

MORE LIGHT
UPON
MEXICAN SYMBOLIC MASONRY

A CIRCULAR TO THE

GRAND LODGES OF FREE MASONS OF THE UNITED STATES

with a

HISTORICAL CHART of the GRAND LODGE of the FEDERAL DISTRICT of MEXICO

BY

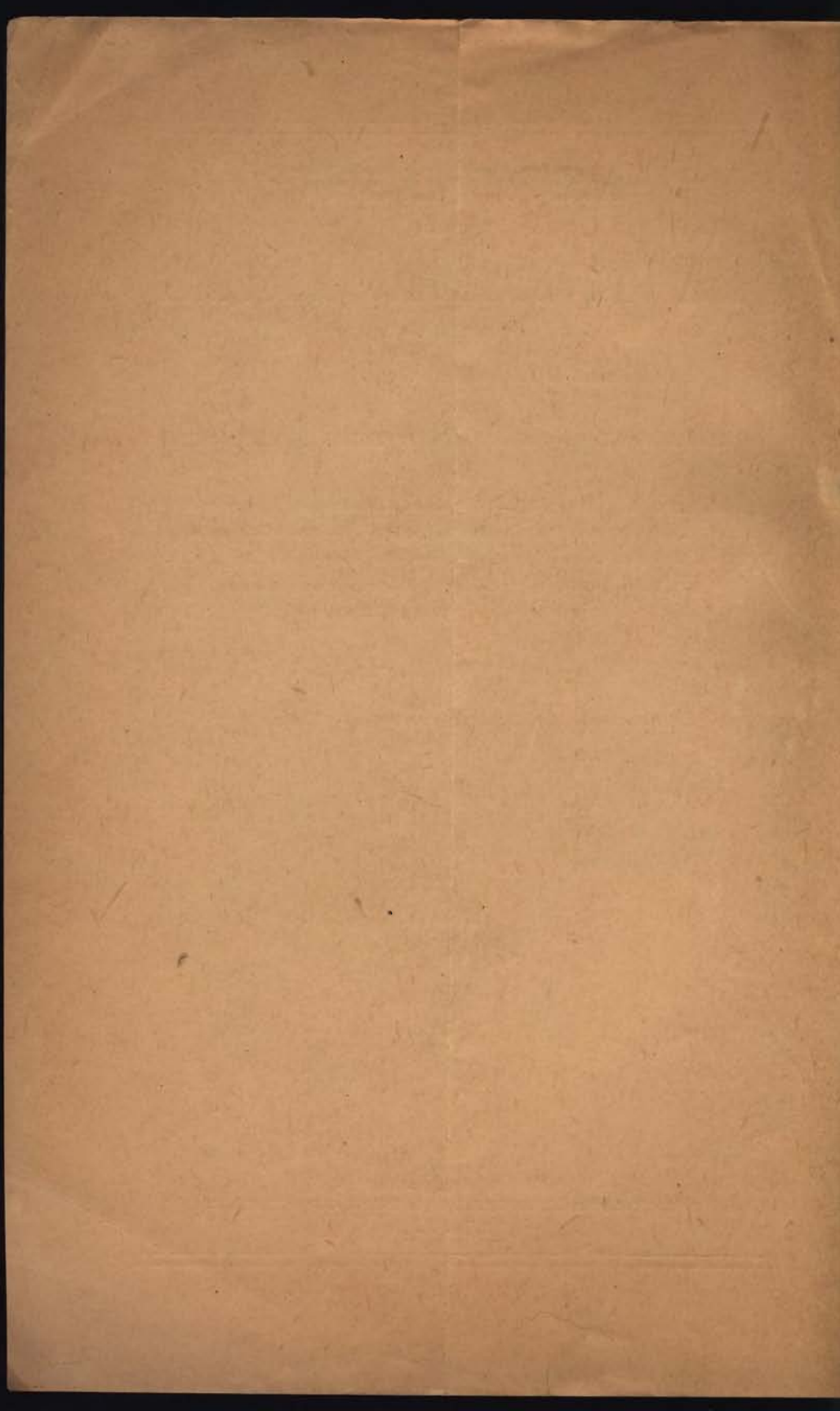
Richard E. Chism, 32°, of the Grand Consistory of Mexico, A &
A. S. Rite. High Priest of Chapultepec Chapter, R. A. M., of the City of Mexico.
Past Eminent Commander of Popocatepetl Commandery No. 1. K.
T., late of the City of Mexico. Graduate of the Mexican
National Government School of Engineers.

"Above all things **Truth** beareth away the Victory."



Published for the Author

32 INDEPENDENCIA N.º 1, CITY OF MEXICO
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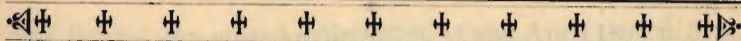
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A CIRCULAR TO THE
Grand Lodges of Free Masons of the United States.

Mexico City June 1897.

There has been handed to me by a good Masonic friend a circular headed:—

«A Masonic Communication written by Dr. A. W. Parsons, City of Mexico, May 1st. 1897.»

«Reprinted from the *Boletin Masonico*, the official organ of the Grand Symbolic Diet.»

The reprint was evidently made in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as the whole is covered by the certificate and signature of Mr. T. S. Parvin, who signs himself Grand Secretary of Iowa, and thus implicates his Grand Lodge in the circulation of a mass of astounding falsehoods and the propagation of calumnies against a brother Mason.

It is with the greatest reluctance that I return to these annoying questions and only the repeated slanderous attacks that have been made upon me as a Mason and as a man force me to do so in self defense.

I shall take up in order the statements made by Dr. A. W. Parsons in the circular referred to and give my comments upon them.

PARSONS.

Chism's statement that the Grand Dieta is dead is an utter falsehood. It was *never stronger or better organized than at present.*

Under date of Dec. 1st. 1894 the Grand Secretary of the Grand Diet, Mr. Ermilo G. Canton, wrote a letter to Past Master George W. Tyler of Texas, published in the Texas Proceedings, in which he stated that the Grand Dieta had, at that date, 17 Grand Lodges, ruling over 225 Blue Lodges.

The *Boletin Masonico*, the official organ of the Grand Dieta, claims in the number for November 1896, only FOUR Grand Lodges, (of which only one is located at the capital of any state) and 112 Blue Lodges.

So that the Grand Dieta, by its own figures, had lost between December, 1894 and November, 1896 THIRTEEN Grand Lodges and 113 Blue Lodges.

Yet Dr. Parsons has the effrontery to state that the Grand Dieta was never stronger or better organized than at present. If this initial and crucial statement is false, how far can the rest of his assertions be believed?

But there are better data available for my purpose than those I have already cited. Mr. Canton himself admits (*Boletin Masonico*, April 1897, pp 305) that of the 225 Lodges he reported to P. Grand Master Tyler in 1894, 190 had been suspended by the Grand Dieta because they did not work but that they were kept on the list all the same.

So that the Grand Dieta at that time, while it reported to Texas 225, had only 35 active Lodges on its list.

I commend this to the attention of Bro. Matthews of Texas.

In the Grand Lodge of the Valley of Mexico the official report of 1895 mentions 28 Lodges. Of these most were scattered in outside States and had no real existence more than the other non working Lodges that swell the long lists of the Grand Dieta. However they all had paper delegations in blank and filled out by Canton whenever he needed friends in the Grand Lodge to overwhelm the votes of the genuine Lodges, that were represented by live men.

To prove this assertion I refer to the list of officers of the Grand Lodge Valley of Mexico, elected January 7th 1895

(see *Boletín Masónico* April 1895 p. 11 and April 1897 p. 318).

Grand Master, R. I. Guzmán; Deputy Grand Master, E. G. Canton; Gr. S. Warden, J. B. Cueto; Gr. J. Warden, A. W. Parsons; Gr. Orator, R. R. Galeana; Gr. Sec'y, J. A. Miranda; Gr. Treas, E. Yarza; Gr. First Expert, G. Butze; Gr. Second Expert, C. H. M. Agramonte; Gr. Third Expert, W. E. Lewis; Gr. Fourth Expert, O. de la Mora; First Gr. Master of Ceremonies, Abraham Chávez; 2nd Gr. Master of Ceremonies, M. G. Ramírez; Sen. Deacon, C. H. Barret; Jun. Deacon, H. Walker, Steward, O. Splitter; Tyler, J. M. Muñoz; Gr. Ass. Orator, A. Horcasitas; Gr. Ass. Sec'y, D. C. Curtis; Gr. Ass. Treas, F. Fusco; Gr. Ass. Tyler, Marcos Villegas; Tabulating the Lodge membership of these men we have it as follows:

Cosmos []	B. Juárez []	P. Oguzon []	Germania []	Anahuac []	Aztecas []	Toltec []
Guzman	Canton	Cueto	Butze	Agramonte	Ramirez	Parsons
Galeana	Yarza	—	Splitter	Lewis	—	Walker
Miranda	Mora	—	—	Barret	—	—
Chavez	Horcasitas					
	Curtis					
	Villegas					
	Fusco					

Now! if the Grand Lodge Valley of Mexico, in January 1895, was composed of 28 genuine Blue Lodges, why were *all* the Grand Officers, elective and appointive, taken from only 7 Lodges, all located in the City of Mexico and why did 7 out of 20 of these officers come from one single Blue Lodge, namely Benito Juárez?

Again: by Law (Statutes Article 560) each Blue Lodge, should have five Representatives in the Grand Lodge.

With 28 Lodges, therefore, the membership of the Grand Lodge of the Valley of Mexico ought to have been 140 members. But, by comparing page 319 and 320 of the *Boletín Masónico* for April 1897, we find that there were only 38 members in all, when the row commenced.

And, if this is not correct: What has become of the missing *one hundred and two* members?

If they existed and did not sign in favor of Canton he must have had a majority against him of 110 members out of 140 which legally composed the Grand Lodge of the Valley of Mexico.

If they did not exist their Blue Lodges must have been as mythical as themselves.

If we suppose that the 38 members named in the official, and therefore probably untruthful, list, had an average representative value of $3\frac{1}{4}$ votes each one, it would prove what I have asserted, namely, that the Grand Lodge was packed with dummy paper delegations to stifle the votes of the real Lodges.

The reader can choose whichever hypothesis he likes best.

The same state of affairs as in 1895 continues up to date.

The *Boletin Masonico* claims *thirty one* Blue Lodges under the Grand Lodge Valley of Mexico during 1896. According to the Statutes [Arts. 560 and 561], these Lodges should have been represented if genuine, by 155 persons. The official list of members of the Grand Lodge Valley of Mexico (*Boletin Masonico* February 1897, pp. 80), shows only *fifty five* members of whom 5 are deceased, and 3 absent, leaving 48 in all.

Of these 48 some do not even know that they are members of the Grand Lodge; many never attend. The average attendance at the monthly meetings has only been from eight to 10 members and the largest attendance, at the specially called and specially prepared meeting of July 24th 1896, convened for my so-called expulsion was only 21 members!! (*Boletin Masonico*, November 1896, pp. 647).

Of the 48 members that figure on the official list, above quoted, leaving out the dead and absent, kept in to swell the number, *twenty eight* are members of Benito Juarez Lodge No. 3, of which Canton is the W. M., *five* are from Anahuac Lodge, *five* from Toltec Lodge, *five* from Germania Lodge and *five* from Cuauhtemoc Lodge.

No more convincing proof can be desired than this official roster that the long list of 31 Lodges is a humbug and a deception; that these Lodges have no existence except on paper and that the so-called Grand Lodge of the Valley of Mexico is packed with friends of Canton, to stifle the voice of the real Lodges.

And as the 31 Lodges of the Grand Lodge of the Valley of Mexico scale down to *five* so the 112 Lodges of the bogus Grand Dieta come down to *twenty* which is about the real number in existence.

All the correspondence with the outside Lodges was received and carried on exclusively by the Grand Dieta and the Grand Lodges were completely deprived of any intervention whatever, even in their own local affairs. (*) This system and the imposition of simulated Statutes and Decrees of the Grand Dieta, artfully disguised with the outward forms of legality and fortified by the records of meetings and convocations that were never held, led on to the rupture of 1895.

One of these bogus convocations of the Grand Dieta purported to have been held on October 15th 1894 in which the new Statutes were *discussed and approved*. [*Boletin Masonico* April, 1897, pp. 315, May 1897, pp. 280].

After careful examination of the *Boletin Masonico* for the years preceding and for the year 1894, I find that the Grand Dieta closed its sessions on July 16th 1894 and was not opened again until April 1895. If a special session was held there is no record in the *Boletin Masonico* of any summons issued for that purpose.

The adoption of a new Code of Statutes or Bylaws is a most important thing. In the Grand Lodges of the United States it is an change to be fully advertised to the Craft and to be effected only after years of deliberation and discussion.

There is no record in the *Boletin Masonico* that any intimation whatever was given to the Craft about the new Code, no advertisements or notices whatever were published, and as I have stated, the Grand Dieta *was not even in session* upon the date when Mr. Canton states that the Statutes were adopted by that Body.

There is absolutely no published record whatever relating to the date of acceptance of these Statutes beyond the assertion of Mr. Canton, as made in August 1895, that they were adopted October 15th 1894. And the record quoted by him limits itself to this: that on said evening Mr. E. G. Canton appeared and presented a Code of Statutes, filling *one hundred* closely printed pages and embracing nearly *six hundred* articles, containing important modifications of the organic law of the Grand Dieta of profound interest to every Master Mason under that Jurisdiction.

(*) The most cursory examination of the back numbers of the *Boletin Masonico* will demonstrate all this very fully.

The record, cited as above by Mr. Canton himself, shows that this whole Code was discussed and approved in *one single meeting*.

Let us examine into this:

During this whole year of 1894 the «Boletin Masonico» abounds with trivial and even extraneous matter, like the report of the Council of Kadosh *Porfirio Diaz* No. 1, which occupies 38 pages of the number for May, June & July, speeches made in *subordinate* Blue Lodges, reports of visits of distinguished Masons, marriage and obituary notices, reports of the birth and baptism of the children of brother Masons, examinations in a Masonic school, acknowledgements of books received by Mr. Canton, &c., &c., &c.

There is NOT ONE WORD about any meetings of the Grand Dieta after July 16th 1894 *nor any reference whatever* to the important Statutes which Canton states were adopted on Oct. 15th 1894!!

The Statutes, as printed and circulated, make no reference to any meeting on that date!!

The Grand Dieta had been formally closed July 16th 1894 [*Boletin Masonico* August 1894, pp. 505] and was not in session on October 15th 1894!!

The first time that the announcement was made that the Statutes had been approved in October 1894, was in the *Boletin Masonico* for August, 1895, *more than nine months after* the alleged approval!!

The above statements can be easily verified by any one who may possess or who can find in any Masonic Library (that of Iowa for example) a file of the *Boletin Masonico* for 1894 and 95 and a copy of the so-called Statutes.

The only logical deduction from the facts as set forth is that the story about the approval of the Statutes on Oct. 15th 1894 is an arrant falsehood not invented until some months after the date assigned and that the books were then cooked up to suit by taking advantage of some hiatus left in the minutes of the Grand Dieta for the year 1894.

All this was done to cover up the disgraceful fact that this Code of so-called Statutes is a imposition and a fraud practiced upon the Craft by the bogus Grand Dieta of Mexico.

As far as I have been able to learn the very first intimation which was given to the Jurisdiction of the Grand Dieta that any Code of Statutes had been adopted was by the publication in May, 1895 (*more than seven months after* the alleged approbation of the Statutes) of a decree purporting to have been signed by Grand Master Diaz on May 25th 1895, by which said Statutes were put in force and vigor and made binding upon Craft from that date onward.

It is asserted here, with what truth I know not, that the name of Grand Master Porfirio Diaz was never legally signed by him to the said Decree of May 25th 1895, but that said signature was either obtained surreptitiously or placed thereto without his knowledge.

When all the facts, only a few of which I have enumerated, were brought to the notice of the Grand Lodges the revolution of 1895 followed logically because the sincere Masons of this Republic were tired of this long reign of trickery and humbug, which has undermined the Craft more than the assaults of all its outside enemies.

If, however, we stretch our credulity to suppose that the meeting of October 15th 1894, was held as reported then we must consider the Grand Dieta pictured by itself as a practically self perpetuating Body, which professes to govern several Grand Lodges and over 16,000 Masons.

A Body that gives no notice to its constituent Grand Lodges or to the Craft in general of any innovations and changes in contemplation but preserves a profound secrecy that excludes comment and debate.

A Body to which is presented a Code of six hundred articles, making radical charges in the fabric of Mexican Freemasonry and which *discusses and approves* of these articles in a single session of less than three hours duration.

A Body that preserves its adopted Code in continued and absolute secrecy for seven months and then suddenly saddles its new Statutes upon the Craft by an arbitrary Decree, probably simulated, that admits of neither hearing or recourse.

A Body that publishes an Official Monthly Organ, the *Boletín Masonico*, covering all this time of concealment, and fills that Organ with extraneous matter for the purpose of keep-

ing its Jurisdiction in ignorance of the sneaking, underground proceedings of the ruling Body.

A Body that when the murmurs of the Craft are made known to it by the respectful voice of a constitutional Grand Master, within the precincts of its most influential Grand Lodge, proceeds on the spot to depose that Grand Master and other faithful representatives of the Craft and to declare them disgraced and expelled forever from the Masonic Order, without a trial or a hearing (*Boletin Masonico*, April 1897, pp. 316).

I rejoice to believe that there is not a Grand or subordinate Lodge in any English speaking Jurisdiction that would submit to such odious tyranny for a single moment.

In Mexico,—three weeks after the crowning outrage of August 13th 1895, the Grand Dieta was politely but firmly abandoned by Grand Master Porfirio Diaz [*Boletin Masonico*, April 1897, pp. 321], by Grand Senior Warden Ignacio Mariscal and soon after by almost every other respectable Mexican who had been connected with the organization.

Before November 1895, the Grand Dieta was practically extinct by the withdrawal of all its active constituent Grand Lodges leaving only 4 paper Grand Lodges to the deserted institution.

The present facts are, I repeat, that it does not retain one single genuine Grand Lodge. The so-called Grand Lodge of the Valley of Mexico is nothing more than the Grand Dieta over again under another name, and the number of Master Masons belonging to the Grand Dieta at the present time is less than 1000, probably very much less.

PARSONS.

Toltec Lodge, which Chism asserts to be in a dying condition has 197 active members, etc., etc.

The information about the condition of Toltec Lodge was imparted to me by a distinguished member of that Lodge whose word any one would take in preference to that of Dr. Parsons. I have no reason to doubt the accuracy of my statement.

PARSONS.

The Grand Lodge of the Federal District is a bastard body which was conceived by three members of the Grand Lodge of the Valley of Mexico, who were expelled in 1895.

The Grand Lodge of the Federal District of Mexico is the direct and only legitimate descendant of the Grand Lodge of the Valley of Mexico, formed in 1867 at the time of the reorganization of Free Masonry in this country, by the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. This can be plainly seen by a Historical Chart which I have published and which is annexed to this pamphlet.

The eight, not three, men who were cast out from the hall of the Grand Lodge of the Valley of Mexico by one of the most flagrantly illegal outrages ever heard of in Free Masonry, were the Grand Master, Ramon I. Guzman, who had been regularly elected and installed in January, 1895, to that high office; the Grand Secretary and several other Grand officers, also duly elected and installed, (see *Boletin Masonico* for April, 1895).

These carried with them the representation of seven subordinate Lodges, out of the ten genuine Lodges that composed the Grand Lodge of the Valley of Mexico.

In our American and English system, it has long been a settled principle that the Grand Lodges are, within their respective jurisdictions, Sovereign Rulers over Ancient Craft Masonry. They may delegate but may not abdicate their powers.

The Grand Lodge of the Federal District in 1890 came under the auspices, not Jurisdiction, of the Grand Dieta and delegated some of its powers to that Body. It could resume those powers at any time and when that time came, in 1895, did so resume.

Whether these premises be conceded or not there are some points which none deny viz: that on the 13th of August, 1895, there existed a Grand Lodge of the Valley of Mexico, recognized by all regular Mexican Masons as being, at that moment, the only legitimate Grand Lodge ruling over Ancient Craft Masonry in this Federal District.

Bro. Ramon I. Guzman was the regularly elected and installed Grand Master of that Grand Lodge and he, with the Grand Secretary, was thrown out of or left the Grand Lodge Hall followed by the representatives of several subordinate Lodges.

According to all the traditions and precedents of Ancient Craft Masonry and no matter what may have been the pedigree of the Grand Body in question, the Grand Master, Grand Secretary, and the delegates of three or more Blue Lodges, meeting with those officers, were the custodians of the power and sovereignty of the Grand Lodge of the Valley of Mexico and took this with them wherever they went.

Consequently it was the Grand Dieta of Mexico that separated from the Grand Lodge of the Valley of Mexico, and set up, by an unconstitutional and arbitrary act, a new, illegal and altogether spurious body, under which Dr. A. W. Parsons and Toltec Lodge N^o. 214 are working to day.

The legal Body changed to the old name of the Grand Lodge of the Federal District, and is now working under that name, as it did for some years before it came under the auspices of the so-called Grand Dieta.

The adherents of the Grand Lodge of the Federal District of Mexico comprise all that are worth having in Mexican Masonry.

They include the President of the Republic, several of his private friends, capitalists, members of both Houses of Congress, distinguished magistrates of the Tribunals of Civil, Criminal and Military Justice, officers of all the courts, the flower of the Mexican bar, physicians, editors, engineers, generals, colonels and subordinate officers of the Mexican army, employes in all the departments of the government, merchants, men of affairs, clubmen and politicians. (*)

(*) Among the other distinguished Mexican Masons now in opposition to the Grand Dieta must be included Bro. MANUEL M. BAUCHE, who, in October, 1891, was the Representative of the Grand Dieta of Mexico and in that capacity, signed the famous Treaty of Monterrey, in company with Grand Master George W. Tyler, who represented the Grand Lodge of Texas. Bro. Bauche is now the Collector of Customs at Paso del Norte (Ciudad Juárez), Chihuahua, Mexico, and may be addressed at that point.

Bro. Bauche speaks and writes English perfectly and will be pleased to hear from any inquiring Brethren who wish to know the present status of the Grand Dieta in Mexican Masonry.

The seven lodges under the Grand Lodge of the Federal District in this city, comprise all of the above. The one single Mexican lodge in this city belonging to the Grand Dieta is composed principally of men of no social position whatever. Mr. Ermilo G. Canton, is not the Secretary of the Supreme Court of Mexico, as has been freely stated, but simply secretary of *one single section* of the Superior Tribunal of the Federal District, a local court of much lower rank than the Supreme Court of Mexico.

PARSONS.

This spurious Lodge states that it does not permit women in its membership, but it also states that the Bible does not necessarily occupy a place upon its altar.

I am not advised that the Grand Lodge of the Federal District has made any declaration whatever about the Holy Book. However this may be it is rather amusing to see the Grand Dieta of Mexico posing as a champion of the Bible.

The Grand Dieta has always been a pronouncedly infidel Body and is now in full fellowship with the Grand Orient of France which has been ostracized for its infidel opinions by all the regular Grand Lodges.

In 1893, Mr. Ermilo G. Canton, Secretary of the Grand Dieta, received the honorary 33rd Degree from the aforesaid Grand Orient. The insignia were conferred upon him by the delegate from the Grand Orient of France at a regular session of Benito Juarez Lodge No. 3.

The *Boletin Masonico* for July 1893, Page 461, states that the Lodge was opened in due form on the Third Degree, for this 33rd Degree ceremony, with several woman Masons present, among them the wife of Mr. Ermilo G. Canton.

The recipient of these honors, surrounded by his admiring petticoat Masons, must have been on that occasion a spectacle for gods and men.

Shortly before this there had been held in Spain a free-thinkers, infidel convention, which comprised delegates from all Godless Masonry, and of course two regular representatives

from the Grand Dieta of Mexico (*Boletín Masonico*, July 1892). The convention was dissolved by the Spanish government and the *Boletín Masonico* duly came out (December 1892 and May 1893) with a furious protest from the Grand Dieta, signed by Ermilo G. Canton, as the representative of the infidel Masonry of Mexico.

This utterance merited and received the recompense and honors that followed shortly afterwards from the infidel Masonry of France.

I also have been told that the Grand Dieta is in fellowship with the black and tan Supreme Council of Louisiana and with negro Masonic bodies.

PARSONS.

The records of Toltec Lodge show that on February 5th, 1894 Chism, together with the other elected officers of Toltec Lodge, was present and was installed by Grand Master Canton, after the officers and other members present had solemnly sworn allegiance to the Grand Dieta.

The last election held in Toltec Lodge No. 520, was on December 21st 1893. I was not elected at that time to any office whatever. See list of officers in the *Two Republics* newspaper of this city, December 23rd and 24th 1893, also in the archives of the Grand Lodge of Missouri.

Said newspaper paragraph distinctly states that *only a part* of the members of the old Toltec Lodge would organize under the Grand Dieta.

I was not installed into any office by Grand Master Canton on February 5th 1894, nor at any other time, and if the records of Toltec Lodge show any such circumstance, they are erroneous.

The falsity of the statement about my being installed as an officer of Toltec Lodge in February 1894 is apparent from the fact that my demit from the Grand Lodge of Missouri, No. 936, is dated April 2nd 1894, two months after the alleged installation in Toltec Lodge.

PARSONS.

Chism was expelled from Toltec Lodge and for gross unmasonic conduct. Chism was present at the time when the charges were made and until he was suspended, pending the result of his trial.

The gross unmasonic conduct alleged was the writing of defamatory letters about two members of Toltec Lodge. Said letters were not produced; not even their date was mentioned and they never existed. The accuser swore that *he had been told* that I had written such letters.

In order to supply grounds for the expulsion it was made a part of the indictment against me that I had written in 1892 a newspaper article and in 1893 a pamphlet against the Grand Dieta!!! (*Boletin Masonico*, May 1897, pp. 304).

I was not present when the charges were made nor during the trial and have in my possession a note from Dr. Parsons himself in reply to a note of mine to him declining to be present.

The so-called counsel mentioned by Dr. Parsons were friends of mine whom I instructed to protest vigorously and energetically against the iniquity and irregularity of the whole proceeding and to make the said protest matters of record. These gentlemen profess to have done so and say that no notice whatever was taken of their action.

My expulsion from the Grand Dieta, however much pleasure it may afford to my opponents, affects me personally very little.

I never was a member of any Lodge under that Body nor came in any way under its Jurisdiction and as I belong to a Jurisdiction in the United States that has never recognized the Grand Dieta and probably never will, I do not see where I am in any way affected in my standing.

The history of my intervention in the matter of the entrance of some members of the old Toltec Lodge into the Grand Dieta has been ingeniously perverted in the *Boletin Masonico* for April 1897.

During the year 1893 I was Worshipful Master of Toltec Lodge and as such was officially notified that the Grand Lodge

of Missouri had voted to withdraw the Charter from Toltec Lodge. At the same time I received a semi private letter from Grand Master Keene, counseling us, on his own responsibility, as I understood, to see what terms we could make with the Grand Dieta and to take a Charter from that Body.

I understand that G. M. Keene also wrote, in the same way, to Ermilo G. Canton asking the latter to give a Charter to our Masons who were about to be cast upon the world. From the tenor of these letters and the official utterances of the Grand Lodge of Missouri as printed in their proceedings for 1893 and 1894 I believe these letters were not endorsed by the Grand Lodge of Missouri and that that Body, although it withdrew the Charter of Toltec Lodge did not intend to recognize the Grand Dieta of Mexico.

On the presentation of these documents to Toltec Lodge, opinions were divided but finally a committee of one was appointed to see Mr. Canton and to hear what terms would be given. I was voted into that committee but declined to serve until it was pointed out to me that as Master of the Lodge I had scarcely a right to refuse to obey its mandates and also that I was probably the only one capable of obtaining for our Lodge members the utmost advantages and concessions. I consented to act in an official, not in an individual capacity and several influential members of the Lodge were detailed to help me.

In my official capacity I visited Mr. Canton and wrote him a letter upon the subject, which is reproduced, though incorrectly, in the *Boletin Masonico* for April 1897, and handed him an official list of such members as we had in the Lodge at that moment. Both the letter and the list were dated in November 1893 and are signed officially and attested by the Secretary.

In December 1893 an election was held in Toltec Lodge, another Brother, Mr. J. C. Mordough, was elected to the Chair and my connection with the arrangements made for entrance to the Grand Dieta ceased. When my obligations as an officer terminated I followed my own inclinations as an individual with respect to the new Lodge and the Jurisdiction under which it worked.

At the meeting on February 5th, 1894 Mr. Canton requested every one in the Hall to stand up and formally declared all present to be members of Toltec Lodge under the Grand Dieta. This included several visiting American Masons who had gone there, as I did, out of mere curiosity, and who were thus greatly to their surprise, made members of a Lodge and of a Jurisdiction without the presentation of a petition or any other formality. The statement that I took an oath at the altar alone is erroneous. There was no occasion for such a ceremony as I was not the Master of the Lodge and had not been for some weeks.

The *Boletin Masonico* for February 1894, says that I was sworn in *with the rest of the members*, and says nothing about my being installed into any office.

I was still under the Jurisdiction of Missouri, not having received my demit until some eight weeks after this extraordinary ceremony, and I never considered it binding, did not deposit my demit when it arrived, never paid any dues to the new Lodge and never was asked for any.

With reference to the contracts I am said to have made in the name of Toltec Lodge in April 1894, I will say that one of the Brethren was the lessee for the Lodge of the house in which the meetings of Toltec Lodge are held. I held a power of attorney for that person, dating from the year previous, and I acted as his agent and not directly as the agent of Toltec Lodge in arranging the lease of part of the house to the Grand Dieta.

Although I was from the first convinced of the legitimacy of the Grand Lodge of the Federal District I resolved to remain neutral after the revolution and was visited by persons from both sides who seemed to think that my views were of importance. I strongly urged some agreement and thought some progress had been made toward it until some time after. When the Grand Dieta published its defamatory statements about me in the November 1896 number of the *Boletin Masonico* I took up the matter in defense of my reputation and have exposed what I and every other sensible Mason here believes to be the true state of affairs in Symbolic Masonry in this Republic.

I have received from the Grand Lodge of the Federal District of Mexico (the Body from whose Jurisdiction Toltec Lodge separated when it rushed into rebellion) a certificate of Good Standing in which the sentence of Toltec Lodge and the rest of the Grand Dieta Bodies is declared null and void and I am certified to be in the full enjoyment of all my Masonic rights.

The reason why I retain my standing in the Scottish Rite of Mexico, which appears to cause many of my opponents such profound indignation, is simply because the Supreme Council of Mexico has never recognized the Grand Dieta of Mexico as having any legitimate Jurisdiction over the Symbolic standing of its members. Several members of the Supreme Council of Mexico, active and honorary, have been expelled from Masonry by the Grand Dieta but no one here takes any notice of these fulminations. [See Circular 29 of the Supreme Council of Mexico of May 21st 1897 and *Balaustre* No. xxxii of May 27th 1883. Appendices A & B.]

PARSONS.

Chism states that he had the 32nd degree conferred upon him as a premium. Dr. Juan N. Castellanos, Grand Secretary of the Supreme Council of Mexico, says that Chism paid for his degree, as he had for the previous one, in good hard money.

In this case the premium consisted first in the conferring of the degree at all. These degrees are not given in Mexico as a matter of course but have to be earned by hard work in the lower Bodies; I was recommended by the Council of Kadosh for the 31st degree but as I had always claimed the 32nd degree the Supreme Council consented to give me that also. Second, in the remission of one half of the ordinary fees. As that amount was all that I was made to pay it would seem that Dr. Castellanos must have been incorrectly reported.

PARSONS.

Chism proudly gives evidence of his standing in the profane world by printing the names of several reputable people who evidently knew him before he came to Mexico.

The full list of names that I gave was as follows:

Dr. Thomas M. Drown, President of Lehigh University, South Bethlehem, Penna.

Dr. Drown has known me for about 25 years and has visited me in the City of Mexico.

Andrew Mayer, Banker, 10 Wall St. New York City.

Mr. Mayer has known me for about 40 years.

J. P. Mumford, Cashier of the National Bank of the Republic, Philadelphia, Penna.

Mr. Mumford has known me personally for about 35 years.

Milmo National Bank of Laredo, Texas.

P. Milmo & Co., Bankers, Monterrey, Mexico.

William Purcell, Banker, Saltillo, Mexico.

Bank of London and Mexico, City of Mexico.

Lionel Carden, Esqr, British Consul, City of Mexico.

As will be seen I gave a number of references in Mexico, besides the American references which Dr. Parsons so strongly objects to, and I may add the following:

Daniel Turner, Esqr., General Manager for Mexico of the Wells Fargo Express Company, City of Mexico, Mexico.

Mr. Turner has known me since I first came to this Republic in the year 1880.

Charles Sommer, Esqr., Director in Mexico of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, Puente de San Francisco St. No. 1., City of Mexico.

Mr. Sommer has known me for about ten years only.

PARSONS.

Chism forgot to state that he has been expelled from the American Club of this City, etc.

I was expelled from the American Club in its early days. The official notice states that this action was taken «because of the part you (I) took in an altercation with a fellow member,» which fellow member was expelled also.

I have never understood that this expulsion reflected in any way upon my honor as a man or upon my standing in the community at large. As, however, I may be totally mistaken upon this point I would request any one who feels any interest in this matter to refer to the parties before mentioned and also to Mr. John R. Davis, the President of the American Club, who may be addressed at the American Club, Mexico City, Mexico.

THEODORE S. PARVIN.

This aged and credulous Brother, who vouches for Dr. Par-

sons as a man and as a Mason upon what was evidently the very slightest acquaintance with him in either capacity, states in another communication (*) that all the American Masons in Mexico are with the Grand Dieta, and that I am alone in opposing it.

I am informed that there are Lodges of American Masons, in Chihuahua, Monterrey, and Puebla, that are, with their respective Grand Lodges, in opposition to the Grand Dieta.

As far as the American Masons of this city are concerned I know positively that there are many who are against the Grand Dieta. At this moment there lies upon my table a document signed by some fifteen leading American Masons who are against the Grand Dieta and wish to work in English under the Grand Lodge of the Federal District. Probably a York Rite Lodge will soon be opened here for their accommodation and as soon as the new Lodge is under way I hear that many more Americans will join it.

Some of the most positively malicious and slanderous statements made by T. S. Parvin are that I have been, for gross unmasonic conduct removed from my offices as H. P. of Chapultepec Chapter and as E. C. of Popocatepetl Commandery.

The Dispensation for Popocatepetl Commandery was revoked by Grand Master Hugh McCurdy in 1895, on account of the grossly exaggerated accounts of some of our difficulties rendered to that high officer by T. S. Parvin himself.

Chapultepec Chapter, R. A. M., of which I am H. P., is a regularly chartered Chapter, under the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America. The Gen. Grand High Priest sent me a communication recalling the Charter of our Chapter in view of my expulsion from Toltec Lodge. However, I stated to him the real facts of the case and called his attention, in the most respectful manner, to some passages in the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter which provide that the Charter of a regularly constituted Chapter can only be recalled by the General Grand Chapter itself, after due proof of unmasonic conduct on the part of said Chapter, so that the matter was laid over for the action of the

(*) This communication was to J. W. Fellows, of New Hampshire, dated Cedar Rapids, Iowa, April 22nd, 1897.

General Grand Chapter at its next convocation.

Mr. Parvin, by his illjudged interference in the Masonic affairs of Mexico has embittered our controversies more than any other outsider.

He is a good observer but a poor investigator being of advanced age, utterly ignorant of the Spanish language, so deaf he can scarcely understand English and withal, consumed with vanity and self importance.

He is described to me by a high Mason in the United States as being «full of venom» and this description seems to fit him exactly.

One of the gentlemen who gave Parvin a letter of introduction to me afterward wrote to express regret at having done so. In effect these letters were honored by me to the best of my ability. I procured Parvin an interview with President Diaz, presented through him to the Library of the Grand Lodge of Iowa a letter from President Diaz to myself upon Masonic affairs, the very rarest subjects for Gen. Diaz to write about, and bestowed upon him farther attentions.

T. S. Parvin responded to all this to by going home and circulating defamatory letters about my private character broadcast to the Masonic Bodies of the United States.

I cannot think that T. S. Parvin ever was a Mason at his heart and I am sorry that his official position enables him to sign himself as Grand Secretary of Iowa to slanderous attacks upon the honor and integrity of a Brother Mason, as he has done in the circular to which the present article more particularly refers.

CONCLUSION.

The Grand Lodges of the United States are now face to face with one of the greatest Masonic impostures that has been attempted since the days of Cagliostro.

In the year 1893 it became my duty to expose the peculiar practices of the Grand Dieta with respect to the initiation of women into the Symbolic Degrees by the Lodges under the Grand Dieta.

At that time there were four woman's Lodges in full operation in this Republic, working with Charters from the Grand Dieta, exactly the same in form as the Charters to the male

Lodges and authorizing these petticoat Lodges to confer the Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason.

The woman Masons so made visited the male Lodges whenever they chose and were received with special honors. Some of the male Lodges in the country chose woman Masons residing here, as representatives to the Grand Lodge of the Valley of Mexico and these ladies were honored with posts of dignity among the officers of that Grand Lodge. [*Boletín Masonico*, January, 1893].

The only opposition to the woman Masons was by Masons who had come into the Grand Dieta from the Grand Lodge of the Federal District, and thus imparted to that body all the legitimacy that it ever had in the above district.

When I made known these circumstances to the Masonic world my assertions were received with incredulity and were met upon the part of the Grand Dieta with the same tactics that it is using now, namely, the direct and positive denial of facts that are attested by hundreds of witnesses and by as many of its own official documents.

The authors of this stupendous and insolent falsehood are perfectly capable of adulterating Masonic records, and of inventing calumnious charges to avoid impending detection.

Forsaken and denied by all that is best and honest in Mexican Masonry the Grand Dieta is now only supported by a handful of foreigners in this city and exists for the purpose of feeding the vanity of some and getting the money of others.

Its last and desperate hope is to obtain by sheer force of mendacity the recognition of the Grand Lodges of the United States so that it can continue to utilize the American residents in this country as a source of revenue.

However the question before the Grand Lodges is entirely simple. It is between the Grand Dieta, a Grand Lodge over Grand Lodges, of which there is not an equal example in the York Rite or in any other legitimate form of Symbolic Masonry; [*] a Body that began its anomalous career by the adoption of perilous innovations in Masonry, by initiation of

(*) The Provincial Grand Lodges are *affiliated* to the Grand Lodge of England but have independent life; the vampire Grand Dieta reduced its Grand Lodges to absolute insignificance.

women and the formation of these petticoat Masons into regular Lodges with power to confer the Ancient Craft Degrees on members of the weaker sex; a Body that has systematically disguised its errors and its weakness by deception and falsehood, and the Grand Lodge of the Federal District, organized after the model that has come down to us from the earliest known period of Masonic history and which has always adhered to the old Landmarks of the Craft as far as its lights and circumstances would allow.

In a word and by the summary of the admissions and arguments of its strongest advocate—the infidel Grand Dieta has violated the Masonic Law by the initiation of women into the Mysteries; has violated every principle of honor and decency by denying its feminine creations before the whole Masonic world: has alienated its constituents by a long course of deception, injustice and tyranny and now broken, repudiated, disgraced and worn out it seeks salvation, through a deathbed repentance, at the hands of the Grand Lodges of the United States.

Yours Truly and Fraternally.—RICHARD E. CHISM.

APPENDIX A.

Ad Universi Terrarum Orbis Summi Architectonis Gloriam.

IN DEO FIDUCIA NOSTRA

Templo del Supremo Consejo del Gr.º 33.º

ORDO AB CHAO

Del Rito Escocés A.º y A.º para la Jurisdicción de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos

GR.º SEC.º GEN.º

CIRCULAR NÚMERO 29.

Gr.º. Valle de Mexico, D.º. F.º., Mayo 21 de 1897, (E.º. V.º.)

S.º. E.º. P.º.

The Supreme Council of the 33rd and last Degree of the Scottish Rite, Ancient and Accepted, for the Jurisdiction of the United States of Mexico, has deigned to order that the following be circulated to all the Bodies of its obedience, to all the Masonic Powers with which the said High Body is in

relations; and, in general, to all Free and Accepted Masons, scattered on the surface of both Hemispheres; viz:—

Difficulties having arisen, of late, with the Symbolical Masonry of Mexico, about its regularity—a regularity which is disputed by several groups; it is hereby ordered that the Balauster No. XXXII, of this Supreme Council, referring to the independence which has been granted, on the 27th day of May 1883, to the Blue Masonry, be circulated again. Said Balauster has been in force since its promulgation; and is still in force and vigor at the present time.

This is forwarded to you, in order that you may not be imposed upon by irregular Bodies, that might aim at being acknowledged by you, or by your Bodies.

And, in obedience to said Supreme Order, I have the honor to inclose said Balauster No. XXXII, bearing the date of the 27th day of May 1883, with the purpose above pointed out.

Please acknowledge receipt thereof.

I salute you fraternally.

Por mandato del Sup. Cons. ., El Gran Secretario General del S. : Imp. .,

JUAN N. CASTELLANOS, 33. .

APPENDIX B.

LANDMARK NO. XXXII.

SECOND SERIES.

SUPREME COUNCIL OF MEXICO.

A. & A. S. R.

From the Valley of Mexico, in which resides the Supreme Council of the Most Powerful Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the 33rd and last Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, under the C. C. of the Zenith near to the H. L. which corresponds to $19^{\circ} 26' 12'' 3'''$ North Latitude and $99^{\circ} 6' 45'' 3'''$ Longitude West of the Meridian of Greenwich.

To all our Very Illustrious and Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret, Grand Inquisitors Commanders, Illustrious and Elected Knights, Grand Ineffable and Sublime, Free and Accepted

Masons of all the Degrees ancient and modern, dispersed over the face of the both Hemispheres, and

To whomsoever may see these presents,

Health, Stability, Power.

WE MAKE KNOWN TO YOU THAT THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF MEXICO:

Considering that the Landmark No. XXX of the 25th of April of this year does not satisfy the aspirations which this High Body has proposed to itself to fill; that it is not as sufficiently explicit as it ought to be for its perfect understanding and correct application; Having heard the Committees specially accredited to propose the independence of the Symbolic Degrees and taking into due consideration the opinion of our Higher Degrees and the petitions and proposals of some Bodies of our Jurisdiction. Being inspired, finally, by the example of the High Masonic Powers recognized in both Hemispheres, we have come to believe that, in view of the general good of the Order and authorized by Article 11th of our General Constitutions,

We Should and do Decree:

Art. 1. The Landmark No. XXX, of April 25th of this current year is hereby rescinded.

Art. 2. The Supreme Council renounces, in favor of the Grand Lodges of the States, now existing and which may hereafter be formed, all Jurisdiction which by our Constitutions is conferred upon the Supreme Council over the Symbolic Degrees; in consequence, these Bodies, in assuming the powers of the Supreme Council over the Lodges, become responsible to the Masonic World for the good order, discipline, morality, progress and stability of all Symbolism in this Republic.

Art. 3. This transmission of powers will take effect from the 24th of June next, in advance and forever.

Art. 4. The Grand Lodges are to exercise the exclusive Jurisdiction over the Symbolic Degrees, within the political limits of their respective States or Territories and upon the following indeclinable principles:

I. Inviolability of the dogmas and character of our Ancient Institution.

II. Unalterable preservation of the formulas, rituals, obligations, signs, grips and passwords which are known to us.

Art. 5. The Lodges that have no Grand Lodge, while such a Body is being organized according to the Constitutions, and from the 24th of next June onwards, will remain under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge which is nearest to them or under that of the oldest Grand Lodge if there should be two Grand Lodges at equal distances.

Art. 6. The Lodges of the Federal District will proceed to form their Grand Lodge, according to the prescriptions of our Constitution; the election and solemn installation shall take place on the 15th of next June at 7 of the night, in the usual Temple.

Art. 7. From and after the date specified in Article 3 all the Grand Lodges of the States will have the power to organize themselves freely and in harmony with the principles, customs, and ancient practices, commonly admitted in Symbolic Masonry. The Constitutions of the Grand Lodges shall be published with the greatest brevity possible.

Art. 8. The Grand Lodges, as they acquire their most complete independence within the limits of their respective Jurisdiction, shall remain organized with the most ample character of Grand Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons. For this reason only they, within the limits of their Jurisdictions, may grant Charters and Diplomas to all the Regular Rites to work in the Degrees corresponding to the Symbolic Degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and admit to participate in their work all the Dignitaries and Officers of the Lodges of said Rites.

Art. 9. The Supreme Council expressly reserves to itself the Jurisdiction over the Degrees from the 4th Degree upward.

Art. 10. The Committee on Lodges of the Supreme Council shall cease in its functions from the 24th day of June next.

Art. 11. Our General Constitutions and Landmarks are rescinded by the present Landmark in all parts in which they are opposed to it, from the 24th of June next.

TRANSITORY.

Let this be circulated among all the Bodies of our Jurisdiction and the foreign Grand Lodges and Supreme Councils.

Given and promulgated in the Valley of Mexico, on the 27th day of May of 1883. (E. V.)—(Signed) Carlos Pacheco, 33.—Mariano Escobedo, 33.—Alfredo Chavero, 33.—José F. Bulman, 33.—Francisco D. Macin, 33.—José G. Malda, 33.—Ignacio Pombo, 33.—Porfirio Diaz, 33.—Manuel Gonzalez, 33.—Ignacio Mariscal, 33.—Luis Pombo, 33.—Julio Zárate, 33.—Julio H. Gonzalez, 33.—Francisco & Troncoso, 33.—W. Keller, 33.—José M. Gaona, 33.—E. Cházari, 33.—Eug. Chavero, 33.—By Us, the Sovereign Grand Commander, Master of the Order, *Carlos Pacheco*.—Signed and Sealed by Us, the Grand Chancellor and Keeper of the Seals, *I. Pombo*, 33.—By Order of the Supreme Council, by Us, the Grand Secretary General of the same, *Eug. Chavero*.

The Undersigned certifies that the anterior Landmark is a faithful copy of the original which exists in the Archives of the General Grand Secretary.

Gr.: Valley of Mexico 21st of May, 1897.

Nos, el Gr.: Secr.: Gen.: del S.: Imp.:

JUAN N. CASTELLANOS, 33.

APPENDIX C.

Seal of the Grand Lodge
of Free and Accepted Ma-
sons of the Federal District

ACCEPTANCE OF GENERAL PORFIRIO DIAZ.**TRANSLATION.**

Jose A. Miranda, General Grand Secretary of the Very Respectable Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Federal District. R. E. A. A.

I certify that in the archives of this Exalted Body exist the following documents:

The Very Respectable Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Federal District has been pleased to honor me with the honorable appointment of Grand Master *ad honorem* of the said Exalted Body, on account of the services, which in the fulfillment of my duty, I have rendered to the Order and to the cause of Progress which in defends.

I accept with the firmest assurance that my adhesion and

my efforts shall correspond to the high position for which I have been nominated by your Exalted and Honorable Body.

Valley of Mexico, March 12th 1896. E. V.

(Signed) Porfirio Diaz.

To the Gen. Grand Secretary.

Brother Jose A. Miranda.

Present.

APPENDIX D.

ACCEPTANCE OF DON LUIS POMBO.

Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of Mexico. A. & A. S. R.,

TRANSLATION.

To the Glory of the Grand Architect of the Universe.

Orient of Mexico, February 19th, 1896.

To the Very Respectable Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Federal District.

Venerable and Dear Brethren: I have in hand the polite communication from your Respectable Grand Lodge in which you are pleased to communicate to me the appointment as Grand Master *ad honorem* which has been kindly made in my favor by your Exalted Body.

As the proper answer thereto I will say that I accept and thank you for the distinguished honor you have conferred upon me and of which I will seek to make myself worthy by contributing my humble services to our August Institution.

I pray you, W. Brother, to present my gratitude to the Exalted Body to which you worthily belong.

Receive my fraternal embrace with the signs and passwords which we know.

The W. Grand Master *ad honorem*,

Luis Pombo M. : M. :

Seal of the Grand Lodge
of the Federal District of
Mexico. Free and Accepted
Masons.

By order of the Grand Master I extend these presents in the Valley of Mexico, September 1st. 1896, E. V.

Approved,

(Signed) Ramón I. Guzman.

Grand Master.

(Signed) José A. Miranda.

Gen. Grand Secretary.

CHART

FEDERAL DISTRICT

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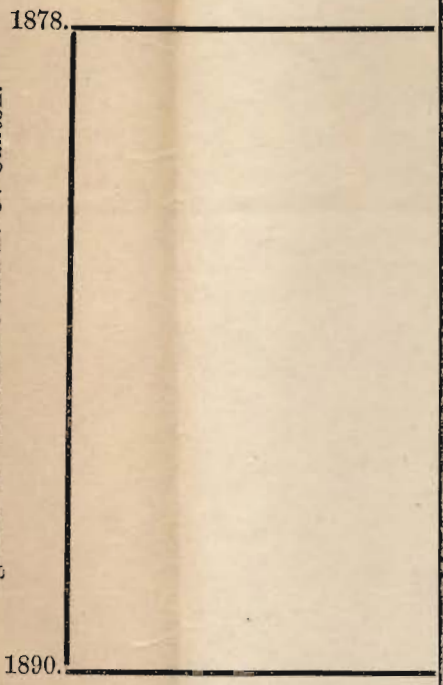
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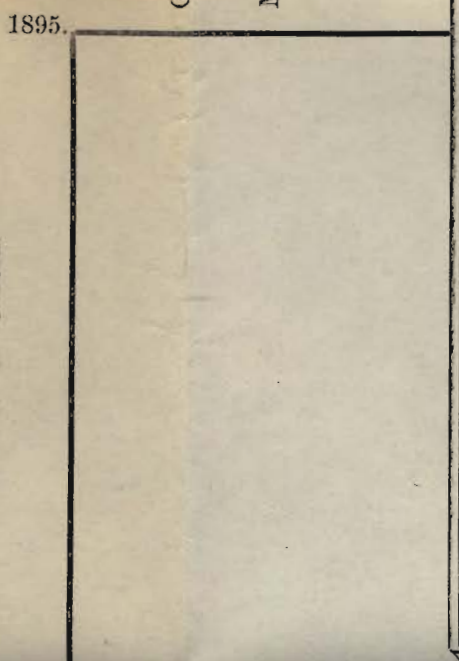
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HISTORICAL CHART
 OF THE
 GRAND LODGE OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT
 OF MEXICO,
 BY
 RICHARD E. CHISM.
 1897.

GRAND ORIENT OF MEXICO.
 Rebellious Grand Lodge of the Valley of Mexico.
 UNDER
 Ignacio M. Altamirano and E. G. Canton.



REMNANT OF THE GRAND DIETA.
 Separatist Grand Lodge of the Valley of Mexico.
 UNDER
 Ermilio G. Canton.



GRAND DIETA OF MEXICO
 Grand Lodge of the Valley of Mexico.

1868 { Fusion of the two Supreme Councils.
 Reorganization of Symbolic Masonry under the
 Supreme Council. A. A. S. R.
 ORDO ab CHAO.

Legitimate Grand Lodge of the Valley of Mexico.
 { Separation of Three Subordinate Lodges.
 Setting up of the Grand Orient of Mexico.

Grand Lodge of the Federal District.
 1883 { Liberty of Symbolic Masonry decreed by
 the Supreme Council.

{ Fusion of the Grand Orient with the Supreme
 Council.
 Formation of the Grand Dieta, by an Agree-
 ment between Grand Lodges.

Grand Lodge of the Federal District of Mexico.
 { Disruption of the Gran Dieta by withdrawal
 of all the Grand Lodges by recommendation
 of Grand Master Porfirio Díaz.
 Resumption of Sovereign Power by the Grand
 Lodge of the Federal District.

