

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
MASONIC CONVENTION

HELD AT
BATON ROUGE, JUNE, 5850,

WITH THE
CONSTITUTION

THEN ADOPTED FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE

GRAND LODGE

OF THE
STATE OF LOUISIANA.

1850

NEW ORLEANS:
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5850.

PROCEEDINGS.

MASONIC CONVENTION.

BATON ROUGE, JUNE 3d, 1850.

The Delegates met in the Hall of Representatives of the Capitol, under an arrangement made by a committee of brethren of Baton Rouge, at half past 10 o'clock, A. M., and proceeded to a temporary organization by calling P. G. M. JOHN GEDGE to the Chair, and appointing SAM'L G. RISK as Secretary.

The Chair having called the brethren to order, brother Hanson moved that a committee of five be appointed by the Chair to examine and report upon credentials, and other matters necessary to a full and perfect organization of the Convention.

The motion was adopted, and the Chair appointed on said committee brothers Hartsock, Race, Catlett, Cook and Claiborne.

On motion, the Convention then adjourned until 3½, P. M.
SAM'L G. RISK, Secretary. JOHN GEDGE, Chairman.

JUNE 3d, 1850—3½, P. M.

The Convention met agreeably to adjournment.

On motion, the Convention proceeded to the election of a doorkeeper, whereupon brother S. F. Blanchard was unanimously elected.

The Committee on Credentials then offered the following Report, which was received:

The Committee on Credentials beg leave to report—That by inspection of the different documents submitted to them, they find that the Lodges hereinafter named are represented in this

Convention according to the basis adopted by the Grand Lodge on 24th April last, and that their delegates have presented proper credentials. The committee place opposite the name of each Lodge the number of delegates to which it is entitled, upon the basis fixed by the Resolution under which this Convention has been authorized, together with the names of the delegates.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Polar Star, | 3 | delegates— | F. A. Lumsden, M. Meilleur, Dionis. |
| Perseverance, | 3 | " | F. Calongne, F. Meilleur, F. Parent. |
| Amor Fraternal, | 2 | " | Morenati and Rico. |
| Masonic Disciples, | 2 | " | Lacoste and Saillot. |
| Los Amigos del Orden, | 2 | " | Bachino and Saliba. |
| Humble Cottage, | 1 | " | G. W. Addison. |
| St. Albans, | 1 | " | G. W. Catlett. |
| Feliciana, | 2 | " | Marks and Ball. |
| Boyer Macconnique, | 2 | " | Mallard and Delamare. |
| Germania, | 3 | " | J. Olti, N. Worms, Spiekerkoetter. |
| St. James, | 3 | " | Hart, Hereford, Tisdale. |
| Caddo, | 1 | " | B. L. Hodge. |
| Miniden, | 3 | " | W. T. Hardee. |
| Lafayette, | 1 | " | T. A. Smith. |
| Franklin, | 2 | " | Hartsock and Meade. |
| Friends of Harmony, | 3 | " | H. Williams, Jaehne & Lovenskiold. |
| Hiram, | 1 | " | J. G. Kendall. |
| Alpha, | 1 | " | C. H. Churchill. |
| St. Moriah, | 2 | " | Race and Herriman. |
| Hermann, | 1 | " | C. K. O'Hara. |
| Edna, | 1 | " | T. Morris. |
| Geo. Washington, | 1 | " | S. G. Risk. |
| Warren, | 2 | " | Claiborne and Horrell. |
| Marion, | 2 | " | Rondeau and Ludwigen. |
| Crescent City, | 1 | " | A. C. Wilbur. |
| St. John, | 1 | " | J. O. Harris. |
| Joppa, | 1 | " | R. Cooke. |
| Quitman, | 1 | " | N. H. Nash. |
| Orleans, | 1 | " | J. Gedge. |
| St. Josephs, | 1 | " | J. W. Davenport. |
| Iberville, | 2 | " | Long and Neville. |
| Clinton York, | 1 | " | D. F. Reeder. |
| Mancey, | 1 | " | G. E. Ward. |
| Total, | 55 | | |

The Committee also report that they have had before them a duly authenticated copy of a Resolution adopted by Sabine Lodge No. 75, passed 24th May last, by which the Lodge authorizes and requests brother John Gedge to represent them in this Convention.

Respectfully,

JAS. R. HARTSOCK,
G. W. RACE,
ROBT. COOK,
JNO. CLAIBORNE,
G. W. CATLETT.

On motion of brother Race, the report was agreed to unanimously.

On motion, the Convention then proceeded to the election of a President by ballot—brothers Race and Reeder being appointed tellers.

On motion of brother Hereford, it was unanimously agreed to, that a majority of all the votes cast should be necessary to a choice for President.

On counting the ballot, it appeared that there were forty-nine votes cast, of which brother S. F. Marks had 31; brother John Gedge, 10; brother Catlett, 4; brother Calongne, 3; brother Hereford, 1—49. Whereupon brother Marks was declared duly elected President of the Convention.

On motion, the Convention then proceeded to the election of two Secretaries, one English and one French, *viva voce*, which resulted in the choice of brothers S. G. Risk as English, and F. Meilleur, French. Brother Meilleur declined serving.

Brother Hereford then moved that two Secretaries be selected from among the members of the fraternity who are not delegates to this Convention; which was lost.

On motion, the vote calling for two Secretaries was reconsidered, and it was unanimously adopted that the Convention elect but one; whereupon brother S. G. Risk was duly elected said Secretary.

On motion, brother Calongne was unanimously chosen Translator to the Convention.

On motion, the Rev. brother J. H. Linebaugh, of Baton Rouge, was unanimously chosen Chaplain of the Convention.

On motion of brother Meade, the Convention was then opened with prayer by Rev. brother F. A. Smith, in the absence of the Chaplain elect.

Brother Claiborne then offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That any brother present, belonging to any Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of this State, which has not formally named delegates to this Convention, and who may have been requested to attend the sessions of this body, or even desires to represent his Lodge, in the absence of its appointed delegates, may do so on furnishing satisfactory evidence of his membership of the Lodge which he proposes to represent.

Whereupon brother Gedge offered the following as a substitute, which was accepted by the mover of the previous resolution:

Be it Resolved, That the representative or representatives of any Lodge, present in this Convention, be authorized to cast all the

votes to which said Lodge is entitled, according to the ratio of representation laid down by the Grand Lodge.

Be it further Resolved, That any brother appearing in this Convention, who can afford satisfactory evidence that it is the desire of his Lodge that he should represent it, shall be entitled to take a seat in this Convention as representative of said Lodge, and be entitled to cast all the votes to which said Lodge is entitled, according to the ratio of representation to which said Lodge is entitled by the resolutions of the Grand Lodge.

Be it further Resolved, That every Lodge which has appointed representatives to this Convention, is the best and only judge of the capacity of the brother appointed to represent it; and that any representative appointed by any Lodge authorized to appoint representatives, be admitted to represent said Lodge in this Convention, although he may be the representative of another Lodge, or not a member of said Lodge; provided, always, that he be a Master Mason in good standing.

On motion, said substitute was laid on the table; and the question being about to be put on the original resolution of brother Claiborne, brother Gedge objected, as the substitute had been accepted in lieu thereof. The Chair decided that the original resolution was the property of the Convention; whereupon brother Gedge appealed from said decision. The appeal was put, and the decision of the Chair being sustained, the question recurred on the original resolution, which, being put, was adopted.

Brother Gedge here stated that he protested against such proceedings, and left the Convention.

Brothers Noah B. Benedict, of Tunica Lodge No. 63; and Daniel S. Beauchamp, of Olive Lodge No. 52; although without proper credentials, were, on motion, unanimously admitted to represent their respective Lodges in the Convention.

Brother Cooke then offered the following, which was on motion laid on the table:

Resolved, That no member of this Convention shall speak more than twice upon the same motion, proposition, or resolution, and not more than fifteen minutes at any one time.

Brother Churchill offered the following:

Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed to draft Rules of Order for the government of this Convention, to report as soon as practicable.

The Chair appointed on said committee brothers Churchill, Lumsden and Reeder.

On motion, brother H. H. Womack, of De Soto Lodge No. 65, was admitted to a seat in the Convention to represent said Lodge therein.

On motion, the Convention was then adjourned by prayer from the Chaplain, until 8 o'clock, A. M., June 4th, A. L. 5850.

S. F. MARKS, President.

[Attest] SAM'L G. RISK, Secretary.

MASONIC CONVENTION.

BATON ROUGE, JUNE 4th, 5850—8 o'clock, A. M.

The Convention assembled agreeably to adjournment, and being called to order, the following prayer was then delivered by the Chaplain:

ALMIGHTY GOD! the great Architect of the universe, as its supreme Governor and the Omnipotent Disposer of all events pertaining to the happiness and well-being of thy children on earth, be pleased, from thy lofty habitation in the heavens, to take cognizance of and direct the actions and interests of thy creatures in every position and relation of life; so that they may tend continually and certainly to the advancement of thy glory and the promotion of their own happiness. Grant that their hearts every where may be penetrated with the great desire of doing good, with the great desire of elevating the standard of human character in the world. Grant that the intellects of men may be so far enlightened, and their hearts so far enlarged, as that they may not only perceive, but be able continually to perform, whatever may pertain to their highest well-being. Grant that all selfishness may cease—that benevolence may become enthroned in the heart as the master principle, controlling all our actions and emotions—that love and charity may travel with the sun in its circuit, shedding their benignant and comforting influence upon every and all of God's creatures alike, the rich and the poor, the great and humble, the mighty and obscure. Wilt thou especially, O Lord, be with every institution having for its object the noble and divine end of ameliorating suffering of every form, and in every position. Be with the order in whose name and for whose benefit this Convention is this day assembled. Grant that its obligations may be felt and appreciated, by every one admitted to the privileges of its fraternity; that every member may regard in every member a brother, and seek to discharge to him the duties of a brother in all the intercourse of life. Grant that the mystic ties by which we are all bound together, may be holy ties, and that under no circumstances may they be broken. Grant that masonry may not exist in the mind simply, but also in the heart; may not exist in lifeless and unmeaning symbols and ceremonies, but in spirit and in power; may not be confined or circumscribed in her influence, but may throw the broad axis of her beneficence over all thy creatures. Be with the deliberations of this body, and grant that conciliation, harmony and unity may govern its deliberations; that officers and members may be actuated by the one desire of promoting the highest good of the order in this State. And if in times past there have been estrangement and division of councils among masons, grant that they may no longer exist, but that hereafter they may act with the will of one man—may present to the world an undivided front—may be as a city at unity with itself, that every private feeling, interest, prejudice or prepossession, may be surrendered upon the altar of the common

weal. We now commend ourselves to thy gracious guardianship and protection, asking in the name of Jesus Christ an answer to these our petitions. So mote it be. Amen.

The Minutes of the previous sessions were read, and no objections or amendments being made, they were declared adopted.

The roll of members being called, and a quorum being present, the Convention proceeded to business.

Brother Churchill, from the Committee on Rules of Order, made the following report:

The committee on the part of this Convention, beg leave to report the following Rules and Regulations for its government; to wit:

ART. 1. The Convention shall be opened and closed with prayer.

ART. 2. The Convention shall be called to order by the President; in his absence, a brother delegate shall be called by a majority of votes, and perform all the duties required of the President.

ART. 3. The Secretary shall call the roll of members, and if a majority be present the Convention shall proceed to business.

ART. 4. The Minutes of preceding meeting shall be read and approved.

ART. 5. No member of this Convention shall speak a longer time than fifteen minutes, nor more than twice on the same subject, except to explain, which shall be only done by permission of the Chair, and which explanation shall by no means exceed five minutes, it being understood that no delegate shall speak the second time until all desiring to participate shall have spoken.

ART. 6. The Convention shall convene at half-past 8, A. M., and shall continue in its labors until 12, M., when it shall be adjourned to meet at 3½, P. M., and shall continue until 6½, P. M.

ART. 7. All motions, resolutions, and amendments, shall be presented in writing.

ART. 8. All questions of order shall be decided by the Chair, but an appeal may be taken from its decision, which shall be decided without debate by a vote of the majority.

ART. 9. All committees shall be appointed by the Chair, unless otherwise ordered.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted by your Committee.

CHAS. H. CHURCHILL,
D. F. REEDER,
F. A. LUMSDEN.

Which report was on motion received, and the Committee discharged.

Brother Harris moved to amend 5th Article by inserting "ten" minutes in lieu of "fifteen," which amendment was adopted.

The Report was then unanimously adopted as amended.

Brother Claiborne then offered the following:

Resolved, That where a Lodge is entitled to more than one delegate, under the basis fixed by the Resolutions of the Grand Lodge of the State, of April 24th, 1850, and not more than one delegate being present, he shall be entitled to cast as many votes as the Lodge which he represents is entitled to.

Brother Race moved to lay the resolution on the table; which was adopted by a vote of 31 ayes to 16 nays.

Brother Claiborne then called for the reading of his credentials, which were accordingly read by the Secretary; whereupon brother Claiborne stated that he felt his Lodge virtually disfranchised, and protesting against such proceeding, withdrew from the Convention.

Brother Harris then moved that the Convention adjourn *sine die*; and the question being put, the Chair decided the motion lost; and the yeas and nays being called for, resulted as follows:

Yeas—Brothers Saliba, Hardee, Kendall, Harris and Cook—5.

Nays—Brothers Lumsden, M. Meilleur, Dionis, Calongne, F. Meilleur, Parent, Morenati, Rico, Lacoste, Sailot, Bachino, Addison, Catlett, Marks, Ball, Mallard, Worms, Olf, Spiekerkoetter, Hart, Hereford, Hodge, Smith, Hartsock, Meade, Williams, Jaehne, Churchill, Race, Herriman, O'Hara, Wilbur, Risk, Davenport, Long, Neville, Reeder, Benedict, Beauchamp, Womack—41.

Consequently the motion to adjourn *sine die* was lost by a vote of 5 ayes to 41 nays.

Brother Reeder then moved to take up the Report of the Committee on the Constitution, and make the same the order of the day from time to time until its adoption or rejection. Pending which, brother Hodge offered the following:

Resolved, That this Convention adjourn to meet in the city of New Orleans on the first Monday in December next.

Which was lost.

The Chair then announced that it held the official credentials of brother A. D. Wooldridge to represent Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 77, held at Port Hudson; which was accepted, and brother Wooldridge admitted to a seat in the Convention.

The question then recurring on the motion of brother Reeder to take up the Report of the Committee on Constitution, it was unanimously agreed to; and the Convention proceeded to the consideration of the same, article by article, and section by section.

Article 1 was then adopted as printed.

Article 2, adopted as printed.

Article 3—Section 1st adopted as printed. Section 2d of same article being read, brother F. A. Smith offered to amend the same by permitting Past Masters to be *bona fide* members of the Grand Lodge, so long as they remain active and contributing members of a subordinate Lodge. Whereupon brother Race offered the following substitute for the amendment of brother Smith, and also for the printed section:

All the actual permanent members, and all Past Grand and Deputy Grand Masters and Past Wardens of the Grand Lodge, and all Past Masters of Lodges holding of this Grand Lodge, so long as they continue contributing members of some Lodge of this jurisdiction, and the proxies of said Masters and Wardens, shall be entitled to sit in the Grand Lodge, and assist in its deliberations, and vote on all questions which may come before the Grand Lodge.

Which being accepted by brother Smith, on motion, said substitute was laid on the table.

Brother Hodge then offered the following:

That no brother shall be permitted to sit or vote in the Grand Lodge except its actual office-bearers, (except the Tyler,) including the Masters and Wardens in office, representing their constituent Lodges.

Which was also, on motion, laid on the table.

Brother Beauchamp then moved to strike out all the article after the word "*absence*," which was also laid upon the table.

Brother O'Hara then offered the following substitute for section 2:

That all Past Masters of Lodges, *for the time past*, shall be entitled to all the privileges of active members of the Grand Lodge; provided they remain active contributing members of a Lodge holding under this jurisdiction; but that that privilege shall not be accorded to those who may become Past Masters of Lodges *for the time to come*.

Which was, on motion, laid on the table; and the question being called for, on motion of brother Hereford, to adopt section 2d of article 3d as printed by the committee, it was unanimously adopted. Article 3d was then adopted as printed.

Article 4 being read, brother Hodge moved to amend by striking out the third paragraph *in toto*, and in 5th paragraph to insert the word "*officers*" in lieu of "*members*," which amendments being agreed to, the article was then unanimously adopted as amended.

Article 5. Sections 1 and 2 were read and adopted as printed. Section 3d being read, brother Hartsock moved to amend by

striking out all after the word "*Lodge*," in 3d line from the end of the article; and brother Reeder moved to amend by striking out of fourth line from the bottom, the words "*as dispensation*," which amendments being agreed to, the section was adopted as amended, and Article 5th adopted as amended.

Article 6 being read, brother Reeder moved to amend section 1st by striking out of 2d line "*hereinafter provided*," which was adopted. Section 2d was then adopted as printed.

Section 3d being read, brother Reeder moved to strike out the whole section, which was lost.

Brother Herriman then offered the following substitute, which was on motion laid on the table:

The election shall be held immediately after the Grand officers shall have made their several reports, and finished the business of the preceding year.

Brother Benedict then offered the following, which also, on motion, was laid on the table:

The election shall be held after the Grand Lodge shall be duly organized for business, but not until all other business shall be finished; and the officers elect shall be forthwith installed.

Brother Hartsock then offered the following as a substitute for section 3d as printed:

Sec. 3d. The election shall be held on the third day after the organization of the Grand Lodge, and the officers then elected shall be installed as soon thereafter as practicable.

Which was, on motion, unanimously adopted.

Section 4 was, on motion, stricken out.

Section 5 was adopted, after striking out "*as above provided*."

The hour for adjournment having now arrived, the Chair announced the Convention adjourned until 3½, P. M.

S. F. MARKS, President.

[Attest] SAM'L G. Risk, Secretary.

MASONIC CONVENTION.

BATON ROUGE, JUNE 4th, 1850—3½ P. M.

The Convention met agreeably to adjournment, and the roll being called and a quorum present, the Convention proceeded with the order of the day.

Section 5, of Article 6, being then read, was adopted as printed, and the question being put, Article 6, as amended, was unanimously adopted.

Article 7. Section 1st being read, brother Race moved its adoption as printed, which was carried. Section 2 was also on motion adopted, after striking out all after the word "same" in last line but one. Section 3 being read, brother Hodge moved to amend the first two lines, to read, "The Grand Treasurer to keep, in such place as may be selected by the Grand Lodge;" which was on motion laid on the table.

Brother Race then moved to strike out the words "of this city," in second line—adopted. The same brother also moved to insert in lieu thereof, "of the city of New Orleans," which was carried, and the section adopted as amended.

Section 4 being read, brother Race moved to strike out, "he may during the sessions of," to "resolution or vote," which was adopted.

Brother Lumsden moved to insert between the words "and" and "such" the words "may receive," which was adopted, and the section was then adopted as amended.

Sections 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 were adopted as printed.

Brother Cooke then offered the following, to be Section 10. of same article:

The Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer shall furnish, within ten days after their election, such security as shall be approved by the Grand Lodge.

Which was, on motion, laid on the table, and Article 7 was then adopted as amended.

Article 8. Section 1 being read, brother Race moved to strike out 6th Committee, and all of third paragraph, which was carried, and the question being put on the section as amended, it was unanimously adopted.

Sections 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, were then severally read, and adopted as read; and the question being put, "Shall the Article pass as amended?" it was unanimously adopted.

Brother Hartssock then moved to reconsider the vote on Article 8, which motion was lost.

Article 9. Section 1 being read, and some verbal amendments being proposed, it was, on motion, Resolved, That the consideration of this section be postponed until to-morrow morning. Adopted.

Section 2 being then read, it was, on motion of brother Hodge, resolved to strike out "first Monday in February," and insert "third Monday in January"—which was carried, and the section adopted as amended.

Section 3 being read, brother Hodge moved to insert "thirty" instead of "fifteen days notice"—which was carried, and the section adopted as amended.

Section 4 was then read and adopted as printed.

Section 5 was, on motion of brother Hartssock, amended, by striking out the last sentence of the 2d paragraph. Adopted, and the section passed as amended.

Section 6 being then read, several amendments were verbally offered and separately laid on the table. Brother Hodge then moved to insert in said section "fifteen" in lieu of "six," and "a majority" in lieu of "twelve." Pending which, the Chair announced the hour for adjournment.

After prayer and benediction by the Rev. Chaplain, the Convention adjourned until 8½, A. M., June 5th, 5850.

S. F. MARKS, President.

[Attest] SAM'L G. RISK, Secretary.

MASONIC CONVENTION

BATON-ROUGE, JUNE 5th, 5850.

The Convention met at 8½, A. M., agreeably to adjournment, and being opened by prayer from the Rev. Chaplain, the roll was called, and a quorum being present, proceeded to the order of the day.

The Chair announced the first business to be the motion of brother Hodge to amend section 6, which was under consideration at the adjournment of yesterday evening.

Brother Catlett offered an amendment similar to brother Hodge's, which was, on motion of brother Wilbur, laid on the table.

Brother Race then moved that section 6 be adopted as printed, which was accordingly done.

The Chair then announced the special order of the morning.

which was the Section 1st of Article 9. Whereupon brother Catlett offered the following substitute:

Sec. 1. This Grand Lodge shall hold its communications in the city of New Orleans, until otherwise ordered by resolution of the Grand Lodge.

Brother Race moved to amend by striking out of said substitute all after the words "*New Orleans*"—which amendment was, on motion, laid on the table; and the question recurring on the substitute as originally offered, it was adopted.

Article 9 was then adopted as amended.

Brother Race then offered the following:

Resolved, That brother C. C. Biberon, of Baton Rouge, be employed to enroll the Constitution as passed on by this Convention, and that he commence his labors at once.

Which was unanimously adopted.

Brother J. G. Kendall asked permission from the Convention to retire, as pressing business called him home—which was granted.

Article 10. Section 1st was read, and adopted as printed.

Section 2 being read, brother Reeder moved to amend by substituting "*twenty-five dollars*" instead of "*forty*"—which amendment was, on motion, laid on the table.

Brother Cooke moved to amend by inserting "*sixty dollars for charter*" in lieu of "*forty*." A motion was made to lay this amendment on the table, which was lost; and the amendment being put, it was adopted, and the Section 2 passed as amended.

Sec. 3 was then read, and, on motion, unanimously stricken out.

Brother Wilbur then offered the following as a substitute for Section 4:

No Lodge held in the Parishes of Orleans and Jefferson, shall charge a less sum than fifty dollars for conferring the three degrees of Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master; nor less than thirty dollars in the other Parishes of the State; no credit shall in any case be given.

Which was unanimously adopted.

Section 5 being then read, brother Calongne moved to strike out of second line the words "*admission to membership*," and insert "*affiliation*"—which was agreed to, and the Section adopted as amended.

Section 6 was, on motion of brother Race, stricken out entirely.

Article 10 was then adopted as amended.

Article 11. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, were adopted as printed. Section 6 being read, brother Tisdale moved to amend by causing the Article to read, "and cause it to be subscribed and affirmed to before the chairman of said committee."

A motion was made to lay said amendment on the table, which was lost; and the question recurring on the amendment, it was adopted—and the Section 6 being put as amended, was adopted.

Sections 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, adopted as printed.

Section 12 was on motion amended, so as to read "*not*" for "*never*" in the first line, and so adopted.

Sections 13 and 14, adopted as printed.

Section 15 was, on motion, stricken out *in toto*.

A motion being made to strike out Section 16, said motion was laid on the table, and the Section adopted as printed.

Section 17 being read, brother Catlett moved to amend it by adding after "*Lodge*," "on recommendation of the Lodge that suspended or expelled him"—which was adopted, and the Section passed as amended.

Section 18 was then stricken out entirely.

Sections 19 and 20 adopted as printed.

Article 11 was then adopted as amended.

Article 12. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, adopted as printed.

Section 8 being read, brother Catlett moved to amend by inserting "*two-thirds*" in lieu of "*unanimous*" in last line. A motion was made to lay said amendment on the table, which was lost; and the amendment being put, it was adopted, and the Section passed as amended.

Sections 9, 10, 11 and 12, were then adopted as printed.

Section 13 being read, brother Race moved to amend by striking out every thing pertaining to the charity fund in the Section—which amendment being unanimously agreed to, the Section was passed as amended.

Section 14 being read, brother Hartsock moved to strike out the last sentence; which being adopted, the Section was passed as amended.

Section 15 was adopted as printed.

Section 16 being read, brother Hartsock moved to amend said section by adding, "No brother shall be a representative or proxy of more than one Lodge;" which was on motion laid on the table.

Brother Smith moved to reconsider said vote, he not understanding the question; which being carried, and the question recurring on the original amendment, it was adopted, and Section 16 passed as amended.

Brother Rondeau, from Marion Lodge, entered a written protest (Doc. No. 37) against this amendment, which was on motion ordered to be filed.

Section 17 was adopted as printed.

Section 18 was adopted as printed, after striking out all that portion relating to the charity fund.

Sections 19 and 20 adopted as printed.

Section 21 being read, brother Cooke moved to amend by inserting after the word "charter," in first line, the words "all its books, jewels and funds in the Treasurer's hands," and by striking out all relating to the charity fund—which being adopted, Section 21 was passed as amended.

Brothers Benedict and Ball then asked leave of absence from the Convention, which was, on motion, granted.

The Chair then announced the hour of adjournment, according to the Rules, when brother Harris moved to suspend the Rules, and that the Convention sit one hour longer. Which motion being lost, the Convention adjourned until 3½, P. M.

S. F. MARKS, President.

[Attest] SAM'L G. RISK, Secretary.

MASONIC CONVENTION.

BATON ROUGE, JUNE 5th, 5850.

The Convention met at 3½, P. M., agreeably to adjournment. The roll was called, and a quorum being present, the Convention proceeded to business. On motion, the reading of the Minutes was dispensed with until to-morrow morning.

Brother Hodge asked for leave of absence, which was, on motion, granted.

Section 22, of Article 12, being then read, brother O'Hara moved to strike out the section—which motion was laid on the table; when brother Race moved to adopt the section as printed.

Pending this motion, brother Catlett moved to pass the section by informally, which was lost, and the motion of brother Race being put, it was adopted, and the Section passed as printed.

Section 23 was then, on motion, stricken out *in toto*.

Sections 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29, were then severally adopted as printed, with some verbal corrections.

Sections 30 and 31 were then stricken out *in toto*.

Section 32 was then amended by striking out the last six lines, and adopted as amended. Article 12 was then adopted as amended.

Article 13 was then taken up; and Section 1st being read, brother Morris moved to amend by striking out the words "be free from every physical and moral defect"—which was adopted. Brother Hartsock moved to strike out the word "white"—which was lost. Brother Calongne then moved to strike out the whole Section, and offered the following substitute, to wit:

Sec. 1. Every candidate for initiation must be free-born, of mature and discreet age, (i. e., twenty-one years of age,) of good report, of sufficient natural endowments, and the senses of a man, with an estate, office, trade, occupation, or some visible way of acquiring an honest livelihood, and of working in his craft, as becomes the members of this ancient fraternity, who ought not only to earn what is sufficient for themselves and families, but likewise something for works of charity.

Which substitute was adopted.

Sections 2 and 3 were then adopted as printed.

Section 4 was adopted, after striking out the words "full calendar."

Section 5 was amended by inserting "six" in lieu of "twelve," and striking out all after the word "made," and inserting in lieu thereof "immediately"—and so amended, was adopted.

Section 7 was adopted as printed.

Section 8 was adopted, after inserting the word "may" for "shall."

Section 9 was adopted as printed.

Section 10 was adopted, after inserting the word "parish" in lieu of "place."

Section 11 was adopted as printed.

Section 12 was stricken out *in toto*.

Section 13 was then adopted as printed.

Section 14 was, on motion of brother Calongne, amended, by adding after the word "residence," "the Lodges located in the cities of New Orleans and Lafayette excepted"—and adopted as amended.

Section 15 was, on motion, stricken out *in toto*.

Section 16 was adopted as printed.

Article 13 was then adopted as amended.

Article 14 being then brought up, brother Cook offered the following resolution, which was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That Article 14 be stricken out as inexpedient, and an innovation on the ancient usages of the Order.

Articles 15 and 16 were then, on motion, stricken out *in toto*.

Article 17—Section 1 was then read, and amended by striking out the words "*although contrary to its provisions*"—and so amended, was adopted.

Section 2 was adopted as printed.

Section 3 being then read, brother Rondeau moved to amend by striking out "*no appeal to the Lodge can be made from the decision*," and inserting in lieu thereof, "*subject, however, to an appeal to the Lodge*"—which was, on motion, laid on the table; and, on motion, the section was adopted as printed.

The hour of adjournment by the Rules having arrived, brother Harris moved to suspend the Rules, and that the Convention sit until dark—which motion was adopted, and the Convention proceeded with the consideration of the order of the day.

Section 4 was then adopted as printed.

Section 5 being read, was amended by inserting, after the word "*published*," in third line, the words "*in French and English*,"—and so amended, was adopted.

Section 6 was then read, and amended by inserting after the word "*opening*," "*until after the reading of the Minutes*"—and so amended, was adopted.

Sections 7 and 8 were then adopted as printed.

Article 17 was then adopted as amended.

Article 18 was then taken up, and, on motion, No. 2 of Section 1st, and the whole of Section 2, was stricken out, and the Article was, on motion, adopted as amended.

Article 19 being then read, brother Race offered the following *addenda* to said Article:

Provided, however, that none of the provisions contained in this Constitution shall be so construed as to impair the Articles of union adopted between the Grand Lodge of Louisiana and the Louisiana Grand Lodge, bearing date March 4, 1850.

Which was, on motion, laid on the table, and the Article adopted as printed.

On motion, the Convention adjourned, to meet to-morrow morning, at 10, A. M.

S. F. MARKS, President.

[Attest] SAM'L G. RISK, Secretary.

MASONIC CONVENTION.

BATON ROUGE, JUNE 6th, 1850.

The Convention met at 10 o'clock, A. M., agreeably to adjournment, and being opened with prayer by the Chaplain, on motion a recess was taken, for the purpose of awaiting the enrollment of the Constitution. At 12, M., the Secretary announced the Constitution ready, and the Convention being called to order by the President, on motion the Constitution was read as enrolled.

After the reading, brother Race moved its adoption—which being duly seconded, the yeas and nays were called for, and said call being sustained by the Convention, resulted as follows:

Yeas—Brothers Marks, Risk, Lumsden, M. Meilleur, Dionis, Calongne, F. Meilleur, Parent, Morenati, Rico, Lacoste, Saillet, Bachino, Saliba, Addison, Catlett, Ball, Malard, Olf, Delamaré, Worms, Spiekerkoetter, Hart, Hereford, Tisdale, Hodge, Hardy, Smith, Hartsock, Mead, Williams, Jaehne, Kendall, Churchill, Race, Herriman, O'Hara, Wilbur, Harris, Cook, Davenport, Long, Neville, Reeder, Ward, Wommack, Benedict, Beauchamp, Woolridge—49.

Nays—none.

Immediately after the adoption of the Constitution, brother Calongne offered the following, which was unanimously adopted:

PREAMBLE.

WE, the Representatives of the Free and Accepted Masons working in the State of Louisiana, in Convention assembled, under the authority of the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, do ordain and establish this:

CONSTITUTION.

[See enrolled copy on file.]

The President then announced the Constitution as being signed, and, by the authority vested in him, proclaimed the same to be the organic Masonic Law for the State of Louisiana.

Brother Reeder then offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed to superintend the printing of the Proceedings of this Convention, and the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, in French and English, and have them forwarded, one copy to each member of this Convention, and a reasonable number to every subordinate Lodge in the State; and that said Committee be fully authorized to draw upon the Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge for the amount of expenses incurred in said publication.

The Chair appointed on said Committee brothers Lumsden, Risk and Calongne.

Brother B. F. Tisdale, Chairman of Committee of Arrangements, presented a bill, approved by said Committee, amounting to fifty dollars and seventy-five cents, being for incidental expenses of the Convention—which was, on motion, ordered to be paid by a warrant upon the Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge, signed by the President and Secretary of this Convention.

Brother Tisdale offered the following, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That brother C. C. Biberon be allowed the sum of forty dollars for enrolling the Constitution adopted by this Convention, and that the same be paid upon the warrant of the President and Secretary of this Convention, drawn upon the Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge.

Brother Race then offered the following Resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

1. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Convention are due, and are hereby tendered, to brother Samuel F. Marks, for the dignified, able and impartial manner he has presided over the deliberations of this Convention.

2. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Convention are due, and are hereby tendered, to brother Samuel G. Risk, for the prompt and accurate manner he has discharged the difficult and arduous duties devolving upon him as Secretary of this Convention.

3. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Convention are due, and are hereby tendered, to Rev. brother Linebaugh, for his attendance on and services to this Convention as Chaplain.

4. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Convention are due, and are hereby tendered, to brother F. Calongne, for the efficient manner in which he has discharged the duties of Translator during our session.

5. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Convention are due, and are hereby tendered, to brother Joseph Walker, Governor of the State of Louisiana, for placing at the disposal of the Committee of Arrangements this commodious hall for the use of this Convention.

6. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Convention are due, and are hereby tendered, to brothers B. F. Tisdale, F. M. Hereford, and W. S. Pike, Committee of Arrangements, for the warm reception and comfortable accommodations afforded to this Convention.

7. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Convention are due, and are hereby tendered, to J. E. Layet, Esq., and brother C. C. Biberon, for the assistance rendered by them respectively to our worthy Clerk; and to brother S. F. Blanchard, for the important services rendered by him as Tyler of this Convention.

After which, the Rev. brother J. H. Linebaugh, Chaplain, closed the labors of the Convention by a solemn and impressive prayer.

On motion, the President then announced the Convention adjourned *sine die*.

S. F. MARKS, President.

[Attest] SAM'L G. RISK, Secretary.

CONSTITUTION.

PREAMBLE.

WE, the Representatives of the Free and Accepted Masons working in the State of Louisiana, in Convention assembled, under the authority of the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, do ordain and establish this CONSTITUTION:

ARTICLE I.

STYLE AND TITLE.

SECTION 1. This Grand Lodge shall be known by its corporate name and title, "THE GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA."

ARTICLE II.

OF ITS CONSTITUTION AND CHARACTER.

SECTION 1. This Grand Lodge is constituted and established by the Lodges and brethren of this State, as the representative governing authority, and it can have no existence independent of their will, or in opposition to it.

SECTION 2. It is constituted as a Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, and in that capacity recognizes nothing but pure ancient Free Masonry, consisting of the three symbolic degrees of Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason; and is forbidden to tolerate any distinction derogatory to the character in which it is constituted.

ARTICLE III.

OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE GRAND LODGE.

SECTION 1. It shall be composed of its actual office-bearers for the time being — the Tyler excepted — and of the Masters and Wardens in office, of the Lodges which have been regularly chartered, consecrated and constituted under its authority, when duly installed.

SECTION 2. All the actual permanent members, and all Past Grand and Deputy Grand Masters and Past Grand Wardens of the Grand Lodge, and all Past Masters of Lodges holding of this Grand Lodge, so long as they continue contributing members of some Lodge of the jurisdiction, shall be entitled to sit in the Grand Lodge and assist in its deliberations. But no brother shall be permitted to vote in the Grand Lodge, except its actual office-bearers (not including the Tyler), and the Masters and Wardens in office representing the constituent Lodges, or the proxies of said Masters and Wardens, or the brethren hereafter designated to represent the Lodges in their absence; and provided, also, that the actual permanent members of this Grand Lodge shall not be required to be contributing members of a constituent Lodge, if they have already been so for the space of ten years.

ARTICLE IV.

OF THE POWER OF THE GRAND LODGE.

SECTION 1. It shall have the exclusive right to constitute Lodges of symbolic masonry within this State.

It may make all laws and regulations necessary for the government of the Lodges and brethren under its jurisdiction, and for the propagation and advancement of the true principles of Freemasonry, and legislate generally upon all masonic subjects.

It shall decide, in the last resort, between the brethren and the Lodges.

It shall hear appeals and redress grievances; and shall have exclusive power to try and punish its own officers and the Masters in office of its constituent Lodges.

It shall have the power to consent to and assist in the formation of a National Grand Lodge, with power that shall not destroy its own independence, or prejudice the rights and privileges of its constituent Lodges.

It shall ascertain and propagate the true ceremonial and instruction in the work of Masonry, and enforce their practice.

And it shall have full power to do all other acts and things that it is usual and customary for Grand Lodges to do and perform; provided, always, that the ancient landmarks of the order be carefully preserved, and that its acts, laws, resolutions and edicts be not subversive of any of the true principles of Freemasonry, nor depart from its original plan, or be inconsistent with this Constitution.

ARTICLE V.

OF THE OFFICERS OF THE GRAND LODGE.

SECTION 1. The office-bearers of this Grand Lodge shall consist of—

1. The Grand Master.
2. The Deputy Grand Master.
3. The Grand Wardens.
4. The Grand Chaplain.
5. The Grand Treasurer.
6. The Grand Secretary.
7. The Grand Deacons.
8. The Grand Marshal.
9. The Grand Sword-bearer.
10. The Grand Pursuivant.
11. The Grand Stewards, four in number.
12. The Grand Tyler.

SECTION 2. The Grand Master shall be styled Most Worshipful; the Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Wardens, Right Worshipful; the other officers of the Grand Lodge, the Tyler excepted, Worshipful. Past Grand officers shall be entitled to the same style attached to the rank which they held while in office.

SECTION 3. The officers of the Grand Lodge may be chosen from the brethren at large; provided, however, that they be contributing members to some Lodge holding by charter of this Grand Lodge.

ARTICLE VI.

OF THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. The office-bearers of this Grand Lodge shall be chosen and installed at each Grand Annual Communication, and shall continue in office until their successors are duly chosen and installed.

SECTION 2. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary, shall be chosen by ballot. The other office bearers shall be chosen by ballot, or in such other manner as the Grand Lodge may determine. An absolute majority of all the votes or ballots cast shall be necessary to elect to any office.

SECTION 3. The election shall be held on the third day after the organization of the Grand Lodge, and the officers then elected shall be installed as soon thereafter as practicable.

SECTION 4. In case of the death, resignation, absence, or inability to act, of the Grand and Deputy Grand Masters, the office of Grand Master shall be filled *pro tempore* by the Past Grand Masters, beginning with the last in office; in default of them, by the Past Deputy Grand Masters, following the same order; in default of them, by the present Grand Wardens, following the same order; and in their default, by the Past Grand Wardens, following the same order; and in their default by the Master in office in the oldest Lodge, until a new election be made.

ARTICLE VII.

OF THE DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. The Grand Master is invested with all the power and authority, and entitled to all the privileges and prerogatives, attached to his office by the ancient usages of the fraternity. He shall preside over the Grand Lodge at all times, when present—shall, during the recess of the Grand Lodge, grant dispensations for the formation of new Lodges—shall

constitute and consecrate all new Lodges warranted by the Grand Lodge, and install their officers, either in person or by deputy — shall inspect, either in person or by deputy, the constituent Lodges, at least once a year, and see that they work uniformly and correctly and according to the landmarks, laws and usages of the fraternity; and that the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge are faithfully obeyed by the Lodges and brethren holding of it. He shall be the chairman of all committees at which he may think proper to assist, and of such others as he may be requested to attend by the Grand Lodge. He shall have the power, during the recess of the Grand Lodge, to suspend the working of any Lodge or its Master upon due grounds, being responsible to the Grand Lodge for the proper exercise of this authority. He shall invest and install the other officers of the Grand Lodge. At each Annual Grand Communication, he shall make a report to the Grand Lodge of all official acts done by him since the last Grand Communication, with a statement of the condition of the Lodges holding of this Grand Lodge, and of the condition and state of Masonry generally; and shall make to the Grand Lodge such propositions and suggestions as may seem to him conducive to the good of the craft, and proper to be discussed and acted upon by the Grand Lodge. He shall have the power to call special meetings of the Grand Lodge, whenever the same may be necessary; and shall be bound to do so whenever five or more constituent chartered Lodges shall, by resolution, request it. He shall have the power to convene, hold and authorize to be held, special Lodges of instruction,

and preside thereat, either in person or by deputy. And shall have the power to appoint as many special deputies or proxies as may be necessary to perform the duties incumbent on him, except such as are to be performed by the Grand Lodge itself.

SECTION 2. The Deputy Grand Master shall represent the Grand Master, and exercise all his rights, prerogatives and privileges, and perform all his duties, whenever the Grand Master may, from death, absence, inability or other cause, be unable to perform the same.

SECTION 3. The Grand Treasurer shall keep in some regularly chartered bank of the city of New Orleans, to be selected by the Grand Lodge, all the moneys, bonds, notes, or securities, that may come into his possession as Grand Treasurer — shall make no payments unless by warrant drawn on him, signed by the Grand Master, and countersigned by the Grand Secretary; and the account kept in said bank shall be opened in the official name of the "Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana." All payments of warrants shall be made by checks on said bank. He shall keep proper books of accounts, and have them and his vouchers at all times present in the Grand Lodge at its Communication, and produce and submit them whenever required by the Grand Master, or any committee appointed by the Grand Lodge for the purpose of examining the same. At each Grand Annual Communication, he shall submit to the Grand Lodge a report of the condition of his accounts, with a statement or balance sheet. And his accounts shall be audited and settled at each Annual Grand Communication.

SECTION 4. The Grand Secretary shall carefully record all the proceedings of the Grand Lodge while in session; shall keep a journal of all official acts done by him during its recess; shall receive and preserve all correspondence addressed to the Grand Lodge, and copies of all correspondence emanating from the Grand Lodge or Grand Master on official business. He shall receive all moneys which are to be paid to the Grand Lodge, and deliver the same to the Grand Treasurer immediately on receipt of the same, and shall keep proper accounts thereof. He shall issue all documents, letters, notices and summons, emanating from the Grand Lodge, or by its authority or that of the Grand Master. He shall keep a register, in which he shall record the names of all the Lodges holding of this Grand Lodge, with the dates of their constitution, warrant, or dispensation, according to seniority and with corresponding numbers, and the place where located. He shall also keep a register, in which shall be entered alphabetically the names of all brethren belonging to the Lodges holding of this Grand Lodge, with the names of the Lodges to which they belong, the dates at which, and the names of the Lodges in which they received their degrees, if holding under this Grand Lodge, or of the last Lodge to which they belonged, if made under a foreign jurisdiction; and whenever a brother demits, dies, is suspended, expelled or changes into another Lodge under this jurisdiction, the same shall be noted, with the date of the occurrence opposite to the name. He shall keep a register, into which shall be copied all the returns which are required to be made to this Grand Lodge by the Lodges holding

of it. He shall keep the Seal of the Grand Lodge, and affix the same to all official documents emanating from it, or by virtue of its authority. He shall be furnished by the Grand Lodge with a suitable office, and all necessary books, stationery, and other things necessary for its proper and convenient maintenance. He shall be allowed a reasonable salary, and may receive such other emoluments as the Grand Lodge may determine by resolution, in addition to the fees of office allowed him by this Constitution. It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary, at the opening of every Annual Grand Communication, to report to the Grand Lodge, in writing, all the official business transacted through his office during the year preceding, with a list of all such Lodges as have made their returns and paid their dues, and those which have neglected that duty. He shall also include in said report a statement of any business left unfinished at the last Communication, and of such as was specially referred to the present; and of all communications, appeals, or other matters, lodged in his office for the consideration and action of the Grand Lodge.

SECTION 5. The Grand Marshal, or Master of Ceremonies, shall take charge of and marshal all processions, and public or other ceremonies ordered by the Grand Lodge, or at which it or the Grand Master shall assist. And he shall, under the direction of the Grand Senior Deacon, and with the assistance of the Grand Stewards, introduce and accommodate visiting brethren, and see that every brother entitled to a seat in the Grand Lodge is properly placed. The Grand Sword-bearer shall act as his assistant.

SECTION 6. The Grand Pursivant shall be stationed at the inner door, and permit no brother to enter the Grand Lodge without his proper clothing and regalia.

SECTION 7. The Grand Stewards shall assist in the examination of visitors, and in placing and accommodating the brethren in the Grand Lodge. They shall take charge of the furniture and regalia of the Grand Lodge.

SECTION 8. The Grand Tyler shall serve all notices and summonses delivered to him by the Grand Secretary. He shall be allowed a reasonable compensation, to be determined by the Grand Lodge.

SECTION 9. The officers of the Grand Lodge generally shall do and perform all the duties attached to their several stations by the usages and customs of the fraternity; and enjoy all the rights, privileges and prerogatives thereof.

ARTICLE VIII.

OF COMMITTEES.

SECTION 1. The Standing Committees of this Grand Lodge shall be:

1st. Committee on Correspondence and Masonic Information.

2d. Committee on Work and Returns of Chartered Lodges.

3d. Committee on Work and Returns of Lodges under Dispensation.

4th. Committee of General Purposes, Appeals and Grievances.

5th. Committee of Audit and Accounts.

The first of said committees shall be composed of the first four Grand officers with the Grand Secretary.

All other Standing Committees shall be appointed by the Grand Master, from the representative members of the Grand Lodge, at the same time that the election of officers is held.

SECTION 2. The Committee on Correspondence and Masonic Information shall report to the Grand Lodge, at each Annual Grand Communication, all matters of interest to the Order that may appear from the correspondence of the Grand Lodge, or be derived from other sources, since the last Grand Communication; and this report shall, if possible, be made at the first meeting. It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to communicate to the committee all proceedings, documents, and other correspondence, received from other Grand Lodges from time to time, as they come to hand, during the recess of the Grand Lodge, to enable them to make their report.

SECTION 3. The Committee of Audit and Accounts shall audit and settle the accounts of the Grand Treasurer and Secretary, and report the state thereof to the Grand Lodge at each Annual Grand Communication. It shall be the duty of said Committee to audit and settle all other accounts before presentation to the Grand Lodge.

SECTION 4. The Committee of General Purposes, Appeals and Grievances, shall be composed of seven Masters of Lodges. All appeals shall be submitted to and approved by them, before the same are brought before the Grand Lodge for adjudication. And all charges preferred against the officers or members of this Grand Lodge, and all petitions or demands for redress of grievances, and all communications on

masonic subjects from the Lodges and brethren holding of this Grand Lodge, shall be referred to said committee for examination, before being submitted to the Grand Lodge for action thereon.

SECTION 5. All Special Committees shall be appointed by the presiding officer of the Grand Lodge, from among the representative members.

SECTION 6. Every Committee shall report as speedily as possible after its appointment, and before the closing of the Grand Lodge. All reports shall be made in writing, and be signed by the Chairman at least. If there be a division of opinion, separate reports shall be made and signed by the parties making them.

ARTICLE IX.

OF THE LOCATION OF THE GRAND LODGE — ITS COMMUNICATIONS — AND ORGANIZATION FOR BUSINESS.

SECTION 1. This Grand Lodge shall hold its Communications in the city of New Orleans, until otherwise ordered by resolution of the Grand Lodge.

SECTION 2. It shall hold one Annual Grand Communication, which shall take place on the third Monday in January, and continue from day to day until all the business is disposed of; and as many special communications as circumstances may require.

SECTION 3. Special communications shall be called by the Grand Master, or the brother upon whom his duties devolve, as herein before provided; and at least thirty days notice shall be given previous to holding the same.

SECTION 4. Should there not be a quorum present for the transaction of business on the appointed day,

the Grand Master, any other officer or representative member of the Grand Lodge present, according to seniority, shall take the chair and adjourn the Grand Lodge from day to day until the quorum is made.

SECTION 5. At each Annual Grand Communication, so soon as a quorum for the transaction of ordinary business is present, the Grand Lodge shall be opened. The Grand Master or presiding officer shall then appoint a committee to examine the credentials of the representative members and their proxies; which duty performed and the result reported, the Grand Lodge shall be declared duly organized for business. The Grand Master, Treasurer, and Secretary, shall then make their reports as pointed out in this Constitution.

SECTION 6. Six Lodges must be represented to form a quorum for the transaction of ordinary business, and twelve for the purposes of election.

ARTICLE X.

OF DUES, CONTRIBUTIONS AND FEES.

SECTION 1. Each Lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge, for its necessary support and maintenance, the sum of one dollar for each member borne on its Register during the year, and one dollar for each degree conferred during the same period.

SECTION 2. The sum of forty dollars shall be paid for each dispensation granted to form a new Lodge; and sixty dollars for each Charter of Constitution—in each case in advance. The Grand Secretary shall be allowed five dollars on each of said sums as his fees.

SECTION 3. No Lodge held in the Parishes of Orleans and Jefferson shall charge a less sum than fifty

dollars for conferring the three degrees of Apprentice, Fellow-Craft, and Master; nor less than thirty dollars in the other Parishes of the State. No credit shall in any case be given.

SECTION 4. The Lodges may charge such sums as they may deem reasonable for affiliation, and levy regular periodical contributions on all Master Masons who are members of said Lodges.

ARTICLE XI.

OF TRIALS, PUNISHMENTS AND APPEALS.

SECTION 1. The following rule shall be pursued substantially in the trial of all charges, both in the Grand Lodge and the Lodges holding of it:

All charges shall be presented in writing—shall specify clearly the offence complained of—shall state the nature of the proof, and names, description and residences of the witnesses to be produced in support of the same, and shall be signed by the party or parties making them.

SECTION 2. They shall then be submitted to a committee for examination. If the committee are satisfied that the charges are serious and of a proper character to be tried by the Lodge, they shall report the fact, and the brother shall be formally put on his trial. Should the committee report against the charges, the Lodge may, notwithstanding, order the same to be tried.

SECTION 3. So soon as the trial is ordered by the Lodge, the brother accused shall be furnished with a copy of the charges preferred against him, and be summoned to appear before the Lodge to answer the

same, within a delay that shall not be less than ten days from the service of the same upon him.

SECTION 4. He shall be bound to answer to the same in writing, at or before the expiration of that time, which answer shall be filed with the Secretary, and shall contain a list of the witnesses he wishes to be examined for his defence, with their description and residence.

SECTION 5. The Lodge shall then, whether he has answered or not, fix a day for the trial, and shall appoint a committee to take the testimony on both sides, of such witnesses as cannot appear before the Lodge.

SECTION 6. This committee shall give reasonable notice to both parties of the time and place where they will take said testimony—shall reduce the same to writing, and cause it to be subscribed and affirmed to by the witnesses, before the chairman of said committee. All other witnesses shall be summoned by the Secretary to appear and testify before the Lodge on the trial.

SECTION 7. After hearing the charges and the testimony, the accused shall be permitted to address the Lodge in his defence, or avail himself of the assistance of some brother for that purpose. He shall then withdraw, and the Lodge shall proceed to decide by ballot upon his guilt or innocence.

SECTION 8. If found guilty, the ballot shall be taken upon the different degrees of masonic punishment:

- 1st. Expulsion.
- 2d. Indefinite suspension.
- 3d. Definite suspension.
- 4th. Reproof or reprimand.

Beginning with the first and descending until a conclusion is arrived at.

SECTION 9. An absolute majority of all the votes cast shall be necessary to convict—three-fourths, to expel—two-thirds, to suspend—and a majority, to reprove or reprimand.

SECTION 10. Whenever the accused cannot be found, or will not answer, the Lodge shall appoint a brother to defend him. And all the proceedings shall be conducted contradictorily with him.

SECTION 11. Should any brother be convicted and sentenced during his absence, and without knowledge of charges being preferred against him, he shall, on ascertaining the fact, and upon proper assurances of his having a good defence, be entitled to a new trial.

SECTION 12. The accuser shall not be permitted to vote, and the brother accused shall be suspended from his general right to visit, from the time he is ordered for trial until the same is decided. Provided, however, that he shall have the right to be present at his trial, and have full opportunity to cross-examine the witnesses, and to appear in the Lodge to make any motion, or demand information in relation to the charges or his defence, previous thereto.

SECTION 13. When a brother shall have been convicted and sentenced, he shall have the right to appeal to the Grand Lodge. In order to do so, he must give notice in writing to the Lodge which passed the sentence, of his intention; whereupon the Lodge shall forward to the Grand Secretary a full transcript of all the proceedings had, with the originals of any documents that may have been offered in evidence on the trial; and the testimony of such witnesses as may have been taken in writing, and the names of all

witnesses examined in the Lodge, and a copy of the notice of appeal. All of which shall be forwarded and lodged with the Grand Secretary previous to the Annual Grand Communication. The testimony of all witnesses not already reduced to writing and filed, shall be procured by the appellant contradictorily with a committee to be appointed by the Lodge, and filed with the Grand Secretary in the same manner. After the Committee of Appeals shall have reported thereon, the Grand Lodge shall take the case into consideration, having first appointed a day to hear said accused or his defensor, should he desire to speak in his defence, and decide thereon.

SECTION 14. No appeal shall be allowed, if the accused permit a Grand Annual Communication to intervene without notice of his intention, unless the time was insufficient, nor after one year from the date of the sentence: except in the cases where he would be entitled to demand a new trial, as herein before provided.

SECTION 15. If a sentence of suspension or expulsion be reversed, it shall not restore the party to membership in his Lodge; an unanimous vote of his Lodge shall be necessary for that purpose.

SECTION 16. No mason who has been expelled or suspended, and the sentence confirmed by the Grand Lodge, shall be restored to masonic privileges, except by the Grand Lodge, on the recommendation of the Lodge that suspended or expelled him.

SECTION 17. No Master of a Lodge shall be impeached before the Grand Lodge, by his Lodge or a member thereof, but by a vote of his Lodge, which shall be taken at a special meeting, to be called and

presided over by the Senior Warden, and shall be founded upon charges and specifications to be preferred in writing, as is herein before provided, at a previous stated meeting of the Lodge. The vote, charges and specifications shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary, and communicated to the Grand Master, who shall suspend the Master from his functions until the said charges shall have been tried by the Grand Lodge.

SECTION 18. No Lodge shall publish the suspension or expulsion of a member or brother sentenced by it, but it shall be its duty to send the names of all persons suspended or expelled to the Grand Secretary immediately, and it shall be the duty of that officer to notify the same, without delay, to every Lodge of the jurisdiction.

ARTICLE XII.

OF THE CONSTITUENT LODGES.

SECTION 1. Every regular Lodge of Symbolic Freemasonry in this State, must be held under the Grand Lodge by charter or dispensation.

SECTION 2. All charters shall be ordered by the Grand Lodge in session; dispensations may be granted by the Grand Lodge or Grand Master, to endure until the first day of the next Annual Grand Communication, unless limited to a shorter period, or revoked for proper cause.

SECTION 3. Every chartered Lodge shall be regularly registered and numbered, and no Lodge, on being chartered, shall proceed to work, until it shall have first been consecrated and constituted, and its officers installed according to ancient usage by the Grand

Master, his deputy or proxy. All charters shall be exactly uniform.

SECTION 4. The officers of every Lodge shall consist of a Master, two Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, two Deacons, and Tyler, and as many others as may be deemed necessary by the Lodge. All the said officers, with the exception of the Tyler, must be chosen from the members of the Lodge.

SECTION 5. Every chartered Lodge shall elect its officers once a year; said election shall be held in the month of December, and the officers elect shall be installed on or before the Anniversary of the Festival of St. John the Evangelist. Should a vacancy occur in any office, it may be filled by a new election.

SECTION 6. The first five officers shall be chosen by written ballots; the others in such way as the Lodge in its By-Laws may determine. Said officers shall remain in office until their successors are duly elected and installed.

SECTION 7. Every Lodge shall hold at least one meeting in every month, except (at the option of the Lodge) in the months of July, August, and September.

SECTION 8. Every Lodge shall have a code of By-Laws for the government of its members, which shall not be inconsistent with the landmarks, laws, usages and customs of Freemasonry, this Constitution, or the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge, and shall be approved by the Grand Lodge or Grand Master. It may alter or amend them, subject to the same conditions, and according to the method to be fixed by said By-Laws themselves. But no Lodge shall dispense with or suspend any portion of its By-Laws for any

temporary purpose, unless at a regular stated meeting, and by a vote of two-thirds of all the members present.

SECTION 9. Every chartered Lodge shall have the right to initiate, craft and raise masons, according to the ancient customs of the order, and to do all other acts and things appertaining to masonry, agreeably to their charters, this Constitution, the Laws of the Grand Lodge, and the ancient usages of the craft.

SECTION 10. The Lodges under dispensation may, during the existence of the same, exercise all the rights of chartered Lodges, except that of electing their first three officers and sending representatives to the Grand Lodge.

No officer or member named in the dispensation can, during its continuance, withdraw from the Lodge, unless he leave the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge—the officers and members named in such dispensation being responsible to the Grand Lodge for its proper exercise.

SECTION 11. No dispensation shall be granted for the formation of a new Lodge, unless upon the petition in writing of at least seven Master Masons in good standing, to be recommended by some Lodge holding by charter of this Grand Lodge, most convenient to the place of residence of the petitioners.

SECTION 12. When the work of a Lodge under dispensation shall have been approved, and it shall have conformed in all things to the requirements of this Constitution and the Laws of the Grand Lodge, it shall be entitled to a charter of constitution, which shall be ordered, if a petition be presented to the Grand Lodge to that effect, signed by its members. Said petition must accompany its returns.

SECTION 13. All Lodges shall make annual returns of their proceedings to the Grand Lodge, containing:

1st. An alphabetical list of all their members during the masonic year, and their places of residence and professions or business, with the names of the Lodges in which they received their degrees, and dates at which the same were conferred—if said Lodges were under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, or if not—the name and location of the Lodge to which they last belonged—their demits, deaths, suspensions or expulsions, with the dates.

2d. A list of the officers elected for the new masonic year.

3d. A list of all degrees conferred and new members admitted, with the dates and their names, professions, business, and places of residence.

4th. An account of the dues to be paid to the Grand Lodge.

5th. The number of meetings held by the Lodge during the year, and the dates at which they took place; the whole according to printed form, to be furnished to each Lodge.

6th. The signatures of the Master, Wardens, and Secretary.

7th. In addition to the above, Lodges under dispensation must make returns of their dispensation, and a full copy of their minutes or records and by-laws. All said returns must be made up to the thirty-first day of December. Said returns and the dues to the Grand Lodge shall be made and paid to the Grand Secretary, at least one week previous to the first day of the Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge, for all which that officer shall give them certificates.

SECTION 14. Every Lodge shall keep a full and complete record of all its proceedings, in which every thing that is transacted in the Lodge, proper to be written, shall be entered at the time it transpires. It

shall keep proper books of accounts, a full roll or register of its members, and a book into which shall be transcribed exact copies of all its returns to the Grand Lodge. It shall be bound to produce these and all other papers for the inspection of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master, his deputy or proxy, whenever required.

SECTION 15. Every Lodge shall have a seal, with the name and number of the Lodge engraved thereon, together with any appropriate device it may choose; and all returns to the Grand Lodge, and attested documents issued by the Lodge, shall be sealed with said seal, certified by the Master, and countersigned by the Secretary.

SECTION 16. Every Lodge holding of this Grand Lodge, which shall have been regularly chartered, consecrated and constituted, shall be represented in this Grand Lodge by its three first officers, after they shall have been duly installed, or if they are unable to attend, by their proxies, who must be Master Masons in good standing, members of their own or some Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge—be appointed in writing under the hand of such officer or officers, and be allowed by the Grand Lodge, before acting. Such proxies shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of the officers they represent in the Grand Lodge. No brother shall be a representative or proxy of more than one Lodge.

SECTION 17. All Lodges held under dispensation from the Grand Lodge or its proper officers, shall be entitled to send a delegate to the Grand Lodge, who must be a Master Mason and member of said Lodge, or possess the same qualifications as a proxy. He shall

be appointed by the Lodge in writing, under the hand of its Master, countersigned by the Secretary, and sealed with the Lodge seal. Such delegate shall not be entitled to vote, but may address the Grand Lodge upon all subjects relative to the Lodge which he represents.

SECTION 18. The representatives of a Lodge shall not be permitted to sit and act in the Grand Lodge until its returns are made and its dues to the Grand Lodge paid; to be ascertained in the first instance by the production of the Grand Secretary's certificate to the Committee on credentials.

SECTION 19. Every Lodge which shall fail to be represented, and to make its returns and payments as above provided, for one year, shall be notified by the Grand Secretary of its neglect, and if at the succeeding Annual Grand Communication it has not complied, its charter shall be forfeited.

SECTION 20. Every Lodge which shall fail to hold its regular meetings and elect its officers, as provided by this Constitution, for two successive years, shall forfeit its charter, which shall be cancelled.

SECTION 21. Whenever a Lodge shall incur forfeiture of its charter, all its books, jewels, and funds in the Treasurer's hands, shall revert to the Grand Lodge, and the Grand Master shall take all necessary steps to recover and secure the same. And all members of a Lodge who shall refuse to surrender the same, or who shall vote to divide the funds among themselves, or appropriate them in any other way than is herein before designated, shall be deemed guilty of unmasonic conduct, and suspended from the privileges of Freemasonry, until they return to obedience, and make suitable reparation.

SECTION 22. No member of any Lodge whose charter shall have been revoked or forfeited, shall be admitted to membership in, or permitted to visit any Lodge, until the cause of revocation or forfeiture shall have been remedied, as far as in him lies, and a permission be granted by the Grand Lodge or Grand Master.

SECTION 23. Every Lodge shall have a Relief Committee, whose duty it shall be to visit and attend the sick and distressed brethren, their families, widows and orphans.

SECTION 24. No business shall be transacted in the first and second degrees but what specially appertains to them. General business, both of the Lodge and of Masonry, shall be transacted in the third degree. No Lodge shall permit an Apprentice or Fellow Craft to vote.

SECTION 25. Every Lodge shall have the power to take cognizance of any mason living or sojourning within its jurisdiction, and not belonging to a Lodge holding of the Grand Lodge, and try and punish them for masonic offences committed within their jurisdiction, or referred to it by a foreign regular Lodge, under whose jurisdiction the offence was committed.

SECTION 26. No one below the degree of Master Mason shall be interred with masonic honors. It shall be the duty of the Lodge to which the brother belonged at his decease, or the nearest Lodge, if he die out of the jurisdiction of his own Lodge, or be a sojourning brother in good standing, to attend and perform the usual masonic burial service over a deceased Master Mason, when it was his desire, or is requested by his nearest relatives, family or friends.

SECTION 27. No Lodge shall be opened unless its Charter or Dispensation, its By-Laws and the Constitution of the Grand Lodge be present. And any visiting brother has a right to call for the inspection of the Charter or Dispensation of the Lodge he desires to visit.

SECTION 28. No brother, either member or visitor, shall be permitted to enter or sit in a Lodge without his proper and decent masonic clothing. All officers shall wear their appropriate jewels and regalia during the hours of masonic labor.

SECTION 29. Each chartered Lodge shall be entitled to three votes, to be cast by its representatives or their proxies, if present. In case of the absence of one or more of said representatives, the vote or votes of the absentee or absentees shall be cast by the senior representative present.

ARTICLE XIII.

OF INITIATIONS, AND ADMISSION TO AFFILIATION.

SECTION 1. Every candidate for initiation must be free-born, of mature and discreet age, [i. e., twenty-one years of age,] of good report, of sufficient natural endowments, and the senses of a man, with an estate, office, trade, occupation, or some visible way of acquiring an honest livelihood, and of working in his craft, as becomes the members of this ancient fraternity, who ought not only to earn what is sufficient for themselves and families, but likewise something for works of charity.

SECTION 2. Every application for initiation shall be made in writing, and be signed by the party making it. It shall set forth his name in full, his age, place of birth,

place of residence, business or profession, his motives for applying, and his competency to aid the benevolent objects of the institution, with a pledge on his honor that no unworthy motives, selfish considerations, persuasion, or influence, have induced him to seek admission to the institution. This petition shall be recommended, and the applicant vouched for, by at least two members of the Lodge to which the petition is presented, upon their own personal knowledge of the applicant.

SECTION 3. This application shall be referred to a committee, who shall make strict inquiry into the moral character and qualifications of the applicant, and report the result of their investigations to the Lodge.

SECTION 4. On making their report, the Lodge shall, if one month has elapsed since the application was made, and under no consideration before that time, proceed to ballot upon the application: this ballot must be unanimous in his favor, or he shall not be admitted.

SECTION 5. No unfavorable ballot shall be reconsidered; and the rejected applicant shall not be permitted to renew his application to that Lodge, or any other Lodge of the jurisdiction, before the expiration of six months from the date of his rejection. Provided, however, that if but one negative ballot appear, a second trial may be made immediately.

SECTION 6. No application for initiation shall be withdrawn after it has been referred to a committee, but the Lodge shall proceed to ballot thereon, whether the report of that committee be favorable or not.

SECTION 7. No brother shall be crafted or raised until he has proved himself competent and proficient

in the preceding degrees, by an examination before the Lodge, except by dispensation from the Grand Master.

SECTION 8. The ballot, if favorable on the first application, shall entitle the candidate to all the degrees; provided, however, that any member may object to his receiving the other degrees; and if the objections are valid, the candidate shall not proceed, and charges shall be preferred against him by the brother objecting. If these charges are not sustained, the Lodge may proceed to confer the degrees upon the applicant. If they be sustained, the Lodge shall not proceed, until the punishment adjudged has been suffered, and the offence expiated; and not then, without a new ballot, which must be unanimous in his favor.

SECTION 9. No brother who has been initiated or crafted in any Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, or under any foreign jurisdiction, shall be admitted to receive the other degrees in any other Lodge holding of this Grand Lodge, unless upon the recommendation of the Lodge, properly authenticated, in which he was initiated or crafted; and not then, until the same formalities shall have been complied with as if his application were made for the first time, as herein before provided, and the ballot shall have resulted unanimously in his favor.

SECTION 10. Whenever an application for initiation is made to any Lodge, either for the first or for the other degrees, the Secretary thereof shall give notice of the fact to every Lodge working in the same parish, together with the name, residence, &c., of the applicant, as set forth in the petition.

SECTION 11. Whenever a candidate is rejected,

notice of the fact shall be immediately given to the Grand Secretary, who shall forthwith communicate the same to all the Lodges of the jurisdiction.

SECTION 12. All applications for affiliation shall be made in the same manner, and the same proceedings shall be had thereon, as are provided for initiation. They shall, in addition, be accompanied with the applicant's certificate of demit and good standing from the Lodge to which he last belonged.

SECTION 13. All applications for initiation, degrees, and affiliation, must be made to the Lodge most convenient to the applicant's place of residence—the Lodges located in the cities of New Orleans and Lafayette excepted.

SECTION 14. In taking the ballots on applications for initiations, degrees, and affiliations, all the members of the Lodge present shall be obliged to vote. And such ballot shall not be taken, unless there are at least seven Master Masons, members of the Lodge, present.

ARTICLE XIV.

MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS.

SECTION 1. The present officers of the Grand Lodge shall not be superseded by the adoption of this Constitution, but shall continue to hold the same, and exercise the duties thereof, until their successors are duly elected, appointed, and installed.

SECTION 2. All motions and resolutions shall be proposed in writing, and duly seconded, or they shall not be received.

SECTION 3. The presiding officer of the Grand Lodge, and of its constituent Lodges, shall decide all

points of order. No appeal to the Lodge can be made from the decision.

SECTION 4. This Constitution shall be translated into the French language, and shall be printed and promulgated in both the English and French languages.

SECTION 5. The proceedings of this Grand Lodge, or such part of them as is of general interest, together with a list of its officers, and the returns of its constituent Lodges, shall be printed and published in English and French by the Grand Secretary, under the superintendence of the Grand Master, within the space of thirty days after the close of each Annual Grand Communication. Copies shall be forwarded to each of the constituent Lodges, and to all Grand Lodges in correspondence with this Grand Lodge. The Grand Master shall be authorized to draw a warrant upon the Grand Treasurer for the expenses of printing the said proceedings.

SECTION 6. All Past Grand officers of foreign Grand Lodges, and all Master Masons, members of the constituent Lodges, shall have the right to visit this Grand Lodge. Provided, however, that no visiting brother shall be admitted to, or be present in the Grand Lodge, during the time of holding the election of its officers, nor be present at the opening, until after the reading of the minutes. Any other visitors, being Master Masons in good standing, may be admitted by permission of the presiding Grand officer, if they can be vouched for in the Grand Lodge.

SECTION 7. No business shall be transacted in the Grand Lodge, except when open in the third degree.

SECTION 8. The Grand Tyler shall keep a register,

and no member of the Grand Lodge will be permitted to enter without signing his name, stating the Lodge he represents, and whether as an officer thereof or by proxy.

ARTICLE XV.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION.

SECTION 1. This Constitution may be revised, amended, altered and changed in the following manner:

1st. All amendments, alterations or changes shall be proposed in writing at an Annual Grand Communication; they may be proposed by a representative or by a committee, to be named for that purpose. They shall be printed with the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, and sent to all the constituent Lodges for their information; and at the next succeeding Annual Grand Communication, shall be taken up by the Grand Lodge and acted upon. The vote shall be taken by Lodges, and if two-thirds of the Lodges represented assent, they shall be adopted. Provided, however, that at least a majority of the constituent Lodges shall be represented when the vote is taken.

2d. Whenever a majority of the constituent chartered Lodges shall by resolution demand it, it shall be the duty of the Grand Master to call a Convention of all the constituent Lodges, to assemble by their delegates at such time and place as he may determine; provided, however, the time shall not exceed two months from the time the demand is notified to him: each Lodge shall elect and send one delegate to said Convention. And said Convention shall have the power, by vote of two-thirds of all the said constituent Lodges, to revise, alter, and change this Constitution, as may seem to them necessary.

ARTICLE XVI.

All constitutional rules and regulations, and other statutory provisions of the Grand Lodge, inconsistent with or contrary to this Constitution, shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

F. A. LUMSDEN,
M. MEILLEUR,
F. DIONIS,
FR'S CALONGNE,
FR'S MEILLEUR,
F. PARENT,
MAN'L MORENATI,
FRAN. J. NICOLS,
M. LACOSTE,
P. SAILLOT,
J. BACHINO,
JOSEPH SALIBA,
GEORGE W. ADDISON,
G. W. CATLETT,
J. W. BALL,
L. MALARD,
A. DELEMARE,
JACOB OLFF,
N. WORMS,
W. SPIEKERKOETTER,
S. M. HART,
F. W. HEREFORD,
B. F. TISDALE,
BEN. L. HODGE,

WILLIAM T. HARDEL,
THOS. A. SMITH,
JAS. R. HARTSOCK,
DAVID E. MEADE,
H. WILLIAMS,
JULIUS JAEHNE,
J. G. KENDALL,
CHAS. H. CHURCHILL,
G. W. RACE,
S. HERRIMAN,
C. K. O'HARA,
A. C. WILBUR,
J. O. HARRIS,
ROBERT COOKE,
J. W. DAVENPORT,
WILLIAM LONG,
D. F. REEDER,
GEO. E. WARD,
H. H. WOMMACK,
A. D. WOOLDRIDGE,
D. S. BEAUCHAMP,
NOAH B. BENEDICT,
J. B. NEVILLE,
W. H. RONDEAU.

S. F. MARKS, President.

SAM'L G. RISE, Secretary Convention.