

## CHAPTER V.

### UNITED GRAND LODGE A. F. & A. M. FOR IOWA AND JURISDICTION.

#### (Prince Hall Affiliation)

The most outstanding event in the history of negro Masonry in Iowa was the union of African Grand Lodge and Hiram Grand Lodge, which resulted in the organization of the United Grand Lodge of Iowa. For more than six years Masonry in Iowa among colored men had been in a most chaotic condition. African Grand Lodge had received recognition from most of the leading Grand Lodges in the country, but Missouri had steadily refused to admit its regularity and had had interdicted all Masonic intercourse with its members. Most of the Grand Lodges that had recognized African Grand Lodge had refused to recognize Hiram Grand Lodge. A few, however, had discarded the doctrine of exclusive jurisdiction and had recognized both. Missouri had extended recognition to Hiram Grand Lodge and was giving it whole-hearted support. The discord was bitter and widespread. It was not wholly confined to the Lodge room, but, as one writer of that day puts it, "The leaders or representative members have resorted to all the practices of political tricksters to further their aims and have carried the issues from the Lodge to the Church, to the social circle and to the community at large."

Such was the condition in June, 1885, when the first real effort was made looking to a union of the two Grand Lodges. It was launched thru the medium of an open letter sent to each of the Grand Masters. It does not appear that this letter had been inspired by either of the Grand Bodies, or that it had any official endorsement. It will be noticed that neither Mr. Bell nor Mr. Cleggett signed the letter in his official capacity as Grand Secretary, but as a member of his organization. The letter

which follows is to be found in the printed proceedings of Hiram Grand Lodge for 1885, but it is not printed in the proceedings of African Grand Lodge for that year. It is, however, acknowledged by Grand Master Bland in the correspondence that followed its reception.

OPEN LETTER.

Des Moines, Iowa, June 15, 1885.

To the M. W. G. Masters of the M. W. Hiram Grand Lodge and the M. W. African Grand Lodge of the State of Iowa:

Dear Brethren:--

The undersigned having carefully considered all the pending differences between the aforesaid Grand Lodges, have concluded to and do waive all personal feeling and unqualifiedly agree and recommend that some such steps ought to be taken to the end that a Sovereign Grand Lodge be formed by organization in this state by the two aforesaid Grand Lodges. Hoping that yourselves may agree upon a plan that will adjust the differences and bring about that unity due from Mason to Mason,

We are yours very fraternally,

Miles N. Bell,  
Member of the M.W.Hiram Grand Lodge

G. H. Cleggett,  
Member of the M. W. African Grand Lodge

The results of this open letter can best be understood by a perusal of the correspondence exchanged between the two Grand Masters to whom it was addressed and which is to be found in the printed proceedings of both Grand Lodges for 1885. The letters given here are copied from African Grand Lodge Proceedings and, while the wording in Mr. Clark's replies differs slightly from his replies as printed in the Proceedings of Hiram Grand Lodge, this difference is immaterial. The propositions put forward by both Grand Masters and their rejections are worded exactly alike in both proceedings.

THE CORRESPONDENCE.

BLAND'S LETTER NO. I.

KEOKUK, IOWA, June 24, 1885.

Alexander Clark-M. W. Sir: I have received a letter signed jointly by Miles N. Bell and George H. Cleggett. They inform me that you have a duplicate of the same, and there are demands made upon us to come to some agreement. Now I expect to leave here next Monday to visit all the lodges in Iowa under the A. G. L., and would like to hear from you before I leave. It would have been much more pleasant to me to have met you and talked matters over than to do it by letter, but seeing that there is a general disposition to have this matter settled on or before the setting of either Grand body, I make the following proposition, which, I think, will meet the approval of all parties concerned: That each body meet at its earliest convenience, in special if possible, if not in its annual; there settle all accounts that may be against them, and do all the business that is generally done at Grand session (except election of Grand officers, setting time or place of next Grand session, and closing the Grand Lodge), but call off to meet in some place at such time as yourself and I can agree upon, there to hold a united session to carry out the following proposition: First, That all Grand officers on both sides to hold the rank to which they have been elected. Second, That all the lodges under the Hiram Grand Lodge be warranted at the expense of the A. G. L. After which, go into a session and do such business as would be beneficial to the craft, and elect Grand officers for the ensuing year.

If this meets your approval, I think all the lodges in Iowa will be united under one Grand Lodge before the 1st of August next.

Yours fraternally,

A. A. BLAND.

CLARK'S REPLY.

CHICAGO, ILL., June 25, 1885.

Mr. Austin Bland, Keokuk, Iowa.-M. W. Sir: Your letter bearing date 24th inst. is received, contents carefully considered, and I am pleased to assure you and all the legitimate Masons of Iowa among colored men, that I am in sympathy with Bell and Cleggett to the ends of forming one Sovereign Grand Lodge for Iowa, and I am willing that the two Grand bodies should meet in convention to these ends; or that a committee consisting of the Grand Masters and their two Wardens meet and agree upon terms of union, and that said agreement be submitted to the several subordinate lodges of both Grand Lodges, and if a majority of the two bodies agree, then let them meet at a time and place in one body, and adopt a Constitution and By-Laws, elect their officers, install the same, and henceforth be one Grand Lodge. Now all this can be done in less than three weeks, and the officers elect to the two Grand Lodges meet in one at a place and time agreed upon by the committee and ratified by the lodges of both bodies. I approve your suggestion that the officers of each Grand Lodge retain their rank and title held in their Grand Lodge at the time of the Union. Now this plan can be effected and a union made, but it is not worth while for any proposition to be made that will reflect on either Grand body if they desire union; hence your proposition of Hiram Grand Lodge subordinates to be warranted by African Grand Lodge is certainly unreasonable, and can only serve to prevent a union. You certainly know what any and all such propositions would have the effect to do, and you nor I ought not to throw any such obstacle in the way of a union if the lodges desire a union. Now your Grand Lodge has given warrants to her subordinates and so has ours, and if the union is to be equal then we all must remain under one Constitution, issue new warrants in the name of the new or

Sovereign Grand Lodge, whatever that name may be agreed upon. Now if you agree with me in the plan herein submitted, let us call the committee to meet on the 1st of July in Des Moines, Iowa, and on the 5th of the same month, by order or dispensation from you and myself to our subordinate lodges, let them ratify our agreement. Now if you agree, answer by return mail so we can convene our G. Wardens with us at Des Moines, Iowa, on the 1st, and then we can have time to visit our subordinates and urge them to act, etc., with the action of the committee.

I am fraternally,

ALEX CLARK.

P. S. Preserve this letter, if necessary, for reference.

BLAND'S LETTER NO. 2.

KEOKUK, IOWA, July 3, 1885.

Alexander Clark-M. W. Sir: Your letter reached me June 27th, but I was on the eve of leaving the city, so I thought I would find time, while en route, to write you, but deferred until now.

Brother Clark, I have been in great hopes that we would soon be working under one Grand Lodge in peace and harmony, but your proposition for the M. W. A. G. L. to dissolve, that is something that I did not think would be asked for. Now, Bro. Clark, I want union very badly, especially in the cities and State at home, but cannot pay the price you place upon union-the life of the M. W. A. Grand Lodge. Bro. Clark, I must be frank; I cannot accept your proposition. Ask anything else and I think it will be granted. Add to my proposition of June 24th whatever you please save the above mentioned price. Hoping that you will reconsider your demands and put it in some way that I could take it before my Grand Lodge with some hopes of carrying into effect the uniting of all the lodges under the one that is already recognized by the Masonic world. I don't speak

this with any reflection upon your grand body, neither is it worth while for me to give any explanation concerning the status of the M. W. A. G. L. You are as well posted as I am upon this matter. If you think there is any other way for us to get together, I hope you will name it before I leave home, which will be Friday, July 10.

Yours fraternally,

Chicago, Ill., July 3, 1885.

A. A. BLAND.

CLARK'S REPLY TO NO. 2.

CHICAGO, ILL., July 5, 1885.

Mr. Austin A. Bland, Keokuk, Iowa--MY DEAR SIR: Your letter bearing date July 3rd, in reply to my letter June 25, which I telegraphed you of sending it, same is received, and in reply I am sorry to learn that the union suggested by Cleggett, Bell and others of the two Grand bodies, rests with your dictation, therefore I have no further proposition to make upon this much desired union. I was led to believe from Bell and Cleggett that the matter was to be arranged by a committee, or by the two Grand bodies in convention, but you say the only terms is for our lodges to join your Grand Lodge. What union is in this, and that at your dictation. I say now, I will not. If the two Grand Lodges want to unite in one I am willing, but not for you to dictate that, but it must be left to the two Grand bodies. I want none of your W. D. Mathews in mine. I will not have it.

I am yours, etc.,

ALEX CLARK.

I have sent your letters and mine to Bell and Cleggett. They may do as they please.

Both Grand Masters submitted this correspondence to their respective Grand Lodges in 1885, with but little comment so far as the record shows. Grand Master Bland's comment was included in one of his recommendations, in which he said:

"In conclusion of my recommendations I wish to make a statement. There has been a conference held by the Grand Secretaries of the A. G. L. and the body styling itself the Hiram Grand Lodge, and a number of the officers and members of the two Grand bodies, having for its object the uniting of all the lodges in the State into one Grand Lodge. The result of this conference was that the matter was referred to the two Grand Masters, viz: Alex Clark and myself, and we requested to devise a plan of a union. I communicated at once with Bro. A. Clark, but we failed to agree upon a plan. I therefore refer the entire matter, together with all papers of correspondence, to this Grand Lodge for their consideration, with the recommendation that this Grand Lodge devise some plan whereby all subordinate lodges on both sides may have a voice in saying how and when this union shall be effected."

Grand Master Clark, in his annual address, said:

"We would recommend: That all intercourse between the members of this so-called African Grand Lodge and the M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Missouri and jurisdiction, be interdicted. Notwithstanding all the above insubordinations and irregularity in their organization and their bad faith and conduct to the Grand Lodge, which they were members of, we, at the request and suggestion of Bro. M. N. Bell, our Grand Secretary, and Bro. Cleggett, Grand Secretary of African Grand Lodge, requesting a union of the two bodies to the end of forming one Sovereign Grand Lodge for Iowa, and saying that A. A. Bland, Grand Master of African Grand Lodge, was willing and that he would write me on the subject of union,

etc. I was willing for a union and upon the receipt of his letter tendered the olive branch of compromise as set forth in the correspondence between Bland and myself which I submit herewith."

An analysis of this correspondence shows clearly what was in the mind of each of the Grand Masters. Both declare in favor of Masonic unity in Iowa and a single Grand Lodge. But each had a distinct and conflicting purpose in view, either of which would have resulted in a single Grand Lodge in Iowa, but neither leader was willing to make as great a sacrifice as demanded by the other to accomplish that end. The Bland proposition simply meant the dissolution of Hiram Grand Lodge and its subordinate Lodges receiving warrants from African Grand Lodge. This plan would have resulted in the recognition and perpetuation of African Grand Lodge which had been organized under the most determined opposition, but had now functioned and progressed for more than four years. It was the glorified ambition of its heroic leader that African Grand Lodge should be recognized and perpetuated as the first and only regular Grand Lodge in the state of Iowa, and from this hope and purpose he never retracted his efforts until he met defeat in the Convention by the narrow margin of five votes.

Grand Master Clark who had led the opposition to the organization of African Grand Lodge and had made a determined and losing fight against its recognition by other Grand Lodges, was determined that no union should obtain that did not end the existence of African Grand Lodge and result in its dissolution. That is what did happen when the United Grand Lodge was formed. But so long as it was in the power of these two strong and determined leaders to agree upon a basis of union, it was clear to all that no progress would be made, and both had recommended that no further steps be taken in the matter. The two members whose signatures were af-

fixed to the Open Letter issued statements over their official signatures in their 1925 proceedings, reviewing the whole controversy and in support of their respective Grand Lodges. Bro. Cleggett's statement follows:

"TO THE TRUTH-LOVING READERS AND ALL TRUE MASONS, A  
SHORT EXPLANATION.

Those who are best acquainted with the trouble between the African Grand Lodge of Iowa and the Hiram Grand Lodge, will not be surprised at anything they may read from Alex. Clark. He has accused the members of the African Grand Lodge of everything that was unmasonic, and he still claims that some of them were expelled, and calls them all sorts of names. When we were talking about organizing a Grand Lodge he went about the State and worked against it, and said we could not support a Grand Lodge, and has his figures to prove it. And at our first convention he was there, and by his opposition caused an adjournment without doing anything. At the second convention he was on hand, and adjourned it himself. But a majority of the Masons of Iowa were bound to have a Grand Lodge, and the third call was made, and we met at Keokuk and organized the African Grand Lodge of Iowa. Since then our trouble began. Some of the members of North Star, No. 31, left the lodge; they took in two suspended members and one expelled one, who had been expelled for five years, and Missouri granted them the old warrant. This is why there are two lodges in Des Moines. They have made Masons for \$1.00, and they have done everything they could to down the African Grand Lodge and North Star, No. 2. M. N. Bell is the leader of the opposition in Des Moines. Some of their best members have left them and united with us, and not one of our members have left us to go with them. And this is the fact in Keokuk, where the same state of affairs exists. They claim a lodge at Red Oak, which all

fair and truth-loving gentlemen will admit is false. And the same is true of Centreville; there is no lodge there. And as for Clark Lodge, there was only Bro. A. Clark left, and he held the warrant and moved it from Washington to Davenport, where we don't hear from it. They say they had one meeting since the organization of the Hiram Bluff. Calling names and threatening does not help to harmonize or create harmony. Bro. Alex Clark raves at A. A. Bland because he did not accept his proposition. Why did not Mr. Clark try and make some other terms of settlement. I am sure that every member of North Star Lodge, No. 2, is in favor of some honorable settlement? We think the legality of the Grand Lodge of Iowa is too well established to be moved about by any discontented and dissatisfied malcontents. Bro. Clark would jump at any plan to destroy the Grand Lodge of Iowa-that is, the African. He has opposed it from the start, and, like the fellow who swore the horse was sixteen feet high, what he said first he will stick to. And as to Clark Lodge at Davenport, he could not find timber enough in Davenport, so he went to Illinois and get enough men to set up a lodge. These are facts. Bro. Clark has had the respect and esteem of the Iowa Masons, but the disposition he has shown to make trouble and dissatisfaction and contention, has caused a reaction, and some of the best men of the Hiram faction are getting tired, and think it is time to call a halt. All the cry about A. A. Bland being expelled is bosh. They never gave him notice or had one ghost of a trial. Why the Grand Lodge of Missouri expelled N. W. Bettis, and sent him word if he would leave the African Grand Lodge they would reinstate him, which he did, and they set him all right, and he is a member of York Lodge now. Bro. Boyd, of Ohio, has discussed the trouble between Iowa and Missouri, and we think that all fair minded men will see, after reading Bro. Boyd on the legality of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, that we are right and our

legality is beyond question. There is nothing new in Bro. Alex Clark's address. The same things were said and the same charges made in 1881 and 1882, and they keep them going. It is true that we want peace and harmony, but we don't propose to do away with our Grand Lodge to get it, because we know that we would not have peace and harmony even then, for we know the turbulent element in their midst. We who have been through the fight know that a few of their leaders would rather have trouble any time than peace, and we don't believe they want harmony. All the leading members of the Hiram Bluff were in favor of a Grand Lodge for Iowa, and if it was not for personal spite, Bell, Harris, and Sims would be with us, but they left because John Page and Austin Bland were sure to be elected Grand Master and Grand Secretary. These are facts. We copy Rev. Boyd on Iowa in our review of Ohio. If Bro. Clark was so anxious for peace and harmony when they organized the Hiram Bluff one year ago they might have had it. We offered a protest against the organization, but he would not accept anything but an unconditional surrender from the African Grand Lodge. Nothing would suit him but that we should come to him, and beg his pardon and ask his mercy. We failed to comply, and therefore Bro. Clark is mad. We leave the subject with the fraternity.

Yours, G. H. CLEGGETT, Grand Secretary."

Mr. Bell as Grand Secretary and C. C. F. C. Of Hiram Grand Lodge, in commenting upon the recognition of African Grand Lodge by the Grand Lodge of Ohio, writes as follows:

"In giving the history of African Grand Lodge for Iowa the brethren seem not to be well informed as to facts. Under Iowa they say: 'A Convention of representatives of all the Lodges of Colored Masons in Iowa was called, and did meet at Des Moines, October 12, 1880. The Convention met at that time, and adjourned to meet at Ottumwa, December 20, 1880.

The Convention again met at the time and place, and again adjourned to meet at the call of the Chairman. The Chairman called the Convention to meet at Keokuk, August 9, 1881. At which time Sumner Lodge No. 41, Golden Star No. 80, John G. Jones Lodge No. 91, North Star Lodge No. 31 and York Lodge No. 8, met and the M. W. African Grand Lodge of Iowa was organized. Proceedings of Convention, 1881, with Grand Constitution, published. Proceedings 1882 and 1883 also published.' All is regular until the adjournment at Ottumwa."

"That Convention did not adjourn to meet on call of Chairman. It adjourned sine die-on motion of Bro. A. Clark. We find it difficult to put the case before the Masonic world in a better and more pointed language than is given in proceedings of Grand Lodge of Missouri, A. D. 1883, pages 177-9 as follows: 'Prudent men, when the necessity of the institution or even its peace, is at stake, will not run the risk of a decision which may be fatal to it. Now we charge this cabal with the following flagrant offenses, involving moral turpitude, during the years 1879, '81, viz:

'Slander and backbiting, disobedience of lawful authority; contumacy to the authority of the Grand Master and Grand Lodge; malfeasance in office, violation of ancient charges, departure from the original plan of Masonry and ancient landmarks, disobedience to the Constitution and Laws. Upon these several counts there was formal arraignment, and the Grand Lodge after due deliberation and the utmost fairness, decided that, 'it being made to appear that York Lodge (not individuals) was in a state of contumacy and that this M. W. Grand Lodge is sorely aggrieved by the indignity and insult to which it had been subjected, it is ordered that said York Lodge, No. 8, be placed under the censure of the M. W. Grand Lodge, and debarred from any further participation in the Grand Lodge during its

will and pleasure.' The effect of this judgment was the suspension of its functions, for the principle is settled, that the functions of a Lodge may be suspended by the Grand Lodge or Grand Master at any time upon proper cause shown; when made by the Grand Master it is limited and terminates with the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge, when by the latter it terminates at its will and pleasure. Hence York Lodge by law is debarred from participation in the convention. So much for York Lodge. North Star, which is credited with equal participation, and which furnished the first Grand Master, never did legally enter the said convention. A majority of its members, under the coercion of its W. M., instructed its delegation in favor of an Iowa Grand Lodge; a minority consisting of nine (9) protested under the law, which provides for the holding of the charter so long as seven members desire to work under it, and in pursuance of their right demanded the charter and property. In violation of this principle of law, and the vested rights of the nine members, these parties smuggled off the charter and illicitly joined in constituting the convention.'"

"We, the writer, was a member of and present during the proceedings held in North Star Lodge No. 31, at Des Moines, Iowa. Fact is that said Lodge surrendered its warrant at last regular communication before the organization of the so-called African Grand Lodge. Protest of nine Master Masons was entered against surrender of warrant. We call the especial attention of Ohio and all Grand Lodges to Mackey's Jurisprudence, which the African Grand Lodge adopted, to use their own words: 'On motion resolved, that we accept as our standard of law, Mackey's Masonic Jurisprudence.' See first proceedings of organization of African Grand Lodge, page 8. Now this adopted 'standard' Mackey, on page 424, says: 'There is no regulation prescribing the precise time at which these warrants are

to be surrendered; but it seems reasonable to suppose that they could not surrender them before the new Grand Lodge is organized, because the surrender of a warrant is the extinction of a Lodge, and the Lodges must preserve their vitality to give them power to organize the new authority.' Therefore, North Star Lodge No. 31 was not regular nor competent to participate. York Lodge No. 8, under censure and debarred by G. L. of Missouri during its will and pleasure, also incompetent. A. A. Bland and O. Field expelled by same Grand Lodge, they, too, by law are prohibited from Masonic meetings; John G. Jones, Lodge No. 91, sent no representative, the Lodge on vote being opposed to the Grand Lodge organization. Sumner Lodge No. 41, and Golden Star Lodge No. 80, are the only two regular Lodges that joined in forming this so-called African Grand Lodge."

"After the above state of facts it seems to us that no Grand Lodge could come to any conclusion than that the formation was not regular, and that the so-called African Grand Lodge is irregular and clandestine. The Grand Lodge closed 'in ample form, peace and harmony prevailing, to meet in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, at such date as may be hereafter determined.'"

Bro. Bell also submits the following correspondence in reference to the status of North Star Lodge, No. 31, Des Moines, at the time it took part on the organization of African Grand Lodge:

"Des Moines, Iowa, May 25, 1885.

Bro. CHAS. S. STEWART,

My Dear Sir and Brother:- You will confer a favor upon the Masons of this jurisdiction by giving the facts upon the following:

First.--Were you a member of North Star Lodge No. 31 in 1880-1?

Second.--What, if any, was your office in said Lodge?

Third.--What are the true facts as to the surrender of warrant No. 31 of said Lodge?

Fourth.--Do you know as a fact what number, if any, protested against said surrender?

You will give the above, please, without bias or other feeling than to ascertain facts.

Yours,

MILES N. BELL,  
Grand Secy. of M. W. Hiram  
Grand Lodge for Iowa."

(SEAL)

"Des Moines, Iowa, June 1, 1885.

M. N. Bell,

My Dear Sir and Brother:- Your letter bearing date May 25th inst. received and noted. In reply will say to questions therein asked, viz:

First.--I was a member in said Lodge at the time referred to, and was Secretary. The facts are as follows: at a regular communication holden Thursday, August 4th, 1881, the Lodge proceeded to and did surrender warrant No. 31, by a vote of 11 for and 9 against. The M. W. declared the warrant duly surrendered to the M. W. Grand Lodge of Missouri. Also that the M. W., and others of defunct members, joined in constituting the African G. L. on the 9th day of same month. And that the Grand Lodge of Missouri, on appeal of the nine members, sustained their action and continued the warrant. All of which is duly certified.

Fraternally Yours,

C. S. STEWART."

In 1886 Grand Master Bland who had served for two years as Grand Master was not a candidate for re-election. The two leading candidates were Deputy Grand Master J. K. Hilyard of St. Paul, and Grand Secretary G. H. Cleggett of Des Moines. Bro. Cleggett had given hearty support to African Grand Lodge and the position taken by its Grand Master in the matter of a union, and it is difficult today to say what influence was exerted in the election which caused the result to be so close, 51 to 50 in favor of Bro. Cleggett. What might have resulted had Bro. Hilyard been elected no one living today can discern. It is, however, a well known fact that Grand Master Cleggett and Grand Master Clark were soon able to reach a basis of union which was satisfactory to both. The official record

of the proceedings of both Grand Lodges and the Convention which organized the United Grand Lodge is the best history obtainable today and is here given in full.

#### ORGANIZATION AND PROCEEDINGS.

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On the 16th day of June, A. D. 1887, Grand Master G. H. Cleggett, of the M. W. African Grand Lodge of Iowa, and Grand Master Alexander Clark, of the M. W. Hiram Grand Lodge of Iowa, met by agreement in the city of Des Moines, there being present the two Grand Secretaries of the said Grand Lodges, viz., J. E. Gillam, of African, and M. N. Bell, of Hiram, also a number of Past Masters from each body, when and where the following proclamation and agreement was issued by them and the Grand Secretaries, with the seal of each Grand Lodge attached to the same:

PROCLAMATION BY THE M. W. G. MASTERS OF AFRICAN AND HIRAM GRAND  
LODGES:

#### BASIS OF UNION:

WHEREAS, There exists in the State of Iowa two separate bodies known as the Grand Lodges (colored), F. A. A. Masons, the same having existed for some time, and by said separation the Masonic and social happiness of the members of both Grand Lodges has been greatly retarded; and

WHEREAS, The principles of our time honored institution demand no such separation; therefore be it

Resolved, Both parties agreeing, that we enter into ways and means to effect a lasting union of the craft in Iowa, upon the following basis, viz:

That after the 12th day of July, A. D. 1887, there shall be but ONE GRAND LODGE OF F. A. A. Masons (colored) in Iowa, and to these ends it is hereby agreed that African Grand Lodge shall meet on the 12th day of July, 1887, in Grand Lodge session, and call off into convention with the Hiram Grand Lodge, who shall meet in its Grand Lodge session on the 12th day of July, and call off and meet said African Grand Lodge in convention to the aforesaid ends, viz:

To form one Grand Lodge to be known and called the United Grand Lodge of Iowa, or by any name the said convention may fix on, &c.; and it is further ordered that the Grand Master of each of the said Grand Lodges submit the above basis of union, and order a vote thereon by

their Lodges, and return the same to them on or before the 3d day of July, 1887.

G. H. CLEGGETT,

M. W. G. M. of African Grand Lodge of Iowa.

ALEXANDER CLARK,

M. W. G. M. of Hiram Grand Lodge.

P. S.--The Worshipful Masters of subordinate Lodges of the above mentioned Grand Lodges are hereby ordered to call their Lodges together and take a vote on the said proposition, as the basis of union of the two Grand Lodges, and return the result of said votes to the Grand Masters of said Grand Lodges, on or before the 3d day of July, 1887.

(SEAL)

#### PROCEEDINGS OF AFRICAN GRAND LODGE.

Persuant to the above proclamation, and also in its sixth regular annual session, the M. W. African Grand Lodge convened in the city of Des Moines, July 12th, A. D. 1887, at ten o'clock A. M., in the hall of North Star Lodge, No. 2. The Grand Lodge was opened in ample form in the 3d degree of Masonry, Most Worshipful Grand Master G. H. Cleggett presiding. The throne of grace was addressed by Rev. Washington, acting as Grand Chaplain.

The roll was called and the following Grand Officers answered the call:

G. H. CLEGGETT, M. W. Grand Master.  
O. FIELDS, R. W. Deputy Grand Master.  
J. H. SHEPARD, as R. W. S. Grand Warden.  
E. W. VAUGHN, R. W. J. Grand Warden.  
H. H. LEWIS, R. W. Grand Treasurer.  
J. E. GILLAM, R. W. Grand Secretary.  
J. K. HILYARD, W. Grand Lecturer.  
REV. WASHINGTON, as W. Grand Chaplain.  
A. A. BLAND, as W. Grand Register.  
W. H. JONES, as W. Grand Marshal.  
GEO. BAPTIST, W. G. M. Ceremonies.  
P. HOLMES, as W. Grand Sword Bearer.  
I. CRAWFORD, as W. J. Standard Bearer.  
WM. COALSON, as W. Grand S. Deacon.  
H. H. HOOKER, W. G. J. Deacon.  
R. H. TAYLOR, W. Grand S. Steward.  
B. J. FULLER, W. Grand J. Steward.

J. LOGAN, W. Grand Pursuivant.  
W. WILLIAMS, Grand Tyler.

The reading of the minutes of the last grand session was dispensed with, each brother being furnished with printed copies.

G. H. Cleggett announced the names of the following brothers as a committee on credentials.

Committee.--J. H. Shepard, J. L. Brooks, R. H. Taylor.

At this time the Grand Lodge had taken a recess of fifteen minutes. The Grand Lodge was called and the following standing committees were appointed by the Grand Master.

Grievances:- Lewis May, S. H. McCracken, H. H. Lewis.

Accounts:- R. H. Taylor, C. W. Newton, J. K. Hilyard.

Obituaries:- L. H. Reynolds, G. W. Black, H. H. Hooker.

Jurisprudence:- A. A. Bland, E. W. Vaughn, Orange Fields.

Grand Master's Address:- J. H. Shepard, A. A. Bland, J. L. Brooks.

Dispensations and Charters:- Zack Taylor, J. K. Hilyard, Wm. Coalson.

By-Laws of Lodges:- O. Fields, Allen Winn, E. L. Shaw.

Returns:- J. K. Hilyard, H. H. Lewis, E. L. Shaw.

Rules:- E. W. Vaughn, G. W. Baptist, Wm. Coalson.

Report of the Committee on Credentials:

We, your committee on credentials, beg leave to report as follows:

We find the following brothers, legal representatives of their respective lodges, and entitled to seats in this grand lodge:

York No. 1, W. H. Jones.  
North Star No. 2, H. H. Hooker.  
Sumner No. 3, J. L. Brooks.  
Golden Star No. 4, Z. Taylor.  
J. K. Hilyard No. 6, J. Crawford.

Garfield No. 7, G. H. Cleggett, proxy.  
Newton No. 8, L. Mays.  
Lincoln No. 9, E. W. Vaughn, proxy.  
King Solomon No. 10, R. H. Taylor.  
Eastern Star No. 11, J. F. Lindsay.  
Pioneer No. 12, J. K. Hilyard, proxy.  
Decatur No. 13, G. W. Baptist.  
Anchor No. 14, A. H. Myrick.

J. H. SHEPARD, )  
J. L. BROOKS, ) Committee.  
R. H. TAYLOR, )

The Grand Master then read his annual address.

#### ANNUAL ADDRESS.

A time honored custom renders it incumbent on me at this time to lay before you an account of my official acts for the past year.

But first it becomes us to acknowledge that dependence on God which all the obedient children of His creation humbly and reverently feel. Masons especially should never be unmindful of His infinite goodness and unbounded mercy, His infinite goodness in showering upon them His manifold blessing, His unbounded mercy in bestowing upon all His erring children, His tender and protecting care, because God is the source of all Masonic light and wisdom and the infinite Being in whom every true Mason puts his trust, thus acknowledging His goodness and mercy, and devoutly thanking Him for the continued prosperity of our ancient and honored institution; let us, then, ask Him to guide us in all our deliberations and strengthen us in our endeavors in well doing, so that we may be enabled by His wisdom to discharge all the duties which we may be called upon to perform at this session in a manner that can but reflect to His glory, and advance the true interests of this great brotherhood.

As we meet on this the sixth annual communication, it gives me great satisfaction to announce that harmony and therefore prosperity is about to prevail, if we do our duty as Masons in our jurisdiction. While

so many of us have been permitted to meet again around our alter we are painfully reminded that there are vacant seats which will never be filled again by their former occupants; this fact teaches us a lesson that ought never to be forgotten because it comes directly to our hearts and tells us that we too are subject to the many ills that flesh is heir to and may, like our absent ones ere another year passes be called from this to the perfect lodge above and the places we now fill be occupied by others. How appropriate then the word of Him who said, "Be ye therefore ready also."

#### DISPENSATIONS.

August 5, 1886, I granted a dispensation to North Star Lodge, No. 2, Des Moines, to pass the ballot upon one candidate for the purpose of conferring the three degrees at one communication.

August 16, I granted a dispensation to a constitutional number of brethren, residing in the city of Minneapolis, to open and hold a lodge of Masons, and deputized J. K. Hilyard to do the work. Said brethren having been duly recommended by Bro. J. K. Hilyard and Edmon James, our Grand Lecturer and D. D. G. M., they will ask for a warrant at this session, and I recommend it be granted; the name of the above Lodge is Anchor, and its officers are Abraham Myrick, W. M.; Chas. F. Davis, S. W.; Geo. W. Bolden, J. W.

April 12, I issued a dispensation to North Star Lodge No. 2, to hold a festival.

June 27, 1886, I granted permission to Garfield Lodge No. 7, to move from Albia to Chariton, the members all living at or near that point; it saves them \$1.65 per month, they are doing well and are in a good healthy condition.

## VISITATIONS.

November 10, 1886, I visited Eastern Star Lodge No. 11, located at Marshalltown. They have a small room poorly furnished and a small membership; they are doing fairly well.

April 9, 1887, I visited Lincoln Lodge No. 9, located at Mt. Pleasant. It was to attend the funeral of Bro. James Coalson, of North Star Lodge Des Moines. The services were attended by all the members. They have a large hall, but a small membership. They are doing as well as could be expected.

April 11, I visited Golden Star Lodge No. 4, located at Ottumwa. They have a fine lodge room, well furnished and in good condition, the brethren working in peace and harmony.

June 4, I visited Newton lodge No. 8, located at Newton, and installed their officers. This is a bright little lodge. They are small in number, but they are workers. They have a small hall in good condition and all working in peace and harmony.

June 28, I visited King Solomon Lodge No. 10, located at Cleveland. They have a good hall, fairly well furnished; the brethren at Cleveland are doing nicely.

July 7, I visited North Star Lodge No. 2, at Des Moines. This lodge has lost two members this year and the expense has been heavy, but she has stood the tax bravely and is in a healthy condition, being out of debt.

Bro. James Higgins, our D. D. G. M., reports the lodge at Burlington in a flourishing condition.

Bro. J. K. Hilyard reports the lodges in St. Paul and Minneapolis doing well.

I had a communication from J. W. Moore, M. W. G. M. Grand Lodge of Illinois, asking me to appoint 3 delegates from this Grand lodge to the  
21.

convention to be held at Chicago, Illinois, August 23, 1887. I have appointed A. A. Bland, J. K. Hilyard and your Grand Master.

I exchanged representatives with the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Rhode Island and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida, as follows:

R. W. Bro. Geo. H. Worthington represents the M. W. A. G. L. of Iowa, near the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island, and R. W. W. T. Ewing represents the M. W. G. L., of Rhode Island, near the M. W. A. G. L., of Iowa, and M. W. G. M. Tillman Vallintine represents the M. W. A. G. L., near the M. W. G. L. of Florida, and R. W. H. H. Lewis represents the M. W. G. L. of Florida, near the M. W. A. G. L. of Iowa.

Like the past three years there has been another conference of the representatives of the two Grand Lodges. On the 16th day of June, 1887, I was called on by M. N. Bell, Grand Secretary of the Hiram Grand Lodge and requested to meet Alexander Clark, Grand Master of the Hiram grand lodge, which I accepted. Bros. J. H. Shephard, H. H. Lewis, E. W. Vaughn, W. T. Ewing, W. M. Coalson and J. E. Gillam, our Grand Secretary, met on the above date and agreed to the following proposition. (\*See proclamation, page\_\_.)

Now, brethren, I have agreed to this proposition, believing that it is for the best interest of Masonry in Iowa. I believe that we can unite and live as men and brothers. The advice of our sister Grand Lodges has been to unite and settle our dispute. It seems to me that this is the right time to do it without any anger or malice, and show the world that the members of the African Grand Lodge of Iowa are manly and big-hearted enough to forgive. A majority of all the lodges have voted for the proposition and returned there vote to me. Now brethren I hope this proposition will be received favorably, that we can realize once again that it is good and pleasant for brethren to dwell together in unity; and now brethren, thanking God for the prospects of one Grand lodge in Iowa, I

return you my heartfelt thanks for your fraternal kindness and courtesy, and the many kindly manifestations of your respect for me and assistance rendered during my term of office. I herewith surrender to you the symbols of authority which you entrusted to me one year ago.

Remember in your deliberations that we are making history, be careful, prudent, temperate and discreet, that future generations may be benefitted by our labor in this noble and glorious cause of Free and Accepted Masonry. Fraternally yours,

G. H. CLEGGETT,

Grand Master of African G. L. of Iowa.

On motion the Address was referred to committee on Grand Master's Address.

G. M. G. H. Cleggett appointed a committee consisting of three to confer with a like committee from Hiram Grand lodge, to appoint a place of meeting of the convention of the two Grand Bodies.

The following brethren as committee: H. H. Hooker, A. A. Bland, O. Fields.

T. J. G. Warden called the Grand lodge from labor to refreshments.

AFTERNOON.

The J. G. Warden called the Grand lodge on at 2 o'clock; the committee on Grand Master's Address reported as follows:

We, your committee, beg leave to report as follows: We have noted its contents carefully and take pleasure in commending the approval of his action in trying to unite the two Grand Bodies. Also the parts referring to the fraternal dead be referred to the committee on obituaries and so much as refers to new work be referred to the committee on dispensations and charters. We also recommend the approval of the appointment of delegates to represent this Grand lodge in the National convention

in Chicago, August 23, 1887. The document as a whole is an able one and worthy of commendation by the craft.

J. H. SHEPHARD, )  
A. A. BLAND, ) Committee.  
J. L. BROOKS, )

Adopted.

The committee appointed to fix the place and time of meeting of the convention reported that the Grand bodies would meet in the hall of North Star Lodge No. 2, July 12, at 3 o'clock P. M.

Report received and committee discharged, and the M. W. African Grand Lodge was called off to meet in convention with Hiram Grand Lodge at the time and place above named.

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#### PROCEEDINGS OF HIRAM GRAND LODGE.

In pursuance to a proclamation issued June 16, 1887, by the two Grand Masters, the M. W. Hiram Grand Lodge convened in the hall of North Star Lodge, No. 3, East Des Moines, Iowa, July 12, 1887, at 10 o'clock A. M., Alexander Clark, M. W. Grand Master, presiding. The Grand Lodge was opened in ample form in the 3d degree of Masonry, there being the representatives of a constitutional number of Lodges present. The throne of grace was addressed by Rev. E. C. Thomas, R. W. Grand Chaplain.

Alexander Clark, M. W. G. M., appointed a Committee on Credentials as follows: A. A. Pierce, John Simms, Jos. Jimmeson.

The following inspiring hymn was sung by the brothers: "Together Let us Sweetly Live."

#### ROLL CALL.

The Grand Secretary called the roll of Grand officers and members of the Grand Lodge and the following answered the call:

#### GRAND OFFICERS.

ALEXANDER CLARK, M. W. Grand Master.

A. J. HARRIS, as R. W. D. Grand Master.  
JOSEPH HARRIS, R. W. Grand Senior Warden.  
JOSEPH LEWIS, as R. W. Grand Junior Warden.  
JOHN SIMMS, R. W. Grand Secretary.  
M. N. BELL, R. W. Grand Secretary.

APPOINTED OFFICERS.

O. B. CLARY, W. Grand Register.  
S. FOX, W. Grand Lecturer.  
W. M. RASPBERRY, )  
D. W. ANDERSON, ) as W. Grand Chaplains  
E. C. THOMPSON, )  
THOMAS BENTON, W. Grand Marshal.  
J. MORRIS, W. Grand Master of Ceremonies.  
THOMAS J. MARSHALL, W. Grand Sword Bearer.  
J. Q. A. WILLIAMS, W. Grand Standard Bearer.  
R. S. BROWN, W. Grand S. Deacon.  
H. KITCHEN, W. Grand Junior Deacon.  
H. HOCKEDY, as W. Grand Senior Steward.  
J. E. TODD, W. Grand Junior Steward.  
CHAS. DAVIS, W. Grand Pursuivant.  
C. S. GORMER, Grand Tyler.

Committee on Credentials reported representatives from all the  
Lodges present.

The minutes of the last grand session were read from manuscript,  
and on motion approved.

Grand Master Clark stated that the convening of the Grand Lodge at  
this date was made necessary by an agreement made and entered into be-  
tween himself and Bro. G. H. Cleggett, Grand Masters of the M. W. Hiram  
Grand Lodge and the M. W. African Grand Lodge; whereupon the Grand Secre-  
tary was ordered to read the proclamation, which was done. (\*See pro-  
clamation, page \_\_\_).

The following was offered by M. N. Bell:

Be it resolved, By the M. W. Hiram Grand Lodge, that we as a Grand  
Lodge approve the action of M. W., A. Clark, in agreeing to the basis of  
union of the two Grand Bodies of this state, June 16, 1887, and issuing  
proclamation of the same.

Resolution approved.

The Grand Master appointed the following standing committees:

Credentials-- A. A. Pierce, John Simms, Jos. Jimmeson.

Accounts-- M. N. Bell, A. J. Harris, S. Fox.

Dispensations and Charters-- C. S. Gomer, J. Simms, R. Krys.

Grand Master's Address-- S. Fox, J. Lewis, Geo. Taylor.

Returns of Subordinate Lodges-- A. J. Harris, J. Simms, Jos.

Jimmeson.

Appeals and Greivances--J. Lewis, A. A. Pierce, R. G. Brown.

Obituaries--O. Connor, E. C. Thomas, Wm. Raspberry.

Constitution and By-Laws--O. B. Clary, E. C. Thomas, D. W. Anderson.

Jurisprudence--Wm. Raspberry, S. Fox, R. Krys.

A committee consisting of A. Clark, Grand Master; Jos. Jimmeson, S. Grand Warden; J. Lewis as J. Grand Warden; M. N. Bell, Grand Secretary; was appointed to meet a like committee from the African Grand Lodge for the purpose of agreeing upon a place for holding the union convention.

The Junior Grand Warden observed the time and called the Grand lodge from labor to refreshments to come on at 2 p. m.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The hour of two having arrived the J. G. Warden called the Grand lodge to labor, M. W. A. Clark presiding.

Report of Conference Committee. The joint committee had agreed to hold the union convention in the hall of North Star Lodge No. 2 (subordinate to African Grand Lodge.) Report adopted.

Further report of Committee on Credentials:

We, your committee, wish to make an additional report.

We find the following lodges largely represented and the representatives entitled to seats in this Grand lodge:

North Star Lodge No. 1, Des Moines, Ia., Samuel Marsh, W. M.  
Simms Lodge No. 2, Oskaloosa, J. S. Martin, W. M.  
Mt. Olive No. 3, Cedar Rapids, Wm. Raspberry, W. M.  
Cedar Grove No. 4, Muchakinoock, R. S. Brown, W. M.  
Star No. 5, Keokuk, S. C. Harris, W. M.  
Clark No. 6, Davenport, A. Clark, P. M. proxy.  
Reed No. 7, Red Oak, John Simms, P. M. proxy.

A. A. PIERCE, )  
JOHN SIMMS, ) Committee.  
J. JIMMESON, )

The Grand Master then read his annual address.

#### GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS.

Brethren of the M. W. Hiram Grand Lodge of Iowa and her jurisdiction thereunto belonging:- It is to Him who rules the destinies of men and of nations that we are permitted to gather around the common altar of Freemasonry in our third annual communication. It is meet that our counsels be for the best interest of our beloved order and our united efforts be for its continued prosperity. Standing for the third time in this grand east, the choice of your free suffrage, it is with no ordinary feelings of gratification that I do open our third communication. Super-added by the satisfaction arising from an interchange of fraternal sympathies is that which we derive from the prosperous condition in which we find the fraternity at the close of our Masonic year, one twelve months ago this day, from this sacred shrine. We congratulate you on the material prosperity which has crowned the expiring year. We are more than thrice pleased to renew these congratulations today. From the clouded canopy of heaven the rain has fallen in drops of rich abundance and blessings have attended these moistening showers, giving us a rich and bountiful harvest for the summer prospectively greater than any in the past ten years. The land is filled with the sweet blessings of peace. The nation's birthday, our glorious Fourth of July, and its observance this year, brought with it a halo of glory, proclaiming us a united people with one common int-

erest, destiny and flag. Again we are to be thankful that whatever commotion by unlawful strikes, disturbing the peace and commercial prosperity of the country and her industries, Masonry has taken no part, except to disapprove of these riotous acts. Brethren it is a commendable thing to give thanks and praise. Gratitude enobles all who experience and realize its influence, and if thanks are due for the general health and abundant harvest, how much more ought we to be thankful to the Grand Master of the Universe, our friend and father, for the moral progress and advancement of our beloved brotherhood, which gave birth to masonic art. An angel of mercy and light to the scattered tribes of apostate men, this heavenly messenger came forth from the region of mind and by his attractions gathered the scattered energies of spirits immortal. He brought them to his own temple and in this sanctuary we are permitted to commence our work today; meeting upon the level of time, standing by the plumb of rectitude, we will be fitted to part upon the square of every virtue, symbolized by the tenets of the order. To these ends we call your attention to the work for the past year. Peace and harmony, which is but craft masonry, prevades all our subordinate lodges, bearing thrift, evidenced by the improvement of the proficiency in the ritual work and the improvement in lodge furniture and fixtures.

We are pleased to announce to you that the one object of this meeting is to unite the two Grand Lodges in this state and I do sincerely hope that the two lodges now existing may be united as one Grand Lodge to be known as the united Grand Lodge of Iowa.

Fraternally,

ALEXANDER CLARK, Grand Master.

The report was referred to the proper committee who, after examining the document carefully, reported as follows:

We, your committee, beg to submit the following: We have carefully read the same and recommend that it be printed with the proceedings of the Grand Lodge. Respectfully submitted,

S. FOX, )  
J. LEWIS, ) Committee,  
S. C. HARRIS, )

Report adopted.

It being near the hour of two the M. W. Hiram Grand Lodge was called off to meet M. W. African Grand Lodge in convention.

#### CONVENTION.

DES MOINES, IA., July 12, 1887.

In accordance with the proclamation issued by the two Grand Masters of the two Grand Lodges (colored) in Iowa, a convention of all the craft belonging to both of the aforesaid bodies was held in the city of Des Moines, in the hall of North Star Lodge, No. 2, July 12th, 1887, at 3 P. M. The craft was called to order by Bro. G. H. Cleggett, who stated the object of the meeting by saying the nature of the assembling of the craft was too well known to require explanation by him at this time or place. The meeting being formally opened, on motion of J. K. Hilyard, G. H. Cleggett was made temporary Chairman, and on motion of A. A. Bland, M. N. Bell was chosen temporary Secretary. A motion prevailed to appoint a Committee on Credentials. The following names were chosen on said committee: J. K. Hilyard, A. J. Harris, M. N. Bell, A. A. Bland, Syke Fox, Wm. Raspbery, C. S. Davis, J. E. Gillam, C. W. Newton, G. H. Cleggett and A. Clark ex officio members.

The committee retired and shortly returned with the following report:

We, your Committee on Credentials, beg to report as follows: We find the brethren present who are entitled to seats and vote in this convention whose names appear below: G. H. Cleggett, Z. Taylor, C. W. Newton, Wm.

Coalson, J. E. Gillam, H. H. Hooker, H. W. Grey, W. H. Jones, R. H. Taylor, E. W. Vaughn, G. W. Baptist, J. K. Hilyard, B. J. Fuller, W. W. Washington, J. Crawford, J. F. Lindsey, A. A. Bland, J. H. Shepard, J. L. Brooks, H. H. Lewis, C. S. Stewart, O. Fields, A. Hayes, John Williams, Samuel Wash, J. S. Martin, R. S. Brown, S. C. Harris, Alexander Clark, J. Sims, R. Kryz, Geo. Taylor, O. B. Charlie, S. Fox, J. Lewis, C. S. Gomer, M. N. Bell, E. C. Thomas, A. Ford, Wm. Raspbery, W. D. Crawford; also twenty lodges entitle to three votes each. Respectfully submitted,

J. K. HILYARD, Chairman.

A. J. Harris, Secretary for the Committee.

Report adopted.

On motion the Committee on Credentials was made the Committee on Permanent Organization.

In due season the Committee on Permanent Organization reported the following:

Chairman, Alexander Clark; Vice Chairman, J. K. Hilyard; Secretary, J. E. Gillam; Assistant Secretary, M. N. Bell.

On motion the report was adopted and so declared.

Alexander Clark was conducted to the chair and introduced to the convention by G. H. Cleggett. In a few well chosen remarks he spoke of the hopes he had in the future prospects of Masonry in the State of Iowa.

G. H. Cleggett, being called, made a brief but excellent address approving what had been done and deploring the existence of two Grand Lodges in the State, and favored one Grand Lodge upon an honorable basis.

By order of Alexander Clark, Chairman of the convention, the Secretary, J. E. Gillam, read the proclamation (see proclamation).

The following resolution was offered by J. Sims:

Inasmuch as the two Grand Masters have met and formed the basis of a union and submitted the same to the subordinate Lodges for their approval, and inasmuch as they have unanimously adopted the same; therefore be it

Resolved, That this convention adopt the same.

Respectfully,

JOHN SIMS.

The following resolution was offered by A. A. Bland:

WHEREAS, There are two Grand Lodges (colored) existing in the State of Iowa, known as the M. W. African Grand Lodge and the M. W. Hiram Grand Lodge; and

WHEREAS, There have been articles of agreement drawn up by the two Grand Masters and presented to the subordinate Lodges for their endorsement, and a majority concurring therein; therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the two aforesaid Grand Lodges, proceed to unite the two Grand Lodges into one upon the following conditions, towit:

First, seeing that the Hiram Grand Lodge and the African Grand Lodge have both spent time and money in securing records for their grand bodies; also have been to great expense for warrants and credentials; and there is no possible chance to save but one-half, and no reasonable need of losing it all; therefore, in order to save one-half, be it further

Resolved, That we form a union of the two Grand Lodges in one by adopting the constitution of one or the other.

(Signed) A. A. Bland.

M. N. Bell moved that the resolution be laid on the table.

Motion lost.

After some lively discussion of the resolution of A. A. Bland on both

sides, for and against, a motion prevailed to adjourn until 10 o'clock A. M., Wednesday, the 13th.

WEDNESDAY MORNING--SECOND DAY.

The hour having arrived for the convention to meet, Alexander Clark, Chairman, called the convention to order.

Prayer by D. W. Anderson.

The Committee on Credentials made a further report, as follows:

H. Johnson, D. W. Anderson, J. L. Williams, Mayes, C. Osborn, J. N. Lee, G. W. Black, C. F. Topson, W. H. Ross, W. D. Crawford, H. Hockedy, H. Johnson, J. H. McDowell.

Adopted.

A. J. Harris offered the following as a substitute for the resolution of A. A. Bland, which was pending at adjournment:

WHEREAS, There exists in the State of Iowa two separate bodies known as the Grand Lodges (colored), F. A. A. Masons, the same having existed for some time, and by said separation the Masonic and social happiness of the members of both Grand Lodges has been greatly retarded; and

WHEREAS, The principles of our time-honored institution demand no such separation; therefore be it

Resolved, Both parties agreeing, that we enter into ways and means to effect a lasting union of the craft in Iowa upon the following basis, viz:

That after the 12th day of July, A. D. 1887, there shall be but ONE GRAND LODGE OF F. A. A. Masons (colored) in Iowa, and to these ends it is hereby agreed that African Grand Lodge shall meet on the 12th day of July, 1887, in Grand Lodge session, and call off into convention with the Hiram Grand Lodge, who shall meet in their Grand Lodge session on the 12th day of July, and call off and meet said African Grand Lodge in con-

vention to the aforesaid ends, viz:

To form one Grand Lodge to be known and called the United Grand Lodge of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, The subordinate Lodges of both grand bodies have voted upon the above proposition and approved the same; therefore be it

Resolved, By this convention, that the African Grand Lodge and the Hiram Grand Lodge unite into one Grand Lodge, to be known as the United Grand Lodge of Iowa, A. F. & A. M.; and be it further

Resolved, That there be a committee of nine appointed by this convention to draw up a constitution for said United Grand Lodge, said committee to consist of five members from African Grand Lodge and four members from Hiram Grand Lodge, with the Grand Masters of each Grand Lodge as members ex officio of said committee.

(Signed) A. J. HARRIS, of Hiram G. L.

It was agreed, on motion of E. W. Vaughn, that no member be allowed to speak more than five minutes on any one question.

After considerable discussion of the substitute of A. J. Harris the vote on the same was taken by Lodges and Past Masters, which resulted, 58 for the substitute and 53 against. The same was adopted and so declared.

On motion the convention adjourned until afternoon at 3 o'clock.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The convention was called to order by the Chairman, Alexander Clark, promptly at 3 o'clock. The Chairman stated that the first business of the session would be the appointment of a committee of nine, as provided by the substitute.

On motion of M. N. Bell the committee was appointed, as follows, by the two Grand Masters:

The part representing African G. L., A. A. Bland, O. Fields, J. K.

Hilyard, Z. Taylor, J. E. Gillam, G. H. Cleggett ex officio; Hiram G. L., A. J. Harris, M. N. Bell, Wm. Raspbery, D. W. Anderson, Alex. Clark ex officio.

The committee retired. Meantime a song of thanksgiving was sung and a prayer was offered by E. C. Thomas, Rev. C. W. Newton filling the chair during the absence of the committee.

The Committee on Constitution presented and reported, as the result of their labor, a constitution (see constitution appended), which, on motion of J. Sims, was received and approved by a unanimous vote, and the same was declared by the Chairman, C. W. Newton.

On motion the convention adjourned until 10 o'clock A. M., Thursday, July 14th.

#### THURSDAY, JULY 14--MORNING SESSION.

The Chairman, A. Clark, called the convention to order. Prayer by Rev. C. W. Newton. The convention joined in singing, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing," after which Bro. J. Ruff, of St. Louis, Mo., was introduced to the convention by Chairman A. Clark.

The following was offered by A. Harris, which was approved:

Resolved, That this convention and the members of the two grand bodies offer a standing vote of thanks as their appreciation of the successful manner in which they have brought about this meeting which has resulted in the union of the two grand bodies, to G. H. Cleggett, G. M.; Alexander Clark, G. M.; J. E. Gillam, G. S.; M. N. Bell, G. S.

On motion the convention proceeded to the election of officers for the United Grand Lodge for the ensuing year. The Chairman, A. Clark, appointed as tellers A. J. Harris, C. H. Davis and A. A. Bland.

C. W. Newton nominated J. K. Hilyard for M. W. Grand Master.

H. H. Hooker nominated G. H. Cleggett for G. M.

R. Kryns nominated Alex. Clark for G. M. Bro. Clark, after thanking the brother for the nomination, positively declined.

The tellers reported the whole number of votes cast 159; necessary to a choice, 80. G. H. Cleggett, receiving a majority, was declared elected M. W. G. M., and so proclaimed by the Chair, whereupon J. K. Hilyard moved to make his election unanimous, which prevailed.

E. C. Thomas nominated J. Sims for Deputy Grand Master; R. S. Brown nominated C. W. Newton; H. H. Hooker nominated M. N. Bell. M. N. Bell declined and the nominations closed.

J. Sims and C. W. Newton were the candidates. J. Sims, receiving a majority of the votes, was declared elected and so proclaimed.

On motion of C. W. Newton W. H. Jones was elected S. G. Warden by acclamation.

E. C. Thomas nominated A. J. Harris for J. G. Warden; G. W. Black nominated E. C. Thomas; C. W. Newton nominated J. L. Martin. On the first ballot there was no election. On the second ballot, the name of J. L. Martin being dropped, E. C. Thomas received a majority of all the votes cast and was declared duly elected J. G. Warden.

D. W. Anderson was elected G. Treasurer by acclamation.

M. N. Bell and J. E. Gillam were put in nomination for Grand Secretary. J. E. Gillam, receiving a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected and so proclaimed.

On motion the convention adjourned to meet at 4 P. M.

#### THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION--THIRD DAY.

Alexander Clark, Chairman, called the convention to order at 4 P. M. Prayer by E. C. Thomas, after which Grand Master Alexander Clark, assisted by Past Grand Master A. A. Bland, proceeded to install the following grand officers for the ensuing year:

G. H. CLEGGETT, M. W. Grand Master.  
J. SIMS, R. W. Deputy Grand Master.  
W. H. JONES, R. W. S. G. Warden.  
E. C. THOMAS, R. W. J. G. Warden.  
D. W. ANDERSON, R. W. G. Treasurer.  
J. E. GILLAM, R. W. G. Secretary.

The convention formed in line and paraded the principal streets of the city, escorted by King Solomon Commandery, Knights Templar.

After returning to the hall, on motion, the convention adjourned to meet Friday morning at 10 o'clock.

FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 15.

Convention called to order by the Chairman, Alexander Clark, who stated that the work of the convention was finished. The minutes of the convention were read and stood approved.

On motion of A. A. Bland the convention was adjourned sine die.

ALEXANDER CLARK, Chairman.

J. E. GILLAM, Secretary.

M. N. BELL, Assistant Secretary.

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

Immediately after adjournment G. H. Cleggett, M. W. Grand Master, assisted by the grand officers, opened the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa in ample form on the third degree of Masonry.

Prayer by the Grand Chaplain.

Alexander Clark moved that a committee of five be appointed to prepare by-laws for the G. L. and report at the next grand session. Carried.

Committee-- A. A. Bland, Alexander Clark, J. L. Brooks, J. E. Gillam, M. N. Bell.

A proposition was offered by E. C. Thomas, of Mt. Olive Lodge, Cedar Rapids, in behalf of said Lodge, asking this M. W. United G. L. to hold its next annual session in Cedar Rapids. All elective grand of-

ficers, past and present, will be kept free; all others attending, not to exceed 75 cents per day. On motion of J. E. Gillam the proposition was accepted.

A motion prevailed allowing the Grand Secretary 25 cents each for filling out warrants for the subordinate Lodges under the United Grand Lodge.

A motion that the Grand Lodge pay the expense of changing the seals of subordinate Lodges was carried.

The following motion, by A. A. Bland, prevailed: That the United Grand Lodge pay the expense of printing the proceedings of African G. L. and Hiram G. L.; also the convention all of this session.

On motion of A. A. Bland all subordinate Lodges were taxed \$2.50 each, said amount to pay the above mentioned expenses.

On motion of Alexander Clark a committee of five was appointed to arrange and number the subordinate Lodges.

Committee-- A. Clark, J. L. Brooks, A. A. Bland, J. E. Gillam, M. N. Bell, G. H. Cleggett ex officio.

The committee agreed, and so reported, that Star Lodge, No. 5, retain its number, A. G. L. having had no Lodge of that number, and all other Lodges belonging to Hiram be numbered up from the highest number on the rc of the African.

Report adopted.

The following delegates were appointed to the National Convention in Chicago, August 23, 1887:

G. H. Cleggett, A. A. Bland, J. K. Hilyard, Alexander Clark, M. N. Bell, A. J. Harris.

M. W. G. H. Cleggett, G. M. of the former A. G. L., and Alexander Clark, G. M. of the former H. G. L., surrendered their gavels to the

M. W. United G. L., A. F. & A. M., for the State of Iowa and its jurisdiction, and the same was acknowledged by M. W. G. M. G. H. Cleggett in the name of M. W. United G. L. of Iowa.

The former African G. L. and Hiram G. L. having called on and finished up their business during adjournment of the convention, were announced closed sine die, and are numbered with things that were. With them closed the great strife in Masonry in the State of Iowa; and where contention and discord held sway, now Peace spreads her snowy pinions over our whole jurisdiction.

M. W. Past Grand Master Alexander Clark having previously installed the elective grand officers, proceeded to install the appointed officers.

#### LIST OF GRAND OFFICERS FOR ENSUING YEAR.

G. H. Cleggett, M. W. Grand Master, Des Moines.  
J. Sims, R. W. Deputy Grand Master, Oskaloosa.  
W. H. Jones, R. W. S. G. Warden, Keokuk.  
E. C. Thomas, R. W. J. G. Warden, Cedar Rapids.  
D. W. Anderson, R. W. G. Treasurer, Keokuk.  
J. E. Gillam, R. W. G. Secretary, Keokuk.  
J. K. Hilyard, W. G. Lecturer, St. Paul.  
C. S. Stewart, W. G. Register, Des Moines.  
Rev. W. Washington, W. G. Chaplain, Knoxville.  
C. W. Newton, W. G. Chaplain, Burlington.  
L. H. Reynolds, W. G. Chaplain, Minneapolis.  
R. H. Taylor, W. G. S. Deacon, Cleveland.  
S. Fox, W. J. G. Deacon, Keokuk.  
A. A. Bland, W. G. Marshal, Keokuk.  
Geo. Taylor, W. G. M. Ceremonies, Des Moines.  
A. A. Pierce, W. G. Sword Bearer, Cedar Rapids.  
R. S. Brown, W. G. Standard Bearer, Muchakinock.  
N. Dorsett, W. S. G. Steward, Red Oak.  
H. H. Hooker, W. J. G. Steward, Des Moines.  
I. Crawford, W. G. pursuivant, Minneapolis.  
C. S. Gomer, G. Tyler, Cedar Rapids.

#### DISTRICT DEPUTIES.

First District, including Lodges No. 1, 3, 4, 5 and 9,-- C. H. McCracken.

Second District, including Lodges No. 7, 16, 17 and 18,-- Joseph Jimmeson.

Third District, including Lodges No. 13 and 10,--G. W. Baptist.

Fourth District, including Lodges No. 6, 12 and 14,-- A. H.

Myrick.

Committee on Foreign Correspondence: Alexander Clark, Chairman, Muscatine, Iowa, P. O. Box 365; J. E. Gillam, Keokuk, Iowa, 618 $\frac{1}{2}$  Main Street; M. N. Bell, Des Moines, Iowa, 513 East Locust Street.

There appearing no further business, after prayer by the Grand Chaplain, C. W. Newton, the M. W. United Grand Lodge was closed to meet in the city of Cedar Rapids the second Tuesday in July, 1888, at 10 o'clock A. M.

G. H. CLEGGETT, M. W. Grand Master.

(ATTEST) J. E. GILLAM, Grand Secretary.