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Title: *REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION OF COLORED* MASONS

Author: ROBT. L. HOLLAND.

Location: Philadelphia, PA

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION OF COLORED MASONS NATIONAL AND INDEPENDENT HELD IN THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, DEL., May 8th, 9th, and 10th, 1878.

BY ROBT. L. HOLLAND.

WILMINGTON, Del., May 8th, '78. Agreeably to the call for a National Union Convention to meet at Wilmington, Delaware, on the 8th of May, a good number of delegates assembled at the Odd Fellows' Hall of this city this morning at 10 o'clock; after some consultation among the prominent Masonic dignitaries it was agreed to defer the organization of the convention until 2 o'clock P.M., when other delegates were expected at which time the convention was called to order by A. P. Faucett, M. W. G. M. of Pennsylvania, - who read the call for the convention and nominated John H. Deveaux, M. W. G. M., of Georgia for temporary chairman, who was unanimously elected. Mr. Deveaux came forward amid the cheers of the house, and addressed the convention, thanking them for the honor conferred in presiding over their deliberations.

He promised to rule regardless of favor or partiality, and hoped that harmony and good-will would prevail during their temporary organization.

He said "the object of our assembling in a momentous one- to heal the breach which had so long existed in our ancient and honored fraternity; that our conditions as a race required the abolition of all dissension in our ranks." The speech was eloquent and pointed.

The committee on reception at Wilmington consisted of Peter S. Blake, John Green, Ezekiel Foreman and James Pritchett.

Joseph H. Banks, P. G. S. of R. I. was elected temporary society.

Committee on Credentials- W. T. Scott, L. L. Thomas Glascoe, R. J. Davis, W. T. Boyd, and L. B. Toomer, who reported the following as authenticated delegates:

California, per Joseph M. Banks.

Delaware.- J. Deliabay, Rev. J. H. Jones, Lewis Jones, W. H. Colewell, John Rossalter and Absalom Black.

Florida- John R. Scott and Lemuel Googins.

Georgia- John H. Deveaux, M. W. G. M. L. B. Toomer, P. G. M., A. K. Desverney, Rev. Alex. Harris, and R. W. White.

Illinois,- W. T. Scott.

Michigan.- Richard H. Gleaves, P. N. G. M.

Pennsylvania- Alfred S. Cassey, W. Nesbit, Robt. J. Davis, Rev. Redmon Faucett, and H. C. Cossey.

Rhode Island,- Harmony Grand Lodge, C. H. Ringgold, M. W. G. M., T. B. Glascoe, E. B. Hebrew, and T. W. Addison.

Rhode Island Sovereign Grand Lodge, M. H. Boyer, W. M. Webster, R. F. Nicola, J. H. Banks and J. B. Lane.

Mississippi,- Rt. Rev. J. B. Campbell and Dr. H. M. Turner.

Virginia,- James H. Jones.

Question was made as to the admission of W. T. Boyd, P. G. M., as a delegate; he having no credentials. After inquiry and explanations &c., he was on motion admitted to represent the Grand Lodge of Ohio. After which a committee of one from each State was appointed to nominate officers for the permanent organization which resulted in the election for President Wm. Nesbit, of Pennsylvania. Vice Presidents, W. T. Scott of Illinois, W. H. Colwell, of Delaware, Secretary J. H. Banks of Rhode Island; Treasurer, Rev. R. Faucett; Chaplain, H. M. Turner.

Committee on Resolutions, W. T. Boyd, A. P. Faucett, J. W. Addison, J. H. Deveaux, James H. Jones.

Committee on Rules, Dr. H. M. Turner, A. K. Desverney, L. C. Googins.

On motion of W. T. Boyd, Aaron P. Faucett was made a member of the Convention. Other delegates are expected. The convention adjourned to meet on Thursday morning at 9 o'clock.

Thursday, May 9, '78.

The Grand Masonic Convention continued its session at Odd Fellows' Hall. The day soon became clear and the hall was the centre of attraction.

The convention was called to order by the President, Hon. Wm. Nesbit. Prayer was offered by Dr. H. M. Turner. The minutes of the proceeding session were read and approved. The Committee on Rules reported rules of order for the Convention together with Cushing's Manuel which on motion were received and adopted. Brother Redmon Faucett inquired relative to the financial arrangements for the convention. Bro. Jones of Delaware stated that the Grand Lodge for the State of Delaware had assumed that expense of the hall. Upon which on motion a Committee on Finance consisting of Brothers Cassey of Pennsylvania, Black of Delaware and Scott of Florida were appointed to whom all bills &c. should be referred.

Dr. Turner then arose and stated that after consultation with Dr. B. T. Tanner the Editor of the CHRISTIAN RECORDER they offered that paper to the fraternity as an organ allowing two or three columns each week for Masonic matter and that they further proposed if their proposition is accepted, to send the paper to the fraternity at the reduced rate of \$1.75 per annum. On motion, the proposition was referred to a committee consisting of Brothers R. Faucett, L. B. Toomer, and James Jones.

The convention having no business before it as they were momentarily expecting the report from the Committee on Business, it was suggested that some brother address the body. After several had been solicited and declined, the Rev. James H. Jones, G. M., of Delaware on request addressed the convention alluding to the present position of affairs and our duty in view of the past, &c. He had not more than opened his subject when the committee on business appeared and stated their readiness to report. He then briefly closed.

The Committee on Resolution per their chairman reported that they had been unable to agree and would therefore present a majority and minority report. Whereupon Brother John H. Deveaux proceeded to read the majority report to wit:

WHEREAS, There has for some years existed in this country great confusion among the brethren of the Masonic fraternity on account of differences of opinion, growing out of technicalities in the government of the craft, and

WHEREAS, Such differences of opinion have been injurious to the masses of the brethren and detrimental to the influence and usefulness of the venerable fraternity, causing the most severe criticisms and denunciations of our order, and,

WHEREAS, At the centennial convention at Boston in 1875, it was recommended that a more perfect union be termed by our craft, and believing that the Spirit of the age in which we live and our duty to our people demand a cordial relationship to each other, to entitle it to the respect of the whole country, therefore,

Resolved, That the Grand Lodges of (colored) Masonic of the United States in solemn convention assembled, do hereby form a union, to be known as the Grand Lodge Union of the United States or North America, for the following purposes, and under the following restrictions, viz:

- 1st. In order to settle any disputes that may occur between Grand Lodges, but not in any manner or form interfere with the internal management of a Grand Lodge. notwithstanding, it may advise any Grand Lodge upon any matter whatever.
- 2nd. The union shall be composed of the Grand Master, and Master Masons to be elected by each Grand Lodge.
- 3rd. No office shall be created in the such Grand Lodge Union; but the presiding officer of the State to which the Union meets shall be its presiding officer unless he voluntarily relinquishes all right, then the presiding officer shall be elected.
- 4th. After the close of each meeting of the Grand Lodge Union, all powers of the presiding officer shall cease, except that execution of such matters, as shall be referred to him. The Grand Sect'y of the State in which the union meets shall besits recording officer for the time being, and his records shall be duly transferred to the Grand Sect'y of the State where the next place of meeting shall be held.
- 5th. Before the session closes the Union shall decide the next place of meeting.
- 6th. That each Grand Lodge bear the expenses of her delegates and the proportionate part of the sundry expenses of said meeting.
- 7th. The Grand Lodge Union shall []three years, the first meeting to be held at ---- on ---- 18--.
- 8th. These articles to be binding and of full force, when two thirds of the Grand Lodges of the United States shall ratify the same.
- 9th. When the same shall be ratified by the requisite number of Grand Lodges and the Sect'y and presiding officer of this convention be officially notified, a circular to all Grand Lodges shall be immediately issued announcing the fact.
- 10th. And the Grand Lodges under the National Grand Lodge, and the Independent Grand Lodges each solemnly pledge ourselves to obey these articles, and we recommend that the National Grand Lodge, do when these articles are approved by two-thirds of the Grand Lodges, wind up its affairs and adjourn *sine die*.
- 11th. We recommend that all regularly organized Grand Lodges and their subordinates, having the genuine work of Masons, be recognized as such; and that cordial relations be established between them.
- 12th. We further recommend that all such Grand Lodges as may be located within the same territorial limits, as soon as possible unite and form one Grand Lodge.

It is our opinion that it will be best that each Grand Lodge shall be independent in its own jurisdiction. That each Grand Lodge shall have a representative accredited at each other Grand Lodge, and when disputes are not adjusted, said representatives may be withdrawn and non-intercourse declared with notification to all other Grand Lodges.

13th. That without interfering with or calling into question the form of Government a Grand Lodge may adopt, or have adopted so long as not repugnant to the principles and landmarks of Free Masonry. We do agree that all restrictions or bars preventing the fraternization of all true and accepted Masons, by visitations, Masonic recognition, &c., shall be removed and discarded, and the only test shall be, is he a man and an accepted Mason.

Respectfully submitted,

T. H. Deveaux, A. P. Faucett, John H. Addison.

The majority report having been submitted the minority report was called for and read by Wm. T. Boyd of Ohio, as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION.

The minority of your Committee on Resolutions, respectfully submit:

That we believe that the good of the craft would be best subserved by the existence of but one Grand Lodge in one State or Territory: - but as we cannot dispose of the facts, that in all States of this Union there were Grand Lodges of Masons before the organization of Colored Grand Lodges; and also in the European countries, more than one Grand Lodge in the same territorial limits. - and as the doctrine of "exclusive jurisdiction" was confessedly by the admission of its originators, promulgated in 1777 by "*revolution and assumption of power*," we decline to be bound by such dogma, and look upon its attempted establishment as an innovation upon the Masonic system as before acknowledged and practiced the world over. We can see no violation of law, or landmark in the existence of more than one Grand Lodge in the same State or territorial limit, and we believe that such bodies may have and preserve cordial relations and exchange of courtesies. We refer to the fact that two Grand Lodges existed in England, and Preston states that "for a series of years the most perfect harmony subsisted between the two Grand Lodges, and private Lodges flourished in both parts of the kingdom under their separate jurisdiction.

In Germany there are now existing eight Grand Lodges, three of which are located in the city of Berlin, viz:

The "Royal Mother Grand Lodge," of the "Three Globes," founded in 1740, having 90 Subordinate Lodges.

The "Royal York in Friendship," founded in 1773, with 27 Lodges under its jurisdiction; and the

"National Grand Lodge of Germany," founded in 1798, with 27 operative Lodges.

On the 12th of April, 1809, the Grand Lodge of England resolved. "That it is not necessary to continue in force these measures in or about the year 1739 respecting irregular Masons." The union did not take place until the 27th of December, 1813, four years and eight months after, yet we find that the members of both Grand Lodges began to fraternize, as on the 21st of July 1810, says Brother Hughan; "the Earl of Moira, the Grand Master of England, invited the Athol Brethren or Ancients to dine with him at Freemasons' Hall, which offer was accepted."

Believing therefore, that consistency demands the repudiation of the modern American doctrine of exclusive territorial jurisdiction, destructive to the local claim of colored Grand Lodges in every State in which a Grand Lodge had before existed, and as an immediate step to the much desired "Union," recommend-

That all regularly organized Grand Lodges and their subordinates, having the genuine work of Masons, be recognized as such; and that cordial relations be established between them.

We further recommend that all such Grand Lodges as may be located within the same territorial limits, as soon as possible unite and form one Grand Lodge.

It is our opinion that it will be best that each Grand Lodge shall be independent in its own jurisdiction; that each Grand Lodge shall have a representative accredited at each other Grand Lodge, and when disputes are not adjusted, and representative may be withdrawn, and non-intercourse declared with notification to all other Grand Lodges.

In conclusion there was appended a Resolution which the reporter failed to obtain a copy of The substance of it however was, that the National Grand Lodge was an impediment in the way of unity among the craft and should therefore be dissolved, &c. The report was signed by Wm. T. Boyd, of Ohio, and James Jones, of Virginia. The credentials of Herchel V. Cashin as delegate from Alabama, and of Wm. D. Matthews of Kansas were reported favorably and on motion they were admitted to seats in the convention.

Moved that the minority report be adopted as substitute or the majority report. Much discussion ensued, pending which it was moved by Redmon Faucett to amend by striking out the resolution which closed the report and insert as follows:

That without interfering with or calling into question the form of Government a Grand Lodge may adopt, or have adopted, so long as not repugnant to the principles and landmarks of Free Masonry. We do agree that all restrictions or bars preventing the fraternization of all true and accepted Masons, by visitations, Masonic recognitions, &c., shall be removed and discarded, and the only test shall be, is he a man and an accepted Mason.

A long and exciting debate ensued, participated in by Bro. Wm. T. Boyd of Ohio, T. H. Banks of R. I. Alfred S. Cassey and A. Redmon Faucett of Pennsylvania and others; pending which the session was closed to meet again at 2 P.M.

AFTERNOON SESSION, MAY 9TH.

The discussion on the amendment by Bro. Faucett was resumed. After considerable debate it was moved by Bro. T. J. Jones of Virginia that the resolution attached to the minority report and the amendment therefore by Brother Faucett both be laid on the table, which motion was carried. Moved by Brother Alfred S. Cassey of Penna., that the remainder with the majority report and adopted. Motion carried. Brother Alfred S. Cassey having asked permission of the chair presided an official communication from the M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Pennsylvania, it being an expression of the sentiments and opinions of said Grand Lodge on the questions before the Convention. Bro. Cassey stated that it had been sent on the opening of the Convention together with printed copies for distribution among the delegates, but not having been officially presented he asked to do so at this time. The document was received by the President who stated that he would have it read it a later period.

The convention then proceeded to the consideration of the majority report, which was read, and on motion taken up by sections. The first

resolution providing for the forming of a Union to be known as the "Grand Lodge Union" after discussion was voted on by States each State, casting 5 votes, as follows: Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Pennsylvania. Harmony, 31 of Rhode Island, and Michigan 35. Negative- Alabama, California, Illinois, Sovereign G. L. of Rhode Island, and Virginia 35. There being a tie, the chair decided the motion lost. Much confusion here ensued; it was stated that some of the members who had voted against the resolution had done so because they had been prevented by ruling of the chair from gaining a full understanding of the resolution; hence they preferred to vote in the negative, whilst really favoring the proposition. Personal explanations were given and discussed between the President and several of the members, which matters were amicably settle. A general debate recurred on the merits of the resolutions, Brother W. T. Boyd of Ohio and others insisting upon the necessity for the dissolution of the National Grand Lodge and the adherents of the National Grand Lodge asserring that they came to the convention ready to make any sacrifice in order to bring about harmony and cordial relations among the craft, but could not allow their organization to be called in question. If they should find it necessary in the future to dissolve it, they could attend to that matter themselves, &c., &c.

An exciting debate followed. The position of the delegate from Ohio especially was severely criticized for its uncompromising spirit, by J. H. Deveaux of Georgia, R. Faucett, of Pennsylvania and others. Some personal allusions were indulged in, on which the delegate. W. T. Boyd, tendered his resignation as a member of the convention. Moved that it be accepted, Dr. H. M. Turner took the floor and made an eloquent and forcible speech in the interest of harmony and the future prosperity of the Craft. Mutual explanation ensued, after which it was moved that both the resignation, and the motion to accept, be laid on the table, which motion was carried. A better feeling seeming to pervade the assembly, it was moved that the vote on the first resolution of the majority report the reconsidered, which motion was carried. At 6 1/2 P.M. a recess, was taken until 8 P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

The convention was called to order promptly at 8 o'clock. The Committee on Credentials reported favorably on the certificate appointing Brethren Alfred S. Cassey as representative for the M. W. Grand Lodge of Colorado. On motion the report of the committee was approved. The business in order was the motion to adopt the first resolution. The vote was taken by States: Affirmative- Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Harmony G. L. of Rhode Island, and Mississippi (50) Negative- California, Sovereign G. L. of Rhode Island and Virginia, (45). The resolution was declared adopted. The delegate from Alabama having been absent when the vote was taken, now asked and received leave to record the vote of his Grand Lodge in the affirmative.

The convention now seemed to be in perfect harmony and proceeded to amend and adopt the sections from 1 to 12 inclusive by unanimous votes.

The thirteenth section relative to fraternization &c. was reached, and on a motion to adopt was objected to by W. D. Matthews of Kansas, and Rev. Jones of Delaware. There seemed to be a misunderstanding as to the effect of this section, some being of the opinion that it was immediately binding on those participating in the convention; others that it was inoperative until the doings of this convention were finally ratified. The vote on adoption being taken was carried with dissenting votes from Delaware and Kansas. As it was desirable proposition an attempt was made to ascertain and remove the objections. This called forth lengthy speeches from W. D. Matthews of Kansas, R. H. Gleaves, R. Faucett, T. H. Banks, Dr. Turner and others. After an exciting session, lasting until 12:15 P.M., the convention adjourned to meet on Friday morning at 8 o'clock.

Friday morning, May 10, 1878.

At precisely 8 o'clock, Mr. William Nesbit the President called the convention to order. The Rev. Lewis Jones of Del. was invoked the divine blessing.

No minutes were read owing to the confusion resulting from the stormy discussion of last evening, but a good night's rest had mollified the feelings of the past evening when every delegate was present save W. T. Boyd of Ohio.

The hope of a harmonious morning session and a unanimous adoption of the articles of union rested with Delaware and Kansas.

The former proceeded to explain his vote which he justified on the ground that he had desired to be fully satisfied as to the scope of the section as understood by the delegates; but not being able to fully assure himself, he had thought it best to vote no. His doubts having been solved he now asked to record the five votes of Delaware in favor of the proposition. This announcement was received with great applause. Capt. W. D. Matthews of Kansas stated that, he entertained doubts of the propriety of favoring the resolution particularly if it is understood to allow patronization with men generally before the ratification of the articles of agreement. He held if these articles were carried out in good faith, he would be found in the ranks at the right time, and that he would then go as far as any of the delegates. He then declined to change his vote. The section was then announced as adopted; 65 in affirmative and 5 in the negative.

A final vote being [] on the report as amended, it was adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, There has for some years existed in this country great confusion among the brethren of the Masonic fraternity on account of differences of opinion, growing out of technicalities in the government of the craft, and

WHEREAS, Such differences of opinion have been injurious to the masses of the brethren, and detrimental to the influence and usefulness of the venerable fraternity, causing the most severe criticisms and denunciations of our order, and

WHEREAS, At the Centennial convention at custom in 1875, it was recommended that a more perfect union be formed by our craft, and believing that the spirit of the age in which we live and our duty to our people demand a cordial relationship to each other, to entitle it to the respect of the whole country therefore,

Resolved, That the Grand Lodge of (colored) Masons of the United States in solemn convention assembles to hereby form a union to be known as the Grand Lodge Union of the United States of North America, for the following purposes, and under the following restrictions

viz:

- 1st. In order to settle any disputes that may occur between Grand Lodges, but not in any manner or form interfere with the internal management of a Grand Lodge. notwithstanding, it may advise any Grand Lodge upon any matter whatever.
 - 2nd. The union shall be composed of the Grand Master, and Master Masons to be elected by each Grand Lodge.
 - 3rd. No office shall be created in the such Grand Lodge Union; but the presiding officer of the State to which the Union meets shall be its presiding officer unless he voluntarily relinquishes all right, then the presiding officer shall be elected.
 - 4th. After the close of each meeting of the Grand Lodge Union, all powers of the presiding officer shall cease, except that execution of such matters, as shall be referred to him. The Grand Sect'y of the State in which the union meets shall besits recording officer for the time being, and his records shall be duly transferred to the Grand Sect'y of the State where the next place of meeting shall be held.
 - 5th. Before the session closes the Union shall decide the next place of meeting.
 - 6th. That each Grand Lodge bear the expenses of her delegates and the proportionate part of the sundry expenses of said meeting.
 - 7th. The Grand Lodge Union shall []three years, the first meeting to be held at ----- on ----- 18--.
 - 8th. These articles to be binding and of full force, when two thirds of the Grand Lodges of the United States shall ratify the same.
 - 9th. When the same shall be ratified by the requisite number of Grand Lodges and the Sect'y and presiding officer of this convention be officially notified, a circular to all Grand Lodges shall be immediately issued announcing the fact.
 - 10th. And the Grand Lodges under the National Grand Lodge, and the Independent Grand Lodges each solemnly pledge ourselves to obey these articles, and we recommend that the National Grand Lodge, do when these articles are approved by two-thirds of the Grand Lodges, wind up its affairs and adjourn *sine die*.
 - 11th. We recommend that all regularly organized Grand Lodges and their subordinates, having the genuine work of Masons, be recognized as such; and that cordial relations be established between them.
 - 12th. We further recommend that all such Grand Lodges as may be located within the same territorial limits, as soon as possible unite and form one Grand Lodge.
- It is our opinion that it will be best that each Grand Lodge shall be independent in its own jurisdiction. That each Grand Lodge shall have a representative accredited at each other Grand Lodge, and when disputes are not adjusted, said representatives may be withdrawn and non-intercourse declared with notification to all other Grand Lodges.
- 13th. That without interfering with or calling into question the form of Government a Grand Lodge may adopt, or have adopted so long as not repugnant to the principles and landmarks of Free Masonry. We do agree that all restrictions or bars preventing the fraternization of all true and accepted Masons, by visitations, Masonic recognition, &c., shall be removed and discarded, and the only test shall be, is he a man and an accepted Mason.

The committee on CHRISTIAN RECORDER, reported in favor of adopting that journal as an organ for the Masonic fraternity, and Dr. H. M. Turner and A. S. Cassey were chosen to look after the Masonic department.

The committee on printing of the documents of the Convention was then elected by the Convention, as follows: Rev. R. Faucett, A. S. Cassey and Dr. H. M. Turner.

An official document from the M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Pennsylvania which was presented at the afternoon session May 9th, was read and ordered to be put upon the minutes, to wit:

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME.

KNOW YE- That at a regular Communication of the M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Pennsylvania, held at their Hall South Eleventh Street. Philadelphia, on motion adopted, a Committee was duty appointed to prepare a report expression of the sentiments of the Grand Lodge, to be presented to the Convention which is called to meet in the city of Wilmington, Delaware, on the 8th day of May A. D. 1878. A D. 5878 and that in conformity with the purpose of their appointment the Committee presented the following, which after consideration *was adopted*, to wit:

Your Committee appointed to prepare on behalf of the Grand Lodge for Pennsylvania an expression of her sentiments and views, to be presented to the Convention of all Colored Grand Lodges, (National and Independent), have found the subject to be one requiring much deliberation. The main object sought as we understand it is to settle whatever differences may exist among us as Masons, and to promote such a harmony of action and feeling as will lead to union and mutual recognition among the hitherto divided fragments of the Craft. We deem in important that the principles which are to form the basis of a union which shall be clearly defined. It is therefore suggested as the sentiment of this Grand Lodge.

1st. That the bond of union is Honor and Fidelity; that whatever conclusions may be finally adopted, must be faithfully observed by all parties until constitutionally repealed or altered, in manner similar to its adoption. We should be as represented in Holy Writ, like unto him that sweareth unto his neighbor and disappointeth him not, though it were to his own hindrance" - "whose doeth these things shall never fall." (Psalm xv.)

2d. We believe that the good of the Craft would be best observed by the existence of but one Grand Lodge in one State or Territory:- but as we cannot dispose of the facts, that in all the States of this Union there were Grand Lodges of Masons before the organization of Colored Grand Lodges; and also in many European countries, more than one Grand Lodge in the same territorial limits- and as the doctrine of "exclusive jurisdiction" was confessed by the admission of its originators, promulgated in 1777 by "*revolution and assumption of power*, we decline to be bound by such a dogma, and look upon its attempted establishment as an innovation upon the Masonic system before acknowledged and practiced the world over. We can see no violation of law or landmark in the existence of more than one Grand Lodge in the same State or territorial limit, and we believe that such bodies may have and preserve cordial relations and interchange of courtesies.

We refer to the facts that two Grand Lodges existed in England and Preston states that "for a series of years the most perfect harmony subsisted between the two Grand Lodges, and private Lodges flourished in both parts of the kingdom under their separate jurisdiction."

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The "Royal York of Friendship," founded in 1773, with 27 Lodges under its jurisdiction; and the

"National Grand Lodge of Germany," founded in 1798, with 27 operative Lodges.

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Believing therefore, that consistency demands the repudiation of the modern American doctrine of exclusive territorial jurisdiction, destructive to the local claim of colored Grand Lodges in every State in which a Grand Lodge had before existed, and as an immediate step to the much desired "Union," recommend-

That all regularly organized Grand Lodges and their subordinates, having the genuine work of Masons, be recognized as such; and that cordial relations be established between them.

We further recommend that all such Grand Lodges as may be located within the same territorial limits, as soon as possible unite and form one Grand Lodge.

It is our opinion that it will be best that each Grand Lodge shall be independent in its own jurisdiction; that the only bond of union, should be a Court of Appeals to settle differences arising among the several Grand Bodies. That each Grand Lodge shall have a representative accredited at each other Grand Lodge, and when disputes are not adjusted said representative may be withdrawn, and non-intercourse declared with notification to all other Grand Lodges.

Hoping that these suggestions may meet the approval of this Grand Lodge and the Fraternity the above is

Respectfully submitted.

Committee.

ALFRED S. CASSEY,
D. B. BOWSER,
G. M. BURTON,
FRANCIS WOOD,
JAS. F. NEEDHAM,
Chairman.

(Seal.)

ATTEST- CHAS. B. COLLEY,

R. W. G. Sec'y.

On motion each Grand Lodge represented was assessed an amount sufficient to pay the expense of printing 2,000 copies to be forwarded to each Grand Lodge. On motion votes of thanks were extended to the Grand Lodge of Delaware and the citizens and ladies of Wilmington or their hospitality; also to the President and officers of the convention. A unanimous rising vote of thanks was tendered to M. W. Aaron P. Faucett for his invaluable labors, and services as chairman of the Cante on Convention. After a few remarks by the President congratulating the convention on the successful termination of its labors the convention after singing the Doxology and a benediction by the Chaplain Dr. Turner, on motion adjourned *sine die*.

The morning session was harmonious and the delegate parted in the best good feeling, believing that they had accomplished one of the greatest results known in the history of our race in this country.

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