

A HISTORY
OF THE
SUPREME GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER
OF
NEW ZEALAND



M.E. COMP. HERBERT J. WILLIAMS, P.G.Z., G.S.E.
The Historian.

A HISTORY OF THE SUPREME GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF NEW ZEALAND

For a Period of Twenty-one Years, from January 1892 to January 1913.

By M. E. Comp. HERBERT J. WILLIAMS, 30⁰,
P.G.Z., and Grand Scribe E.

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

		<i><This file></i>
M.E. Comp. Herbert J. Williams, P.G.Z., G.S..E....	<i>Frontispiece.</i>	1
M.E. Comp. E. T. Gillen, G.Z.	<i>To face page</i> 4	8
„ „ H. Thomson, G.Z.	14	15
„ „ W. B. Scandrett, G.Z.	16	18
„ „ L. G. Boor, G.Z.	79	20
„ „ G. H. Powley, G.Z.	22	23
„ „ Rev. T. Porritt, G.Z.	28	28
„ „ J. M. Brown, G.Z.	70	30
„ „ H. Wetherilt, G.Z.	:36	35
„ „ W. W. De Castro, G.Z.	42	40
„ „ Rev. E. Eliot Chambers, G.Z.	49	46
„ „ Geo. Fowlds, G.Z.	53	50
„ „ J- Macgregor, G.Z.	59	55
„ „ R. Fletcher, G.Z.	65	60
„ „ O. Nicholson, P.G.Z.	67	63
„ „ C. J. W. Griffiths, G.Z. ..	70	65
„ „ S. C. Bingham, G.Z....	76	70
„ „ Arthur Clothier, G.Z	82	75
„ „ J. D. Webster, G.Z.	88	80
„ „ MT. Smith, G.Z.	93	84

INDEX

		<(book)>	<this document>
Foreword		vii	4
Preliminary Proceedings	Chapter I.	1	5
Formation of Grand Chapter	Chapter II	4	8
First Year, 1892	Chapter III.	8	11
Second Year, 1893	Chapter IV.	11	13
Third Year, 1894 ...	Chapter V.	14	15
Fourth Year, 1395	Chapter VI. ...	16	17
Fifth Year, 1896	Chapter VII.	19	20
Sixth Year, 1897	Chapter VIII.	22	23
Seventh Year, 1398	Chapter IX.	25	26
Eighth Year, 1399 ...	Chapter X. ...	28	28
Ninth Year, 1900	Chapter XI. ...	30	30
Tenth Year, 1901	Chapter XII. ...	36	35
Eleventh Year, 1902 ...	Chapter XII I. ...	39	28
Twelfth Year, 1903	Chapter XIV- ...	42	40
Thirteenth Year, 1901...	Chapter XV. ...	49	46
Fourteenth Year, 1905	Chapter XVI. ...	53	50
Fifteenth Year, 1906 ...	Chapter XVII.	59	55
Sixteenth Year, 1907 ...	Chapter XVIII.	65	60
Seventeenth Year, 1908	Chapter X IX.	70	65
Eighteenth Year, 1909	Chapter XX. ...	76	70
Nineteenth Year, 1910	Chapter XXI. ...	82	75
Twentieth Year, 1911	Chapter XXII. ...	88	80
Twenty-first Year, 1912	Chapter XXIII.	93	84
Conclusion	Chapter XXIV.	99	89
Appendix	...	103	92

FOREWORD.

It is not the intention in the compilation of this short history to attempt to weave any romance round the formation and proceedings of the Grand Chapter of New Zealand during the twenty-one years of its existence, neither will the exigencies of space permit a minute record of every detail. To those Companions, who for reference or research purposes, or for motives of idle curiosity, are desirous of extracting items, of small historical moment, but which are incidental to the administration of every institution a search in the minutes of proceedings will repay their quest.

The object of the compiler of this small work is simply to condense and place in compact chronological order the primary events in connection with the rise, progress and work of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand with occasional passing notes and comment. Questions of importance whether only reflecting the opinions of the times, or those bearing on the administration and future of the Institution, have been given that prominence their value may be deemed to demand. Take for example the appointment of Grand Superintendents—who shall say that this has not marked a distinct epoch in the history of Grand Chapter? Yet it was opposed on each occasion and rejected twice. And, somewhat singularly, the reasons advanced in opposition to the movement, have not been realised in any sense, The author of this history, as the guardian of the funds of Grand Chapter, also exhibited timidity and opined that the cost in connection with the appointments would unduly strain the not too elastic resources. That this has not proved to be the case speaks volumes for the holders of the new offices. Then it has been deemed desirable to publish in extenso the correspondence with the Grand Chapter of England on the question of recognition, firstly, because the system under which charters are issued is peculiar to that jurisdiction, and secondly, as information for the guidance of the administrators of the Grand Chapter of New Zealand, on points which are little known, and about which information is being asked for, even at the present day. The presentation of the main, features of the work of Grand Chapter during the past twenty-one years, in compact form, apart from its historic complexion, should be distinctly valuable for reference purposes, both within and without the territory, and the time is opportune not alone because with the publication of the work the attainment of the majority of Grand Chapter will have passed, but the present historian has been associated with the institution for the full period in an executive capacity, is consequently an fait with the whole work, and can personally vouch for every incident recorded. Much valuable history has been lost to posterity from negligence in allow-inn the chief actor in the historical drama to pass away taking his valuable knowledge with him, and thus rendering any subsequent compilation doubly arduous and difficult to those who have been strangers to the work of the past. It has been the custom for some years—and a good one—for the incoming Grand Z. to deliver an address on the occasion, of his induction into office. These addresses have been incorporated in the history, as it may confidently be assumed that each has contributed his best efforts on assuming the principal chair, and such addresses should be worthy of perpetuation among those who have the great and glorious work of Capitular Freemasonry at heart.

To prevent any misapprehension it may be explained that the designation of all Grand Officers and First Principals of Chapters was, prior to the titular alteration, Most Excellent, and that designation has been used until the excellent and most necessary change was made in 1907. Since that date the distinctive appellations of the various grades of rank have been adhered to. As some small mark of distinction, and also to embellish the work, The portraits of as many of de First Grand Principals, as were obtainable, have been added. This should serve to engender a feeling of respect and esteem for the distinguished Companions who for so many years gave their best energies to Grand Chapter; serving it with fervency and zeal.

In presenting this history to Companions the author would point out that its scope has been circumscribed by the question of cost, and in the work of condensation, the difficulty has been not what to say, but rather what not to say, but it may be assumed that not any of the primary incidents recounted have suffered in the process of curtailment, but each has received that attention its capitular value may be deemed to have demanded, while every effort has been used to fulfil the precept, "nothing extenuate or set down aught in malice." To the author the work has been a labour of love, and he will be repaid if his efforts are found to have some value and interest, not alone to the present, but also to the future generations of Royal Arch Freemasons.

HERBERT J. WILLIAMS, P.G.Z.,

Grand Scribe E.

Wellington, 1913.

Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand.

CHAPTER 1.

PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Consequent on the erection of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, a number of Chapters holding under the Supreme Grand Chapter of England and in attachment to English Lodges, were suddenly placed in a serious difficulty from the fact that on the secession of such Lodges to the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, the attached Chapters were immediately threatened with the withdrawal of their R.A. Chapters. Hence the necessity arose, as a self-protecting measure, to take action for the establishment of a Supreme R.A. Masonic Jurisdiction.

Accordingly, an informal meeting was convened at the Parliamentary Buildings, Wellington, on Tuesday, July 7th, 1891, and the following Comps. were present:-

M.E. Comp. E. T. Gillen, P.Z., Waterloo Chapter, 166, S.C.
„ „ H. J. H. Elliott, P.Z., Waterloo Chapter, 166, S.C.
„ „ Henry Thomson, P.Z., St. Augustine Chapter, 609, E.C.
„ „ John Joyce, M.H.R., P.Z., St. Augustine Chapter, 609, E.C.
„ „ Rev. W. Ronaldson, P.Z., Albert Edward Chapter, 604, E.C.
„ „ Rev. W. Ronaldson, Chapter of Otago, 844, E.C.
„ „ Alfred Kidd, P.Z., Zealandia Chapter, 197, S.C.
„ „ Alfred Kidd, Ara Chapter, 348, E.C.
„ „ Geo. H. Powley, Ara Chapter, 348, E.G.
„ „ F. P. Corkill Paritutu Chapter, 196, S.C.

M.E. Comp. E. T. Gillen was voted to the chair, and in explaining the purpose of the meeting, said that so far as Chapters working under the E.C. were concerned, the establishment of a Supreme Chapter in New Zealand was imperatively necessary, and though Chapters holding under the Scottish Constitution were not directly menaced by the same danger, they should loyally support their companions in their efforts to secure local autonomy for Capitular Masonry, and which in any case would only be a question of a very short time.

M.E. Comp. H. Thomson (Christchurch) supplemented the remarks of the Chairman, and explained in detail the difficulties and dangers that threatened Chapters under the E.C. Whereupon—

Comp. Geo. H. Powley (Auckland) moved—"That in the opinion of this meeting, and in the event of seven Chapters agreeing, it is desirable to form a Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter for New Zealand, to embrace the Mark, Excellent, and Royal Arch Degrees on the broadest basis recognised in Royal Arch Masonry."

The resolution was seconded by Comp. A. Kidd (Auckland), and on being put to the meeting was unanimously affirmed.

Comp. H. Thomson (Christchurch) moved and Comp. A. Kidd (Auckland) seconded—"That it is desirable a Supreme Grand Chapter be constituted as early as possible." Carried. Resolved on the motion of Comps. H. Thomson (Christchurch) and F. P. Corkill (New Plymouth)—"That a circular be sent to each Chapter, enclosing a copy of the minutes of this meeting, and asking such Chapter to express its concurrence within two months, and nominate a delegate to attend a meeting to be held during the month of September to draw up a constitution and basis of union."

Moved by Comp. Geo. H. Powley and seconded by Comp. Rev. W. Ronaldson—"That the delegates attending the Conference to be called, be authorised to elect and install the first Grand Officers." Carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the preliminary proceedings.

The following circular was then issued to all Chapters:—

Christchurch, 17th July, 1891.

M.E. Sir and Comp.—

In accordance with the above resolutions, the minutes of this Conference are forwarded to you for the consideration of W. Mark Masters, as well as Principals and Past Principals of R.A. Chapters, it being intended to embrace both and to authorise all existing action taken for establishing Mark Lodges as well as the working of the R.A. Degree when necessary. Kindly forward your answer to P.P. M.E. Conip. E. T. Gillon, Wellington.

WM. RONALDSON, Acting Scribe E.

SECOND MEETING.

A meeting of Past Principals and Representatives of Chapters was held in the St. Augustine Masonic Hall, Christchurch, on Wednesday, 14th October, 1891.

Present—

M.E. Comp. H. Thomson, representing St. Augustine Chapter, E.C., and Albert Edward Chapter, E.C.
„ „ C. P. Hulbert, representing St. Augustine Chapter, E.C.
„ „ H. F. Arnold, representing St. Augustine Chapter, E.C.
„ „ H. J. Williams, representing Waterloo Chapter, S.C.
„ „ D. Greig, representing Waterloo Chapter, S.C.
„ „ T. G. De Renzy, representing Otago Chapter, E.C.
„ „ Rev. W. Ronaldson, representing Otago Chapter, E.C.
„ „ Lieut.-Col. Porter, representing Victoria Chapter, E.C.

Paritutu Chapter (New Plymouth) was not represented, but a letter was read expressing the concurrence of the Chapter in the movement. An apology was also received from M.E. Comp. Dr. L. G. Boor, Nelson.

M.E. Comp. C. P. Hulbert (Christchurch) was voted to the chair.

The minutes of the informal meeting, held in Wellington on 7th July, were read and discussed, and it was resolved—"That, this being the first regularly convened meeting by authority of the several Chapters, the resolutions adopted at the informal meeting be again submitted and embodied in the proceedings of this meeting.'

The following resolutions were then taken, and, after considerable discussion, agreed to:—

1. "That in the interests of R.A. Masonry in New Zealand, it is necessary that a Supreme Grand Chapter be formed."
2. "That the Supreme Grand Chapter, when formed, shall act in accordance with the laws and general regulations of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland as far as they may be applicable, until otherwise decided, to embrace the Degrees of Mark, Excellent, and Royal Arch."
3. "That it be a recommendation that the First Principal of a Chapter shall be a W.M. or P.M., and the Second and Third Principals Wardens of Craft Lodges, except by special dispensation from the M.E. First Principal. '
4. "The fees for the three Degrees of Mark, Excellent, and Royal Arch be not less than £3 3s. R.A. Masons, now in the colony, wishing to take the Mark and Excellent, £1 ls. Mark Masons taking the Excellent and R.A., £2 2s. For the Excellent Degree only, 10s. 6d."
5. "That copies of these minutes be forwarded to R.A. Chapters, requesting them that, in the event of seven Chapters agreeing to the recommendation with regard to the establishment of Supreme Grand Chapter, they appoint delegates for the purpose of constituting Grand Chapter, tendering their allegiance, and electing and installing the First Grand Principal and investing the first Grand Officers."

6. "That the next meeting be held, if possible, immediately after the next quarterly communication of Grand Lodge."

Communications to be forwarded to Comp. C. P. Hulbert, Christchurch, within the next two months.

WM. RONALDSON,

Acting-Scribe E.

[The following quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand being held in Oamaru, it was found impossible to secure an attendance of delegates, the Chairman, therefore, postponed the proposed meeting till after the annual communication of Grand Lodge in Auckland.]

CHAPTER II.

FORMATION OF GRAND CHAPTER.

Pursuant to notice, the third meeting of Principals, Past Principals, and delegates from Chapters was held in the Masonic Institute, Auckland, on Wednesday, 27th April, 1892, at 3 p.m., and there were present-

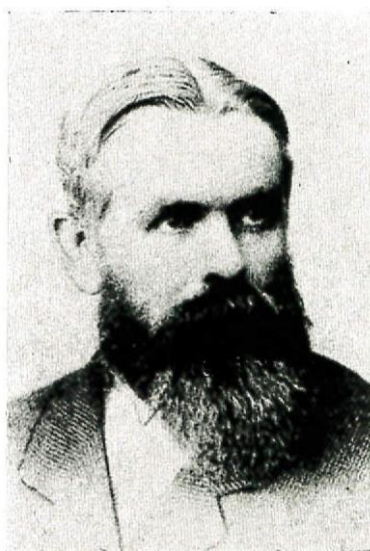
M.E. Comp. E. T. Gillon, representing Waterloo Chapter, 166, S.C.
„ „ H. J. Williams, representing Waterloo Chapter, 166, S.C.
„ „ Henry Thomson, representing St. Augustine Chapter, 609, E.C.
„ „ Henry Thomson, representing Southern Cross Chapter, 997, E.C.
„ „ Rev. W. Ronaldson, representing Albert Edward Chapter, 604, E.C.
„ „ Rev. W. Ronaldson, representing Victoria Chapter, E.G.
„ „ Alfred Kidd, representing Otago Chapter, 8421, E.C.
„ „ F. P. Corkill, representing Paritutu Chapter, 196, S.C.
„ „ T. A. Murphy, representing Paritutu Chapter, 196, S.C.

The following Companions were also present--

M.E. Comp. M. Niccol, P.Z.
„ „ W. H. Cooper, P.Z.
„ „ Dr. L. G. Boor, P.Z.

Comps. Geo. Fowlds, T. A. Peterkin (Westport), and W. T. Briggs.

M.E. Comp. E. T. Gillon was voted to the chair, and stated the meeting had been convened in accordance with a resolution adopted at the previous meeting held in Christchurch (*vide* Resolution No. 5, Christchurch meeting), and if it was found that the requisite number of Chapters (7) were agreed as to the desirableness of constituting a Supreme Grand Chapter for the Colony of New Zealand, the time had now arrived for tending allegiance, electing and installing the Grand Principal and other office-bearers. Comp. Gillon then referred to the second resolution adopted in Christchurch *re* the degrees to be recognised by the proposed Grand Chapter. As it was agreed that the new body should be governed by the regulations and laws of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, he would ask the meeting to amend the resolution by including those degrees recognised and practised in Scotch R.A. Masonry.



M.E. COMP. E. T. GILLON, G.Z.-1892-93

The following resolutions were then regularly proposed, duly considered, and unanimously adopted :-

1. By M.E. Comps. W. H. Cooper and A. Kidd (Auckland)—"That all the degrees as recognised and practised in Scotch R.A. Masonry be included in the constitution of the Supreme Grand R.A. Chapter of New Zealand." (These degrees include the Mark, Excellent, Royal Arch, Ark Mariners, and Red Cross Knights).
2. By M.E. Comps. A. Kidd and W. T. Briggs (Auckland)—"That the Companions of those Chapters which transfer their allegiance to the Supreme Grand Chapter of New Zealand, and which have heretofore only practised the R.A. degree, shall receive the degrees of Mark and Excellent Master without charge."
3. By M.E. Comp. H. Thomson (Christchurch) and Comp. G. Fowlds (Auckland)—"That separate charters may be issued for the institution of Mark Lodges, such Lodges to be under the sole jurisdiction of Supreme Grand Chapter, the First Grand Principal of which is also Grand Mark Master."
4. By M.E. Comps. W. H. Cooper and A. Kidd (Auckland)—"That, for the time being, and until otherwise ordered, and in so far as they are applicable, the laws and regulations governing the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland shall be the constitution for the government of the Supreme Grand R.A. Chapter of New Zealand."
5. By Comp. F. P. Corkill (New Plymouth) and Comp. W. T. Briggs (Auckland)—"That the following scale of fees be payable to Supreme Chapter in addition to those provided in the schedule of fees of the constitution adopted :—

£ s. d.

For registration fee for Chapters and Mark Lodges transferring to the Grand Chapter of New Zealand, 2s. 6d. per member, but not to exceed ...	5 5 0
For each entrant to a Chapter, including diploma	0 10 6
For each entrant to a Mark Lodge, including diploma	0 5 6
Annual subscription, per member ...	0 1 0
For registration fee, Past Principals	0 5 0

6. By M.E. Comps. W. H. Cooper and M. Niccol (Auckland)—"That the constitution of the Supreme Grand Chapter of New Zealand be as follows :—All Grand Officers, Principals of Chapters for the time being, and Registered Past Principals."
7. By M.E. Comps. H. Thomson (Christchurch) and A. Kidd (Auckland)—"That the date of constitution of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand shall be from the first day of January, 1892."
8. By M.E. Comp. Dr. L. G. Boor (Nelson) and Comp. F. P. Corkill (New Plymouth)—"That the office of Grand Chapter shall, for the present, be located in Wellington."
9. By Comp. F. P. Corkill (New Plymouth) and M.E. Comp. Dr. L. G. Boor (Nelson)—"That a charter may be issued for peripatetic meetings to be held in any part of a district, always providing it does not conflict with the jurisdiction of any other Chapter."

The election of officers was next proceeded with, and resulted as follows:—

First Grand Principal Z—M.E. Comp. E. T. Gillon, Wellington.
 Second Grand Principal H—M.E. Comp. H. Thomson, Christchurch.
 Third Grand Principal J—M.E. Comp. W. B. Scandrett, Invercargill.
 Grand Scribe E—M.E. Comp. H. J. Williams, Wellington.
 Grand Treasurer—M.E. Comp. D. Greig, Wellington.
 Grand Chancellor—M.E. Comp. H. J. H. Elliott, Wellington.
 First Grand Sojourner—M.E. Comp. A. Kidd, Auckland.
 Second Grand Sojourner—M.E. Comp. G. F. Robinson, New Plymouth.
 Third Grand Sojourner—M.E. Comp. H. C. A. Wundrum, Napier.
 Grand Swordbearer—M.E. Comp. C. J. Ronaldson, Dunedin.

Grand Janitor —M.E. Comp. A. J. Masters, Wellington.

The following Declaration was then read and subscribed to by the Delegates representing the several Chapters :—

WHEREAS it is desirable in the interests of ROYAL ARCH MASONRY in NEW ZEALAND that the several Chapters now holding under the SUPREME GRAND CHAPTERS OF ENGLAND, IRELAND, AND SCOTLAND, respectively, and working in this Colony the various Degrees recognised under all or either of those GRAND CHAPTERS, should unite and form a GRAND CHAPTER of the HOLY ARCH in NEW ZEALAND.

NOW, we, the DELEGATES representing and duly appointed by the Chapters set opposite our respective names, do hereby declare that in pursuance of resolutions agreed to by the said Chapters, the SUPREME GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF FREEMASONS of NEW ZEALAND is hereby constituted and established. And we do also declare that the SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER of NEW ZEALAND shall recognise and exercise jurisdiction over all the Degrees acknowledged or practised by the SUPREME GRAND CHAPTERS OF ENGLAND, IRELAND, or SCOTLAND, or either of them. And that until the said SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER of NEW ZEALAND shall otherwise determine, the Laws and Constitutions of the SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER of SCOTLAND shall, so far as applicable, be adopted in its government, subject to such additions, alterations, or amendments as may from time to time be agreed upon, and to the resolutions hereto appended.

The First Officers of the SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER of NEW ZEALAND shall be :—EDWARD THOMAS GILLON, of Wellington, FIRST GRAND PRINCIPAL; HENRY THOMSON, of Christchurch, SECOND GRAND PRINCIPAL; WILLIAM BENJAMIN SCANDRETT, of Invercargill, THIRD GRAND PRINCIPAL; HERBERT JAMES WILLIAMS, of Wellington, GRAND SCRIBE EZRA; DAVID GREIG, of Wellington, GRAND TREASURER; HUNTLEY JOHN HARRY ELIOT, GRAND CHANCELLOR; ALFRED KIDD, of Auckland, FIRST GRAND SOJOURNER; GEORGE FRANCIS ROBINSON, of New Plymouth, SECOND GRAND SOJOURNER; HENRY CHARLES ADOLPHUS WUNDRUM, of Napier, THIRD GRAND SOJOURNER; CHARLES JOHN RONALDSON, of Otago, GRAND SWORD BEARER; ALFRED ISON Masters, of Wellington, GRAND JANITOR.

IN WITNESS whereof we have set our names hereto at Auckland, this twenty-seventh day of April, A.D., 1892, A.L. 5892, A.I. 2422.

A petition was presented, signed by nine Companions, for the institution of a new Chapter, to be called the Auckland Provincial Chapter, and, on the motion of M.E. Comp. A. Kidd, seconded by M.E. Comp. H. Thomson, the prayer of the petition was granted, and a dispensation ordered to be issued forthwith.

A telegram was read from Comp. Rev. T. Porritt stating that a petition would be forwarded for the erection of a Chapter in the Wairarapa district in a few days.

The Chairman referred to the work that would devolve on Grand Scribe E., and the necessity of fixing a salary when the revenue was ascertained.

Re the proposed Auckland Chapter, it was moved by M.E. Comp. A. Kidd and seconded by M.E. Comp. Rev. W. Ronaldson— "That, as the petitioners are all members of a Chapter not in accord with the Grand Chapter of New Zealand, the charter fee of five guineas be remitted and the registration fee charged." Carried.

The Grand Principals-elect present were then presented to and obligated by M.E. Comp. Rev. W. Ronaldson, P.Z., who invested and duly installed them in the chairs of their respective offices, and the remaining officers were declared invested by proclamation.

M.E. Comp. E. T. Gillon, First Grand Principal, and M.E. Comp. H. Thomson, Second Grand Principal, then briefly returned thanks for their election to the principal chairs, promising their best efforts in the interests of R.A. Masonry.

A very cordial vote of thanks to M.E. Comp. E. T. Gillon for his services in connection with the formation of Grand Chapter was carried by acclamation.

Nothing further offering, the first meeting of Supreme Grand Chapter was closed in due and regular form and with solemn prayer by Acting-Grand J. Rev. W. Ronaldson, at 5.15 p.m.

CHAPTER III.

FIRST YEAR—1892.

The First Annual Convocation of the newly-formed Grand Chapter was held in South Dunedin on the 25th January, 1893, M.E. Comp. E. T. Gillon, First Grand Principal, presiding. Seven other Grand Officers were present, and eight representatives of Chapters; in addition, M.E. Comp. M. Niccol held a proxy to represent Auckland Prov. Chapter, and M.E. Comp. H. J. Williams represented Wairarapa, Manawatu, and Paritutu Chapters.

As a Supreme Grand Committee had not been elected at the inaugural meeting, the Grand Scribe E. presented a report of the administrative work up to date, and as it concisely sets out the position of Grand Chapter, it is appended herewith:—

REPORT OF GRAND SCRIBE E.

In the absence of a Supreme Committee, I beg to submit the following Report of Proceedings for your approval and the general information of Grand Chapter.

Though the First Annual Meeting is now convened, Grand Chapter has only been in existence eight months, having been regularly instituted in Auckland on the 28th April, 1892, where it was decided the date of constitution should be from January 1st of the same year.

APPLICATIONS FOR NEW CHAPTERS.

By reference to the minutes it will be seen that an application was received by Grand Chapter immediately after its constitution for a new Chapter in Auckland. In May certain Companions in the Wairarapa (Wellington district) forwarded a petition. On the 4th July North Otago Chapter, S.C., wishing to transfer its allegiance, applied for a charter. In August a petition was received from Palmerston North. October brought an application from Nelson, and the following month the Mokoreta Mark Lodge applied for registration and incorporation. In each case, after due consideration, the First Grand Principal granted the prayer of the petition, and dispensations were issued, with the exception of the Mokoreta Mark Lodge, which received an engrossed charter in lieu of dispensation.

INSTITUTION OF CHAPTERS.

The institution of the several new Chapters was successfully accomplished as follows :—

Wairarapa, June 7th, by First Grand Principal and Grand Scribe E.

Auckland Provincial, July 15th, by M.E. Comps. M. Niccol,

P.Z., and A. Kidd, P.Z., First Grand Sojourner. Manawatu, November 4th, by G.S.E.

Victory (Nelson), November 8th, by M.E. Comp. Dr. Boor, P.Z.

OFFICIAL VISITATION.

North Otago Chapter, having made a special request for the services of an officer of Grand Chapter for installation purposes, G.S.E. was deputed by the First Grand Principal to attend for the purpose. Advantage was taken of the visit to confer the degrees of Mark Master. and Excellent Master on the Companions of St. Augustine and Albert Edward Chapters, and I take this opportunity of recording my indebtedness to M.E. Comp. Kirk, of Canterbury Kilwinning Chapter, S.C., for his most able assistance. The following night the officers of the Albert Edward Chapter, Lyttelton, were installed by the Second Grand Principal, M.E. Comp. H. Thomson, assisted by Grand Scribe E.

NORTH OTAGO CHAPTER.

I regret to report some little friction has occurred in Oamarn in connection with the transfer of allegiance of this Chapter. At the date of the application two bodies were in existence in the town, known as the Hamilton Mark Lodge and the North Otago Chapter, S.C., respectively. When the application for dispensation was received from the latter body, the First Grand Principal, impressed with the idea that the proposal made at the Conference of Principals in Christchurch, viz.—"That certain Mark Lodges should be absorbed into Royal

Arch Chapters," was being carried out in Oamaru, very readily granted the application, and it was only shortly before my visit it was discovered that considerable feeling existed between the two bodies, whereupon I was authorised to try and arrange a satisfactory amalgamation.

This instruction I endeavoured to carry out, and arranged a meeting of joint committees, where a basis of union was submitted and unanimously agreed to, subject to the ratification of the respective bodies, which I was led to assume was only a matter of form, so much so that, at the close of the meeting, mutual congratulations were exchanged on the satisfactory solution of the difficulty. I regret exceedingly the action was not ratified by the North Otago Chapter.

TRANSFERS OF ALLEGIANCE INCOMPLETE.

Two Chapters have not completed their transfer of allegiance; although dispensations were issued and accepted, viz.—Paritutu and Chapter of Otago. No fees or returns have been received from the former, and, in the case of the latter, the sum of 24 7s. 6d. was paid by Comp. De Renzy, but subsequently refunded in compliance with his demand, when it was found the proceedings had been most illegal and irregular, and in the face of the strong protest from the Companions of the Chapter.

NUMERICAL STRENGTH.

There are now twelve Chapters and one Mark Lodge on the roll of Supreme Grand Chapter as follows, including, in round numbers, 300 members :—St. Augustine, No. 1; Waterloo, No. 9; Southern Cross, No. 3; Victoria, No. 4; Paritutu, No. 5; Albert Edward, No. 6; Otago, No. 7; North Otago, No. 8; Auckland Provincial, No. 9; Wairarapa, No. 10; Manawatu, No. 11; Victory, No. 12; Mokoreta Mark Lodge, No. 1.

FINANCE.

The Balance-Sheet exhibits the financial operations for the period ending 31st December ult. The credit balance of £30 7s. 10d. demonstrates that the utmost economy has been observed, while the large assets, with practically no liabilities, will indicate the success of the operations of Grand Chapter.

FRATERNAL RELATIONS.

No exchange of fraternal relations has yet been made with foreign Grand Chapters. It will remain for Grand Chapter to indicate its wishes in this direction.

PREPARATION OF MINUTES.

In order that members may be *au fait* in the proceeding of Grand Chapter since its inception, copies of minutes (including the Conference of Past Principals in Christchurch) and other papers have been prepared and will be placed before them.

COURTESY RECEIVED.

I desire to offer my best thanks to officers of Grand Chapter and the Principals and Scribes of Chapters generally for the courtesy and promptitude with which they have received and replied to all my communications.

Fraternally submitted,
HERBERT J. WILLIAMS,
Grand Scribe E.

Wellington, Jan. 19th, 1893.

A petition was granted for a second Chapter in Oamaru, to be designated Waitaki, with co-ordinate jurisdiction to that of North Otago Chapter.

The Grand Principals and most of the other Officers were re-elected, and a Supreme Grand Committee was appointed. The salary of Grand Scribe E. was fixed at £25 per annum. It was resolved that the MSS. rituals prepared by Grand Scribe E. be approved, and be issued and registered to Chapters only.

A re-installation of Grand Principals and investiture of Officers was not deemed necessary, and after proclamation was made the M.E.G.Z. briefly addressed Grand Chapter, and congratulated Companions on the initial success attained.

CHAPTER IV.

SECOND YEAR-1893.

The progress made during the second year of the history of Grand Chapter established confidence and sufficiently evinced to the Masonic world that the newly-constituted Masonic authority had come to stay. The Annual Convocation was held in Wellington on 29th January, 1894. M.E. Comp. E. T. Gillon again presided, supported by 10 Grand Officers and the representatives of nine Chapters. Supreme Committee, in its report, offered felicitations on the marked success attained, and stated that all Chapters were regularly working, and showed marked progress. It may here be mentioned that this statement of "regular working" has since developed one of the most triumphant factors in the success the institution has achieved. The Report further showed that since the last Convocation one Chapter—Waitaki, No. 13—has been added to the roll, having been most successfully instituted on the 23rd February last by M.E. Comp. H. Thomson, Second Grand Principal, assisted by the officers of North Otago Chapter, No. 8. Two Chapters, Paritutu, No. 6, and Otago, No. 7, had completed registration and were doing good work.

The number of members on the Register of Grand Chapter was 405, showing a net increase of 59 for the year. These figures did not represent the actual number at the close of the year as in two instances the figures of the preceding year (1892) were used, complete returns not having been supplied.

The Statement of Accounts presented showed that the financial position of Grand Chapter was most sound, the cash balance of £49 6s. 10d., together with the outstanding balances due by Chapters, gave a total of £83 0s. 4d., a most satisfactory result when the very small annual revenue is taken into account.

DEGREES CONFERRED.

The following degrees were conferred during the year by authority of the First Grand Principal :—

Excellent Master in Waitaki Chapter by M.E. Comp. H. Thomson, Second Grade Principal.

Excellent Master in Otago Chapter by M.E. Comp. H. Weatherilt, P.Z.

Ark Mariner and Red Cross Knights in the Wairarapa and North Otago (at which the Waitiki Chapter was strongly represented) Chapters by M.E. Comp. H. J. Williams, Grand Scribe E.

The parchment Charters of Chapters were completed and in the hands of M.E. Comp. W. B. Scandrett, Invercargill, for signature. It was hoped they would be returned in time for presentation at this Convocation. One hundred and fifty-seven diplomas were issued to Companions, and a further number were ready for distribution.

CONSTITUTIONS.

In February last the sum of £2 was remitted through M.E. Comp. C. P. Powles, Provincial Second Grand Principal, S.C., to the Grand Chapter of Scotland for books of constitution, but up to present date it had received no attention.

An application was received from the Grand Mark Lodge of New South Wales asking for recognition and the interchange of representatives. Also correspondence from Comp. S. Stacker Williams, Chairman of Committee of Foreign Correspondence, Ohio, asking for the history and proceedings of this Grand Chapter.

The following recommendations were adopted :—

That fraternal relations be entered into with the Grand Mark Lodge of New South Wales, and the name of M.E. Comp. Rev. W. Ronaldson, P.Z., be submitted as the representative near this Grand Chapter.

That the proceedings of Supreme Grand Chapter, from its institution to present date, be compiled and printed for circulation among foreign Grand Chapters, as the Committee may from time to time deem desirable.

That Past Grand rank of G.J. (*Honoris Causa*) be conferred on Comp. A. Kidd, and on Comp. A. H. Cooper that of G.S.E., for services rendered to Royal Arch Masonry.

That the salary of Grand Scribe Ezra be increased to £40 per annum.

Life Membership was also conferred on Comp. John McLean, of Waitaki Chapter.

M.E. Comp. E. T. Gillon, First Grand Principal, briefly addressed Grand Chapter prior to retiring from the chair, and in the course of his remarks expressed his regret that the state of his health had not permitted him visiting more Chapters, but it afforded him great pleasure to transfer Grand Chapter to his successor in such a satisfactory condition. He then moved, "That M.E. Comp. H. Thomson, Second Grand Principal, be elected First Grand Principal Z. for the ensuing year."

M.E. Comp. Rev. W. Ronaldson seconded the resolution, which was carried by acclamation.

The Second and Third Grand Principals and the remaining office-bearers were elected as follows :—

Second Grand Principal ...	M.E. Comp. W. B. Scandrett, Invercargill
Third „ „ ...	G. H. Powley, Auckland
Grand Scribe E. ...	H. J. Williams, Wellington
„ „ N. ...	Dr. L. G. Boor, Nelson
„ Treasurer ...	D. Greig, Wellington
„ Recorder ...	H. J. H. Elliott, Wellington
„ Chancellor ...	Rev. T. Porritt, Wairarapa
First Grand Sojourner ...	C. P. Hulbert, Christchurch
Second „ „ ...	W. Beilby, Napier
Third „ „ ...	R. Cock, New Plymouth
Grand Supt. of Works ...	A. J. Barth, Dunedin
„ Sword-Bearer ...	Jubal Fleming, Palmerston North
„ Standard-Bearer ...	R. W. Cathcart, Oamaru
„ Janitor ...	S. Derbidge, Lyttelton

M.E. Comp. Gillon installed the Grand Principals and invested the Officers, and after sundry votes of thanks the meeting terminated.

CHAPTER V.

THIRD YEAR-1894.

The Annual Convocation once more assembled in South Dunedin on 16th January, 1895. Owing to ill-health M.E. Comp. Henry Thomson, G.Z., was unable to be present, though in Dunedin for the purpose, consequently M.E. Comp. W. B. Scandrett, D.G.Z., assumed the chair with all its concurrent responsibilities. In addition to the Grand Officers' chairs being filled, there were seven visitors and a few local Companions present.



M.E. COMP. H. THOMSON, G.Z.-1894

The Statement of Accounts and balance-sheet were adopted, and satisfaction was expressed at the financial progress made.

Supreme Committee reported that acting under instruction issued by Grand Chapter at the last Convocation, the proceedings from the inception to present date had been compiled by G.S.E., printed, and issued to all Grand Officers and Chapters.

Also that all charters had been issued and dispensations recalled.

Acknowledgment was made of a handsome donation to the funds of Grand Chapter from Comp. John McLean, of Oamaru.

It was also intimated that G.S.E. had drafted a set of Rules and General Regulations, and it was recommended that a small committee be appointed to take the necessary steps for publication.

Attention was drawn to the somewhat loose system of the closing of the financial year by Chapters. Supreme Committee suggested that the 23rd September, or as near that date as possible, should be fixed as the end of the fiscal year of Chapters, which would enable Grand Chapter to close its books on the 31st December.

Reference was made to a proposal to constitute a Masonic Journal in Wellington, to be known as the "N.Z. Craftsman," and Supreme Committee recommended that in the event of such a publication being established it be recognised as the official organ of Supreme Grand Chapter. The Report having been technically amended, was adopted.

On the motion of G.S.E. Companions E. T. Gillon, H. Wetherilt, Rev. W. Ronaldson, and Rev. T. Porritt were appointed a committee on Constitution and Laws, with power to print same.

The 30th September was fixed as the latest date for closing the books of Chapters.

It was reported that the degrees of Ark Mariner and Red Cross Knights "continue to exert an influence" in Wairarapa and Waterloo Chapters, and that these degrees were conferred in Auckland Province and Manawatu Chapters during the year under dispensation by Grand Scribe E.

A special vote of thanks was accorded to Comp. James Wansbrough, of Oamaru, for "services to R.A. Freemasonry."

The election of officers resulted as follows :-

Grand Z....	M.E. Comp.	W. B. Scandrett
Depute Grand Z....	„	Dr. L. G. Boor
Grand H. ...	„	Geo. H. Powley
„ J. ...	„	Rev. T. Porritt
„ S.E. ...	„	H. J. Williams
„ S.E.	„	C. P. Hulbert
„ Treasurer	„	D. Greig
„ Recorder	„	H. J. H. Eliott
„ Chancellor	„	F. P. CorKill
First Grand Sojourner	„	J. Taylor
Second „	„	S. Derbidge
Third „	„	C. J. Ronaldson
Grand Supt. of Works	„	W. H. Smith
„ Sword-bearer	„	J. Macdonald
„ Stan.-bearer	„	— Provis
„ Janitor	„	T. Crawley

By special request M.E. Comp. H. J. Williams installed the Principals and invested the officers.

A vote of sympathy was tendered to M.E. Comp. Henry Thomson in the illness that had then afflicted him, and which was destined to end fatally some years later.

An incident in connection with this meeting should reflect its influence to-day. Explanation was made that the Convocation had been convened to meet in Dunedin, and a maximum attendance was anticipated, because the Grand Lodge of N.Z. was meeting in the same place on the following day. The records, however, showed that it was the smallest meeting of Grand Chapter held to that date.

CHAPTER VI.

FOURTH YEAR-1895.

Wellington City was selected as the place for holding the Annual Convocation of 1896, and 23rd January was the date fixed. M.E. Comp. Dr. L. G. Boor presided in the absence of G.Z., and the attendance was only fair, eight Chapters answering the call of the roll. The Statement of Accounts showed that though the revenue shows a diminution of £29 3s. compared with 1894, the balance to credit was increased by £5 16s. 2d., standing at £80 2s. 7d. This was exclusive of three returns to come in, which were not included in the assets, as it was impossible to estimate them even approximately. The expenditure also exhibited a satisfactory reduction of £14 2s. id., and sufficiently demonstrated that the strictest economy had been observed during the year.

At the last Convocation of Grand Chapter, the following companions were appointed a Committee to formulate and print a Book of Constitution: M.E. Comps. E. T. Gillon, Rev. Thos. Porritt, H. Wetherilt, and Rev. W. Ronaldson. The first meeting was held on the 22nd March; three meetings were held subsequently, and a very large amount of time and attention was given to the work.

Immediately the draft prepared by Grand Scribe E had been thoroughly revised, tenders for printing were invited from Messrs. Blundell Bros., Brown Thompson & Co., and J. B. Innes, the tender of Mr. Innes being accepted. As early as possible proof copies were submitted to all Chapters and the principal Grand Officers.

In connection with this work, the efforts of the Committee and Grand Scribe E. deserve the highest commendation.

During the year visits were paid to Chapters by Grand Officers on every possible opportunity, the Depute Grand Principal M.E. Comp. Dr. L. G. Boor being especially active, he having visited Auckland Provincial Chapter, Waterloo Chapter twice, and was officially present at the Annual Meeting of Victory Chapter. At Auckland he was accompanied by Grand Scribe E. Rev. W. Ronaldson, P.Z., and the resident Grand Chapter Officers. A very warm welcome was extended, and the R.A. Degree was excellently exemplified by M.E. Comps. Geo. H. Powley, First Principal, and his Officers. At the installation of Victory Chapter, the Depute Grand Z. was assisted by Grand Scribe E. and E. Comp. H. J. Freeman, of Wellington, and the latter companion kindly assisted M.E. Comp. Rev. T. Porritt, Third Grand Principal, to represent Grand Chapter at the Annual Meeting of Wairarapa Chapter at Greytown.

In response to a special invitation, and by instruction of the First Grand Principal, Victoria Chapter, Napier, was visited by Grand Scribe E. in November, who conducted the dual ceremonies of exaltation of three Candidates, the installation of Principals, and -the investiture of Officers. The visiting officer expressed his pleasure at the appearance of the Chapter-room, and the constitution of the Membership, and predicted a useful career under its altered circumstances, and with its new lease of life. Experience teaches that these periodical visitations cannot be too highly esteemed.

In October a most kindly intimation was received from E. Comp. Chas. C. Keifer, Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Ohio, conveying the official recognition of the Grand Chapter of New Zealand by that body, suggesting the name of M.E. Comps. S. Stacker Williams as the representative near the Grand Chapter, and asking for the nomination of a Companion to represent the Grand Chapter of Ohio near the Grand Chapter of New Zealand. Your Committee recommended that M.E. Comp. Henry Thomson, Past First Grand Principal, be so nominated.

The numerical position of Chapters showed a net increase of 17 members, and while this result may be considered small in the light of abstract progress, it was really a matter of congratulation that the past year, with its commercial depression, had not disclosed an absolute loss.



M.E. COMP. W. B. SCANDRETT, G.Z.-1895

Immediately following the last Convocation, and in accordance with a resolution then adopted, a commission was prepared appointing V. W. Bro. Donelly Fisher the Representative of this Grand Chapter near the Grand Mark Lodge of New South Wales. This was forwarded to V.W. Bro. Burbidge, Grand Mark Secretary, in February last, but up to date the receipt has not been acknowledged, neither has the commission of M.E. Comp. Rev. W. Ronaldson, as the Representative of that Grand Mark Lodge near this Grand Chapter been received. In November last Grand Scribe E. notified V.W. Bro. Burbidge of the omission, but no reply was yet to hand.

In conformity with the instruction of Grand Chapter, Patents of Office were issued to all past and present Grand Officers.

Supreme Committee expressed its sincere and heart-felt sympathy with M.F. Comp. E. T. Gillon, Past Grand Principal Z., in his serious illness. It recognised the loss Royal Arch Masonry sustained by his absence from its Councils, and earnestly expressed the hope that his sojourn in Australia would result in a complete restoration to health.

The suggestion made by M.E. Comp. Hon. H. Feldwick at the last Convocation as to the desirability of convening a special meeting in Wellington during the Session of Parliament, received due consideration, but was found impracticable, owing in a large measure to the additional business engagements the Session entails on many Grand Officers and Members.

The following officers were elected :-

First Grand Principal Z. ...	M.E. Comp.	Dr. L. G. Boor
Depute „ „ „ „		Geo. H. Powley
Second „ „ H „		Rev. Thos. Porritt
Third „ „ J „		„ J. M. Brown
Grand Scribe E. ...	„	H. J. Williams
„ „ N. ..	„	H. C. A. Wundram
„ Treasurer ...	„	D. Greig
„ Chancellor ...	„	H. Wetherilt
First Grand Sojourner	„	N. Swinard
Second „ „ ...	„	C. J. Ronaldson
Third „... „	„	Jubal Fleming
Grand Supt. of Works	„	H. F. Arnold
„ Sword-bearer ...	„	H. Dempsey
„ Standard-bearer	„	Hon. H. Feldwick

The First and Second Grand Principals proffered their thanks to Supreme Chapter, for having elected them to their exalted positions, and promised their best services in the interests of Royal Arch Masonry.

The presiding Grand Principal then invited M.E. Comp. Rev. T. Porritt to conduct the ceremony of installation.

The Past Grand rank of Third Grand Principal (*Honoris Cause*) was conferred on Comp. Rev. W. Ronaldson.

This Convocation may be said to have met under untoward circumstances. The First Grand Principal, M.E. Comp. H. Thomson, was absent through illness; report was made of the serious illness of the Immediate Past Grand Z., M.E. Comp. E. T. Gillon, and Supreme Committee had no alternative but to report that the country was passing through a season of severe depression. The absence of two such enthusiastic leaders as Companions Thomson and Gillon—both eminently distinguished in Craft Freemasonry also, could not fail to be severely felt, and the feeling of regret was accentuated with the knowledge that illness was the cause. Grand Chapter was still in its infant days, and was not free from dissension of a personal and interested character, which exerted a prejudicial influence for a season, and the absence of counsel from the two veteran founders was M.E. COMP. L. G. BOOR, G.Z.-1896

again, the internal
disturbance of trade

a matter to be deplored. Then,
depression and consequent

¹⁾- ¹⁹conditions necessitated a general

and individual frugal administration, which is bound to reflect on the institution of Freemasonry. However, the optimism of Supreme Committee inspired confidence in Grand Chapter, and faith in the future prevailed.

CHAPTER VII.

FIFTH YEAR-1896.



M.E. COMP. L.G. BOOR, G.Z.—1896

The principal—though not unexpected—incident that characterised the year 1896, was the lamented death of M.E. Comp. E. T. Gillon, P.G.Z., one of the founders of Supreme Chapter, and a pillar in New Zealand Freemasonry. A member of long standing, he had held many important positions, both under the Scottish and New Zealand Constitutions. He took a deep interest in the formation of the Grand Lodge of N.Z., and was the Chairman of the Executive Committee that subsequently was responsible for bringing Grand Lodge into existence. He received the rank of Deputy Grand Master after the formation, and some few months later received the honorary rank of Past Grand Master. The writer can bear testimony to the energy and whole-souled earnestness that characterised his every action.

*"To his virtues ever kind,
To his faults a little blind."*

At the Annual Convocation held in Auckland, 29th January, 1897, Supreme Committee reported that M.E. Comp. Dr. L. G. Boor had been elected Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter of Victoria near New Zealand. It was further reported that North Otago Chapter, which had been inactive for two years, had

resumed working and paid all arrears of fees and dues. M.E. Comp. J. M. Brown was credited with largely contributing to this result. An announcement was made that Marlborough Chapter, No. 239, S.C., was in communication with G.S.E. *re* transfer of allegiance.

The result of the year's work still showed a slight numerical and financial progress, notwithstanding the continued commercial depression.

Resolutions were unanimously adopted :—

1. To increase the salary of G.S.E. to £50 per annum.
2. To confer the rank of Past First Grand Principal (*Honoris Causa*) on M.E. Comp. H. J. Williams, for his many services to Grand Chapter and R.A. Freemasonry.
3. That the offer of Comp. H. J. Freeman be accepted for the supply of five sets of clothing for the principal Officers.

Supreme Committee made the following report on Chapters :— "Southern Cross and Paritutu Chapters have not exhibited much vitality during the year. In the districts where both are located —especially with the peripatetic charter power—there should be ample fields for the development of Capitular Freemasonry. The Committee is of opinion that Grand Chapter Officers should be responsible for the proper working of Chapters in their respective districts, as the offices are intended to be useful rather than ornamental, the geographical features of the colony giving ample scope for all. It is earnestly hoped that the advent of a new year will be productive of more energetic efforts and some results.

"Albert Edward Chapter makes application for a dispensation to open a Lodge of Ark Mariners, and a Council of Red Cross Knights, which will receive the attention of the First Grand Principal immediately after this meeting."

In this connection it is somewhat singular how subordinate Grand Officers do fail to recognise their responsibilities in assisting in the work of general supervision and instruction. The opinion appears to be deep-rooted both in Grand Chapter and Grand Lodge that most of the Grand Officers are intended to be ornamental rather than useful.

Again Supreme Committee comments :—"The total annual revenue is excessively small, and with the exception of the charge of one shilling per member, is solely derived from the comparatively small profits on diplomas, etc., supplied. Thus to accumulate assets to the value of £109 3s. 7d. and a cash balance of £74 4s. 10d. in the face of the necessary recurring expenditure indicates the observance of economic administration."

The finance at this stage was exceedingly modest in character, and though there was no apparent reason for excessive jubilation, there was also no cause for despondency.

At this Convocation a decision was given by the Grand Chapter of Ohio, on a question which on several occasions excited no little discussion in the Grand Chapter of New Zealand, and was referred to at the Convocation held in January of this year (1913).

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Comp. S. Stacker Williams, Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence, submitted a special report of his Committee, which met the approval of the Grand Chapter.

TO THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND CHAPTER.

Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence, to which was referred the request of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of New South Wales for recognition, and for an exchange of representatives, having given the matter careful consideration, beg leave to submit the following

"We recommend that the congratulations of this Grand Chapter be extended to the aforesaid Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, upon its successful organisation, and upon the recognition it has received from the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales, the only pre-existing Grand Body of that Grade in the world. We recommend that the proceedings of this Grand Chapter be regularly sent to the Grand Secretary of the aforesaid Grand Lodge. We are, however, of the opinion that a Grand Chapter should not exchange representatives with a body which has not supervision over the Royal Arch Degree within its own

territory, and therefore recommend that the establishment of such relations with the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of New South Wales be fraternally declined by this Grand Chapter.

"Fraternally' submitted,

"S. STACKER WILLIAMS, *Chairman.*"

Supreme Committee expressed a unanimous opinion, which was concurred in by Grand Chapter, that it would be in the best interests of Capitular Freemasonry if First Principals of Chapters also presided in the Mark and Excellent Degrees.

The practice formerly existed, and still continues to a limited extent, of electing separate officers to the chairs in the Mark and Excellent Degrees, the excuse offered being that the First Principal is overweighted with work and should be relieved of two degrees. Another reason given is that it creates more interest in the Chapter. The first reason is simply an excuse without warrant, as the work of the "chair" in the three Capitular Degrees is very much less in volume than that of the three degrees of Craft Freemasonry. And it would be just as reasonable and no more absurd to appoint a separate Master for each of the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, as it is to appoint three Masters in a Chapter. In the writer's opinion, it is derogatory to the dignity and status of First Principal, it is a conflict of authority, and in most instances Companions are appointed to the Mark and Excellent who have no Masonic qualification to occupy the Master's chair.

M.E. Comp. Geo. H. Powley was elected G.Z., M.E. Comp. Rev. T. Porritt D G.Z., M.E. Comp. J. M. Brown GAL, and M.E. Comp. J. J. M. Hamilton G.J. By special request the services of M.E. Comp. H. J. Williams were invoked to conduct the ceremony or installation, and the proceedings were brought to a close after a short informal address by the G.Z.

CHAPTER VIII.

SIXTH YEAR-1897.



M.E. COMP. GEO. H. POWLEY, G.Z.-1897-98

The year 1897 was memorable for the practical illustrations of the Cardinal Masonic Virtue "Charity." Not so much in the sum contributed, as in the spirit which prompted the act at the moment assistance was required. The memorable floods in Hawke's Bay during this year will not readily be forgotten as bringing in their train misfortune, calamity and distress. The contribution of Grand Chapter, though comparatively small, not only prompted others, but indicated that Freemasonry does not live for itself alone, but can offer the healing balm of consolation to those outside the craft who are desolate and oppressed, or are afflicted in mind, body, or estate.

The Annual Convocation which recorded the work of the sixth year of Grand Chapter, was held in Christchurch on 18th January, 1898, M.E. Comp. Geo. H. Powley, G.Z., presiding, the Officers' chairs—with the exception of two—being filled by the proper holders of the several offices.

Supreme Committee did not hesitate to expose the position of apathetic Chapters to the naked view, as indicated in the following extracts from the report :—

"In its last Annual Report the Committee referred to the passivity exhibited by Paritutu No. 5, and Southern Cross, No. 3. During the year Grand Scribe E. has communicated with both, and personally interviewed Comp. Corkill, First Principal of the former Chapter. It is hoped this action will lead to the renewed activity of the New Plymouth Companions, and result in placing Paritutu in the forefront of New Zealand Chapters, which, with the possibilities of a large district, five lodges and a peripatetic charter, there should be no difficulty."

"The officers of the Southern Cross Chapter, Invercargill, treat the matter somewhat more cavalierly, and all communications have failed to elicit a reply. The Committee has therefore deemed it desirable to invoke the assistance of M.E. Comp. H. Wetherilt to investigate the case, and endeavour to create some enthusiasm amongst Royal Arch Masons."

"It is with regret that the Committee feel constrained to refer to the falling off in St. Augustine No. 1. Two years since it numbered 42 members, these are now reduced to 31, and apparently the Chapter has been quite inactive during the past year. On the other hand, the sister Chapter at Lyttelton—Albert Edward—with narrower scope and fewer opportunities, has increased its membership during the year by 11, besides instituting an Ark Mariners Lodge and a Council of Red Cross Knights. The Committee hopes that the R.A. Masons of Christchurch will make strenuous efforts to remove, what is almost a reproach, during the ensuing year."

Whether this homily stung the Companions of No. 1 to action, or whether the characteristic vitality of the Christchurch Companions, which was unaccountably dormant for a time, re-asserted itself, is a matter for conjecture. But it is no less a fact that the chain of events is reversed, and St. Augustine is to-day a real live Chapter, numerically and intellectually strong, and deeply imbued with all those traits that go to the making of a successful institution. While, on the other hand, Albert Edward, which for some years occupied a leading position and was responsible for the production of a Grand Z., appears now to have divested itself of much of its former energy, and succumbed to a state of quiescence.

Grand Chapter noted with pleasure that Marlborough Chapter, late 239 S.C., had transferred its allegiance to the Grand Chapter of New Zealand, and the new addition was cordially welcomed. It was resolved—"That in order to initiate a system having for its object uniformity of working, existing Chapters be invited to adopt the ritual issued by Grand Chapter, and all Chapters hereafter established shall be required to adhere closely to such ritual." At a later stage in the history a law was unanimously passed making it imperative on all Chapters to adopt the recognised ritual. Though there may be some slight divergence in working details, the ritual as a whole was loyally accepted, and is working most satisfactorily. As a matter of fact, in the opinion of the writer, the form is most suited to the requirements and genius of the people of this Dominion.

In the early part of the year the district of Hawke's Bay was visited by floods of abnormal volume, causing great loss and much distress. Sup. Com. deemed the occasion worthy of making a general appeal to Chapters for assistance, with the result that a sum of £22 12s. was subscribed and remitted to the Secretary of the Relief Fund. In 1896 it had been decided to institute a Grand Chapter Benevolent Fund and circulars were issued to all Chapters on the subject. This appeal only elicited one reply, and Supreme Committee further commended the laudable object for favourable consideration.

The Grand Chapter of New South Wales accorded recognition and representatives were exchanged. It was decided to at once apply to all Foreign Grand Chapters for the interchange of fraternal relations.

M.E. Comp. Wetherilt was empowered to visit Southern Cross Chapter, which was in a languishing condition, and take, such steps as may be necessary to establish it on a satisfactory basis.

A Committee was appointed to consider the question of selection of ritual, with a view to uniformity of working, and to report at next Annual Meeting.

M.E. Comp. Geo. H. Powley was re-elected as G.Z., M.E. Comp. Rev. T. Porritt as Depute, M.E. Comp. J. M. Brown G.H., and M.E. Comp. H. Wetherilt G.J.

M.E. Comp. H. J. Williams again installed the Principals, by request of the G.Z.

Attention was called to a ritual published in New Zealand, which it was alleged contained matter which should not be printed, and the use of such ritual was interdicted in Chapters under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of N.Z.

M.E. Comp. Powley, in returning thanks for his re-election and the renewed confidence of Grand Chapter, expressed the pleasure he had felt at being enabled to visit so many Chapters during the year, and the general efficiency of working he had witnessed.

It was another feature of this active year, that so many Chapters had received the honour of visitation from the M.E.G.Z. Not only were such highly appreciated, but their value from every point of view cannot be over estimated.

Another incident was the break in the succession of Grand Principals owing to Comp. Hamilton, G.J., being unable to proceed onward, through pressure of private business. This continuity has only been broken twice during the whole period of the history of Grand Chapter now under review.

CHAPTER IX.

SEVENTH YEAR-1898.

The Annual Convocation was again held in Wellington on 17th January, 1899, the First G. Principal, M.E. Comp. Geo. H. Powley presiding. The chairs of seventeen Grand Officers were filled, and there was a large and representative attendance. Supreme Committee in its report noted that though there were no indications of abnormal progression, yet several Chapters had fully maintained their position in the van of Capitular Freemasonry, amongst the number being Waterloo, Auckland Provincial, Albert Edward, and Manawatu. Through the exertions of M.E. Comp. H. Wetherilt, G.J., Southern Cross Chapter, had Phoenix-like, risen from the ashes of its former self, and gave promise of a more abiding existence.

Here we have another illustration of environment or vicissitude of fortune. For some years Southern Cross was dying from inanition. Then a state of coma supervened, from which it appeared it could not be roused, when finally a last and more vigorous effort was made from without, and resuscitation was effected. And, as the life-blood coursed through its veins, a renewed vigour ensued, the Chapter awakened to newness of life and soared to higher things. Within a decade it pushed to the front, obtaining a leading position, and in 1913 it has gained the premier place, numerically, under the Grand Chapter of New Zealand, thus evincing what may be accomplished when the true water of life is applied, or when a determination is taken to overcome all difficulties.

"Faint not, halt not, by the way, Man is prone to falling;

Advantage well the light of day, Wait not for the gloaming."

Paritutu had not yet quaffed that draught of *aqua vitae* which appeared necessary to galvanise it into living existence, hut Supreme Committee was optimistic in its hopes for the future.

Mokoreta Mark Lodge, which had recently suffered from a lethargic spasm, had renewed its active career under the dominance of W. Bro. McLaughlan.

The appeal on behalf of the Benevolent Fund had not been made in vain, and the year terminated with a credit of £17 5s. 6d. to that fund.

During the year 53 applications had been made to foreign Grand Chapters for recognition and the interchange of representatives, and 10 acknowledgments had been received.

A number of amendments to Constitutional laws were adopted, the principal being to enable special meetings of Chapters being held prior to the Annual Meeting, to elect officers and enable the Principals' degrees being conferred, before the regular night of installation.

The following report of the Special Ritual Revision Committee was very fully considered, and unanimously adopted:—

REPORT OF RITUAL REVISION COMMITTEE.

1. The Committee has to report that it has given the question of revision of Ritual great consideration, and now recommends that the alterations and amendments to the present MSS. form. of the Mark degree be adopted by Grand Chapter.
2. That the ceremonies of the Excellent and Royal Arch as contained in the Ritual submitted for the consideration of Grand Committee be adopted subject to the emendations and amendments noted.
3. The Committee further recommends that Grand Chapter give the necessary authorisation for having the revised Ritual printed for private circulation, and that prior to it being placed in the hands of the printer it be most carefully edited by the M.E. First Grand Principal and Grand Scribe E., who shall have authority to make any necessary alterations, provided the main features of the work are not inerefered with.
4. That if the work is completed before the next Annual. Convocation of Grand Chapter, it shall be immediately circulated to Chapters and adopted as the authorised Ritual of Supreme Grand Chapter.

5. That Grand Chapter empower Supreme Grand Committee to make such charge for the new Ritual as it may deem desirable in the interests of Grand Chapter.
6. That not more than four copies be at first issued to each Chapter.
7. That all copies issued be registered, and the First Principal shall at all times be held responsible for them.
8. That in the event of the Ritual being adopted by Grand Chapter, Grand Scribe E. be authorised to make the best arrangements possible for printing the same.

GEO. H. POWLEY,
Chairman.

The election of Grand Principals resulted as follows :—G.Z., M.E. Comp. Rev. T. Porritt; D.G.Z., M.E. Comp. J. M. Brown; G.H., M.E. Comp. H. Wetherilt; G.J., M.E. Comp. D. Greig.

A very large assemblage of Companions was present at the evening session to witness the installation and investing ceremony, which was conducted by M.E. Comp. Geo. H. Powley, the retiring G.Z., with M.E. Comp. C. J. W. Griffiths as G.D. of C.

One of the pleasures of this Convocation was unique in character, indeed, it stands out prominently as the one occasion in twenty-one years when "presentations" were in the order of the course.

The M.E. Grand Z. said a letter had been received from M.E. Comp. W. H. Cooper, of Auckland, stating that a number of Chapters and Companions desired to recognise the many services of the retiring Grand Z., and a jewel had been forwarded, which he would ask M.E. Comp. Herbert J. Williams, P.G.Z., to present. M.E. Comp. Williams said he was honoured by the request of Grand Z., and it afforded him the greatest pleasure to accept the duty. He then referred at length to the many services rendered to R.A. Masonry by M.E. Comp. Powley, who was recognised as the "father" of Auckland Chapter, and he (Bro. Williams) hoped he would soon become a grandfather, by the institution of the long-expected Chapter on the goldfields. The speaker recapitulated the many offices held by Comp. Powley in Grand Chapter, and testified to his earnestness in fulfilling his duties, not because they were duties, but in the interest of, and to advance the cause of Capitular Freemasonry. In attaching a handsome P.G.Z. jewel to the recipient's coat, Bro. Williams stated that a set of R.A. clothing formed part of the gift, but as it had not yet arrived from England, it would be presented later in Auckland Prov. Chapter.

M.E. Comp. Powley gracefully expressed his acknowledgment, and made the pleasing statement that though he had now passed through the chairs he had not retired from the service of R.A. Freemasonry.

Immediately following, a complete surprise was sprung on the previous presenter, Bro. Williams, Grand Scribe E., who received at the hands of the M.E. Grand Z. a handsome silver teapot, the gift of Waterloo Chapter, on the occasion of his approaching marriage. Grand Z. accompanied the presentation with a most eulogistic reference to Bro. Williams' long service in Waterloo and also in Grand Chapter.

Grand Scribe E. tendered his acknowledgments on behalf of the bride-elect and himself.

A notice of motion was given to increase the fees of members payable to Grand Chapter.

CHAPTER X.

EIGHTH YEAR-1899.



M.E. COMP. REV. T. PORRITT, G.Z.-1899

With the succession of years, institutions, like individuals, not infrequently acquire greater responsibilities, matters of growing importance accumulate, and more difficult problems are held for solution. At this session one of those questions which periodically afflict Freemasonry, was submitted for discussion. It has always been a moot point as to how far the principle should be encouraged—or if at all—of Masonic funds being supplied to outside purposes which do not bear the imprimatur of great distress. And the question is undoubtedly one that requires to be well safeguarded, otherwise Freemasonry as a great organisation is easily open to exploitation, and once the thin edge of the wedge is inserted it is difficult to know how far it may be driven in. However, in the particular case referred to, "the War Fund," an opinion was voiced with no uncertain sound. The proceedings of the last year of the nineteenth century were reported at the Annual Convocation, held in Oamaru on 16th January, 1900.

M.E. Comp. Rev. T. Porritt, G.Z., presided over a moderate attendance of Grand Officers and representatives of Chapters. The statement of accounts and balance-sheet were adopted with congratulatory reference to the fiscal position. The Benevolent Fund had only increased by some three pounds, but Supreme Committee "was persuaded that the small result was attributable to want of thought rather than want of heart." A clause in the Committee report is significant, it says : "It was anticipated that Supreme Committee would have been

able to announce fresh additions to the roll of Grand Chapter, but although negotiations are pending in three districts, it is not considered advisable to unduly hasten matters. *Festina legate* is a safe motto in this connection."

The Grand Chapters of Montana, Oregon, and New Brunswick extended recognition, and the following companions were appointed Representatives near the Grand Chapter of N.Z. : M.E. Comps. J. M. Brown, W. H. Cooper and D. Greig. It was reported that the first edition of Ritual comprising the degrees of Mark Excellent and Royal Arch, had been printed by Comp. W. Smith, of Invercargill, and that the work was most creditable to the editors and printers alike. It was resolved that copies could be obtainable upon application, but in every instance they will be supplied and registered to Chapters alone, who must be responsible for them.

A motion was moved by Comp. J. Taylor—

"That in connection with the Patriotic War Fund, now being raised in the Colon-y, all Chapters be invited to contribute, to a Special Grand Chapter Fund, and that an amount to be hereafter determined be allocated from Grand Chapter Benevolent Account to form the nucleus of the Fund."

The motion was seconded and discussed, but on being submitted from the chair was declared lost by a large majority.

A notice of motion was given by M.E. Comp. J. M. Brown to increase members' fees to 1s. 6d. and place the additional 6d. to Benevolent Fund Account.

It was resolved, on the motion of M.E. Comp. H. Wetherilt—

"That the attention of the British Grand Chapters be called to the fact that in August, 1898, application was made for recognition and the interchange of representatives, but up to date of this meeting no reply has been received, and that the application then made be now renewed."

The following Grand Principals were elected:—M.E. Comp. J. M. Brown, G.Z.; M.E. Comp. H. Wetherilt, D.G.Z.; M.E. Comp. D. Greig, G.H.; M.E. Comp. W. W. De Castro, G.J.

The M.E.G.Z. was installed by M.E. Comp. Rev., T. Porritt, and M.E. Comp. Brown then invested the other Principals and office-bearers.

One resolution adopted at this meeting raises a question of much moment to Freemasonry, and recurs again in more extended form in this history. It is that of the Grand Representative System, only partially in vogue. Quite a number of Masonic governing bodies are cool on the subject, while others ignore it altogether. If it is intended as an evidence of friendship and goodwill, it is very nice— but quite unnecessary. Originally it was doubtless intended as a direct means of communication by the accredited representatives, between their respective bodies, and who would duly guard the several interests. In some solitary instances perhaps some of the duties are perfunctorily carried out. But, generally speaking, the office has developed into a purely ornamental, or, rather, an honorary one, which does not even appear to necessitate or entail attendance at the annual meeting of each Grand body. Under these circumstances the question may pertinently be asked: Is it desirable to continue a custom which has so little to recommend it ?

CHAPTER XI.

NINTH YEAR—1900.



M.E. COMP. J. M. BROWN, G.Z 1900

The Ninth Annual Convocation was held in Dunedin on the 30th January, 1901. In consequence of the recent death of Her Majesty Queen Victoria the Chapter-room was draped in mourning, and all the Companions wore mourning clothing. M.E. Comp. J. M. Brown, G.Z., presided, and was supported by M.E. Comp. H. Wetherilt, D.G.Z. Apologies were numerous, and the attendance was small. Included in the list of visitors was M.E. Comp. Henry Neil, Prov. G. Supt. S.C. ; M.E. Comp. John Sharp, Glasgow Chapter, No. 50, S.C.; and four other Comps. of the S.C.

It was stated that the number of Chapters on the Register was 15, one addition having been made during the year (Timaru), but the nett increase in membership was only 19. Otago and Victory Chapters were reported as showing little evidence of progress. Supreme Committee regretted to learn that so many Companions who were members of the N.Z. Constitution in Craft Freemasonry, have sought refuge in the Scottish R.A. Chapter in Dunedin. This was attributed to the fact that the meetings of Otago Chapter were held in South Dunedin. This Chapter had decided to change its habitat to Dunedin, when it was hoped that a great improvement would be made manifest. Mokoreta Mark Lodge was reported as having been dormant for

some time, and it was suggested that the new G.Z. should investigate the position, and unless the Lodge can be established on a firmer basis, the Charter be recalled.

Timaru Chapter was instituted in May, 1900, by the G.Z. and, judging from the intelligence and enthusiasm of the members, a useful life was predicted. Preliminary steps were taken during the year for the erection of a Chapter at Paeroa, and the consummation was regarded as within measurable distance. Mention was also made of Waimate as new ground for planting the Capitular flag.

Though the side degrees of Ark Mariner and Red Cross had been worked in a few Chapters in a more or less perfunctory manner, Supreme Committee in this report draws attention to the fact that a special dispensation had been granted to Marlborough Chapter to open an Ark Lodge and Council of Red Cross Knights.

Recognition was granted by the Grand Chapters of Nevada and Ireland, and M.E. Comp. Geo. Wilson was appointed representative of the former and M.E. Comp. R. C. Hamerton representative of the latter near the Grand Chapter of New Zealand. Correspondence also took place with the Grand Chapter of England, and as the point raised has an important bearing to-day re the granting of charters by the Grand Chapter of England, and may exercise no little influence in the establishment of a Chapter in the near future, it is considered of sufficient historical importance to publish *verbatim*.

Freemasons' Hall,
Great Queen Street, London, W.C.
16th May, 1900.

Dear Sir and Companion,—

I have the pleasure to inform you that the last quarterly Convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter, held at Freemasons' Hall on the 2nd instant, the following resolution was moved by the Most Excellent First Pro.-Grand Principal, seconded, and carried unanimously—

"That, having regard to the fact that the Grand Lodge of New Zealand has been formally recognised by the Grand Lodge of England as a sovereign body within the Colony, the recognition asked for by the Supreme "Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand be accorded, the Supreme Grand Chapter of England undertaking not to grant any Charters for new Royal "Arch Chapters within the Colony other than for Chapters to be attached to Lodges remaining under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England."

I am,
Yours fraternally,
E. LETCHWORTH, G.S.E.

E. Comp. H. J. WILLIAMS, P.G.Z.,
Grand Scribe E., New Zealand.

Wellington,
5th July, 1900.

M.E. Comp. LETCHWORTH, Grand Scribe E.,
Supreme Grand Chapter of England.

M.E. Sir and Comp.,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 16th May last containing the resolution of recognition of the Grand Chapter of New Zealand by your Grand Chapter.

I will take the sanest opportunity of placing your letter before Supreme Committee, but if I may be allowed to express an individual opinion, I am afraid the condition imposed in the resolution will scarcely prove acceptable, as if you retain the power to issue 30 or 40 more Charters the position of the Grand Chapter will not be improved.

I will, however, take the earliest opportunity of informing you of the decision of the Committee.

I am, dear Sir and Comp.,
Fraternally yours,
HERBERT J. WILLIAMS, Grand Scribe E.

Wellington,
17th August, 1900.

Dear Sir and Comp.,

I have the honour to inform you that your letter of 16th May last, conveying the information that the Grand Chapter of England had extended recognition to the Grand Chapter of New Zealand, with the proviso that the Grand Chapter of England reserved the right to issue Charters to Chapters to be attached to Lodges remaining under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England, was considered at a meeting of Supreme Grand Committee held yesterday, when it was unanimously resolved—

"That this Committee, in considering the letter of recognition from the Grand Chapter of England, notes with intense regret the reservation made by the said Grand Chapter of England to continue to grant Charters to Chapters to be attached to Lodges under the E.C. that 'this Colony; and Supreme Committee is of opinion a proposal that would give power to issue 30 or 40 Charters indefinitely in the future, would be a direct infringement of the rights of a sovereign jurisdiction, would make confusion worse confounded, and is entirely inconsistent with the terms of recognition of the two Grand Lodges of England and New Zealand, which provided that the issue of *all* Charters should at once cease. While earnestly desiring recognition, and fraternal intercourse with the Grand Chapter of England, the terms proposed would, in the opinion of Supreme Committee, be derogatory to the dignity of a Sovereign Grand body, and are such that the Committee cannot recommend Supreme Grand Chapter to accept. Supreme Grand Committee would earnestly ask the Grand Chapter of England to reconsider its decision, and excise from the original resolution the last three lines following the word 'Colony.'"

I am, E. Sir and Comp.,
Fraternally yours,
HERBERT J. WILLIAMS, Grand Scribe E.

Your Committee holds the opinion that recognition under such circumstances is valueless to Supreme Chapter, besides being opposed to the Masonic principle which environs and determines the whole question.

Your Committee will ask Grand Chapter for a distinct expression of opinion on this matter, about which there should not be a vestige of doubt.

Freemasons' Hall,
Great Queen Street, London, W.C.,
27th November, 1900.

Dear Sir and E. Companion,

I have the honour to state that your communication of 17th of August last asking the Grand Chapter of England 'to reconsider its decision and excise from the original resolution the last three lines following the word 'Colony', was laid before the C of Supreme Grand Chapter last week, and after very careful consideration it was unanimously resolved that the Supreme Grand Chapter of England could not be recommended to make any alteration in its resolution of recognition.

The Lodges remaining under the Grand Lodge of England could not well apply to any other Grand Chapter than that of England for Charters enabling the Royal Arch ceremony to be worked in connection with the Lodges, such ceremony being merely the completion of the Third Degree worked by each Lodge.

By our Constitutions—

"Every Chapter shall be attached to some regular Lodge, and the rank or precedence of the several Chapters shall be determined according to the priority of the Lodges to which they may be respectively attached."

"In the case of a Lodge to which a Chapter is attached being erased, the Chapter may be attached to another Lodge by the authority of the Grand Chapter."

It will therefore be apparent that with respect to the Lodges under the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, the only Royal Arch Authority which could grant Charters to them would be the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand, which possesses the requisite machinery for doing so; and on the erasure of any of the Lodges, to which a Chapter was attached could attach that Chapter to another Lodge under the Grand Lodge of New Zealand. Equally so, where Lodges remain under the Grand Lodge of England, Charters for Chapters to be attached to such Lodges can only be granted by that Grand Chapter which is the complement of the Grand Lodge having jurisdiction over the Lodges.

For the Grand Chapter of England to charter Chapters to be attached to Lodges under the Grand Lodge of New Zealand would be not only irregular but would lead to a conflict of authority, there being a Supreme Royal Arch Body in existence having the machinery proper for dealing with the Chapters attached to the respective Lodges. It follows that it would be equally irregular and inconvenient for the Grand Chapter of New Zealand to charter Chapters to be attached to Lodges remaining under the Grand Lodge of England, there being in connection with the Grand Lodge of England a Grand Chapter having all the machinery requisite for carrying into effect the Article of the Constitutions quoted above.

The Committee trusts that on reflection your Supreme Grand Committee will see that in the reservation of the 2nd May last there is no infringement of the rights of your Supreme Grand Chapter as a Sovereign Jurisdiction, nor is there anything inconsistent with the terms of recognition of the two Grand Lodges of England and New Zealand, which did not in any way refer to Royal Arch Charters, but only Warrants for new Craft Lodges.

The Committee would express a hope that the fraternal intercourse between the two Grand Chapters will continue to the welfare of the Order.

I am, dear Sir and E. Companion,
Yours faithfully and fraternally,
E. LETCHWORTH, G. S. E.

E. Comp. HERBERT J. WILLIAMS, Grand Scribe E.,
Grand Chapter of New Zealand.

The Committee unanimously resolved to grant the prayer of the Waimate Companions' petition, and requested the Grand Scribe E. to make arrangements with the First Grand Principal, and the Grand Z.-elect, when attending the Annual Convocation, for the institution and consecration of the new Chapter.

With reference to the further letter from the Grand Chapter of England, it was resolved, "That, in order that the fraternal relations subsisting between the Freemasons of England and New Zealand be not disturbed, this Committee recommend Grand Chapter to accept the terms of recognition as offered."

(Signed) DAVID GREIG, Grand H.,
Chairman.

Wellington, January 19th, 1901.

M.E. Comp. H. Wetherilt moved the adoption of the report, and in doing so thought the wisdom of the Supreme Committee in making the recommendation would be apparent. The conditions of English Royal Arch Masonry in requiring Chapters to be attached to Lodges under its jurisdiction differed from the general practice, and in his opinion there was no desire on the part of the Grand Chapter of England to attempt to usurp or interfere with the supremacy of this jurisdiction.

M.E. Comp. Barton seconded the motion, being of opinion that the difference in the English custom and that of other Constitutions would not form any precedent in dealing with the terms of recognition from other jurisdictions.

M.E. Comp. Gerstenkorn asked if all Chapters under the English Constitution were specifically attached to English Lodges, to which he received an affirmative reply from the M.E.G.Z., who said he did not think the supremacy of the Grand Chapter of New Zealand would be at all endangered, as the custom referred to was almost, if not quite, unique in the practice of Capitular Freemasonry. Further, the greater advantages that could be offered by New Zealand Chapters would prove a formidable obstacle to the institution of English

Chapters. In the first instance he was opposed to accepting recognition on the terms offered; but the further explanation had put a different complexion on the matter, and he would be sorry if the Grand Chapter acted as a disturbing element in the friendly relations that now existed.

The motion for the adoption of the Supplementary Report was then put and unanimously affirmed.

In April, 1900, M.E. Comp. J. J. M. Hamilton, P.G.J., was called from labour. He did excellent service in St. Augustine Chapter, No. 1, and had he lived there is little doubt that he would have attained the highest office within the gift of Capitular Freemasonry. His funeral, though not of a Masonic character, was largely attended by members of the Craft.

The assets of Grand Chapter were slowly increasing, and at December, 1900, had reached £152 4s. 2d.

A motion moved by M.E. Comp. J. M. Brown to impose an additional tax of 6d. per member for the Benevolent Fund was agreed to.

The following Grand Principals were elected :—G.Z., M.E. Comp. H. Wetherilt; D.G.Z., M.E. Comp. D. Greig; G.H., M.E. Comp. W. W. De Castro; G.J., M.E. Comp. Rev. E. E. Chambers, and they were installed at the evening session by M.E. Comp. J. M. Brown, and M.E. Comp. Wetherilt invested the office-bearers who were present.

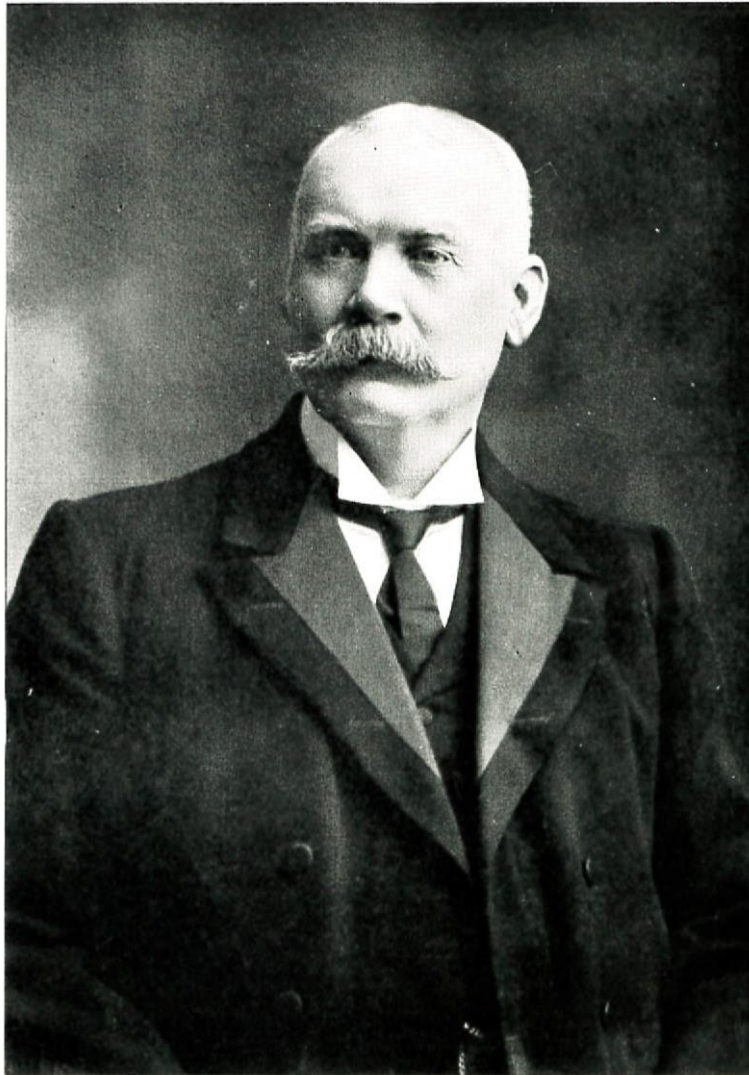
RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE.--Of the motion of M.E. Comps. Brown and Ronaldson the following resolution was acknowledged by the Companions, all standing, and the Grand Organist playing the "Dead March in Saul" :—That the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand in Annual Convocation assembled, records its respectful and sorrowful sympathy with the M.E. First Grand Principal of the Grand R.A. Chapter of England, His Majesty King Edward VII., in the great bereavement he and the Empire have sustained in the loss of his Royal Mother, her late Majesty Queen Victoria, of loving memory. And be it further resolved that a copy of the foregoing resolution be transmitted to the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of England for submission to His Majesty the King."

RESOLUTION OF CONGRATULATION.—The M.E. Grand Z. then moved, and M.E. Comp. Barton seconded—"The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand, in Ninth Annual Convocation assembled, respectfully proffers its fraternal congratulations to the M.E. First Grand Principal of the Grand R.A. Chapter of England on his accession to the Throne of the Empire, with the assurance of the undying loyalty of the Royal Arch Masons of New Zealand, and that the Grand Chapter of England be asked to convey such fraternal congratulations and assurances of loyalty to His Majesty the King.' Immediately on this loyal motion being submitted, the Companions rose and sang "God Save the King.'

M.E. Comp. Henry Neil offered hearty congratulations on behalf of the Provincial Grand Chapter of N.Z., S.C., and M.E. Comp. James Gore.

CHAPTER XII.

TENTH YEAR-1901.



M.E. COMP. H. WETHERILT, G.Z.—1901

The year ending 31st De.ember, 1901, was prolific in the addition of new Chapters, preliminary announcement of others, which subsequently eventuated, and an amalgamation.

The Tenth Annual Convocation, held at Lyttleton on 22nd January, 1902, was presided over by M.E. Comp. H. Wetherilt, G.Z., supported by the actual Grand Principals. There was a fair attendance of representatives, and a numerous visitors' list. The report of Supreme Committee stated that Waimate Chapter, No. 16, had been consecrated on June 5th by M.E. Comp. J. M. Brown, P.G.Z., assisted by a number of Companions from Oamaru; and Ohinemuri, No. 17, was auspiciously opened on May 30th by the M.E.G.Z. Comp. H. Wetherilt, assisted by G.S.E. and members of Auckland Provincial Chapter. Active measures had been taken at Reefton, and a petition was expected daily, and at Marton proceedings had been delayed by the illness of the promoter, M.E. Comp. W. H. Smith. The following clause is taken *verbatim* from the report, with reference to the important step of amalgamating the two Chapters in Oamaru :-

AMALGAMATION.

4. Negotiations have long been pending between North Otago and Waitaki Chapters, Oamaru, with a view to amalgamating their interests. In September last matters were brought to a definite issue, and an application was received by Supreme Committee for permission to amalgamate, and for a Charter for a Chapter, to be known as Waitaki-Kilwinning. A request was appended that the Chapter should be allowed to bear the number of the Senior Chapter (No. 8). The Committee acceded to the several requests, and a charter was accordingly issued. The institution of the new Chapter formed by the two merged bodies was celebrated on the 9th October with considerable *eclat*. M.E. Comp. H. Wetherilt, Grand Z., presided, and conducted the ceremonies, ably assisted by M.E. Comp. J. M. Brown, P.G.Z., and the local Grand Chapter Officers. Though Grand Chapter loses one Chapter from its roll, yet the Committee confidently anticipate that the strength of the new Chapter, both morally and numerically, will prove ample compensation.

It was noted in the report that a very decided improvement had taken place in several Chapters, notably Otago, which appeared to have taken a new lease of life. With regard to Mokoreta Mark Lodge, there was no further action by the members, and Supreme Committee recommended that the Charter be recalled. The total number of members of Grand Chapter was 545, being an increase of 69, notwithstanding the large number of secessions-54. The M.E.G.Z. officially visited most of the Chapters during the year, and was loyally and hospitably received. In Conjunction with G.S.E. he opened a Lodge of Ark Mariners and a Council of Red Cross Knights within the body of Southern Cross Chapter, and the Officers of Grand Chapter exemplified the R.A. Degree in a "masterly manner."

Immediately after the last Convocation Supreme Committee submitted the name of M.E. Comp. H. Wetherilt, to the Grand Chapter of England, as the Representative of that Grand Chapter near the Grand Chapter of New Zealand. Subsequently the following letter was received from E. Comp. E. Letchworth, the Grand Scribe E. of England:—

Freemasons' Hall,
Great Queen Street, London, W.C.
26th July, 1901.

Dear Sir and E. Companion,

I must ask you to forgive the delay in replying to your letter of the 20th March last, which is due to the very exceptional pressure of work in this office during the past few months consequent on the appointment of the present M.W. Grand Master, who is also M.E. First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Chapter.

Although the M.E. First Grand Principal entertains the most fraternal sympathy with the Supreme Grand Chapter of New Zealand, it is felt by those who have the honour to advise His Royal Highness in such matters, that the exchange of Representatives of the two Grand Chapters would establish a precedent it would be most inconvenient to follow, as in no instance has such an exchange of Representatives been effected.

I am to point out that all the members of the Supreme Grand Chapter must necessarily belong to the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, with which Representatives have already been exchanged.

I am, dear Sir and E. Companion,
Yours faithfully and fraternally,
E. LETCHWORTH, G. S. E.

E. Companion H. J. WILLIAMS,
Grand Scribe E., New Zealand.

Supreme Committee regrets having to withdraw M.E. Comp. Wetherilt's name from nomination for this position, but as the G. Chapter of England does not interchange Representatives, there is no option in the matter.

During the year Supreme Committee decided to issue diplomas for Installed Mark Masters, who were First, or Past First Principals. It also became necessary to obtain Ark Mariners and Red Cross Rituals, and it was decided to print an edition from the MSS. copies previously in use, after being subject to careful editing by

G.S.E. Books of Demits were issued and steps were taken to obtain Registers of Marks for issue to Chapters. Attention was directed to the laxity of sending annual returns at due date, which, it is regrettable to record, continues to the present day. This year the Benevolent Fund had increased to £32 15s. 6d., and the balance of assets of G. Chapter was set down at £182 10s. 6d.

Grand Chapter agreed to the recommendation *re* Mokoreta Mark Lodge and resolved to recall the Charter. The position of Paritutu Chapter was reported as being bad, and no returns had been received for two years. G.S.E. was instructed to put the position "very forcibly" to the First Principal of the Chapter.

M.E. Comp. D. Greig was elected G.Z., M.E. Comp. W. W. De Castro D.G.Z., M.E. Comp. Rev. E. E. Chambers G.H., and M.E. Comp. Geo. Fowlds G.J. The retiring G.Z., Comp. H. Wetherilt, acted as installing Grand Principal and invested the office-bearers who were present.

CHAPTER XIII.

ELEVENTH YEAR-1902.

Though the session held in Nelson on 22nd January, 1903, was not—naturally—largely attended, the meeting was most enthusiastic, and the report was of a jubilant character. It was announced that on the 18th June, "Inangahua" Chapter had been auspiciously consecrated at Reefton by the G.S.E., assisted by M.E. Comps. R. Fletcher and H. J. Freeman, who had journeyed from Wellington, and a number of Westland Companions, M.E. Comp. H. L. Michel, the then Grand Supt. of Westland in Craft Freemasonry, being installed as First Principal. On August 1st, Ruapehu Chapter was instituted by the same three Wellington Comps., together with the Grand Treasurer, M.E. Comp. R. C. Hamerton, and Comp. W. H. Smith was installed as the First Z. On the 13th November, M.E. Comps. J. A. Kirby and Arthur Clothier constituted Cromwell Coronation Chapter at Cromwell. December, 1902, ended with a roll of 19 Chapters, most of which were stated to be healthy, Paritutu, New Plymouth being an exception. A difficulty having been experienced in obtaining the Charter of the Mokoreta Mark Lodge, the incoming G. J., who was a resident in the district, was empowered to take any steps in the matter that may be necessary. In the meantime, the Charter was declared cancelled, and the fact was ordered to be advertised in the *N.Z. Craftsman*. Recognition had been accorded by the Grand Chapter of Columbia, and M.E. Comp. H. Wetherilt was appointed the Representative in New Zealand. Supreme Committee referred to the apparent discourtesy of the American Grand Chapters and the Grand Chapter of Scotland, in their conspiracy of silence with regard to the applications of New Zealand for recognition. The following resolution was submitted with regard to the suffering recently experienced by M.E. Comp. H. Wetherilt:

9. It was with the most profound regret that Supreme Committee received information of the privation and sufferings of our M.E. Comp. Henry Wetherilt, caused by the wreck of the illfated steamer "Elingamite." His heroic action while in charge of the raft, on which he and his companions were adrift without food or water for five days, excited the admiration of all classes throughout the colony, and it was with feelings of thanksgiving that members of the Craft heard of the rescue.

At the first meeting of the Committee after the glad news were known the following resolution was unanimously adopted, and ordered to be transmitted to M.E. Comp. Wetherilt:—

"On behalf of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand, the Supreme Grand Committee desires to convey to you its heartfelt sympathy and commiseration in your sufferings and privations consequent on the, wreck of the s.s. 'Elingamite' and to offer you its sincere congratulations on your rescue from such dire peril, together with the fervent hope that you may be speedily restored to complete health."

This action will no doubt be entirely in consonance with the wishes of Grand Chapter.

The fiscal position was represented as showing an increase of Benevolent Fund to £46 19s., and general assets £229 17s. 2d. The sum of £100 was ordered to be placed at fixed deposit.

The several recommendations contained in the report were agreed to and special resolutions were moved to give effect to them. The following Companions were elected as Grand. Principals for the ensuing year :— G.Z., M.E. Comp. W. W. De Castro; D.G.Z., M.E. Comp. Rev. E. E. Chambers; G.H., M.E. Comp. Geo. Fowlds; G.J., M.E. Comp. Jas. Macgregor.

Supreme Committee was empowered to appoint a Special Grand Officer to proceed to New Plymouth with the object of installing the Principals, investing Officers, and to endeavour to place the Chapter on a more satisfactory basis.

G. Scribe E. referred to a recent edict of the Grand Mark Lodge of England prohibiting intercourse between the members of that Constitution and Mark Masons under the Supreme Grand Chapter of New Zealand.

In the discussion that followed it was elicited that until recently no difficulties had arisen, but a brother from Madras had taken up his residence in Christchurch, and to his mischievous interference the present position was directly attributable.

The opinion was expressed that as the Mark Degree was only subordinate as worked under the jurisdiction of Supreme Chapter it would not be in accordance with the fitness of things that Grand Chapter should apply for recognition to the Grand Body governing this degree. It was further stated that American jurisdictions were very pronounced against any such action. After considerable discussion, it was resolved, on the motion of M.E. Comps. C. J. Griffiths and H. J. Freeman—"That it would not be dignified procedure for the Supreme Grand R.A. Chapter of New Zealand to apply to the Grand Mark Lodge of England for recognition."

EXALTATION WITHOUT FEE.—M.E. Comp. C. J. Griffiths drew attention to the fact that a Scotch Royal Arch Charter in the territory was exalting brethren without charge of any kind. Bro. Griffiths was sure that such proceeding would appeal to every R.A. Mason as being subversive of the best interests of the Craft, and he would move—"That the attention of the Supreme Chapter of Scotland be directed to the fact, and that G. Scribe E. be furnished with documentary evidence to tender in support of the allegation."

The motion was seconded by M.E. Comp. De Castro and carried.

M.E. Comp. De Castro briefly returned thanks for his election.

The retiring Grand Principal then installed his successor, who afterwards installed G.J., and invested the other officers present.

The following brief address was delivered by the M.E.G.Z.

M.E. Companions,—I find it very difficult to fittingly express my thanks to you for electing me to the honourable and exalted position of First Grand Principal of Supreme Chapter. I feel I shall be placed somewhat at a disadvantage with those who have preceded me, in that my opportunities will not be many to devote to official visitations, upon which I place the highest value. Those Chapters in my immediate neighbourhood—Victory, Marlborough, and Inangahua—I may promise attention, and I have no doubt a meeting of Auckland Prey. Chapter may be arranged during my visit to that city in May next, and perhaps others en route. To Supreme Committee my warmest thanks are due for so readily conforming to my wishes by holding this Convocation in Nelson. I am aware that Grand Chapter suffers thereby in point of attendance of the officers-elect and visitors, but I have confidence that the meeting will help to strengthen and build up Victory Chapter, which welcomes all the assistance that can be given. It was with feelings of the greatest diffidence that I accepted the office, but I was fully assured that I could rely on the wisdom and experience of M.E. Comp. D. Greig and Grand Scribe E. in any case of difficulty or doubt. My especial thanks are due to M.E. Comp. Greig and those Grand Officers who have come considerable distances, and have been associated with him especially in the ceremony of installation. I again offer my warmest thanks to all who have assisted in placing me in the exalted station I now fill, and I promise my best services in the cause of Royal Arch Freemasonry.

M.E. Comp. Williams, P.G.Z., moved—"That a very hearty vote of thanks be accorded to M.E. Comp. D. Greig, retiring Grand Z., and be recorded in the proceedings of this meeting."

In speaking to the motion the mover referred to the enthusiasm of M.E. Comp. Greig for R.A. Freemasonry, his continuous activity for the past twenty-five years, and his untiring zeal in the interests of Grand Chapter, notwithstanding he had passed the span of life scripturally allotted to man. The motion was seconded by M.E. Comp. Powley, who also offered testimony to the many excellent qualities of M.E. Comp. Greig. On being put to Grand Chapter the resolution was very heartily endorsed.

M.E. Comp. Greig, in a brief reply, expressed his regret that during his occupancy of the Principal chair his opportunities for visiting had been so circumscribed.

It is evident that Capitular Freemasonry added considerably to its prestige in 1902, by the great activity displayed in the acquisition of new Chapters, which was likewise a testimony to the popularity of the institution. The foundation of three Chapters, and the preliminary steps that were taken with reference to two others—which also subsequently eventuated—fitly illustrated the activity of that inner life that was guiding the destiny of the Royal Craft. And it may here be recorded how steadfastly Supreme Committee has always set its face against forcing the position. In every instance but one, applications for Charters have been entirely voluntary, and have only been granted after due investigation as to the possibilities of future success.

CHAPTER XIV.

TWELFTH YEAR-1903.



M.E. COMP. W. W. DE CASTRO, G.Z —1903

The Annual Convocation held in Christchurch on 27th January, 1904, was extremely interesting, and was, probably, the most important meeting held up to that date, due to the several matters of vital interest submitted, and the interesting discussions taken thereon. Through unforeseen circumstances, neither the First Grand Principal or the I.P.G.Z., were able to be present, consequently the duty and privilege of presiding fell to M.E. Comp. G. H. Powley, as Senior P.G.Z. All the Grand Officers' chairs were filled and Chapters were well in evidence, 22 representatives answering to the call of the roll. Two extracts from the report of Supreme Committee concisely explains (1) the position of Capitular Freemasonry in New Zealand, and (2) the action taken with reference to Mokoreta Mark Lodge.

"During the past year no additions have been made to the roll of Grand Chapter, but seed has been sown which will no doubt yield its harvest in due season. It may here be mentioned that Supreme Committee has never encouraged any coercive policy for extending the operations of Capitular Freemasonry. On the contrary, it has felt that any desire for the creation of new Chapters should be the spontaneous emanation of Companions in those districts where the privileges of Royal Arch Freemasonry do not exist, and, while the most complete information is furnished when desired, there has never been the slightest attempt to force a growth which must be natural to ensure anything like permanency.

With two exceptions, Chapters continue to exhibit a healthy vitality, and statutory meetings are held with unvarying regularity.

Acting under instructions issued at the last Annual Convocation, Supreme Committee appointed Grand Scribe E. to visit Paritutu Chapter for the purpose of enquiring into its position, installing the officers, and to endeavour to infuse new life into it. The Chapter has been working better during the year, and it is satisfactory to note that the officers were installed by M.E. Comp. Corkill at the statutory time. The membership of 19 Chapters is approximately 665, showing an increase of 44 on the year's transactions. The reason for approximate figures only being given, is owing to the laxity of some Chapters in making returns. Two days before the close of the year seven Chapters had not made returns, though three did so on the last day, leaving four defaulters. There is absolutely no reason for this, as all Chapters have three months after the close of their year to complete returns to Grand Chapter.

It will be within the recollection of members, that two years ago, the Charter of Mokoreta Mark Lodge was ordered to be recalled, and twelve months later the M.E. Third Grand Principal (Comp. J. Macgregor) was empowered to take the necessary steps to obtain possession of it. In pursuance of this duty, Comp. Macgregor found there was a very earnest desire evinced by a number of the brethren of the late Mark Lodge to be allowed to resume working, and after considerable correspondence, a request was formally preferred to Supreme Committee by W. Bro. James McLaughlan and others, and offering to pay the sum of £3 as arrears to Grand Chapter. The M.E. Third Grand Principal endorsed the request and recommended that it be acceded to. After some discussion the following resolution was adopted :-

"That provisional authority be given to Mokoreta Mark Lodge to resume working—in terms of Bro. McLaughlan's letter—under the personal supervision of M.E. Comp. Macgregor, pending the next Annual Meeting of Grand Chapter."

Grand Chapter unanimously confirmed the action of Supreme Committee.

At the last Convocation, Grand Chapter expressed itself very plainly on the apparent discourtesy of Foreign Grand Chapters, in not acknowledging the application, twice made, for recognition. This protest had some effect, as letters were subsequently received from the Grand Chapters of Texas, Kansas, Canada, and the general Grand Chapter of America. Canada exchanged representatives and M.E. Comp. R. Fletcher was appointed as Representative near the Grand Chapter of New Zealand. The following resolution was passed by the General Grand R.A. Chapter of the United States of America :—

"That the General Grand Chapter cordially commends to its constituent Grand Chapters for favourable consideration the request of the Sup. Grand R.A. Chapter of New Zealand for fraternal recognition."

The whole of the correspondence with these several Grand Bodies was submitted at the Annual Convocation of New Zealand, and makes very interesting reading. The honours undoubtedly remained with the G.S.E. of the Grand Chapter of N.Z.

A death vacancy having occurred in the representation of Ohio, M.E. Comp. W. W. De Castro, G.Z., was appointed to fill it.

Another extract from the report sufficiently indicates the desire of Supreme Committee to perfect, as far as possible, Capitular ceremonial working, and the action taken in this instance to achieve it.

"Since the institution of Grand Chapter, great difficulties have been experienced in the conduct of the Royal Arch Installation Ceremony, owing to the absence of any recognised work of authoritative character. The form hitherto in use—the Scottish working—is not only imperfect and incomplete, but presents anomalies of the crudest character, and in places is absolutely misleading to the novice in Capitular installation work.

As the services of expert Grand Officers are not always available, the Committee felt that the time had arrived for placing the ceremony within the compass of attainment of every retiring Z. To this end Grand Scribe E. was invited to formulate an installation ceremony for submission to Supreme Committee. The result of the labours of this officer was presented at a meeting held on the 15th July, and the Committee was so satisfied with the work, that it was immediately adopted and ordered to be printed and circulated. Copies were issued to Chapters in time for the September installations. Opinions to hand express unqualified approval of the work.

Grand Chapter is indebted to Grand Scribe E. for his untiring exertions in this behalf.

Though this installation ritual is susceptible of improvement with regard to technical and printers' errors, the general formula is recognised as one of the most complete and consecutive forms of R.A: installation ceremonies. In considering the report the new ritual was the subject of general eulogy and Grand Scribe E. was accorded a special vote of thanks for his services in connection with editing the work."

It was reported at the last Annual Convocation that in one district, the relations between Chapters and Mark Lodges under the E.C. were not altogether of an amicable character, and a suggestion was made that an application be made to the Grand Mark Lodge of England for recognition. This was negatived, as not being compatible with dignity of a Grand Royal Arch Chapter.

Since that time, Bro. Dilworth Fox, the present D.M.M. of Canterbury under the E.C., has visited England, and endeavoured to adjust the difficulty, but in September last, in a private letter to Grand Scribe E., he wrote as follows :—"The Mark authorities have now definitely pronounced that, however much they may know privately and as individuals that things are allright, as a constitutional body they have had hitherto no official knowledge of the Mark degree as being worked by the Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand. It needs only an application in form, and they all say that they will undoubtedly immediately fall into line with the Craft authorities."

The Committee having considered the question, recommend that Grand Chapter waive the dignity of its undoubted position and make application in form for recognition, simply to preserve Masonic harmony.

Clause 5 : On the motion of M.E. Comps. Fletcher and Chambers, the action of Supreme Committee with reference to Mokoreta Mark Lodge was confirmed.

Clauses 6, 7, and 8 were agreed to without discussion. With reference to Clause 7, an extract from a letter to M.E. Comp. Bingham was read, stating that the Grand Chapter of New Jersey had accorded recognition, but Grand Scribe E. said no official intimation had reached him.

On Clause 9 a number of Comps. eulogised the new installation ritual, and on the motion of M.E. Comps. Chambers and Bingham, a special vote of thanks was accorded to M.E. Grand Scribe E. for his services in connection with this work.

Clause 10: Mark Masonry. Moved by M.E. Comp. Fowlds – "That the clause be agreed to, and the recommendation of the Committee be given effect to." Seconded by M.E. Comp. Ronaldson.

M.E. Comp. Widdowson dissented from the recommendation and was of opinion that the visit of Bro. Dilworth Fox to England had not improved matters in connection with the English Mark Masonry and the Grand Chapter of New Zealand in the Canterbury district. He would prefer to see the dignified attitude previously assumed by Grand Chapter maintained. M.E. Comp. Ronaldson asked if there was any record of a Grand Chapter applying to a G. Mark Lodge for recognition. Grand Scribe E. stated that he knew of no such instance, and it was not customary for fraternal relations to be entered into between Grand Chapters and Grand Mark Lodges; indeed, the Grand Chapters of America strongly deprecated the custom. It was true that the Grand Chapter of New Zealand had exchanged representatives with the Grand Mark Lodge of New South Wales, but the application had been made by the latter body. It was suggested to excise the clause from the report, but Grand Scribe E. pointed out it was not possible to take such a course. The report of a committee must stand on the records as submitted. It was competent for the meeting to disagree with any portion of it, and adopt adverse resolutions, but there was no power to prune it.

M.E. Comp. Widdowson moved, as an amendment, "that the clause be received, and that Supreme Committee be instructed not to make application to the Grand Mark Lodge of England for recognition." Seconded by M.E. Comp. Grandi.

M.E. Comp. Fowlds was permitted by Grand Chapter to withdraw his resolution, and the amendment of M.E. Comp. Widdowson then became the substantive motion, and on being submitted from the throne was unanimously adopted by Grand Chapter.

M.E. Comp. H. Y. Widdowson, on behalf of St. Augustine Chapter, No. 1. moved the following motion, of which notice had been previously given: "That Grand Superintendents be appointed with powers analagous to those in Craft Masonry." Comp. Widdowson, in moving the resolution, referred to the two reasons given by Supreme Committee against the proposal, viz. : First, that if these appointments are to have practical

results, the payment of travelling expenses is absolutely essential, which under the present revenue would be impossible; and secondly, such appointments might lessen the value, and cause some conflict with the four Grand Principals, who, in their own districts, have invariably exercised fair supervision. Referring to the second reason, there was no intention to cast any reflection on the work done by the four Grand Principals in the past, or lessen their influence and value in the future, but rather to enhance the importance of the position. It would be recognised that there was a difficulty in keeping Chapters together. The natural assumption was that members of the Craft would do their utmost to uphold and maintain the higher degrees, but this was not so, and some alteration was requisite to ensure capitular progression. Speaking for his own Chapter, he did not remember it receiving a visit from any Grand Principal, non-resident of the district, other than Dr. Boor, and he was satisfied that official visits were necessary, and would give Chapters a fillip up. He did not blame Grand Principals, as it was not reasonable to suppose they could travel round the colony at their own expense, neither did he think they should do so as a general thing, but the work of visitation for instruction and other purposes should be delegated to officers specially appointed, as in the case of Craft Freemasonry. With reference to the expense of such officers, it was quite possible to make appointments, in some instances, of those brethren occupying similar position in connection with Grand Lodge, by which the cost would be minimised, and in any case he did not think members of Chapters would object even to a small tax for the purpose. He was sure it would engender more interest, and the usefulness of the Grand Principals would not be curtailed. Failing the appointment of Superintendents, the Grand Principals should be clothed with greater powers, and provision made for meeting their expenses.

M.E. Comp. Andrews, in seconding the motion, fully endorsed the remarks of the mover, and was satisfied the course proposed would result in infusing more life into R.A. Freemasonry. M.E. Comp. Ronaldson fully concurred in the proposal if the sinews of war were available. If the districts would find the means, will Grand Chapter supply the officer ?

M.E. Comp. Chambers said that his Chapter had discussed the question and was opposed to it, consequently he would have to record his vote against the motion. He had visited several Chapters, and would continue to do so without payment.

M.E. Comp. Bingham had always considered the office of Grand Principal as honorary, and the officer ornamental, but Grand Superintendents should be working enthusiasts, whose sole object would be to advance the interests of this branch of Freemasonry.

The M.E. Grand Scribe E. said the fiscal part of the question was the most important. The charges now made on R.A. Masons were the lowest possible to enable Chapters to meet their liabilities, indeed in some Chapters this could scarcely be done, but it was recognised that all Companions were of necessity subscribing members of at least one other branch of Freemasonry, and some were members of several, hence the burden had always been made as-light as possible. Notwithstanding this fact, statements had been made that R.A. charges were too high, and he was very much afraid any additional tax for the payment of expenses of visitation or supervision would not take kindly. Personally he was most anxious for the success of Capitular Freemasonry, and would hail with pleasure any scheme that would compass that object. He would suggest that the resolution be postponed for a year, and that authority be given to appropriate the amount of the travelling expenses of the Grand Principals for the ensuing year ; this course would enable the experiment to be tried before altering existing law.

M.E. Comp. Fowlds thought it would be a mistake to carry the resolution at present., as circumstances were not ripe for such an elaborate scheme. He would move as an amendment—"That the further consideration of the question be postponed for twelve months, and that the travelling expenses of the Grand Principals be authorised for the ensuing year. '

M.E. Comp. Chambers seconded the motion *pro forma*, on the ground that he objected to the payment of expenses of Grand Principals. For his own part he would not render an account.

At the same time he was also opposed to any increase in the tax on members, as he was sure it would not benefit R.A. Masonry.

M.E. Comp. Grandi had not supposed that it was intended to provide for the travelling expenses of the proposed Superintendents, and his Chapter would not be in favour of an additional tax for the purpose.

M.E. Comp. Widdowson, in replying, said that some of the reasons given against the motion really constituted arguments in favour. Grand Principals were only intended to be figure heads, but Superintendents should be something more. The thanks of Grand Chapter were due to those G. Principals who had done so much in the past, but statutory officers should be appointed to take this work in hand in the future. He did not think the question of expense a consideration, neither did he think that any R.A. Mason would object to a small tax for the purpose. The fees in some Chapters were ridiculously small, as indeed they were in Craft Masonry. Chapters might do worse than follow the example of those Lodges that had recently raised their admission fees. He could not accept the suggestion of G.S.E., as his Chapter had decided to test the question.

On the question being put, 6 voted for the motion, and 9 against; it was consequently declared rejected.

The amendment of M.E. Comp. Fowlds having become the substantive motion was submitted when—

M.E. Comp. Widdowson moved to amend it by excising that portion referring to the payment of Grand Principals' travelling expenses.

The amendment was seconded by M.E. Comp. Andrews, and carried.

The motion was amended—viz., "that the further consideration of the question be postponed for twelve months"—was then submitted to Grand Chapter, and unanimously affirmed.

Amendments were made to the Constitutional laws, providing (1) that Annual Convocations may be held during the months of January or February; (2) all Officers but the Grand Recorder must be elected from members of Grand Chapter; (3) that only one First Principal can be elected by a Chapter in any one year; (4) for the automatic registration of P.G.Z. as members of Grand Chapter.

During the year Waterloo and Albert Edward Chapters made grants to the Annuity Fund of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, to assist in the work of Masonic benevolence.

On September 13th, 1903, Grand Chapter suffered great loss by the death of M.E. Comp. Henry Thomson, P.G.Z., a founder of Supreme Grand Chapter and Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand. The funeral took place in Christchurch, and the Masonic ceremony was conducted by M.E. Comp. Herbert J. Williams, P.G.Z., in his capacity of M.W. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand. All Chapters in this jurisdiction were instructed to observe a period of mourning for six months, and a special memorial page was ordered to be incorporated in the proceedings of Grand Chapter.

M.E. Comp. Rev. E. E. Chambers was elected G.Z., M.E. Comp. Geo. Fowlds D.G.Z., M.E. Comp. J. Macgregor G.H., and M.E. Comp. R. Fletcher G.J. for the ensuing year.

The Grand Z. and other Grand Principals-elect were then installed by M.F. Comp. Geo. H. Powley, and the officers present were invested.

Votes to the retiring Grand Z. and to St. Augustine Chapter for its kind reception and the general completeness of the arrangements, were unanimously adopted.

Address by the M.E. First Grand Principal :—

M.E. Grand Installing Principal, Grand Officers and Companions—I greet you. I wish I could say, "unaccustomed as I am to public speaking," and ask you to take the will for the deed, but this I cannot do, and will therefore ask you to bear with me for a few brief minutes. R.A. Masonry is not a large body, but is very united, and works well within the limits of its tow-line. Chapters are in some instances few and far between, and I think the main factor of the present existing tie in keeping us together is our indefatigable Grand Scribe E. During the past year, as Scribe of Albert Edward Chapter, I have sent some fifty letters on various subjects connected with R.A. Masonry, and always received immediate replies. Multiply this by the number of Chapters and we shall have some idea of the work done, and this is apart from the other items of work which were indicated this afternoon. Personally, I feel much indebted to him, and his reward will be hereafter.

I must express my appreciation and thanks for the honour done me to-day. I am not aware that I possess any special qualification for the office of First Grand Principal. When nominated for the office of Grand J., I kicked against the pricks, not considering myself worthy to fulfil the duties. You were good enough to bear with me then, and I must claim your forbearance in the future and ask you to put up with my shortcomings,

and to believe that I am doing any best. Probably my first promotion was due to the work done in my own Chapter. I had hoped that some Companion would be raised up to take my place in Albert Edward Chapter, and continue the work I have endeavoured to do for R.A. Masonry, but it would appear the time is not yet. I have always considered R.A. Masonry as the *summum bonum* of Freemasonry, and the Craftsman who stops at the M.M. Degree stops short. To members of other Constitutions I would ask them to believe that we ever offer them the warmest welcome, in proof of our kindly feelings. I may mention that Albert Edward recently elected a P.Z. of the S.C., M.E. Comp. Kirk, as an honorary member. I shall always be proud to extend the right hand of fellowship to any member of another Constitution, and I purpose visiting Chapters of other Constitutions as well) as my own. I cannot do more to show my friendship. I hope we shall all be animated by a unity of purpose, and extend R.A. Masonry all along the line.

CHAPTER XV.

THIRTEENTH YEAR-1904.



M.E. COMP. REV. E. ELIOT CHAMBERS, G.Z.-1904

The Convocation held in Auckland, 31st January, was responsible for material amendments to the Rules and Regulations of Grand Chapter. Of the 33 submitted, by Supreme Committee 32 were adopted, some slightly amended. Of the 7 submitted by Chapters 3 were withdrawn, 3 were rejected, and 1 was carried. In the absence of M.E. Comp. Rev. E. E. Chambers, G.Z., M.E. Comp. H. Wetherilt, P.G.Z. presided, and while the Auckland district was largely represented, the remainder of the Colony was conspicuous by the absence of representatives, Wellington alone having two present. The report of Supreme Committee chronicled the opening of Kawatiri Chapter, Granity, by Grand Scribe E., assisted by M.E. Comps. Fletcher, Porritt, and Freeman, from Wellington. And Waikato Chapter was constituted the day before the meeting of Grand Chapter, by M.E. Comp. O. Nicholson, Grand Scribe E., and a large number of Auckland Companions. An unfavourable report was received *re* Paritutu Chapter, which, it was announced, would have to become dormant under the law. The terse remarks of Supreme Committee on the position in New Plymouth are as applicable to-day as they were in 1904. They were as follows : —

"It is inexplicable that in a town having three good Lodges, and several others within easy communication, the brethren should be unable to maintain a Royal Arch Chapter. Though Paritutu cannot be said to have ever been a source of strength to Grand Chapter, yet it is a matter of extreme regret that the possibilities of a district possessing so many advantages should be thrown away."

Evidently the publication of certain correspondence with reference to the question of recognition had borne fruit, as the recognition by six Grand Chapters was reported, and the following representatives were appointed near New Zealand :—

Kansas: Comp. G. Fowlds.

Alabama : Comp. J. Macgregor.

Texas: Comp. Rev. E. E. Chambers.

South Australia: Comp. A. Clothier.

West Australia : Comp. C. J. W. Griffiths.

North Carolina : Comp. H. C. A. Wundram.

The second edition of Ritual Supreme Committee reported as follows :-

"As intimated to Chapters some months ago, it will become necessary to obtain an authority from Grand Chapter for the publication of another edition of Ritual, as the first edition is now exhausted. St. Augustine Chapter, No. 1, has made a number of suggested amendments which would greatly elaborate the present formula, while Auckland Provincial Chapter proposes to refer the question to a Committee.

But Supreme Committee strongly recommends that no attempt be made to alter or elaborate the present Ritual, and that a new edition be issued, subject to correction of technical and printer's errors, of which 80 have been noted. The Committee returns especial thanks to St. Augustine Chapter for its valuable suggestions, many of which could be incorporated with advantage if it were thought desirable to extend the ceremonies, but it must not be forgotten that while a longer Ritual ceremonial could doubtless be easily acquired and perfectly rendered in the larger Chapters, legislation must consider the difficulties of the large majority of Chapters, which are numerically small and suffer from many disadvantages, and should not impose increased burdens that would accrue in proportion to the lengthening of the Ritual. For these reasons and also from the necessity of obtaining an immediate supply, the Committee deprecate the suggestion of Auckland Chapter, of referring the whole question to a Committee, which would mean a delay of 18 months, with no compensating advantages."

The recommendation of the Committee was adopted after considerable discussion.

Grand Chapter further empowered the issue of a second edition of Constitution and Laws.

With reference to the question of appointment of Grand Superintendents, M.E. Comp. Geo. Fowlds said that this question had been very freely debated at the last Annual Convocation, and on his motion the further consideration was postponed for twelve months. He had given the matter some thought in the interval, and was strongly of opinion that such appointments would be premature so far as Royal Arch Masonry was concerned. He would now move that the motion be discharged from the order paper. The motion was seconded by M.E. Comp. H. J. Freeman, and on being submitted from the throne was unanimously concurred in.

A resolution was adopted—"That with a view to increasing the Benevolent Fund of Grand Chapter, it be a recommendation to Supreme Committee to take into consideration the propriety of making an appeal to all Constituent Chapters to take up a subscription in aid of the Benevolent Fund on the night of Annual Meeting."

The selection of Grand Principals resulted in the election of M.E. Comp. G. Fowlds as G.Z., M.E. Comp. J. Macgregor as D.G.Z., M.E. Comp. R. Fletcher as G.H., M.E. Comp. C. J. W. Griffiths as G.J.

At this stage Grand Scribe E. stated that he had been interviewed by M.E. Comp. Dr. L. G. Boor, P.G.Z., who had handed to him his Royal Arch clothing as P.G.Z., and generously requested him to present it to Grand Chapter at the Annual Convocation. Grand Scribe E. referred to the long service of M.E. Comp. Boor in the cause of Freemasonry, and expressed the greatest regret that age and increasing infirmities almost entirely precluded him from now joining in their assemblies, but, with his characteristic generosity, he had

not forgotten Grand Chapter. The Grand Scribe then proffered for the acceptance of Grand Chapter the kindly gift of the distinguished Companion.

The M.E.G.Z. on the throne, on behalf of Grand Chapter, accepted the R.A. clothing, and, though Comp. Boor was unable to meet with them, he. (G.Z.) expressed the hope that Comp. Boor would yet be spared many years to see the progress of Freemasonry in this jurisdiction.

Grand Scribe E. then moved the following resolution, which was seconded by M.E. Comp. Wetherilt from the throne, and carried by acclamation :-

"That Supreme Grand Chapter, in accepting the handsome gift of M.E. Comp. Dr. L. G. Boor, P.G.Z., is deeply touched at this further indication of the love and devotion of our aged and distinguished Comp. for Royal Arch Freemasonry, and most deeply deplores the fact that by reason of increasing years he is no longer able to participate in the meetings of the institution he has always loved so well, and who throughout his: long and useful career has ever presented to his brethren and the world the Life of an ideal Freemason."

"It is hereby ordered that a copy of the resolution be entered on the record of the Jay's proceedings, and a copy be forwarded to M.E. Comp. L. G. Boor, P.G.Z."

At the evening session the Principals were installed and Officers present invested, M.E. Comp. H. J. Williams again filling the role of Installing Grand Principal, by special request.

M.E. Comp. George Fowlds, G.Z., in addressing the Companions, said he fully appreciated and thanked his Companions for the very high honour which had been conferred upon him. He felt quite as much impressed with the responsibilities and duties of the office as with the honour thereof. He quite recognised the fact that in calling him to this high office his Companions were acknowledging the services he had rendered to Freemasonry a good many years ago rather than those rendered by him in the immediate past. The circumstances of his Life in recent years had prevented him from giving the close and regular attention to his Masonic duties which he would have liked; at the same time, in accepting his present office he would be able to render some service which would be of value. As far as circumstances would permit, he intended to visit the various Chapters, giving special consideration to those in outlying or isolated districts. The number of Chapters and Royal Arch Masons in New Zealand at present is not very large, but if he lived for another forty or fifty years he expected to see the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand a very large and influential institution. The honour then of being its head would probably be more highly prized than it was to-day, but, however long he lived, and however prosperous the institution became, he should always look back with pride and pleasure to the time he had been so highly honoured by his Companions. He had been present at the birth of Grand Chapter, and had watched with interest and joy the steady and substantial progress it had made. If the Royal Arch Masons would honestly and earnestly endeavour to mould their daily lives by the sublime principles inculcated in the several degrees recognised by Grand Chapter they will secure happiness for themselves, and, what is far more important, assist in diffusing happiness into the life of others, and by so doing "Prosper the Art" of R.A. Freemasonry and help to make our beloved New Zealand the glorious land it ought to be.

The following valedictory address from the retiring G.Z. was read by G.S.E. :—"It is with sincere regret that I find myself unable to attend the Annual Convocation of Supreme Chapter to be held in Auckland, the more so as it would have afforded me a real pleasure to instal M.E. Comp. G. Fowlds in the chair of G.Z. My apology must be that owing to ill-health I had to take an enforced holiday a short time since, and find it now impossible to go such a distance from home. From the annual report it will be seen how progressive R.A. Masonry has been in New Zealand. Our additions have not been numerous, but our increase year by year is steady, and I venture to assert that Capitular Masonry is on a sound basis, and judging from my experience, which extends over many years, is a real help to Craft Masonry. As an example, I would merely quote the place I live in, where the large majority of town members of our Lodge are also members of the Albert Edward Chapter. May I be allowed to remark that we, as Capitular Masons, should more often explain to our Brethren in Craft Masonry that what is lacking in the M.M. Degree, what is unfinished, *what is lost*, is supplied in the R.A., is finished, and is found; and moreover, although in Craft Masonry our work is more or less founded on the V. of the S.L., yet the work of .the Excellent and particularly of the R.A. in exaltation impresses the mind with many beautiful illustrations of those Portions of Holy Writ so little known to the

average Mason. We as Capitular Masons can truly say without any egotism that the solemnity of our conclaves is a useful lesson to the careless, sometimes irreverent, manner in which some Lodge meetings are conducted. It is my invariable custom at Installations of Chapters to point out that we are representatives of that magnificent Highpriesthood of old to whom Jehovah granted the care of His people. May I be allowed to here draw attention to what I conceive a shortcoming in our R.A. Masonry. I mean the lack of titular rank to the officers of Supreme Grand Chapter. The Z. of an ordinary Chapter is M.Ex., so is the Grand Z. of New Zealand, and I think our Brethren in the United States of America introduce the title Grand High Priest, D.G.H.P., also Grand King, etc. There may not be much in this matter, yet those of us who have attained Past rank in the Grand Lodge of New Zealand value our titles, and why should not some such distinction be given to Supreme Grand officers? I cannot close without expressing a large debt of gratitude to M.E. Comp. H. J. Williams, G.S.E. As Supreme Grand Chapter is aware, I am S.E. to, I think, the largest Chapter in New Zealand, which entails very much correspondence with G.S.E. It has never been my lot to have received anything but the greatest courtesy, combined with the most valuable advice; in fact, from my experience of Chapters in Canterbury, the various account-books are kept in Wellington. That Comp. Williams may be long spared to guide our craft, and that Supreme Grand Chapter may in a proper manner recognise such, is the sincere wish of R.A. Masonry in this island. In conclusion, I be to offer my personal congratulations to my successor, and may I assure him that I will always esteem it a favour to be allowed to conduct any installations or work of any kind in Canterbury.—E. ELIOT CHAMBERS, P.G.Z.

CHAPTER XVI.

FOURTEENTH YEAR-1905.



M.E. COMP. GEO. FOWLDS, G.2.-1905

The Fourteenth Annual Convocation was held in Invercargill on the 29th January, 1906. The M.E.G.Z. (Comp. G. Fowlds) being absent from the Colony, the chair was taken by M.E. Comp. W. B. Scandrett, P.G.Z. Constituent Chapters were only moderately represented, and apologies of members of Grand Chapter were much in evidence, but that of M.E. Comp. D. Grieg was deemed most legitimate, his plea being the attainment of 'four-score' years. The following extract from the Annual Report is a concise exposition of the affairs of the jurisdiction.

"Though Waikato Chapter was chartered just before the close of 1904, it was not constituted until the 30th January of the present year, on the evening immediately preceding the last Convocation of Grand Chapter. M.E. Comp. Geo. Fowlds, the then D.G.Z., conducted the ceremony, assisted by M.E. Comp. O. Nicholson and a number of other Companions from Auckland, Paeroa and the Thames, who had devoted a public holiday to this purpose. The attendance was good, the ceremony excellently rendered, and the new Chapter was born into the world of Capitular Freemasonry under the most favourable auspices.

Paritutu Chapter, New Plymouth, became dormant under Rule 66, and has returned its Charter, books, etc., to Grand Chapter, after having paid all fees and dues. The hope has been expressed by some of the leading members that work may subsequently be resumed.

Though no further Chapters have been added to the Roll during the year, a petition has been received from Wanganui for the erection of a Chapter there. The prayer of the petition has been granted by Supreme Committee, but it is not proposed to constitute the Chapter, which will be No. 23 on the Roll, until after the Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter. If the same interest, earnestness and intelligence that operates the Craft Lodges there is imported into the Holy Royal Arch, the Wanganui Chapter will soon take place in the van of Capitular Freemasonry.

M.E. Comp. Michel is of opinion that there is an excellent opening for a R.A. Chapter in the Hokitika-Greymouth portion of the Westland district, and has promised to ascertain the views of other resident Companions.

Mokoreta Mark Lodge now appears to be working satisfactorily, and five members were enrolled during the past year.

There have been complaints with reference to the twelve months' qualification imposed at the last Annual Convocation, and the returns of one Chapter show considerable diminution, which it attributes to the new law, and it is further stated that it places our Chapters in an unfair position with reference to other constitutions.

The number of Chapters on the register is 21, and one Mark Lodge.. This number will be increased almost immediately by the erection of Wanganui Chapter. The total membership is 775 as against 716 at Last return.'

Supreme Committee drew attention to the fact that as the Christmas and New Year holidays interfere with the work of balancing the books and getting out the statements of account and Annual Report, it will be necessary to close the books on the 15th December instead of the 31st. Attention was also directed to the abnormal procrastination in forwarding Chapter returns.

It was announced that during the year new editions of Constitution, and also R.A. Ritual had been printed, and were in process of circulation.

At the last Convocation Supreme Committee recommended the adoption of biennial meetings of Grand Chapter, primarily for economical reasons, secondly, because of the absence of interest manifested in the affairs of the governing body by a large number of Chapters. Some discussion took place on the motion, and the further consideration was then deferred for twelve months. In order that there might be some data before Grand Chapter when consideration of the question was resumed, Supreme Committee decided to ask all Chapters for an expression of opinion on the subject, with the result that nine Chapters decided in favour of Annual Convocations, one for biennial, and seven suggested as an alternative that a scheme of representation be brought down, eight Chapters did not reply.

Owing to the reception given by Chapters to this question, no further consideration was given by Grand Chapter.

The question of making Grand Chapter a representative assembly was first introduced at this meeting, and Supreme Committee submitted the following premises and recommendations:—

"Though the form of government which has obtained in Grand Chapter for the past fourteen years has resulted, with one exception, in meetings of the most harmonious character, Supreme Committee is of opinion that the time has now arrived through the development of the institution, to free the governing body from any suspicion of local influence, by the substitution of a representative constitution similar to that in operation in the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, and the Committee is fortified in its opinion by the vote of those Chapters that strongly support the suggestion. As the outcome of this opinion Supreme Committee submits the question to Grand Chapter : 'That the Constitution of Grand Chapter be amended by the substitution of a scheme for the election of one representative from each constituent Chapter under the jurisdiction, the transit expenses of such representatives to be paid as hereinafter provided in certain rules

and regulations, which will be submitted for the consideration of this Grand Chapter in the event of this resolution being affirmed.'

"Supreme Committee does not assume there will be any diversity of opinion as to the principle involved, but at the same time recognises that the primary consideration will be the question of finance. To assist Grand Chapter in its deliberations a tabulated statement has been prepared showing the transit cost of holding a session in each of the following centres:-

	£	s.	d.
Auckland ...	... 115	6	2
Wellington	... 59	15	6
Christchurch	... 67	17	6
Dunedin	... 89	11	10
Invercargill	... 116	11	4
Average, exclusive of Principals	£89	16	3
716 members @ 2s. 6d. would realise	89	10	0

Some discussion took place on the motion as recommended, and ultimately it was unanimously affirmed, and the following new laws were adopted, thus marking an entirely new departure in the policy of Grand Chapter:—

Any Chapter may appoint one of its members—who must also be a member of Grand Chapter—to represent it at the Annual Convocations.

A representative must be appointed by Commission under the seal of the Chapter signed by the First Principal and Scribe E, and such Commission must be in the office of Grand Scribe E. at least seven days before each Annual Convocation, and no Commission shall be valid until all fees shall have been paid to Grand Chapter, by the Chapter issuing the Commission. No Companion can represent more than one Chapter at the same time.

Each representative shall be entitled to exercise one vote as provided in Rule 25. The actual travelling expenses by coach, rail and steamer of representatives distant more than 25 miles from the place of Annual Convocation, shall be paid by Grand Chapter, and Grand Chapter shall at each Annual Convocation decide by resolution the amount to be paid by each Chapter for each of its members for the succeeding year, to the Representative Fund.

The actual travelling expenses by coach, rail, and steamer of the four Grand Principals, and if considered necessary by Supreme Committee, the Grand Recorder, when attending the Annual Convocations, shall be paid by Grand Chapter, unless either of them shall have been elected as a representative of a Chapter.

The following Representatives were appointed during the year:—

New York: Comp. Edgar M. Miller; near N.Z., Camp. Herbert J. Williams.

West Australia: Comp. Robert Wigglesworth.

Mississippi: Comp. J. H. Pertwood; near N.Z., Comp. Rev. W. Ronaldson.

Iowa: Comp. J. H. Maggard; near N.Z., Comp. A. Bartlett.

Kentucky: Near the Grand Chapter of N.Z., M.E. Comp. W. B. Scandrett, P.G.Z.

Illinois: Near the Grand Chapter of N.Z., M.E. Comp. S. C. Bingham.

Notwithstanding that several applications have been made to the Grand Chapter of Scotland for recognition, no reply has been received. But as the M.E. Grand Z. is now visiting Scotland, Supreme authority was given M.E. Comp. Fowlds, by special resolution, to act as the Representative of the Grand Chapter of N.Z. on the question of recognition and the interchange of representatives.

The Benevolent Fund balance was declared as £100 9s., and the thanks of Grand Chapter were recorded to Comp. Fred J. Brown, a member of Manawatu Chapter, but now residing in the far-away Yukon Territory, Canada, for a donation of three guineas.

In October Last a request was received from M.E. Camp. Hoggins, Z., of Prince of Wales Chapter, E.C., Christchurch, that the ceremony of "Passing the Veils" as rendered under the RC., be considered equivalent to the Excellent Degree under the N.Z.C. The matter was referred to St. Augustine Chapter, No. 1, Christchurch, as being primarily interested, and that body recommended that the request be complied with. The correspondence is herewith appended:—

St. John's,
Christchurch,
October 3rd, 1905.

Dear Sir and M.E. Companion,

May I ask you to consider yourself and bring before Supreme Grand Chapter of N.Z. the following matter and petition, which I make on behalf of the Prince of Wales R.A. Chapter, working under the Supreme Grand Chapter of England.

We have decided in our Chapter to work the "Passing of the Veils," and a large number of our Companions went through the ceremony at our last regular meeting, taking an obligation not to reveal the words except to a Companion that shall have "passed the veils" with us *or taken the Excellent Degree in other Constitutions*. The "Passing the Veil" is of course to all intents and purposes the Excellent Degree—the idea is the same, the signs the same only transposed, the words *partly* the same, only the grip is lacking. What we ask is that our "Passing the Veils" shall be recognised as the Excellent Degree when visiting in your Chapters and *vice versa*, and we are willing to assimilate the two by giving the grip as in the Scotch Ritual and giving your words as alternatives to our own. I may add two strong arguments in favour of what we ask: (1) M.E. Comp. Chambers, in private conversation, has expressed himself as entirely in favour of this course. (2) When I was in Queensland this course was adopted in practice by all the Constitutions, and I have myself been present (and know the words and signs) in Irish, Scotch and New Zealand Excellent Lodges.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,
A. C. HOOGINS, Z.

Prince of Wales R.A.C., No. 1916, E.C.
St. Augustine R.A.C., No. 1,
Christchurch,
November 1st, 1905.

To the Grand S.E.'

Dear and Most Excellent Companion,

I am instructed by the Chapter to state that they are unanimously in favour of adopting the suggestions of E. Comp. Rev. Hoggins, *re* the recognition of "Passing the Veils," as synonymous with Ex. Masters in N.Z.

J. RHODES, S.E..

Grand Chapter, after clue deliberation, adopted the following resolution :—"That R.A. Masons who have gone through the ceremony of "Passing the Veils" in Chapters that do not work the Excellent Degree shall be eligible to visit Chapters holding under the Grand Chapter of N.Z., when open in the Excellent Degree, upon giving the requisite P.W. and G."

The qualification for the admission of candidates into Capitular Freemasonry was altered from "twelve" months as a Master Mason, to "one" month.

It was resolved that Companions holding appointments as Grand Representatives, who are not subscribing members of Chapters, be required to return their commissions forthwith.

Supreme Committee was authorised to consider the question of centralising the meetings of Grand Chapter, and report to the next Annual Convocation. The following Grand Principals were elected: M.E. Comp. J. Macgregor, G.Z.; M.E. Comp. R. Fletcher, D.G.Z.; M.E. Comp. C. J. W. Griffiths, G.H.; M.E. Comp. S. C. Bingham, G.J. The Grand Principals were installed with all due ceremony at the evening session, the

services of M.E. Comp. Herbert J. Williams, P.G.Z., being once again requisitioned as installing Grand Principal.

M.E. Comp. James Macgregor, G.Z., in addressing Grand Chapter, said :—"Words fail me in expressing my feelings on the high and distinguished honour conferred upon me by my election and enthronement as First Grand Principal of Grand Chapter, and I fully realise the truth of that part of the charge just recited to me, 'that the further we advance in R.A. Freemasonry and the higher we are elevated in rank the greater are the responsibilities, and the more important are the duties and services expected from us.' I do not fail to recognise the responsibilities and the nature of the duties, but my fear is that I shall fall short of the high ideal set, and hence my diffidence in assuming the position. I can only promise to put forth my best efforts in the future as I have endeavoured to do in the past when filling the less onerous positions.

"While fully appreciating the honour to myself, I can but feel that my Chapter must of necessity participate with me in the honour conferred, and I take this opportunity of offering my best thanks to the Southern Cross Chapter for so kindly continuing its confidence in me by the nominations made to each of the Grand Principals' Chairs, and also to the members of Grand Chapter for the unanimity of my election on this occasion. To those who have come from afar to conduct and assist at the ceremony we have had so much pleasure in hearing, my especial thanks are due, and I trust their self-sacrifice will find some little compensation in a visit to the "sunny south."

"The reports presented at our business meeting this afternoon are satisfactory, but I do not consider our rate of progress so great as it might be if more individual effort were exerted. We have twenty-one working Chapters, and it should not be difficult to secure a net increase of five members in each, which would make a total of 100 for the year. I express the hope that this result may find realisation during my term of office. I do not think it would be out of place to draw the attention of deserving members of the Craft to some expressions used by M.E. Comp. Chambers, P.G.Z., in his valedictory address last year, who pointed out the disappointment of ten experienced by the M.M. on finding that the genuine secrets were lost; and who does not know how such sorrow may be turned to joy in the R.A. Degree.

"The Annual Report presented to Grand Chapter caused some surprise from the fact that only three Chapters had adopted the suggestion in taking up subscriptions in aid of the Benevolent Fund on the night of annual meeting. I am inclined to think the long time that had elapsed between the issue of the circular and the annual meetings was responsible for the default and would suggest the issue of another circular immediately preceding the next installation meetings. In Invercargill the omission could be rectified by action that evening.

"My especial thanks are due to M.E. Comp. Seandrett for presiding at the afternoon business meeting, and to M.E. Comp. Williams for the able and impressive manner in which he conducted the installation ceremony this evening. I can not refrain from referring to the excellent manner in which the duties of Grand Scribe E. are performed. The manner in which the business has been presented to this Convocation will speak for itself, but I personally have had a very large amount of correspondence with the executive officer, and I have been greatly impressed with the promptitude of reply, and the willingness at all times of G.S.E. to give information and advice when asked on all matters affecting Freemasonry. Long may our distinguished Comp. be spared to assist in the progression of Capitular Freemasonry.

"While I fill the chair of G.Z. I will endeavour to maintain the dignity of the institution in a manner that will reflect honour and credit on your choice. With regard to visitations, I am afraid my business engagements will not allow me to do as much as I should like, but I hope to be able to arrange to open Wanganui Chapter on the 14th prox., and may be able to arrange to visit Waterloo at the same time, and during the year I will endeavour to visit as many South Island Chapters as possible. I express the hope that R.A. Masonry may flourish in N.Z., not only by increase in numbers, but also by the practise of virtue and truth; so that we may show the world that it is not a society of forms and ceremonies alone, but that its mission is in doing good by the exercise of the cardinal virtue, charity. Not alone the charity that consists of rendering pecuniary relief, but the higher charity of Brotherly love and fraternal kindness, by affording relief and consolation in the hour of affliction, thus qualifying for admission to the Grand Chapter above, and to the presence of the GREAT I AM.

CHAPTER XVII.

FIFTEENTH YEAR-1906.



M.E. COMP. J. MACGREGOR, G.Z.-1906

The City of Wellington was responsible as the place of meeting for the Fifteenth Annual Convocation, and the occasion was memorable by reason of the large attendance, and the consideration of a difference of a private Chapter that required adjustment.

The G.Z., M.E. Comp. J. Macgregor, presided, and 18 Chapters responded to the call of the roll.

A very long discussion took place on a motion for the adoption of a supplementary report of Supreme Committee, dealing with the difference referred to. Ultimately the supplementary report was adopted unaltered.

Supreme Committee announced the appointments of Grand Representatives made during the year, as follows:—

Near Kentucky, William Whitlock Clark—From, W. B. Scandrett.

Near Illinois, Louis L. Emmerson—From, S. C. Bingham.

Near West Virginia, W. M. Sivey—From, S. Derbidge. Oregon—J. G. Cox (to fill vacancy).

Near Tennessee, Samuel B. La Rue—From, H. J. Freeman.

Near Maine, Thos. H. Bodge—From, O. Nicholson.

Near Massachusetts (to nominate yet)—From, R. T. Melhuish.

A custom prevails in some American jurisdictions of making the appointments triennially, which, while it may have something to recommend it, also has its disadvantages. As an example, North Carolina nominated a new representative, but did not return the Commission issued to the previous Companion for cancellation. It was pointed out by G.S.E. that a cancellation of the first Commission was necessary before a second could be issued, and this action was approved by the Committee.

The writer, after a quarter of a century's experience, strongly deprecates the custom of limited appointments.

The year 1906 was one of the most successful in increasing the roll since the institution of Grand Chapter. In February, Wanganui Chapter was constituted, under very favourable auspices, by the M.E. First Grand Principal (Comp. Macgregor), assisted by D.G.Z. Comp. Fletcher, P.G.Z., and G.S.N.

During the month of May petitions were received from Brooklyn (Wellington) and Newtown (South Wellington) for Charters, and, after very careful consideration, Supreme Committee decided to grant the prayer of both petitions. Brooklyn Chapter, No. 24, was instituted in June, and Hinemoa in July of last year. The experience up to the present is, that the new Chapters have exercised a stimulating influence on the veteran Waterloo Chapter, No. 2.

Wellington City is now in the same position with regard to the number of Chapters as each of the other cities, with this difference, that the three Chapters in Wellington are under the same banner, whereas in the other places two hold allegiance to foreign Constitutions.

An application has been made by eleven Companions residing at Winton (Southland) for a Charter, and as the petition was strongly recommended by the M.E. First Grand Principal, and it will be under the aegis of Southern Cross Chapter, Supreme Committee had no hesitation in ordering a Charter to issue.

In November a petition for a Mark Lodge from six Mark Masters resident in Papakura was received, but as the information to hand, even from the petitioners, indicated that there was very little chance of a strong Lodge resulting, the Committee decided that the interests of Grand Chapter would be best served by refusing the application.

Grand Chapter has deprecated the establishment of Mark Lodges, and Supreme Committee is of opinion there are good and sufficient reasons for such deprecation, apart from any possible numerical strength of such Lodges.

The Northern district of Auckland and Hokitika are still mentioned as possible fields for the establishment of R.A. Chapters, but Supreme Committee does not consider it to be within its proper sphere of influence to force a growth of Chapters in any district.

At the last Convocation M.E. Comp. G. Fowlds, P.G.Z., who was visiting Scotland, was asked to act as the Special Grand Representative of Grand Chapter in the matter of obtaining recognition from the Grand Chapter of Scotland, and he was at the same time notified that applications for recognition had been made to all Grand Chapters in 1898, and repeated to those from whom no reply had been received, in 1902. He was further informed that the basis of recognition would have to be: (1) That no more Scottish Charters would be granted; (2) that there could be no return of books, regalia, or funds of Chapters formerly under the Scottish Constitution. On the 17th March, Comp. Fowlds wrote G.S.E. as follows :—

"Your letter, with resolution, reached me on Thursday last. I have been to Scotland for a few days, and will be returning in about a month's time, when I will see what I can do about recognition. Of course I would not consider any proposal that did not provide for the two points you mention."

On 4th May Comp. Fowlds again wrote from Edinburgh :—

"I reached this city yesterday, and had an interview with Comp. Brown, G.S.E. He is very friendly personally, but *very old*. He has no knowledge of any application having been made by the G. Chapter of N.Z. for recognition. His Committee will follow the Grand Lodge of Scotland. At the request of the B. of G. P., Dunedin, I am meeting the Foreign and Colonial Committee of the G. Lodge of Scotland at the end of the month. I am hopeful, after talking to the Grand Secretary and Chairman of the Committee, that a settlement satisfactory to us may be arrived at. Pending such a settlement, nothing further can be done *re* Grand Chapter recognition I have promised to see Comp. Brown when I return to Edinburgh, and will as far as possible leave things in training for immediate recognition after the Grand Lodge dispute is settled."

On Comp. Fowlds' return to the colony he summed up the position very tersely in a letter dated 8th October, 1906 :—

"The position is simply this: they are willing and anxious to recognise us immediately, but they have a working arrangement with the Grand Lodge to act in concert with them. As soon, therefore, as the present difficulty between the two Grand Lodges is settled, recognition from the Grand Chapter of Scotland will follow as a matter of course."

In order that the application for recognition should be placed beyond dispute, the following letter was sent by instruction of the Committee:—

Wellington, N.Z.,
1st Nov., 1906.

M.E. Comp. Robert S. Brown,
Grand Scribe E. Supreme Grand R.A. Chapter of
Scotland, Edinburgh.

Dear Sir and Comp.,

It was reported to my Supreme Committee, at a meeting held last week, by M.E. Comp. George Fowlds, P.G.Z., who recently visited Scotland, that no application for recognition had yet reached the Grand Chapter of Scotland from New Zealand.

I can only say that two applications have been posted from this office, the first in September, 1898, and the second in February, 1902: and it is a singular coincidence that neither have reached their destination.

I now, by instruction of Supreme Committee, make formal application for recognition, on the original form of letter, as evidence of my statement. I would point out that our position has changed since that date, as instead of 14 Chapters we now number 26, and are in fraternal relationship with 30 Grand Chapters, including those of England and Ireland. Our present Grand Z. is M.E. Comp. James Macgregor, of Invercargill.

Trusting that your Grand Chapter will favourably consider our request, and with fraternal good wishes,

Very fraternally yours,

HERBERT J. WILLIAMS,
Grand Scribe E.

A very large number of amendments to the general Rules and Regulations were on the agenda, the most important being the change in the designation of Grand Officers and the First Principal and Past First Principal of Chapters. Up to this date the British custom had been followed of designating First Principals of Chapters and all Grand Officers, including G.Z. as "Most Excellent." This presented so strange an anomaly that it appeared doubtful whether any titular designation was really required, unless a distinctive change were made. Supreme Committee, after careful consideration and consulting foreign Capitular authority, recommended that G.Z. be designated "Most Excellent," other Grand Principals "Right Excellent," subordinate Grand Officers and First Principals of Chapters "Very Excellent." Though there was verbal opposition to the proposal, on being put to the vote it was unanimously affirmed. After the lapse of years and seeing how well the change in designations has operated, it is amusing to refer back and note the extraordinary nature of some of the objections then raised. A motion, of which notice had been given at the previous Convocation, having for its object the centralising of the meeting of Grand Chapter, was moved by Comp. Griffiths, but after discussion the motion was put and lost on the voices.

A short table, compiled by G.S.E. was presented, which had a very serious aspect. It showed that the admissions since the institution of Grand Chapter amounted to 1481. Of that number there have been 594 secessions, 369 by resignation, 158 struck off, and 67 deaths. In other words, one-fourth of the total membership had resigned, and a ninth had been struck off. As Supreme Committee put it, "Surely this calls for some investigation with a view to mitigation in the future."

FINANCE.

The fiscal affairs of Grand Chapter for the year exhibited steady progress', and compare most favourably with the previous year, both in receipts and expenditure, as the following figures will show :—

1905. Receipts £ 206 4 0 ... Expenditure £162 12 9

1906. Do. £2258 5 0 Do. £182 0 10

*Exclusive of Rep. Tax.

Thus, while the receipts indicated an increase of £52 1s., the excess of expenditure over the previous year only amounted to £19 8s. 1d., and such expenditure included a special non-recurring vote of £50. The total cash balance to credit of Grand Chapter is 2451 9s. 7d., which, after providing for the liabilities of Benevolent Fund and Representative Tax, leaves a credit cash balance of 2225 4s. 7d.

M.E. Comp. R. Fletcher was elected G.Z., R.E. Comp. C. J. W. Griffiths, D.G.Z.; R.E. Comp. S. C. Bingham, G.H.; V.E. Comp. Arthur Clothier, G.J. As usual, the evening session was devoted to installation purposes, and at the special request of M.E. Comp. It. Fletcher, and also of the retiring Grand Z., M.E. Comp. Herbert J. Williams filled the role of Installing Grand Principal. After the investiture of officers the customary congratulatory greetings were offered, and after an excellent address by the M.E.G.Z., one of the most animated meetings of Grand Chapter was terminated.

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY M.E. GRAND Z. COMP. FLETCHER.

"M.E. Comp. Grand Installing Principal, and M.E. Comps., Grand Chapter Officers, and Companions :—I desire to express my warmest and sincere thanks for the very high and distinguished honour you have conferred upon me by electing me and installing me as First Grand Principal of N.Z. Grand Royal Arch Chapter for the coming year. When I say that I keenly appreciate the honour you have conferred, I give very poor and inadequate expression to my feelings. because I look upon this position to-night as the very summit of Masonic ambition in Capitular Freemasonry. At the same time I must tell you that I feel a very great deal of diffidence in accepting this high honour, because it brings with it very serious responsibility. More especially is that so as I reel deeply conscious of the skill, worth, and ability of those Royal Arch Companions who have been my predecessors in this chair. I can assure you, Companions, that I hope I may in some measure prove worthy of the exalted position in which you have placed me to-night. It is needless to say that I shall use my best endeavour and to the best of my ability perform the work of this high office.

"To M.E. Comp. Past Grand Principal Macgregor : I desire to thank you, Sit, for your journey from the extreme South of the South Island to be present here to-night at my installation. I also esteem it a very great honour to be associated with you in this branch of Freemasonry. I shall never forget the first time I met you in Nelson some years ago, and from that date to this we have been fast friends. I tell the Companions present here who have the pleasure of your acquaintance that it is to be estimated, and I tell the Companions that those who know you appreciate your good qualities, and I hope you may be spared long to aid us in -the government of Royal Arch Freemasonry. To my old friend and Companion, Past Grand Z. Williams, our invaluable Scribe E., I can only say this, that I feel very deeply when I refer to him who has been my mentor and friend all through my Masonic career. It was he in the first instance who installed me on two occasions in my own mother Lodge in Craft Masonry. He also installed me as First Principal in my mother Chapter Waterloo. I am associated with him in the Brooklyn Chapter as the second in command, and to-night I am very proud and pleased indeed that he has been the instrument in placing me in the Chair of Grand Chapter. I can assure the Companions present that the longer and more they know of Companion Williams the better they will appreciate him. To M.E. Comp. Williams we owe a very large debt of gratitude, because I know that in Masonry in New Zealand he is most ready to assist by advice or help, or both and Companion or any Brother who may require his assistance, and I am quite certain to-night that I am echoing the

wishes and the sentiments of the Companions here present when I say I hope he may be long spared to give his advice and counsel in not only this branch but in all branches of Freemasonry. One thing that comforts me to-night is that with his aid and the assistance of those Companions who are with me I am quite certain that the responsibilities and difficulties that may beset my path as Grand Z. of this Colony will be much lessened by the very, valuable assistance and advice of Grand Scribe E.

"I would just like to refer to some of the business dealt with this afternoon. In the returns placed before you you will have noticed the progress that has been made by Royal Arch Masonry during the last twelve months has been very marked indeed. Financially we have progressed very materially. Numerically we have progressed. As the Past Grand Z. has told you, there have been four new Chapters consecrated during the year. But there is one thing that struck me, and that is the very large number of Companions who leave our ranks, at all events, the very large number who become passive and non-active in Royal Arch Masonry. There is something wrong in this. I do not know what the remedy may be, but I shall be very proud if a remedy can be suggested—means whereby this may be prevented. You have only to look at the table presented by Grand Scribe E. to see the large number that have left our ranks. You know that when a keen Brother in Craft Masonry reaches the Chair of his Lodge—he may be a zealous officer in the Royal Arch Degree—of course when he reaches the position of Principal Soj. until he arrives at the Chair of his Lodge he is unable to proceed into the Principal Chair. There may be delay in this, and the result is that he loses all interest in Capitular Freemasonry. I do not know if that is the reason, but it struck me as being probably the reason. I am quite, sure the Companions will assist to push on the good work of Capitular Freemasonry, but if Royal Arch Masonry is what we believe it to be—that is, practically the completion of the Masonic teaching in the other degrees—then every Companion who has the welfare of his Chapter at heart ought to do all in his power to promote the success of the Royal Arch Degree, because I am quite sure that the teachings there will amply repay the trouble.

"I think there is another point I might touch on; that is, that every Companion ought to take upon himself to prudently select those members of the Craft whom he thinks will become an honour in the higher degrees in Masonry. A great deal of misconception is rife as to this—that is not incumbent upon members of Craft Lodges to go in for the Royal Arch Degree. I can only hope that Royal Arch Freemasonry will continue to flourish in this fair land of ours, and I think if Companions will look at it in the proper light they will uphold the dignity of Royal Arch Masonry. We must endeavour to inculcate the carrying out of the all-important duties which we owe to God, to our neighbours, and to ourselves.

"Companions, I again thank you for the very high honour you have conferred upon me, and I sincerely hope that peace, harmony, and brotherly love will prevail throughout the Colony, and that it will be a bright and happy year to one and all of us in Royal Arch Masonry."

Though it is the duty of the historian to faithfully record all primary events, there are instances when the best interests will be served by a golden silence. At this session, which was of dominant importance from a general business point of view, the attendance was abnormally large, and the proceedings were more than animated at times in connection with aforesaid dispute, "the debate" was exceedingly long, and though the result was characterised by an overwhelming preponderance of opinion, it subsequently became evident that the difference was not adjusted. However, at a later stage—out of session—other influences were brought to bear, with the result that the heavy clouds soon dispersed and the blue sky of amity shone forth in all its splendour.

CHAPTER XVIII.

SIXTEENTH YEAR-1907.



M.E. COMP. R. FLETCHER, G.Z. 1907

The Annual Convocation was held in Blenheim on the 23rd January, 1908, and the occasion will be memorable to those Companions who attended, if only from the fact, that in the early morning after their arrival a very large and disastrous fire occurred, an hotel at which some of the Companions were located being one of the buildings destroyed. On the day following the Convocation the visitors were taken down the river in motor haunches, and by some means or other the boats got too close to the bar, one host grounded, and for a time it appeared as if some of the Companions were likely to "Cross the bar" for the last time. Considerable alarm and some wetting were the maximum evils suffered, and the water picnic was acknowledged as a counterpoise to the fire panic.

M.E. Comp. R. Fletcher presided at the Convocation, supported by a full complement of Grand Officers, and 16 Chapters were represented at the call of the roll. In the correspondence Timaru Chapter regretted being unrepresented and suggested that meetings of Grand Chapter should be held alternately in Wellington and Christchurch.

The following appointments of Representatives from and near were made:—

Near Maine, Eugene T. Murchison—From, appointed previous year.

Near Massachusetts, Edwin S. Crandon—From, appointed previous year.

Near State of Virginia, P. Thomas—From, Willie Moore, Carterton.

The progress of Royal! Arch Masonry was very marked during the year, and the Committee was of opinion Grand Chapter was to be congratulated on its additions.

On the 29th of April petitions were considered for the institution of Chapters at Whangarei, Auckland, and from Ravensbourne, Otago, and after due deliberation it was decided to charter Whangarei as No. 27, and Maori, Ravensbourne, No. 28.

On the 24th June an application from a number of Companions of Hokitika was received by Supreme Committee, and a Charter to Westland, Kil. No. 29, was ordered to issue.

R.E. Comp. Arthur Clothier, G.J., was deputed to institute Maori Chapter, and the ceremony was very successfully performed on the 15th July, the Consecrating Officer being very ably assisted by Past Principals in Dunedin, including a number from the Scottish Constitution. V.E. Comp. T. Ross was installed as the First Principal of the new Chapter.

Westland Kil. Chapter was opened on the 26th July, the Grand Scribe E. and M.E. Comp. Rev. T. Porritt being specially appointed for the purpose, and they were ably assisted in the long ceremonies by V.E. Comp. J. H. Harkness and officers of Inangahua Chapter, Reefton. In addition to the Consecration and Installation ceremonies, twenty candidates received the Chapter degrees, which constituted a most arduous day's work. V.E. Comp. J. F. White, the Z. of Winton Chapter, was installed as Z.

V.E. Comp. Oliver Nicholson, G.S.N., of Auckland, was invited to undertake the duty of opening Whangarei Chapter, and assisted by M.E. Comp. Geo. H. Powley, P.G.Z., and a number of Auckland Past Principals, the work was satisfactorily accomplished on the 26th September. Comp. Frank Hyde, of Waterloo Chapter, No. 2, was installed as First Principal, and a number of Companions received the Chapter degrees, completing, as in the case of Hokitika, a very severe day's work.

As the result of the difference of Waitaki Kil. Chapter, which excited so much discussion at the previous Annual Convocation, the Chapter was not satisfied with the decision of Grand Chapter and subsequently surrendered its Charter. Some correspondence then ensued and a general wish was expressed that steps be taken to heal the breach, and later V.E. Comp. C. J. Ronaldson was appointed, to try and adjust the difficulty. Comp. Ronaldson was successful in his efforts and received the special thanks of Grand Chapter for his services.

The following recommendation was made with reference to the appointment of Grand Superintendents :—
"At the Annual Convocation held in Christchurch in 1904, a resolution was moved for the appointment of Grand Superintendents with powers analogous to those in Craft Freemasonry. But the proposal, after being postponed for one year, was rejected. The position of Capitular Freemasonry has materially altered since, inasmuch as that at that date there were only 18 Chapters on our register, now there are 27 active, and it was found during the past year that to enable official visits to be made to a majority, especially for the conduct of installations, imposed undue strain on the few Grand Officers on whom the duty devolved. Hence, Supreme Committee, after fully considering the matter, is of opinion that the best interests will be served by the appointment of Grand Superintendents in the following divisions of the colony, viz., Auckland, Wellington—to include Hawkes' Bay, Marlborough and Nelson—Westland, Canterbury, Otago, and Southland. The boundaries in each case to be those of the old Provincial districts. If this proposal is affirmed, rules and regulations will be submitted to give effect to it."

After discussion Grand Chapter adopted the proposal, and authorised Supreme Committee to make the appointments, and *agreed* to the constitutional laws drafted, to govern the new departure.

A number of amendments to laws were discussed, and it was resolved that the financial year of all Chapters shall close on the 23rd September. A new rule was enacted that a candidate for R.A. Freemasonry should seek admission in the Chapter nearest to his place of residence, but in any departure from this course, due enquiry must be made from the nearest Chapter respecting the character of the applicant. It was also

unanimously affirmed that diplomas must be signed in open Chapter, and that all Chapters *shall* use the Ritual approved and issued by Grand Chapter; that such Rituals shall only be issued and registered to Chapters who will be held responsible for them.

An amendment was submitted by Waitaki Chapter to hold the Annual Convocation during the week the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge is held. The proposal caused very considerable discussion, but on the vote being taken only two were recorded in favour.

Supreme Committee reported with reference to the Benevolent Fund, that complaints are being made by several Chapters that the fees at present payable to Grand Chapter press hardly on Chapters, and it has been suggested that as the Grand Lodge of New Zealand has made Benevolence its special care, and the subject of specific appeal, the Benevolent Fund of Grand Chapter could quite well be abrogated, seeing that all R.A. Masons are of necessity contributing members of Craft Lodges. Supreme Committee after considering the question, was impelled to admit there is much force in the contention, and suggests that as the Benevolent Fund now stands at £183 4s., further subscriptions to the fund shall cease until otherwise ordered by Grand Chapter.

On further consideration it was decided that the Fund be allowed to accumulate to an amount of £200 and then remain in abeyance.

The following deliverance of Supreme Committee on the conferrance of Past Grand Rank is susceptible of general Masonic application :—"Supreme Committee has carefully refrained, for many years past, from submitting recommendations for conferring Past Grand Rank, being impressed with the conviction that only very special services should be so recognised. Consequently no such suggestion has been submitted for eleven years. But circumstances have arisen in very special services rendered, which the Committee is convinced only requires submission to Grand Chapter to secure prompt and unanimous acknowledgment. For some years past Capitular Freemasonry in the Auckland district has been virtually supervised by V.E. Comp. Oliver Nicholson, G.S.N. Year by year he has installed the officers of Auckland Prov., and Ohinemuri Chapters. He consecrated Waikato Chapter and has each year installed and invested the officers, and more recently instituted Whangarei Chapter. And at no time has any charge been made on Grand Chapter for even the ordinary expenses of the service. It is unnecessary to eulogise the work of our well-known Companion or refer to the esteem in which he is held in his own district, as if required it would receive universal testimony. Supreme Committee has therefore every confidence in submitting for the favourable consideration of Grand Chapter the following recommendation—"That the rank of Past First Grand Principal Z. be conferred on V.E. Comp. Oliver Nicholson G.S.N., of Auckland, for special services rendered."



M.E. COMP. O. NICHOLSON, P.G.Z.-1908

The financial position indicated that the total cash to credit was £642 6s., as against £451 9s. 7d. in 1906. The receipts, exclusive of Representative Tax, are £373 17s. 6d., or an increase on the previous year of £115 12s. 6d., while the expenditure only indicates an increase of £4 14s. 1d. The net profit on the year's transactions is £136 3s. 6d.

The election of Principals resulted in R.E. Comp. C. J. W. Griffiths securing the position of First Grand Principal; R.E. Comp. S. C. Bingham, D.G.Z.; R.E. Comp. A. Clothier, G.H.; and V.E. Comp. J. D. Webster, G.J., who were installed into their respective chairs by M.E. Comp. It. Fletcher.

An ode followed, and the M.E.G.Z. addressed Grand Chapter as follows :—

Companions,—It is customary for the newly-installed First G. Principal to make an address to G. Chapter, and I have much pleasure in following the usual rule. First, let me express my very great appreciation of the honour accorded to me in placing me in this high and responsible position. I can assure you I feel far from worthy of that honour, and trust Companions generally will not expect me to rival that high standard achieved by some of my predecessors in the cause of R.A. Freemasonry. I fear I shall prove a very ordinary

chief, and though I will do my best to satisfy your expectations, I am sure I shall far from satisfy myself. With respect to the visitation of Chapters during my term of office, much will depend upon my business engagements, but I will certainly endeavour to visit as many as possible. It may interest some present to know that I have taken an ever active part in Freemasonry for 38 years, and that I hope to continue to do so for the remainder of my days. I have devoted much time to its study from various standpoints, but have always considered the time well and satisfactorily spent, and have found intense interest and considerable pleasure in the pursuit. From experience gained I would like to impress upon all Chapters that too much time and care cannot be devoted to the preparation and study of the various ceremonies. First impressions are never forgotten, and I have known candidates who would otherwise have made R.A. enthusiasts, but, owing to the careless manner in which Degrees have been given, they have been unimpressed and disappointed, and have taken little further interest in the Order. I would, therefore, say to the First Principal of every Chapter: Be satisfied that all your officers know their work, and never give a Degree that has not been carefully worked up and properly prepared. The time expended is richly repaid by the satisfaction and pleasure experienced by candidate, officers, and Companions alike. I look forward with considerable confidence to the general improvement in the giving of Degrees when the appointment of Superintendents has become an established fact. And now, Companions, I would say a word or two on the responsibilities that rest upon every R.A. Freemason. It is expected of us who have taken these higher degrees that we should be more truly masonic in our lives and actions than those who have not done so, and be more careful to carry out those great principals we teach and advocate. An address that was written and circulated some twelve or thirteen years ago (I forget by whom) had, I remember, a strong Masonic bearing. It was called: "The Greatest Thing in the World." Do you know, Companions, what is the greatest thing in the world? St. Paul said it was LOVE, and that is the text of the address I refer to. And do we not profess the same? Is not a Freemason's first grand principle, BROTHERLY LOVE? Then let us remember this, Companions, and determine that for each other's happiness, and the honour of R.A. Freemasonry, we will endeavour by our kindly behaviour one towards another, by our patience, courtesy, good temper, unselfishness, and sincerity, to prove to the world the happy influence of our Masonic teaching, and practice outside the Chapter what we are taught in it. In conclusion, and on this subject of BROTHERLY LOVE, I will quote to you the last words of "Cradock Nowell" (a man purified by affliction), a book written by Blackmore, who if he was not a Freemason, surely should have been :—

"It is true that we shall have hill and valley, towering oak and ragged robin, zenith cloud overlooking the sun, and crouching mist in the hollows, and true as well that we cannot see all the cause and needs of the difference, but is it not still more true and sure that the whole is one universal kingdom (bound together by one great love), the high and the low, the rich and the poor, the powerful and the helpless? And in the spreading of that realm beyond the shores of time and space, when at last old men may discover what the true aim of life has been—not greatness, honour, wealth, or science, no, nor even wisdom (as we unwisely take it), but happiness here and hereafter—happiness, a flowing tide whose fountain is our love to one another (where alone we can learn) that all the clefts of anguish, and the rifts into the heart of us, were but the needful entrance for the grafts of fruit eternal."

CHAPTER XIX,

SEVENTEENTH YEAR-1908.



M.E. COMP. C. J. W. GRIFFITHS, G.Z.-1908

The Convocation which recorded the doings of Grand Chapter for the seventeenth year, was held at Christchurch on the 26th January, 1909, and was responsible for bringing together the largest and most brilliant assembly of Royal Arch Masons yet held in the Dominion. M.E. Comp. C. J. W. Griffiths, G.Z., presided, and was supported by 19 Grand Officers, the representatives of 20 Chapters responded to the call of the roll, and 12 other members of Grand Chapter were present. Prince of Wales Chapter, E.C., contributed 16 visitors under its First Principal, and 40 visiting Companions of the local Chapters were received.

Supreme Committee took the earliest opportunity of reporting, that conformably with the instructions issued at the last Annual Convocation, the following appointments of Grand Superintendents were made after the wishes of the various districts had been ascertained:

- Auckland—M.E. Comp. Oliver Nicholson, P.G.Z.
- Wellington—M.E. Comp. Rev. T. Porritt, P.G.Z.
- Canterbury—R.E. Comp. S. C. Bingham, D.G.Z.

Otago—R.E. Comp. Arthur Clothier, G. H.
Southland— V.E. Comp. A. R. Porter, P.G.S.B.
Westland—V.E. Comp. F. Neve, P.Z.

Shortly after the appointments were made, R.E. Comp. Arthur Clothier resigned his commission on his transfer to Christchurch, and on his recommendation. V.E. Comp. W. G. P. O'Callaghan was appointed in his stead. Supreme Committee has every reason to believe that the appointments must have given the greatest satisfaction to Companions in the several districts.

The only appointments of Grand Representatives made during the year were :—Comp. W. A. Dallis, near the Grand Chapter of Texas, *vice* Comp. Murchison, deceased; and Comp. J. D. Webster as the Representative of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, near this Grand Chapter, *vice* Comp. R. T. Melhuish, resigned on account of ill-health.

Rawhiti Chapter, No. 30, was added to the roll during the year, which made the total number 28 Chapters working and one Mark Lodge. It was also noted that a revival of interest had taken place in connection with the working of the side degrees, 65 Ark Mariner's certificates and 74 Red Cross being issued.

Rawhiti Chapter was consecrated on the 8th October by the M.E.G.S.E., assisted by M.E. Comp. Rev. T. Porritt, P.G.Z., V.E. Comp. H. 3. Freeman, and a number of Napier Companions.

G.S.E. also conferred the side degrees on Companions of Victoria Chapter, Napier, assisted by the same two Companions, and afterwards constituted an Ark Lodge and Council of Red Cross Knights.

Amongst other matters of import, Supreme Committee had during the year discussed the question of clothing Grand Chapter Officers in a fitting manner, and it unburdened its heart to Grand Chapter as follows :—

"It cannot be said that during the sixteen years of the existence of Grand Chapter there has been any extravagance in the decoration of its officers, the only expenditure under this head being clothing for the five principal officers, which stands in the books at the exceeding modest sum of £14 11s 6d after allowing for depreciation. But Supreme Committee is of opinion that the time has arrived for the officers being more fittingly clothed. Distinctive clothing is imperatively necessary for the Grand Superintendents to enable them to maintain the dignity of the office, and the time is opportune for Grand Chapter to declare its mind with reference to the whole of the officers, and if considered advisable to authorise an appropriation for the purpose.

Supreme Committee recommend that aprons, collars, and jewels, or collarettes and jewels, be at once provided for Grand Superintendents, and remits the question of making provision for other officers, or any proportion of them, to Grand Chapter. The design for jewel submitted is recommended by Supreme Committee for adoption."

Grand Chapter, in considering the clause, was sympathetically inclined, and voted an appropriation of £150 for the purpose. G.S.E. submitted a special design of jewel for the office of Grand Superintendent, which was adopted. And RE. Comp Bingham presented a jewel for the special use of the Grand Superintendent of Canterbury, for which he was thanked by Grand Chapter. Further amendments were made to the General Laws and Regulations, and a motion was adopted, "That it is opportune and desirable that Supreme Committee should adopt the chair degrees of Ark Mariner and Red Cross Knights." On the day following the annual meeting, a large number of qualified Companions assembled in the St. Augustine Masonic Hall and received the "Chair Degree" at the hands of V.E. Comp. A. R. Kirk, and several officers of the Scottish Constitution, at the conclusion of which a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded for the co-operation of the officers of the sister Constitution.

Authority was given by Grand Chapter to print a third edition of Constitutional laws, Grand Scribe E. to re-tabulate and bring them up to date.

Owing to the renewed interest in the side degrees, a second edition of Ritual was rendered imperative, the services of G.S.E. being again brought into requisition for revision purposes.

The following recommendation of Supreme Committee is worthy of being recorded for doing justice to a most estimable Companion : —

"It is strongly recommended to Grand Chapter to confer the rank, *honoris causa*, of Past Third Grand Principal on V.E. Comp. H. C. A. Wundram, of Victoria Chapter, Napier. Though Victoria is one of our best Chapters at the present time, and contains some most enthusiastic workers, it has had a very chequered career in the past, and for many years its existence was held in the balance, and it was almost solely due to the indomitable will and dogged perseverance of Comp. Wundram that the Chapter did not fade away. Notwithstanding the accumulation of years, which would quite justify the cessation of the Companion's active exertions, his interest continues unabated, and the conferment of the honour proposed would be a small but graceful recognition by Grand Chapter."

It is almost unnecessary to say that Grand Chapter gave a hearty and unanimous assent to the recommendation.

It is found at every meeting of Grand Chapter to be impossible to present accurately the position with regard to the numerical progress owing to procrastinating Chapters, but this year G.S.E. was enabled at the last moment to make an approximate computation, which he submitted to Grand Chapter :-

Number of Chapters making returns 24, number of Chapters failing to make returns 3, new Chapter 1, total 28; total number of members for 24 Chapters 1036; highest membership 89, lowest membership 19, average for 24 Chapters 43; Chapters with largest membership, Waitaki Kil. 89, Southern Cross 88, Waterloo and Auckland Prov. 73. Chapters that have made annual returns since the closing of the books—Wanganui, Maori, Brooklyn, Waterloo. The estimated numerical strength of the four Chapters not making returns is 97, which, added to the membership of the other 24 Chapters, would give a total membership of 1133.

[It will be seen from the abstract of Chapters, since compiled, that the total membership is 1168.]

It was decided that the secrets of an Installed Mark Lodge should only be conferred on those who are installed Masters in Craft Freemasonry. (This edict was ordered to exempt Mokoreta Mark Lodge.)

Some discussion took place on the order of business "representation tax," and it was moved that it be struck out. This was ruled as *ultra vires*, and a further amendment was submitted to make it one penny *per capita*—the motion was ls. 6d. Ultimately the amendment was lost and the motion was agreed to.

Napier and Dunedin were proposed as the place of next annual meeting. On a vote being taken Dunedin was selected by 28 to 13. The subjoined statement represents the financial position of Grand Chapter :—

The balance to credit at date of closing the books was £208 11s. 10d., and as seven Chapters had not then made returns, it will be seen that the operations of the year have again been successful financially. At the close of 1907 the bank balance was £284, but it included £88 11s. 6d. for representative tax, and £33 5s. for benevolence, and this year there has not been anything received for either of these funds, both having been in abeyance. The cash to credit is £719 5s. 4d., against £642 6s. last year; receipts, £313 6s. 6d., against £373 17s. 6d. last year; expenditure, £238 14s. 8d., against £239 18s. 7d. for 1907.

M.E. Comp. S. C. Bingham was elected G.Z., R.E. Comp. A. Clothier D.G.Z., R.E. Comp. J. D. Webster G.H., V.E. Comp. R. H. Cathcart G.J. At the evening session M.E. Comp. C. J. W. Griffiths installed his successor, M.E. Comp. S. O. Bingham, who installed the other Principals and invested Grand Officers present.

The M.E.G.Z. then addressed Grand Chapter as follows :—

COMPANIONS,—Following the established custom at the annual communications of our Grand Chapter, it is now my privilege and duty to address a few words to you.

The position in which you have placed me has been filled in the past by Companions who have shed much lustre on our fraternity and honoured us by their brilliant abilities and much service rendered to Capitular Freemasonry. Whilst I cannot hope to emulate my many worthy predecessors, let me assure you that my best efforts will be at your service, and that I shall put forth my utmost endeavours so that the Supreme Grand Chapter of New Zealand may not suffer by any defects of mine, or from any partiality you have shown in electing myself to such an high and honourable position. I have found no new ground to break or new message to deliver; the gifts of oratory or rhetoric are, alas I not in my possession. I therefore ask your forbearance but for a few moments only as I reiterate, as well as my poor abilities enable, the thoughts that

must necessarily rise in the minds of those who are called by the vote of their Companions to fill the highest office in our Supreme Grand Chapter. The first ceremony revealed to our accepted brethren is the honourable degree of M.M., which in our Mother Country is considered of such value as to merit a separate and distinct organisation. Though to some extent overshadowed in our Chapters by the necessarily great importance attached to the exaltation, I do not think I am alone in regarding the Mark as a beautiful, interesting, and absolutely essential step towards the culminating degree of the H.R.A. Operative and Speculative Freemasonry is, to my mind, beautifully comingled in this ancient rite. In former days, when the magnificent structures scattered over the Continent of Europe were being slowly evolved by the continued energies of the Stonemasons under direction of their Masters, no thought was apparently given to the question of cost or duration of the work. It proceeded slowly but thoroughly as the years rolled on; Master Mason succeeded Master Mason, though evidently some continuity of plan was preserved and handed down with scrupulous care and fidelity. Let us picture to ourselves for a moment our ancient brethren meeting in the Lodge at morning and evening for prayer (of which custom we have ample evidence), and invoking their patron saint daily, then devoting all their energies to producing square work such only as overseers would pass.

In the elder days of Art
Builders wrought with greatest care
Each minute and unseen part,
For the gods seem everywhere.

Remember, each craftsman placed his mark on the stone he had hewn and shaped, cut and squared, and although in very many cases the stones have been placed in the sacred edifices with these marks inward, yet the marks remain inward and are plainly visible when alterations and repairs are made. Does not the G.A. of T.U. permit us so to fashion our material existence in this world; shall we not have to present our work, either hewn and shaped by the indulgence of our passions, or cut and squared by the exercise and diligent cultivation of the many truths and virtues taught within these sacred walls, finally to the Great Overseer, to be tried by His unerring square, either accented and passed on as fit to form part of that structure, that ethereal mansion not made with human hands, eternal in the heavens, or, like the imperfect and unfinished work of the negligent, be rejected and thrown, aside amongst the rubbish, even into the outer darkness.

All are architects of Fate,
Working in these walls of Time,
Some with massive deeds and great,
Some with ornaments of rhyme.
Nothing useless is, or low;,
Each thing in its place is best;,
And what seems but idle show
Strengthens and supports the rest.
For the structure that we raise
Time is with materials filled;
Our to-day and yesterdays
Are the blocks with which we build
Truly shape and fashion these;
Leave no Yawning gaps between;
Think not, because no man sees,
Such things will remain unseen.

In the regular order or sequence the operative craftsman, having duly served his time, would in due course produce his essay or masterpiece, and aspire to a higher position. So likewise the Speculative, having given proof of his ability, passes from the Mark, through the veils of our Excellent, and applies to be allowed to participate in the rebuilding of the Temple. In Speculative Freemasonry in times now long past none but Past Masters were eligible for promotion to the Royal Arch. An American monitor says :—

"None but the meritorious and praiseworthy; none but those who through diligence and industry have progressed far towards perfection; none but those who have been seated in the Oriental chair can be admitted—a perfect knowledge of all preceding, degrees being regarded as indispensable."

These regulations were in time practically evaded by the constructive degree of P.M. being conferred, which now survives in the United States alone, the only qualification being the M.M. Certificate, but Companions,

whilst this safeguard to our privilege has been gradually abandoned no excuse exists for the relaxation of the other usual precautions. One who proposes another for membership in Lodge or Chapter without accurate knowledge of his character and reputation. and thus brings into our Order one who is possibly unworthy, commits an offence not only against the Lodge or Chapter, but against the whole of our fraternity. Whilst I am fully assured that every care is used in our Chapters, the principle is one that we cannot afford to overlook or forget for one angle moment. The supreme degree of H.R.A. is said to be the culmination of all preceding Masonry, the *ne plus* ultra—nothing more beyond and, indeed, if we consider for one moment the meaning of our symbols and the subject of the addresses and lectures attached, we cannot doubt it. Does it not impress upon our minds a belief in the being and existence of the Omnipotent, Who is without beginning of days or ending of years, the Alpha and Omega, the Aleph and Tau, the first and the last—Who was and is and ever shall be the one great and living God? Such being the case, Companions, how extremely important it is that our ceremonies dealing with the most holy and sacred of all subjects should be carried out only with the most scrupulous care and the utmost reverence—that no levity be permitted at any time, and, above all, that our sublime ritual be exemplified in such a manner as to give candidates an exact and true knowledge of the lessons sought to be conveyed. If the thought and spirit of the language be overlooked and disregarded, the letter may be only so many idle words. On the other hand, if the officers of a Chapter thoroughly understand the inner meaning themselves, our neophytes will appreciate to their very hearts the high importance of our teachings. Remember, the glory of Freemasonry depends not so much upon the numbers who profess it as upon their quality. Never permit a spirit of rivalry as to which Chapter has the largest number of entrants, but rather pride yourselves in the personality of those you receive. It has been rightly said that the essence of the Supreme Degree of the H.R.A. is reverence. See to it, I charge you, Companions, that, as you call yourselves earnest members of our fraternity, your conduct both in and out of the Chapter is such as can only reflect credit upon it, that the exemplifications of our ceremonies are carried out only with the most profound reverence as befits a fraternity whose sole object is to concentrate the attention and stimulate the devotion of its members on that Supreme Being from Whom all blessings flow. So may our prayers and obligations ever ascend to the Throne of Grace. I like to think of that old. Rabbinical legend of Sandalphon, the Angel of Prayer, who—

...stands listening breathless
To sounds that ascend from below :
From the spirits on earth that adore,
From the souls that entreat and implore
In the fervour and passion of prayer;
From the hearts that are broken with losses,
And weary with dragging the crosses
Too heavy for mortals to bear.
And he gathers the prayers as he stands,
And they change into flowers in his hands,
Into garlands of purple and red;
And beneath the great arch of the portal,
Through the streets of the City Immortal,
Is wafted the fragrance they shed.

CHAPTER XX.

EIGHTEENTH YEAR—1909.



M.E. COMP. S. C. BINGHAM, G.Z.-1909

The Eighteenth Annual Convocation was held in the Masonic Hall, St. Kilda, Dunedin, on the 24th February, 1910. M.E. Comp. S. C. Bingham presided over a very large attendance of members of Grand Chapter and visiting Companions. Twenty-two constituent Chapters were represented, and among the visitors were members of both the English and Scottish Constitutions. It was formally reported that the chair degrees of Ark Mariners and Red Cross Knights had been conferred at the close of the last Annual Convocation by a team of the Canterbury Kil. Chapter, S.C. That parchment diplomas had been issued at five shillings each; and that to avoid any cost to Grand Chapter, Grand Scribe E. had prepared MSS. copies of the installation degrees, and had issued them to the Grand Superintendents of districts.

Supreme Committee made a recommendation that the charge for side degree certificates be reduced from 6s. 6c1. to 5s. each, which was endorsed by Grand Chapter.

The Committee had had under consideration the question of the issue of rituals. In the past it has been the practice to forward a key of the Mark Degree, and also the Ark Mariner and Red Cross with each book. It is now strongly recommended, as a matter of common precaution, that only one key of any ritual be issued, and that to the Chapter, so that in future the secret work be imparted orally by the Principal officers. This was agreed to by Grand Chapter.

It was reported that a second edition of this ritual had been lost on its completion by the destruction of the printing house by fire. Some time elapsed before the late Bro. Inns secured other premises, when he again proceeded with the ritual, and successfully accomplished it a few days before his lamented death. The Committee deemed it advisable to alter the size of the book, which is now in the form of a "pocket edition."

At the Annual Convocation of 1909 authority was given to clothe the Grand Officers with suitable insignia, and an appropriation of £150 was made for the purpose, and as M.E. Comp. C. J. W. Griffiths was going to England in March following, Supreme Committee solicited his kind offices. Our distinguished Companion devoted much time to his work, and obtained tenders from Messrs. Spencer & Co., Lamb, and Kenning & Co.

On consulting English brethren of experience, Comp. Griffiths found the general opinion was that the work of these three firms was equal in quality. He thereupon accented the lowest tender, Kenning & Co., and subsequently decided to include twenty tin cases which added £18 to the total cost.

Supreme Committee was of opinion that the work is of excellent quality and that Grand Chapter may be congratulated on the result of M.E. Comp. Griffiths' kind and able assistance, which will riot doubt secure the heartiest thanks of this Convocation.

The total cost is as follows :-

	£	s.	d.
Kenning & Go.	...	94	6 3
Insurance in London		2	10 0
Charges		0	10 0
Customs, Wellingtnd		26	19 7
Fletcher & Co.		0	7 9
	£124	13	7

It was originally thought that one of the fixed deposits would have to be disturbed to pay the cost, but this has been avoided by careful manipulation and Grand Scribe E. financing the funds of Grand Chapter for a short time.

A special vote of thanks was accorded to M.E. Comp. Griffiths for his services, and Grand Chapter concurred in the opinion of Supreme Committee as to the quality of the work. With regard to the disposal of the clothing, it was resolved that each suit be issued to the officer for the year, and be returned to Grand Chapter at each Convocation.

The returns from Chapters generally, with one exception, exhibit very gratifying progress and general interest in the work, the exception being Winton Chapter, which had not made returns for two years. The advice of the Grand Superintendent of Southland was taken, and he stated that the Chapter was dormant, and recommends that the Charter be re-called. The recommendation was agreed to by Grand Chapter.

Comp. E. P. Brume was appointed Representative of New Zealand near the Grand Chapter of Indiana, and Comp. A. C. Andrews from that jurisdiction to the Dominion of N.Z.

Some correspondence was had with the Grand Chapter of the New Jersey on the interchange of fraternal relations, and Comp. J. P. Salter was appointed to represent New Zealand there.

The following particulars were supplied:—

For the information of Grand Chapter it may be of interest to know the different articles kept in stock and issued to Chapters or Companions.

Rituals.— Mark, Excellent, R.A. (One volume.)
Ark M. & Red Cross. (One volume.)
Installation. (One volume.)
Installation Chair Degree. (Two MSS. copies.)
Commissions.—Of Grand Representative.
Patents.—Of Grand Office.
Diplomas.—Mark.
R.A.
Principals—Z., H., J.
Chair Degrees, Ark M. & Red Cross.
Certificates. Red Cross and Ark Mariners.
Books.—Of Demits.
Books.—Of Marks.
Dispensations.
Constitutions.

In consequence of the Annual Convocation being held a month later this year, it was deemed advisable to make the annual balance up to 31st December, which served the double purpose of bringing the accounts more up to date, and the inclusion of the returns of some Chapters, not punctually disposed.

The actual cash balance at the end of the year was £171 lls. 2d., an excellent result considering that the regalia was paid out of revenue and not capital. Three Chapters did not make returns, exclusive of Winton, which is specially dealt with in this report. In two cases the default was due to tightness of the money-chest, and the third to habitual procrastination. In addition to the cash balance there is also a deposit in the bank of £500 earning interest. The receipts totalled £388 18s., and the expenditure £279 10s. 1d., exclusive of the cost of regalia, but inclusive of the cost of the last Annual Convocation, £81 4s. 4d., and also Superintendents' charges, amounting to £23 15s. sd. As the printing, cost of parchments and postages absorb £110 2s. 3d., it must be admitted that the administrative cost was of a most economical character.

The balance to the credit of the Benevolent Fund at the commencement of the year was £191 8s. 9d. The accrued interest for the twelve months brought the total to £199 9s. 9d., and as the resolution of Grand Chapter was that interest 'should cease and the fund should remain stationary at £200, the sum of 11s. 3d. was added to make the total that amount.

After some debate it was decided that the degree of Installed Mark Master should only be conferred on WM. or Past Masters in the Craft. (It may happen by special dispensation that the Z. of a Chapter is neither.)

A further motion, "That it be a recommendation to Supreme Committee to consider and report on the question of altering the date of meeting of Grand Chapter to the same date and place as that of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand was also adopted.

Grand Scribe E. submitted the following particulars with regard to membership up to date :—

	Total M'bership	Exalta- tions	Total Gain.	Demis- sions.	S.O.	Deaths	Total Loss
1908	1168	125	142	68	8	7	83
1909	<u>1274</u>	<u>168</u>	<u>189</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>80</u>
Increase	106	43	47	...	1	3	...
Decrease	...	...	...	6	...	...	9

Waitaki Kil. Chapter holds pride of place numerically with 97 members, Southern Cross following closely with 90, Auckland and Waterloo taking third and fourth places with 76 and 70 respectively.

The salary of G.S.E. was increased to £100 per annum.

The following Companions were elected to the Principals' chairs:—G.Z.; Comm. Arthur Clothier D .G. Z., Comp. J. D. Webster; G.H., Comp. R. H. Cathcart; G.T., Comp. L. Freedman.

The retiring G.Z., M.E. Comp. S. C. Bingham, installed his successor; M.E. Comp. A. Clothier, G.Z., installed Companions Webster, Cathcart, and Freedman, and invested the other officers who were present.

The M.E.Z. delivered the following address :—

COMPANIONS,—Let me first express to you my deep appreciation of the honour you have conferred upon me, by selecting me for the distinguished office of First Grand Principal of this Supreme Grand Chapter. It is a position which has been filled by many eminent Companions far better qualified to sustain it with dignity and success than I feel myself to be. But, Companions, I can assure you that I have not accepted the position without giving due consideration to the responsibility attached to it, or without an earnest resolve, God willing, to endeavour to so discharge the duties of my high station as to earn your approbation and esteem and to enable me, at the termination of my period of office, to hand over this sceptre to my successor with undiminished lustre.

In one important portion of my duties I fear I shall be found somewhat lacking—that is, in visiting the subordinate Chapters. I should much like to visit the whole of them, but this will be impossible. And, indeed, the need is not now so urgent since the institution of Superintendents with such happy and beneficial results. But I think I may be able to visit most of the Chapters in the South, and, if it were found to be possible to arrange meetings of two or more Chapters at convenient centres in the North I could have the pleasure of seeing a wood many of you in that way. I will consult with the Superintendents and see what can be done in this direction.

And now, Companions, I should like to claim your attention for a few minutes whilst I say something to you on the subject of charity. You all know how its beauties are illustrated and expounded throughout the whole of our ceremonies: you know its comprehensiveness—having no bounds save prudence. And, indeed, it may be called, in a broad sense, at once the foundation and keystone of our order. But, whilst fully recognising and appreciating the efforts of those (and their number is legion) who without grudging or ostentation give generously and cheerfully of their substance towards the relief of those in need of bodily or material assistance, I would remind you that charity does not consist solely in giving towards the material relief of the bodily necessities of our fellow creatures and I do not now propose to touch upon that phase of it. I refer to it more in the light in which we find it inculcated in the V.S.L.—"above all things have charity among yourselves, for charity shall cover the multitude of sins." This, Companions, is the charity of man to man which. I am afraid our frail human nature is prone to overlook. How true to-day are the words of one of our greatest poets, Burns—

Man's inhumanity to man
Makes countless thousands mourn,

and, on a little reflection, does not the truth of them strike home to each of you, even here in this fair land of our adoption? And, why should it be so, Companions? Possibly one contributing element, which is almost inevitable in so small a community, is the amount of "small talk" that is indulged in. We work short hours and have such copious leisure to devote to other people's business that, not having the broader interests and burning questions of older countries to occupy our attention we more commonly and easily drift into personalities, and then the mischief commences. A story is told, repeated two or three times, each time with some slight variation and embellishment, until at last its own author could not recognise it. Many years ago I was indulging in the guileless pastime then known, I think, as "pulling crackers," and pulled a motto I have never forgotten—

Moderate your speeches—
Words once flown
Are in the hearer's power,
Not your own.

And I mention this because so much of the misery and unhappiness to-day is caused by the thoughtlessness of men who would not dream of hurting one another's feelings intentionally : much is doubtless caused from a sheer love of mischief, but also without evil intent: and some other, I am sorry to say, by deliberate *malice prepense*. To these latter any story is good enough to let slip the dogs of slander at. Nor do they heed the wrecked homes and mental anguish thus often caused. Companions, such things are in. our midst to-day, no

rare offenders confined to any one particular class but can be found in all grades of society and every calling, making one feel that instead of in "God's own country" we live in "another place."

And now, Companions, having roughly diagnosed the disease, it is only fair that I should suggest some remedy. Here again I can only think of nothing better than charity, by the exercise of which virtue we can pour the healing balm of consolation into the wounds of the afflicted, or, better still Companions, we can by the exercise of that other virtue, "silence," stop the flight of the rumours (and worse) by which they are caused. And again, by never encouraging a tale-bearer. By never offering judgment on an erring Companion without first having satisfied ourselves fully of all the circumstances, especially from *his* point of view. And finally, by holding out the hand of succour of strength to his weakness and guiding his footsteps back into the path of moral rectitude. It has been truly said that a man deserves well of his country who makes two blades of grass grow where one grew before. But how much better, my Companions, to pluck one's fellow creature from the abyss of misery and despair, to raise him again to a re-union with the Companions of his former toils, to mix again with them, looking the world in the face with confidence and with a heart purified by the fires of adversity. I know there is a diffidence amongst many of us in offering advice and assistance—a fear of giving offence or hurting a Companion's feelings. In many cases I am sure also that it is a false delicacy, like that which prevents the afflicted one from giving vent to his troubles when even the recital of them to a sympathetic ear would be a relief. But there are others (and in this room here to-night) who have had the courage, unsolicited, to warn their straying Companions of dangers threatening, and thereby not only preserved them from danger but have earned the undying gratitude from them and those dependent upon them. And I mention this as an encouragement for others to go and do likewise. It is by such means, my Companions, that I think we can best fulfil our destiny, and by lessening the aggregate of human misery leave the world a little better than we found it.

These then, Companions, are some of the thoughts that have occurred to me and not the result of heresay. And if, by bringing them under your notice to-night, any benefit results to even one of our number then my labour will not have been in vain. And I feel that I cannot more fittingly now bring these remarks to a close than in the words of the Apostle St. Peter :—"Add to your faith, virtue: and to virtue, knowledge: and to knowledge, temperance: and to temperance, patience: and to patience, godliness: and to godliness, brotherly kindness: and to brotherly kindness, CHARITY.

The new clothing worn by Grand Officers at this Convocation attracted much attention and was greatly admired. Freemasonry is frequently taken to task for the gorgeousness of its apparel, and oftentimes cynical outsiders and a certain class of newspapers become very satirical on the subject. And though the silly comments may not tend to ruffle the feathers of the brethren who alone knew the signification of the various embellishments on the clothing, it still emphasises the desirableness of not exposing Masonic outward splendour to the public gaze. Were there no other reason the lines from Pope's translation of the Odyssey (Book VI.) sufficiently justify the practice.

"A dignity of dress adorn the great,
And Kings draw lustre from the robe of State."

CHAPTER XXI.

NINETEENTH YEAR--1910.



M.E. COMP. ARTHUR CLOTHIER, G.Z.-1910

The proceedings and work of the year 1911 were reported to and discussed at the Annual Meeting, held in Auckland on the 23rd February, 1911, when M.E. Comp. Arthur Clothier, G.Z., presided, supported by the three Grand Principals for the year. Twenty Chapters were represented, and there was a large attendance of visitors. Invitations had been issued to the Grand Officers of the various Australian Grand Chapters, but only New South Wales expressed regret at being unable to be represented.

G.S.E. stated that the diplomas, rituals, etc., issued during the year numbered 612.

Supreme Committee reported that pursuant to the mandate of Grand Chapter for the re-call of the Charter of Winton Chapter, the Grand Superintendent of Southland had obtained it and forwarded it to Grand Scribe E.

Though no new Chapters were chartered, Prince of Wales Chapter, English Constitution, joined the roll of the Grand Chapter of New Zealand by transfer of allegiance. The members were unanimous for the change and the Chapter was entered on the register as No. 30. The following report was published by the *N.Z. Craftsman* of the inaugural meeting:—

PRINCE OF WALES R.A. CHAPTER.

"It is desirable that the transfer of allegiance of the above Chapter to the Supreme G. Chapter of R.A. Masons of New Zealand should be set out in some detail, marking as it does so important an incident in its history. The proceedings commenced at 7.45 p.m., when the M.E. Comp. A. Clothier, First G. Principal, entered, supported by M.E. Comp. S. C. Bingham, P.G.Z., M.E. Comp. H. J. Williams, G. Scribe E., R.E. Comp. R. H. Cathcart, G.H., V.E. Comp. H. F. Arnold as G.S.N. V.E. Comp. George W. Hulme as G.D. of C., V.E. Comp. W. H. Chessman, G. Sword-B., V.E. Comp. McLean, G. Sword-B., V.E. Comps. Flavell, Dale, and Thorpe, Sojourners. A Chapter having been formed, the First G. Principal called upon the G.S.E. to read the Petition. Whilst this was being done, the members of the Prince of Wales Chapter formed a column in the North and one in the South, the Principals being in the West. The Petition being approved, the act of consecration was proceeded with, the consecration officers being the four P. First Principals of the Chapter—vig., V.E. Comp. Whittingham, corn; V.E. Comp. Norden, wine; V.E. Comp. Thornton, oil; V.E. Comp. Macbeth, salt; V.E. Comp. Arnold perambulated with incense. During these portions of the ceremony appropriate readings from V. of S.L. were given by E. Comp. G. H. Cooper. A most interesting address was given by M.E. Comp. Bingham, P.G.Z., which was much appreciated. M.E. Comp. Clothier, G.Z., addressed the members of the Chapter at some length. He expressed his pleasure and conveyed his congratulations to them upon the manner in which the transfer had been brought about, the manner marked by good feeling, unanimity, and perfect freedom from friction. On behalf of Supreme G. Chapter, he cordially welcomed them and trusted and believed that under the new flag they would find a sphere of greater usefulness, and that from amongst its members Supreme Grand Chapter would find good material for carrying on the administration work of its higher officers. Before retiring, a founder's jewel was presented to the First G. Principal by M.E. Comp. H. J. Williams, at the special request of the Chapter. Some 75 Companions were present, and the whole proceedings were conducted in ample form, without the slightest hitch, and to the general satisfaction of all present. At the supper which followed, a fine address was delivered by M.E. Comp. Williams on Capitular Masonry generally, and particularly with regard to the policy which had been pursued by the Supreme G. Chapter of New Zealand."

Supreme Committee, in reporting the matter to Grand Chapter, expressed the opinion that the whole proceedings were well conceived and happily consummated. The original Charter was surrendered to the Grand Chapter of England, with a request that after cancellation it might be returned to Prince of Wales Chapter as a memento of the former association. This request was very graciously granted by the Grand Chapter of England, and the Charter was most speedily returned.

Regret was expressed at the resignation of R.E. Comp. W. G. P. O'Callaghan as Grand Superintendent of Otago, consequent upon his leaving the district. His mantle fell on the worthy shoulders of R.E. Comp R. G. V. Parker, and the appointment was received with satisfaction by the Chapters in the district.

At the Convocation of 1910, the following remit was made to Supreme Committee: —

"That it be a recommendation to Supreme Cominaittee to consider and report on the question of altering the date of meeting of Grand Chapter to same date and place as that of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand."

Supreme Committee exhaustively discussed the question and made a lengthy report to Grand Chapter, which was unanimously adopted without debate. But as the question is again recurring and will once more be discussed on notice of motion at the annual meeting of 1913, it is desirable that the report should be recorded as history, hence it is chronicled herewith *verbatim*.

REPORT OF SUPREME COMMITTEE ON PROPOSED ALTERATION OF THE DATE OF ANNUAL CONVOCATION.

In order to place the matter as clearly as possible before Grand Chapter, Supreme Committee here presents an epitome of the arguments used for and against the proposal:

FOR-

1. That under present conditions, G. Chapter is not nearly so fully represented as it would be if held at the same time and place as the G. Lodge of New Zealand.

2. Representatives cannot afford the time or expense to attend a meeting of Grand Chapter in January or February, and another of G. Lodge in May.
3. It would be easy to arrange to hold a meeting of Grand Chapter on some afternoon during the meeting of G. Lodge.
4. Comp. Lane reiterates that Comps. cannot attend two meetings.

AGAINST-

1. The difficulty of fixing a date for Annual Convocation during Grand Lodge week. If fixed for the day before G. Lodge representatives will not have arrived, if after, the presumed conclusion is that members will not stay.
2. It would involve two sets of entertainment by the local Brethren and Companions.
3. Local Companions could not devote any time to G. Chapter as G. Lodge would have the first consideration.
4. Grand Chapter would be overshadowed.
5. Two Grand meetings in one week would result in the death of the smaller body.
6. Could not be always held where the G.Z.-elect resided, which might cause serious difficulty.

The Committee reviewed these arguments and find as follows:

FOR-

1. It is asserted that a change of date would largely increase the number of G. Representatives.

In order to ascertain in some measure how the case would have stood at the last meeting of G.L., held in Wellington, some few figures have been collated. So far as can be ascertained there were 62 R.A. Masons present at the Communication. Of this number 16 were leaders of the Craft and R.A., but who were bound to make G. Lodge the primary consideration, 22 were local men, most of them being members of the various functional Committees set up, 30 were Companions who took no interest in Capitular Freemasonry outside their own district. There were 43 P.P.'s which included the leading and local Comps. The following Chapters could have had P.Z.'s as Representatives :—Auckland, Wairarapa, Westport, Waitaki Kil., Ohinemuri, Wellington (3), Reefton, Maori, Wanganui, Marlborough, St. Augustine, Southern Cross, Victoria, Victory, Westland Kil. This leaves nine Chapters remaining, viz., Whangarei, Rawhiti, Waikato, Unanimity, Ruapehu, Waimate, Manawatu, Otago, Cromwell.

Of the total number, 18 Chapters could have been represented by Z.'s or P.Z.'s, but in the case of seven the attendance would have been entirely dependent on the exigencies of G. Lodge. Of the remaining nine, two Chapters might have been represented by the Second or Third Principals, and seven would not have had representatives.

From this it will be seen that No. 1 statement is not borne out by the figures adducible from the latest source, the last communication of Grand Lodge. And Supreme Committee with a full knowledge of local conditions is assured that the attendance of Companions, *during that week*, would have been very small indeed.

2. The statement contained that Companions cannot afford the time and expense in attending two meetings is somewhat difficult to answer, except that now G. Chapter pays all transit expenses, the remaining charges are not sufficiently heavy to be a consideration, and, further, that as the attendance at each Annual Convocation increases, such statement is scarcely warranted by fact.
3. Comp. Lane asserts it would be easy to hold a meeting on *some afternoon* during the meeting of Grand Lodge.

In the first place an afternoon is not sufficient, as an evening is required for installation purposes.

Secondly, as the law provides that fourteen days' notice of the meeting must be given, it cannot be left to chance, but a definite time and place must be fixed.

This question constitutes the first argument against any change, and Supreme Committee, after fully considering the question, is satisfied that it would be impossible to convene a meeting of Grand Chapter, during Grand Lodge week, that would not conflict with Grand Lodge, and that would secure a larger representation than is now had. As stated in argument, if the Convocation was convened a day in advance of the first meeting of Grand Lodge, the bulk of representatives would not have arrived, especially those from distant parts of the Dominion. And it could not be called for a day after Grand Lodge concludes, as such day is always uncertain, and further, it would interfere with the social functions.

2.. This contention is that it would involve two sets of entertainment to be arranged for in each local centre. This is a very serious matter as all those who have had experience will readily understand. It is recognised that the full strength of the brethren is required to carry out the Grand Lodge functions successfully. And if others are to be added, the strain would be too great, and something would suffer, but it may be taken for granted that it would not be the Grand Lodge arrangements. It has been suggested that the entertainment of Grand Chapter would be abrogated or merged. The latter course is an impossibility, and to accept the former would support the contention in No. 4, that Grand Chapter would be overshadowed.

3. The argument contained in this section is practically answered in dealing with argument No. 2.

5. "It would be the death of Grand Chapter." Supreme Committee, while not going quite so far as this, is still of opinion that it would make Grand Chapter subsidiary in every way to Grand Lodge, when it is at least entitled to equal consideration. And, further, in the Masonic rush that would eventuate, the work of Grand Chapter would be perfunctorily done, and present enthusiastic Companions would cease much of their interest in the Capitular Craft.

6. Another grave objection to the change lies in the fact that it would seldom happen that the G.Z. elect would be installed in his own district, which might lead to complication of attempting to play Hamlet, say in Dunedin, with Hamlet himself unable to leave Auckland. Given the greatest enthusiasm, the question of absence from home and business cannot always be controlled, and in the absence of a G.Z.-elect matters would be very considerably complicated.

Supreme Committee therefore strongly recommends that no change be made from the present system, and in doing so would point out that its members are actuated by a keen desire to promote what they conceive to be the first and best interests of R.A. Freemasonry.

(Signed) R. FLETCHER,
Chairman.

In considering the question, Supreme Committee pointed out that it had no feeling other than the interest of Grand Chapter. So far as personal convenience is concerned it would suit individual members of the Committee to hold the meetings of Grand Chapter and Grand Lodge during the same week. But the Committee is unanimous in the opinion that not only is the proposal not feasible, but would prove highly detrimental to the best interests of R.A. Freemasonry in this jurisdiction.

A new edition of the Constitutional laws and regulations was authorized. Chapters had been notified of the intention, but had not expressed any desire to make amendments. Supreme Committee stated "that it was not impressed with the value of making frequent alterations to the laws unless for some specifically good purpose." It is to be regretted that this is not an axiom with other Masonic governing bodies.

The following appointments of Representatives were made during the year :—

Near Grand Chapter of Washington, Comp. R. D. Sayers.

From Grand Chapter of Washington, Comp. R. .G. V. Parker.

The receipts for the year were £431 9s. 8d., as against £388 18s. in 1909, and the expenditure £322 10s. 7d. compared with £279 10s. 1d. The expenses of the last Annual. Convocation were £105 2s. 5d., as against £81 4s. 4d. the previous year. The cost will probably be more this year, and, as the fund only stands at £93 14s. 5d., there will be a deficit to provide for out of the general fund, which is quite able to sustain it. Only one Chapter failed to make returns, so that the fiscal position for the year was very satisfactory.

It was resolved that all Grand Superintendents be members of Supreme Committee, *ex officio*.

Grand Principals were elected as follow: — G.Z., M.E. Comp. J. D. Webster (Auckland); D.G.Z., R.E. Comp. R. K. Cathcart (Oamaru); G.H., RE. Comp. L. Freedman (Napier); G.J., V.E. Comp. W. Smith (Invercargill). At the evening meeting M.E. Comp. J. D. Webster was enthroned by the retiring G.Z., M.E. Comp. A. Clothier, after which G.Z. installed his Principals and invested officers present. A brief address was delivered by the newly-elected G.2., who said :—

COMPANIONS,—It was with great reluctance I consented to accepted nomination for the office of First Grand Principal, and I enter upon the duties of that high office with feelings of grave doubt regarding my ability to do justice to the position. My only claim to this great honour, as far as I am aware, is founded upon long service as a Royal Arch Mason, close and constant attention to the duties of whatever office I have hitherto held, ardent admiration for Capitular Freemasonry, and earnest efforts to promote its interests.

This, at least, you may rely upon, Companions, that my heart will be in my work; and, if I do not succeed in gracing the position as some of my predecessors have done, I shall bring to the discharge of my duties an earnest, honest desire to assist this branch of our Fraternity, to make it truly serviceable and not merely ornamental, and to try and justify the time and money we collectively expend in connection therewith.

There is a mission for every branch of our noble fraternity, and work for all who are willing to engage in it; but it is not all of Freemasonry to wear a profusion of jewels and adornments, nor to know certain letters better than the Ten Commandments. We admire Freemasonry for its glorious past, for its brilliant present, and. we wish to secure for it a still more glorious future.

That can only be accomplished, Companions; by our not merely professing Masonry, but living it, bringing it into our daily lives, and regulating our business relations, our home duties and our personal dealings one with another by the golden rule we are taught within our Lodges and Chapters.

As in Craft Masonry we designate each member by the endearing term Brother. In Capitular Freemasonry, I contend, we advance a step further by designating each member by the endearing term. Companion; Companions in the Holy Royal Arch. The very phrase itself should arouse in us a foaling of deep interest in each other's welfare. Many Companions there are who require the uplifting hand of Companionship to guide and assist them along the rugged path of life, and, it behoves us all to be ever ready to do this and thereby prove the existant companionship of our sublime Institution.

I thank you, Companions, with all my heart, for the great honour you have conferred upon me; I recognise how poorly qualified I am to do justice to your choice, and can only ask you to remember that my weakness calls for the greater measure of support and assistance from you.

I trust our combined efforts will result in maintaining and promoting the usefulness and dignity of the Craft, and that the coming year will prove one of prosperity and sound advancement for Capitular Freemasonry.

CHAPTER XXII.

TWENTIETH YEAR—1911.



M.E. COMP. J. D. WEBSTER, G.Z. — 1911-12

The year which completed the second decade in the history of the Grand Chapter of New Zealand was not remarkable for any new activity, and in its comments on the year's work Supreme Committee said :—

"The depression that has been felt in some parts of the Dominion has exerted an influence on this Degree of Freemasonry, especially in the southern part of the Westland district, where, your Committee regrets to learn, there has been considerable difficulty in holding meetings owing to the sparse attendances. In other places the same cause has had some effect in minimising progression, both in existing Chapters and others projected. It is again satisfactory to note that there has been no attempt to force the position with reference to proposed Chapters, but rather to delay till more prosperous times come round."

During the year fraternal relations were entered into between the Grand Chapters of North Dakota and Missouri, and the following Representatives appointed :—Near the Grand Chapter of North Dakota, Comp. Wm. McGibbon, of Fargo; near the Grand Chapter of Missouri, Comp. Thomas A. Milburn, of Kansas City; near the Grand Chapter of New Zealand, from North Dakota, Comp. Wm. Smith, Invercargill; from the Grand Chapter of Missouri, Comp. Fred. Kearsley, Auckland. A vacancy occurs in the representation of Ireland, owing to the resignation of V.E. Comp. R. C. Hamerton.

Two resignations were received during the year, the first from R.E. Comp. R. G. V. Parker, Grand Superintendent of Otago, who had to succumb to the exigencies of military service and removal to Wellington, and the second, RE. Comp. R. H. Cathcart, D.G.Z., who relinquished his office for private reasons. M.E. Comp. Arthur Clothier, P.G.Z., kindly stepped into the breach, and supervised the Otago district up to the end of the year.

In the Annual Report to Grand Chapter special reference was made to the great service so ungrudgingly given by a distinguished and most estimable Companion, whose name has been so closely associated with the active work of Capitular Freemasonry almost from the inception of Grand Chapter. The clause in the report is as follows:—

Supreme Committee is confident that it will not be considered invidious by the Superintendents of other districts to again mention the valuable service rendered by M.E. Comp. Rev. T. Porritt in his supervision of the Wellington district, which includes more than one-third of the total number of Chapters under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of New Zealand. By skilful arrangement he conducted the ceremony of installation in each of his eleven Chapters, besides visiting several at other times during the year. It will be pleasing to Grand Chapter to know that the Chapters spontaneously and unanimously recently recognised the valuable services of the distinguished Companion in practical form.

Supreme Committee is not blind to the fact that the present constitution of the Wellington R.A. Masonic district imposes a somewhat arduous duty on the officer in charge, but the position is singular from the fact that there are only two Chapters in the Nelson and Marlborough district, as far distant from each other as from Wellington, and also in Hawke's Bay there are only two. Some steps have been taken for the institution of a third Chapter, and should they be successful, Supreme Committee would at once recommend the constitution of Hawke's Bay into a separate district. It would also be advantageous to incorporate Manawatu, Ruapehu, and Wanganui Chapters into a district, providing they were acquiescent, and a competent and enthusiastic Companion could be found, with sufficient time at his disposal, to give constant attention and instruction to these Chapters. Your Committee would ask for the authority of Grand Chapter to take any action in the direction indicated, during the recess, should circumstances arise to render it necessary.

The authority here asked for was given by Grand Chapter.

Perhaps the most important question submitted for the consideration of Grand Chapter at the Twentieth Convocation, was that of altering the constitution of Grand Chapter, to provide for the holding of Biennial in *lieu* of Annual Convocations. The reasons that influenced the Committee were :—(1) That the accumulation of business within the short space of twelve months does not warrant the holding of an annual meeting with its concurrent cost. (2) That the greater portion of the governing work is administrative rather than legislative or judicial. (3) That as Chapters are individually taxed to provide the cost, and many of them are not at any time blessed with a plethora of funds, it would be a relief to them to spread the present tax over two years instead of one. (4) That the principal officers of Grand Chapter are not sufficiently long in office to grasp the duties, or to enable them to become known to Chapters outside their own residential areas. (5) That the opportunity of holding office for two years instead of one would enhance the value, and make all offices be more sought after.

In the discussion which ensued the motion was condemned in unmeasured terms, so much so that the Chairman considered it was wasting time to discuss the matter further and obtained leave to withdraw the motion.

Supreme Committee, in making the foregoing recommendation, did not lose sight of the social results of the periodic meetings of Grand Chapter, but was of opinion that unless the business transacted was somewhat commensurate with the cost, Chapters should not be called upon to provide for what is largely a social outing

to officers and representatives. Supreme Committee, desired to make it clearly understood that, in making this recommendation, it had no feeling in the matter, but was only actuated by a desire to advance the best interests of Grand Chapter. Yet notwithstanding this representation., Supreme Committee received no credit for its disinterested action, but, on the contrary, was very severely taken to task. "Old customs die hard, and reforms come slowly." Without suggesting a spirit of prophecy, the present historian holds a fairly strong opinion that the time will come when this change will be made by acclamation, instead of, as in this instance, being rejected with denunciation.

The following letter from the Grand Chapter of Scotland fairly indicates the views of that country on the question of " Sovereign Jurisdiction " :—•

Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland,
Royal Arch Masons' Hall, 75 Queen Street,
Edinburgh, 13th Nov., 1911.

Dear Comp. Williams,

I had the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 6th, and in the meantime can only express my hearty thanks for the interest you are taking in regard to our old Chapters.

I was not aware that any communications had passed regarding the interchange of fraternal relations between our two constitutions.

If the matter is formally raised, I shall certainly have the pleasure of presenting a report on the subject to my Committee.

In a similar case in another colony, fraternal intercourse, that is to say, mutual recognition in the way of exchanging visits and recognising degrees, was at once sanctioned.

There was a claim made by the local Grand Body for sole jurisdiction, but, of course, that could not be admitted, and at the present moment the matter stands upon a general recognition of mutual sovereignty.

If anything is done I shall, of course, be unable to move without consulting Chapters in New Zealand.

I have not looked into the question of what degrees you work and recognise, or whether at the present moment there is visitation going on between our Chapters and yours.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED A. MURRAY.

Mr. H. J. Williams,
P.O. Box 8, G.P.O.,
Wellington, N.Z.

Supreme Committee, in considering this reply, regretted exceedingly that Scotland stipulated for mutual sovereignty, and assumed that Grand Chapter would not be disposed to accept recognition on these terms, which assumption was amply borne out by Grand Chapter.

Authority was given to print a third edition of R.A. and a chairman of Supreme Committee was added to the permanent list of Grand Officers.

The financial statement indicated that there had been a large falling off in the receipts as against the previous year, the total for 1911 being £329 14s. 6d., as against £431 9s. 8d. for 1910. The decrease arising from a reduction in diploma fees, £116 2s., as against £154s. 6d. in 1910; old balances £15 6s., against £61 18s. 6d.; while four Chapters did not make returns before the end of the year. The expenditure showed a small increase, £355 0s. 9d. for 1911 and £322 10s. 7d. in 1910. This is accounted for by the increase in representatives' expenses, and a larger cost for parchments. Notwithstanding, the profit and loss shows an increase in profits of £49 19s. 10d.

As anticipated, the expenses of representatives at the Auckland Convocation largely exceeded the amount received, the items being: Receipts, 1910, £66 18s., and the expenditure £124 11s. 3d.

A motion to make it imperative that the First Principal of a Chapter should be a W.M. or P.M. in the Craft, was warmly discussed, and subsequently negated. The qualification for admission to a Chapter was increased from a Master Mason of "one" month's standing to "six months."

It was further provided that, in the case of marine candidates who have been balloted for and accepted, and who are taking the Mark, or Excellent Degree, one day's notice may be given in lieu of seven.

On the motion of Grand Scribe E. it was resolved:—"That a sum of £26 be annually appropriated, and be handed to the Grand Lodge of New Zealand for providing an annuity for some deserving applicant."

M.E. Comp. J. D. Webster was re-elected G.Z., and was again enthroned by M.E. Comp. Arthur Clothier, I.P.G.Z. Comp. Webster then installed R.E. Comp. L. Freedman as D.G.Z.; R.E. Comp. W. Smith as G.H.; R.E. Comp. J. J. Esson as G.J. The newly-installed G.Z. then briefly addressed Grand Chapter in the following terms:—

Excellent Companions,—Once more we are assembled in annual convocation, and it is my pleasing duty to congratulate you on the prosperous condition of Capitular Freemasonry ;and the harmonious spirit which prevails amongst us.

Supreme Committee has directed attention to a falling off in the financial results of the past year, attributable no doubt to temporary causes, but I am confident that in all that makes for permanent improvement we have cause for rejoicing.

There has been perhaps in the past a tendency to open our doors a little too freely, with the result that some who have not valued sufficiently the privilege of membership in this branch of Freemasonry have not maintained their interest, but to those who have watched the progress of events it must be apparent that our Chapters are much better worked than ever, and the beauty and value of our degrees are being more appreciated every day.

I trust, Excellent Companions, that each one of us can both look back on the past year with feelings of pride and satisfaction on something attempted, something done, that will add further lustre to our time-honoured institution.

We love our Noble Order for its sublime teachings, its noble purposes, its uplifting influences. Its foundation stone is a belief in God, Creator of all things, and its teachings are adaptable to every man who will strictly conform to its precepts.

Let us heed well the points of Companionship, and not only put forth the hand to save a falling Brother, but also assist him to rise to a higher plane of life and usefulness is our bounden duty. And may we take to our hearts the great truth that there is no service so acceptable to the Infinite God as the unselfish sacrificing service to our fellow men.

Capitular Freemasonry, by its teachings our lives are filled with hope and courage to fight our daily battles to bring into activity the uplifting, broadening, God-given principles of Charity and Fraternity by the trustful and sympathetic Companionship of our associations together within its mystic bonds, we are encouraged to lead better lives, to become better citizens and neighbours' husbands' and fathers, truer patriots, and more self-sacrificing lovers of King and country.

We should never let our beloved order become common. Its perpetuity and value rests upon the intelligence and moral personnel of its membership ; a daily exemplification in our lives of its cardinal virtues will do more to prove its sterling worth than pages of printed matter can possibly do.

Let me thank you very cordially, Excellent Companions, for the great honour you have been pleased to confer upon me by electing me for a second term to the highest office in your gift.

I am deeply grateful, and will endeavour, so far as lies in my power, to do justice to the position, but I shall continue to rely on your hearty co-operation and the active assistance of those associated with me in directing the affairs of the Supreme Chapter.

CHAPTER XXIII.

TWENTY-FIRST YEAR-1912



M.E. COMP. W. SMITH, G.Z.-1913

The celebration of the completion of the twenty-first year of existence, whether of individuals or institutions, is invariably the subject of jubilation in a greater or lesser degree, though the Grand Chapter of New Zealand was not very exuberant on the occasion of its coming of age. Yet, there were indications of unexpressed satisfaction, not alone that the majority was consummated, but also that the attendance was well worthy of the occasion, especially considering the difficulties incidental to geographical configuration, and the coincidence of circumstances that operated so unfortunately against the attendance of some of the most distinguished members of Grand Chapter. In regular sequence, Napier had been designated as the place to receive the honour of the Annual Convocation, but circumstances arose which prevented the Depute-Grand Z. taking the higher office, thus rendering a change of locale necessary, and Invercargill was selected as

being the place of residence of the incoming G.Z. The Convocation was held in the magnificent Masonic Hall in that town, on Wednesday, 29th January, 1913. The very regrettable absence of M.E. Comp. Webster, necessitated the chair being taken by M.E. Comp. Arthur Clothier as the I.P.G.Z., and twenty-three Chapters were represented, besides a considerable number of members of Grand Chapter. A most unusual incident was the presence of seven Past Grand Z.'s. After the correspondence was read,

Grand Scribe E. commented upon the awful suddenness of the death of Comp. Smith, of Napier, and the peculiar combination of circumstances that had prevented the attendance of Comps. Griffiths, Esson, and Horsnell. He also craved the attention of Grand Chapter, while he made some reference to the absence of M.E. Comp. J. D. Webster, G.Z. After touching on the very great interest Capitular Freemasonry had for G.Z., Grand Scribe E. recalled the fact that when, twelve months ago, owing to somewhat peculiar circumstances, the ordinary succession to the office of G.Z. was broken, there was some difficulty in deciding what course would be best in the interest of Grand Chapter, and while it would have been quite possible to have secured the services of a P.G.Z. to fill the breach, Supreme Committee held the opinion that the best interests would be served if Comp. Webster would consent to hold office for a further term, and though a very busy man, G.Z. agreed to accept re-nomination, thus giving a practical illustration of his interest in the work. He, the speaker, had been in full communication with the G.Z., and was thus enabled to measure the poignancy of his regret in not being able to preside at the present meeting, and, in consequence, had suggested that Comp. Webster should embody his feelings in a valedictory address. But, unfortunately, the suggestion came too late. G.S.E., in expressing the deep regret of G.Z., stated that nothing but the exigencies of a pressing business, with large ramifications, had necessitated the absence of G.Z. on such an important occasion. M.E. Comps. Powley and Clothier fully concurred in all that had been said by G.S.E.

During the year fraternal relations have been completed between the Grand Chapter of New Zealand and the Grand Chapter of Utah. Comp. Gideon Valentine, of Ogden, was appointed to represent New Zealand near the Grand Chapter of Utah, and Bit. Comp. A. R. Porter represents Utah in this territory. Owing to the lamented death of Comp. G. F. Martin, Comp. H. J. Armstrong has been appointed as the representative of New Zealand near the Grand R.A. Chapter of Victoria. In each of the foregoing appointments patents of office have been issued. V.E. Comp. R. C. Hamerton having resigned from the representation of the Grand Chapter of Ireland, the name of R.E. Comp. Dr E. Dacre Dunn was submitted to that jurisdiction for appointment. This nomination was accepted by the Grand R.A. Chapter of Ireland, and the following postscript was added to the letter of notification: "There is no formal patent of appointment for Representatives in the jurisdiction, as such appointments are made only in a few special cases." A copy of this notification was forwarded to R.E. Comp. Dr Dunn. The courtesy of the Masonic jurisdiction of Ireland is proverbial.

CONTROL IN THIS JURISDICTION,

Apart from the increase on the Roll of Grand Chapter, from the reports that have come to hand it would appear that R.A. Freemasonry under Grand Chapter is quite holding its own, and is doing excellent work in this country. Two Chapters that appeared somewhat languid last year have now acquired renewed vigour, and much more favourable reports may be anticipated at the next Annual Convocation. During the past year Cromwell Coronation Chapter changed its habitat from Cromwell to Alexandra, and as there is a much wider scope in the latter town, the Superintendent of the Otago District anticipates that greater progress will be in evidence in the future. On the 17th July, on the recommendation of the M.E.G.Z., Comp. F. Rearsley was appointed to the charge of the Auckland district.

NEW CHAPTERS.

The past year was memorable for the institution of two new Chapters, the first—"Takahoa"—having been consecrated at Patea on the 19th September, with V.E. Comp. H. Priestley, the retiring Z. of the Wanganui Chapter, as First Principal. The Chapter was constituted and its officers invested by Grand Scribe E., assisted by M.E. Comp. Rev. T. Porritt, P.G.Z., R.E. Comp. J. J. Esson, G.J.; R.E. Comp. G. W. Palmer, Grand Supt., and other Companions. The second Chanter was opened at Balclutha under the designation of "Iwikatea," on the 14th November, by M.E. Comp. Arthur Clothier, P.G.Z.; R.E. Comp. W. Smith, G. H. ; R.E. Comp. E. Lane, Grand Supt., and other visiting Companions.

NEW DISTRICT.

At the last Annual Convocation authority was given to Supreme Committee to sub-divide the large Wellington district, if circumstances permitted. With the then probable advent of the Takahoa Chapter, and the willingness of R.E. Comp. G. W. Palmer, of Wanganui, to accept the supervision, Chapters Manawatu (Palmerston North) and Ruapehu (Marton) were consulted, and the district of the " West Coast, North Island," was formally constituted on the 20th June, and R.E. Comp. Palmer was invested as Grand Supt. in Brooklyn Chapter on the 10th of July following. Comp. Palmer is resident in the centre of the new district, and as a man of leisure should be able to render invaluable service to the Chapters in his district.

At the last Annual Meeting the M.E.G.Z. referred to a circular issued by the Grand Mark Lodge of England, and suggested that the recognition of England should be applied for by the Grand Chapter of New Zealand. The matter was referred to Supreme Committee, and a communication was received from the Grand Z., setting forth reasons why recognition was desirable. Supreme Committee gave the matter very great consideration, but decided that as at two Convocations it had been decided that it would be *infra dig.* for a Grand Chapter to apply to a Grand Mark Lodge for recognition, it would be stultifying the expressed wish of Grand Chapter to reverse the decision arrived at by that body. This was combated by M.E. Comp. Webster, who persisted in his desire that the recognition should be requested. Supreme Committee thereupon took the advice of the Grand Supts., which, owing to the diversity of opinion, was not of great assistance, and ultimately, in order to give effect to the wishes of G.Z., the following letter was drafted by G.S.E., and having received the assent of the M.E.G.Z., was despatched to its destination; but up to this date (6th December) no reply has been received:—

Wellington, New Zealand,
16th August, 1912.

V.E. Bro. C. Fitzgerald Matier,
Grand Secretary,
Grand Lodge of Mark Masons of England,
London.

V W. Brother,—

I am instructed by Supreme Committee of the Grand R.A. Chapter of New Zealand to apply to your Grand Mark Lodge for the interchange of fraternal relations in so far as such interchange may effect all Mark Masons enrolled under the said Grand Chapter of New Zealand, and in connection therewith I beg to submit the following information:-

1. That the Mark Degree is worked by all Chapters holding under the Grand Chapter of New Zealand, and is made necessary for all candidates for exaltation. So that all R.A. Masons have attained the Mark Degree.
2. Grand Chapter has on its register 32 Chapters and one Mark Lodge.
3. Charters are granted to Mark Lodges to work the Mark Degree only.
4. Two reasons may be given why there is only one Mark Lodge under the jurisdiction of Grand Chapter. Firstly, Grand Chapter has never encouraged this formation; and, secondly, special local efforts are invariably made to support a Chapter in lieu of a Mark Lodge.
5. Grand Chapter is now in its twenty-first year, and its work in the past has absolutely justified its existence.

It is felt that as fraternal relations exist between the Grand Lodges and Grand Chapters of England and New Zealand, that i Mark Masonry should not suffer any disability, because it is not worked as a separate and distinct body in the Masonic territory of New Zealand.

The request is, therefore, preferred in order to create a better feeling and greater harmony, that fraternal relations be entered into by the Grand Mark Lodge of England and Wales and Mark Masonry under the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand.

I have the honour to be,

Fraternally yours,
HERBERT J. WILLIAMS, P.G.Z.,
Grand Scribe E.

As at the date of the compilation of this history (March, 1913) still no reply has been received, it cannot be said that promptitude is a distinguishing characteristic of the Grand Mark Lodge of England.

It was decided to continue the annuity to Grand Lodge Annuity Fund, and £26 was appropriated.

The offer of G.S.E. to compile a history of Grand Chapter for the twenty-one years of its existence was very warmly received, and the Companion was very heartily thanked. It was decided that the work be published in book form, and full power was given to Supreme Committee to arrange for the publication.

A somewhat rare incident arose in connection with the election of officers. The office of G.J. was contested by two candidates, each of whom secured 23 votes. Subsequently the Grand Z. in the chair decided the ballot in favour of V.E. Comp. T. Ross.

G.S.E. submitted the following report as to the numerical strength of Grand Chapter, such particulars not being available when the annual report was compiled:—

The approximate number of members on the register of the Supreme G.R.A. Chapter of New Zealand is 1543. This is an increase of 109 on the figures for 1911. The total admissions were 192, as against 163 for the preceding year. The secessions amounted to 122, made up of 81 demitted, 16 died, and 28 struck off. Though there was a net increase of 67 admissions over demissions, yet the percentage of secession is far too large and calls for the consideration of Chapters as to the causes. The largest Chapter numerically is Southern Cross, with 119 members, Waitaki being a close second with 118.

An amendment was agreed to making it imperative that the W. Mark Master of a Lodge held within the body of a chapter must be an installed Master in the Craft. Hitherto the laws allowed any Companion of the Chapter to be elected W. Mark Master without qualification.

The question of altering the date of the Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter, to provide that it be held during the same week as the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of N.Z., again recurred, at the instance of Waitaki Chapter, but did not excite a very spirited debate, as the general opinion prevailed that the very exhaustive report on the subject submitted by a Supreme Committee two years previously, and which had been adopted without debate, had disposed of the question. On a division being taken, only three votes were given for the proposal.

The same Chapter was also responsible for a proposal: "That all candidates for R.A. Freemasonry must be recommended by the Chapter nearest the residence of such candidate." After a short debate, the motion was rejected without division.

The financial position was considered very sound, though the amount of the Representation Fund had been reduced to £28 18s., and the cost of transit expenses for the session was estimated as over £100. The election of officers resulted in R.E. Comp. W. Smith, G.Z.; R.E. Comp. J. J. Eason, D.G.Z.; R.E. Comp. A. C. Andrews, G.H. ; V.E. Comp. T. Ross, G.J. Very great interest was manifested at the evening installation meeting, when the Principals were installed by M.E. Comp. A. Clothier, and the officers present were invested by M.E. Comp. Geo. H. Powley.

The M.E.G.Z. then delivered the following address:—

I wish to thank you all most sincerely for the great honour you have conferred upon me. I cannot find language to adequately express how highly I appreciate it. I have listened with care and attention to the M.E. Installing Officer in his impressive recital of the duties annexed to the appointment, and I am oppressed and somewhat dismayed at the weight of responsibility that will rest on my shoulders as First Grand Principal of our august institution, and am filled with misgivings as to my ability to carry out, with satisfaction to you or to myself, the important duties I have engaged to perform. I shall give them my earnest attention, and what I can do I will do to promote the best interests of Capitular Freemasonry.

I have ever held Freemasonry in the highest esteem as an institution calculated to raise the standard of morality and right living to a higher plane, not of its members only, but through the example of their life and conduct influencing for good all those with whom they come in contact.

The higher we rise the greater become our responsibilities. The Royal Arch—the copestone of the structure—demands more from its members. This sublime degree has been alluded to as " the root, heart, and

narrow of Freemasonry"; as "indescribably more august, sublime, and important than all which, precedes it"; as "the summit and perfection of Freemasonry"; "in it we find everything made perfect; for this is the *ne plus ultra* of Masonry, and can never be excelled by any human institution."

The E.A. is in a state of darkness. Light and truth are the objects of his search. The light that gradually dawns upon him is emblematical of the eternal principles of good, which is but another name for God. In the Royal Arch Degree, the name of Him who only is good is made known to him. Truth, the foundation of all virtues, must be searched for—the sojourners are a striking example of this fact. The discovery made by them reveals that which was supposed to have been lost for ever ; a symbolic illustration of the divine truth, " Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you."

The craft degrees represent a state of asking and seeking—the Royal Arch answers both—opens and reveals that which alone can exalt a man to be a son of Almighty God.

We have reached our twenty-first anniversary, and have passed the stage of adolescence, and entered well equipped upon our manhood's life. What we have inherited and what we have learned, it is our duty and our privilege to pass on to a more glorious future. Truth never ages, the need for charity is ever with us, and brotherly love may be said to be only in its first degree. There is greater work to be done in the future than in the past. We are called upon to-day as never before to exemplify our principles, to so present the great truths, " The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man," that the world may judge us by what is seen rather than by what we tell it.

In the installation ceremony of the three Principals they are exhorted to " let the bright examples of your illustrious predecessors in the Grand Council at Jerusalem always stimulate you to a faithful discharge of your duties," and they are reminded " that the public reputation of the institution will be found to rise or fall in proportion as the characters and conduct of its principal officers are estimable or censurable."

Who were these predecessors, and what were the virtues that made them examples for our imitation ? As you know, the circumstances surrounding the building of Solomon's temple formed the groundwork on which Craft Freemasonry is erected, so likewise is the building of the Second Temple taken as the basis of the Royal Arch; and it is the chief actors in this great undertaking, Zerubbabul, Jeshua, and Haggai the Prophet who are thus referred to.

Prince Zerubbabul was appointed Governor of Judea, Joshua the Priest, Haggai the Prophet, and Ezra and Nehemiah the Scribes, were his coadjutors in rebuilding the Temple at Jerusalem, a work the whole Jewish people had so much at heart. They met with opposition, intrigues, treachery, and even armed resistance from the very beginning. Every one of the builders had to go about their work armed. It took twenty long, weary years to complete the work. The magnificent Temple was dedicated, and the Mosaic ceremonial of public worship restored. Faith in God, devotion to duty, and indomitable perseverance under seemingly unsurmountable difficulties characterised the life and conduct of these leaders, and through a twenty years' campaign they "kept the flag flying."

We know that perfection is not given to man upon earth, but an earnest endeavour to approach it is within the power of us all, and is a duty every member of the Royal Arch owes to the institution and to himself.

The future of our institution depends upon us. Let us see to it that we set an example to those who will come after us, which shall be as encouraging, as inspiring, as enthusing, as full of life and hope as the example of those who have gone before has been to us.

Let us all endeavour to " keep the flag flying."

CHAPTER XXIV.

CONCLUSION.

The traveller journeying from country to country carefully notes the incidents of his progress, and from the panorama of events he subsequently evolves order out of the chaos incidental to continuous motion, and by a process of deduction estimates the value of his perigrinations, and the volume of information he has acquired. So in the history of institutions when periodically chronicled. As milestone after milestone is passed, as epoch succeeds epoch, the question must recur: What result has been achieved, and what work has been accomplished ?

At a recent Church Dedication Service the preacher explained to his congregation that the special import of the service was to celebrate the recurring anniversary of the Church, and it was a fitting time to institute retrospective inquiry, collectively and individually, to review the work of the Church as a whole, and to ask themselves what advance had been made in good works during the year; whether their aspirations had attained fruition, and their ideals had been reached. Was the Church fulfilling its mission and justifying its existence? And so, in closing the history of the twenty-one years of Supreme Grand Chapter, what will a close retrospective analysis reveal? Have the good resolutions originally formed, and which constituted the basis upon which the superstructure was founded, been given effect to? Have the ideals been reached, and is the existence of the institution justified by good works? To arrive at a fair conclusion it will first be necessary to glance at the position of R.A. Freemasonry prior to the institution of the Grand Chapter of New Zealand in 1892, and contrast it with the general outlook to-day.

Since the institution of the first R.A. Chapter in this country, which, so far as can be ascertained, was the St. Augustine Chapter under the English Constitution, founded in the year 1863, down to 1892, the Capitular Craft had a very quiet and intermittent existence. A few Chapters worked fairly regularly, though even with these lapses of meetings were not infrequent. Others, which included the majority, were most erratic, and many, whose bylaws provided for quarterly Convocations, sometimes found difficulties in holding one in each year. It does not appear that any information in *re* this degree was diffused among Freemasons generally; if it were so, then it can only be assumed that as there were no efforts put forth to enlighten the Craft without, so no steps were taken to stimulate any vitality within. In many instances the ritual ceremonial was most discreditably performed—if book-reading can be so designated—and in the year of grace 1880 every line of the Mark, Excellent, and Royal Arch Degrees were read to the present historian on his admission. Spasmodic attempts were occasionally made in some Chapters to infuse new life, or increase the general interest, but apathy was epidemic, and the efforts were short-lived. As an instance of the brief life which so frequently followed as a result of this apathy, a Chapter was founded in one of the cities in the year 1881, with a flourish of trumpets and ample opportunities; yet, in a comparatively short time it had outlived its usefulness, and before the end of the first decade had ceased to exist. It did not die in the ordinary sense, but gradually faded away from sheer inanition. And this was not by any means a solitary instance. It *is*, therefore, a fair statement of fact to say that Royal Arch Freemasonry, as a distinctive branch, was not a success in New Zealand between the years 1863 and 1892. Out of twenty-seven Chapters under the English, Irish, and Scottish Constitutions opened during this period, twelve have closed, seven transferred allegiance to the Grand Chapter of New Zealand, seven are continuing work under their original Constitutions, and one is dormant. As already stated in this history, the Grand Chapter of New Zealand commenced operations with seven Chapters transferring their allegiance. It has since instituted twenty-five Chapters and one Mark Lodge, and the Prince of Wales' Chapter transferred its allegiance from the English Constitution in the year 1911. During the full period comprised in this history two Chapters amalgamated, and thus formed the Waitaki-Kil. Chapter, one of the strongest in the jurisdiction. One—Paritutu—became dormant under the law, though it can scarcely be credited with having been very active at any time. And one other—Winton—surrendered its charter, which represents the only actual loss to Grand Chapter in twenty-one years, a record which has scarcely been equalled. In contradistinction to the old order of things, all Chapters under the Grand Chapter of New Zealand work regularly, many of them hold monthly meetings, and lapses rarely, if ever, occur. On December 31st 1912, only one Chapter had not made its annual return, and that omission was accidental, and in all Chapters there is ample evidence of considerable vitality. The membership has

increased to, approximately, 1600, and the assets amount to £1000, not in itself a large sum, but it must be considered that the revenue is calculated on the lowest basis so as not to press unduly on Companions, who must, of necessity, be contributing members of at least one other branch of the Masonic tree.

So much for the practical or business side. But what can be said as to the ethical position? Has Grand Chapter taken any measures to make the principles of Royal Arch Freemasonry more widely known. Has it used any special efforts to inculcate the higher lessons, of instilling those precepts which go to the making of all that is good, true and noble in character; of that uprightness and integrity of purpose which is a monument of moral worth, and which begets a reverence for the Great Ruler of heaven and earth, loyalty to the Throne, and love for the Brotherhood? The question can honestly be answered in the affirmative. The purpose has been not only to popularise the institution, but also to promote the highest fraternal feelings among the Companions, prompt the admiration of the Brethren, and by judicious words spoken in due season to ensure a full and bountiful return in the future.

Not only have the legends and traditions been fully explained and amplified, but the moral lessons to adorn the tale have been clearly presented for the contemplation of the neophyte and Companions alike. Though the conference of the Capitular Degrees, which in this territory also include the Ark Mariner and Red Cross Knight, of necessity monopolises much time, yet, opportunities have been made in many Chapters for the delivery of addresses and the reading of papers, needless to say, to the general advantage and instruction of Companions, and the evidences of the times point to the practice being extended rather than discontinued.

It is colloquial in referring to the Royal Arch to class it as one of the "higher degrees," and exception is not infrequently taken to the claim, especially by the brother, who is so frequently heard to exclaim that "the Blue is good enough for him." But the question must arise as to the ground upon which the claim is based, and whether it is justified. If the term "higher" is used in the ordinary sense as "something above," then it is a misnomer, and there is no ground for the assumption. It is quite true that in the Ancient and Accepted Rite the degrees are numbered from one to thirty-three, the last of which is the highest and governs the others. But that particular quality only pertains to this especial rite, and has no value outside, and is not recognised in this country as having any association with Craft Freemasonry. But if we have regard to Capitular teaching, that the further we advance and the higher we are elevated the greater are our responsibilities and the duties required of us, then in that sense it is a "higher" degree. In extending our researches beyond Craft Freemasonry, other obligations are assumed, new aspirations are engendered, additional instruction is received, wider fields of usefulness are opened up, and more ample opportunities are given for the acquisition of that knowledge, and the attainment of those high ideals which Freemasonry designs. It may be iteration, but it must again be affirmed that Freemasonry has higher and nobler objects, but too frequently lost sight of, which are emphasised in the Royal Arch Degrees. Therein the Companions are banded together not only for instruction, but also for the exemplification of the word "Fraternity" in its fullest sense by rendering assistance in the time of trouble, soothing each others afflictions, and relieving the distressed. In a word, of practising the cardinal principle of Freemasonry—charity—in its fullest and broadest sense. That man should not live for himself alone is a truism applicable to Freemasons, and especially to those of the Holy Royal Arch.

The question is often raised and is but imperfectly understood as to the propriety of assisting candidates who desire admission into R.A. Freemasonry. If the assistance is indiscriminate and partakes of the nature of solicitation simply for the purpose of increasing the numerical strength, then such solicitation is most improper. If, on the other hand, it is desired to place before the more intelligent and "bright" members of the Blue the privileges and advantages of the Capitular Craft, and explain generally its objects and lessons, without trenching on the domain of the unwritten parts, then such action is not only proper, but commendable. The positions in connection with the admission of a profane into Freemasonry, and the advancement of a Freemason to the R.A. Degrees, are not on all tours in any sense, as in the one case it is right and in accordance with the fitness of things that a person should seek admission into Freemasonry of his own free will and accord, and uninfluenced by the solicitation of friends. But having entered the portals, and subsequently being deemed worthy of receiving the Master Mason's Degree, he naturally acquires the knowledge that there are other degrees in Freemasonry—indeed, the Book of Constitution with which he is presented on his initiation conveys the information that there are other degrees recognised by his Grand Lodge, among the number and the principal being the Royal Arch. It will not, then, be a matter of surprise if

he seeks for information as to the nature and purpose of these degrees, and if he has given perceptible indication of his appreciation of the institution of Freemasonry, and if it is considered that he would be a welcome addition and add lustre to the Capitular Craft, then the Companions will be fully justified in encouraging his aspirations, in explaining within certain limitations not only the nature of the degree, but also the duties and responsibilities that will accrue when once the Brother is exalted as a Companion. In this connection the 'Royal Arch has great possibilities if only proper discrimination is exercised by its membership. It is a tacitly admitted Masonic axiom that the best test as to the suitability for admission into Freemasonry is that the character of the applicant should be of such a standard as would admit him into the sanctity of the home of every brother. Unfortunately, though this axiom is somewhat freely prated, it is not very generally observed, sometimes with consequences inimical to the best interests of the institution. But in contradistinction to this, the Companions of the Royal Arch have ample opportunity of making careful selection, of sifting the wheat from the chaff, and of choosing the flower of Freemasonry for the constitution of the Royal Arch. Here they have the advantage of avoiding those errors which the Craft may, even inadvertently, make. A careful scrutiny of material should reduce the demissions, which swell so greatly in the Craft, to a very small minimum, while there should be little occasion to use the fatal letters, " S.O." The fact that in the record of this history attention has been called, all too frequently, to the excessive number of demissions, is proof positive as to the frequency with which Companions and Chapters in the past have missed their opportunities. It cannot be emphasised too strongly that the so-called higher degrees should constitute the aristocracy of Freemasonry, not the aristocracy of wealth or social position, but of that intellectuality which can understand and appreciate the lights and shades of the institution, and is imbued with a proper conception of capability for good; in a word, of those who accept Freemasonry in its highest and best sense, as teaching us those great duties we owe to God, to our neighbour, and ourselves; to so govern ourselves in this life that when the great and last trial shall come we may find our appointed place in that spiritual edifice—the house not made with hands.

It would be invidious here to attempt to particularise any of those Companions who have contributed their best efforts to further the great and glorious work. Some have given a whole-souled life's devotion to the cause, and it is only poor justice to say that to the efforts of those who have exhibited so much abnegation and love for the work, Grand Chapter owes much of the success that has been achieved. May the good work done during the minority of Grand Chapter be abundantly blessed, and may it go forward in the full strength of a virile manhood, perpetuating the fundamental principles of our time-honoured institution.

APPENDIX.

The following Chapters were in operation prior to the establishment of the Grand Chapter of New Zealand:—

ENGLISH CONSTITUTION.

St. Augustine, No. 609, Christchurch, founded 1863.—*Transferred to N.Z.*, 1892.
Westland Pacific, No. 1229, Hokitika, founded 1871.
Greymouth, No. 1233, founded 1873.
Joyce, No. 942, Port Chalmers, founded 1877.
Otago, No. 844, Dunedin, founded 1878.
Union No. 517, Wellington, founded 1880.—*Defunct*.
Victoria. No. 1577, Napier, founded 1850.—*Transferred to N.Z.* 1892.
Auckland, No. 1328, founded 1883.—*Working*.
Remuera, No. 1710, founded 1883.—*Defunct*.
Southern Cross, No. 997, Invercargill, founded 1878.—*Transferred to N.Z.*, 1892.
Albert Edward No. —, Lyttelton, founded 1888.—*Transferred to N.Z.*, 1892.
St. John, No. 1137, Timaru, founded 1887.—*Working*.

SCOTTISH CONSTITUTION.

Otago Kilwinning, No. 116, Dunedin, founded 1866.—*Working*.
Canterbury Kilwinning, No. 136, Christchurch, founded 1871.— *Working*.
Trafalgar, No. 157, Nelson, founded 1874.—*Working*.
Waterloo, No. 166, Wellington, founded 1875.—*Transferred to N.Z.* 1892.
Southland Kilwinning, No. 185, Invercargill, founded 1880. — *Only worked as a Mark Lodge until 1880, became dormant, and was formally closed*, 1908.
Ashburton Kilwinning, No. 187, founded 1880.—*Defunct*.
Lyttelton Kilwinning, No. 188, founded 1881.—*Closed*, 1892.
Paritutu, No. 196, New Plymouth, founded 1883.—*Transferred to N.Z.*, 1892; *since defunct*.
Zealandia, No. 197, Auckland, founded 1884.—*Defunct*.
Canterbury Kilwinning, No. 147, Hokitika, founded—.—*Defunct*.
Abbotsford, No. 156, Thames.—*Defunct*.
Cromwell, No. 535.—*Defunct*.

IRISH CONSTITUTION.

Ara, No. 348, Auckland, founded 1872.—*Defunct*.
Hauraki, No. 454, Thames, founded 1873.—*Defunct*.