fifty years ago. Yet is it not a grateful thought that, when another half century shall have passed, and the time shall have returned for the General Grand Chapter to assemble again in the capital of our republic, then to be the home of more than a hundred millions of freemen, the companions of that day, curious to explore the records of the present and learn what was done on this occasion, whether by guest or host, shall find evidence enough to satisfy them that we were worthy brethren, faithful companions, good men and true.

In the interval of time which has elapsed since the last convocation of the General Grand Chapter in this place, how great has been the growth of your city; and how great the growth of the nation of which it is the governmental seat! Your city has increased at least five-fold in population; and the twelve or fifteen millions of citizens of our Union have more than quadrupled. With this augmentation of population and this accumulation of immense wealth and power, the General Grand Chapter has kept even pace. Thirty-six grand chapters, in as many states and territories, are now in allegiance to her, and more than 150,000 Royal Arch Masons bow to her behest and obedience.

But not alone because your city was the national capital, nor because so long an interval had elapsed since the General Grand Chapter last held it assembly here, was it fitting that this convocation should meet in this place.

To the American Mason this city must always be a center of profound interest—as you have said, one of the Meccas of his devotion. It appropriately bears the name of the founder of the republic, of him, who to borrow the familiar but just words of his compatriot, Richard Henry Lee, "was first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." And of him, may I not add, who is the first in the love, reverence, and homage of the entire Masonic world. It was at his instance that this spot was selected for the infant city. Its plans were submitted to him for approval. Its first lineaments emanated from his mind. Its foundations were consecrated to freedom and humanity the ground upon which it was built. Sights which you behold every day—the heights of Arlington and Georgetown, the broad Potomac hurrying to the sea, are familiar to his eyes. His home and tomb are alike within the journey of an hour from this place. It was well then for us to assemble here and amidst associations of such a character to renew our devotion to the institution of which, at the close of his glorious and eventful life, he asked to be reckoned as a "worthy brother."

But other reasons combined with these to make it proper and desirable that the General Grand Chapter should now hold its assembly here. Many of us had heard and some of us had had experience of the Masonic hospitality of the city of Washington. Of some of the transcendent courtesies we had personal knowledge, and, taking them as examples, we feel that we could safely judge of the rest. There was occasion to believe that your welcome, if we should come, would be most hearty and sincere. Your words of kindly greeting assure us that we have not misjudged, and I feel entirely satisfied that when the time shall come which shall witness our departure from your gates, we shall bear always with us, as we bear the grateful memory, the recollection of the kindness and courtesy manifested toward us by the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia and the Royal Arch Masons of its jurisdiction.

Again I thank you, and those by whom the commission you have spoken, for your most hearty and fraternal welcome.

The song "On the Mountains" was then rendered by the Franz Abt Club.

M. W. Thos. F. Chiffelle, on behalf of the Grand Lodge and the Ancient Craft Masons of this District in welcoming the General Grand Chapter, spoke as follows:

WELCOME SPEECH OF THE GRAND MASTER.

The pleasing duty has been assigned to me, as grand master of Masons of the District of Columbia, acting for and in behalf of the Grand Lodge and the Master Masons of this jurisdiction, to unite with those who have preceded me in extending to you, most excellent general grand high priest, to your council, and to the companions of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States, individually and collectively, a most cordial and hearty welcome, not only to our city, the capital of this nation, with its broad streets and private buildings, its broad avenues, and well paved streets, but also to our Masonic hospitality, to our homes and firesides, and, above all, to over 3,000 true, generous hearts, whose every pulsation throbs in unison with the purest Masonic principles and teachings.

Our city, besides being the political, is also fast becoming the social and literary center, I might almost say the "Mecca" of this country, to which the intelligent and refined, not only also the men of wealth and of learning, the seeker after pleasure as well as of wisdom.

Here, most excellent sir, in congress assembled, the representatives from all parts of this country, meet for the purpose of enacting such laws as, in their opinion, will conduce to and are necessary for the protection and maintenance of American interests, both at home and abroad, for the good of the whole country being considered and not that of any individual state or territory. Here, owing to our political condition, being but the "ward of the nation," they meet on a common level, knowing neither north, south, east, nor west.

Hence, most excellent sir, although we feel highly honored that the General Grand Chapter should have selected our city as the place in which to hold their present meeting, yet we think that it is not only fitting but proper that all your meetings should be held here.

You, companions, like unto the members of Congress, come from all parts of this country, representing every Masonic jurisdiction from the broad Atlantic to the peaceful shores of the Pacific, from the cold north to the genial climes of the south, you are assembled for the purpose of making such laws as, in your opinion, are necessary for the government of capitular Masonry, not for any particular state or jurisdiction, but for all the states or territories in which Masonry exists; and where in this broad land does Masonry not exist?

Are we not, then, correct in asserting that for the transaction of your business you cannot select a more suitable place in which to hold your meetings—the present, as well as those to come—than the capital of the nation?

Here all meet on a Masonic level; elevated far above all sectional prejudices, and knowing only Masonry, you are here to legislate for its good and its maintenance.

This is the first opportunity, most excellent sir, that has been afforded us of this jurisdiction to express to you and companions all our high appreciation of the honor you have conferred upon us by having elevated one of our number to a prominent position in your council—one whom we love and respect and have delighted to honor whenever the opportunity has been offered us.

We feel assured, companions, that you will never regret your action; but, on the contrary, will always recur to it with pleasure.

Most excellent sir, we sincerely hope that the deliberations of the General Grand Chapter will be of such a character as to redound not only to the benefit of capitular Masonry, but also that of Masonry in general, for we all are so closely allied that what affects one must of necessity affect the other.

We also venture another hope, that our efforts to make your sojourn among us pleasant and agreeable will be successful, and that, on leaving, you will carry away with you such pleasant reminiscences of your visit that you will thereby be induced to adopt our suggestion and select our city for another "triennial meeting."

RESPONSE OF COMPANION JOSEPH P. HORNOR.

Companion Joseph P. Hornor, of Louisiana, general grand scribe, responded as follows:

Thanks! M. W. Grand Master! Thanks, a thousand thanks, ladies, gentlemen, and brethren, for this magnificent reception, for this most cordial welcome.

We have come up here as Royal Arch Masons, from every part of this great republic, representatives of many thousands of our fellows. We propose to hold the highest degrees in Masonry, but we are all Master Masons, and as such acknowledge you, M. W. Brother, as the great head of the order in the jurisdiction in which we now find ourselves, and tender to you our first homage and obedience as due you from all true brothers coming within the limits of your authority. No matter what our pretenses may be to higher or superior Masonic knowledge or experience, our first duty we owe to the lesser as to the greater, and we cheerfully do so. Let us be Master Masons. Beyond that all is relative, and the fact is well known to you that we are all your Masonic brethren, or this hearty greeting extended to us would have remained unspoken.

But it has been said that ancient craft Masonry has nothing to do with the so-called higher degrees; they are not to be recognized by it. It is claimed that because the ancient craft has nothing to do with us as a Royal Arch Masons, you can know nothing about us or our works, our actions, doings, or principles, and that we must be utterly ignored by grand lodges, grand masters, and all other blue lodge authorities simply on account of such ignorance. As well might it be claimed that we, as individuals, are to deny that there is such a city as Rome because we have not seen it. We know there is such a city, and we know that it has arisen, progressed, fallen, and arisen again, without ever having been either in it or of it. So does your grand lodge, most worthy grand master, like all her sister grand lodges, know that there is a just and legal organization of Royal Arch Masons, composed of your brothers and your peers in the ancient craft, and they know and acknowledge as just and legal the various governing bodies of the royal craft, and they and you recognize as the great governing, representative convocation of the order the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States of America, the members of which are now your happy and contented guests.

What a refutation this scene presents of all the slanders that the enemies of the so-called higher orders of Masonry delight to circulate. What better presentation could we behold of how well we illustrate the Scriptural mandate for "brethren to dwell together in unity." We claim nothing at your hands but to be received as your brother Masons, and as such, and as such only, do you greet us, and bid us good speed in our labors, now about commencing, in which, though you take no part, you give your sympathy and your respect, well knowing that they must all tend to that aim, common to us all, universal philanthropy, the good of our fellow men.

We are here in this beautiful city of Washington because we have been invited hither by the unanimous and even entreating voices of our companions resident among you, all of whom are your brethren, most worthy grand master, and all of whom are foremost in their allegiance to you and to their Grand Lodge; they have represented to us in flowery language and in honeyed words the beauties, the ornamentations, the varied attractions of this seat of the government of our common country; they have told us in earnest tones of the courtesies of all the people to do us honor, and we have listened to these seducing statements and yielded to their influence and have come among you and found that the reality of all these things has far exceeded our fondest hopes. Cordial and warm-hearted as have been our receptions in other cities to which our deliberations have led us, we must admit that none have ever been more pleasant and more satisfactory than this.

We have come, most worthy brother, as you and all you brethren well know, to deliberate upon Masonic matters and subjects, and although our discussions may be upon things beyond the ken of our brethren of the ancient craft, they will be all based upon those landmarks, truths taught us in the three first degrees of Masonry, and will all tend to the promulgation of those truths and to the advancement and perpetuation of the principles of Free Masonry. Engaged in such a noble and glorious cause, we confidently look to the future for our recompense, and the results flowing from this assemblage of Royal Arch Masons in General Grand Chapter convened must and will redounds to our honor and profit. The mingling together of so many diverse elements, men from the north and from the south, from the east and from the west, of every shade of politics and religion, many of them seeing each other for the first time, must necessarily result in producing a harmony of friendship, and in promoting an era of good feeling, that will be alike honorable to ourselves and creditable to humanity, for when we contemplate that this mingling of so many different men from so many different and distant places is upon a common platform composed of principles everywhere laid down and daily practiced by each one of the various men in each one of their individual and distant homes, we present to the world a spectacle of brotherly love, such as should cause us to renew our devotion to the institution of which, at the close of his glorious and eventful life, he asked to be reckoned as a "worthy brother."

To perpetuate our great ends, to encourage and keep alive the bright fires on the altars of friendship, we come together every three years to exchange greetings and congratulations, to mourn those who have past away from us, and to take measures to hand down to our children and our children's children those invaluable tenets of Free Masonry, confined to us, M. W. Brother, on the hearth of the order—brotherly love, relief, and truth.

The interesting programme was brought to a close by the Franz Abt Club singing the song "Spring's Return." Mr. Larner then announced that President Cleveland would today at 1:30 o'clock receive the General Grand Chapter. Adjournment of the General Grand Chapter was then made to the Grand Chapter room.

The extreme heat made every one feel uncomfortable, and though all the windows and doors of the hall were open, the hall was very close. Many of the members of the procession, on reaching the hall, broke ranks and went home, and not a few suffered intensely from the heat while on the march. Notwithstanding the heat all who participated in the exercises felt pleased at the bountious welcome bestowed upon the visitors. Commissioner Webb's splendid effort, coming as it did in a generous and happy way, was the cause of many flattering remarks.

THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER.

On Sept. 24, 1797, a preliminary meeting of three Royal Arch Chapters was held at Boston, Mass., and the first step toward the organization of the "Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Northern States of America" taken. On Jan. 4, 1798, the organization was perfected with the election of Ephraim Kirby as general grand high priest at Hartford, Conn. In September of the same year the first meeting after organization for the choice of officers was held at Middletown, Conn. On Jan. 9, 1799, at an adjourned meeting held at Providence, R. I., the name was changed to that of "General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Northern States of America." Kirby died during this year. In 1806 Benjamin Hurd, jr., was elected as Mr. Kirby's successor. At the convocation then held the name was again changed to that of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States of America. September, 1812, was by resolution fixed as the time and New York city as the place for the septennial session. At Mr. Hurd's death, De Witt Clinton succeeded him and held the office from 1816 to 1826. The convocation failed to meet in 1812, and when it assembled in New York city, in 1816, the constitution was changed so as to have a deputy general grand high priest. The convocation met in September, 1819, was held annually to adjournment. February, 1823, adjournment was to Washington, D. C., but no session was held. In September, 1826, a session was held in New York city, according to previous notice. At this convocation the meetings were made triennial. In September, 1829, Edward Livingston succeeded De Witt Clinton and held the office of general grand high priest until 1838. In November, 1832, the convocation was held in Baltimore instead of September, during which month cholera prevailed in that city. In 1835 Washington, D. C., had the honor of the presence of the distinguished body. In 1838 it was held in Boston, Mass. Paul Dean was elected to succeed Ed. Livingston, and held the office from 1838 to 1844. In 1841 New York city, and in 1841 New Haven, Conn., were honored with sessions. In 1847 at Columbus, Ohio, Robert P. Dunlap was elected G. G. H. P., and he served until 1856, and under him the convocations were held in 1850 at Boston, Mass.; in 1853 at Lexington, Ky. In 1856 Charles Gilman succeeded Mr. Dunlap at Hartford, Conn. At the Chicago convocation held in 1859 Albert G. Mackey was elected to the high office. September, 1862, was set apart for a session at Memphis, Tenn., but it was not held on account of the war, and it was not until 1865 that a grand chapter met, at Columbus, Ohio, and John A. Lewis was elected G. G. H. P. In 1868 St. Louis was honored, and James M. Austin was called to the highest position in the convocation. In September, 1871, at Baltimore, the constitution was amended admitting past grand high priests as permanent members, when J. H. Drummond was chosen as the first officer. In 1874, at Nashville, Tenn., the constitution was again amended, making the first four past general grand officers permanent members, and at this session Elbert H. English was chosen G. G. H. P. The Toronto convocation, in 1877, elected John Frizzell; in August, 1880, at Detroit, Mich., Robert T. Brown was chosen, and in August, 1883, at Denver, Col., Alfred F. Chapman, of Boston, Mass., the present incumbent was chosen G. G. H. P.

Companion E. A. Raymond held the office of general grand secretary from 1853 to 1868. Companion Christopher G. Fox was elected to the office in 1871, and still continues in that position.

THE CHAPTER ROOM,

where the session was begun, is worthy of a passing note. It is pleasantly located in the northwest part of the fourth story of the Masonic building. It is spacious, well lighted, and ventilated. The carpet is of a beautiful red color, of soft and rich texture. The furniture is of the approved Masonic pattern and costly material. The decorations of the room are very elaborate. The walls are tastefully frescoed in bright and varied tints, and to a looker on the room is one of beauty and of comfort. The session was promptly opened at 1:30 o'clock in due form. The roll call showed a full attendance. At 2 p. m. a recess for an hour was taken During the afternoon the library and Secretary Singleton's rooms on the ground floor were kept open for general reception purposes. A little back room in the rear of the library was frequently visited by those in the library.

A number of ladies, naturally curious, looked longingly at the door of the room, and ventured near to it, but came back pale and excited. "Oh, my, the goat is in there," she said to her waiting companions. Then began a babble of voices about the goat, and hints were given to the gentlemen as to how they must look at it. But the hints fell on deaf ears, and the unfortunate ladies felt awfully aggrieved.

"Dear good brother Singleton," said, coaxingly, a pretty maid, whose pretty mouth and eyes would have made the sternest heart act "pitapat," "won't you let me see just the horn of the goat?" Before the good-natured secretary could give a reply he was sud denly poised—carried away by a mysterious hand into the dark room, and the pretty lady was left sadly alone.

ENGAGED IN CHAPTER WORK.

The convocation on reassembling listened to an interesting address by General Grand High Priest Alfred F. Chapman. The document was lengthy and treated in an exhaustive manner of the different events that have occurred during the past chapter year. This was followed by the reading of the report of the general grand secretary, Christopher G. Fox, which was exceedingly interesting. It showed thirty-eight Grand Chapters, representing a membership of 126,545, an increase of 5,567 in three years. The receipts were $84,697.25; expenditures, $74,361.77. The report of the twenty-six subordinate chapters shows a membership of 1,118. The treasurer's report was read, and showed a healthy financial condition. After introducing two or three resolutions the convocation adjourned until 9 o'clock this morning.

THE HEADQUARTERS

of the Chapter Masons at the Riggs House last night was a busy scene. In every hole and corner of the house a Chapter man could be found, and the first thing that would be heard from him was his praise of Washington and its people. In the District headquarters everything was activity. Companion Larner was doing his best to answer a thousand inquiries; Companion Trimble was dictating to six clerks, Capt. Burton Ross