



JOHN B. CORLISS, 33°



HISTORY
of
Scottish Rite Masonry

Valley of Detroit
Michigan

BY ^{2nd ed.}
JOHN B. CORLISS, 33°



DEDICATED TO
PIONEER ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN
SOVEREIGN CONSISTORY

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By JOHN B. CORLISS
Detroit, Michigan

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HISTORY
of
SCOTTISH RITE MASONRY
VALLEY of DETROIT
MICHIGAN

MASONRY is the most sublime organization of mankind. Its tenets inculcate the highest moral and spiritual aspirations. It refines the character and guides by every step in the Masonic pilgrimage a just course for the activities of life, and inspires the mind and soul of man with the heavenly blessings of hope and faith in the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God. While its origin is unknown, evidence has been found in ancient records and emblems to justify the opinion that it has been worked in some form through all the ages back to the building of King Solomon's Temple, and legendary lore ascribes the origin of Craft Free Masonry to a much remoter period.

We know from historic data that centuries before Christ the great men of that early age were inspired by the tenets and principles of Masonry. We find the pilgrims who associated with and revered the life of Christ

U. C. Hollander, 2-7-23, J

1-8-23-11-23

were protected from persecution by the Templars in our order. We find it associated in all walks of civilization. Go into the darker and more ignorant portions of the world and you will find the principles of Masonry and the influence of the order being wrought for the good of mankind among even those who take the Koran for their guide and among the worshipers of Confucius and Mohammed. It teaches the mortality of man and the immortality of the soul; it knows no creed or religion and yet it seems marvelous that in all the works of our great and glorious order, the fraternity is impressed with the inevitable laws of Nature and influenced to practice and live within such laws, and at the same time inspired with the spirit of the Almighty.

Masonry is not alone the obligation that we solemnly take in the several degrees, not alone the principles that are inculcated for the preservation of the mortal elements of man, not alone the spirit of brotherly love ever manifest in our order. All these have their influence and produce effects. But there is another all-ruling power. We find the tenets of our order proclaiming equality, the meeting on the level and the parting on the square, ingrafted into the fundamental principles of human and national life. Into the declaration of inde-

pendence and the constitution upon which the pyramid of our nation has been builded was breathed the spirit of symbolic Masonry. The symbolic degrees, entered apprentice, fellow-craft and Master Mason or Blue Lodge Masonry, has been conferred in some form in every civilized country from the time of Solomon and are the foundation rock upon which the two branches, York Rite and Scottish Rite Masonry rest. The York Rite branch came to us from England and Scotland, while Scottish Rite came from France.

SCOTTISH RITE

ARITE of Perfection consisting of twenty-five degrees, existed in France in 1762, which, it is contended, was brought to France by Scotchmen who were in exile because of their adherence to the House of Stuart.

Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, acknowledged by the craft as the head of the ineffable and sublime degrees of Free Masonry, in 1762 improved the Rite, added eight degrees to the twenty-five and gave it the name of Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, the thirty-third degree it is said being adopted as the number of years of the Savior on earth. In 1786 Frederick the Great promulgated and signed constitutions which have

since been recognized as a constituent part of the foundation of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. No Supreme Council is recognized as regular unless formed in compliance with the constitutions promulgated by Frederick the Great in 1786.

In 1761 Stephen Morin was commissioned to propagate the Rite of Perfection in America as Inspector General. Between 1762 and 1767 he, having power to confer degrees in person, organize and charter bodies and issue letters conferring powers equal to his own, commissioned Henry A. Francken, Mosen M. Hays, Barend M. Spitzer, John Mitchell and others, Deputy Inspector Generals. In this way a Rite of Perfection was organized at Albany, New York, in 1767, and in the South bodies of the Rite of Perfection were instituted in 1783.

SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE

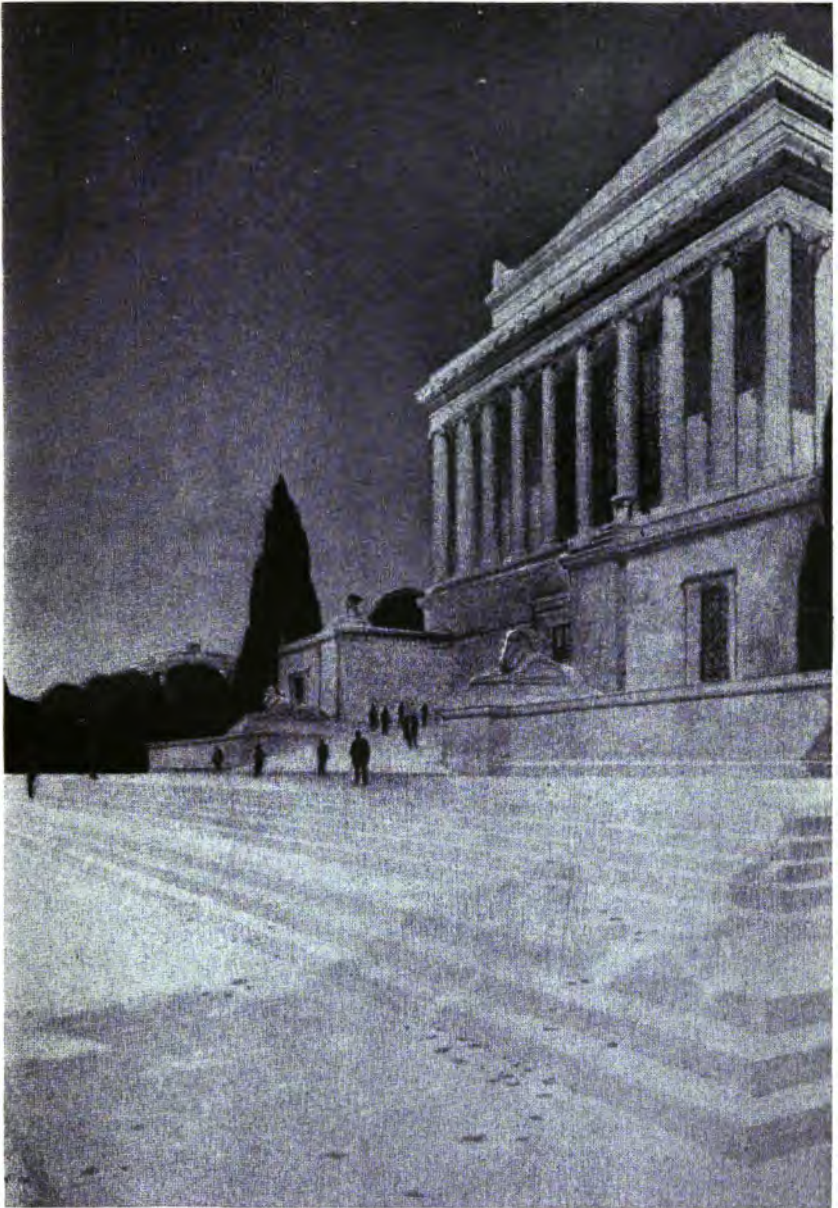
THE first and mother Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in the world was formed at Charleston, South Carolina, in 1801, and held jurisdiction over the entire United States until 1813, when a Supreme Council was organized in the city

of New York for the Northern Masonic jurisdiction. Later a Supreme Council was organized at Boston, Massachusetts, and for many years these two bodies were maintained in conflict and acrimony until 1867, when the two Councils were united and became the sole regular Supreme Council of the Northern jurisdiction of the United States of America, embracing all the States north of Mason and Dixon's line and east of the Mississippi River. While the Southern and other Supreme Councils have only thirty-three active Thirty-thirds, the Northern Council authorized sixty-six in order to harmoniously effect the consolidation.

A tree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masonry was prepared and published in 1906 by Honorable James D. Richardson, Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of the Southern jurisdiction (published herewith), accurately portraying the growth of the Supreme Councils of the Scottish Rite. Brother Richardson, with whom the writer served for eight years in the House of Congress, was like his predecessor, General Albert Pike, a man of sterling character. He compiled and published the messages and papers of our Presidents from Washington to Roosevelt and rendered

yeoman service in all branches of Masonry.

The mother, or Southern Supreme Council, has erected at Washington, D. C., its headquarters, a Scottish Rite Cathedral of marvelous beauty, where it will stand for all time as a beacon light reflecting the rays of Masonic influence and principles. When the constitutions of 1762 were revised in 1786, the revisionists adjourned sine die, and, of course, there was no authority that could call together or create a General Supreme Council. The mother, or Southern Supreme Council was organized by and through the power of the Inspector Generals, commissioned to propagate the order in America. There were before the World War, twenty-six Supreme Councils of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite—each of them sovereign within itself and absolute over the degrees of Scottish Rite within the boundaries of its particular jurisdiction. All are in fraternal relationship in the federations of Supreme Councils of the World.



*The Supreme Council 33° A. & A. Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, S. J. U. S. A.
The House of the Temple, Washington, D. C.*

MICHIGAN SOVEREIGN CONSISTORY

AT the annual convocation of the Supreme Grand Council of the Sovereign Grand Inspectors General 33° Ancient and Accepted Rite for the Northern jurisdiction held at Boston, Massachusetts, May 18, 1861, a petition was presented by D. Burnham Tracy, 32°, William Corbin, 32°, William P. Innes, 32°, C. H. Putnam, 32°, James M. Kelley, 32°, to grant them power to open a Sovereign Consistory of Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret and confer the degrees from Grand Pontiff to Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret, inclusive, at the city of Detroit. A resolution adopted at this meeting authorized the Illustrious Lieutenant Grand Commander to issue a dispensation to the petitioners to open a Consistory of Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret with power to confer the degrees at Detroit and such power to continue to the annual meeting in May, 1862.

May 13, 1862, the first meeting was held and degrees conferred under the dispensation, and the name of Michigan Sovereign Consistory adopted and officers elected, with D. Burnham Tracy as Commander-in-Chief.

At the annual meeting of the Supreme Grand Council, Northern jurisdiction, U. S.

A., held at Boston, Massachusetts, May 21, 1862, chapters were granted to Carson Lodge of Perfection, Carson Council, Prince of Jerusalem, Mt. Olivet Chapter of Rose Croix and Michigan Sovereign Consistory at Detroit, Michigan, and at this same session Brother D. Burnham Tracy was made a member of the Supreme Council and Deputy for the State of Michigan. In 1862 Reverend Francis A. Blades was made a Sublime Prince, and in 1863 an active member of the Supreme Council.

The little band of Masonic patriots who accepted the responsibility conferred by the charter and undertook to establish and exemplify the principles of Scottish Rite in the Valley of Detroit, were like the courageous pioneers known to history, who sailed forth upon the unknown seas or blazed a way through the wild forests to discover and disclose the hidden treasures for the benefit of the generations to follow them.

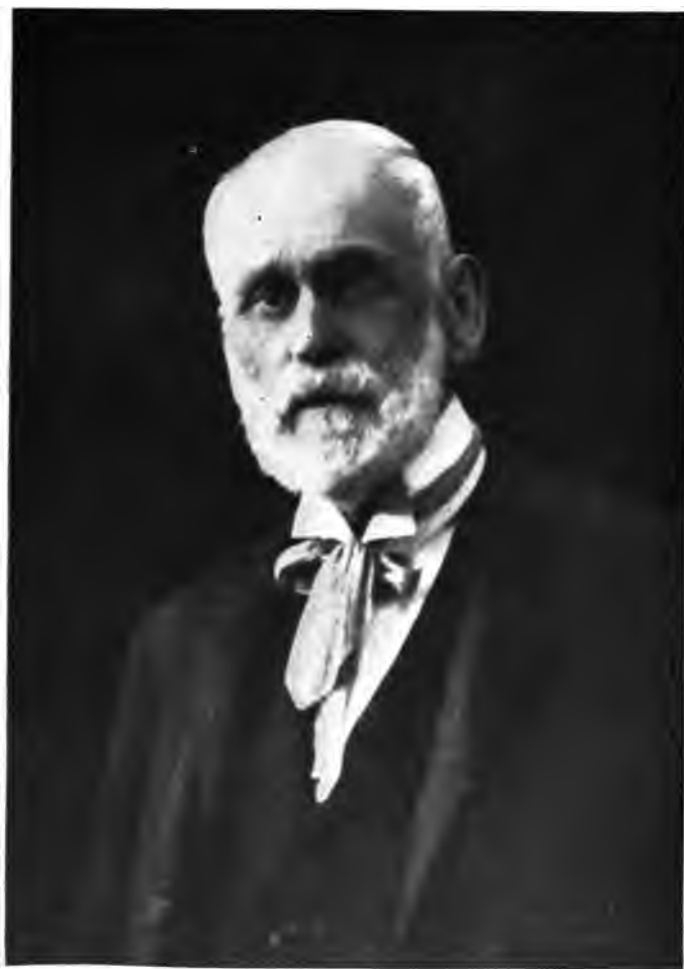
The first twenty-five years of the history of our order in this valley were fraught with civil strife, financial distress and almost insurmountable difficulties.

In 1876 the Supreme Council suspended the charter of our Consistory and co-ordinate odies for the non-payment of dues to the



Buildings Occupied Prior to Temple on Lafayette Avenue





FRANCIS A. BLADES, 33°

Supreme Council. The credit of the order was saved upon the brink of bankruptcy through the generosity of Sublime Princes O. W. Shipman, Jesse E. Saxton and a few others who accepted its certificates for funds advanced to meet obligations. The first meeting after the charters were restored was held in the Hodges Block February 16, 1878, when it was found they owed \$1,256.00 for rent and were compelled to vacate and store the furniture until they leased the rooms over a store on Michigan Avenue. During 1877 and 1878 the Consistory and co-ordinate bodies to overcome financial difficulties entered into a mutual agreement to pool all their earnings and notwithstanding these discouraging and disheartening conditions, like the pioneer associations of old, there was ever present a great human soul endowed with the divine characteristics to lead, elevate and encourage the brethren. The spirit of this noble soul was breathed into the hearts and lives of the patriotic pioneers associated in this great cause, and the longer we live and the more we learn of the marvelous influence wrought through the inspiring presence of this great patriot, Sublime Prince Reverend Francis A. Blades, the greater is the appreciation thereof.

In a printed report of the Commander-in-

Chief, Ill. H. Shaw Noble, for the year 1878, the melancholy condition of the order was fully portrayed and in which he states:

“Within the State of Michigan there reside, according to the best information I can get, 18 Sov. Gr. Inspectors General 33° and 238 S. P. R. S. 32° are members of Michigan Sovereign Consistory.

“The State of Michigan is represented in the Supreme Council of the S. G. I. G. of the 33° N. M. jurisdiction by three active and one emeritus members, viz., Ill. D. Burnham Tracy, 33°, Ill. Rufus W. Landon, 33°, Abram T. Metcalf, 33°, and Ill. Francis A. Blades, 33°.”

It may be interesting to note here that at the present time Michigan has only two active Thirty-third Degree Masons in the Supreme Council.

It was my pleasure to unite with the little band of Scottish Rite heroes in 1885, at the gloomiest period in the history of the Rite. When I became impressed with the unfortunate condition of the craft, it seemed to me they were struggling in the darkness of the Valley of Despair. Their quarters consisted of two small rooms in an attic on Michigan Avenue, their paraphernalia for the exemplification of the glorious and sublime degrees was the open

Holy Book upon an altar tattered and torn with age, a white robe of purity, a sword, the emblem of command, a dark lantern and a monk's wig. Its treasury was empty, the cupboard was bare.

During the years that intervened between the establishment of the Scottish Rite in Detroit and the completion of the present Masonic Temple the exigencies occasioned by the use of rented quarters involved it in numerous migrations. The full page illustrations (published herewith) gathered and preserved by Sublime Prince Nicholas Coulson show the various buildings in which the Scottish Rite bodies had homes from its organization to the present Masonic Temple, including the old Baptist Church, converted into a Scottish Rite Cathedral, and Philharmonic Hall on Lafayette Ave., occupied during the construction of the Temple.

SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL

IN the early spring of 1886 the Baptist Church, Lafayette Avenue (on ground now occupied by the Masonic Temple), following the trend of the people, erected a church up Woodward Avenue and offered for sale the old church with seventy-five feet frontage on Lafayette Avenue. Brother W. H. Brearley was an active member of this church and when they were unable to find a purchaser, he, to help finance said church, being a Master Mason, and learning of the desires of a few active Sublime Princes to advance the interests of the Scottish Rite bodies, conceived the idea of selling the church to them and called a meeting in May, 1886, at said church, of all active Sublime Princes living in Detroit. There were present at this meeting Sublime Princes Darius D. Thorp, Francis A. Blades, M. H. Chamberlain, O. W. Shipman, William Livingstone, M. S. Smith, Charles P. Collins, D. B. Tracy, John B. Corliss, S. B. Grummond, George W. Fowle, Ralph E. Phelps, W. H. Baxter, W. E. Avery, Henry George, and others.

Brother Brearley explained the necessity of the Baptist Church to realize on this property and that it could be purchased for \$31,500.00 cash.

The deplorable condition of the Scottish Rite bodies and necessity for prompt action to place them upon a strong foundation in a home of their own, was enthusiastically proclaimed by many of those present. A plan to raise funds was adopted and over \$5,000.00 pledged at this meeting by those present. Brother Brearley was authorized to secure a contract and make a payment of \$2,000.00 on the purchase price and to secure at least sixty days' time in which to pay the balance. Following this meeting a committee, of which Brother Brearley was chairman, made an effort to secure additional funds from the Sublime Princes not present and living outside of Detroit. Through this means the subscriptions were raised to a little over \$6,000.00. To complete the purchase it was necessary to form a legal identity to hold title and create lawful obligations, and to this end Articles of Association of Michigan Sovereign Consistory of the Valley of Detroit were prepared by the writer and duly executed and recorded June 30, 1886. On this date a meeting of the Consistory was held, the Articles of Incorporation approved, and in compliance with the law the following named Sublime Princes were elected as a Board of Trustees with full power to administer the business affairs of the corpora-

tion, viz., M. H. Chamberlain, John B. Corliss, S. B. Grummond, D. D. Thorp, M. S. Smith, D. B. Tracy, O. W. Shipman, W. H. Brearley and W. E. Avery. The Board of Trustees, at their meeting, elected the following officers:

President—M. H. Chamberlain.

Vice-President—O. W. Shipman.

Secretary—W. H. Brearley.

Treasurer—M. S. Smith.

The Trustees classified themselves by lot so as to determine the expiration of their term of office, as follows:

To expire in June, 1887—Bros. Tracy, Smith and Brearley.

In June, 1888—Bros. Avery, Grummond and Shipman.

In June, 1889—Bros. Thorp, Chamberlain and Corliss.

Steps were promptly taken by the Trustees to complete the purchase of the Baptist Church property, but to obtain the money, as it was a cash transaction, it was necessary to mortgage the property and in addition to the donations, borrow from the bank \$14,000.00, which was obtained by a note of the corporation with the personal endorsement of the Trustees. In this way, through the zeal,

courage and determination of a few Scottish Rite Masons the Masonic fraternity secured a permanent home for the craft—the first home every owned by a Masonic body in the city of Detroit.

In view of some expressions by parties unfamiliar with the facts relative to the work of Brother Brearley, it is just to state that Brother Brearley was only a Master Mason at the time he presented the subject of the purchase of the church property to the Scottish Rite Masons. His interest and object was the sale of the property to obtain funds for the church. He performed good work and in recognition thereof was made a member of the Scottish Rite bodies at a session thereof held the last week of June, 1886. He served on the Board of Trustees from the incorporation of the Consistory only one year and took no part after the payment of the church property and the initiatory work above mentioned, in the great constructive work thereafter performed for the benefit of the craft. The Board of Trustees took immediate steps to improve the old church by the construction of an addition to the rear of the building, a large stage and other changes necessary for the bodies to properly confer the degrees. At the direction of the Board of Trustees, John B. Corliss

visited Milwaukee and Chicago Scottish Rite bodies and obtained from them the character of scenery required for the stage and other necessary equipment to properly exemplify the degrees. Upon his report the Trustees contracted with Chicago scenic artists for the stage equipment, and by January 1, 1887, the Scottish Rite Cathedral was completed, but still the robes and other paraphernalia had to be obtained and in order to secure funds and educate the workers and arouse the interest of the craft, a committee from the Consistory, consisting of Rev. F. A. Blades, E. R. Harris and John B. Corliss, visited Cincinnati for the purpose of securing the attendance of the working fraternity of the Ohio Consistory. Their mission was most successful, and in March, 1887, the Ohio Consistory, headed by the Illustrious Deputy for Ohio, Enoch T. Carson, 33°, came to Detroit, and conferred all the sublime degrees upon a class of nearly one hundred.

Although the various bodies had previously occupied the Cathedral, the formal dedication did not occur until March 23, 1887. A committee of arrangements was designated, consisting of the officers of the five different bodies, to prepare and carry out the program for dedication and work in the new Cathedral.

A sub-committee was also appointed to draft and present a program for the dedication. This committee consisted of Bros. Thorp, Corliss, Bragg, Baxter, Bardwell and Evans, who performed their work with great acceptance to the bodies.

The dedicatory address upon this memorable occasion was given by Ill. Bro. Henry L. Palmer, of Milwaukee, Wis., Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, Northern Jurisdiction of the United States. "The Rite in the Valley of Detroit; Its Present and Future," was the subject of an address by Illustrious Bro. Hugh McCurdy, 33°, Past Commander-in-Chief, and "Michigan Sovereign Consistory" was the topic of an address by Illustrious Bro. Francis A. Blades, 33°, of Detroit. Assistance was also given in the ceremonies by Ill. Chas. T. McClenachan, 33°, Grand Master General of Ceremonies, Supreme Council of the Northern Jurisdiction; Illustrious A. T. Metcalf, 33°, Deputy for Michigan; Illustrious D. Burnham Tracy, 33°, Past Deputy for Michigan; Illustrious Enoch T. Carson, 33°, Deputy for Ohio; Illustrious O. W. Shipman, 33°, Grand Marshal of the Camp, and Illustrious Bros. M. J. Mack, W. B. Mellish, B. F. Haxton, R. C. Urner, Robert Gwynn, Wm. Corbin, Chas. H. Put-

nam and Richard A. Burns, all of the Thirty-third degree.

The last week of June, 1887, the Consistory and co-ordinate bodies held their second Convocation and on this occasion secured the services of Wisconsin Scottish Rite Bodies, led by Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander H. L. Palmer, of the Supreme Council, and Illustrious Charles M. Cottrell, Commander-in-Chief of Wisconsin Consistory, with a full corps of officers of the several bodies, who exemplified the Sublime degrees upon a class of about eighty. From this date there has been perfect assurance of the success and prosperity of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite bodies in the Valley of Detroit. The two Convocations above mentioned gave our small band of active workers sufficient knowledge to enable them thereafter to exemplify the degrees, and within a brief period they were able to perform the work as well and effectively as any other Scottish Rite bodies.

SUBORDINATE BODIES

IN 1870 a charter was issued by the Supreme Council for a Lodge of Perfection at Allegan, Michigan, and duly organized, with Andrew J. Kellogg, 33°, as Thrice Potent Grand Master,

which in 1877 was transferred to Detroit and its name changed to Detroit Grand Lodge of Perfection. Shortly after the establishment of the Scottish Rite Cathedral this Lodge and Carson Grand Lodge of Perfection were consolidated. The subordinate bodies (Lodge, Council and Chapter), working in harmony with the Consistory for the advancement of Scottish Rite Masonry in the Valley of Detroit, recognizing the force and wisdom of concentrated business management, established by the legally constituted Board of Trustees, adopted respectively a set of by-laws directing that all moneys that came to them should be immediately turned over to the Treasurer of Michigan Sovereign Consistory. The consolidation of all financial interests in the hands of the Board of Trustees created a potent power and influence for the success and prosperity of Scottish Rite Masonry in Detroit. The harmonious union and plan thus established has continued to the present time.

MASONIC TEMPLE LAFAYETTE

THE first formal expression in favor of the erection of a Masonic Temple is found in the address of Commander-in-Chief John B.

Corliss at the annual meeting of the Consistory in 1889. He stated that he had carefully investigated the probable cost of a Cathedral to cover the ground owned by the Consistory and subordinate bodies and had also considered the possibility of a consolidation of all Masonic bodies in the Valley of Detroit. He submitted an alternative plan authorizing the Board of Trustees either to secure plans and erect a Scottish Rite Cathedral upon the premises then owned or to formulate plans and confer with the York Rite bodies with a view to building to accommodate both Rites. The subject received prompt consideration. The consolidation of all the bodies met with approval and a committee consisting of Ill. Brothers M. H. Chamberlain, John B. Corliss, William C. Maybury and James E. Davis was appointed to present the subject to the York Rite bodies. This committee promptly gave the subject attention, held innumerable conferences with the officers and members of the several York Rite bodies, and through such effort all the Masonic bodies of Detroit were finally brought together. The additional 75 feet on Lafayette Avenue extending to 1st St., embracing, with the land owned by the Consistory, 150 feet frontage on Lafayette, with a depth of 130 feet, was secured, upon

which the present Masonic Temple now stands. In connection with the work the incorporation of the Masonic Temple Association, with a Board of Trustees, having representation from all the Masonic bodies, was perfected, with M. H. Chamberlain, 33°, President, Alfred E. Meigs, 33°, Secretary.

To avoid the danger from the issuance of capital stock and the transfer thereof into unfriendly hands, the Masonic Temple Association, corporation, was formed without capital stock, the interests of the representative bodies therein being held by a non-transferable certificate, and to insure perpetuity it was provided that in case either of the bodies should forfeit its charter or become extinct, its interests would be merged with the surviving members of the Association. As an inducement to the York Rite bodies, who had no property or assets, to join the Masonic Temple Association, the Consistory and subordinate bodies of the Scottish Rite offered to turn over and, finally, by proper action did transfer the Scottish Rite Cathedral obtained from the Baptist Church, with improvements, valued at \$37,000.00 free from encumbrance. This accumulation of property in the hands of the Scottish Rite bodies was the first and potent mite invested in the Masonic Temple

Association. Thereupon a plan was formulated to raise by general subscription sufficient funds to justify the organization in proceeding with the construction of the Masonic Temple. A committee was appointed who canvassed all the Masons of Detroit, and secured pledges aggregating about \$85,000.00. In this great work special mention should be made of the services of Sublime Princes M. H. Chamberlain, E. R. Harris, Francis A. Blades, John B. Corliss, Bruce Goodfellow, William C. Maybury, James Findlater, George W. Fowle and W. H. Ellis.

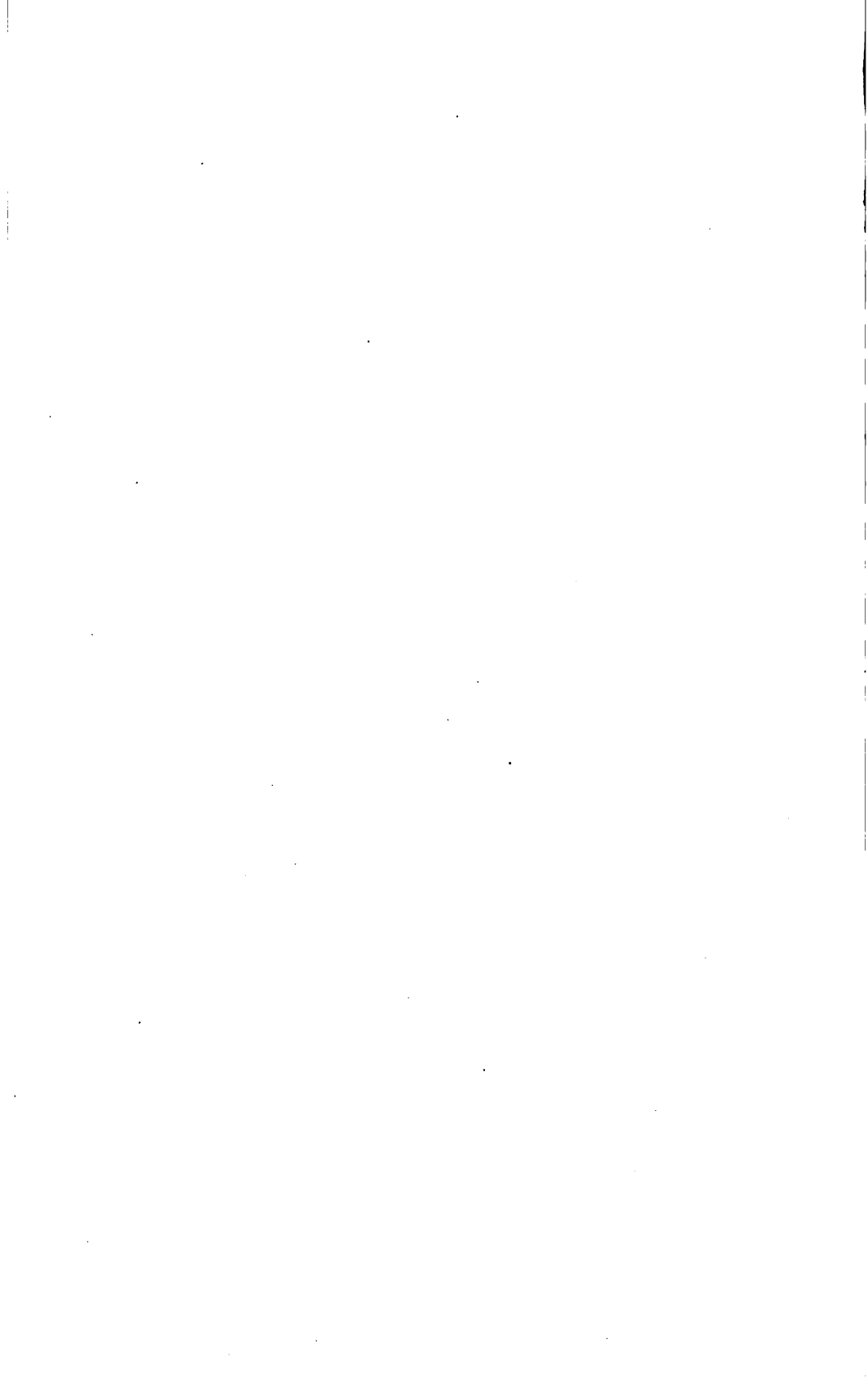
The subscriptions secured with the earning power of all the bodies united and enthusiastically working for the new Temple were deemed sufficient to justify steps being taken for its immediate construction and a Building Committee was appointed consisting of John B. Corliss, Bruce Goodfellow, James Findlater, George W. Fowle, W. H. Ellis and Frank E. Fisher to secure plans, which were prepared by Brother George D. Mason, architect, and submitted by the committee to the several bodies at their regular meetings for approval, and the work of this committee is illustrated by the present Masonic Temple.

The corner stone of the Temple was laid with proper Masonic ceremonies in January,



Masonic Temple. Lafayette and First Street, Detroit





1895, and was opened in December, 1895, with a Masonic Fair, from which a large sum of money was raised and with a bonded indebtedness secured by mortgage of only \$100,000.00 the Temple was completed. The enthusiasm and influence created by the harmonious union of all the Masonic bodies in the new Temple advanced the cause and commanded the respect and admiration of Masonry in Detroit. From a little band of less than 2,500 inactive members when the Scottish Rite bodies purchased the old Baptist Church in 1886 the membership has grown to over 20,000, the bonded debt paid and additional land added to the Temple ground, until today the Masonic Temple property is worth a half million dollars.

PIONEERS

THERE were three great epochs in the first half century of Scottish Rite Masonry in the Valley of Detroit.

The first epoch embraces the period from 1861, when the charters were obtained, to 1886—and the leading characters during this period of adversity were D. Burnham Tracy, Francis A. Blades, Abram T. Metcalf, Hugh McCurdy, O. W. Shipman, H. Shaw Noble, W. H. Baxter, Jex J. Bardwell, Hesse E. Sexton and William Haste, but the most gifted and forceful leader of this group of pioneers was the beloved noble soul and patriot, Francis A. Blades, 33°.

The second epoch embraces the period from June, 1886, when the Baptist Church property was purchased, to December, 1892.

During this period the craft were educated and qualified to properly confer the sublime degrees of the Scottish Rite, the success of this branch of Masonry firmly established, the union of the York Rite bodies obtained and plans prepared for a Masonic Temple with sufficient funds pledged to insure the erection thereof. The most active leaders during this period were at the beginning D. D. Thorp, W. H. Brearley, John B. Corliss, M. H. Chamberlain, George W. Fowle, William Liv-

ingstone and E. R. Harris, and later, as they received the Scottish Rite degrees, James E. Davis, Wm. C. Maybury, James Findlater, W. H. Ellis, Alfred E. Meigs, Frank E. Fisher, O. R. Baldwin, W. E. Barker, John Hanna and George W. Fisher, but the optimistic and inspiring leader of this constructive period was the Commander-in-Chief, John B. Corliss, 33°. In his final report—December, 1892—is found the following expression from which we may judge of the work performed and difficulties surmounted:

“At times the discouragement was great. The despondency of those who were sought to be enlisted might have depressed and discouraged less confident officers. I am proud, however, that the agitation was continued until the enthusiasm was instilled into other strong, active members of our Brotherhood, and at last the united strength and co-operation of every Masonic body secured for the erection of a building which shall be worthy of the name of Masonic Temple and sufficiently commodious to enjoy the blessing of all branches of Masonry within our jurisdiction. This enterprise has passed beyond the point of doubt and is now an assured fact. The foundation has been planted, the plans for the building adopted, and already we hear the

craft gathering together the rough ashlar and applying the square and the trowel to mold them into form for the glory of Masonry.”

The third epoch embraces the period from December, 1892, to 1896, during the construction and dedication of the new Masonic Temple and while those mentioned in the preceding epoch and others were most active, the guiding business hand and executive head of this great work was M. H. Chamberlain, 33°, President of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Temple Association.

DISCORDANT ELEMENT

DURING this constructive period a discordant element arose and found expression in the Annual Communication of Commander-in-Chief John B. Corliss, 33°, in 1889, in which he stated:

“The Supreme Council, being the highest and grandest organization in our order, naturally attracts the attention of the craft and inspires a laudable ambition among the active workers in the exemplification of the degrees and the advancement of the brotherhood. I think it is my duty as Commander-in-Chief of this Consistory to respectfully suggest to our Ill. Deputy and the active members of



M. H. CHAMBERLAIN, 33°





**Past Commanders-in-Chief
Michigan Sovereign Consistory**

REV. DAVID BURNHAM TRACY, 33°. *Deceased*
May 13, 1862, to May 2, 1877. March 16, 1881, to March 26, 1884.

H. SHAW NOBLE, 32°. *Deceased*
May 2, 1877, to March 16, 1881.

HUGH MCCURDY, 33°. *Deceased*
March 26, 1884, to February 18, 1887.

DARIUS D. THORPE, 33°
February 10, 1887, to December 13, 1888.

JOHN BLAISDELL CORLISS, 33°
December 13, 1888, to Dec. 14, 1892.

WILLIAM COTTER MAYBURY, 33°. *Deceased*
December 14, 1892, to Dec. 14, 1898.



Past Commanders-in-Chief

Michigan Sovereign Consistory

ALFRED EBEN MEIGS, 33°

December 14, 1898, to December 11, 1901.

CHARLES FRANCIS BECK, 32°. Deceased

December 11, 1901, to Dec. 14, 1904.

FREDERIC BECKWITH STEVENS, 33°

December 14, 1904, to May 28, 1908.

FRANK TERRELL LODGE, 33°

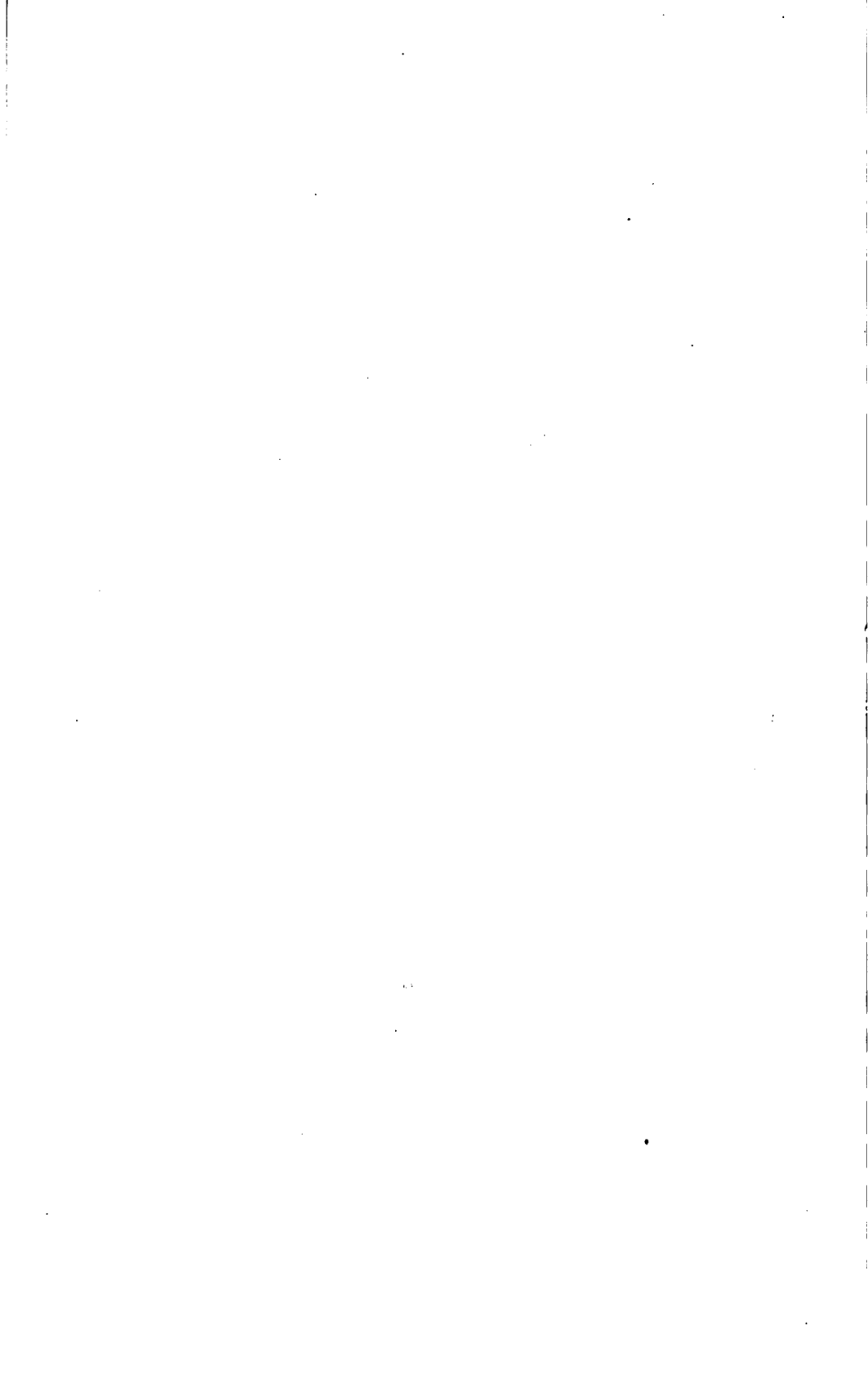
May 28, 1908, to May, 1911.

WILLIAM VAN SICKLE, 33°

May 1911, to May, 1917

FREDERICK EDMISTER, 33°

May, 1917, to date.



the Supreme Council, the necessity for an annual conference of all the active and honorary members of the Supreme Council and the leading presiding officers of the several bodies within its jurisdiction in Michigan, under the guidance of the Illustrious Deputy for the purpose of awarding in a just and meritorious manner the honors to be conferred by the Supreme Council in order that perfect harmony may prevail among our Princes."

In his Annual Communication December, 1892, he again referred to the subject and stated:

"This recommendation was not regarded except by a conference of such members of the Supreme Council as have personally attended the meetings of the Supreme Council, which has accomplished some good, but in my judgment peace will never prevail until the monarchical form of representation in the Supreme Council shall have been reformed by the democratic spirit of equality so nobly taught in the several steps of Masonry. The discord has been somewhat inflamed by the fact that certain appointments to the Honorary 33° degree have been made by the Supreme Council upon the recommendation of our Illustrious Deputy without conference with any of the officers of the Scottish Rite

bodies or Honorary 33° members. This in my judgment is wrong."

A just sentiment has universally prevailed that the honors of the 33° in the Supreme Council should be conferred upon those Princes who by their zeal and fidelity to the cause and sacrifice of time and attainments have most contributed to the advancement of Scottish Rite Masonry, when our Illustrious and aged Deputy Hugh McCurdy in a secret meeting of the active Thirty-thirds of the Supreme Council held at Boston in 1907, being, as he stated in a written communication, "in feeble health * * * and my voice is exceedingly weak, so much so that I can hardly articulate so as to make myself understood, and it is difficult for me to sign my name," tendered his resignation as an active member of the Supreme Council and Deputy of Michigan and without consultation with any of the Honorary 33° or officers of the Scottish Rite bodies in Michigan proposed, and with the assistance of A. T. Metcalf, 33° (active) secured the election of one who was initiated into the Scottish Rite degrees in 1897, and who had taken no part in the upbuilding of the Scottish Rite branch of Masonry in Michigan as his successor as active, and Deputy of Michigan in the Supreme Council, it

almost broke the hearts of the active leaders and deeply affected the spirit and welfare of the order. That the man thus secretly elected, Sublime Prince John J. Carton, was of noble character, well qualified and had rendered service in the York Rite branch of Masonry was fully recognized, but the appointment, secretly and without consideration of those who had sacrificed so much for the Scottish Rite branch in Michigan, seemed most unjust and contrary to the principles of Masonry. Following this action, upon the death of William C. Maybury, 33° (active), a petition to the Supreme Council was prepared by the writer, requesting the appointment of Fred-eric B. Stevens, 33°, as successor, which, with the assistance of William Van Sickle, 33°, was signed by nearly all the honorary 33° and officers of the Scottish Rite bodies in Michigan, and for the first time the will of the craft in the bestowal of honors was recognized by the Supreme Council. It is to be hoped that this example and others of like character in other States, as well as the democratic spirit of the age, may be of sufficient influence upon the active members of the Supreme Council to insure the practice of the principles of Masonry within their secret sessions and prevent the exercise of the power of the "Divine Right of Kings."

LODGE, COUNCIL, CHAPTER

WHILE the Consistory with a legally constituted Board of Trustees took the leading part, the subordinate bodies by their loyalty and superb exemplification of the Sublime degrees, promoted and exalted the glorious work and influence of Scottish Rite Masonry in co-operation and harmony with the Consistory. A narrative of this great work through the constructive years of the order would be incomplete without a just recognition of the service rendered and talent applied by W. H. Baxter, Joseph Mayworm, William W. Watts and Fred H. Warner as Thrice Potent Grand Masters of the Lodge; by James Findlater, Lewis G. Gorton, Frank E. Fisher and Harry J. Walker as Sovereign Princes of the Council; by Alfred E. Meigs, William R. Dunn, Harry P. Williamson, William M. Perrett, Arthur M. McCloud, Frank P. Wilcox and Arthur M. Fisher as Most Wise Masters in the Chapter; by George W. Fowle and Henry M. Leonard as Commandants, and by A. M. Seymour and John F. Gerschow, Secretaries, and James E. Davis, Treasurer of all of the Scottish Rite Bodies.

The completion of the Masonic Temple in 1895 and the happy union and accommodation of all branches of Masonry therein



Past Thrice Potent Grand Masters
Detroit Grand Lodge of Perfection

WILLIAM H. BAXTER, 33°. *Deceased*

WILLIAM H. WATTS, 32°

JOSEPH MAYWORM, 33°. *Deceased*

FRED H. WARREN, 33°. *Deceased*





**Past Sovereign Prince Grand Masters
Carson Council**

JAMES FINDLATER, 33°. *Deceased*
FRANK E. FISHER

HARRY J. WALKER, 33°
LEWIS G. GORTON, 33°



**Past Most Wise Masters
Mt. Olivet Chapter of Rose Croix**

ALFRED EBEN MEIGS, 33°

ARTHUR HAMILTON McCLoud, 33°. *Deceased*

HARRY P. WILLIAMSON, 32°

WILLIAM RICHMOND DUNN, 33°

WILLIAM MONTAGUE PERRETT, 32°

FRANK POMEROY WILCOX, 33°

ARTHUR M. FISHER, 33°





Secretaries, Treasurer and Commandants

ARBA M. SEYMOUR, Secretary. *Deceased*

JOHN F. GERSCHOW, Secretary

JAMES E. DAVIS, Treasurer

GEORGE W. FOWLE, 33°, Commandant

HENRY M. LEONARD, 33°, Commandant

aroused the animation of the brotherhood and materially advanced the cause of Masonry in Detroit.

It was thought by those who planned the present Temple that it would be ample to accommodate all the Masonic bodies for at least a generation, but the impetus given by the consolidated association and the influence of the Masonic principles promulgated by an active and united brotherhood attracted the young men of Detroit into the order and within ten years the membership had more than quadrupled, rendering the Temple insufficient for the accommodation of the craft and the proper exemplification of the Sublime degrees. Steps were then taken by the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Temple Association, first to add to the ground and enlarge the Temple on Lafayette Avenue, and subsequently such space being deemed inadequate, a new site was purchased on Bagg Street, at the northeast corner of Second Avenue, having a frontage of three hundred and fifty feet on Bagg Street and nearly two hundred feet on Second Avenue, facing Cass Park.

Notwithstanding the depressing influence of the World War and the inclination of the Board of Trustees of the Consistory to with-

hold its influence and financial support, the New Temple project, during the past three years has been vigorously promulgated by the representatives of all other Masonic bodies associated in the Masonic Temple Association; and the enthusiastic support of the craft fully aroused.

Plans for a New Gothic Masonic Temple have been perfected, embracing three magnificent and commodious homes for various branches of Masonry and associates in one superb Temple, equal, if not superior to any cathedral or temple in the world.

When the trustees of the Consistory finally, last Fall, consented to pay its portion of the cost of the site on Bagg Street, the patriotic Masonic spirit of the craft found expression through the new Detroit Masonic News and the appointment of a Committee, who have raised, by general subscription, nearly two million dollars, which, with the value of the Temple and ground on Lafayette Avenue, and the funds to be paid by the several bodies, associated, assures the success of this gigantic project for the glory of Masonry and the inspiration of the craft, who labor in the cause of humanity and the blessings of hope and faith in the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God.



The New Masonic Temple





THE MEN BEHIND THE MEN BEHIND THE GUNS

**The Executive Committee That Made the Plans and Arrangements for the Two Million Dollar "Drive"
for the New Masonic Temple**

Standing, left to right:

N. C. CHAPMAN, SAMUEL R. KINGSTON, Treasurer; FRED LAWTON, JAS. H. GARLICK, ARTHUR E. FISHER, LOU C. WILBER, LEWIS R. GORTON, C. Y. SMITH, AL. R. SMITH, WM. MCKAY, E. H. FOWLER, A. MENKE, WALTER CALHOUN, JAS. HUXTABLE.

Sitting, left to right:

JOHN S. WITHEE, Secretary; WM. J. MURRAY, FREDERICK A. COOKE, Vice-Chairman; FRANK J. BAYLEY, Chairman; DR. RUSSELL G. PEARCE, ALFRED E. D. ALLEN, DR. GORDON W. HILL.