

THOUSANDS OF VISITORS FLOCKED TO THE CITY TO WITNESS THE GREAT PARADE.

SESSION OF GRAND COMMANDERY

Business Transacted was Largely of a Routine Nature—Election of Officers Today—Receptions During the Evening—Ball at the Frothingham Theatre Last Night—Was Attended by Over One Thousand Persons. Business and Pleasure Provided for Today.

of formation on Franklin, Spruce and Linden streets and in twenty-five minutes, which twice represents the delay, everything was in readiness to start. There were twenty-five commanders in line marching under their own banners and about fifteen more had delegations as guests of one or the other of the commanders. The other past commanders present were E. Sir Thomas Barrowman, E. Sir F. Amsden, E. Sir W. L. Connell, E. Sir C. B. Derman, E. Sir F. S. Barker, E. Sir John S. Ferguson, E. Sir C. D. Sanderson, E. Sir Edward L. Buck, E. Sir



L. SIR HENRY H. KUHN, Of Johnstown, Grand Captain General, Who Had Charge of the Parade.

Yesterday was the first and big day of the Grand commandery convalescence. It was the big day as far as the general public was concerned, because it included, in the morning, the magnificent parade which started in the evening the grand ball in the Frothingham theatre. These are the two features of the annual convalescence, the event of which is shared by the Sir Knights with the whole public in the first case and with their wives, daughters and ladies in the ball event. The afternoon was occupied by the grand commandery members in the first session at the Frothingham theatre.

Everything conspired to make the day ideal, notwithstanding the hard and pouring rain which began at 3 o'clock in the morning and in the evening the grand ball in the Frothingham theatre. These are the two features of the annual convalescence, the event of which is shared by the Sir Knights with the whole public in the first case and with their wives, daughters and ladies in the ball event. The afternoon was occupied by the grand commandery members in the first session at the Frothingham theatre.

PARADES COME TOGETHER.

Through an unfortunate delay in starting the Templar parade it returned to the business session a half hour behind time and ran counter to Barnum's circus pageant, which started on schedule time, but the head of the Templar procession had not passed the intersection of Spruce street and Washington avenue before the Barnum circus reached there, consequently the latter was given the right of way and disappeared down Spruce street before the Sir Knights started on their way. The rain was not so heavy as it had been on the previous day, but the streets were still very muddy and the sidewalks were very slippery. The parade was a grand affair, and the spectators were very numerous. The parade was a grand affair, and the spectators were very numerous.

CRUSADE COMMANDERY.

Thirty-five swords followed the strength of the Columbia county Crusade commandery, No. 12, of Bloomsburg. Eminent Sir J. B. Arman, commander; Sir J. J. Lewis, generalissimo, and Sir C. B. Derman, captain general, marched in the parade. The parade was a grand affair, and the spectators were very numerous.

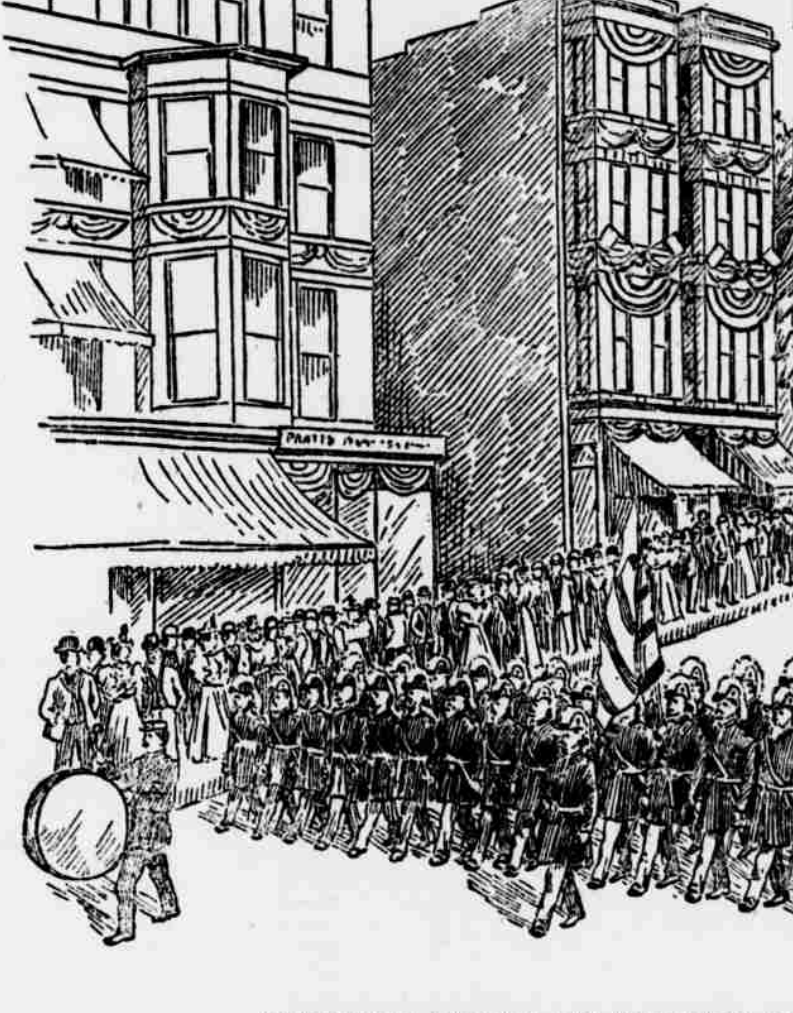
OVER 2,000 MEN IN LINE.

Fifteen Hundred Knights and More Than a Third as Many Bandmen. The largest crowd that probably ever witnessed the Knights Templar parade yesterday morning. It would have been larger, too, but for the rain storm which ushered in the parade. The parade was a grand affair, and the spectators were very numerous.

SIR KNIGHTS

Lock Haven, marched with 35 swords. Their eminent commander, Eminent Sir Philip S. Kift, captain general Sir K. D. Hatchler, and generalissimo Sir William F. Elliot, were in command. Lock Haven band of 25 members preceded the Hospitaliers, and the music of the band and marching of the Templars of this commandery, were of a high order.

St. Albans' commandery, No. 47, of Philadelphia, had 70 swords. They were led by the Ringgold band of the South Side, 25 members. In the first line were Eminent Sir John D. Carlisle, eminent commander; Sir Frank H. Hemperley, generalissimo; and Sir A. G. Criswell, captain general.



KNIGHTS TEMPLAR PARADE PASSING THE TRIBUNE BUILDING.

of march brought forth continuous applause. It was the first time in ten years that L. Sir George Dickson participated in the annual parade. The other past commanders present were E. Sir Thomas Barrowman, E. Sir F. Amsden, E. Sir W. L. Connell, E. Sir C. B. Derman, E. Sir F. S. Barker, E. Sir John S. Ferguson, E. Sir C. D. Sanderson, E. Sir Edward L. Buck, E. Sir

HAZLETON COMMANDERY.

McInt Vernon Commandery, No. 73, of Hazleton, had 35 swords, in charge of Eminent Sir W. G. Tietz, eminent commander. They were led by Sander's band of Troop.

FIRST GRAND SESSION.

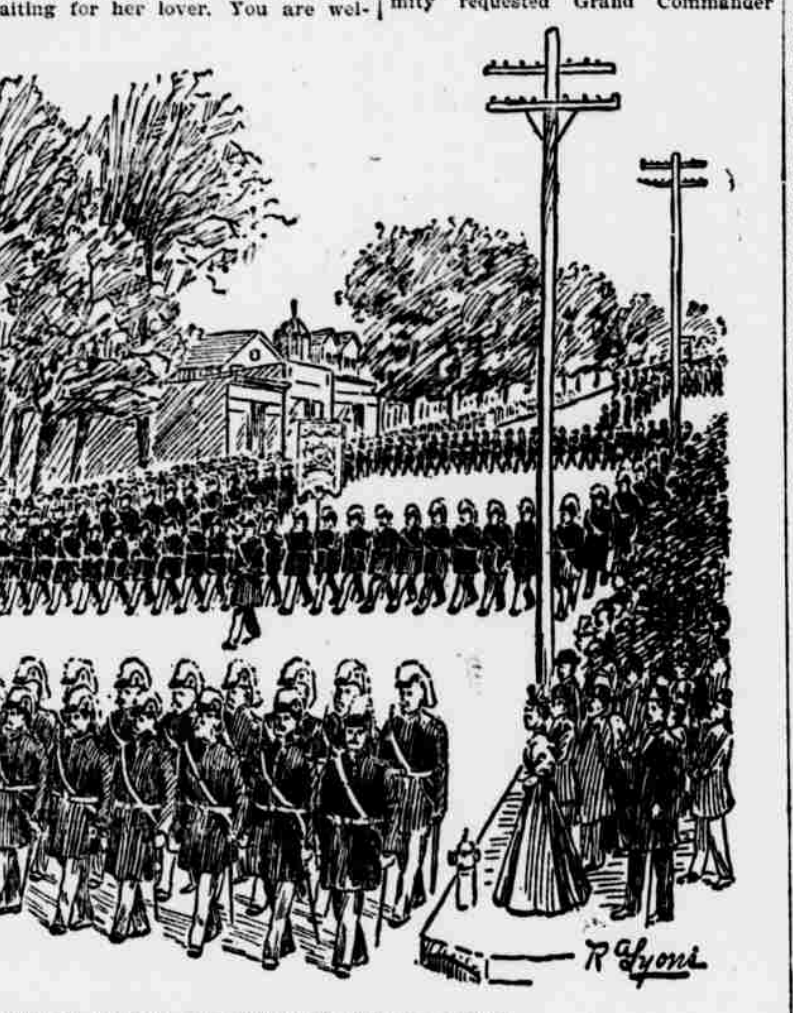
From 3 to 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon in the Frothingham. The opening session of the grand commandery began at three o'clock and lasted two hours. The business transacted was chiefly of a routine nature and included the reports of the grand officers.

MARY OF PHILADELPHIA.

Mary commandery, No. 38, of Philadelphia, with twenty swords, had the right of line in the division. They were led by the Sunbury Military band of twenty-seven members. E. Sir William McCoeh, eminent commander; E. Sir George Elliot, generalissimo; and E. Sir Alfred Gregory, captain general, had charge of the commandery. They had as their guests the following past commanders: E. Sir Samuel M. Hamilton and E. Sir E. M. Tancet, of No. 48; Sir Joseph G. Marsh, of No. 1; E. Sir D. M. Kinzer, of No. 1; E. Sir W. J. Dohi, of No. 72; E. Sir R. M. Holland, of No. 48; and Sir Herman Junker, all of Pittsburgh; and the following eminent commanders: E. Sir W. K. T. Salm, of No. 72; Dr. Quener, of No. 1; E. Sir G. W. Smith, Pittsburgh; R. E. Sir Mont H. Smith, grand recorder and an honorary member of Mary commandery, were their guest of honor.

IT IS UNNECESSARY.

"It is unnecessary," he said, "to call your attention to our industries, and to the evidence of industrial qualities to be found upon every hand; you have but to pause every now and then to hear the pulsations of the mighty machinery, the hum of commercial activity, which is advancing us higher and higher into the space, and is destined to occupy as one of the great producing centers of the land." He also mentioned our magnificent educational facilities, as shown by our numerous modern school buildings second to none in the state. Continuing, he said: "When in 1863 our city was first honored by the meeting of the State convalescence the occasion was the first upon which our order felt strong enough to make a public parade, which was of course a bit of history in which Sir Knights Templar took an especial part. We were again favored by the presence of the state convalescence in 1876 and in 1886." In conclusion he said: "In any speech of welcome which might be made to you there is one word which in significance has no equal, and which all others which can be spoken, that is simply the word of welcome, that is extended to you. We have adorned our buildings in your honor and our hearts are open to a stranger waiting for his lover. You are well-



SIR CHARLES M. STOCK, Grand Prelate.

Spencer to appoint Rev. Mr. Stock to this vacancy. He was publicly installed by the grand commander at Harrisburg, Pa., on the evening of April 2, 1896. He is the author of a number of published Masonic pamphlets, articles and addresses, some of which have been re-published in Masonic periodicals of Europe. He is a chaplain both of the grand lodge and of the grand chapter of Pennsylvania.

PENMAN A CANDIDATE.

In the election, which involves but six offices from the grand commandery down to the lowest office, the high positions are by custom attained through graduation. For junior wardens there are four prominent candidates: Eminent Sir Thomas F. Penman, of Melita, No. 6, of Scranton; Eminent Sir Robert E. Ingham, of Philadelphia, No. 2; Eminent Sir Ezra S. Bartlett, of Mary, No. 26, of Philadelphia; and Eminent Sir William L. Fleming, of Conans, No. 23, of Bellefonte.

PROMINENT SIR KNIGHTS.

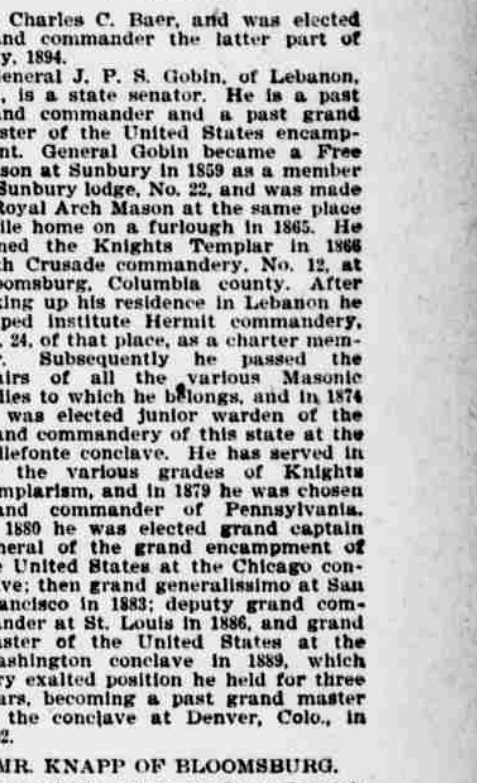
Men Attending Conclave Who Were Honored in Templar Circles.—Joseph Alexander, Jr., and John T. Dusenbury are the only two living Scrantonians who ever filled an elective office in the grand commandery, and neither of them were residents of this city at the time of their election, though both reside here now. Mr. Alexander became a Mason in 1869 and Knight Templar in 1870 in Palestine, No. 14, at Carlisle. He was elected its commander in 1876 and became grand commander of the state in May, 1885. He was one of the charter members and four-year grand commander of this city. Mr. Dusenbury was grand commander for the year beginning in May, 1874, and presided at the 75 convalescence in Pittsburgh. He has held one of the most prominent offices in state Templar circles, and is today one of the most esteemed.

GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN.

Adam H. Schmehl, of Reading, grand junior warden, is a past master of St. John's lodge, No. 435; past high priest of Excelsior chapter, No. 257, H. A. M., and also its representative to the grand chapter. He is grand master of the First Veil of the Grand chapter of Pennsylvania, past commander of Reading commandery, No. 42, Knights Templar, and also the right eminent grand junior warden of the Grand commandery of Pennsylvania. He has been division commander for the twelfth division for the last four years. He is an active member of the Reading bar.

GRAND GENERALISSIMO IN 1892.

grand commander in 1892; deputy grand commander in 1893; assumed the office of grand commander in February, 1894, upon the death of Right Eminent



SIR J. P. S. GOBIN, Grand Prelate.

General J. P. S. Gobin, of Lebanon, Pa., is a state senator. He is a past grand commander and a past grand master of the United States encampment. General Gobin became a Free Mason at Sunbury in 1859 as a member of Sunbury lodge, No. 22, and was made a Royal Arch Mason at the same place while home on a furlough in 1865. He joined the Knights Templar in 1868 with Crusade commandery, No. 12, at Bloomsburg, Columbia county. After taking up his residence in Lebanon he helped institute Hermit commandery, No. 24, of that place, as a charter member. Subsequently he passed the chairs of the various Masonic bodies to which he belongs, and in 1874 he was elected junior warden of the grand commandery of this state at the Bellefonte convalescence. He has served in all the various grades of Knights Templar, and in 1879 he was chosen grand commander of Pennsylvania. In 1880 he was elected grand captain general of the United States at the Chicago convalescence; then grand generalissimo at San Francisco in 1883; deputy grand commander at St. Louis in 1884; grand master of the United States at the Washington convalescence in 1888, which very exalted position he held for three years, becoming a past grand master at the convalescence at Denver, Colo., in 1892.

MR. KNAPP OF BLOOMSBURG.

One of the oldest of Pennsylvania's Sir Knights is Christian Frederick Knapp, of Bloomsburg. He was born Oct. 12, 1822, in the city of Beisheim, Kingdom of Prussia, in the Province of Silesia. He emigrated to America and landed in Philadelphia at the age of 8 years. On Sept. 23, 1831, he was approved and received the first degree in Masonry, in Danville lodge, No. 224, Free and Accepted Masons. In December, 1834, he was elected as secretary of Washington lodge, No. 256, and served as such to date 1860. He was elected by the G. M. as D. G. M. for the counties of Union, Snyder, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia and Wyoming and served as such for the county of Union, resigning the office. He was in 1860 elected grand right eminent grand commander of the grand commandery of Pennsylvania, and in May, 1864, was elected grand division commander of the state of Pennsylvania and served as such in 1864 and 1865. In the council of H. and S. masters in Nov. 21, 1865, he was elected grand master of Palestine council, No. 9, at Pottstown, Pa., and was in May, 1868, elected as M. P. G. Master of Pennsylvania and continued in that office until 1870, when he retired from office in 1870. In the Knights of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine on Dec. 7, 1870, he received the Order of Knights of the Red Cross and Constantine. He was elected by the Grand Council of Pennsylvania, Dec. 29, 1870, as grand master and Holy Sepulchre at the hands of Sid Alfred Creigh, L. L. D., in the city of Philadelphia, Pa., a grand master of Grand Cross, he was elected as grand master of the United States, in 1880 he retired from the office.

BALL WAS A GALA AFFAIR.

Attended by Hundreds of Fair Women and Gallant Sir Knights. The ball and reception tendered to the visiting Sir Knights by the local Templars, which has been for a long time past a source of much speculation and conjecture to the society-going element of Scranton, and especially the lady contingent, was held in the Frothingham theatre last evening. The entire event, in conception and execution, displayed a rare good taste, and resulted in a degree of enjoyment to the guests which has been seldom equaled and never surpassed in the social history of the city. It seems to be a peculiar circumstance that great social functions possessing the pomp and glamour characteristic of things military, hold a greater charm for the participants than when the ordinary commandery convalescence was held in the city. This idea was especially suggested by the eagerness with which scores of Scranton's society women eagerly awaited the opportunity of procuring opportunities to attend this brilliant, exhilarating though it would be discourteous to our visitors and our own Knights to intimate that their rich uniforms and martial equipment was the principal attraction to the attending ladies.

OF BEARING, GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN.

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