

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Grand Lodge

OF

ANCIENT . FREE . AND . ACCEPTED . MASONS,

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

VOL. XVI.

1896 AND 1897.



PORTLAND :

STEPHEN BERRY, PRINTER.

1897.

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"The present masonic use of the Name is meaningless if there be any departure from the homage which the principles of Masonry inculcates, and the use of the Great Light is an emphatic declaration that Masonry recognizes righteousness as the source of its power and the assurance of its continuance and prosperity, and that the protection of the Most High is given in answer to the prayer of faith, which itself is consequent upon a high ideal of the Divine Nature."

The Law Committee seems to have duplicated their report on two of the decisions and we find a second one in relation to objection by a non-affiliate: but we let the one, which we have copied, stand as the better of the two.

A proposition to make Past Masters members of the Grand Lodge was rejected: but the vote was reconsidered, the proposition amended by providing that they shall have no-pay, and then adopted almost unanimously.

The following incident occurred in connection with the installation:

"Grand Master Murrow, on assuming the Grand East, stated that for nearly forty years he had been a missionary among the Indians. That having labored for this race with all his powers, he naturally loved the Indian people. That ever since the Grand Lodge was organized he had longed to see some man with Indian blood predominating qualify himself for the position of Grand Master. That his hopes were now realized, and that it was a great pleasure to him to install into the office of Grand Master of Masons of Indian Territory an Indian by blood and especially so good a man as Grand Master Armstrong!"

The Grand Treasurer created a sensation by a statement showing that the expenses for the past year had exceeded the receipts, and at the rate the Grand Lodge was going on, it would soon be bankrupt, and might be during the current year. The mileage and *per diem* expense had increased \$500; and there was no limit to the expense which the Grand Lecturer and his assistants might incur. The matter was referred to a committee with power to fix the sum to be expended for the dissemination of the work.

The Report on Correspondence (134 pp.) was presented by Bro. LEO EDMOND BENNETT.

He pays a deserved tribute to his predecessor, Bro. JOSEPH SAMUEL MURROW, who for eighteen years has prepared reports creditable alike to him and to his Grand Lodge.

He says:

"Masonic relief, as outlined in the Wisconsin proposition which met your disfavor last year, is being thoroughly discussed and generally rejected. I see no reason to advise you to again take up the subject."

We find his views on the doctrine of "Perpetual Jurisdiction," thus stated:

"Considerable feeling seems to have arisen between the Indiana and Pennsylvania Grand Masters, growing out of Pennsylvania's adherence to the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction, and the issuance of a circular letter by the Grand Master of Pennsylvania which was taken by the Grand Master of Indiana as a gross insult and without any excuse or palliation whatever. Our Grand Lodge must necessarily sympathize with Indiana in this contro-

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Grand Lodge of Maine.

~ 1896 ~

Seventy-seventh Annual Communication.

MASONIC HALL PORTLAND, }
Tuesday, May 5, 1896. }

As obligated by its Constitution, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Maine, met in Annual Communication in Corinthian Hall, at nine in the morning.

GRAND OFFICERS PRESENT.

M.W.	AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,	Grand Master;
R.W.	JOSEPH A. LOCKE,	Deputy Grand Master;
"	WINFIELD S. CHOATE,	Senior Grand Warden;
"	MOSES TAIT,	Junior Grand Warden;
"	MARQUIS F. KING,	Grand Treasurer;
"	STEPHEN BERRY,	Grand Secretary;
"	CHARLES D. SMITH,	Cor. Grand Secretary;
W.	MARTYN SUMMERBELL,	Grand Chaplain;
"	HUGH R. CHAPLIN,	" Marshal;
"	HORACE MITCHELL,	" Senior Deacon;
"	JAMES E. PARSONS,	" Junior Deacon;
"	GEO. O. MITCHELL,	" Steward;
"	JACOB R. STEWART,	" "
"	EDWIN F. DAVIES,	" "
"	ENOCH O. GREENLEAF,	" "
"	WILLIAM N. HOWE,	" Sword Bearer;
"	CHARLES W. CROSBY,	" Stand. Bearer;
"	WILLIAM O. FOX,	" Pursuivant;
"	JAMES C. AYER,	" "
M.W.	FRANK E. SLEEPER,	" Lecturer;
W.	GEO. E. RAYMOND,	" "
"	WALTER S. SMITH,	" Organist;
"	WARREN O. CARNEY,	" Tyler.

The Grand Lodge was opened in ample form, with prayer by the Grand Chaplain.

The Grand Master ordered that all Master Masons, in good standing, be admitted as visitors during this Communication.

On motion of R. W. Bro. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Voted, To dispense with the reading of the records of the last annual communication, and that as printed they be confirmed.

Voted, That the Grand Tyler be authorized to employ assistants, not exceeding three, to aid him in the work of his office during the session of the Grand Lodge, and that the Committee on Pay Roll be authorized to place the names of such employees upon the pay roll, and that they receive the usual *per diem* for their services.

Voted, That an Assistant Grand Secretary be appointed for the communication.

The Grand Master appointed Bro. ARTHUR H. BERRY as such assistant.

TRANSPORTATION.

BRO. STEPHEN BERRY submitted the following report, which was accepted :

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, }
Tuesday, May 5, 1896. }

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your Committee on Transportation made favorable arrangements with railroad and steamboat lines, and all delegates were duly notified thereof in the annual notices.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPHEN BERRY,
W. FREEMAN LORD, } *Committee.*
DAVID W. CAMPBELL, }

BRO. WILLIAM N. HOWE presented the report of the Committee on Credentials, as follows :

IN GRAND LODGE OF MAINE,
 MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 5, 1896. }

Your Committee on Credentials have attended to the duty assigned them, and ask leave to report that they find the lodges in this jurisdiction represented as follows:

- 1 *Portland*, by Charles E. Davis, M; Convers E. Leach, SW; C. Fred. Berry, JW.
- 2 *Warren*, by John H. Wooster, Proxy.
- 3 ————*Lincoln*, not represented.
- 4 *Hancock*, by Edward F. Davies, Proxy.
- 5 *Kennebec*, by Joseph F. Bodwell, Proxy.
- 6 *Amity*, by John T. Robbins, Proxy.
- 7 *Eastern*, by James I. Brewster, M; Wheeler C. Hawkes, SW.
- 8 *United*, by William H. Pierce, Proxy.
- 9 *Saco*, by Fred B. Wiggin, JW; Joseph F. Chadbourne, Proxy.
- 10 *Rising Virtue*, by Warren H. Knowles, SW.
- 11 *Pythagorean*, by Wallace R. Tarbox, Proxy.
- 12 *Cumberland*, by John W. Rideout, JW; Elbridge G. Robinson, Proxy.
- 13 *Oriental*, by D. Eugene Chaplin, Proxy.
- 14 *Solar*, by Walter S. Glidden, Proxy.
- 15 *Orient*, by E. G. Weston, Proxy.
- 16 *St George*, by Edgar C. Crawford, SW; A. M. Wetherbee, Proxy.
- 17 *Ancient Landmark*, by Charles P. Costello, M; George H. Owen, SW; Winslow E. Howell, JW; Frank R. Redlon, Proxy.
- 18 *Oxford*, by Merton L. Kimball, JW; Howard D. Smith, Proxy.
- 19 *Felicity*, by William A. Remick, SW.
- 20 *Maine*, by Edward C. Merrill, M; George C. Purington, SW.
- 21 *Oriental Star*, by Fred Raymond, Proxy.
- 22 ————*York*, not represented.
- 23 *Freeport*, by Winthrop C. Fogg, M; Freeman M. Grant, SW.
- 24 *Phoenix*, by Wm. C. Libby, SW.
- 25 *Temple*, by Levi E. Jones, M.
- 26 *Village*, by Robert W. Carr, M; Frank H. Purinton, SW; Wm. W. Brown, Proxy.
- 27 *Adoniram*, by Frank M. Bradbury, Proxy.
- 28 *Northern Star*, by Wilbur C. Simmons, Proxy.
- 29 *Tranquil*, by Frank L. Bartlett, M; James P. Hutchinson, SW; Albert E. Verrill, JW; Elbridge G. Heath, Proxy.
- 30 *Blazing Star*, by Joseph W. Simpson, M; Edwin P. Smith, SW; Cyrus P. Eaton, JW; Geo. D. Bisbee, Proxy.
- 31 *Union*, by Warren Hills, Proxy.

- 32 *Hermon*, by Arthur C. Brown, M; Thomas A. Jewett, SW; D. H. Sherman, Proxy.
- 33 *Waterville*, by Martin F. Bartlett, M; Jerome Peavey, Proxy.
- 34 *Somerset*, by Frank W. Allen, M.
- 35 *Bethlehem*, by John G. Rowe, M; James E. Blanchard, Proxy.
- 36 *Casco*, by David H. Bennett, JW; Lorenzo L. Shaw, Proxy.
- 37 *Washington*, by Robert G. McBride, M; James B. Neagle, Proxy.
- 38 *Harmony*, by Henry R. Millett, Proxy.
- 39 *Penobscot*, by Wm. C. Elder, M; Owen W. Bridges, Proxy.
- 40 *Lygonia*, by Linwood H. Cushman, Proxy.
- 41 *Morning Star*, by Chapin Lydston, M.
- 42 ————*Freedom*, not represented.
- 43 *Alna*, by Lincoln H. Chapman, M.
- 44 *Piscataquis*, by Frank E. Monroe, SW.
- 45 *Central*, by John A. Woodsum, M; Charles W. Jones, Proxy.
- 46 *St. Croix*, by E. Howard Vose, Proxy.
- 47 *Dunlap*, by Harold Kelly, M; Geo. F. Goodwin, Proxy.
- 48 *Lafayette*, by Frank A. Dow, M.
- 49 *Meridian Splendor*, by Henry A. King, M; Austin I. Harvey, Proxy.
- 50 *Aurora*, by Frank A. Peterson, M; Leonard H. Snow, SW; Asa P. St. Clair, JW.
- 51 *St. John's*, by Chas. M. Sleeper, Proxy.
- 52 *Mosaic*, by Allen P. Clark, M; Rob't J. Widdis, Proxy.
- 53 *Rural*, by Nathan A. Benson, M.
- 54 ————*Vassalboro*, not represented.
- 55 *Fraternal*, by Lawton M. Sayward, M; John M. Akers, Proxy.
- 56 *Mount Moriah*, by Elmore E. Swan, JW.
- 57 *King Hiram*, by William M. Kidder, M.
- 58 *Unity*, by Edwin H. Littlefield, Proxy.
- 59 *Mount Hope*,—*Charter surrendered, 1879.*
- 60 *Star in the East*, by George H. Richardson, M.
- 61 *King Solomon's*, by Frank W. Achorn, M; Webster Hazlewood, Proxy.
- 62 *King David's*, by Nathan D. Ross, M.
- 63 *Richmond*, by George B. Jenkins, M.
- 64 *Pacific*, by Cummings A. Fawcette, Proxy.
- 65 *Mystic*, by C. Fremont Cowan, Proxy.
- 66 *Mechanics'*, by Andrew M. Shaw, M.
- 67 *Blue Mountain*, by Fremont E. Timberlake, Proxy.
- 68 *Mariners'*, by James E. Wentworth, M.
- 69 *Howard*, by Howard Grant, Proxy.
- 70 ————*Standish*, not represented.
- 71 *Rising Sun*, by Frank E. Cotton, M.

- 72 *Pioneer*, by Sanford C. Murphy, Proxy.
- 73 *Tyrian*, by Fred E. Dwinal, M; James H. DeCoster, Proxy.
- 74 *Bristol*, by Oscar S. Yates, M.
- 75 *Plymouth*, by Frank H. Pickard, M.
- 76 *Arundel*, by Renel W. Norton, M.
- 77 *Tremont*, by Cyrus H. Lurvey, Proxy.
- 78 *Crescent*, by Stephen W. Smith, Proxy.
- 79 *Rockland*, by Henry Jenkins, M; Jacob R. Stewart, Proxy.
- 80 *Keystone*, by Lyman C. Jewett, M; Cornelius A. Merrill, SW; Jonah G. Spaulding, Proxy.
- 81 *Atlantic*, by Edwin G. Jackson, M; Fred H. York, SW; James E. Leighton, JW; Andrew M. Heseltine, Proxy.
- 82 *St. Paul's*, by Perez B. Cooper, Proxy.
- 83 *St. Andrew's*, by George M. Fletcher, M.
- 84 ————*Eureka*, not represented.
- 85 *Star in the West*, by Fred A. Whitten, M; George R. Mosher, JW.
- 86 *Temple*, by Albert H. Burroughs, M; Oliver A. Cobb, Proxy.
- 87 ————*Benevolent*, not represented.
- 88 *Narraguagus*, by David W. Campbell, M.
- 89 *Island*, by Frank W. Sherman, M.
- 90 *Hiram Abiff*,—*Charter revoked, 1868.*
- 91 *Harwood*, by Daniel A. Curtis, Proxy.
- 92 *Siloam*, by George G. Weeks, SW; Wm. F. Nutt, JW.
- 93 *Horeb*, by Orrick H. Wakefield, Proxy.
- 94 *Paris*, by A. C. Thomas King, Proxy.
- 95 *Corinthian*, by Thomas A. Linn, M.
- 96 *Monument*, by Charles E. F. Stetson, Proxy.
- 97 *Bethel*, by Eben S. Kilborn, M.
- 98 *Katahdin*, by George F. Burleigh, Proxy.
- 99 ————*Vernon Valley*, not represented.
- 100 *Jefferson*, by James L. Bowker, SW.
- 101 *Nezinscot*, by Wm. B. Bradford, M.
- 102 *Marsh River*, by Laurent C. Jones, M.
- 103 *Dresden*, by John S. Snow, Proxy.
- 104 ————*Dirigo*, not represented.
- 105 *Ashlar*, by Edward Stetson, M; Albert Ring, Proxy.
- 106 *Tuscan*, by Ellery T. Sawyer, Proxy.
- 107 ————*Day Spring*, not represented.
- 108 *Relief*,—*Charter recalled, 1894.*
- 109 *Mount Kineo*, by Albion W. Ellis, SW; Alexander F. Edes, JW.
- 110 *Monmouth*, by Horace S. Bent, Proxy.
- 111 *Liberty*, by Gustavus H. Cargill, Proxy.

- 112 *Eastern Frontier*, by John M. Thurlow, JW.
- 113 *Messalonskee*, by James H. Wetherell, M; Orestes E. Crowell, Proxy.
- 114 *Polar Star*, by Frank D. Monroe, M; John W. Ballou, Proxy.
- 115 *Buxton*, by John Berryman, Proxy.
- 116 *Lebanon*, by Charles W. Farrand, Proxy.
- 117 *Greenleaf*, by Harry B. Ayer, M.
- 118 ————*Drummond*, not represented.
- 119 *Pownal*, by Albert M. Ames, M.
- 120 *Meduncook*,—*Charter surrendered, 1884.*
- 121 *Acacia*, by Josiah L. Wright, M.
- 122 *Marine*, by Cecil E. Wasgatt, SW; Elmer P. Spofford, Proxy.
- 123 *Franklin*, by Robert Y. Swift, Proxy.
- 124 *Olive Branch*, by Fred A. Thayer, SW.
- 125 *Meridian*, by Ernest Maxfield, Proxy.
- 126 *Timothy Chase*, by S. Augustus Parker, Proxy.
- 127 *Presumpscot*, by Harrison R. Waterhouse, M.
- 128 *Eggemoggin*, by Theodore A. Smith, M.
- 129 *Quantabacook*, by Loima C. Poor, Proxy.
- 130 *Trinity*, by Leon S. Howe, Proxy.
- 131 *Lookout*, by Silas E. Turner, M.
- 132 *Mount Tire'm*, by George A. Miller, Proxy.
- 133 *Asylum*, by Clarence M. Stevens, M; William H. Brownson, Proxy.
- 134 *Trojan*,—*consolidated with Star in the West Lodge, No. 85, in 1888.*
- 135 *Riverside*, by Thomas S. Bowden, M.
- 136 *Ionic*,—*charter surrendered in 1882.*
- 137 *Kenduskeag*, by Wallace Patterson, M.
- 138 *Lewy's Island*, by John H. Hoar, Proxy.
- 139 *Archon*, by C. Hale Thurlough, M.
- 140 *Mt. Desert*, by Melville L. Allen, M.
- 141 *Augusta*, by George K. Black, M; F. J. C. Little, Proxy.
- 142 *Ocean*, by Lyman F. Getchell, M.
- 143 *Preble*, by Sam Jagger, Proxy.
- 144 *Seaside*, by Thaddeus L. Montgomery, SW; Lewis A. Dunton, JW;
Willard T. Marr, Proxy.
- 145 *Moses Webster*, by Fred A. Grindle, M; Winfield S. Carver, Proxy.
- 146 *Sebasticook*, by John H. McGorrrill, Proxy.
- 147 ————*Evening Star*, not represented.
- 148 *Forest*, by Pitt H. Jones, Proxy.
- 149 *Doric*, by Ambrose H. Harding, M; Albert W. Meserve, Proxy.
- 150 *Rabboni*, by Fred. G. Payne, M; T. Lloyd Pratt, JW; Edwin K. Smith,
Proxy.
- 151 *Excelsior*, by Martin G. Black, M.

- 152 *Crooked River*, by Reuben H. Cobb, Proxy.
153 *Delta*, by John A. Farrington, Proxy.
154 *Mystic Tie*, by Abel D. Russell, Proxy.
155 *Ancient York*, by James A. Underwood, Proxy.
156 *Wilton*, by Fred J. Ward, M.
157 *Cambridge*, by Jacob T. Brown, JW.
158 ————*Anchor*, not represented.
159 *Esoteric*, by Curtis R. Foster, Proxy.
160 *Parian*, by Lewis Hutchins, M.
161 *Carrabassett*, by Frank Weymouth, M.
162 ————*Arion*, not represented.
163 *Pleasant River*, by George W. McClain, M.
164 *Webster*, by Edwin Woodside, M.
165 *Molunkus*, by Isaac Cushman, M.
166 *Neguemkeag*, by Orlando A. Tolman, Proxy.
167 *Whitney*, by Herbert J. DeShon, Proxy.
168 *Composite*, by Rodney Q. Lancaster, M.
169 *Shepherd's River*, by Frederick A. Thayer, Proxy.
170 *Caribou*, by Charles G. Littlefield, Proxy.
171 *Naskeag*, by Eldorus H. Bridges, SW.
172 *Pine Tree*, by John E. Clark, M.
173 *Pleiades*, by Elmer E. Sawyer, JW.
174 *Lynde*, by Charles N. Patten, M.
175 *Baskahegan*, by David C. Parker, M; Charles E. Berry, Proxy.
176 *Palestine*,—*consolidated with Dunlap, No. 47, March 19, 1895.*
177 *Rising Star*, by Hosea B. Wardwell, SW.
178 *Ancient Brothers'*, by Albert M. Penley, Proxy.
179 *Yorkshire*, by J. Wesley Webber, M.
180 *Hiram*, by John A. S. Dyer, M; John Melia, SW; Albert A. Cole, JW;
Stephen Scamman, Proxy.
181 *Reuel Washburn*,—*consolidated with Oriental Star, No. 21, in 1892.*
182 *Granite*, by Jesse C. Howe, M.
183 *Deering*, by Isaac L. Elder, M; Edward S. Waite, SW; Charles W.
Blake, JW; Francis E. Chase, Proxy.
184 *Naval*, by Ernest L. Chaney, M.
185 *Bar Harbor*, by Frank E. Whitmore, M; Benjamin F. Hadley, Proxy.
186 *Warren Phillips*, by Wingate C. Titecomb, M.
187 *Ira Berry*, by Ithamer E. Stanley, Proxy.
188 *Jonesport*, by Nehemiah Guptill, M.
189 *Knox*, by Milton E. Bassick, M.
190 *Springvale*, by Frank H. Dexter, Proxy.
191 *Davis*, by Charles B. Richardson, JW.

- 192 *Winter Harbor*, by B. Frank Sumner, Proxy.
 193 *Washburn*, by Calvin D. Carter, M.
 194 *Euclid*, by Granville D. Perkins, M.
 195 *Reliance*, by Robert K. Knowlton, Proxy.
 196 *Bay View*, by Edward Whitehouse, M; Victor Montgomery, Proxy.
 197 *Aroostook*, by Howard W. Safford, M.
 198 *St. Aspinquid*, by Wilson. L. Hawkes, M.
 199 ——— *Bingham*, not represented.

Number of chartered lodges, 191; represented, 176; delegates, 242; represented by proxy only, 60.

Your committee further find that the following Permanent Members of the Grand Lodge are present, namely:

M.W.	HIRAM CHASE,	-	-	-	-	-	-	P. G. M.
"	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	EDWARD P. BURNHAM,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	CHARLES I. COLLAMORE,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	MARQUIS F. KING,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	WILLIAM R. G. ESTES,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	FESSENDEN I. DAY,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	FRANK E. SLEEPER,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	ALBRO E. CHASE,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	HENRY R. TAYLOR,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	HORACE H. BURBANK,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
R.W.	THADDEUS R. SIMONTON,	-	-	-	-	-	-	P. S. G. W.
"	SUMNER J. CHADBourNE,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	ARLINGTON B. MARSTON,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	JOSEPH M. HAYES,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	LEANDER M. KENNISTON,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	MANLY G. TRASK,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	GEORGE R. SHAW,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	JOSEPH A. LOCKE,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	HERBERT HARRIS,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	JOHN W. BALLOU,	-	-	-	-	-	-	P. J. G. W.
"	A. M. WETHERBEE,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	EDWIN HOWARD VOSE,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	ARCHIE LEE TALBOT,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	AUGUSTUS BAILEY,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	EDMUND B. MALLET, JR.,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	SAMUEL L. MILLER,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	HOWARD D. SMITH,	-	-	-	-	-	-	"

W.	WM. FREEMAN LORD, - - - - -	P. J. G. W.
"	GUSTAVUS H. CARGILL, - - - - -	"

And Grand Officers as follows:

M. W.	AUG. B. FARNHAM, - - -	Grand Master.
R. W.	JOSEPH A. LOCKE, - - -	Deputy Grand Master.
"	WINFIELD S. CHOATE, - - -	Senior Grand Warden.
"	MOSES TAIT, - - -	Junior Grand Warden.
"	MARQUIS F. KING, - - -	Grand Treasurer.
"	STEPHEN BERRY, - - -	Grand Secretary.
"	CHARLES D. SMITH, - - -	Cor. Grand Secretary.
"	ALFRED D. SAWYER, - - -	D. D. G. M. 1st District.
"	WALTER F. BRADISH, - - -	" 2d "
"	HARVEY P. HINCKLEY, - - -	" 4th "
"	EDWIN M. JOHNSTON, - - -	" 5th "
"	DANIEL W. MAXFIELD, - - -	" 6th "
"	EDWIN A. PORTER, - - -	" 7th "
"	RODEL A. PACKARD, - - -	" 8th "
"	FRED'K M. RICHARDS, - - -	" 9th "
"	CHARLES C. HUNT, - - -	" 11th "
"	FRANKLIN WALKER, - - -	" 12th "
"	FRANCIS H. WING, - - -	" 13th "
"	NEWELL P. NOBLE, - - -	" 15th "
"	GEORGE W. HOLMES, - - -	" 16th "
"	HERBERT N. MAXFIELD, - - -	" 17th "
"	ISAAC N. HURD, - - -	" 19th "
"	MARTIN L. PORTER, - - -	" 20th "
"	FREELAND R. BUNKER, - - -	" 21st "
"	HENRY S. THORNE, - - -	" 22d "
"	HOLLIS E. DENNEN, - - -	" 24th "
W. & Rev.	MARTYN SUMMERBELL, - - -	Grand Chaplain.
W.	HUGH R. CHAPLIN, - - -	" Marshal.
"	HORACE MITCHELL, - - -	" Senior Deacon.
"	JAMES E. PARSONS, - - -	" Junior Deacon.
"	GEORGE O. MITCHELL, - - -	" Steward.
"	JACOB R. STEWART, - - -	" "
"	EDWIN F. DAVIES, - - -	" "
"	ENOCH O. GREENLEAF, - - -	" "
"	WILLIAM N. HOWE, - - -	" Sword Bearer.
"	CHARLES W. CROSBY, - - -	" Standard "
"	WILLIAM O. FOX, - - -	" Pursuivant.
"	JAMES C. AYER, - - -	" "

M. W.	FRANK E. SLEEPER,	- - -	Grand Lecturer.
W.	GEORGE E. RAYMOND,	- - -	" "
"	WALTER S. SMITH,	- - -	" Organist.
"	WARREN O. CARNEY,	- - -	" Tyler.

Your committee further report that Grand Representatives from other Grand Lodges are present, as follows:

Alabama—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.	Mississippi—	CHAS. I. COLLAMORE.
Arizona—	AUGUSTUS BAILEY.	Montana—	ARLINGTON B. MARSTON.
Arkansas—	JOHN W. BALLOU.	Nebraska—	EDWARD P. BURNHAM.
British Columbia—		Nevada—	LEANDER M. KENNISTON.
	THADDEUS R. SIMONTON.	New Hampshire—	
California—	HENRY R. TAYLOR.		HOWARD D. SMITH.
Canada—	SUMNER J. CHADBOURNE.	New Jersey—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.
Colorado—	FRANK E. SLEEPER.	New Mexico—	MANLY G. TRASK.
Cuba—	E. HOWARD VOSE.	New York—	MARQUIS F. KING.
Delaware—	AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM.	New Zealand—	HERBERT HARRIS.
District of Columbia—		North Carolina—	
	STEPHEN BERRY.		WILLIAM R. G. ESTES.
Florida—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.	Nova Scotia—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.
Georgia—	" " "	Ohio—	WILLIAM J. BURNHAM.
Idaho—	ALBRO E. CHASE.	Oregon—	MARQUIS F. KING.
Illinois—	JOSEPH A. LOCKE.	Peru—	ARCHIE LEE TALBOT.
Indian Terr.—	JOSEPH M. HAYES.	Quebec—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.
Kansas—	ARCHIE LEE TALBOT.	Rhode Island—	HORACE H. BURBANK.
Louisiana—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.	Texas—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.
Manitoba—	A. M. WETHERBEE.	Utah—	HIRAM CHASE.
Maryland—	SAMUEL L. MILLER.	Vermont—	GEORGE R. SHAW.
Michigan—	FESSENDEN I. DAY.	Wisconsin—	EDMUND B. MALLETT, JR.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM N. HOWE,	} Committee.
BENJ. L. HADLEY,	
CHARLES E. SNOW,	

Which report was accepted.

The books and papers of Mount Bigelow Lodge, u. d., were presented, and were referred to the Committee on Dispensations and Charters.

The Grand Master appointed the following

STANDING COMMITTEES.

On Doings of the Grand Officers.

FRANK E. SLEEPER, WILLIAM R. G. ESTES, HENRY R. TAYLOR.

On the Pay Roll.

LEANDER M. KENNISTON, HIRAM W. POTTER, ALBERT M. AMES.

On Unfinished Business.

JOSEPH M. HAYES, ARCHIE LEE TALBOT, A. C. T. KING.

The Grand Master then delivered his

ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Brethren of the Grand Lodge:

Through the interposition of the all bounteous Author of Nature, the Supreme and ever living God, we are again permitted to assemble on this our seventy-seventh annual communication. I desire to extend to every member of this Grand Lodge a most cordial greeting, and to congratulate you all upon the fact that the fraternity in this jurisdiction is in a most prosperous condition. Harmony prevails within our borders, and our relations with our sister Grand Lodges are of a most cordial and friendly nature. While we are permitted to grasp each other by the hand, and once more to look into each other's faces, let us not forget to remember those who have finished the journey of life, and have passed beyond the portals of the grave into the celestial abode above, where we trust the greeting "Well done good and faithful servant," may have been extended to them. Let us remember that every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning, and that "Every noble life leaves the fibre of it interwoven forever in the work of the world."

"To live well is truer good fortune than to live long."

"They glide in the wonderful silence of death,

With faces snow-white, to the west,

And lily hands kissed by the spice-laden breath

That strays from the sweet land of rest;

They heed not a moan from the gray, misty vale,
They heed not a beckoning hand,
But sweetly they sleep in the barges a-sail
For the beautiful, rest-filled land."

At our last annual communication a vote of condolence was sent to M. W. Bro. DAVID CARGILL for the illness that prevented his attendance, not, however, anticipating that his sickness was to be fatal; but a month later, on the morning of June 13th, his summons came, and we mourn the loss of another Past Grand Master. Bro. Cargill was born in Jefferson, Me., September 18, 1818. He was buried from the Baptist Church, of which denomination he had long been a prominent member, the masonic services being conducted by Oriental Star Lodge. Bro. Cargill was made a mason in Kennebec Lodge at Hallowell, May 12, 1858. It is evident that at this date there was no lodge in Winthrop. Temple Lodge, No. 25, was chartered in 1817, but had not rallied from the effects of anti-masonic fury. Nothing had been heard directly from this lodge in Grand Lodge since 1832. In 1849, a District Deputy reported that the charter was lost. In 1857, the District Deputy reported that he had been informed by a former member of the lodge that the property of Temple Lodge had been sold and the proceeds distributed in charity, and in 1858 the Grand Lodge voted that the charter be annulled, and the name of said lodge be stricken from the roll. Its name had been given to another lodge two years before. It would almost appear that Bro. Cargill's object in becoming a mason was to restore the broken wall, for at the first session of the Grand Lodge after his making, Grand Master Hiram Chase reported that he had granted a dispensation on petition of David Cargill and others for a lodge at Winthrop, and recommended that, as the lost charter had been found, it should be given to these petitioners. Bro. Cargill was present in Grand Lodge in 1859, as Master of Temple Lodge, U. D., in 1860 as Master, in 1861 as proxy, in 1862, 1863, 1864 and 1865 as District Deputy, and as proxy again in 1866, at which communication he was elected Junior Grand Warden.

He was promoted in regular order, and elected Grand Master in 1872, which office he held three years. His reports show a careful attention to the duties of his office, and a strong desire to promote peace and harmony. Bro. Cargill ever manifested the strongest devotion to Masonry; but twice (and then on account of illness) has he been absent from the annual communication of this Grand Lodge since he was made a mason. He was a member of chapter, council and commandery, and had presided in each. He was also a member of the A. and A Rite of the 32d degree. His hearty greetings and kindly presence will not be soon forgotten.

Ivory H. Robinson, Principal of Washington Academy, died at East Machias, of typhoid fever, November 4th, at the age of thirty-six years, leaving a wife and two children. He was born in Augusta, March 3, 1859, graduated at Bowdoin College in 1887, and was a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Society. He was appointed principal of Washington Academy in 1887, the year of his graduation, and successfully conducted it until his death. He was raised in Warren Lodge, August 2, 1887, was Master in 1892, 1893 and a part of 1894, when he was appointed District Deputy Grand Master of the Third Masonic District. He was High Priest of Warren Chapter at the time of his death, having been a charter member and the first Scribe under the charter. He was also a member of St. Elmo Commandery, at Machias, and was an enthusiastic and valued member of the Congregational Church.

We are called each year to mourn with our sister Grand Lodges for the honored dead:

Florida.—Albert J. Russell, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Florida, died January 17, 1896. He was Grand Master of Florida in 1873, 1874, 1875; Grand Secretary in 1893, 1894, 1895. He died three days before the annual meeting of his Grand Lodge and was buried by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge with appropriate ceremonies. He was one of the brightest lights of the jurisdiction.

Nevada.—Most Worshipful John Clark Hazlett, Grand Master

of Nevada, died at his home in Dayton, Nevada, October 3, 1895. Bro. Hazlett was born at Scranton, Pa., May 19, 1828. He emigrated to Virginia in early life and graduated from the Medical College at Manchester, in that state, where he practiced his profession for a period of ten years. In 1862, he went from Iowa to Nevada and settled in Dayton, where he resided until his death. He was buried in Dayton, Nevada, October 6, 1895, under the auspices of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, DeWitt Clinton Commandery, No. 1, Knights Templar, assisting and acting as escort.

New York.—John Hodge, Past Grand Master of New York, died suddenly at Lockport, N. Y., August 7th, aged fifty-eight. He was a leading citizen of Lockport and interested in all benevolent enterprises.

North Carolina.—George M. Blount, Past Grand Master and Past Grand High Priest of North Carolina, died at Wilson, November 29th.

Oregon.—Stephen Fowler Chadwick, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Oregon, died suddenly of apoplexy at his home in Salem, January 15th, aged sixty-nine years. He was a native of Connecticut, studied law in New York State, went to Oregon in 1851, was Deputy U. S. Attorney, Presidential elector, four years Secretary of State, and two years acting Governor during the Indian war of 1877, 1878. Was Grand Master in 1865. In 1889, was elected Grand Secretary, which office he held until his death. He was a graceful and able writer, and was peculiarly sympathetic and helpful to his brethren when opportunity permitted him to aid them. He will be mourned in many jurisdictions besides Oregon.

Pennsylvania.—Richard Vaux was born in Philadelphia, December 19, 1816, and died there March 22, 1895, aged seventy-eight years. He was initiated in 1842, was Grand Master of Pennsylvania in 1867 and 1868, and had been Correspondent of the Grand Lodge from 1875 until his death. He was a Royal Arch Mason and a Templar, but was most active in Blue Masonry, where he was the most conspicuous figure in Pennsylvania, and

Charity Fund of the Grand Lodge, and other similar matters. They report to the Grand Lodge, and we note that body passes upon their action, as it seems to do upon all the official acts of the Grand Officers. We have been a little puzzled to determine what the object of this approval (and it always *is* approval, so far as we have noticed) can be: is it merely to say "well done," or does it have some force? Suppose the Grand Lodge withholds its approval of some act, which the Grand Master, under the constitution, has power to do, what is the effect?

The Committee on Returns say:

"The first error we note is the failure of a large number of Secretaries to give at least one Christian name in full. The requirement is constitutional, and of such long standing that it seems strange so many continue to disregard it. That such non-conformity to the law cannot always be attributed to a lack of knowledge, is shown by the fact that in some instances Secretaries observed the requirements in making their returns for 1895, and wholly ignored it in preparing those for 1896."

While within a few years, there has been a great improvement in this respect, we wish committees in other jurisdictions would imitate this. We have an impression, that if the Grand Secretary were empowered to reject such returns and require the Secretary to make another set conforming to the law, the evil would cease to exist. To be sure, they might cite in excuse the example of one member of the committee making the report, and of the members of other committees whose reports are given in those Proceedings.

The Grand Orator delivered an address, which is well worthy of being read and *studied* by the craft.

The resolutions of our Grand Lodge in relation to jurisdiction over rejected candidates, were presented by our Grand Representative, Bro. DAVID B. FULLER, and referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, which reported (apparently immediately) the following, and it was adopted by the Grand Lodge:

"In the matter of the communication from the Grand Lodge of Maine, your committee recommend that this Grand Lodge do not concur therein. The constitution of this Grand Lodge will not admit of such legislation."

Inasmuch as the provisions upon this subject are invariably found in the constitutions of Grand Lodges, the irresistible conclusion is, that our brethren in Kansas have a Medes-and-Persian constitution! We fraternally commend to the Kansas committee the advice said to have been given by an old judge to a young one, "Give prompt and decisive rulings, *but never give reasons for them!*"

The Report on Correspondence (186 pp.) was presented by Bro. MATTHEW M. MILLER. The "returns" from our printer show us that we are making so much greater progress in the number of pages of our report, than we are in getting to the end of the alphabet, that we are constrained to omit refer-

CORNER STONE.

July 2, 1895, the corner stone of the new Oxford County Buildings, at South Paris, was laid by the Grand Lodge, with appropriate ceremonies, in the presence of 2000 people. Nearly all the lodges of the district were represented, there being at least 500 masons in the procession, including Paris, Blazing Star, Pythagorean, Mt. Moriah, King Hiram, Bethel, Jefferson, Mt. Tire'm, Evening Star, Delta, Whitney, Shepherd's River and Granite Lodges. I was assisted by the following officers:

JOSEPH A. LOCKE, Portland,	D. G. Master;
GOODWIN R. WILEY, Bethel,	<i>as</i> S. G. Warden;
WALDO PETTENGILL, Rumford,	<i>as</i> J. G. Warden;
REV. MARTYN SUMMERBELL, Lewiston,	G. Chaplain;
THOMAS W. BURR, Bangor,	<i>as</i> G. Marshal;
GEO. D. BISBEE, Rumford Falls,	<i>as</i> G. Architect;
MARQUIS F. KING, Portland,	G. Treasurer;
MILLARD F. HICKS, Portland,	<i>as</i> G. Secretary;
ENOCH FOSTER, Bethel,	<i>as</i> G. S. Deacon;
F. H. PACKARD,	<i>as</i> G. J. Deacon;
M. E. HALL,	<i>as</i> G. S. Steward;
HENRY C. RICKER,	<i>as</i> G. J. Steward;
JOHN A. FARRINGTON,	<i>as</i> G. St. Bearer;
ALBERT W. WALTER,	<i>as</i> G. Sw. Bearer;
J. FERD. KING,	<i>as</i> G. Pursuivant;
WARREN O. CARNEY,	G. Tyler.

Hon. James S. Wright, of Paris Lodge, delivered an eloquent address appropriate to the occasion. P. G. H. P. Seward S. Stearns officiated as toast master at an excellent banquet which followed, and toasts, sentiments and speeches ruled the hour.

DEDICATION OF HALLS.

March 26th, I dedicated the new Masonic Hall of Keystone Lodge, No. 80, at Solon, and was assisted by R. W. Bro. Joseph A. Locke, Deputy Grand Master.

FRANCES H. WING,	<i>as</i> S. G. Warden;
MALON PATTERSON,	<i>as</i> J. G. Warden;
REV. ELMER F. PEMBER,	G. Chaplain;
A. M. WETHERBEE,	<i>as</i> G. Treasurer;
JOSEPH O. SMITH,	<i>as</i> G. Secretary;
HUGH R. CHAPLIN,	G. Marshal;
L. W. MCINTIRE,	<i>as</i> G. S. Deacon;
RANDALL F. DURRELL,	<i>as</i> G. J. Deacon;
C. B. MCINTIRE,	<i>as</i> G. S. Steward;
ALONZO MOORE,	<i>as</i> G. J. Steward;
T. D. SALE,	<i>as</i> G. Tyler;
S. F. GREEN,	<i>as</i> G. Architect.

The Brethren of Keystone Lodge have erected a fine and commodious hall. They have paid for it in full and have funds in the treasury. They have an extensive masonic library, and great interest is shown in everything that pertains to Masonry. The members of the Grand Lodge were entertained in a most hospitable manner, and will long retain pleasing memories of their visit to Keystone Lodge.

CONVENTIONS.

During the last year I have called five conventions for instruction in masonic work. I found a general desire on the part of officers and members of many of our lodges for an opportunity to hear from the Grand Lecturers in relation to the new ritual and therefore deemed it best to call conventions for that purpose. I append the report of the Grand Lecturers :

SABBATH, April 16, 1896.

To Most Worshipful AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM, *Grand Master of Masons in Maine:*

In obedience to your orders, five conventions for instruction in masonic work have been held this year, viz:—

1. At Farmington, Tuesday, November 20, 1895.
2. " Augusta, Tuesday, December 3, 1895.
3. " Houlton, Tuesday, December 10, 1895.

4. At Bangor, Thursday, December 12, 1895.
5. " Rockland, Tuesday, December 17, 1895.

No convention was held in the western part of the state. Those at Farmington, Augusta and Rockland were conducted by Grand Lecturer SLEEPER, and those at Houlton and Bangor by Grand Lecturer Raymond.

At Farmington were one District Deputy and representatives from seven lodges.

At Augusta were five District Deputies and representatives from eleven lodges.

At Houlton were one District Deputy and representatives from nine lodges.

At Bangor were seven District Deputies and representatives from fifteen lodges.

At Rockland were three District Deputies and representatives from twelve lodges.

Unfortunately for their districts, as your Grand Lecturers believe, seven Deputies were not present at either convention.

The primary object of these conventions is to afford reliable instruction to District Deputies, to enable them to teach with accuracy the work and lectures of the degrees to the lodges under their care, and our experience during the past few years has shown us that when incorrect instruction has been given to lodges it was almost invariably given by Deputies who had either no time or no disposition to attend conventions.

In addition to the seventeen Deputies who have attended our conventions this year, have been representatives from fifty-four lodges, and the interest and zeal shown by those brethren have been very remarkable, many of them attending from quite a distance.

The instructions given this year, as in former years, has been thorough, and as to its usefulness and the desirability of its continuance, we can only affirm what we said in our report last year.

Fraternally submitted,

FRANK E. SLEEPER,

GEORGE E. RAYMOND,

Grand Lecturers.

CONDITION OF THE CRAFT.

Notwithstanding the fact that the business depression throughout the country still continues, the various bodies in this jurisdiction are in a fairly prosperous condition. The returns from 191 chartered lodges and 2 under dispensation, a total of 193

lodges, show a gain of 144. For full particulars I would refer you to the report of the Committee on Returns.

CLOTHING.

In May, 1891, the question of new clothing for the Grand Officers was brought before the Grand Lodge, but no definite action was taken. Grand Master Burbank, at the annual meeting in May, 1894, called attention to the shabbiness of the clothing, and recommended that something better be procured, and the Committee on Doings of Grand Officers recommended the reference to the Finance Committee of the suggestions of the Grand Master in favor of new clothing for the Grand Officers, and in view of the possibility of the advisability of some change in the material and style of such clothing, it is also recommended that the committee have leave to report at the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge. Twice during the past year the Grand Officers have been called upon to appear in public wearing the clothing of the Grand Lodge. I can assure you that they are not proud of it, and most certainly think that this Grand Lodge should procure something better. It is a well known fact that many things are improved by age; the Turkish rug is brighter after being worn, and the sheen acquired by use renders it much more glittering. Such is not the case, however, with the clothing of this Grand Lodge.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

I subjoin the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters, and would recommend to the members of this Grand Lodge a careful inspection of them. I find it to be their opinion that the conventions held during the past year have been productive of good results, and I most certainly endorse their views.

Article 15, Section 25 of the Constitution, requires each District Deputy Grand Master to give to the Grand Treasurer a receipt or bond in the sum of fifty dollars, conditional upon a safe

return of the property appertaining to said office. I think this provision of the constitution has been generally ignored. I would recommend its observance by the District Deputy Grand Masters or a modification of the article requiring it.

DISPENSATIONS.

June 20, 1895, I granted a dispensation for Temple Lodge, No. 86, to appear in public on Sunday, June 23d, to observe St. John's Day.

June 20th, I granted a dispensation for St. George Lodge, No. 16, to appear in public on Sunday, June 23d, to observe St. John's Day.

July 16th, to Aroostook Lodge, to receive and ballot upon application in less than the usual time, after due notice.

October 16th, to Casco Lodge, to elect Junior Warden and Senior Deacon, the officers elected having declined to serve.

October 26th, to Jonesport Lodge, to receive and ballot on application in less than the usual time, after due notice.

November 7th, to Marine Lodge, to receive and ballot on application in less than the usual time, after due notice.

January 2, 1896, to Riverside Lodge, to elect a Senior Warden January 8th, in place of a brother who declined to serve.

January 13th, to Bay View Lodge, to elect a Junior Warden January 23d, in place of a brother who declined to serve.

January 19th, to Marine Lodge, to ballot on application in less than the usual time, after due notice.

January 25th, to Mariner's Lodge, to ballot on application in less than the usual time, after due notice.

January 30th, to Ancient York Lodge, to ballot on application in less than the usual time, after due notice.

February 5th, to Tuscan Lodge, to ballot on application in less than the usual time, after due notice.

February 5th, to Mount Desert Lodge, to ballot on application in less than the usual time, after due notice.

March 7th, to Whitney Lodge, to authorize a lodge of Odd Fellows to occupy their hall temporarily.

March 28th, to Meridian Splendor Lodge, to authorize lodges of Odd Fellows to occupy their hall twice during the month of April.

May 25th, granted dispensation to Waldo Pettengill and others to hold a Lodge of Instruction at Rumford Falls.

November 16th, to C. H. Kingston and others to hold a Lodge of Instruction at Vanceboro, Maine.

February 6th, to Joseph A. Hobbs and others to hold a Lodge of Instruction at Waterboro.

March 28th, to Harwood Lodge No. 91, Machias, to hold meetings, receive and act upon applications, confer the degrees of Masonry, and perform all acts authorized by its charter, until the next regular meeting of the Grand Lodge, at which time application should be made for a new charter.

April 14th, to Lincoln Lodge No. 3, to elect a Senior Deacon in place of a brother who declined to serve.

DISPENSATIONS REFUSED.

I have several times refused dispensations to confer three degrees upon a candidate at the same session. I believe the cases are very rare where such permission should be asked, and still more rare where it should be granted.

DECISIONS.

A District Deputy asks for information.

1. A candidate was accepted, and at a subsequent meeting presented himself for the degrees. A brother objected, and the W. Master informed the lodge that objection had been made, and that on that account there would be no initiation. No record of the fact was made or ordered to be made. A new W. Master was elected and installed. Now in accordance with the Constitution, page 35, Sec. 102, can the new Master notify

the said person in question to appear for his degrees, and if no objection is then raised can the W. Master confer the degrees?

Answer. Bro. A had a perfect right to object to the initiation. The W. Master of the lodge should have had a proper record made as required by the Constitution of the Grand Lodge. You will instruct the W. Master to have a note made on the record, giving the facts in the case, and saying that the note was made by direction of the Grand Master. The candidate stands rejected, and the new Master must act as he would if a proper record of his rejection had been made at the time.

2. Authority was refused for a lodge to take candidates to a District Convention outside its jurisdiction, for the purpose of having the degrees conferred.

3. A member of Ashlar Lodge, No. 247, Canada, now a resident of Skowhegan, desired to make application to Somerset Lodge for membership. I addressed a communication to M. W. Bro. Wm. R. White, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, asking what steps should be taken to meet the legal requirements in this case before his application for membership should be presented to Somerset Lodge. I received the following very courteous reply:

M. W. Bro. AUG. B. FARNHAM, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge Maine, Bangor, Maine.

DEAR SIR:—Replying to your letter of January 28th, I beg to say that I know of no reason why Somerset Lodge in your jurisdiction should not deal with Bro. GRIFFIS's application in the same way as you would deal with that of any other unaffiliated mason. He would certainly have the right with us to join two or more lodges, and I do not see any reason why he should not join Somerset if they are willing to have him. Of course I know nothing of the brother personally, and all inquiries should be made to Ashlar, 247.

Yours fraternally,

WM. R. WHITE, G. M.

Authority was granted Somerset Lodge to receive the application.

Question.—Is it in accordance with masonic teachings to allow

the introduction of intoxicating liquors into a hall or apartments that have been solemnly dedicated to the purposes of Freemasonry.

Answer. It most certainly is not in accordance with the principles of our Order. Temperance is one of the four Cardinal Virtues, and we are taught that it should be the constant practice of every mason. We should exercise at all times the greatest care never to place temptation before a brother mason. The strongest may fall, and the weak will be sure to fall. Let us banish, therefore, at all times from our masonic halls intoxicating liquors and everything that will cause our brother to err.

November 26th, the Grand Secretary was authorized to give Bro. Newell Jones, once a member of Hiram Abiff Lodge, of Washington, the necessary certificate to enable him to make application to Riverside Lodge for membership. Grand Master TIMOTHY J. MURRAY made a special report in the case of Hiram Abiff Lodge, which was not printed. Bro. DRUMMOND has looked over the record containing the report with great care, and given an opinion which I subjoin, as I think it should be made a matter of record to preserve it.

"When the charter of Hiram Abiff Lodge was revoked, the law was that those implicated in the misconduct should be suspended. The Grand Master, when he announced his action, stated to the Grand Lodge that he deemed it sufficient to revoke the charter without punishing any of the members. This left all the members in good standing as unaffiliated masons. But in order to affiliate they must have a certificate from the Grand Secretary."

A large number of communications have been received during the year past, asking information on a great variety of subjects, but as no new points were involved I do not deem it important to refer to them.

LOSS BY FIRE.

The hall of Penobscot Lodge, No. 39, of Dexter, was destroyed by fire January 17, 1896. The total loss was about

\$2,400, on which there was an insurance of \$1,000. The charter was saved, together with a part of the furniture. The old records were injured to such an extent as to make them almost a total loss. The meetings are now held in Odd Fellows' Hall. I have received an application from Penobscot Lodge, No. 49, to refund the Grand Lodge dues for the past year, which I have referred to the Committee on Dispensations and Charters.

On March 25th, the fine Masonic Hall of Harwood Lodge, No. 91, at Machias, was destroyed by fire. The charter, records, papers, and other property were all destroyed. There was a small insurance of \$1,000 only on the property. I wrote W. M. Heaton, extending to him the sympathy of the fraternity, and the assurance that we deplored the loss of one of the finest masonic homes in the state. Their meetings are now held in the old hall owned and formerly occupied by the lodge.

August 3d, I forwarded to Bro. Charles I. Collamore, Chairman of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals, the proceedings of Rural Lodge, No. 53, of Sidney, in the case of James A. Bacon.

October 8th, the proceedings of Delta Lodge, No. 153, in the case of Ernest H. Nason, were forwarded to the Chairman of Committee on Grievances and Appeals.

December 14th, papers in the case of Saco Lodge, No. 9, vs. Freedom Lodge, No. 49, were forwarded to the chairman of same committee.

Papers in the case of Anchor Lodge, No. 158, vs. Ralph E. Pinkham, have been returned to the lodge, and a new trial ordered on account of informalities.

NEW ZEALAND.

The Grand Secretary received an official communication from Rev. Wm. Ronaldson, Gr. Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, in which he says: "I am instructed by our Grand Master, M. W. Bro. F. H. D. Bell, in his own name, and on

behalf of his Grand Lodge, to convey his most thorough appreciation of your Grand Lodge's action in instantly and unanimously according recognition to the Grand Lodge of New Zealand. I am also to assure you that he willingly accepts the nomination by your M. W. Grand Master of Rt. Wor. Bro. Herbert Harris, of East Machias, as the Grand Representative of this Grand Lodge near your Grand Lodge."

On May 17, 1895, notice was received from Melbourne, Victoria, of the decease of P. S. G. W. Bro. WILLIAM STRACHAN, who was appointed as Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Maine near the United Grand Lodge of Victoria. On July 8, 1895, I appointed Bro. BENJAMIN DOUGHTY SMITH, of Melbourne, Victoria, Representative of the Grand Lodge of Maine near the Grand Lodge of Victoria.

REPRESENTATIVES.

May 18th, HERBERT HARRIS was appointed Representative of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand near the Grand Lodge of Maine.

August 31st, SUMNER J. CHIDBOURNE was appointed Representative of the Grand Lodge of Canada near the Grand Lodge of Maine, in place of DAVID CARGILL, deceased.

August 31st, HOWARD D. SMITH was appointed Representative of New Hampshire near the Grand Lodge of Maine, in place of STEPHEN J. YOUNG, deceased.

September 11th, Bro. JACOB H. EMERSON was appointed to represent the Grand Lodge of Maine near the Grand Lodge of Delaware, in place of Bro. J. THOMAS BUDD, deceased.

THOMAS H. HOOVER, Representative of the Grand Lodge of Maine near the Grand Lodge of Maryland, has rendered a report of his stewardship, which I append:

UNION BRIDGE, MARYLAND, April 13, 1896.

MR. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM, *Grand Master of Masons, Bangor, Maine.*

Most Worshipful Sir and Brother:—Concerning masonic circles owing obedience to the Grand Lodge of Maryland, to which I am accredited as

your representative, I am pleased to have to report, for the first year of my stewardship, nothing more interesting or important than the general welfare, gratifying harmony and substantial progress of the craft. No unusual development has been witnessed in the jurisdiction, but steady growth has been observed, and the good providence of our Supreme Grand Master has not only averted every calamity but has made the year one of peace and prosperity.

It is a source of great rejoicing to the craft in Maryland, that their brethren in Maine have passed their seventy-fifth anniversary with so many evidences of vigorous life and productive energy. The historical address delivered on the occasion, in which the progress of your Grand Lodge is set forth so lucidly, has found many interested readers here.

It is also a source of real gratification that the views held here as to salutes and the Grand Honors, and enforced by a vote of the Grand Lodge, have the unqualified endorsement of your Committee on Correspondence. May the brethren in the two states always agree on everything that is right!

A comparison of population and masonic membership in the two jurisdictions discloses a state of affairs, which, while not reflecting on the brethren in Maryland, is certainly most creditable to those in Maine. Maine has on her rosters 21,809 active affiliated masons, out of a population of about 700,000, while Maryland has only 6,892 out of a population of more than a million.

The Grand Lodge of Maryland will meet on Tuesday, 12th May next. If there should be any thing to communicate, I shall be happy to have your commands by that time.

Tendering my best wishes for the continued welfare and happiness of yourself, personally and officially, and the Grand Lodge, as well as for every brother owing allegiance thereto, I remain,

Fraternally and obediently yours,

THOMAS H. HOOVER, *Representative.*

RESOLUTIONS.

I have received from WALTER F. BRADISH, District Deputy Grand Master of the Second District, the following resolutions, signed by a committee of the Convention of lodges of said district, held at Eastport, January 23, 1896, which I present for the consideration of the Grand Lodge:

Resolved, That the delegates from the lodges in Second Masonic District of Maine to the Grand Lodge next to be holden in Maine, be requested to urge upon that body the justice and

necessity of granting such dispensations as may enable any of the lodges in Second Masonic District of Maine, present at any convention called by, and presided over by, the District Deputy Grand Master for said Second Masonic District, to confer any degree upon actual candidates who are entitled to receive the degrees, instead of as at present conferred upon substitutes."

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

I desire to extend to R. W. Bro. STEPHEN BERRY, Grand Secretary, publicly, my acknowledgments and warmest thanks for many acts of kindness and labors performed for me during the past year. I also desire to thank most cordially the brethren and the various lodges for courtesies tendered during my term of office. I am pained to say that I have been obliged to decline many invitations which I should have been only too happy to have accepted, if circumstances would have allowed.

CONCLUSION.

And now, brethren, I am about to lay down the gavel, and have rendered you an account of my stewardship. I desire to assure you that I most fully appreciate the high honor conferred upon me in electing me to the honored position of Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine. I regard it as the greatest honor that can be conferred upon any one, however proud his titles or high his name may be. I have endeavored to faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of the position to the best of my ability, and with an eye single to the good of the fraternity. Let us remember that our order is founded upon the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, and that the lessons we are taught avail nothing unless we carry them with us into our daily lives, and show by our example that we practice and live up to the principles we teach. Let us remember that one kind word spoken to a brother in life is worth more than countless garlands placed upon his grave after death. If any of you know of a brother in distress or destitute, go to him, take him by the hand and speak words of comfort and consolation to him, aid him with

your purse, if possible, for by so doing you will be carrying out the lesson taught in Masonry and obeying the will of him who has said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

"So we pray in His good pleasure
When this world we've safely trod,
We may walk beside the river
Flowing from the throne of God."

Respectfully submitted,

AUG. B. FARNHAM, *Grand Master.*

Portland, May 5, 1896.

The address was referred to the Committee on Doings of Grand Officers.

The Grand Master also presented the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters, which were referred to the Committee on Condition of the Fraternity.

The books and papers of Columbia Lodge, U. D., were presented, and were referred to the Committee on Dispensations and Charters.

A petition was received from Blazing Star Lodge, No. 30, praying for permission to remove its place of meeting from Rumford Center to Rumford Falls, and it was referred to the same committee.

GRAND TREASURER'S REPORT.

R. W. MARQUIS F. KING submitted his annual report, which was referred to the Committee of Finance, as follows:

To the Master, Wardens and Members of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

The subscriber asks leave to present the following statement of his accounts, exhibiting the amount received and paid out during the masonic year, and on what account:

1895.

RECEIPTS.

May 7.	By cash balance,.....	\$ 9,513.44
8.	“ Horace H. Burbank, Grand Master,.....	11.00
	“ Aug. B. Farnham, Grand Master, dispensa- tions to eight lodges at various dates,.....	24.00
1896.		
April 1.	“ dividends and interest,.....	241.72
27.	“ from Grand Chapter, 3-10 expense Grand Sec- retary's office,.....	126.24
	“ from Grand Commandery, 2-10 expense Grand Secretary's office,.....	84.16
29.	“ from Stephen Berry, Grand Secretary,.....	26.71
	“ “ District Deputy Grand Masters, as follows:	
Mch. 16.	Walter F. Bradish, 2d District,.....	151.20
19.	Martin L. Porter, 20th District,.....	148.40
20.	Rodel A. Packard, 8th District,.....	187.80
	Freeland R. Bunker, 21st District,.....	337.40
23.	Harvey P. Hinckley, 4th District,.....	144.40
28.	Seth T. Snipe, 14th District,.....	294.00
30.	Edwin M. Johnston, 5th District,.....	250.40
	Henry S. Thorn, 22d District,.....	175.00
April 1.	Justin A. Walling, 3d District,.....	196.80
2.	Francis H. Wing, 13th District,.....	286.20
3.	Daniel W. Maxfield, 6th District,.....	292.40
7.	Alfred D. Sawyer, 1st District,.....	219.00
15.	Newell P. Noble, 15th District,.....	210.20
16.	Herbert N. Maxfield, 17th District,.....	569.80
	Frederick M. Richards, 9th District,.....	436.20
	James P. Lown, 18th District,.....	175.00
	Al Q. Mitchell, 23d District,.....	152.20
	Hollis E. Dennen, 24th District,.....	334.80
21.	Charles W. Stetson, 10th District,.....	251.80
	George W. Holmes, 16th District,.....	248.80
	Edwin A. Porter, 7th District,.....	151.60
24.	Franklin Walker, 12th District,.....	182.40
25.	Charles C. Hunt, 11th District,.....	402.00
29.	Isaac N. Hurd, 19th District,.....	243.00

\$16,068.67

1895.

DISBURSEMENTS.

May 9.	To cash paid orders of Committee on Pay Roll,....	1,958.68
	“ “ Horace H. Burbank, Grand Master, ex- penses 1894-1895,.....	45.21

To cash paid W. S. Smith, Grand Organist,	10.00
“ “ “ “ quartette at seventy-fifth anniversary,	12.00
“ “ Miss M. M. Laughlin, clerk to Committee on Pay Roll,	10.00
“ “ Edward P. Burnham, expense attending committee meetings,	6.00
“ “ Jarvis C. Billings, to correct error,	4.00
“ “ Warren O. Carney, Grand Tyler, services with assistants at Grand Lodge,	30.00
“ “ expense to Paris, laying corner stone,	6.45
“ “ Union Safe Deposit and Trust Co. surety on Treasurer's bond,	100.00
“ “ Board Masonic Trustees, use of halls,	125.00
“ “ Frank E. Sleeper, Grand Lecturer, services and expenses, 1894-1895,	42.75
“ “ services and expense, 1895-1896,	58.00
“ “ by vote of Grand Lodge,	25.00
“ “ George E. Raymond, Grand Lecturer, services and expenses, 1894-1895,	49.17
“ “ services and expenses, 1895-1896,	42.25
“ “ by vote of Grand Lodge,	25.00
“ “ Portland Savings Bank, for rent of Grand Lodge offices,	400.00
“ “ Mrs. O'Toole, for care of Grand Lodge offices,	61.50
“ “ W. S. Shorey, book for ritual committee,	2.00
“ “ C. E. Kempton, clerk of Committee on Ritual,	25.00
“ “ American Bank Note Co., diplomas,	140.00
“ “ C. O. Leach, preparing Lodge returns for binding,	10.00
“ “ Edward Small, binding Lodge returns,	20.00
“ “ Stephen Berry, Grand Secretary, salary,	500.00
“ “ postage, telegrams and expressage,	36.97
“ “ sundries for office,	10.14
“ “ printing circulars, &c,	34.03
“ “ envelopes and postal stickers,	11.25
“ “ printing report of exercises, &c,	115.80
“ “ printing Proceedings,	843.24
“ “ mailing Proceedings,	37.65
To cash paid for postage by Grand Treasurer,	4.17

To cash paid Josiah H. Drummond, Chairman Committee on Correspondence,	100.00
“ “ Marquis F. King, Grand Treasurer,	150.00
“ “ Aug. B. Farnham, Gr. Master, expenses,	64.06
“ “ D. D. G. M's their expenses as follows:	
Alfred D. Sawyer, 1st District,	28.85
Walter F. Bradish, 2d District,	34.70
Justin A. Walling, 3d District,	30.00
Harvey P. Hinckley, 4th District,	31.10
Edwin M. Johnston, 5th District,	35.00
Daniel W. Maxfield, 6th District,	17.16
Edwin A. Porter, 7th District,	28.60
Rodel A. Packard, 8th District,	15.75
Frederick M. Richards, 9th District,	14.20
Charles W. Stetson, 10th District,	15.25
Charles C. Hunt, 11th District,	5.00
Franklin Walker, 12th District,	18.50
Francis H. Wing, 13th District,	16.39
Seth T. Snipe, 14th District,	9.45
Newell P. Noble, 15th District,	33.70
George W. Holmes, 16th District,	36.55
Herbert N. Maxfield, 17th District,	27.65
Isaac N. Hurd, 19th District,	22.80
Martin L. Porter, 20th District,	36.45
Freeland R. Bunker, 21st District,	39.35
Henry S. Thorne, 22d District,	21.80
Ai Q. Mitchell, 23d District,	22.40
Hollis E. Dennen, 24th District,	18.95
	<hr/>
	\$5,674.92

Cash balance as follows:

Deposit in Portland Bank, bearing interest,	1040.40
“ “ Waterville Savings Bank, bearing interest,	518.78
“ “ Wiscasset “ “ “ “	525.40
“ “ Hancock County Savings Bank, bearing interest,	511.29
“ “ Augusta Savings Bank, bearing interest,	521.92
“ “ Brunswick Savings Bank, bearing interest,	525.40
“ “ Skowhegan Savings Bank, bearing interest,	517.65
“ “ Bath Savings Institution, bearing interest,	520.20
“ “ Gardiner Savings Bank, bearing interest,	520.20
“ “ Portland National Bank,	5192.51

Respectfully submitted, \$1,6068.67

MARQUIS F. KING, *Grand Treasurer.*

GRAND SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Grand Secretary presented his annual report, which was referred to the Committee on Doings of Grand Officers, as follows :

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, Tuesday, May 5, 1896.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The duties of Grand Secretary have been punctually attended to during the year, and the records and accounts have been approved by the Committee of Finance.

Two brethren have registered during the year, and there are now four upon the roll. Finding a tendency to believe that registration gives membership in Grand Lodge, I have prepared certificates to deliver as receipts to such brethren, wherein is placed a note giving their status. A copy is appended to this report.

I have been able to complete the file of our proceedings in the library of the Grand Lodge of England, with the exception of 1857, which we hope to obtain by purchase, and in return, their courteous Grand Librarian, HENRY SADLER, has completed our file of their proceedings back to 1869, when they first began to publish in octavo form,

Respectfully submitted,

STEPHEN BERRY, *Grand Secretary.*

GRIEVANCE.

The following charge against SAMUEL H HART, with various affidavits, was presented by Bro. DRUMMOND, and referred to the Committee on Grievances and Appeals.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Maine.

The undersigned respectfully represents and charges:

1. SAMUEL H. HART, now of parts unknown, was formerly a resident of Skowhegan in this state, and while so a resident, on the seventh day of September, A. D. 1889, duly applied to be initiated, passed and raised, in Somerset Lodge, No. 34, in said jurisdiction; and that said lodge, finding that it had jurisdiction of said HART, accepted him and conferred the several degrees in its gift upon him, so that he became a member of said lodge on the second day of December, A. D. 1889, and has always since remained, and now is, a member of said lodge.

2. That said HART afterwards removed to Buckley, in the state of Wash-

ington, and made himself known to the masons of that jurisdiction, as a mason in good standing in said Somerset Lodge.

3. That said HART thereby gained confidence of the masons of that vicinity, and, through them, of other people in said Buckley and vicinity.

4. That about the first day of November, A. D. 1891, he was president and sole manager of a certain bank in said Buckley, known as the Buckley State Bank, in which different parties, among whom were many masons, deposited money for safe keeping.

5. And the undersigned charges that said HART, on or about the eighteenth day of November, A. D. 1893, absconded from said Buckley, embezzling and taking away with him all of the moneys and available assets of said bank, thereby causing great loss to said depositors, having burned or otherwise destroyed all the books and papers of said bank.

6. That the proceedings of said HART, in thus absconding and carrying away the deposits of said bank, became a matter of public notoriety, and full accounts of his said crime were published in the newspapers; but, although a long time has elapsed, the said HART has never returned to dispute said reports or make any defence to, or explanation of the crimes thus publicly charged against him; but on the contrary has concealed his whereabouts and still conceals his whereabouts, so that it is impossible to give him notice of any charges which may be filed against him of any masonic body of which he was a member.

7. That the undersigned is informed and believes, and therefore charges, that said HART was overtaken and arrested in the vicinity of Baltimore, but by some technical defect in the papers was enabled to escape from arrest, and has ever since kept in hiding to avoid being arrested, and taken back to the State of Washington to answer for the offences with which he has been publicly charged.

8. That said HART has been guilty of gross unmasonic conduct, as set forth in the above specifications, and ought to be held to answer therefor.

9. That the undersigned is informed and believes, and therefore avers, that the lodge in Washington, within whose jurisdiction said crime has been committed, declines to proceed against said HART on the ground that he is not a member of said lodge, but a member of Somerset Lodge in this jurisdiction.

10. That in consequence of the absconding of said HART, and having no known place of abode, it is doubtful whether said Somerset Lodge can entertain charges and proceed to the trial and conviction of said HART thereon.

11. The undersigned therefore prays that this Grand Lodge, considering the great scandal and disgrace to Masonry occasioned by the conduct of said HART as above set forth, and the fact that he has absconded and keeps

in hiding, although knowing that charges of serious crimes have been publicly made against him, will take jurisdiction thereof and proceed hereon as the interests of the fraternity and justice to said HART may require.

Dated this twelfth day of March, A. D. 1896.

WM. R. G. ESTES.

FINANCE.

BRO. ALBRO E. CHASE presented the following :

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 5, 1896.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution of this Grand Lodge, the Committee of Finance have examined the bills against this Grand Lodge and have passed the same; the accounts of the Grand Treasurer have been audited and are found to be correct and properly avouched for; the records of the Grand Secretary have been examined and are found to be properly kept.

On page 247 of the Proceedings for the year 1895, the amount carried out against the item entitled, "Cash paid bills of District Deputy Grand Masters is \$688.17"; and this amount should be \$678.17. The difference of the ten dollars should be added to the item of "Cash on hand to balance account, \$4,503.44," making that to be \$4,513.44.

The receipts for the past have been as follows:

May 7, 1895. Cash on hand in several Savings

Banks,	\$5,000.00
Cash on hand in First National Bank, ..	4,513.44
Receipts for the year,	6,555.23
	<hr/> \$16,068.67
Expenditures for the year,	\$5,674.92

May 5, 1896. Cash in several Savings Banks,

5,201.24
Cash in Portland National Bank,
5,192.51
<hr/> \$16,068.67

The Charity Fund consists of—

25 shares Canal National Bank,	\$2,500.00
37 shares Casco National Bank,	3,700.00
14 shares First National Bank,	1,400.00
11 shares National Traders Bank,	1,100.00
4 City of Portland Bonds,	3,500.00
1 Leeds and Farmington Bond,	1,000.00
1 Town of Brunswick Bond,	1,000.00
1 Delaware Water Bond,	500.00
1 Denver City Cable R. R. Bond,	1,000.00
1 Maine Central R. R. Bond,	500.00

1 City of Columbus Bond,.....	500.00
1 Muncie Water Bond,.....	500.00
1 City of Belfast Loan,.....	1,000.00
3 Rockland Water Bonds,.....	1,500.00
Deposited in Maine Savings Bank,.....	1,976.78
Deposited in Portland Savings Bank,.....	2,056.60
Deposited in Saco & Biddeford Savings Bank,.....	1,895.02
Deposited in Union Safe Deposit & Trust Co.,.....	1,605.83
Total amount in the Charity Fund,.....	\$27,234.21

Your committee can not close this report without calling the attention of the District Deputy Grand Masters to the great necessity of having the returns of the lodges in the hands of the Grand Treasurer before the fifteenth of each month of April, so that he, thereby, may have time enough to properly prepare his reports for this committee without the burning of too much midnight oil. Furthermore, it would greatly expedite matters if those officers would, with their reports, send in their bills against the Grand Lodge, that the same might be paid and out of the way by the last of each April.

The committee recommend for compensation for services for the year ending May 1, 1897, the following sums:

To the Grand Treasurer,.....	\$150.00
To the Chairman Committee on Correspondence,.....	100.00
To the Grand Lecturer,.....	25.00

And for the payment of the bond to be given by the Grand Treasurer a sum not exceeding \$100.00.

The committee would further recommend that from the amount deposited in the several Savings Banks in the hands of the Grand Lodge there be and hereby is transferred to the Charity Fund the amounts on deposit in the following named Banks: Waterville, Wiscasset, Hancock County, Augusta, Brunswick, Skowhegan, Bath Savings Institution and Gardiner Savings Institution.

Fraternally submitted,

EDWARD P. BURNHAM, }
ALBRO E. CHASE, } *Committee.*

The report, and with it the report of the Grand Treasurer, were accepted, and the recommendations were adopted.

PAY ROLL.

Bro. CHASE, for the Committee of Finance, presented the following:

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 5, 1896.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The Committee of Finance, to whom was referred the following motion found in the proceedings for the year 1895, page 245, to wit:

Voted, that the Committee of Finance be instructed to revise the mileage schedule and to report at the next annual communication, beg leave to report that they have given much time to the consideration of the subject matter and are of the opinion that such revision is necessary, from the fact that the railroad facilities are now different from what they were when the mileage schedule now in use was established: but, because of their inability to ascertain the rates from lodges in towns not upon the direct lines of travel, and because the new proposed railroad line along the shore will affect many lodges, we ask that the committee be allowed another year to complete their investigations, and that the representatives from the several lodges call upon Bro. CHASE, of the committee, and ascertain if the rates already obtained are correct.

Fraternally submitted,

EDWARD P. BURNHAM, }
ALBRO E. CHASE, } *Committee.*

The report was accepted, and further time granted, as requested.

A petition was presented from Composite Lodge, No. 168, at La Grange, for permission to remove the location of the lodge to Howland, a distance of eleven miles. It was referred to the Committee on Dispensations and Charters.

A petition was presented from delegates of the five lodges in the Second Masonic District, praying for authority to use actual candidates at conventions for work, instead of substitutes. It was referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence.

A petition was presented from Harwood Lodge, No. 91, at Machias, praying for a certified copy of its charter, the original having been destroyed by fire. It was referred to the Committee on Dispensations and Charters.

RETURNS.

The Grand Secretary submitted the report of the Committee on Returns which was accepted, as follows:

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, Tuesday, May 5, 1896.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your Committee on Returns would report that returns have been received from all the the 191 chartered lodges, and from the two under dispensation.

The following summary shows the comparison with the last four years:

	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Initiated,.....	878	838	797	850	831
Raised,.....	839	827	795	823	837
Affiliated.....	155	123	108	124	137
Re-instated,.....	85	63	66	52	50
Dimitted,.....	252	243	240	224	209
Died,.....	367	321	397	372	366
Suspended,.....	4	3	0	1	0
Expelled,.....	2	2	1	2	3
Susp. from membership,.....	254	195	211	207	283
Dep. of membership,.....	28	28	4	6	22
Number of members,.....	21,177	21,487	21,564	21,809	21,953
Rejected,.....	233	225	223	172	222

The number of dimitted has again fallen off. The suspensions from membership have increased, owing to a healthy cleaning up of lists. The gain is 144, equal to two-thirds of one per cent. The death rate is $16\frac{3}{4}$ to the thousand.

The accompanying abstract will show the work in detail

Respectfully submitted,

STEPHEN BERRY,
GEORGE W. SMITH,
WALTER F. BRADISH. } *Committee.*

ABSTRACT OF RETURNS, 1896.

Nos.	LODGES.	Initiated.	Raised.	Affiliated.	Re-initiated.	Dimitted.	Died.	Suspended.	Expelled.	N. P. Dues.		No. Members.	Rejected.
										Suspended.	D. of Mem.		
1	Portland,.....	10	9	4	0	2	6	0	0	2	0	330	5
2	Warren,.....	4	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	98	0
3	Lincoln,.....	6	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	68	0
4	Hancock,.....	1	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	69	0
5	Kennebec,.....	7	7	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	147	2
6	Amity,.....	4	5	1	0	0	5	0	0	15	1	186	0
7	Eastern,.....	3	7	0	1	0	5	0	0	26	0	128	3
8	United,.....	3	3	2	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	125	1
9	Saco,.....	3	3	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	121	5
10	Rising Virtue,.....	3	2	2	1	0	5	0	0	3	0	155	6
11	Pythagorean,.....	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	96	0
12	Cumberland,.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69	0
13	Oriental,.....	8	8	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	152	0
14	Solar,.....	6	6	2	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	260	0
15	Orient,.....	3	2	2	0	4	2	0	0	2	0	166	0
16	St. George,.....	3	2	1	2	0	2	0	0	7	0	101	0
17	Ancient Landmark,...	16	17	2	0	3	5	0	0	6	0	417	10
18	Oxford,.....	3	4	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	165	0
19	Felicity,.....	1	2	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	112	0
20	Maine,.....	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	110	2
21	Oriental Star,.....	5	5	3	0	6	5	0	0	7	0	180	1
22	York,.....	1	1	1	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	113	0
23	Freeport,.....	3	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	135	0
24	Phoenix,.....	1	2	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	175	0
25	Temple,.....	4	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	78	0
26	Village,.....	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	103	0
27	Adoniram,.....	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	60	0
28	Northern Star,.....	6	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	11	0	86	1
29	Tranquil,.....	10	10	4	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	246	2
30	Blazing Star,.....	17	17	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	105	1
31	Union,.....	7	7	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	110	0
32	Hermon,.....	13	13	5	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	326	0
33	Waterville,.....	7	6	3	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	213	7
34	Somerset,.....	5	7	1	0	3	4	0	0	1	1	181	1
35	Bethlehem,.....	17	16	4	1	4	5	0	0	5	0	275	4
36	Casco,.....	3	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	162	0
37	Washington,.....	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	89	3
38	Harmony,.....	7	5	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	135	0
39	Penobscot,.....	7	6	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	141	4
40	Lygonia,.....	9	12	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	237	1
41	Morning Star,.....	6	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	114	1
42	Freedom,.....	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	32	0
43	Alna,.....	3	3	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	137	3
44	Piscataquis,.....	5	7	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	112	4
45	Central,.....	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	115	0
46	St. Croix,.....	2	1	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	186	0
47	Dunlap,.....	8	8	2	2	1	5	0	0	0	0	238	3
48	Lafayette,.....	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	85	0
49	Meridian Splendor,...	2	2	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	82	0
50	Aurora,.....	9	9	4	1	0	5	0	0	18	1	286	4
51	St. John's,.....	8	8	1	0	0	5	0	0	10	0	83	2

Nos.	Lodges.	In.	R.	A.	R.	D.	D.	S.	E.	N. P. S.	Dues.	Mem.	R.
52	Mosaic,.....	6	7	1	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	153	0
53	Rural,.....	5	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	0	44	1
54	Vassalboro,.....	2	2	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	65	0
55	Fraternal,.....	7	7	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	76	0
56	Mount Moriah,.....	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	47	0
57	King Hiram,.....	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	85	0
58	Unity,.....	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	1
59	Mr. Hope, (ch. sur.).....	6	5	0	1	3	5	0	0	14	0	174	3
60	Star in the East,.....	3	3	1	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	112	0
61	King Solomon's,.....	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	96	0
62	King David's,.....	3	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	119	1
63	Richmond,.....	10	9	0	0	3	3	0	0	15	0	99	1
64	Pacific,.....	3	5	0	0	1	2	0	0	5	0	119	0
65	Mystic,.....	3	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	81	1
66	Mechanics',.....	3	3	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	85	0
67	Blue Mountain,.....	3	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	7	0	101	0
68	Mariners',.....	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	110	0
69	Howard,.....	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	62	0
70	Standish,.....	5	6	0	1	0	1	0	0	8	0	83	4
71	Rising Sun,.....	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	1
72	Pioneer,.....	6	5	2	2	3	6	0	0	0	0	211	1
73	Tyrian,.....	5	5	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	133	0
74	Bristol,.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69	0
75	Plymouth,.....	2	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	59	0
76	Arundel,.....	3	5	0	1	1	4	0	0	4	0	134	1
77	Tremont,.....	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	131	0
78	Crescent,.....	8	8	2	4	2	3	0	0	0	0	288	0
79	Rockland,.....	8	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	106	5
80	Keystone,.....	5	6	0	1	3	7	0	0	3	0	263	3
81	Atlantic,.....	4	6	3	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	194	0
82	St. Paul's,.....	15	10	0	2	2	13	0	0	0	0	211	4
83	St. Andrew's,.....	7	9	2	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	112	3
84	Eureka,.....	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	103	0
85	Star in the West,.....	3	3	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	0	163	2
86	Temple,.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63	0
87	Benevolent,.....	2	2	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	98	1
88	Narraguagus,.....	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	78	2
89	Island,.....	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	164	0
90	H. Abiff, (ch. rev.).....	2	2	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	148	2
91	Harwood,.....	14	13	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	131	6
92	Siloam,.....	5	3	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	104	3
93	Horeb,.....	7	5	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	79	0

Nos.	Lodges.	In.	R.	A.	R.	D.	D.	S.	E.	N. P. S.	Dues. D.	Mem.	R.
106	Tuscan,.....	6	6	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	125	1
107	Day Spring,.....	4	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	47	0
108	Relief, (<i>ch. rev.</i>).....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
109	Mount Kineo,.....	3	2	4	1	2	2	0	0	11	0	151	0
110	Monmouth,.....	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	3	0	97	4
111	Liberty,.....	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	100	1
112	Eastern Frontier,.....	3	1	3	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	101	0
113	Messalonskee,.....	2	1	1	0	3	3	0	0	1	0	91	1
114	Polar Star,.....	6	6	0	1	6	2	0	0	14	0	230	3
115	Buxton,.....	2	2	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	95	0
116	Lebanon,.....	1	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	3	0	81	2
117	Greenleaf,.....	5	5	3	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	182	1
118	Drummond,.....	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	51	0
119	Pownal,.....	8	8	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	93	0
120	Meduncook, (<i>ch. sr.</i>).....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
121	Acacia,.....	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	83	0
122	Marine,.....	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	125	4
123	Franklin,.....	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	6	0	79	0
124	Olive Branch,.....	3	3	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	76	0
125	Meridian,.....	5	4	0	0	3	5	0	0	2	0	104	2
126	Timothy Chase,.....	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	140	0
127	Presumpscot,.....	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	92	0
128	Eggemoggin,.....	3	3	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	88	0
129	Quantabacook,.....	3	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	107	0
130	Trinity,.....	3	1	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	7	97	1
131	Lookout,.....	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	33	0
132	Mount Tire'm,.....	2	2	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	79	0
133	Asylum,.....	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	58	0
134	Trojan, (<i>consol'd</i>).....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
135	Riverside,.....	2	3	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	108	0
136	Ionic, (<i>ch. sur.</i>).....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
137	Kenduskeag,.....	5	5	1	0	3	4	0	0	0	1	94	0
138	Lewy's Island,.....	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	112	0
139	Archon,.....	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	4	0	45	0
140	Mount Desert,.....	4	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	110	0
141	Augusta,.....	17	18	7	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	221	3
142	Ocean,.....	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	46	2
143	Preble,.....	5	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	84	8
144	Seaside,.....	12	13	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	142	1
145	Moses Webster,.....	3	3	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	192	5
146	Seabaticook,.....	2	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	7	0	91	1
147	Evening Star,.....	4	3	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	82	0
148	Forest,.....	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	111	0
149	Doric,.....	4	4	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	103	1
150	Rabboni,.....	9	10	2	0	4	1	0	0	2	0	163	2
151	Excelsior,.....	3	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	46	0
152	Crooked River,.....	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	87	0
153	Delta,.....	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	68	0
154	Mystic Tie,.....	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	61	0
155	Ancient York,.....	6	6	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	105	5
156	Wilton,.....	3	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	111	3
157	Cambridge,.....	3	3	0	0	2	2	0	0	3	0	75	0
158	Anchor,.....	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	40	0
159	Esoteric,.....	18	16	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	165	4

Nos.	Lodges.	In.	R.	A.	R.	D.	D.	S.	E.	N. P. S.	Dues. D.	Mem.	R.
160	Parian,.....	3	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	90	1
161	Carrabassett,.....	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	94	1
162	Arion,.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	0
163	Pleasant River,.....	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	87	2
164	Webster,.....	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	51	1
165	Molunkus,.....	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	0
166	Neguemkeag,.....	5	5	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	39	0
167	Whitney,.....	3	3	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	78	1
168	Composite,.....	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	59	0
169	Shepherd's River,...	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	41	0
170	Caribou,.....	7	7	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	100	0
171	Naskeag,.....	3	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	69	0
172	Pine Tree,.....	2	3	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	124	0
173	Pleiades,.....	5	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	126	2
174	Lynde,.....	3	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	65	0
175	Baskahegan,.....	2	2	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	108	0
176	Palestine, <i>Consol'd.</i>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
177	Rising Star,.....	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	67	0
178	Ancient Brothers',..	3	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	130	0
179	Yorkshire,.....	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	64	3
180	Hiram,.....	8	10	1	0	1	2	0	0	3	0	157	3
181	Reuel Washburn,...	<i>Co</i>	<i>nsol'd</i>	<i>at</i>	<i>ed.</i>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
182	Granite,.....	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	81	0
183	Deering,.....	9	10	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	188	0
184	Naval,.....	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	71	0
185	Bar Harbor,.....	5	5	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	118	3
186	Warren Phillips,...	11	14	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	150	1
187	Ira Berry,.....	5	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	54	0
188	Jonesport,.....	6	8	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	90	0
189	Knox,.....	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	56	0
190	Springvale,.....	3	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	76	0
191	Davis,.....	5	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	87	0
192	Winter Harbor,....	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	0
193	Washburn,.....	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	5	0	49	2
194	Euclid,.....	14	11	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	102	1
195	Reliance,.....	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	113	1
196	Bay View,.....	8	6	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	54	0
197	Aroostook,.....	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	79	5
198	St. Aspinquid,....	2	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	0
199	Bingham,.....	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	67	4
	Columbia, U. D.,...	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	2
	Mt. Bigelow, U. D.,	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	2
		831	837	137	50	209	366	0	3	283	22	21,953	222

CLOTHING.

Bro. CHASE, for the Committee of Finance, reported as follows:

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 5, 1896.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The Committee on Finance, to whom was given the duty to provide new

clothing for this Grand Lodge, in accordance with the motion in the proceedings for the year 1895, page 249, have given their attention to that matter and found themselves placed in a position out of which they could not readily see their way. They were instructed to procure new clothing of the description prescribed in the constitution, and yet there was left for the action of this Grand Lodge at this session certain amendments to the constitution, looking to a change in those requirements therein provided.

In view of this situation, your committee did not think that any purchase should be made by them. But the committee have made such progress in the matter that if the Grand Lodge shall, at this communication, determine this vexed question, it would not be a very long time before the clothing determined upon could be furnished.

Fraternally submitted,

EDWARD P. BURNHAM, }
ALBRO E. CHASE, } *Committee.*

The report was laid on the table.

GREECE.

A communication from the Grand Lodge of Greece was presented, and was referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence.

LANSDALE.

A photograph of a diploma issued by Lodge 358, meeting at the Golden Anchor, Artichoke Lane, London, (now Sincerity Lodge, No. 174,) dated 22d November, 1771, to Thomas Lancaster Lansdale, was received from Bro. JOHN MARSHALL BROWN, and accepted with thanks.

Thomas Lancaster Lansdale was the eldest son of Isaac and Eleanor Lansdale, and was born at "Enfield Chase," the family estate, in Prince George's Co., Maryland, Nov. 10, 1748.

In 1780 he was a Captain in the 4th Regiment of the 2d Maryland Brigade, and was commissioned Major in the "Maryland line," to date from Feb. 19, 1781.

From letters in the possession of his descendants it appears that he was favored with the confidence and affection of Washington.

While at winter quarters in New Jersey, in 1781, he met at the residence of Col. Van Horne, on the Raritan, Cornelia, his second daughter, whom he married the following year.

This certificate became the property of his daughter Violetta, who married Samuel Sprigg, Governor of Maryland, then of her daughter Sally, who married Mr. Wm. Thos. Carroll, of Washington, then of her daughter Alida, who married General John Marshall Brown, of Portland, Maine.

MISSISSIPPI PROPOSITION.

Bro. DRUMMOND, for the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, reported as follows:

IN GRAND LODGE OF MAINE, May 5, 1896.

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, to which was referred the proposition of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi to establish among the Grand Lodges uniform rules in relation to jurisdiction over rejected candidates, ask leave to report.

The rule proposed by the Grand Lodge of Mississippi has been rejected by so many Grand Lodges that there is no hope of its becoming a uniform rule, and, therefore, your committee do not deem it expedient to discuss it.

In justice to its distinguished author, however, we should say that some of the objections to it arose from a misapprehension of its meaning.

The reasons, which caused the Grand Lodge of Mississippi to propose this rule, exist to-day and are stronger than ever before. The question of jurisdiction over rejected candidates threatens to disturb the relations between the Grand Lodges of this country, and the danger of such disturbance grows more imminent as the years roll on. It has already caused dissensions and protests, and it is only because some Grand Lodges do not have "the courage of their convictions" or are willing to endure what they deem a wrong rather than disturb the harmony of the craft, that a disruption of masonic relations between some of our sister Grand Lodges has not already taken place. Such disruption must surely come, and it is only a question of a brief time when it *will* come, unless some common understanding is reached in relation to this matter. Our own Grand Lodge is not exempt from this danger. Your committee, therefore, have deemed it important to examine the whole question and submit the result to the Grand Lodge.

Strange as it will appear to the masons of Maine, the first question is, "What is the meaning of the action of the lodge in balloting upon the petition of a candidate, especially in case of a rejection?" Astonishing as it is, it is nevertheless a fact that the theory recently advanced is that a rejection means no more than that some member of the lodge, for reasons of his own, does not desire the candidate to become a member of his lodge;

they were kept back he went on in the course which he had marked out and called upon the Grand Lodge to take action in relation to the wilful disobedience of the parties who refused to surrender the property of the lodge. Moreover, he received a petition from the minority of the lodge for the return of the charter. The charter was accordingly returned, and the lodge starts out again "with renewed vigor and full of hope for future prosperity." We trust that the lesson, which was well deserved, will have its proper effect.

In conclusion he refers eloquently and feelingly to the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the reign of "our most gracious Majesty the Queen."

The Grand Secretary reports that on account of the surrender of two warrants and the depression in business, the total membership had fallen off twenty-four.

The reports of the District Deputies show a very good condition of the lodges and the almost universal prevalence of harmony. We note that one of them speaks of "the prescribed plans of work," and says that the scarcity of those "plans" has caused a great drawback in establishing perfection in the work. This is a new phrase to us, but we presume it means what in other jurisdictions are known as "ciphers." He instructed the workmen that it was illegal and unmasonic to draw "private plans," but he adds:

"At the same time, I must assert, with all due respect to the powers that be, that it is unreasonable to expect business men, widely separated from each other in country places, to attain that proficiency in the work to which they should attain without proper forms of procedure to go by. Nor can exactness and uniformity be preserved without these forms. If Grand Lodge had declared that they should not be used at all, the case would be somewhat different, but—as it has allowed them to be in existence—some method should be adopted to give possession of these plans to those entitled to use them; otherwise, the duties of the Worshipful Master cannot be performed according to sections 2 and 3 on page 70 of the constitution, and the alternative must be imperfect building or assimilation to that of a neighboring jurisdiction. After five years of importunity, King Solomon succeeded in getting one more plan by imploring, by beseeching, by insistence as an absolute necessity and by the payment of \$3.00. The Wor. Master, Rt. Wor. Bro. S. H. Edey, Present Grand J. Warden, made personal and persistent effort or he would not have been successful. I believe Eddy and Argenteuil are in a worse condition still. I would respectfully suggest to this M. W. Grand Lodge that while proper care is strictly required to be observed and the plans are compelled to be kept in rigid security, some method should be adopted whereby our lodges may be properly equipped without such vexatious delays as those to which we—in this district—have been forced to submit."

The statement in relation to "King Solomon" at first caused us to think that our Right Worshipful Brother had gone back a good many years for a precedent, but further examination satisfies us that that was the name of a lodge and not of the old King so often spoken of in Freemasonry.

provided otherwise, or any masonic writer held otherwise, until within less than forty years, it has escaped the notice of your committee after as careful and minute examination as we have had the time and means to make.

But as this proposition has been vehemently denied, with a confidence born apparently of intuition rather than of an examination of the authorities, your committee deem it important to state the result of our examination.

In the first place the masonic jurists of the last generation were unanimous in their statement of the law, precisely as we have just given it.

JOHN W. SIMONS, in his work on "*Masonic Jurisprudence*," (1864) says:

"It is the duty of the committee not only to satisfy themselves that the candidate is in possession of the necessary qualifications, but that he has not previously been rejected by any other lodge; for in that case, he could not be received (without the consent of the rejecting lodge, and not even then,) till after the lapse of a certain time provided for in the local regulations of the several Grand Lodges, six months in some, one year in others. The reason for this may be found in the fifth of the Ancient Charges: 'None shall discover envy at the prosperity of a brother, nor supplant him, or put him out of his work, if he be capable to finish the same; for no man can finish another's work so much to the Lord's profit, unless he be thoroughly acquainted with the designs and draughts of him that began it.' Practically, however, it arises from the necessities of multiplied lodges and jurisdictions. Its intention is, not only to preserve harmony among the lodges, but to shield the craft against the wiles of improper persons, determined to force themselves upon it at all hazards. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, the rejected candidate and his friends feel that a grievous injustice has been done him, and, in the spirit of human nature, set about the discovery of some means of retaliation. Without stopping to point out the unjustifiable and unmasonic nature of such proceedings, it is only necessary to say, that although, in some cases, there may be injustice—for masons are not devoid of failings—it must not be forgotten that the ballot, being 'strictly and inviolably secret,' we cannot lawfully inquire into the cause of rejection, and can, therefore, only deal with it as a fact for which we are not responsible. Moreover, it is always of greater importance that the craft should be protected against the admission of improper material, and that peace and harmony should be preserved in the lodge, than it is that any man, however distinguished, should be admitted to its privileges; hence the legal delay can never work harm, nor can there be any shadow of injustice in allowing the lodge to which the application was first made, and that thus acquired jurisdiction, to retain it, till time and investigation shall have convinced them of the propriety of their first act, or of its reversal, on the presentation of a new petition. Mistakes are common to all men and bodies of men, and it does sometimes happen that a black ball is cast in error, as in a case of mistaken identity; but this does not alter the fact of the rejection, nor is there any remedy but the presentation of a new petition when the proper time has arrived."

Dr. MACKAY, in his work on *Jurisprudence* (1859), says:

"When a candidate for initiation into the mysteries of Freemasonry has been rejected in the manner described in the last chapter, he is necessarily and consequently placed in a position towards the fraternity which he had not before occupied, and which position requires some examination.

"In the first place, there can be no re-consideration of his application on a mere vote of re-consideration by the lodge. * * *

"In the next place, he can apply to no other lodge for initiation. Having

been once rejected by a certain lodge, he is forever debarred the privilege of applying to any other for admission. This law is implicitly derived from the regulations which forbid lodges to interfere with each other's work. The candidate, as I have already observed, is to be viewed in our speculative system as 'material brought up for the building of the temple.' The act of investigating the fitness or unfitness of that material, constitutes a part of masonic labor, and when a lodge has commenced that labor, it is considered discourteous for any other to interfere with it. This sentiment of courtesy, which is in the true spirit of Masonry, is frequently inculcated in the ancient masonic codes. Thus, in the Gothic Constitutions, it is laid down that 'a brother shall not supplant his Fellow in the work'; the 'ancient charges at makings,' adopted in the time of James II, also direct that 'no Master or Fellow supplant others of their work'; and the charges approved in 1722 are still more explicit in directing that none shall attempt to finish the work begun by his brother."

CHARLES W. MOORE, of Massachusetts, WILLIAM P. MELLE, of Mississippi, and WILLIAM S. ROCKWELL, of Georgia, held to the same views. To these names might be added others, but the fact that the leading masons of Massachusetts, New York, South Carolina, Georgia and Mississippi held the same views upon this question, shows conclusively the *consensus* of masonic opinion in the time when they lived.

Turning now to the codes of masonic law in the different jurisdictions, we find the same rule almost universally prevailing until within a few years.

It would be beyond the limits of this report to give a full report of the law and usage in the different Grand Lodges in the United States, from their organization; but the following is sufficient to show what the law formerly was:

ALABAMA, 1856. A rejected candidate cannot be received by any lodge without the consent of the rejecting lodge.

ARIZONA, 1884. See California.

ARKANSAS, 1875. "A rejected candidate for initiation cannot be accepted by any other lodges without the consent of the lodge which rejected him."

CALIFORNIA, 1883. And her daughter Grand Lodges, Nevada and Arizona, make rejection a bar for one year, after which the lodge which has territorial jurisdiction, can receive him.

COLORADO, 1888. Same as California; but cannot apply within the year to any other than the rejecting lodge without its unanimous consent.

CONNECTICUT. In 1795 this Grand Lodge adopted the following regulations:

"Resolved, That if a candidate for initiation shall make application to be admitted into any lodge within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, when his usual place of residence is nearer to another lodge than that to which he shall so apply, his name, if the lodge direct, may be entered on the books; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of said lodge to communicate information in writing, without delay, of such application, to the Secretary of the other lodge, and request of him to know whether there is any objection from that lodge to the admission of the applicant. And if it shall be determined in open stated lodge, that there are any real objections to his

person or character, which determination shall be had by ballot, in the same way as for the initiation of a candidate; then it shall be the indispensable duty of the Secretary of the lodge last mentioned, forthwith to transmit a copy of the proceedings of said lodge on this subject, to the Secretary of the lodge to whom application was first made, and the applicant shall not be admitted. And no candidate, under the circumstances above mentioned, shall be initiated within the term of three months from and after the time he was first proposed. This will not be considered as affecting any person living within the limits of a town where there is a regularly established lodge, though he may be nearer to a lodge in another town, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

"*Resolved*, That whenever a candidate for initiation is proposed to any lodge within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, and not accepted, it shall be the duty of the Secretary, as soon as may be, to communicate information thereof to the Grand Secretary, to be by him transmitted to the several lodges in this state. Provided, nevertheless, that no communication is to be made of any one who should be rejected merely on account of non-age."

In 1801, a lodge complained to the Grand Lodge that another lodge had initiated a candidate living within the limits of the complaining lodge who had been previously rejected by it, and that these facts were known to the other lodge. The other lodge was summoned to appear before the Grand Lodge, but at the hearing it was found that the accused lodge did not have knowledge of the rejection and was, in consequence, only censured.

In 1807, a vote of a lodge was unanimously adopted prohibiting a certain man from visiting the lodge and declaring that they would not treat him as a mason on account of "the vileness of his character": a statement accompanied the vote, that he had been rejected by the lodge, but had gone to New York and been initiated: thereupon the Grand Secretary was directed to notify all the lodges "that they may consider and treat him as expelled from the masonic society."

DELAWARE, 1888. May apply to same lodge after one year.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1888. Cannot be received by another lodge till after one year, and then only with the consent of rejecting lodge by a two-thirds vote.

FLORIDA, 1885. Rejection a bar for one year and no longer.

GEORGIA, 1891. The old law still in force.

IDAHO, 1886. Rejection a bar for six months only.

ILLINOIS, 1845. The following report was adopted by the Grand Lodge:

"Your committee are of the opinion that it would be a wholesome rule for this Grand Lodge to observe, that no candidate who has been once rejected should be balloted for in the same lodge, unless there be present all who were present at the time of his rejection: and not in another lodge in this jurisdiction in less than twelve months, and not thereafter, without permission of the Grand Master and of the lodge which rejected him."

INDIANA. In 1824, Zif Lodge complained to the Grand Lodge that Abrams Lodge of Kentucky had initiated one of its rejected candidates. The complaint was referred to a committee, which reported the following resolution,

which was adopted by the Grand Lodge, which directed a copy of it to be sent to the Grand Master of Kentucky, with the request that Kentucky should also adopt it:

"*Resolved*, As the opinion of this Grand Lodge, that it is unmasonic for any lodge working under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, to initiate any person applying for the same, when it shall be known to such subordinate lodge that the candidate has been rejected by another lodge, without the consent and approbation of the lodge by which he was rejected."

This resolution was published as a general regulation, and was published in 1845 as "having yet the force of law." How much longer it was in force we have not ascertained.

INDIAN TERRITORY, 1887. Cannot apply to the rejecting lodge till after one year: we do not find any provision in relation to other lodges.

IOWA, 1844. No lodge can "act upon the petition of any one who has at any time before been rejected, except all the members should be present who acted in the instance of the rejection, or by special dispensation of the Grand Lodge."

KANSAS, 1855. Same as California; but in 1889, a petition to the same lodge can be received after six months.

KENTUCKY. The Grand Master replied to the Grand Lodge of Indiana, that he had no knowledge of the letter till he saw it in the Proceedings: that the following rule had been adopted "as early as 1818":

"After a candidate has been rejected by one lodge, he cannot knowingly be received by another without the unanimous consent of the lodge which rejected him." [Indiana Reprint, p. 183.]

In view of the fraternal character of the response, the Grand Lodge of Indiana voted not to press the complaint further.

We do not know how long this law was in force, but we do find that this Grand Lodge *published* the names of rejected candidates down to 1851. Why?

LOUISIANA, 1893. No other lodge can receive a petition unless it is *recommended* by five members of the rejecting lodge, among whom must be at least two of the chair officers.

MAINE, 1844. No other lodge can receive a petition unless it is *recommended* by the Master and Wardens and three other members of the rejecting lodge.

MARYLAND. Only by consent of rejecting lodge.

MASSACHUSETTS. Same as Maine, as far back as we can trace the law and usage.

MICHIGAN, 1890. Not without the unanimous consent of the rejecting lodge.

MINNESOTA, 1887. Rejection a bar for six months only.

MISSISSIPPI, 1891. Lodges have perpetual jurisdiction over all rejected candidates for initiation.

MISSOURI, 1882. A bar for one year and no longer.

MONTANA, 1887. Only by consent of rejecting lodge by a three-fourths vote.

NEBRASKA, 1857. "No lodge shall initiate into the mysteries of the craft any person whomsoever, without first being satisfied by a test, or otherwise, that the candidate has not made application to some other lodge and been rejected; and if it shall appear that he has been rejected, then the lodge must be satisfactorily convinced that such rejection has not been on account of any circumstances that ought to preclude him from the benefits of Masonry; otherwise, the interdiction is positive and peremptory."

NEVADA. See California.

NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1869. Only by consent of rejecting lodge by a unanimous vote.

NEW MEXICO. Bar for one year only.

NEW YORK, 1894, and always. Only by consent of rejecting lodge by a majority vote.

NORTH CAROLINA, 1888. Bar for one year, and the by-law seems to assume that the petition will be presented only to the same lodge.

NORTH DAKOTA, 1889. Bar for six months and no longer.

OHIO, 1882. Only by consent of rejecting lodge by unanimous vote.

OKLAHOMA, 1893. Not at all within six months: and after that only by consent of rejecting lodge.

OREGON, 1895. "No petition shall be entertained by any lodge in this jurisdiction from an applicant who has been previously rejected by any lodge, without the consent of the lodge which rejected him."

PENNSYLVANIA. Rejecting lodge has perpetual jurisdiction.

RHODE ISLAND, Adopted March 5, 1802, a revised constitution, *drafted by* THOMAS SMITH WEBB, which provides that "No petition shall be received in any lodge from a person, who has previously been rejected in another lodge, unless it be accompanied with a recommendation granted by a unanimous ballot of the members present at a regular meeting of the lodge in which such rejection may have occurred; but no lodge shall grant such a recommendation, nor any motion made for that purpose, in favor of a candidate who has been rejected by more than two votes."

SOUTH CAROLINA. Now and always, rejecting lodge has perpetual jurisdiction.

SOUTH DAKOTA. Bar, only for a limited time; presumably the same as in North Dakota.

TENNESSEE, 1842. "No candidate for initiation, who shall be rejected by any lodge under this jurisdiction, shall be eligible to a second recom-

mentation in the lodge in which he was rejected, or any other lodge under this jurisdiction, until the expiration of twelve months, unless the brother or brothers objecting shall, in open lodge, withdraw his or their objections."

This was inserted in the revised constitution and is the first and earliest departure from the old law that we have found.

TEXAS, 1878. A rejected candidate can apply to another lodge only by a waiver of jurisdiction by the rejecting lodge, and a refusal to waive is a second rejection.

UTAH. Bar, only for a limited time.

VERMONT, 1887. No constitutional provision; but a decision in 1886 that a rejection is a bar for one year and no longer.

VIRGINIA, 1889. Rejected candidate cannot apply to any lodge until after one year, and then only to the rejecting lodge, if he resides in its jurisdiction; he cannot apply to a lodge having jurisdiction concurrent with the rejecting lodge.

WASHINGTON, 1888. Cannot apply till after one year, and lodge cannot accept until it has notified the rejecting lodge, asked for information, and waited ninety days to receive it; and if received, must give it weight.

WEST VIRGINIA, 1885. "Nor shall any lodge entertain the application for the mysteries of Freemasonry of any one who has been rejected in any other lodge, without the written consent of such lodge."

WISCONSIN, 1886. Rejection a bar for one year and no longer.

WYOMING, 1872. Cannot apply to same lodge within six months: Nebraska rule as to other lodges.

The dates above given, except when otherwise stated, indicate the date of publication of the Constitution or Code of By-Laws to which we have had access.

In nearly all the jurisdictions, lodges have been required to notify the other lodges, either directly or through the Grand Secretary, of all rejections. This requirement is not now so universal as formerly, many Grand Lodges requiring the petitioner to state in his petition whether he has ever been rejected or not, deeming this preferable to sending out notices of rejections.

Formerly, also, some Grand Lodges published rejections precisely the same as suspensions and expulsions, but this was objected to on the ground that, while it was important that the public should know that unworthy masons had been suspended or expelled, the rejection of a candidate concerns *only the craft*, and, therefore, that notice *to the craft* is all that should be given; and after an animated discussion, running through several years, the practice was abandoned, we believe, by all the Grand Lodges that had ever adopted it.

In many of the jurisdictions, moreover, it is expressly enacted that any

mason who shall knowingly recommend for, or assist in, the initiation of a rejected candidate, without the proper consent, shall be expelled.

It is thus seen, that formerly the overwhelming preponderance of opinion, usage and law was, that the rejected candidate could only apply to the rejecting lodge or to some other with its consent, while some held that he could apply only to the rejecting lodge.

While several of the Grand Lodges have modified the old law, and the younger Grand Lodges have adopted a limitation of time, all the Grand Lodges, *without a single exception*, place a rejected candidate under a disability for a longer or shorter time, which *only the rejecting lodge can remove* DURING THAT TIME, when it can be removed at all. This disability is the consequence of the rejection, which is, under masonic law, the decision of the lodge that the candidate is then unfit to be made a mason. It is precisely similar to the decision of a lodge when it suspends or expels a mason, that he is not fit to remain a mason; he has the same privilege as the rejected candidate; he can apply to *the same lodge* for restoration. When a mason is suspended for a definite time, he is restored to his masonic rights at the end of that time, precisely as if he had never been suspended; when he is suspended for an indefinite time and is restored by his lodge, he then resumes his masonic rights to the same extent; so in case of rejected candidates, when the time, during which his disability lasts, has expired, he is restored to the same condition in which he was before he applied, and can petition again precisely as if he had never been rejected; and if the time is indefinite, he is restored only by the action of the lodge which rejected him.

It has been argued that Masonry has no jurisdiction over a profane. This proposition is utterly absurd on its face, or else is inapplicable to the question under discussion, according to the meaning given to it: because the moment the lodge *receives a petition from a profane*, he is under the jurisdiction of the lodge: he cannot withdraw it, if the lodge has jurisdiction, without the consent of the lodge, and in most jurisdictions that consent can be given only to an accepted candidate. If the petition is received by the lodge and it has jurisdiction, the candidate must undergo the ordeal of the ballot and abide the result.

We conclude, therefore, that the rejection of a candidate is a masonic decision that he is then unfit to be made a mason, and, precisely like a suspension, the disability follows him wherever he goes, and continues for the time for which, under the law, it was imposed.

The next inquiry is, ought the decision of the lodge to be perpetual, to be removed only by the rejecting lodge?

It is held by some that the law is a landmark and cannot be changed; but if a lodge may waive jurisdiction over its accepted work, and allow another lodge to finish it, either on its own account or on the account of

the first lodge, as seems to be universally conceded, and is in accordance with usage, it would seem that it might also waive its jurisdiction over its rejected material: moreover, this subject has been, certainly for about one hundred years past, one of Grand Lodge Regulation, and we are of the opinion that such is the correct masonic law: this conceded, it follows that each Grand Lodge may enact for its own jurisdiction such law as it deems the good of the craft requires.

The fact, that a rejected candidate is allowed to apply again, conclusively establishes the presumption of masonic law that he may become fit, or show that he is fit to be made a mason. It is now the almost universal law, at least in this country, and ought to be everywhere, that a candidate shall apply where he is best known, and this is assumed to be the lodge nearest his home. It is evident that this law applies with equal force to rejected candidates, when they apply a second time. In this country, where men frequently move from their childhood's home, and make a new one in a place so distant that his old neighbors have little or no knowledge of him thereafter, it would follow that those among whom he lived in his new home, *after sufficient time*, would become the best judges of his fitness to be made a mason: this is, also, true of different localities in the same state. It, therefore, follows that the disability caused by rejection should be controlled by the rejecting lodge for no longer than a reasonable time, and, therefore, that its continuance should be limited to a reasonable length of time. Of course, the length of time is absolutely immaterial in cases in which the candidate remains within the jurisdiction of the rejecting lodge.

What then is a reasonable time?

Here we regret, that the arguments advanced by many who have discussed this question, require us to call attention to the principles upon which this inquiry should proceed. It goes without saying that the good of the craft and the welfare of the Institution should be the absolutely controlling elements in the determination of this question. It should also be remembered that both of these have been injured by the admission of unfit material more than by all other causes combined. But in many quarters this question has been discussed as if every profane had a *right* to be made a mason, unless the fraternity, taking the burden upon itself, should show affirmatively that the candidate is unfit to be made a mason. This has not been the language or sentiments of the fathers in this jurisdiction in their exhortations to "Guard well the outer door," and we are constrained to believe that it is confined to a few whose zeal in behalf of rejected candidates has caused them to forget that their first and paramount duty is to the craft.

That "due inquiry" into the character of a proposed candidate is enjoined by necessary implication in the Ancient Charges, by express enact-

ment in the Old Regulations, in the charge to a Master at his installation, and in the universal masonic law, all admit theoretically, but we regret to say that the tendency practically is to ignore it. The desire, for various reasons, to increase our membership, has led to such a relaxation of the duty to "make due inquiry" as to allow the admission of a largely increased number of unfit men. "Confidence is a plant of slow growth" is only a form of saying that a man's true character cannot be discovered in a day. When a man grows up in a community, his neighbors are able to make "due inquiry" into his character in a brief time, because they have the true basis for a decision—a good knowledge of his character. But when a man comes a stranger into a community, a year is an exceedingly brief time within which a correct judgment of his fitness to be a mason can be determined. Certainly a year is an unreasonably short time within which to determine the fitness of a man to be made a mason, who comes from a distant place with the disability of rejection upon him.

It would seem to require no argument to prove that the same rule ought not to be applied to a man who grew up in the community, a man who comes a stranger into the same community, and a man who comes there not only a stranger, but also under the ban of rejection by a lodge in the place where he had lived.

Your committee believe that one year is an unreasonable time, dangerously short, within which to limit the disability of a rejection: and that a man should be required to show by his daily conduct for a longer time that he is fit to be a mason, unless he can have the concurrent judgment of the lodge which rejected him, and the lodge within whose jurisdiction he has lived for the time required in order to enable him to make application, or the lodge to which he applies, when he applies to one in whose jurisdiction he does not reside.

Our own Grand Lodge has fixed *five years* as a reasonable time for the continuance of the disability, unless removed by the concurrent action by unanimous vote of the two lodges: while the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts has fixed *seven years*, unless the Master and Wardens, and three other members of the rejecting lodge, after notice to the lodge of the application, and time for presenting objections, shall give the party a *recommendation* to the other lodge. This last rule is not open to the objection that one mason, and perhaps an unworthy one, can keep out of the fraternity a good man. To secure uniformity, we have no doubt that the Grand Lodge of Maine will reconsider its action, and adopt any reasonable rule that will protect the welfare of the craft.

But there is another question, out of which the danger of disturbing the fraternal relations of Grand Lodges with each other, more directly arises. While the preponderance of decision is that the disability of a rejected can-

The Mayor of Charleston, who was a Past Grand Master, welcomed the Grand Lodge, it is said, in a felicitous and eloquent address, to which the Grand Master appropriately responded, which we may well believe, although we have to regret that they are not given in the Proceedings.

In his address the Grand Master, CLAUDE E. SAWYER, says:

"It is gratifying to be able to report that there has been no unpleasantness whatever in our relations with other bodies, and so far as I can learn, none with them, except there seems to be some commotion in the Grand Jurisdiction of Ohio about the so-called 'Cerneauism.' It seems that another Grand Lodge has sprung up in that state, and is organizing lodges claiming allegiance to the Cerneau Grand Lodge. So far as I can learn there is little difference between the esoteric work of the two, as I am assured by the Cerneau masons that men raised in their lodges are received in full fellowship in the old lodges by simply renouncing their allegiance to the Cerneau body. The Grand Lodge of Ohio classes them with clandestine masons, and some trouble may yet arise when these Cerneau masons come to visit in other jurisdictions. It is only my intention to mention the matter here, as I do not know that we are called upon to do more than remember that there is a schism in Ohio. I will simply add that I have received the arguments of the Cerneau body, which, I may say, are very strong with one exception, and that is that when men were obligated in lodges holding charters from the Grand Lodge of Ohio they bound themselves to obey its Constitution, by-laws, rules and regulations. But, at the same time, I cannot see what Master Masons have to do with the so-called higher degrees. If Cerneauism is not Masonry where can there be any greater objection to a Master Mason joining a Cerneau lodge than for him to join the Knights of Pythias? A few years ago a reverend brother traveled around conferring five so-called degrees which he denominated the 'Pilgrim Knight,' and yet I cannot see that any harm was done to Ancient Craft Masonry by his new degrees.

"When I come to speak of the condition of the craft in our own jurisdiction, I deem it my duty to say that it is not as satisfactory as we could reasonably desire it to be."

We think if our M. W. brother would visit Ohio, he would find that the statement that men raised in these clandestine lodges are received in full fellowship by the old lodges, by simply renouncing their allegiance to the Cerneau body, is not true. The reply to his suggestion, is that while Cerneauism is not Masonry, *it pretends to be*, and pretends to work as a masonic organization, and this pretense or claim is the ground of interference by the regular Grand Lodge. We have a very strong suspicion that if a man should organize a body in Charleston and claim that it was a masonic lodge, our M. W. brother would scarcely wait for the meeting of the Grand Lodge before he would denounce it and warn the brethren against it.

The Grand Master had been decidedly busy and had had a large number of applications for dispensations, some of which he granted and some of which he refused. He makes a very strong and valid argument against granting dispensations to hurry a man into Masonry just because he is about to go on a journey or change his residence into some other locality. He made quite a number of decisions, several of them based upon local law, but

ency was pointed out, amended their laws as soon as may be, but whether all have yet done so we cannot tell.

Your committee are, therefore, of the opinion that the initiation of a rejected candidate, before he is relieved from the disability imposed by the law of the jurisdiction in which he was rejected, is a violation of the law binding upon all Grand Lodges, precisely as the initiation of a mason suspended or expelled in another jurisdiction would be.

Such is the decision of many of the Grand Lodges, which have enacted that no candidate rejected in one of their lodges and made a mason in another jurisdiction, without the proper consent, shall be recognized as a mason by the lodges or masons of their several obediences. Some, when such cases come to their knowledge, issue edicts to all the masons in the jurisdiction, denouncing the party as a clandestine mason, and declaring any mason holding masonic communication with him liable to expulsion.

Of course this is denounced in the jurisdictions in which rejected candidates are admitted. They claim that these candidates are made masons in a regular lodge, and therefore are entitled to recognition everywhere, and that the edicts, to which we have referred, are in violation of masonic law.

This argument does lie in the mouth of some of them, for they have a law that if a resident of that jurisdiction goes to another and gets admitted, he shall not be recognized as a mason without the consent of the lodge in whose jurisdiction he resided, or, in some, by the permission of the Grand Master.

But the proposition that "a person made a mason in a lawful lodge is a regular mason," has limitations. If the candidate was absolutely ineligible, his making is void; the making heals irregularities, but does not make a mason of one who cannot be made a mason. We have no doubt that everywhere the admission of an expelled mason would be held utterly void: in those jurisdictions in which a rejected candidate is ineligible, his admission is held to be utterly void, precisely as if he had been an expelled mason.

These diverse views show more forcibly than any words of ours could show, the imminent danger of wide-spreading dissension and the consequent necessity of the taking of measures to secure uniformity of legislation anent this subject.

It was objected to the "Mississippi proposition" that it was to be a treaty between the Grand Lodges, and objectionable on that account; while we do not understand that it was so intended, we desire to prevent the interposition of that objection, and therefore desire it to be understood that we suggest legislation of a uniform character in the different jurisdictions.

In our judgment, the basis should be the recognition of the disability of rejected candidates according to the law of the jurisdiction in which the re-

others that have been given in other jurisdictions and are of no special interest to us in Maine.

As the representative of our Grand Lodge, he presented the resolutions as requested by us, and adds;

"I shall not express my individual opinion upon this matter as I have done that heretofore, but it gives me pleasure to be able to serve the Grand Lodge of Maine which I have the honor to represent."

We have no doubt whatever that if the adoption of our resolutions depended upon the good will of himself and his brethren, towards us in Maine, they would have at once been adopted, but the Grand Lodge holds that the law of perpetual jurisdiction is a landmark and that they have no power to change it, and, thereupon, could take no favorable action upon our request.

In his Report on Correspondence Bro. INGLESBY holds to the same doctrine, and we should like very much indeed to have him give us the reasons for holding that this doctrine is a landmark, because we have been unable to find any authority for that position in the history of the ancient usages of the craft.

The Grand Master pays a high tribute to the value of the services of Bro. INGLESBY in his office of Grand Secretary. We have been familiar with his services for a good many years and we most heartily endorse the tribute of the Grand Master.

The reports of the District Deputies show that the lodges, as a rule, are in a fair condition, but not doing a great deal of work, largely, as we judge from the reports, owing to the financial depression, to which some add, that very many of our brethren are enthusiastic members of other Orders and give their attention to those.

A model code of by-laws was adopted and made obligatory, except as to the filling of certain blanks, but it was found that under the constitution that could not be done and an amendment to the constitution was proposed in order that these by-laws may be made, not merely advisory as in most jurisdictions, but obligatory.¹

The Committee on Correspondence spoke in high terms of the review of the Proceedings of the Grand Lodges by the Grand Secretary, and they will not find many who will take issue with them upon that point.

The death of Past Grand Master, JOHN D. KENNEDY, was announced and an eloquent tribute paid to his memory, from which we attempted to extract, but if we do, we can scarcely do justice to it without copying the whole. In his death the Grand Lodge and Free Masonry have sustained a great loss. He died very suddenly in the fifty-seventh year of his age, but he had lived long enough to attach himself very strongly, not only to his masonic brethren, but to all who knew him.

The following decision in relation to funerals was adopted:

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 5, 1896.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The Committee on Library submit the following as their report:

This year we have had bound about thirty volumes of the reports of our sister jurisdictions and it is expected that others will be ready for binding the coming year, and we recommend that the committee have the power granted then to have bound such volumes as may be completed during the year.

The committee have purchased a few Proceedings during the year, and would recommend that a sum, not exceeding thirty dollars, be placed at their disposal for the purchase of Proceedings during the coming year.

The stacks now in the library room have not been disturbed this year nor have others been purchased, but as the need to do so may happen this year the committee would ask that the authority given them last year be continued for the coming year.

Fraternally submitted,

AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,	}	<i>Committee.</i>
ALBRO E. CHASE,		
FRANK E. SLEEPER,		

SECOND DISTRICT PETITION.

Bro. DRUMMOND, for the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, reported as follows, which was accepted:

To the Grand Lodge of Maine.

Under Section 81, of the constitution, the power to authorize a lodge to meet in a town other than the one named in the charter is vested in the Grand Master solely.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,	}	<i>Committee.</i>
MARQUIS F. KING,		
HORACE H. BURBANK,		

DOINGS OF GRAND OFFICERS.

Bro. SLEEPER submitted the following:

IN GRAND LODGE, PORTLAND, ME., May 5, 1896.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your Committee on Doings of Grand Officers report as follows:

We recommend that so much of the Grand Master's address as relates to the death of Past Grand Master DAVID CARGILL, and also that relating to the fraternal dead, be referred to a special committee.

That so much as relates to the decisions of the Grand Master be referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence.

That so much as relates to the destruction of charters by fire be referred to the Committee on Dispensations and Charters.

We also recommend that the form of blank certificate presented with the report of the Grand Secretary be approved by this Grand Lodge.

Your committee desire further to express their high appreciation of the faithful and painstaking labors of the Grand Master, as evidenced by his able and interesting address, and most heartily commend the same to the consideration of the craft.

Fraternally submitted,

FRANK E. SLEEPER,	} Committee.
WM. R. G. ESTES,	
HENRY R. TAYLOR,	

Report accepted and recommendations adopted.

The Grand Master appointed as a special Committee on Deaths, Bros. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, EDWARD P. BURNHAM and WM. R. G. ESTES.

ELECTION.

At 3 o'clock Past Grand Master HORACE H. BURBANK was called to the East. He appointed as a committee to receive, sort and count votes,

I. CHARLES W. JONES, HENRY R. MILLETT, WM. FREEMAN LORD.

II. ARCHIE LEE TALBOT, JOHN BERRYMAN, C. HALE THURLOUGH.

These committees, having attended to their duties, announced the election of the following Grand Officers :

AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,	<i>Grand Master,</i>	Bangor;
JOSEPH A. LOCKE,	<i>Deputy Grand Master,</i>	Portland;
ALBERT M. PENLEY,	<i>Senior Grand Warden,</i>	Auburn;
BENJAMIN L. HADLEY,	<i>Junior Grand Warden,</i>	Bar Harbor;
MARQUIS F. KING,	<i>Grand Treasurer.</i>	Portland;
STEPHEN BERRY,	<i>Grand Secretary,</i>	Portland.

Committee of Finance—EDWARD P. BURNHAM, Saco; ALBRO E. CHASE, Portland; GEORGE R. SHAW, Portland.

Trustees of Charity Fund for three years—CHARLES I. COLLAMORE, Bangor; FESSENDEN I. DAY, Lewiston.

The report was accepted and the brethren declared elected.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVE.

R. W. SUMNER J. CHADBOURNE presented his credentials as Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and was welcomed by the Grand Master.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS.

Bro. COLLAMORE offered the following:

PORTLAND, ME., May 5, 1896.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The Committee on Grievances and Appeals respectfully presents the following report:

In the case of Delta Lodge, No. 153, at Lovell, against Bro. ERNEST H. NASON;

Your committee has been informed by the representatives of Delta Lodge, that the papers sent up do not fairly present the case. We therefore recommend that it be sent back to that lodge for a new trial.

In the matter of charges of gross unmasonic conduct against SAMUEL H. HART, a member of Somerset Lodge, No. 34, of Skowhegan, where the charges were not brought in his lodge on account of his absconding, and whose residence is unknown to said lodge, and the same is brought directly to this Grand Lodge by the petition of WILLIAM R. G. ESTES, P. G. M., and a member of Somerset Lodge;

Your committee, after examining the evidence adduced, and mature deliberation on the same, recommend that this Grand Lodge expel SAMUEL H. HART from all the rights and benefits of Masonry.

Fraternally submitted,

CHARLES I. COLLAMORE,	} Committee.
JOSEPH M. HAYES,	
EDWARD P. BURNHAM,	

The report was accepted, and the recommendations adopted.

The following resolution was then adopted:

Resolved, That SAMUEL H. HART is guilty of gross unmasonic conduct, as set forth in the charge and specifications, and that said SAMUEL H. HART be expelled from all the rights and benefits of Freemasonry.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION.

BRO. EDWARD P. BURNHAM submitted the following:

GRAND LODGE OF MAINE, May 5, 1896.

The Committee on Amendments to the Constitution have considered the proposed amendment to the constitution submitted by Past Grand Master ALBRO E. CHASE, and found on page 250 of the Proceedings of 1895, to amend Section 34, by providing for the appointment of one Grand Lecturer, and your committee recommend the adoption of said amendment.

Fraternally submitted,

EDWARD P. BURNHAM, }
A. M. WETHERBEE, } *Committee.*

The report was laid on the table.

At 4:40 the Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment until two o'clock Wednesday afternoon.

SECOND DAY—AFTERNOON.

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND,
Wednesday, May 6, 1896.

The Grand Lodge was called from refreshment to labor at 2 o'clock P. M.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion of M. W. BRO. SLEEPER,

Voted, That the Committee on Pay Roll be also a Committee on Leave of Absence.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS.

BRO. CHARLES I. COLLAMORE presented the following report:

PORTLAND, May 6, 1896.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The Committee on Grievances and Appeals respectfully present the following:

In the case of Rural Lodge, No. 53, at Sidney, against Bro. JAMES A. BACON, the papers sent up show that the brother was acquitted of the charge, and as there was no appeal, no action is required on the part of the Grand Lodge.

In the matter of the complaint of Saco Lodge, No. 9, at Saco, against Freedom Lodge, No. 49, at Limerick, for non-payment of money paid for the relief of a brother, said to be a member of Freedom Lodge. The Standing Regulation of the Grand Lodge upon such cases reads:

“No lodge is required to re-imburse another lodge for expenses voluntarily incurred in assisting its members, outside of its jurisdiction, unless at its express request.”

Your committee has made considerable effort to get into communication with the representatives of Freedom Lodge, thus far without success, but we understand that no request was made by that lodge. It seems to your committee, that under this regulation the Grand Lodge cannot consistently take any action to enforce such a claim.

Fraternally submitted,

C. I. COLLAMORE,	}	<i>Committee.</i>
JOS. M. HAYES,		
EDWARD P. BURNHAM,		

Report accepted and recommendations adopted.

WORK.

Grand Lecturer SLEEPER was called to the East, and Grand Lecturer RAYMOND was requested to inform the working lodge that the Grand Lodge was ready for their entrance.

A selected working lodge, with Bro. FREDERICK H.

THOMPSON, P. M. of Deering Lodge, as Master, entered and exemplified the work of the Third degree.

Grand Lecturer SLEEPER criticised the work, after which the Grand Master resumed the East, and thanked the working brethren for their excellent work.

DISPENSATIONS AND CHARTERS.

BRO. ARLINGTON B. MARSTON offered the following:

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your Committee on Dispensations and Charters have considered the matters referred to them and beg leave to report as follows:

In matter of the petition of Penobscot Lodge, No. 39, of Dexter, which recently lost all its property by fire, for the Grand Lodge to refund its dues for the past year, your committee would recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be granted.

In the matter of the petition of Composite Lodge, No. 168, of La Grange, for permission to change the location of said lodge to Howland, your committee find as follows: Composite Lodge not having the approval of the nearest lodge, as required by Sect. 81 of the Constitution, we recommend that the petitioners have leave to withdraw.

In the matter of the petition of Columbia Lodge, v. d., at Greenville, for a charter, your committee recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be granted.

In the matter of the petition of Harwood Lodge, No. 91, for a new charter to replace the original charter, which was lost by fire March 26th, your committee would recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be granted without fee.

In the matter of the petition of Mt. Bigelow Lodge, v. d., for a charter, your committee have given the parties a very full hearing and would report as follows: The petitioners have not the recommendation of all the lodges whose jurisdiction is affected by the formation of the new lodge, as required by Section 63 of the Constitution, and believing that the greatest good of the greatest number, and the interests of the craft as a whole, should be consulted, we cannot see that the approval is "unreasonably withheld." Your committee recommend that the charter be *not* granted.

In the matter of the petition of Blazing Star Lodge, No. 30, of Rumford, Me., for permission to remove its place of meeting from Rumford Center to Rumford Falls. The petition has the approval of the D. D. G. M. and also the *qualified* approval of the nearest lodge, King Hiram, No. 57, of Dix-

field. But it seems to your committee that the qualification vitiates the approval, as in our opinion it carries with it a violation of the Constitution, the qualification being that the jurisdiction shall not be changed by the removal. Section 94 of the Constitution provides that every candidate must apply to the lodge nearest his residence. The change contemplated would move Blazing Star Lodge nearly six miles nearer to King Hiram Lodge, and while it would not of course affect the jurisdiction of either lodge in its own town, it would quite seriously affect the jurisdiction of King Hiram Lodge in the adjacent town of Mexico. Believing as we do, that this approval by King Hiram Lodge, containing the above stipulation, is not such an approval as is contemplated by Section 81 of the Constitution, your committee recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be not granted until the proper consent of the nearest lodge has been obtained, but that until the next meeting of the Grand Lodge, Blazing Star Lodge be permitted to hold its meetings at Rumford Falls.

Respectfully submitted,

ARLINGTON B. MARSTON,	} Committee.
ARCHIE LEE TALBOT,	
EDMUND B. MALLEY, JR.,	

Report accepted and recommendations adopted.

GREECE.

Bro. DRUMMOND reported as follows:

IN GRAND LODGE, May 6, 1896.

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, to which was referred the communication from the Grand Lodge of Greece, ask leave to report:

That that Grand Lodge having revoked the charters of her lodges Pythagoras and Athena (Minerva), no brethren hailing from either of those lodges should be recognized as regular masons, nor any masonic intercourse be had with them.

And furthermore, that no credence whatever should be given to any document, purporting to be masonic and emanating from any self-styled masonic power in Greece, bearing the signature of TIMOLEON PHILIMON as Grand Master, or of A. BRISAKIS as Grand Secretary.

Fraternally submitted,

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,	} Committee.
MARQUIS F. KING,	
HORACE H. BURBANK,	

Report accepted and recommendations adopted.

CLOTHING.

Bro. LOCKE submitted the following:

GRAND LODGE OF MAINE, May 6, 1896.

The Committee on Amendments to the Constitution report, that there are before them the amendments on pages 51 and 52, of 1894, offered by Bros. DRUMMOND and TALBOT, relative to the clothing of officers of Grand and Subordinate Lodges. Your committee would recommend that the amendments offered by Bro. DRUMMOND and Bro. TALBOT be adopted.

The Section 35, as amended, would then read as follows:

“The clothing of a Grand Officer shall be as the Grand Lodge shall, from time to time, prescribe. Permanent members of the Grand Lodge shall wear the apron prescribed for Grand Officers.

“An officer of a lodge shall wear a blue velvet collar, a silver jewel, and white or figured apron.”

Fraternally submitted,

EDWARD P. BURNHAM,	} Committee.
JOSEPH A. LOCKE,	
A. M. WETHEEBEE,	

Report accepted, and the amendment was unanimously adopted.

On motion of Bro. DRUMMOND:

Voted, That the clothing of the Grand Officers shall be as follows:

The aprons of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Wardens shall be of white lambskin, lined with purple, having the emblem of his office suitably embroidered in the centre and with other suitable embroidery on the edgings thereof, with purple edging and strings.

The aprons of the other Grand Officers shall be of white lambskin, lined with purple, with purple strings and edging.

That the jewels of the Grand Officers shall be as follows:

That of the Grand Master, the Compasses extended to 45°, with the segment of a circle at the points and a gold or metal gilt plate included, on which is represented an eye, eradiated, with a triangle, also eradiated. That of the Deputy Grand Master, the Compasses and Square united with a five pointed star in the centre.

That of the Senior Grand Warden, the Level; Junior Grand Warden, the Plumb; the Grand Treasurer, a Key; Recording Grand Secretary, Crossed Pens; Corresponding Grand Secretary, Crossed Pens; Grand Chaplain, Book

with a Triangle; Grand Marshal, Crossed Rods; Grand Deacons, Dove and Olive Branch; Grand Stewards, Cornucopia; Grand Sword Bearer, Crossed Swords; Grand Standard Bearer, Banner; Grand Pursuivants; a Rod and Sword, crossed; Grand Organist, Lyre; Grand Tyler, Sword.

Each Past Grand Master, Past Deputy Grand Master and Past Grand Warden may be distinguished by the jewel prescribed for the office he has filled, with this difference, that such jewel shall be fixed within a circle or oval, of gold or metal gilt. It shall be worn over the left breast.

The Collars of the Grand Officers shall be a purple velvet collar suitably embroidered.

Resolved, That the Committee of Finance be directed to procure new clothing and jewels for the Officers of this Grand Lodge, of the description prescribed by this Grand Lodge; and also a suitable number of aprons for the Permanent Members of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge was then called from labor to refreshment until 9 o'clock Thursday morning.

THIRD DAY—MORNING.

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, }
 Thursday, May 7, 1896. }

The Grand Lodge was called from refreshment to labor at 9 A. M.

GRAND LECTURERS.

The report of the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution, providing for the appointment of one Grand Lecturer, laid on the table Tuesday afternoon (see page 60), was taken up, debated at length, and finally rejected.

BRO. JOSEPH A. LOCKE offered the following:

MINORITY REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

The minority submit the following, and recommend the adoption of the same instead of the proposed amendment as presented by Bro. ALBRO E. CHASE.

SEC. 34. For the purpose of exemplifying the work and lectures in Grand Lodge, if required, and of imparting instruction to any lodge requiring their services (and such lodge shall pay them a reasonable compensation therefor) the Grand Master shall appoint two Grand Lecturers. If any Grand Lecturer, so appointed, is unable to attend to the duties of that office, the Grand Master shall have the power to temporarily appoint a competent brother to attend to the duties of that office.

JOSEPH A. LOCKE, *Minority of Committee.*

The proposition was entertained and referred to the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution.

CHANGES IN DISTRICTS.

The Grand Master announced the following changes in Districts 4 and 21. Felicity and Rising Sun Lodges are transferred to the 21st District, while Marine and Reliance Lodges are transferred to the 4th District, so that the districts will be thus composed.

District No. 4.

No. 4 Hancock, Castine.	No. 177 Rising Star, Penobscot.
" 122 Marine, Deer Isle.	" 187 Ira Berry, Bluehill.
" 128 Eggemoggin, Sedgwick.	" 195 Reliance, Green's Landing.
" 171 Naskeag, Brooklin.	

District No. 21.

No. 19 Felicity, Bucksport.	No. 140 Mount Desert, Mount Desert.
" 40 Lygonia, Ellsworth.	" 159 Esoteric, Ellsworth.
" 71 Rising Sun, Orland.	" 185 Bar Harbor, Bar Harbor.
" 77 Tremont, Tremont.	" 192 Winter Harbor, Winter Harbor.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

R. W. HERBERT HARRIS presented his credentials as Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, and R. W. Bro. HOWARD D. SMITH his as Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of New

Hampshire, and they were welcomed by the Grand Master.

WISCONSIN RELIEF PROPOSITION.

Bro. DRUMMOND reported as follows :

IN GRAND LODGE, May 7, 1896.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence, to which was referred the Circular from the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin in relation to granting relief, ask leave to report:

The object of the circular is to secure the adoption of the following compact between the several Grand Lodges.

"It is the duty of every lodge to take care of its own members in distress, wherever they may be. In case of its inability so to do, this duty devolves upon the Grand Lodge from which it holds its charter. It being understood that in no case is the lodge furnishing relief and asking re-imbursement, to go beyond actual necessities, without express authority from the re-imbursing body."

The proposition is explained in the circular; were it not, the full scope of it would not be understood; indeed, the main feature of it is omitted. To understand it, there must be added after the second sentence, "And the lodge, in whose jurisdiction such member falls into distress, has the right to determine whether such member is in distress, and the amount which his 'actual necessities' require, and to grant relief accordingly, and have a valid claim for that amount against the lodge of which the brother relieved was a member, and in case of its inability, against the Grand Lodge."

The proposition itself, and the reasons given by the committee in support of it, would equally give an individual mason the right to re-imbursement for any relief which he might, in good faith, afford to a brother; but the committee do not intend this, as the very object of the movement is to substitute "organized charity" for "the old hap-hazard method of individual relief without investigation," so far as practicable. But if this proposition should be adopted, the right of the individual mason, as well as the lodge, to re-imbursement, would soon be established as a matter of course. Indeed, the only ground on which the right of the individual could be denied would be that he had no call to give the relief, but should have turned the applicant over to the "organized charity."

As will be seen from our general report, this proposition has met with little favor: nearly all the Grand Lodges have formally declared that the proposition is an innovation in the body of Masonry. The Grand Lodge of California has endorsed it, but at the very next communication the Grand Master announced that one of the lodges was substantially dead; it had been

a flourishing lodge, but had been borne down by the burden of the support of one of its members—a duty which that Grand Lodge holds that the lodge must perform, even, as it appears, to the absolute destruction of the lodge.

The history of this movement shows to what an extent a slight departure from ancient usage will ultimately carry us. Re-imbursement under some circumstances has been approved; but it has opened the door to such utter disregard of masonic usage and duty that, after mature consideration, your committee recommend that we return to first principles, *and abide there*.

Every Master Mason knows that he is under obligation to relieve a distressed worthy brother to the extent of his ability (of which he is the sole judge), and having done that, his duty is performed. According to "the original plan of Masonry," this is masonic charity, so far as relief of the distressed is concerned. The duty is an *individual* duty, and it is absolutely inseparable from the masonic character; no power on earth can relieve the individual mason from this obligation: it is not limited to members of his own lodge but it extends to every brother "beneath every clime." The original plan never contemplated "organized charity"; that is "a plant of more modern growth"; just so far as it departs from being merely an *aid to the individual mason* in the performance of his duty, it *departs from "the original plan of Masonry."*

When lodges and Grand Lodges began to accumulate Charity Funds, they were intended solely to give more prompt and efficacious relief to *any* distressed brother without regard to his masonic home: in those days a suggestion that the charity of a lodge should be limited to its own members, would have shocked the craft and been deemed almost an offence against Masonry. The earliest charters, which we have seen, did not authorize lodges to form "Charity Funds": later, the charter authorized the lodge "to collect funds for the relief of poor and distressed brothers, their widows and children": but, we believe, no indication can be found in any charter or code of laws, that a member of the lodge had a right to ask a preference over any other worthy mason, till since the advent of the imitation societies which are now so numerous. In 1819, a "Masonic Board of Relief" was formed in Boston for the sole purpose of aiding "Stranger Brethren"; at one of its early meetings it adopted a report, from which we take the following:

"Charity, the foundation of our order, should be so wisely dispensed and guarded, that the unworthy, or imposter, cannot obtain a share of those funds appropriated for the use of the widow and fatherless, and the poor worthy brother.

"The poor we have always with us, but charity demands that the worthy distressed stranger should have speedy relief, which is consolation to the afflicted soul in the hour of distress."

This organization continued to exist for over a half a century and expended thousands of dollars, and we believe that during that whole time,

no request, or even suggestion, of re-imbursement was ever made. The organization of a method of affording relief is very desirable, but it in no manner changes the character of giving relief: the fact that the relief is afforded by an "organized charity," no more entitles it to re-imbursement, than the giving of relief by an individual mason entitles him to it.

It would be a singular doctrine to hold that the creator of a charity, educational or other fund, has any more claim or right to it than any one of the class for whose benefit it was created; and Masonry is not obnoxious to the charge of holding such doctrine. Under the law and usage of Masonry, dues are paid for the creation of a fund for the relief of *any* distressed member of the Fraternity: the member of a lodge, by his contribution, gains no special right to relief from *that* fund; purchased relief is not known to Masonry: a masonic lodge cannot be put under any greater obligation to relieve a distressed member than it is under to relieve any distressed brother: the test is *Brotherhood* and not *Associate Membership*.

Of course, it is natural for a mason to apply first to the brethren of his own lodge, precisely as he would apply to his brothers before he would apply to more distant relatives or friends: if he did not do so, it would naturally, if the lodge was able to relieve him, raise questions as to his worthiness; but that gives him no special right.

We, therefore, utterly dissent from the conclusion thus stated in this circular:

"It is not disputed that the relief of a distressed worthy brother is a duty, devolving either upon the individual mason, or upon the lodge. *It naturally follows, then, that the brother has a claim for relief and that claim must be upon the lodge*"

Again; the proposition demands an amount of aid, limited only by the "actual necessities" of the applicant, without regard to the ability of the party for whom relief is sought: it declares in effect that every mason is entitled to full support for his whole life, if his circumstances require it. But the obligation of the mason to relieve the distressed is limited by his ability; and Masonry never contemplated the decision by one brother or one lodge, as to the amount which another brother or another lodge is able to give by way of relief. While this feature of the proposition is unmasonic, it is also exceedingly dangerous: a lodge is liable to find itself overwhelmed by debt without its consent or even its knowledge, and still worse, against its protest.

In these days of rapid communication, notice that a mason has fallen into distress can be sent so quickly to his friends and his lodge or brethren, that the argument in favor of allowing others to bind them without their knowledge, is of little weight. In fact, often the sending of such a notice is substantially all the relief that the brother needs.

There are three elements in this proposition that your committee regard

as violations of fundamental masonic principles: 1. That a mason, by maintaining membership in a lodge, *purchases* the right to relief; 2. That a mason is entitled to relief, limited only by his necessities, without regard to the ability of those giving the relief; 3. That masons are not members of a great fraternity whose duties and obligations are the same *to every other member*; but that masons in every Grand Lodge jurisdiction are an association by themselves, whom, and whom only, they are under obligation to relieve when in distress.

If the doctrine of this proposition had prevailed in the past and been adhered to, the sufferings and losses of members of the craft by pestilence and fire would never have been alleviated by their brethren in other jurisdictions, *as masons*, but they would have been referred to their lodges and Grand Lodge for any relief other than that common to all their fellow sufferers.

But there is another feature of Masonic Charity which this scheme destroys. Masonry teaches that the one who gives is blessed, as well as the one who receives. The relief of the distressed expands the heart and quickens the affection of the giver towards his fellow men, and especially towards the brethren. It promotes the object for which Masonry is cultivated; it carries into practice the lessons so forcibly taught in the lodge; it is the outward expression of the tenets of the Institution.

As compared with this, how inexpressibly unworthy of Masonry is the doctrine that relief shall be granted only, or mainly, by "organized charity," to which masons contribute in order to create a fund upon which they can have a special claim if distress overtakes them, to the exclusion of the equally suffering and equally worthy brother, who is not of their special household. As a scheme to encourage and to cultivate *selfishness*, to harden the sensibilities, and to discourage the exercise of charity and brotherly love, it is of great promise; and, therefore, can have no place within the scope of masonic principle or masonic practice.

Your committee recommend the adoption of the accompanying resolutions as expressive of the sense of this Grand Lodge.

Fraternally submitted,

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,	} Committee.
EDWARD P. BURNHAM,	
ALBRO E. CHASE,	

Resolved, That this Grand Lodge cannot accede to the proposition of our Wisconsin brethren, because it holds:

1. That every mason is under equal obligation to every worthy brother to relieve his distress according to his necessity and his own ability;
2. That the sole claim of a distressed worthy brother for relief grows

out of his *being a mason*, and not out of his *having contributed to the funds of a particular lodge*;

3. That the association of masons in a lodge in no manner relieves them from their individual obligations, and that when they act as a lodge, their duty, and, therefore, that of the lodge, is precisely the same as that of the individual mason.

4. That masonic relief is never purchased or sold, and, therefore, never creates a debt.

BRO. ARCHIE LEE TALBOT called the attention of the Grand Lodge to the action of the Chicago Congress, and thereupon the committee added the following to their report:

The Chicago Congress adopted the following:

Appeals for Aid. The conclusion of the Congress is, that worthy masons are entitled to relief from brethren and lodges wheresoever they may be found in need of relief, and that the brethren or lodges granting such aid are not entitled to demand re-imbursement from the lodges in which they hold their membership, but that when a member of one lodge is relieved by another, and the financial situation of his lodge is such as to permit, common courtesy and duty alike demand that it should re-imburse a poorer lodge relieving its members. Written or printed appeals for aid which do not secure the indorsement of the Grand Master of the jurisdiction from which they emanate, should be discountenanced.

We do not fully endorse this "Conclusion"; if it is once established as law, that "common courtesy and duty" require a lodge to re-imburse under any circumstances, it opens the door to further and greater departures from the old law. We hold, therefore, that it is for the lodge in every case to determine what it will do; and what it does, it must do, not under the duress of law, but of its own free will: and whatever its conclusion, no one has any masonic right to complain.

The report was accepted, the resolution adopted, and it was

Resolved, That a sufficient number of the Resolution, with a suitable Preamble, be printed to supply every mason in this jurisdiction.

MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

BRO. DRUMMOND, for the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, submitted the following:

IN GRAND LODGE, May 7, 1896.

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, to which were referred the decisions of Grand Master BURBANK announced last year, asks leave to report:

1. That the second decision be approved. In order, however, that there may be no misunderstanding, your committee desire to add:

It is now the general opinion that masons do not sufficiently cultivate social relations.

In olden times, it was the custom to have refreshment at every communication of the lodge, which, however, was paid for at the time by those who were present.

The old charters directed that the brethren should observe St. Johns Days and dine together. The usage was that tickets were sold to pay the expenses, but any deficit was made up by the lodge.

The custom of having refreshments at meetings of the lodges was discontinued, on account of abuses, which now could not arise.

We believe that a return to the old custom would be for the benefit of the craft, and that the use of lodge funds, to a reasonable amount, considering the circumstances of the lodge and without infringing upon the savings of former years, or its ability to relieve distressed worthy brethren, may be used for that purpose.

2. The fifth decision, that an unaffiliated mason cannot be made an Honorary Member, is not in accordance with the *status* which the law of this jurisdiction accords to unaffiliated masons.

3. To the sixth, to prevent misapprehension, there should be added:

This authority is vested in the Grand Master alone.

4. The other decisions are in accord with masonic usage and the law of this jurisdiction.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, *for the Committee.*

The report was accepted, and the other matters referred to the committee were continued in their hands.

PAY ROLL.

Bro. LEANDER M. KENNISTON, for the Committee on Pay Roll, reported a Schedule, which was accepted and ordered to be paid.

HISTORY.

BRO. ALFRED S. KIMBALL presented the following report, which was accepted.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your Committee on the History of Masonry in Maine determined to make an effort to reduce the number of lodges delinquent in the matter of their lodge histories. Accordingly, an extensive correspondence was entered upon with the District Deputy Grand Masters and others, with the hope that substantial results might be achieved. Our efforts have not been attended with success sufficient to be denominated flattering in many cases. Our appeals have undoubtedly found lodgment in the waste basket. Our labor, however, has not been entirely useless, as some return has been made.

During the year Oriental Lodge, No. 13, at Bridgton, before reported in manuscript, has printed an attractive history of its entire life, dating from 1804 to 1894.

Whitney Lodge, No. 167, at Canton, has furnished its history in print to 1891.

The history of Northern Star Lodge, No. 28, at North Anson, was prepared and printed from the date of its organization in 1819 up to 1870, by and under the direction of Past Grand Master ALBERT MOORE, whose memory will be ever cherished by this Grand Lodge, and now the son succeeds the father, and Bro. BEN MOORE has for his lodge compiled the work in a tasty manner to 1890, all in printed form.

Pownal Lodge, No. 119, of Stockton Springs, presents a printed history of 99 pages, from its organization in 1863 to 1892.

During the present session there has been placed in the hands of the committee a history in manuscript of Blue Mountain Lodge, No. 67, at Phillips, from the date of its organization in 1850 to 1872, which fills all breaks heretofore existing in the history of this lodge, and completes its history to 1891.

We have also received in manuscript, the history of Mystic Tie Lodge, No. 154, at Weld, covering the period from 1880 to 1894, making it complete to that date.

The history of Ancient Landmark Lodge, No. 17, at Portland, is in the hands of the Grand Secretary, and will be produced in due time. Many others have been promised, but experience has taught us not to particularize till the goods are delivered. We cannot too strongly impress upon the lodges the great value of full masonic histories and the importance of complying with the Grand Lodge regulation in relation thereto.

Respectfully submitted,

ALFRED S. KIMBALL, }
CHARLES W. JONES, } *Committee.*

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

BRO. DRUMMOND presented the Report on Foreign Correspondence, in print, which was accepted, and permission given to add thereto. (*See Appendix.*)

CONDITION OF THE FRATERNITY.

BRO. HENRY R. TAYLOR submitted the following:

IN GRAND LODGE, May 7, 1896.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your Committee on Condition of the Fraternity, having attended to their duties, ask leave to make the following report:

We note with satisfaction the healthy growth and general prosperity of the craft during the past masonic year.

By the tabulated statement of our Grand Secretary, and by the several reports of the District Deputies, from whom the details of work and condition throughout this jurisdiction are mainly derived, continuous prosperity is evident.

But there are a few points to which we would briefly call attention.

1st. The attendance upon lodge meetings and social occasions should not be confined *exclusively* to the one appointed for a Grand Officer's visit.

2d. Particular instructions have heretofore been urged upon all the Deputies regarding lodge histories. Except in four instances that subject has not been reported by those officers.

3d. As all Deputies' reports are printed in our Proceedings, observe this cardinal rule: "When writing for the press—write upon one side of the paper only," and the compositor "shall arise and call you blessed."

4th. Acknowledgments are made by nearly all the Deputies, for valuable assistance rendered by the Grand Lecturers, and by holding masonic conventions.

5th. We would call especial attention to the condition of Arion Lodge, No. 162, of the 19th Masonic District.

Evidently in fair financial condition and holding a considerable sum in its treasury, the amount of arrearages due from delinquent members exceeds \$280.00.

It has for two years past almost ceased holding communications. Its hands are idle, and, from its altar, but dimly shine the lights of Masonry.

Among lodges with all their possibilities, and from individual masons, with their opportunities of doing good, our order requires *action*, *work*, *devotion*, and it may be self-sacrifice, but does not countenance "drones in the hive of Industry."

We recommend to the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the advisability of appointing a special officer to co-operate with the District Deputy Grand Master of that district, and, if possible, without unnecessary delay visit that lodge and arouse the slumbering fires of its masonic zeal.

From the review of twenty-four districts, and all have submitted their reports, many subjects of interest and information might well be included in the report of your committee, were they not conscious that opportunity will be afforded later for a general examination of the whole.

Fraternally submitted,

HENRY R. TAYLOR, }
HOWARD D. SMITH, } *Committee.*
E. HOWARD VOSE, }

Report accepted and recommendations adopted.

The R. W. Deputy Grand Master, JOSEPH A. LOCKE, was appointed to visit Arion Lodge in company with the District Deputy Grand Master of the 19th District.

FINANCE.

The report of the Committee of Finance, respecting clothing, laid on the table Tuesday morning, (see p. 42) was taken up and accepted.

THE FRATERNAL DEAD.

Bro. DRUMMOND submitted the following, which was accepted:

IN GRAND LODGE, May 7, 1896.

The Special Committee, to which was referred so much of the M. W. Grand Master's address as relates to the deaths of M. W. Bro. DAVID CARGILL and R. W. IVORY H. ROBINSON, find that our Grand Master has given a full and appreciative account of both of them.

The veteran of nearly fourscore years, whose genial face has been a conspicuous object in this Grand Lodge at our annual gatherings during almost half that time, and the young and enthusiastic mason whose life began just when the other's service in this Grand Lodge began, have alike fallen victims to "the cruel hunter of men."

We recommend that a page in our Proceedings, suitably inscribed, be devoted to the memory of each.

Fraternally submitted,

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,	} Committee.
EDWARD P. BURNHAM,	
WM. R. G. ESTES,	

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Bro. JOSEPH M. HAYES presented the following, which was accepted :

GRAND LODGE OF MAINE,

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 7, 1896.

The Committee on Unfinished Business report, that so far as our knowledge extends, the various committees have attended to all matters placed in their hands by the Grand Lodge.

Fraternally,

JOSEPH M. HAYES,	} Committee.
ARCHIE LEE TALBOT,	
A. C. THOS. KING,	

INSTALLATION AND APPOINTMENTS.

Past Grand Master JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND was called to the East, and Past Grand Master ALBRO E. CHASE presented M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM, the Grand Master elect, who was installed, prayer being offered by Grand Chaplain SUMMERBELL.

The Grand Master announced the following appointments :

R. W.	CHARLES D. SMITH,	<i>Cor. Grand Secretary,</i>	Portland.
"	ALFRED D. SAWYER,	<i>D. D. G. M. 1st Dist.,</i>	Fort Fairfield.
"	WALTER F. BRADISH,	" 2d "	Eastport.
"	NEHEMIAH GUPTILL,	" 3d "	Jonesport.
"	JOHN P. SHEPHERD,	" 4th "	Castine.
"	THOS. J. PEAKS,	" 5th "	Charleston.
"	ALBERT J. DURGIN,	" 6th "	Orono.
"	GEO. P. BILLINGS,	" 7th "	Clinton.
"	RODEL A. PACKARD,	" 8th "	Northport.
"	FRED M. RICHARDS,	" 9th "	Camden.

R. W.	WALTER E. CLARK,	D. D. G. M.,	10th Dist.,	Waldoboro.
"	HERBERT M. STARBIRD,	"	11th "	Litchfield.
"	FRANKLIN WALKER,	"	12th "	Waterville.
"	FRANCIS H. WING,	"	13th "	Skowhegan.
"	SETH T. SNIPE,	"	14th "	Bath.
"	NEWELL P. NOBLE,	"	15th "	Phillips.
"	GEORGE W. HOLMES,	"	16th "	Norway.
"	FRANKLIN R. REDLON,	"	17th "	Portland.
"	JAMES C. AYER,	"	18th "	Cornish.
"	ISAAC N. HURD,	"	19th "	Kittery.
"	PITT H. JONES,	"	20th "	Springfield.
"	EZRA G. MASON,	"	21st "	Mount Desert.
"	JOHN H. SHEPHERD,	"	22d "	Corinna.
"	AI Q. MITCHELL,	"	23d "	West Newfield.
"	FRED G. PAYNE,	"	24th "	Lewiston.
W. & Rev.	MARTYN SUMMERBELL,	Grand Chaplain,		Lewiston.
"	ELMER E. NEWBERT,	"	"	Augusta.
"	WILLIAM A. NEWCOMB,	"	"	Thomaston.
"	ELMER F. PEMBER,	"	"	Bangor.
"	JOHN GIBSON,	"	"	C. Elizabeth.
"	WOODBURY P. MERRILL,	"	"	Berwick.
W.	HUGH R. CHAPLIN,	"	Marshal,	Bangor.
"	HORACE MITCHELL,	"	Senior Deacon,	Kittery Point.
"	JAMES E. PARSONS,	"	Junior Deacon,	Ellsworth.
"	GEO. O. MITCHELL,	"	Steward,	Bucksport.
"	JACOB R. STEWART,	"	"	Rockland.
"	EDWIN F. DAVIES,	"	"	Castine.
"	ENOCH O. GREENLEAF,	"	"	Farmington.
"	WM. N. HOWE,	"	Sword Bearer,	Portland.
"	CHAS. W. CROSBY,	"	Standard "	Kent's Hill.
"	WM. O. FOX,	"	Pursuivant,	Portland.
"	EDWIN A. PORTER,	"	"	Pittsfield.
M. W.	FRANK E. SLEEPER,	"	Lecturer,	Sabattus.
W.	WALTER S. SMITH,	"	Organist,	Portland.
"	WARREN O. CARNEY,	"	Tyler,	Portland.

The remaining officers, elected and appointed, who were present, were then presented and installed, and due proclamation thereof made.

The Grand Master assumed the East and announced the following

STANDING COMMITTEES.

On Credentials.

WILLIAM N. HOWE, CHARLES E. SNOW, HARVEY P. HINCKLEY.

On Grievances and Appeals.

CHARLES I. COLLAMORE, JOSEPH M. HAYES, EDWARD P. BURNHAM.

On Publication.

FESSENDEN I. DAY, SAMUEL L. MILLER, W. SCOTT SHOREY.

On History.

ALFRED S. KIMBALL, JOHN M. S. HUNTER, CHARLES W. JONES.

On Dispensations and Charters.

ARLINGTON B. MARSTON, ARCHIE LEE TALBOT, EDMUND B. MALLET, JR.

On Amendments to the Constitution.

EDWARD P. BURNHAM, JOSEPH A. LOCKE, ALDEN M. WETHERBEE.

On Masonic Jurisprudence.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, MARQUIS F. KING, HORACE H. BURBANK.

On Foreign Correspondence.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, EDWARD P. BURNHAM, ALBRO E. CHASE.

On Condition of the Fraternity.

HENRY R. TAYLOR, HOWARD D. SMITH, E. HOWARD VOSE.

*On Library.*AUG. B. FARNHAM (*ex officio*), ALBRO E. CHASE, FRANK E. SLEEPER.*On Transportation.*

STEPHEN BERRY, W. FREEMAN LORD, DAVID W. CAMPBELL.

On Returns.

STEPHEN BERRY, GEORGE W. SMITH, ALBERT M. AMES.

*On Observance of Centennial of Death of Wor. Bro. George Washington.*EDWARD P. BURNHAM; MARQUIS F. KING, *Alternate*.

The minutes were then read and approved, and at
12.25 the Grand Lodge was closed.

Attest:

Stephen Berry,

Grand Secretary.

~> REPORTS ~<

OF

District · Deputy · Grand · Masters.

FIRST DISTRICT.

To M. W. AUG. B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit a partial report of the doings of the lodges comprising the First Masonic District.

I have had the pleasure during the year of witnessing the exemplification of work in the M. M. degree in all the lodges in the district, with the exception of one, which was in the F. C. degree.

The work in each lodge was done in an impressive manner and in close conformity to the ritual. Very few errors were made and most of those were due to slips of the tongue rather than from want of knowledge. The officers were earnest and took a just pride in doing correct work.

There is one matter, however, existing in all the lodges, with one exception, which is to be regretted. I refer to advancing candidates who have not made "suitable proficiency in the preceding degree." In most of the lodges very little, if any, proficiency is required. I believe that if every candidate were required to pass an examination in open lodge that it would result in more earnest and better masons. To appreciate Masonry one must have more knowledge of it than is gained by simply rushing through the degrees.

Aroostook Lodge, at Blaine, is especially to be commended in the character and amount of work during the year. Fourteen candidates have taken the several degrees, which is quite remarkable considering the financial depression which prevails in Aroostook, and that the town is one of the smallest in the district. In examining their records I was surprised to find that not an

elective officer had been absent from his post a single meeting for the whole year.

I had the honor of publicly installing the officers of Caribou and Washburn Lodges and privately of Eastern Frontier Lodge.

In conclusion, I wish to express my gratitude to the officers and members of the several lodges in the district for the courtesy shown me, and to you, Most Worshipful, for the honor of my appointment.

Fraternally submitted,

Fort Fairfield.

A. D. SAWYER, D. D. G. M. 1st M. D.

SECOND DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUG. B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

In conformity to the constitution and custom, I herewith present my first annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Second Masonic District.

During the year I have visited each lodge in the district, and it gives me great pleasure to report that harmony and good will prevails.

Although as a whole we have not had a great amount of work we are not retrograde, only waiting for a demand for "more light," and this we know will be made when business becomes better.

My first official visit was to Crescent Lodge, at Pembroke, on Thursday evening, October 10th. On this occasion I was accompanied by Bros. A. W. CLARK, Past District Deputy Grand Master, and WHEELER C. HAWKES, both members of Eastern Lodge of this city. The attendance at this meeting was not as large as expected, and many of the prominent officers were absent. This of course had a damaging effect on the work of the Third degree, which under these unfavorable circumstances was well performed, those of the officers who were present showing much proficiency and interest, which it would be well if the other brother officers would emulate. After the work I made such suggestions and corrections as seemed advisable, which readily met with the approval of the lodge. Records are neatly kept and the treasury shows a handsome balance on hand. At the close, refreshments were served which were very much enjoyed.

On Tuesday, December 3d, I received a petition from Bro. MERRILL D. LAWRENCE, of Red Beach and sixteen other Master Masons, residents of Robbinston and Red Beach, praying for the formation of a lodge to be located at Robbinston. As this petition had received the sanction of Cres-

cent and St. Croix Lodges, whose jurisdictions have been concurrent over this territory, in due time, together with such information as many inquiries would naturally bring forth, I approved the action of the petitioners and placed the matter in the hands of the Grand Master. [Withheld by Grand Master at request of petitioners.]

On Thursday, December 12th, I attended the lodge of instruction at Bangor, over which R. W. Bro. RAYMOND, Grand Lecturer, presided. Much valuable information was received.

Wednesday evening, January 1st, I commenced my labors for the year by visiting Washington Lodge, No. 37, at Lubec, and publicly installing their officers. This occasion, like many others in the past, was rendered the more enjoyable in consideration of the presence of many of the wives and families of the members. An elegant collation, followed by an entertaining programme, consisting of music and amusements, concluded the evening.

On Thursday, January 23d, the annual convention of the lodges in the Second District convened at Masonic Hall, Eastport. One hundred and fifty members of the various lodges were present. I herewith append the report of Bro. IRVINE CASE, of Washington Lodge, firmly believing the craft generally must be benefited by its perusal.

"A convention of the lodges F. & A. M. of the Second Masonic District, was held with Eastern Lodge, No. 7, at Eastport, Thursday, January 23d. At 2 P. M. the convention was called to order by District Deputy Grand Master WALTER F. BRADISH, assisted by Past District Deputy MOSES TAIT, Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

"A large delegation was present from St. Croix, Crescent, Washington and Eastern Lodges—Lewy's Island Lodge not being represented. After a short address by the District Deputy in relation to the good results arising from these conventions, and the benefit to the different lodges, it was conceded that the conventions of the Second District were here to stay. Some questions relative to the mode of conducting conventions were freely discussed and the next convention was appointed to meet with St. Croix Lodge, at Calais.

"The District Deputy then announced that the work on the E. A. degree would be exemplified by Washington Lodge, of Lubec. W. M. R. G. McBRIE was called to the chair, and the lodge was duly organized and proceeded with their work, which was done in the usual manner.

"The District Deputy criticised the work in a very brotherly manner, and congratulated its Master on the able and efficient manner in which he conducted the work of this degree. Eastern Lodge furnished the candidate for this degree, for which they received the hearty thanks of Washington Lodge.

"St. Croix Lodge was then called, and exemplified the work of the F. C. degree. Unfortunately none of their officers were present except the S. W., and the work was conducted by volunteer officers, and under the circumstances no officers could have conducted the business in a more satisfactory manner.

"The convention was then called from labor to refreshment and repaired to the Washington Street Baptist Church, where a banquet was spread by the ladies of the church. Judging from the beaming countenances around us it was fully appreciated.

"The convention resumed labor at 8 o'clock, when Eastern Lodge was called and conferred the Master's degree. We noticed a very marked de-

gree of skill in the work of this lodge, and it is evident that they as well as other lodges are profiting by these conventions.

"After some interesting remarks by the Deputy and others, the good wishes and good nights were exchanged and the brethren separated at a seasonable hour, well pleased with the convention of 1896."

Wednesday, February 5th, again found me with the brethren of Washington Lodge, at Lubec, nearly a dozen members of Eastern Lodge accompanying me on this pleasant trip. Work of the evening, the Third degree. Two simple words express it all, "Well done." As the members of this lodge are continually seeking "more light," numerous questions were asked and answers given. I trust the brethren were gratified to an extent equaling my own.

Monday, April 6th, visited St. Croix Lodge, at Calais. The attendance was not as large as was desired. W. Bro. GARDNER in the chair. As there was no work to present, the evening was spent in a social manner, many questions being asked and answers given, also suggestions made. St. Croix is particularly lucky in having, as one of its members and constant attendants, R. W. MOSES TAIT, who, evincing his great interest in the order, has worked up from the lower stations step by step, until it was our great pleasure to assist in placing him in the South of the Grand Lodge. With such guardians as these it is impossible that St. Croix should materially err. The records, in the hands of Bro. MORRELL, are correctly kept, and the treasury shows a handsome working balance. The attention shown me by officers and members was indeed gratifying.

Tuesday evening, April 7th, at Princeton, where I spent a very profitable evening with the brethren of Lewy's Island Lodge. There being no candidate, work was exemplified on the E. A. degree in a very creditable manner. The return to the Mastership of Bro. B. F. CHADBOURNE is sufficient proof and guarantee that the future welfare of the lodge has been prudentially determined. Attendance satisfactory. Records accurately kept and treasury shows a handsome balance on hand.

I consider myself under another tie to Bro. TAIT for accompanying me from Calais; his presence had a most cheering influence on the members of Lewy's Island.

Eastern Lodge, No. 7, is my masonic home, and modesty forbids that I should comment too freely. Having attended most of the meetings, I have noted with much pleasure the correctness of the rendering of the ritual by the officers, and the interest manifest by the members.

My official visit occurred Thursday evening, January 23d, (convention evening) when the Master's degree was conferred in more than a satisfactory manner, sufficiently so to cause our Junior Grand Warden to remark of its excellency, "that he had never seen better since the recent changes in the

ritual were made." Records, as usual, well kept by the hands of our veteran Secretary, N. B. NUTT.

On all occasions, whether visiting or not, I have taken the liberty to give such instructions and make such corrections as I thought necessary.

And now, Most Worshipful, permit me to thank you for the great honor you have conferred on me by this appointment, sincerely trusting that the "broad mantle of masonic charity may be thrown around my foibles, whatever they may have been." If erring, it has been from the lips, not the heart.

To the officers and members of the lodges in the district I am very grateful for fraternal attentions shown.

Very truly yours,

WALTER F. BRADISH, D. D. G. M. 2d M. D.

THIRD DISTRICT.

To M.W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor herewith to submit the annual report for the Third Masonic District.

I have visited each lodge in this district once during the year. Jonesport Lodge I have visited twice, and have attended most of the meetings of Pleiades Lodge during the year. The lodges are in good working condition, and a greater interest has been awakened in several of the lodges, by the holding of the annual convention. The records are systematically and correctly kept. Most of the lodges are in good financial standing. In most of them, the dues are in arrears, and in some of the lodges, active measures are being taken to remedy this evil, with every prospect of success. Peace and harmony prevail throughout the lodges of the district, with a generous rivalry as to which lodge shall do the best work.

November 19th, I visited Jonesport Lodge, No. 188, at Jonesport, and witnessed work in the Third degree. The lodge room at Jonesport is very small, and precludes the idea of good work. The brethren are alive and energetic, and have a new lodge room in process of construction, which, when completed, will be the equal of any in the district. Last year they were considerably in debt, but at the present time have cleared off the debt and will complete the hall this year. I brought to the notice of the lodge the necessity of having a history of the lodge written, but do not know what steps have been taken. I also gave instructions in the work.

January 21st, I again visited Jonesport Lodge, No. 188, at Jonesport,

this time for the purpose of publicly installing the officers. The installation was held in the opera house. There was a large number present. Following the installation ceremonies was a supper and ball gotten up by the masons' wives, the proceeds to go to paying the debt on the new hall. This was a very enjoyable time. I was assisted in the installation ceremonies by Bro. W. L. PRAY, of Pleiades Lodge, Millbridge, who acted as Grand Marshal.

January 29th, I visited Tuscan Lodge, No. 106, at Addison, for the purpose of publicly installing the officers. I was assisted on this occasion by Past Master N. C. WALLACE, of Pleiades Lodge, No. 173, Millbridge, who acted as Grand Marshal. Before installation, supper was served in the hall below, after which Past District Deputy Grand Master CHANDLER was again installed Master of Tuscan Lodge. This lodge owns its large and commodious hall, and has money in the treasury. The records are neatly and correctly kept. A very large number attended the ceremonies.

February 1st, I privately installed the officers of Pleiades Lodge, No. 173, Millbridge. That the installation was private was due to the recent death of our Bro. IRA E. FOSTER. This lodge is showing great interest in the work, especially among the younger members, and all are very much interested in making the lodge one of the best working lodges in the district. The records of this lodge are correctly and very neatly kept by Bro. A. C. LEIGHTON. This being my masonic home, I have attended the meetings very regularly, and have endeavored to have the work as good as possible. This lodge is very fortunate in having so many young members who are active and enthusiastic in masonic work.

February 4th, I installed the officers of Warren Lodge, No. 2, at East Machias. The installation was private. Previous to installation, the lodge worked the Second degree upon a candidate. The work was very good indeed. The work was followed by refreshments, and I enjoyed the evening very much. Warren Lodge is in first class condition financially, and also in the interest taken in Masonry, especially in the work. Too much praise cannot be given the Secretary, Bro. F. L. TALBOT, for the correct and neat manner in which the records are kept. Everything under the charge of the Secretary is arranged in a systematic order.

February 5th, I privately installed the officers of Lookout Lodge, No. 131, Cutler. There was a good number of the members present, and considerable interest was shown. Bro. F. L. TALBOT, of Warren Lodge, No. 2, East Machias, assisted as Grand Marshal. Bro. ELMER GARDNER was also present. After installation, refreshments were served at the hotel, and I had a very pleasant evening. The records are well kept, and I think from the interest shown, that Lookout Lodge will show considerable gain during the coming year.

February 18th, I installed the officers of Harwood Lodge, No. 91, Machias,

Past Master BRYANT, of Harwood Lodge, assisted as Grand Marshal. The installation was private. The Master elect, owing to sickness, was unable to be present. Secretary BEVERLY was also absent. Past Grand Master H. R. TAYLOR was present, and quite a large number of the brethren. This lodge has the best hall in the district, and ought to do excellent work. The records are correctly kept.

February 19th, a convention of this district for instruction was held with Harwood Lodge, at Machias. At 2 p. m., the convention was called to order, and work in E. A. degree exemplified by Narraguagus Lodge, of Cherryfield, which was done in a very excellent manner, and elicited many expressions of praise. This was followed by a general discussion of points and corrections, in which many took part, especially Past Grand Master TAYLOR and Past Master BRYANT, of Harwood Lodge. At 5 p. m., this lodge was closed, and a lodge of F. C. opened. Harwood Lodge exemplified the work in the F. C. degree. Owing to the illness of the Master, the S. W. acted as Master, and the fact that this caused a change in some of the officers was taken into account in the work done by the lodge. This was followed by discussion and general corrections, in which all took part. This lodge was closed at 6.30 p. m. At 8 p. m., a M. M. lodge was opened, and the officers of Tuscan Lodge were invited to exemplify the work in the Third degree. Their work was excellent, and it is seldom that one sees better work. This was followed as in the preceding work, by corrections and discussion of points, and at 11 p. m., the lodge was closed, and refreshments served to the brethren. This convention was the largest ever held in the district, and the interest shown was unusual. The success of this convention was due to the interest shown by the brethren generally, and especially to the lodges taking part in the work. Every lodge in the district was well represented. The thanks of the convention are due to Harwood Lodge for the royal welcome it received.

February 26th, I installed the officers of Narraguagus Lodge, No. 88, of Cherryfield, publicly. Past Master F. I. CAMPBELL acted as Grand Marshal. Previous to the installation ceremonies, a banquet was served. Following the installation of the Blue Lodge was the installation of the chapter, by Past Grand Master TAYLOR. Past D. D. G. M. WINGATE, of Narraguagus Lodge, was present at the installation. The installation ceremonies were rendered very pleasant by the singing of a quartette. The records are correctly kept, and great interest is taken in the work.

I was unable, on account of sickness, to attend the District Deputy Grand Masters' convention for instruction at Bangor. I was very much disappointed in not being able to be present.

There is a general revival of interest in the lodges throughout the district,

and I think that during the next year there will be quite an increase in the work.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the officers and brethren of the several lodges for the kindly manner in which they have received and entertained me, and I wish especially to thank Bro. F. L. TALBOT, of East Machias, for courtesies extended to me, also you, Most Worshipful, for the honor of my appointment. Fraternally submitted,

JUSTIN A. WALLING, D. D. G. M. 3d M. D.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit the annual report of the District Deputy Grand Master of the Fourth Masonic District.

I have made official visits to every lodge in the district at least once during the year, as follows:

Monday, October 28, 1895, Eggemoggin, No. 128, at Sedgwick. Work in M. M. degree.

Tuesday, January 28, 1896, Rising Sun, No. 71, at Orland. Work M. M. degree.

Thursday, February 20th, Hancock, No. 4, at Castine. Exemplified work in F. C. degree.

Friday, March 6th, Naskeag, No. 171, at Brooklin. Exemplified work in M. M. degree.

Wednesday, March 11th, Rising Star, No. 177, at Penobscot. Passing of lectures and exemplifying work in E. A. degree.

Monday, March 16th, Felicity, No. 19, at Bucksport. Passed lectures, etc. A very instructive meeting.

I have been present at twelve of the fourteen meetings held by Ira Berry Lodge, No. 187, at Bluehill, during the year, and have considered no official visit necessary, it being my home lodge.

INSTALLATIONS.

By request of the W. M. and Wardens elect of Eggemoggin Lodge, I publicly installed the officers elect on January 27th.

I also installed the officers elect of Ira Berry Lodge, at Bluehill, on January 20th, publicly.

CONVENTIONS.

December 12th, I attended the Masonic Convention holden at Bangor. A very instructive meeting.

CELEBRATIONS.

By request of Hancock Lodge, No. 4, at Castine, I wish to mention their celebration on the 100th anniversary of their lodge, which was holden at Castine, June 26, 1894. Through some misunderstanding, no mention was made of the above in my report last year, and I am now pleased to say that the exercises on the anniversary of the fourth oldest lodge in the state passed off in a very pleasing manner. Addresses were given by senior Past Masters, and banquet and reception at the Acadian House.

I have endeavored to impress upon the minds of the members of every lodge in the district the fact that, while perfect ritual work is important, it is by no means the whole foundation of Masonry. But to live for the good of our fellowmen, practice charity, relieve the distressed, protect and assist the mason's widow and orphans is far more essential, and is the very foundation of Masonry.

I have made the matter of dues, at all times in my official visits, in addressing the brethren, an important factor, and have told them that it was not only very essential that the dues be collected promptly, but in justice to all it is absolutely necessary. An improvement has been made in all lodges in the district as regards dues, but still there is chance for greater improvement.

Hancock Lodge, No. 4, has the smallest amount of dues uncollected.

Most perfect work witnessed was done by Eggemoggin Lodge, at Sedgwick.

The average attendance throughout the district is not as good as I could wish, and I have given the matter attention and have spoken of it in my official visits, and hope for improvement. I cannot conceive how a mason, true to his vows and to his lodge, will neglect attending the meetings of his lodge (except when there is work or a banquet). These brethren must know that if each and every brother did as they do, we should soon have no lodges at all. Business is an excuse for non-attendance, but when a brother absents himself from the lodge for the purpose of occupying the deacon seat in a store, playing cards or taking a sleigh-ride, or for any other amusement, it is not consistent with Masonry, and I am sorry to say that too much of it is done in the Fourth District. The average attendance of the several lodges in the district is as follows:

Lodge.	No. of Members.	Average Attendance.	Average per cent.
Hancock,	69	15	22
Felicity,	112	13	11½
Rising Sun,	83	19	23
Eggemoggin,	88	17½	20
Naskeag,	69	24	35
Rising Star,	67	14	21
Ira Berry,	54	16½	30½

In all cases I have given the lodges the privilege of making a date for my official visit.

I have done what I could to promote the cause of Masonry in each and every lodge in the district, and while doing this, if I have established any ill-feeling, or said things which should have been left unsaid, I am sorry for it, and can only say that whatever has been said or done on these occasions by me, was for the good of the craft.

Thanking you, M. W. Grand Master, for the honor of my appointment, and the brethren of the several lodges for courtesies extended, I am,

Yours fraternally,

HARVEY P. HINCKLEY, *D. D. G. M. 4th M. D.*

Bluehill, April 3, 1896.

FIFTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to present my second annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Fifth Masonic District.

I have visited all the lodges in this district once officially, and some of them at other times. I am happy to report all of them in a prosperous condition, except one, Composite, No. 168, at La Grange.

October 3d, I visited Mosaic Lodge, No. 52, at Foxcroft, and witnessed the conferring of the M. M. degree on two candidates. The work was well done. The interest in this lodge was improved very much in the past year. The W. M., Bro. A. P. CLARK, has taken a great deal of interest, and with the assistance of his officers and the brothers, the lodge has prospered. I found the records in good condition and dues quite well collected. There was a large attendance, more than one hundred, including visiting brothers, being present. A very nice supper was served at the close.

November 2d, I visited Composite Lodge, No. 168, at La Grange, and installed its officers. No work on hand, but the officers and brothers retain their interest, and are prepared for work when presented. This lodge is not behind on dues as much as one year ago. Records in good hands, and in good condition.

November 4th, I visited Doric Lodge, No. 149, at Monson, and witnessed work in M. M. degree. It was done in a very creditable manner. This lodge is doing quite an amount of work this year. A good attendance of members, and a number of visiting brothers from Columbia Lodge, v. D., at

Greenville, were present. A banquet was served at close of work. Dues well collected. Records, in the hands of Bro. HAYNES, are all right.

November 29th, I made my official visit to Olive Branch Lodge, No. 124, at Charleston, and witnessed work in F. C. degree that was fairly well done. Attendance small; a good degree of interest shown by those present. This lodge has got out of debt. Dues well collected. Records in first class condition. This was the second candidate for the year.

November 11th, I installed the officers of Pleasant River Lodge, No. 163, at Brownville. This being my masonic home, I have been present at most of its meetings. The lodge has not been out of work for the year, and has quite an amount on hand now. The officers are all interested, and do good work. Dues well collected; records in good condition. It is very gratifying to me to have the candidate brought into open lodge, and pass a satisfactory examination in the preceding degree before advancement, as this and most of the lodges in this district are now doing. It must increase the masonic knowledge in the jurisdiction where practiced.

December 12th, I attended the meeting for instruction held in Bangor. It was a very instructive meeting. I regret that Pleasant River Lodge was the only one in the Fifth District represented; the W. Master and Treasurer being present with me. I have endeavored to communicate all instructions received at that time to the several lodges in my district, and I think all have profited by it.

December 16th, I visited Penobscot Lodge, No. 39, at Dexter. The M. M. degree was conferred on two candidates, the officers of Mosaic Lodge of Foxcroft, working one, and the officers of Penobscot the other. The work of both was very well done. A large attendance of members and visiting brothers. A nice banquet at close. This lodge has done quite a lot of work this year. Records well kept, in good hands. Dues well collected. Since visiting this lodge they have lost their hall by fire. A hall has been secured to use until they can obtain another of their own, which will be done soon, no doubt.

January 6th, I publicly installed the officers of Doric Lodge, No. 149, at Monson. An entertainment, consisting of music and reading, made it a very pleasant occasion for a large number of brothers and invited friends. At the close a nice banquet was served.

January 14th, I publicly installed the officers of Mosaic Lodge, No. 52, at Foxcroft. A large number of brothers, their ladies and invited friends were present. A fine program was presented, consisting of music, songs and recitations. A very tempting banquet was provided for all. At this meeting the officers of Piscataquis R. A. Chapter were installed by P. H. P. JAMES T. ROBERTS in a very impressive manner.

January 25th, I visited Mount Kineo Lodge, No. 109, at Guilford, and

installed its officers. Witnessed work in E. A. degree that was very well done. This lodge has been without work for some time, but it retains its interest. It has had quite a draft on its funds for charity the two years past. It has met with a severe loss by the death of Bro. ABNER T. WADE, Past Master. He has always been one of the main supports of the lodge, a good man and a true mason. The records are in good hands and the finances well looked after.

February 25th, I made my official visit to Columbia Lodge, v. d., at Greenville. The M. M. degree was worked in a very satisfactory manner, this being the first time they had conferred the M. M. degree on a candidate. This lodge has not done a large amount of work. It could have done more if it had not considered quality instead of quantity of work for the best interests of this new lodge. The officers and brothers are very much interested in the work and are striving to be perfect in it. This meeting was the occasion of a pleasant surprise to the brothers of Columbia Lodge, when Bro. CHAS. D. SHAW, Senior Warden, with pleasing remarks, presented to the lodge a full set of officers' lambskin aprons as a gift from W. M. HIRAM HUNT, Bro. WM. M. SHAW and himself. Rev. Bro. CHAS. DAVISON, in behalf of the lodge, accepted them with feeling and appropriate remarks. Records in good hands and in good shape. I can see no reason why this lodge should not prosper and take its place with others in the district.

March 17th, I made my official visit to Piscataquis Lodge, No. 44, at Milo; witnessed work in F. C. degree. It was not done in as perfect a manner as this lodge usually works. I witnessed the conferring of the M. M. degree by the officers of this lodge by invitation of the officers of Pleasant River Lodge at one of its meetings in October, and I think it was as good work as I have seen done in the district this year. This lodge has a very good hall, and the past year have added new furniture and paintings that makes it very comfortable and attractive. The best of feelings prevail in this lodge; good officers, all working together for the good of the craft. Dues well collected. Records in good hands and well kept. A good amount of work done the past year.

And now, Most Worshipful, I wish to thank you for the honor conferred in appointing me for the second time District Deputy Grand Master for the Fifth Masonic District. I also wish to thank the officers and members of the different lodges in my district for the many favors and courtesies shown me for the past year, the memories of which will always be pleasant to me through life. Yours truly and fraternally,

EDWIN M. JOHNSTON, D. D. G. M. 5th M. D.

Brownville, March 30, 1896.

SIXTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my second annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Sixth Masonic District for the past masonic year.

October 3, 1895, I visited Kenduskeag Lodge, No. 137, at Kenduskeag, and witnessed work in the M. M. degree upon two candidates, which was performed in a creditable and impressive manner. The officers of this lodge are much interested in the work, and trying to strictly conform to the ritual. They have quite a sum in the treasury, and the dues are well collected. The records are in good hands, and neatly kept. The attendance was large, about fifty being present. Banquet at close.

November 2d, I visited Lynde Lodge, No. 174, at Hermon, and witnessed work in M. M. degree, which was performed in a very fine manner. This lodge own their hall and are nearly out of debt. The dues are all collected and the records are in excellent hands. The officers and members are much interested in the welfare of the lodge. The attendance was very large, about seventy-five being present. A very fine banquet at close.

November 30th, I intended to visit Mystic Lodge, No. 65, at Hampden, but being unable to be present, I invited W. Bro. G. M. FLETCHER, of St. Andrew's Lodge, to visit for me, and he reports as follows: "Witnessed work in M. M. degree, which was nicely done. The records are well kept and the dues well collected. Banquet at close."

December 30th, I visited Star in the East Lodge, No. 60, at Old Town, and installed the officers. The attendance was large and much interest was manifested. The records are in the hands of Bro. C. A. DILLINGHAM, and are very neatly and correctly kept. This lodge has a fine hall, and a large sum in the treasury (about two thousand dollars), and the dues well collected. Banquet at close.

January 8, 1896, I visited Mechanic's Lodge, No. 66, at Orono, and witnessed work in the M. M. degree, which was performed in a very correct and impressive manner. The officers are interested and have a good understanding of the ritual. They have a good hall and quite a sum in the treasury. Dues well collected. "Banquet."

January 28th, by invitation, I installed the officers of Rising Virtue Lodge, No. 10, at Bangor. I was assisted by W. Bro. T. W. BURR as Grand Marshal. The installation was followed by a banquet, after which speeches were made by several brethren. The P. M. degree was conferred upon Bro. W. S. BOLTON, Master elect, and upon W. Bros. E. A. PIERCE and W. W. PATTERSON, of Kenduskeag Lodge.

January 31st, by invitation, I installed the officers of St. Andrew's Lodge,

No. 83, at Bangor. I was assisted by W. Bro. T. W. BURR as Grand Marshal. A fine banquet followed, and speeches were made by several brethren, and the occasion was a very pleasant one to all present.

March 27th, visited Howard Lodge, No. 69, at Winterport, and witnessed word on the E. A. degree, which was fairly well performed. This lodge has had but little work the past year and the attendance was small. It is in good condition financially, owning a fine hall, and has money in the treasury. The records are in good hands and the dues well collected. Banquet at close.

April 3d, I visited St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 83, at Bangor, and witnessed work in the M. M. degree upon four candidates, which was performed in a very creditable manner. There were present on this occasion about three hundred brethren, representing thirty lodges and five states. A fine banquet was served, and the occasion was a very happy one and long to be remembered by all who were fortunate enough to be present.

Benevolent Lodge, No. 87, I have not visited, it having had no work during the past year.

In conclusion, allow me to thank you, Most Worshipful, for the honor conferred upon me, and the officers and members of the several lodges composing this district for the uniform courtesy with which I have been received. Very respectfully and fraternally submitted,

DANIEL W. MAXFIELD, D. D. G. M. 6th M. D.

SEVENTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor of submitting my second annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Seventh Masonic District for the year ending May 5, 1896.

I have visited all the lodges in the district and have found them as a whole in a very prosperous condition, and at present peace and harmony prevail throughout the district.

On the evening of October 10th, if I remember correctly, by invitation, and assisted by Past Master, Bro. A. MILLETT, as Grand Marshal, I publicly installed the officers of Quantabacook Lodge, No. 129. The services were interspersed with fine music by the village choir. After the installation a fine supper was served in the banquet hall, and the brethren and their ladies enjoyed a very pleasant hour.

On the afternoon of October 12th, assisted by Past District Deputy Grand Master G. H. CARGILL, as Grand Marshal, I publicly installed the officers of Liberty Lodge, No. 111, my own masonic home. The ceremony was interspersed with music by the Liberty choir, and followed by short speeches by the brethren and visitors. A fine supper was served by the ladies, and in the evening the brethren and their ladies witnessed the installation of the officers of St. George's Chapter of R. A. Masons.

November 28th, with Bro. G. H. CARGILL, I visited Unity Lodge, No. 58, and witnessed work in the Fellow Craft degree, which was rendered very well indeed. The books and finances were in good shape and well managed, and the officers were interested in the work.

November 30th, I visited Central Lodge, No. 45, and witnessed work on the Master Mason's degree, which was rendered very correctly and impressively. The lodge room has been newly painted and papered, and refurnished, and looked very neat and pleasant. The finances of this lodge are second to none in the district, it being the oldest lodge. The books are still in the able hands of Bro. W. W. WASHBURN.

December 17th, I visited the Lodge of Instruction held at Rockland, and received instruction through Grand Lecturer F. E. SLEEPER.

January 4th, I visited Quantabacook Lodge, No. 129, and witnessed work on the Master Mason's degree, and it was rendered very accurately. This lodge is in a very prosperous condition, and has made the largest gain in numbers of any lodge in the district.

January 17th, I visited Marsh River Lodge, No. 102, and by invitation I publicly installed the officers, assisted by Past District Deputy Grand Master JOHN H. GORDON. Fine music was rendered during the evening, and after the installation we had the great pleasure of listening to a fine address delivered by Miss CHARLOTTE THORNDIKE SIBLEY, of Belfast. Subject: "The building of King Solomon's Temple, and a trip across the Holy Land." The hall was full, and many were obliged to go away without getting in. After the address the masons and their ladies repaired to the Briggs Hotel and partook of a bountiful turkey supper.

January 28th, with Bro. SAMUEL T. YOUNG, I visited Star in the West Lodge, No. 85, and witnessed exemplification of the Master Mason's degree, which was done in an able and very correct manner. The officers of this lodge are very much interested, and are striving to make this one of the best lodges in the district. After the meeting a fine oyster supper was served at the hotel.

March 5th, I visited Sebasticook Lodge, No. 146, and witnessed work in the Master Mason's degree, which was rendered in that able and impressive manner which ever characterizes Sebasticook Lodge.

Liberty Lodge, No. 111, my home, I have visited as often as possible, and

I made my official visit March 28th. Its finances and books are in their usual good condition, but as there has been no work for the past year the officers are not in their usual good working trim; but I feel that they soon will be, as work has made its appearance.

I wish to thank the brethren of this district for their hospitality and the many courtesies shown me while acting in my official capacity, and in closing I wish to thank you, Most Worshipful, for the honor you have conferred upon me and your kind support.

Faternally yours,

EDWIN A. PORTER, *D. D. G. M. 7th M. D.*

Liberty, April 28, 1896.

EIGHTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

As a part of my duty as District Deputy Grand Master, I herewith submit the condition of Masonry in the Eighth District. All the seven lodges in my jurisdiction I have visited with one exception, Island Lodge, and have in every instance been kindly received by the officers and brethren, who seemed desirous of making the visits pleasant to me and profitable to themselves.

October 5th, I publicly installed the officers of Excelsior Lodge, No. 151, assisted by Bro. MASON L. STEVENS as Grand Marshal. After the ceremonies were performed, a fine supper was served in the hall, followed by remarks, songs, readings, &c. This is my masonic home. I have been present at every meeting for the past year. The officers are well posted in the work, and peace and harmony dwell within its borders.

December 10th, by invitation, I publicly installed the officers of King David's Lodge, No. 62, with the assistance of P. M. M. G. BLACK as Grand Marshal, and Bro. CYRUS HILLS as Grand Chaplain, and also by some excellent music furnished by the local choir. After the ceremonies there was a banquet, and a few hours of social chat.

December 17th, attended masonic convention at Rockland, conducted by W. Bro. F. E. SLEEPER, where I received much valuable instruction in the work.

January 29th, I by invitation publicly installed the officers of Pownal Lodge, with the assistance of P. M. M. G. BLACK, of Excelsior Lodge, as Grand Marshal. After installation, all were invited to the banquet hall, where were found the tables loaded with eatables fit for a king. After doing ample justice to the inner man, we repaired to the place from whence we came and listened to some fine music, recitations, speeches, readings, &c.

We commend the following to Bro. SINGLETON (who was a Virginia mason) and others who think with him:

"Who would care to be thus Grand Master in name only and subject to a constitution in an organization, one of the corner-stones of which is the Master's prerogative, and which was in full working order before men ever thought about constitutional government?"

In his review of California, he thus maintains views which we have been advocating for many years:

"The Grand Master, in answer to the question as to whether a Past Master of another jurisdiction could, by request, install officers, decided that a Past Master in California was one who had earned the title by actual service there only, and then adds that he can see no reason why a Past Grand officer or a Past Master of another jurisdiction might not be invited by one, having himself the authority, to install officers. This seems to be taking both sides of the question. Our custom is to recognize as Past Masters and thereby members of the Grand Lodge all who have served the full term for which they were elected as Masters of regularly constituted lodges in this or any other jurisdiction, provided they are members in good standing in some Virginia lodge. It seems difficult to see how we would acquire the masonic right to reduce an actual Past Master to the ranks for no other crime than that of making his masonic home in the old Commonwealth."

Of course we need not say that we concur in this:

"He also, as do so many Grand Masters, calls attention to the imperfections of their constitution, but recommends caution as to its amendment. If his prerogative were properly recognized and a simple Methodical Digest of Grand Lodge laws substituted for this modern innovation, could not he, whenever he found special cases arising to which it did not well apply, by his dispensation overcome the trouble? Would it not be better to let the code of laws be his guide and counselor and his useful servant in carrying out the purposes of the Grand Lodge than to make it a constitution from which he cannot escape, even when to follow its provisions absurdly prevents him from accomplishing those purposes? Ought not he to be *Grand Master of Masons in Canada*, and as such, captain of the ship instead of a mere executive officer afraid to act in emergencies for fear of violating an organic law made before the emergency arose?"

The change suggested in the following would relieve many brethren from the very serious (?) trouble which they are having about "Past Masters." It is inconsistent to call a man, just installed for the first time as Master of a lodge, "*Past Master*":

"Our law requires Wardens-elect who have not had the degree in Royal Arch Chapter to receive it from a lodge of Past Masters, convened for the purpose, before installation. This does not make them Past Masters, however, as the title and privileges belong only to those who have served a full term for which they were elected as Masters of regular lodges. Would it not be well, in order to avoid the confusion, to return to the old name of Present Master for the degree, and reserve the title of Past Master for those who are really Past Masters? Present Master would properly describe the degree, as Past Master does not. Old masonic charts called the degree 'Present or Past Master.'"

We earnestly commend the following to the iconoclasts of the present day:

present at every meeting during the year. The officers for the ensuing year were installed by P. D. D. G. M. GEO. A. WARREN.

In conclusion, I desire to say that I have enjoyed my official visits very much to the lodges in this district, and as I have endeavored to discharge my duty to the best of my ability I hope I have accomplished some good. For the honor you have conferred upon me, Most Worshipful, I thank you.

Fraternally submitted,

RODEL A. PACKARD, D. D. G. M. 8th M. D.

NINTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor herewith to submit my first annual report as D. D. G. M. of the Ninth District.

By invitation, I visited St. George's Lodge, No. 16, of Warren, accompanied by P. M. ORRIS I. GOULD, of Amity Lodge, to install their officers.

January 3, 1896, I visited Amity Lodge, No. 6, officially. This is my home lodge. Work on the Third degree was presented to a full lodge room. Large delegations were present from several of the lodges in the district. Amity has always had the name of doing good work, and I think it was never done better. The officers were nearly all new to the offices they filled, but for all that the work went as smoothly as though they had filled the positions for the past year. I account for it in part that the officers are interested, and some of them have attended the meetings of the Grand Lecturer, and are trying to keep up with the regulation work. The records are in the hands of Bro. ORRIS I. GOULD, who is in earnest that the duties of Secretary shall be as promptly done as those of the working officers. The dues were much behind, but are being collected in, and another year will find the accounts of Amity Lodge with its members show well on the credit side.

January 15th, with the assistance of Past Master Bro. WILSON, of Amity Lodge, I publicly installed the officers of Aurora Lodge. A pleasing feature of the evening was the presentation of twelve Past Master's jewels, by Bro. GOULD, of Rockland. The jewels were purchased by contributions among the members of Aurora Lodge, who were interested, and wished to show their appreciation of those who had worked for the interest of their lodge.

January 21st, I publicly installed the officers of Orient Lodge, assisted by Past Master Bro. G. T. HODGMAN. The installation was in Knox Hall, which was well filled with the brethren and their ladies. An address was de-

livered by Rev. Bro. DeWITT, of Warren, which was listened to with close attention. Excellent music was furnished by a quartet. At the close of the ceremonies we adjourned to the banquet room above, where a fine banquet was served.

February 6th, I paid my official visit to Eureka Lodge. The work was on the Third degree, which was finely rendered. Eureka Lodge has fine quarters, and everything is prosperous. The records are in good condition, and the Secretary is looking after the delinquents.

March 2d, I visited St. George Lodge, of Warren. Work on M. M. degree, which was well done. Some of the officers lacked the confidence which they will have with more experience. I met the W.M., Bro. MOORE, at the Grand Lecturer's meeting at Rockland, and I found he was there to some purpose, as he followed the Grand Lodge very closely. The records are in good condition and dues well collected.

March 3d, I visited officially Rockland Lodge. This lodge, though it has done a fair amount of work, had no candidate for that evening, but gave a very good exemplification of the work. It has been my observation that exemplified work is seldom good work, but in this case, with the exception of some embarrassment that two of the officers labored under, the work was well done. The records are in good hands and are neatly and correctly kept.

March 10th, I made my official visit to Moses Webster Lodge, of Vinalhaven. Work was on the E. A. degree. The work was finely done, the officers were alive to the spirit of the work, and I think I never saw that degree conferred better. The records are in fine condition and the dues are well collected.

March 14th, I visited Knox Lodge, at South Thomaston. Although this is the smallest lodge in the district, I think the brethren are much interested in the work, and am not sure but they have a larger attendance in proportion to the number of members than many larger lodges. Work was presented on E. A. degree, which was very well done, considering that the officers were all new. The records are in good hands, and are in good condition. The dues are somewhat behind, and I suggested their making a special effort to collect them.

March 16th, visited St. Paul's Lodge, at Rockport. I found the attendance very small. I think but eleven of their own members were present, and in looking over their records I found that number was up to the average except on special occasions. I was much surprised, for in times past I have found a good interest in St. Paul's Lodge, and her members were alive to the interests of Masonry. I made such corrections as I thought necessary, which I hope were well received. The records are in good condition and dues are fairly well collected.

March 25th, officially visited Aurora Lodge, of Rockland. There were large delegations present from most of the lodges in the district. The candidate being called away, work was exemplified on the M. M. degree, which compared favorably with exemplified work. Bro. PETERSON was present at the meetings of the Grand Lecturer, and is well acquainted with all the changes in ritual. He is an earnest worker, and is keeping Aurora Lodge up to its standard. The dues, which have been somewhat behind, are being collected in. Bro. ROBINSON's records are in fine condition. The lodge history, which has been twenty years behind, will soon be written up and sent to the Grand Lodge.

March 26th, visited Union Lodge, of Union. Work in the E. A. degree was presented, and was well done. The W. M. was not present at the meeting in Rockland the 17th of December, and did not have the corrections that were made at that meeting. I made such corrections as I thought necessary, called the W. Master's attention to the lodge dues, which were much behind, and recommended that a special effort should be made to collect them, as the financial condition of their lodge was quite as important as correct ritual work.

In closing this, my first report, I would say I think the work in the Ninth District will compare favorably with the work in the other districts. I have visited every lodge and with one exception found the officers interested in their lodges, and doing good work, thanks to the instruction of the Grand Lecturer, which I think has been a great help to Masonry in this district.

I have called the attention of the lodges to their histories, which are behind, and think they will soon be completed and in the hands of the Committee on History.

One of the greatest drawbacks to Masonry and the prosperity of lodges is the slack manner in which they collect their dues. There are hundreds of dollars uncollected on their books, and only half of their lodges have suspended any members the past year for the non-payment of dues. I think if the lodges will enforce that article of their by-laws they may not have so many members, but those they do have will have more respect for their by-laws, and their lodge will be in a better condition financially. I have enjoyed my visits to the lodges very much, and the brethren have been very cordial in their reception of your representative.

I have not mentioned the banquets that have always followed the work, for the reason that the Ninth District has always entertained right royally, as the District Deputy Grand Masters have testified many times before, and as the Grand Lodge must be acquainted with the fact I have not mentioned them.

In conclusion, permit me to thank you, Most Worshipful, for the honor

conferred upon me by the appointment, and the many kindnesses extended to me as your Representative.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

April 13, 1896.

F. M. RICHARDS, D. D. G. M. 9th M. D.

TENTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my official report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Tenth Masonic District.

January 29th, I made my official visit to Anchor Lodge, No. 158, at South Bristol, and witnessed work on the Third degree, which was done in a very correct and fine manner, and although this lodge has little work, yet they are masters of the situation and are honest seekers after "More light." The M. W., Bro. HYSON, presides over his lodge with dignity, and is well supported by his subordinate officers and brethren. Records well kept. Refreshments followed.

On January 3d, by invitation, I installed their officers. Brethren from Bristol and Bay View Lodges made the occasion pleasant and profitable. Refreshments at close.

On January 7th, by request, I installed the officers of my home lodge, Alna, No. 43. On this, our annual feast, our lodge was graced by the presence of the wives, daughters and friends of our noble institution. The whole of the officers, with the exception of our veteran Treasurer, Past Master JOHN W. DAVID, are young men. After the installation, a bountiful supper was served and the social hour spent to the enjoyment of all.

I did not deem it necessary to officially visit my own lodge, knowing its officers and brethren. The W. M., Bro. LINCOLN H. CHAPMAN, is a young man, full of energy and zeal and a fine ritualist, and is ably supported by his officers. The Secretary, Bro. E. E. PHILBROOK, keeps a very fine record. Indeed, in the future as in the past, her officers stand ready to give a good account of themselves.

On January 4th, by request, I installed the officers of Bristol Lodge, No. 74, at Bristol Mills, in the presence of the ladies and invited guests. At the close of the services a sumptuous collation was served in their dining hall, which is characteristic of the ladies of this place.

On the evening of March 30th, I officially visited this lodge and witnessed work on the Third degree, and it is seldom that you see better. I was more

than happily surprised. There was very small chance for correction, the work being so nearly perfect. The W. M., Capt. OSCAR S. YATES, makes a model Master, and is a very fine worker, having the interest of his lodge at heart, and I may truthfully say the same of his officers. The retiring Master, Bro. BENNER, makes a fine Senior Deacon; he does not take kindly to graduation, as the most of retiring Masters do. The records, in hands of Bro. P. M. EDWIN J. ERVINE, are fine indeed.

On the evening of January 10th, by request, I installed the officers elect of Seaside Lodge, No. 144, at Boothbay Harbor, in the presence of a very large delegation of ladies and invited guests. This was truly a feast of good things, for after the installation was over, the W. M., Bro. McDougall, called upon the members, and among the lesser lights were the Rev. Bros. McCORMICK and POTTLE, who gave us a feast of good things. The customary good cheer was dispensed at the close.

On the evening of February 28th I made my official visit to Seaside Lodge, and witnessed work in the Third degree, with which no fault could be found. "Good work," and I expected the same, from the knowledge I had of their ability to do good work. The M. W., Bro. McDougall, is interested, and to my mind that is the key to the situation, and then again he has excellent support. There was small need of criticism. Since my last official visit, they have paid out nearly \$600 in the way of furnishings, and to-day they have a beautiful lodge room; few finer. They return the largest number of initiates, viz: twelve, and they well deserve their success. Bro. HENRY S. PERKINS is a very fine Secretary; neatness and despatch are his characteristics. At the close of the work, speeches, closing with the, to them, indispensable article, refreshments.

On the evening of January 22d, by request, I installed the officers elect of Riverside Lodge, No. 135, East Jefferson, in the presence of ladies and invited guests. It was a very pleasant occasion, and one that all seemed very much to enjoy. An orchestra furnished music to the satisfaction of all. Speech making followed and a general social time, until refreshments were announced.

On February 26th, I made my official visit to Riverside Lodge, and witnessed work on the Third degree, which was done admirably. This fine working lodge believes in constantly advancing; they have this aim in view. The W. M., Bro. BOWDEN, is a fine worker, and his support is first class. It is clearly a case of mutual agreement to do better work than ever before; it is very commendable and is just as it should be. The records, in the hands of Bro. P. M. W. A. JACKSON, is a warrant for their good condition and being well kept. Refreshments at close.

On the evening of January 17th, by request, I was present and installed the officers of King Solomon's Lodge, No. 61, at Waldoboro. Refreshments

at close. There was no change in the officers of this very fine working lodge. Several appointments were made for an official visit, but for one reason or another I did not get there. They are able to do fine work.

Being unable to visit Lincoln Lodge, No. 3, at Wiscasset, I made arrangements with P. D. D. G. M. DANIEL A. CAMPBELL to visit it for me, which he did and made the following return. He being present a year ago when I made my official visitation, says their work corresponds with that of a year ago, and referring to my report of a year ago, I find that they did fine work. There being no change in the Secretary, I need no report, for anything bearing the name of Wm. D. PATTERSON is a guarantee that it is right and well done.

I made several appointments with the Master of Bay View Lodge, No. 196, at East Boothbay. Storms and sickness obliged me to cancel them all. The Master, Bro. WHITEHOUSE, and P. D. D. G. M. ADAMS, have informed me of the prosperity of the lodge and the good work that they are doing. It is in good hands.

I made no appointment with Dresden Lodge, No. 103, at Dresden Mills, but learn from one of its members that they are much the same as a year ago. Bro. MAYERS, the Master, is able to keep things moving, whether the Deputy gets around or not.

Returns in full, from all the lodges in the district, have been received and forwarded to the Grand Treasurer.

In closing, please accept my thanks for the honor conferred on me by your appointment to this office, and I would also tender my sincere thanks to the brethren of the district for kindness shown me.

Yours very truly and fraternally,

CHARLES W. STETSON, D. D. G. M. 10th M. D.

Damariscotta, April 20, 1896.

ELEVENTH DISTRICT.

To M.W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit my second annual report of the Eleventh District.

I am pleased to note the usual harmonious and fraternal feeling that prevails in this district. The volume of work has been less than that of last year, but improvement has been made in the ritual, which is due, in no small degree, to efforts of the Grand Lecturer's Conventions held in the different sections of the state.

I have been prevented by various circumstances beyond my control from visiting the most distant sections of my district, and have also made less frequent visits to the lodges near by than I did in the previous year. I requested P. R. W. J. H. BARRON to visit officially Dirigo Lodge, No. 104. He reports no work for the year. I trust that with increased prosperity, due to the appearance of the railroad in that section, that Dirigo will yet "lead."

I also requested W. Bro. STARRIRD to visit Morning Star Lodge, No. 41, which he kindly did, and reports good progress, and the same in good condition.

I visited Hermon Lodge, No. 32, several times, and on the occasion of one of my visits, I installed the officers, and witnessed work in the Third degree. The brethren of this lodge have caught the spirit of progress and are talking of a new temple in the near future.

I have been unable to witness any work in Kennebec Lodge, No. 5, but am satisfied that the work is done correctly, and they are enjoying the usual prosperity in that anointed lodge.

Temple Lodge, No. 25, and Monmouth Lodge, No. 110, both exhibited good work in the Third degree.

I am pleased to note a vast improvement in Bethlehem Lodge work over the previous year. The new officers have studied hard to improve in their ritual, and have succeeded admirably. While the phenomenal increase in new members has been less in this lodge and Augusta Lodge, (which might be called twin lodges, as the number of initiations is the same in each) than last year, yet the growth has been very satisfactory. On the occasion of the annual installation of officers of Augusta Lodge, over three hundred guests sat down to the banquet.

The books in the different lodges remain in the same hands as in the previous year, and all are in first class condition.

Now, Most Worshipful, in retiring from the position of D. D. G. M., which I have tried to fill acceptably for two years past, I wish to return thanks for the uniform courtesy which has been extended to me throughout the entire district, and bespeak for my successor the same kindly feelings which have been shown to me.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES C. HUNT, *D. D. G. M. 11th M. D.*

TWELFTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit my first annual report as D. D. G. M. of the 12th Masonic District.

February 22d, officially visited Rural Lodge, No. 53, Sidney. Work was in M. M. degree, which was well done. A goodly number were present, including a delegation from Messalonskee Lodge, Oakland, and Neguemkeag Lodge, Vassalboro, among whom were Past D. D. G. Ms. CROWELL and STILSON. This lodge seems to be in a good condition and has done a fair amount of work the past year, and the officers and brethren seem to take a deep interest in their work. The records are well kept. After lodge closed, refreshments were served, and a very pleasant time we had. I made some corrections in the work, which were kindly received. Listened to short talks by Bros. CROWELL and STILSON, and at a late hour repaired to our homes, well pleased with the evening's work.

February 25th, I officially visited Vassalboro Lodge, No. 54, North Vassalboro. This lodge has not done much work the past year, owing no doubt to the hard times, but their officers are young men and seem to be capable of doing good work. I witnessed exemplification of work in F. C. degree, which was well done, considering their being out of practice. I made some corrections, and instructed them in some of the changes in the ritual, which was kindly received. After lodge closed, refreshments were served and a social hour enjoyed. The records are well kept.

February 27th, I officially visited Neguemkeag Lodge, No. 166, Vassalboro. Witnessed work in M. M. degree, which was very well done indeed, a goodly number being present. A delegation from Rural Lodge, Sidney, and several from Vassalboro Lodge, North Vassalboro, and also from Central Lodge, China. This lodge seems to be prospering well. They own their hall and have got funds in the treasury. This is Past D. D. G. M. STILSON's masonic home. He being present and assisting in the work is a guarantee that that part at least was correctly done. After lodge closed refreshments were served in the hall below, and a pleasant hour enjoyed by all.

April 4th, I officially visited Messalonskee Lodge, No. 113, Oakland. Witnessed the conferring of M. M. degree on two candidates, which was nicely done. Worshipful Bro. WITHERELL is a thorough worker. After the raising, the lodge was called from labor to refreshment; repaired to Hotel Sibley and partook of a bountiful supper, then returned to the hall and resumed work. The W. M. delivered the lecture in a very impressive manner, after which, on account of the near approach of the seventh day, the lodge was duly closed. The records being in the hands of R. Wor. J. WESLEY GILMAN, is sufficient guarantee that they are correctly kept.

April 13th, I officially visited Asylum Lodge, No. 133, Wayne. This was a special meeting called at my request. The traveling was very bad and a great many of the brethren lived several miles away, yet a goodly number were present. There being no work, the time was spent on the ritual. I found the brethren very conversant with the work. The opening and closing ceremonies were very well done, and the records well kept. This lodge has not done much work the past year, but the brethren seem zealous and hopeful. After lodge closed refreshments were served and a pleasant evening enjoyed. This is the masonic home of Past D. D. G. M. CROSBY, whom I hoped to meet, but he being out of town I was denied that pleasure.

April 5th, I wrote the W. M. of Lafayette Lodge, No. 48, at Readfield, that I wished to visit his lodge the 14th, and asked him to call a special meeting on that date, and if not convenient for him to do so, to let me know, and not hearing from him I went there and found no meeting had been called. He and most of the brethren living some distance from the lodge room, and the traveling being very bad, I found it was of no use to try to have a meeting. On the 17th, I met the Secretary of their lodge, Bro. MORGAN, in Waterville, and asked him if he knew why there was no meeting called. In a few days I received a letter from the W. M., saying he did not receive my letter, which explained all, and as it is so late now, I shall have to report this lodge as not visited.

April 15th, I officially visited Vernon Valley Lodge, No. 99, Mt. Vernon. This was a special meeting called at my request, but quite a number of the members were present. There being no work, the time was spent in studying the ritual and noticing the changes in the work, I giving them such instructions as I was able. Bro. BURBANK has the records in charge, as he has had for more than twenty years, which is, I think, a sufficient guarantee that they are well kept. After the lodge closed we spent an hour very pleasantly together.

Waterville Lodge, No. 33, being my masonic home, I have not deemed an official visit necessary, as I have been present at nearly every meeting for the year. There has not been as much work in this lodge as in some years past, but its officers are capable of doing good work, and I think will compare favorably with other lodges in this district. The records are in the hands of Bro. Ransted and are neatly and well kept.

While work in this district has slightly fallen off from last year, yet harmony and fraternal feeling seem to prevail, which is, I think, much to be grateful for.

I have endeavored to encourage the practice of frequent interchange of friendly visits between lodges, as in no other way, I think, can so uniform work be had as in this, and it tends also to improve the brethren socially.

But this has been a bad season for such visits on account of the uniform bad traveling.

And now, M. W., in closing my report, allow me to thank through you the officers and brethren of this district for their uniform kindness and courtesies to me, and you, M. W., for the honor of my appointment. I remain, Fraternally yours,

FRANKLIN WALKER, D. D. G. M. 12th M. D.

Waterville, April 25, 1896.

THIRTEENTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit my second annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Thirteenth District.

My first official act of this year was granting a dispensation to Somerset Lodge, No. 34, to appear in public in commemoration of St. John's Day on June 23d.

September 3d, I visited Carrabassett Lodge, No. 161, at Canaan. Having no work on hand, they exemplified work in the M. M. degree. Owing to the absence of some of the officers, the work was not as well rendered as it would have been had all been present, for they can do good work. The W. M., WALTER H. SMITH, is up to date on the ritual. Their records are in good hands and are well kept, and as far as I know peace and harmony prevail in this lodge.

December 28th, I visited Lebanon Lodge, No. 116, at South Norridgewock. There being no work on hand, an hour was spent in reciting the ritual and in making corrections. The records are still in the hands of Bro. POWERS, and are correctly kept. I have visited this lodge several times this year, and have witnessed work in nearly all of the degrees, which has been very well done.

November 7th, I visited Siloam Lodge, No. 92, at Fairfield, Bro. C. H. GARDNER, W. M. of Somerset Lodge, No. 34, accompanying me. We witnessed work in the M. M. degree, which was well done. There were about eighty brethren present, about twenty being from Waterville. On this occasion I also had the pleasure of meeting Bro. FRANKLIN WALKER, D. D. G. M. of the Twelfth District. I made such corrections and suggestions as I deemed necessary, which were kindly received. The records are still in the hands of Bro. MERRILL and are neatly and correctly kept. The

lodge was closed in due form. We then repaired to the hotel, where a sumptuous banquet awaited us, to which we did ample justice. Thus ended one of the most pleasant occasions of the year.

October 30th, I visited Keystone Lodge, No. 80, at Solon. They are building a new hall, which is going to be a very good one when completed. The old hall was so badly out of repair that they attempted no work. They are well up on the ritual, and I know that they can do good work. The records are still in the hands of Bro. LONGLEY, and are correctly kept. I also wish to thank Bro. PATTERSON and wife for their hospitality.

October 30th, I visited Bingham Lodge, No. 199, at Bingham. This was a special meeting called at my request. There was a goodly number of the brethren present. I witnessed work in the M. M. degree, which was well done. The ritual was very well rendered, but few mistakes being made. There has been a great improvement in their work since my first visit to them last year. They compare favorably with any of the lodges in the district. The records are well kept.

December 31st, I visited Northern Star Lodge, No. 28, at North Anson. Witnessed work in the E. A. degree, which was well done. I made such corrections as I thought necessary. The records are still in the hands of Bro. SIMMONS, and are a model of neatness. This being their annual meeting, the officers for the ensuing year were duly elected, and the lodge was closed in form, after which we repaired to the hall below, where refreshments were served.

January 6th, I visited Euclid Lodge, No. 194, at Madison. There was a good attendance of the brethren. Witnessed work in the M. M. degree, which, on the whole, was the best work I have seen in any of the lodges of this district. The lodge is well officered, and they are taking much interest in the work. Refreshments were served in the hall. Lodge closed in peace and harmony.

September 16th, I installed the officers of Euclid Lodge, in presence of the brethren, their families and invited guests. The ceremonies were interspersed with music. Refreshments were served in the banquet hall.

Somerset Lodge, No. 34, is my home lodge; I therefore did not consider it necessary to visit this lodge officially, as I have attended nearly all of its meetings, and have made such correction and suggestions as I deemed necessary. They have done a fair amount of work and done it well.

February 24th, I installed the officers of Somerset Lodge, No. 34, Past Master L. C. EMERY acting as Grand Marshal.

And now, Most Worshipful, permit me to extend to you my sincere thanks for the honor conferred by my appointment, and to heartily thank the officers and brethren throughout the district for their cordial and fraternal

greetings, and for their brotherly kindness and hospitality shown me on all occasions. Fraternally yours,

FRANCIS H. WING, D. D. G. M. 13th M. D.

FOURTEENTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Fourteenth Masonic District.

I have visited every lodge in this district, with one exception, at least once during the year and some of them several times. Much to my regret I was unable to visit Richmond Lodge, Richmond, my plans being interrupted by the freshet early in March, when I could not fulfill one of my appointments.

December 3d, I attended the meeting of the Grand Lecturers at Augusta, and the instruction there received from Bro. SLEEPER was of great help to me in my official work.

February 17th, I visited Ancient York Lodge, at Lisbon Falls, and witnessed the exemplification of work on the M. M. degree, conferred on one candidate, which was well done. There is much interest in this lodge. As the night of my visit was one of the coldest of the winter, the good attendance testified to that fact, many of them coming several miles to be present at the meeting. Worshipful Master HAIGHT is quite correct in his rendering of the ritual, though some errors and omissions were made. The condition of this lodge is first class in every respect, the records well kept and dues well collected. The ladies of the chapter of the Eastern Star furnished a fine collation at the close.

February 28th, I visited United Lodge, Brunswick, accompanied by several of the brethren from Bath. Work on the M. M. degree. This was the first time the present officers had done any work on this degree, and the manner in which it was done testified that they had made an effort to be good workers. The W. Master and Wardens are all young men, and the interest they take in the lodge and in doing the work will make some of the older masons look out for their laurels. I made such corrections and suggestions as I thought were needed, which were kindly received. After work was finished a nice banquet awaited us, at which speeches on the good of the order were made by members of the lodge and visiting brethren.

March 17th, I made an official visit to Acacia Lodge, Durham. There had been no work done the previous year, but at the election in December

new men were elected and they take much interest in the lodge. Since then three have been initiated, and the first candidate was raised the evening of my visit; the way in which it was done being a credit to themselves, yet, like all things human, it was not perfect. I gave such instruction as I thought needful, and their zeal for "more light in Masonry" was a proof that it was appreciated.

I desire publicly to express my appreciation to Bro. Wm. H. DOUGLASS, of Ancient York Lodge, who met me at the station at Lisbon Falls, and with his own team carried me to Durham, and though the traveling was very bad our reception was so cordial that all inconveniences were soon forgotten, the inner man, too, being well supplied with refreshments.

March 18th, with a delegation from my own lodge, Solon, and from Polar Star, I visited Village Lodge, Bowdoinham, and witnessed work on the F. C. degree. Bro. CARR, who is now in the East, was Master more than twenty years ago, and the fact that he is willing to serve as such again is proof that he is still interested in his lodge, and the correctness of his work shows that he is yet familiar with the ritual. Bro. JACK, the Senior Deacon, gave the lecture very correctly, and deeply impressed the candidate with its teachings. After giving such instruction as I deemed proper, speeches were made by the visiting brethren, among whom were several Past Masters. At the close, refreshments awaited us.

March 23d, I visited Freeport Lodge. This was the regular meeting, and after the usual business two candidates were initiated. I thus have seen work in every degree in my official visits. This lodge is in a healthy condition and the work compares favorably with some of the larger lodges. I made corrections of the errors which I noticed in the work, and answered the questions of the members relative to the work. The officers all seemed anxious to do good work. At the close of the meeting an oyster supper was served.

I have attended three meetings of Polar Star Lodge during my official year. The interest in this lodge the past year was not up to former years. The business of the Master having called him out of town much of the time he was present at but two meetings after the installation. The health of the Secretary was such, that he was obliged to resign, and so with these two officers absent, the brethren were not as regular as usual in their attendance.

At the annual meeting in March a new Master was elected, and at my last visit he worked the E. A. degree on one candidate, and the applications of four were accepted. The newly installed officers are very desirous to be correct in their rendering of the ritual, and they say if they do not do good work it is not because they do not try, and from frequent private interviews with the Master, and the questions he has asked, I am satisfied the

coming year will be a profitable one to the lodge. I have given such advice and instruction as I thought were needed.

As I have attended nearly every meeting of my own lodge, Solar, when there was work, I did not deem an official visit necessary, but have made such suggestions from time to time as I thought were required. The lodge is well officered, and they are very regular in their attendance; there has not been a meeting, I think, at which either Master, Warden, Deacon or Secretary was absent, and there was always a good attendance of the members. I think the practice of a Deputy making an official visit to his own lodge is not a good one; if he would exchange with a Deputy from a district near by it would be an improvement.

It is with much satisfaction that I find the lodges in this district in a flourishing condition. The records are well kept, the dues, with a few exceptions, well collected, the officers and members interested, and the social side of Masonry not neglected.

And now, Most Worshipful, in conclusion, I desire to thank you for the confidence you reposed in me in appointing me to this most responsible position, and to the officers and brethren for the uniform kindness and courtesy with which I have been treated, both officially and personally.

Fraternally yours,

SETH T. SNIPE, *D. D. G. M. 14th M. D.*

Bath, April 13, 1896.

FIFTEENTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

As the "first Tuesday in May" approaches, I am reminded that an account of my doings as District Deputy Grand Master must be rendered forthwith. With pleasure I submit the same.

November 26, 1895, Farmington. At a Lodge of Instruction, holden at above time and place, there were present: M. W. Grand Lecturer FRANK E. SLEEPER and the representatives of seven lodges. The weather was unfavorable and the attendance disappointing. The entire ritual was recited, questions were asked by the brethren and corrections, explanations and suggestions were made by the Grand Lecturer.

What seemed at the time almost a failure has proved, however, a decided success. The work, as promulgated by the Grand Lodge, thereby found its way directly or indirectly into nearly every lodge in the Fifteenth District, stimulating the desire of the officers, at least, to get the latest changes. This has resulted in bringing about a greater uniformity in the work that will be even more apparent another year.

October 17th, Strong. Davis Lodge, No. 191. At above date, I publicly installed the officers of this lodge. The ceremony was conducted in Vaughn's Hall, in the presence of the brethren, their families and other invited guests. After the installation, I gave a short talk on "Masonry as it appears to the uninitiated," emphasizing the importance of the better practice of Masonry in our every day lives. The evening concluded with refreshments and music.

March 20th, I again visited this lodge, witnessed their work, and made due inquiry into all their affairs. They are good workers, have made remarkable growth in their few years' existence, and all their affairs are in careful hands and in a healthy condition. Work on M. M. degree. A large delegation from Blue Mountain Lodge accompanied me by special train on this visit.

October 23d, Phillips. Blue Mountain Lodge, No. 67. At above date I installed the officers of this, my own lodge, in the presence of the brethren, their families, and other invited guests. Past D. D. G. M. NATHAN U. HINKLEY assisted in the ceremony as Grand Marshal. A pleasing entertainment and refreshments followed. I have been present at nearly all the communications of the lodge during the year. It was fully represented at the Lodge of Instruction holden at Farmington. The officers, nearly all of whom are young men, have taken great pride in acquiring the revised and accurate work. The records and affairs of the lodge are strictly guarded by a most exemplary Secretary, Bro. WM. A. D. CRAGIN. A complete lodge history is under way, and will soon be published.

December 4th, Wilton. Wilton Lodge, No. 156. Forty-three masons were present at the conferring of the M. M. degree upon one candidate. The work was well rendered, though needing to be changed somewhat to conform to the new ritual. The duties of Secretary are especially well performed by P. M. Bro. FRED E. TREFETHEN. A banquet and social hour concluded a very enjoyable evening.

February 17, 1896, Weld. Mystic Tie Lodge, No. 154. About fifteen brethren from my own lodge accompanied me upon my official visit to Mystic Tie. Though a fierce blizzard came on and raged through the night, yet forty interested masons were present. The M. M. degree was conferred upon one candidate. On the whole I have witnessed no better work during the year. P. M. Bro. CHAS. F. CHANDLER skillfully presided at the organ and was ever ready with the right selection at the right time. Would that more of the lodges were able in like manner to adorn their work. It is enough to say that Past D. D. G. M. LYMAN L. JONES has charge of the records. Much interest is manifest in this lodge.

February 28th, New Sharon. Franklin Lodge, No. 123. At above date, with several brethren from Maine Lodge, I visited New Sharon. They had

no work—have had none for two years. However, they were far from being “rusty.” The M. M. degree was exemplified in a very creditable manner. This lodge was also represented at the Lodge of Instruction before mentioned, and the work showed them close students of the new ritual. Though passing through a period of inactivity, yet they are by no means discouraged, but are hoping for, and expecting, better days. Twenty-six masons were present. Bro. A. T. STIXSON, the Secretary, is a “hustler,” and the dues are looked after closely.

March 25th, Livermore Falls. Oriental Star Lodge, No. 21. But twenty masons were present, though this was the regular communication of the lodge. This is the largest lodge in the district, numbering one hundred and eighty masons, and it was rather disappointing to meet so small a percentage of its membership. But the recent flood had laid waste and destroyed much valuable property at Livermore, including the only bridge across the river. This made it inconvenient, at least, for a part of the officers and many other members to attend. There was no work on hand, so the M. M. degree was exemplified, and in a very satisfactory manner, considering the circumstances. It was an unfavorable opportunity to examine their work or to estimate their interest in Masonry. Bro. G. O. EUSTIS is looking closely after the duties of Secretary, and under his persuasion the number of delinquent members is rapidly decreasing.

March 26th, Canton. Whitney Lodge, No. 167. Canton, too, was sorely devastated by the mighty rush of waters; but the interest in Masonry still survives. Thirty-five masons were assembled at this special communication. The work on the M. M. degree was performed in a very impressive manner. Their rooms, ever inviting, were made more so by the addition of plants and flowers. Their banquet, also inviting, was graced by the presence of ladies, loyal members of the order of the Eastern Star. The important duties of Secretary are carefully and neatly performed by Bro. H. J. DESHON. It was a most delightful occasion, and I am impressed with the fact that Masonry means something to the members of Whitney Lodge.

March 30th, Farmington. Maine Lodge, No. 20. A special train from Livermore Falls brought about fifty visitors. There were present one hundred and twenty-five masons, including representatives from various lodges, at this stated communication. The work on M. M. degree was impressive, especially well rendered and in accord with the latest teachings of the ritual. That of the W. M., Bro. E. C. MERRILL, was worthy of particular mention for the precision and calm dignity with which it was performed. The affairs of this lodge for many years were in the hands of a most painstaking and efficient Secretary, Bro. GEORGE B. CRAGIN. Its exemplary records were known and esteemed far and near. The reputation thus acquired is being ably sustained by the present Secretary, Bro. FRANK W. BUTLER.

The evening, concluding with a banquet and social hour, was evidently much enjoyed by all present. Not only was it an evening of enjoyment, but an evening full of words and work that will redound to the honor of Masonry.

April 11th, Stratton. Mt. Bigelow Lodge, U. D. I found fifteen members present at this, the regular communication, a good attendance from a total membership of seventeen. W. M. BLACKWELL was unable to be present, necessitating several changes in the officers. The E. A. degree, therefore, was not worked so smoothly as it would otherwise have been. This lodge seems to be exercising commendable caution, resolved to admit as members only such as are worthy of the honor they solicit. Its members are widely scattered, some of its officers coming ten or twelve miles to attend communications. The records, however, indicate a large attendance; this means a good degree of masonic interest; they are neatly kept, the bills all paid, and a small amount in the treasury. A banquet and social hour at Hotel Blanchard were enjoyed at close of lodge.

I have urged upon every delinquent lodge the importance of preparing, and forwarding to Grand Lodge a lodge history. I am assured that all my efforts in this direction have not been in vain. Many lodges are at a loss just how to proceed in the matter of preparing a history, while others have already prepared histories which have but little value. If the Grand Lodge would select a clear, concise and comprehensive history, and forward a copy of the same to every lodge, or at least to every delinquent lodge, as a sample worthy of imitation, lodge historians would no longer dread the undertaking, and more and better histories would be the result.

Although the amount of work has been less than usual, yet I feel confident that there has never been a greater interest in Masonry throughout the district than during the past year. Visitations and occasions of masonic social intercourse have been frequent, and are always helpful in diffusing masonic light and knowledge, in elevating the standard of the work, and in promoting the practice of ideal Masonry. *

I have endeavored to impress upon masons the importance of their conduct outside the lodge, as being the criterion by which the uninitiated measure the influence and worth of Masonry.

I am greatly indebted to the Grand Lecturers for indispensable assistance, as well as to the officers and brethren of the several lodges for their hearty co-operation, and the ever cordial manner in which they have received and entertained me as a representative of the Grand Lodge.

Accept my sincere thanks, Most Worshipful, for past favors at your hands, and assuring you of my appreciation of the same, I am,

Yours respectfully,

NEWELL P. NOBLE, D. D. G. M. 15th M. D.

Phillips, April 15, 1896.

SIXTEENTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my official report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Sixteenth Masonic District.

In June, I inspected a hall at Rumford Falls, which the brethren there wished to use for holding meetings of instruction, and found it suitable for that purpose.

In July, I granted dispensations to the different lodges in the district to appear in procession at the laying the corner stone of the County Building, at South Paris, by the Grand Lodge of Maine, and was present myself on that occasion. I find most all the lodges in this district in good financial condition and records correctly kept. I have made corrections and given instructions in the ritual to all the lodges, and trust I may have been of some help to them.

In December, I attended the convention at Augusta, and received much instruction by so doing.

November 5th, I visited King Hiram Lodge, at Dixfield, and installed the officers. The installation was public, and the lodge room was well filled with masons, their ladies and friends; fine music was furnished, which added much to the occasion. The officers and members seemed much interested. The records of the lodge are in the hands of Bro. DILLINGHAM, which is a guarantee that they are well kept. After the installation, a fine supper was served by the ladies, and a pleasant social time enjoyed by all.

December 26th, I made my official visit to Crooked River Lodge, at Bolster's Mills, and witnessed work on the M. M. degree, which was rendered in a manner highly creditable to the lodge. The officers show that they have put considerable study on the work. I made what corrections were necessary, and after the lodge closed a pleasant hour was spent in social talk and answering questions on the ritual. A fine supper, such as Crooked River Lodge is noted for, was served in the hall below. The records are well kept and the lodge in good financial condition.

December 12th, I publicly installed the officers of Bethel Lodge. There was a good attendance of members and their ladies, also quite a number from Paris and Oxford Lodges. After the installation, pleasant remarks were made by a number of brothers, after which we adjourned to the hotel, where a fine turkey supper awaited us.

February 24th, I visited Evening Star Lodge, at Buckfield, and witnessed work on the E. A. and M. M. degrees. This lodge is well situated in its new hall, and have a set of officers that are capable of doing good work. Corrections were made and instruction given, after which we were invited

to the banquet hall above, where all enjoyed a pleasant time at the supper table. This lodge has just furnished its hall in good shape and are in good healthy condition, owing no man a dollar.

February 25th, I visited Jefferson Lodge, at Bryant's Pond. The work was on the E. A. degree, and it was given in exceptionally fine manner. This lodge, though the smallest in the district, has a fine set of officers, and Bro. CHASE keeps the records of the lodge in fine shape. A nice lunch was served after the work.

February 26th, I visited Blazing Star Lodge, at Rumford Center. The work was on the E. A. degree and was very well done. This lodge has had a large growth the past year, and is good condition. Its meetings are held in the afternoon, and at six p. m. the lodge was called from labor to refreshment, and we sat down to a fine oyster supper, after which the work was done on the E. A. degree.

March 24th, I made my official visit to Paris Lodge, at South Paris. The work was on the F. C. degree, and was done in very good shape, considering the officers were installed at the last meeting, and a number of them were filling their positions for the first time on this degree.

April 22d, I officially visited Granite Lodge, at West Paris. This lodge has not had much work the past year, and in consequence, as is too apt to be the case, the attendance is not large. The officers not all being present, no work was exemplified, but a pleasant, and I trust profitable, evening was spent in answering questions and giving instruction on the three degrees.

I have been present at every meeting of Oxford Lodge, unless called away on official masonic business. I installed the officers at the October meeting, and can say that they ably maintain the good standing of this lodge in the past.

In closing, permit me to thank you, Most Worshipful, for the honor you have conferred upon me, and also the brethren of the Sixteenth District for their hospitality and brotherly kindness to me on all occasions.

Faternally yours,

GEO. W. HOLMES, D. D. G. M. 16th M. D.

SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit a report of my doings as District Deputy Grand Master of the Seventeenth Masonic District.

There has been general prosperity throughout the district, each lodge,

except Standish, having had a fair amount of work and some more than the average.

Every lodge in the district has been visited officially once, and I have been present at meetings of some of the lodges on numerous occasions.

On November 2, 1895, I visited Presumpscot Lodge, No. 127, at North Windham. It was a very stormy night, and as the members are widely scattered the attendance was very small. They had no regular work but exemplified the M. M. degree in fairly good shape, considering the fact that the officers were not all present. Bro. HALE, of Harmony Lodge, acted as candidate. The officers present seemed earnest and well informed about the ritual. The records, in the hands of Bro. CRAM, are well kept. Bros. ELDER and DRESSER accompanied me on this visit.

On January 25, 1896, I visited Deering Lodge, No. 183, and witnessed the conferring of the M. M. degree on two candidates. This is my home lodge, and I am very proud (and I trust not prejudiced) to say that the ritualistic part of the work was almost perfect. I made some necessary corrections in the floor work. Although a very stormy night there were about one hundred and fifty present, among them P. D. D. G. M. CHARLES E. SNOW. A banquet was served after the work.

On February 21st, I publicly installed the officers of Deering Lodge, with W. Bro. F. H. THOMPSON acting as Grand Marshal. A large number of brethren and their ladies were present. After the installation a banquet was served in City Hall, and a pleasing entertainment was rendered, composed of music and recitations.

On February 25th, I visited Hiram Lodge and witnessed work on the M. M. degree. I made some corrections, although the work was done in a very satisfactory manner. The records, kept by W. Bro. SCAMMAN, are in excellent shape, and the dues are well collected. They are contemplating building a new hall at Knightville, on the line of the electric cars, and I have no doubt it will be a great benefit to the lodge if successful. W. Bro. THOMPSON was with me on this visit. Refreshments after the meeting.

I visited Ancient Landmark Lodge on March 4th, and witnessed work on the E. A. degree, which was done in an excellent manner. It was a very rough day, and the attendance was not as large as was expected. Very few corrections were necessary. I had the pleasure of meeting R. W. Bro. JOSEPH A. LOCKE, Deputy Grand Master, and Past D. D. G. M.s CHARLES E. SNOW and WILLIAM N. HOWE. A bountiful collation was served after the work. Records in fine shape.

On March 17th, I visited Casco Lodge, at Yarmouth, and witnessed the conferring of the M. M. degree, which was done as well, perhaps, as could be expected, considering that the Master was elected from the floor, and two of the other principal officers were not only new in office but were new to

the Order, having been raised last year. However, I felt that they needed some instruction to enable them to learn the ritual correctly, and I fully intended to make another visit for that purpose; the opportunity has not presented itself at this writing, but may before the Grand Lodge convenes. Records in good order. Worshipful Bros. SNOW and THOMPSON accompanied me. A bountiful collation at the close.

March 19th, I visited Atlantic Lodge, of Portland. They presented work on the M. M. degree in a manner that was very creditable to the officers. The records are very nicely kept and the dues are particularly well attended to. A banquet was served after the work, to which about two hundred did ample justice.

March 25th, visited Portland Lodge, No. 1, and witnessed work on the F. C. degree. It was done in fairly good shape, but not as good as it ought to be for a city lodge possessing the advantages that they do in Portland of seeing and obtaining the correct ritualistic work. The Secretary's books are kept in their usual full and correct style.

On March 26th, I started out with the intention of visiting Standish Lodge, and should have done so, had brethren enough assembled to hold a meeting. It was very bad traveling, and perhaps I took the wrong time of year to make the visit, but still I feel that I was no more or less successful than my predecessors have been for several years at least. The lodge was not opened, and I spent the evening talking over the situation with the Secretary, Tyler and a Past Master who prides himself that he almost always attends the meetings when the D. D. G. M. makes his official visit, for which much credit is due him. The Secretary seems earnest, and is doing his duty faithfully, and as well as it is possible under the circumstances. I should be glad to make some recommendation or suggestion to bring this lodge to life, but am unable to do so.

Visited Warren Phillips Lodge on April 1st, and witnessed work on the M. M. degree, which was done in a very beautiful and impressive manner. They have a fine and earnest line of officers, and they are capable of doing good work. Very few corrections were necessary. Records are all right and the lodge is in a prosperous condition. I was accompanied on this visit by quite a number of brethren from Deering Lodge. A fine collation after the work.

April 7th, visited Harmony Lodge, at Gorham. The work exhibited was on the M. M. degree and of an excellent character. I had very few corrections to make. This lodge is particularly well off as to their official staff, as well as finances. The records, in the hands of W. Bro. HARDING, are well kept and dues closely collected. Collation at close of the meeting. W. Bro. THOMPSON was my companion on this visit.

Being unable to keep an appointment made with the Master of Temple

Lodge for the 8th of April, I appointed Past D. D. G. M. FRANCIS E. CHASE to make the visit for me, who rendered the following report:

"In compliance with your request, I visited Temple Lodge, No. 86, at Westbrook, last evening. I was received and entertained with that cordiality and hospitality which has always characterized this lodge when visited by the representative of the Grand Lodge of Maine. The work exhibited was in the E. A. degree, and was done in a very creditable manner, as would be expected from Wor. Bro. A. H. BURROUGHS, who has had much experience in other masonic bodies. Very few corrections were necessary. The records are in their usual full and correct style, recorded by Wor. Bro. O. A. COBB, and show the condition of the lodge to be good, and starting this year with a fair amount of work. It is a pleasant rather than an arduous duty to visit such a lodge, and I was glad of the opportunity not only of accommodating you but also of the privilege of meeting with the brethren."

In conclusion, I wish to thank the officers and brethren of the several lodges for the many courtesies and favors extended to your representative in this district, and you, Most Worshipful, for the honor of my appointment.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

HERBERT N. MAXFIELD, *D. D. G. M. 17th M. D.*

Woodfords, Me., April 24, 1896.

EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Eighteenth Masonic District.

On June 30, 1895, I granted a dispensation to Mt. Tir'em Lodge, No. 132, to appear in public as a masonic body on the occasion of laying the corner stone of the new County Buildings at South Paris.

Saturday, November 2d, I made an official visit to Oriental Lodge, No. 13, at Bridgton; witnessed work in the E. A. degree, and installed their officers.

Tuesday, January 29, 1896, I visited Mt. Tir'em Lodge, No. 132, at Waterford, and publicly installed their officers.

I regret to say that on account of sickness I have not been able to visit the other lodges in this district, but from information I have received, I can report them all in a prosperous condition.

I have received returns and Grand Lodge dues from all the lodges.

Thanking the brethren for their courtesy, and you, M. W., for the honor of my appointment, I remain fraternally yours,

JAMES P. LOWN, *D. D. G. M. 18th M. D.*

Harrison, Me., April 25, 1896.

NINETEENTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith present my annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Nineteenth Masonic District.

From the start I was somewhat handicapped in my endeavors to impart instruction to the lodges in my district, having been unable to attend any of the Lodges of Instruction, but to atone for this so far as possible, I on February 6th, visited Bro. RAYMOND, in Portland, and secured from him information on such points as I felt at all doubtful, and in my visits to the several lodges in the district have, to the best of my ability, given such instructions as were needed.

With one exception, all the lodges in my district are in a healthy condition, and I have found the Masters and other officers, as a rule, well posted in the work of the degrees exemplified.

My first visit was to St. Aspinquid Lodge, No. 198, at York Village. Owing to a severe storm but few members were present, and the candidate not making his appearance as expected, the time spent in lodge was devoted to instruction in work of the three degrees. Though this lodge has been instituted but a few years, yet it deservedly has the credit of being one of the best working lodges in the district.

On February 5th, I visited Saco Lodge, No. 9, at Saco, and witnessed the work of the First degree on two candidates, which was performed in a manner creditable to Master and officers alike. The records of this lodge, in the hands of Bro. EMERY, are accurately and beautifully kept, and might well serve as models for Secretaries of many lodges.

February 24th, I visited York Lodge, No. 22, at Kennebunk. Although there was no exemplification of work, I feel justified in saying that this lodge is in a healthy condition, and may be safely relied upon, under the careful and intelligent direction of Past D. D. G. M. GEO. A. GILPATRICK and W. M. EDWIN PARSONS, to fully maintain the high standard of excellence that it has attained in the past.

February 26th, I visited Ocean Lodge, No. 142, at Wells Depot, and witnessed work of the First degree. Although many of the regular officers of the lodge were absent, the work was performed in a very creditable manner. The officers and members of this lodge evince great interest in the work, and their careful and painstaking Master, Bro. LYMAN F. GETCHELL, is deserving of great credit for the excellent showing of his lodge.

February 28th, visited Yorkshire Lodge, No. 179, at North Berwick, and witnessed an exemplification of the work of Third degree. The work of this lodge, as in the past, is far above the average, and shows what can be

accomplished by careful supervision and intelligent study, as exemplified by W. M. Bro. J. WESLEY WEBBER and the other officers of this lodge.

March 2d, visited Dunlap Lodge, No. 47, at Biddeford, and witnessed the work of Third degree on three candidates. I was very much pleased with the work of Dunlap Lodge, and I feel that I can safely say no better work is done in the Grand Jurisdiction of Maine than that performed by this lodge. Special credit is due the Master, Bro. HAROLD KELLY, for his correct rendition of the work, and mention should likewise be made of the excellent floor and other work of the Senior and Junior Deacons. Financially and otherwise, the lodge is in a healthy condition, and I am pleased to be able to record it as being a "skillful" and "well governed" lodge.

March 9th, visited St. John's Lodge, No. 51, at South Berwick, by proxy. Owing to sickness I was, much to my regret, obliged to forego my visit to this lodge, but my representative, Bro. E. L. CHANEY, Master of Naval Lodge, was much pleased with the work and condition of the lodge. I herewith append his report of his visit:

"March 9th, I visited St. John's Lodge, No. 51, and witnessed work in the M. M. degree on one candidate. The work was of high order and very few corrections had to be made. I was received most cordially by the brethren, nearly sixty of whom were present, and can certify that the members of St. John's Lodge are royal entertainers."

March 24th, I visited Arundel Lodge, No. 76, at Kennebunkport, and witnessed work of the Third degree, which was performed in a most pleasing manner. This lodge has maintained a high standing in past years, and under its present careful and well informed Master and officers, will doubtless continue to exemplify the beauties of our order in a manner that shall reflect credit upon themselves and upon the order at large.

March 26th, visited Arion Lodge, No. 162, at Goodwin's Mills, and witnessed the work of Second and Third degrees. I regret to state that this lodge is not all that could be desired; in fact is considerably below the standard of excellence that a masonic lodge should strive to maintain. Many reasons might be adduced to account for this condition, and some of these I will state fully in a separate communication. I would most earnestly recommend that, owing to its situation, this lodge be transferred to the Twenty-third District, as being more accessible to the District Deputy of that district, and consequently more closely under his supervision. Its transfer to that district will also make the visits of the Deputy less expensive to the Grand Lodge.

Of Naval Lodge, No. 194, at Kittery, the masonic home of your correspondent, I have only to say I am well pleased with its work, and though it might in some ways be improved, yet I feel that it may be rightfully considered an interested and well informed lodge.

In conclusion, Most Worshipful, I wish to thank the brethren throughout

the district for their courteous and brotherly treatment, and I trust that the experience of other deputies has been as pleasant as mine.

To you, Most Worshipful, I wish to express my thanks for the honor conferred in appointing me to the position it has been my pleasure to hold for the past year. If during my term of office I have in any way failed in my duty, I beg the indulgence of the craft, for I have honestly tried to fulfill the duties imposed upon me in a just and impartial manner.

I have the honor to remain,

Yours fraternally,

ISAAC N. HURD, *D. D. G. M., 19th M. D.*

Kittery, Maine, April 25, 1896.

TWENTIETH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit my second report as District Deputy Grand Master for the Twentieth Masonic District.

On December 12, 1895, I attended Grand Lecturer's Convention at Bangor; it was very interesting and instructive.

On February 22, 1896, I visited Pine Tree Lodge, at Mattawamkeag. There being no candidate, the Third degree was exemplified. The work was well done and few corrections were necessary. This lodge has a fine hall, finances in good condition, with its records in hands of Past D. D. G. M. SMITH.

On February 25th, I visited Horeb Lodge, at Lincoln. I had the pleasure of witnessing the First degree conferred on two candidates, and the manner in which the several officers did their work was an honor to Horeb Lodge; hardly a mistake was made. I had the pleasure of meeting Past D. D. G. M. PIPER. The records are in the hands of Bro. PLUMLY, and, as usual, are neatly and correctly kept.

On March 10th, I visited Molunkus Lodge, at Sherman Mills. There was a large attendance, several coming from Island Falls. Work was done on one candidate for the M. M. degree. Few corrections were made except in the new work. Financial condition good, but dues are very poorly collected. After lodge closed, a fine oyster supper was served at the hotel. This lodge is in prosperous condition, have a good hall, quite well furnished.

On March 11th, I visited Katahdin Lodge, at Patten. My reception was much pleasanter this year than last, because I found quite a large number of brothers assembled when lodge opened. In the absence of any work (in

fact no work has been done in this lodge for over two years), a very pleasant time was passed in reciting the ritual. The brothers present seemed to take an interest in the work, but for some reason this lodge has done no work of any account for a great many years.

On account of bad roads and distance, I had to take train to visit lodges at Sherman Mills and Patten, and traveled about 278 miles the round trip. These two lodges should be placed in Houlton District.

On Tuesday evening, March 24th, I made a visit to Vanceboro Lodge of Instruction, held at Vanceboro. Found a good attendance, and from the manner in which the first degree was worked, I am satisfied that the brothers are all determined to get the ritual work correct. I gave instructions in the various degrees, and spent a very pleasant evening. Much praise is due Bro. C. H. KINGSTON for the manner in which he has conducted the affairs of this lodge. He is a worker, and a man in the right place.

On Saturday evening, March 21st, by the invitation of Vanceboro Lodge of Instruction, twelve members of Baskahegan Lodge, Danforth, met at Vanceboro Hall to attend a social gathering and banquet. Several lodges were represented. The meeting was opened by Bro. C. H. KINGSTON in a very fine, instructive oration on Ancient and Modern Masonry. Remarks by other brothers followed, and then a fine oyster supper. The meeting was for the purpose of getting the brothers in this locality acquainted, and a very successful affair it was.

On account of professional business, it has been impossible for me to visit Forest Lodge, at Springfield.

Baskahegan Lodge, No. 175, is my own lodge, of which I am Secretary. I have been present at nearly all its meetings. The finances are in good condition, dues well collected, and the lodge is in a generally prosperous condition.

In conclusion, allow me, Most Worshipful, to thank you for the honor conferred upon me by the appointment, and the brethren of the several Lodges for the courtesies extended to me as your representative.

Fraternally yours,

MARTIN L. PORTER, D. D. G. M. 20th M. D.

Danforth, April 1, 1896.

TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my second annual report as District Deputy Grand Master for the Twenty-first Masonic District, in accordance with the re-

quirements of the Grand Lodge. I have worked hard to fill the office to which I have been appointed, and trust that I have been quite successful. I deem it unnecessary to give all the details as I did in my report last year.

My first official visit was at Bangor on Thursday, December 12, 1895, to attend a meeting of the Grand Lecturer, Bro. RAYMOND. It is very evident that we cannot have uniformity of work throughout the state and dispense with these lectures.

December 20th, I visited Marine Lodge at Deer Isle. There is no question but the members of this lodge understand their business, and being business men, this lodge has a good future in store. The F. C. degree was worked. The records are well kept and everything went to show that they were prospering.

December 21st, I visited Reliance Lodge, Green's Landing, and found it in fair condition; records well kept and financial standing good.

January 15, 1896, I publicly installed the officers of Winter Harbor Lodge, which was followed by a banquet. This is my home lodge and I have visited it every night when possible, and under the care of W. M. GEO. W. TRACY, who has before had it under his charge, it must have a prosperous year before it.

January 20th, I visited Mt. Desert Lodge, at Mt. Desert. The M. M. degree was worked very satisfactorily, in fact almost perfect. Bro. ALLEN is a model Master.

January 22d, I visited Tremont Lodge, at Southwest Harbor. The M. M. degree was worked, there being fifty brethren in attendance, which shows the interest manifested. Bro. KEENE is still Secretary, and I need make no further comments except to say the financial condition is better each year.

February 13th, I visited Esoteric Lodge, at Ellsworth. It had been my desire to see the M. M. degree worked in this lodge, and I had previously notified the Secretary to report to me when they had work in that degree. He soon notified me that they would have work on the coming Thursday (having three candidates) and would like for me to be present, but sickness kept me away, so that when I did visit on the above date the E. A. degree was conferred in the presence of a large number. The work was well done, and their records show that they have had plenty of work, having had eighteen candidates during the year.

I have examined the books and records of all the lodges which I have visited and believe that they are all prospering.

There are two lodges, however, in the district, which, owing to sickness and other causes, it was impossible for me to visit. One was Bar Harbor Lodge, at Bar Harbor. I therefore authorized Past D. D. G. M. Bro. B. L.

HADLEY to act for me in Bar Harbor Lodge and report the condition, and I herewith submit his report, as follows:

"In accordance with your request, I visited the lodge last evening for inspection of the work. No one but the Master knew of my purpose until the work was over and I was called upon to criticise, so it could not be other than a specimen of our regular work. The degree conferred was the E. A. ; I followed very closely and was almost surprised to see how nearly correct it was given. In the two years I was Deputy I never had occasion to make fewer corrections than last night. The financial condition of the lodge is good. The whole arrears of dues back of 1895 is \$6.00. We never try to collect until the end of the year, though of course some pay in voluntarily."

The other lodge was Lygonia, at Ellsworth, and I authorized Past D. D. G. M. JAMES E. PARSONS to act for me in his lodge, also to visit Esoteric when they worked the M. M. degree, although I had visited when the E. A. degree was worked, as above stated, and I herewith send you his report:

"In accordance with your request, on March 12th, I visited Esoteric Lodge, No. 159, and witnessed work in the Master Mason's degree on two candidates. This lodge has an established reputation for doing good work, and on this occasion fully sustained that reputation. Although several of the important officers were absent on account of sickness, there was still abundant material to choose from, and the degree was worked with an excellence rarely seen. The ritual was followed closely, and in the whole of the work I was unable to detect but one or two errors and those were words misalled.

"As I have visited this lodge a number of times during the past year, I know that the work done on this occasion was only a sample of what they are doing right along. After the lodge closed, refreshments were served in the banquet room and a very pleasant hour was spent in social intercourse.

"Of the work in Lygonia Lodge, I will say that on the whole it is fairly well done. Some of the officers have attained a rare excellence in their respective parts.

"As this is my home lodge I have attended, with the exception of one or two, all the meetings that have been held the past year, and so have witnessed work in all the degrees. The work on the E. A. and F. C. degrees has been excellent; rather better on the whole than in the Master's degree.

"The officers are well posted in the correct rendering of the ritual and should do work second to none."

I desire to thank you, Most Worshipful Grand Master, for the honor you have conferred upon me.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

FREELAND R. BUNKER, D. D. G. M. 21st M. D.

TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT.

To M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my second annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Twenty-second Masonic District.

The lodges in this district are in a prosperous condition, and doing good work, some of them much better than last year. I officially visited the lodges as follows:

June 5th, Archon Lodge, No. 139. This lodge had no work, but the members are taking more interest in lodge meetings than for some time past.

September 11th, Pacific Lodge, No. 64. Work in E. A. and M. M. degrees. This lodge takes no second place in this district in the amount and quality of its work.

October 1st, Plymouth Lodge, No. 75. Public installation.

October 2d, Corinthian Lodge, No. 95. Installed the officers, except the W. M., who was absent.

October 3d, Cambridge Lodge, No. 157. Work in M. M. degree, which was well done. More interest taken in lodge than formerly.

October 31st, Archon Lodge, No. 139. Public installation.

February 11th, Parian Lodge, No. 160. Work in M. M. degree; ritual closely followed; large attendance of members and visiting brethren.

February 28th, Meridian Lodge, No. 125. Work in E. A. degree, which was very well done; improvement from last year.

March 26th, Meridian Splendor Lodge, No. 49. Work was exemplified in M. M. degree, which was well done.

I attended the Grand Lecturer's Convention at Bangor, December 12th.

Thanking the brethren for their courtesy, and you, M. W., for the honor of my appointment, I remain fraternally yours,

HENRY S. THORNE, *D. D. G. M. 22d M. D.*

Plymouth, March 27, 1896.

TWENTY-THIRD DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit my second annual report from the Twenty-third Masonic District, consisting of eight chartered lodges.

January 11, 1896, by invitation, I publicly installed the officers of Fraternal Lodge, No. 55, at Alfred. The hall was well filled, and after the ceremonies of installation, refreshments were served, and an hour spent in a pleasant and social manner. Good music furnished by a quartet added much to the enjoyment of the occasion.

January 26th, I again visited this lodge and witnessed work on F. C. degree, which was rendered in a very impressive and satisfactory manner. There was a good attendance and quite a number of visiting brethren. Records are well kept.

February 15th, I visited Freedom Lodge, No. 55, at Limerick. Attendance not large. Witnessed work in the M. M. degree, which was fairly well done. Records well kept.

February 27th, I visited Drummond Lodge, No. 118, Parsonsfield. The Master and Wardens were unavoidably absent. The Secretary informed me that the financial condition of the lodge was very good, and peace and harmony prevailed. The records are still in the hands of Bro. A. R. LEAVITT.

March 25th, I visited Springvale Lodge, at Springvale. I am sorry to say that this year there was no work on hand. I asked them to exemplify the work on the First degree. It was the first time the officers ever worked. They did very well under the circumstances. They are fortunate in having four or five Past Masters, who are well posted, to instruct them, as they take a great interest in Masonry.

March 26th, I visited Preble Lodge, No. 143, at Sanford, and witnessed exemplification of work in E. A. degree. Although the Master had never conferred a degree, and naturally felt a little ill at ease in his new place, yet he acquitted himself in such a manner as to show that he was interested in his work, as did the other officers. It was a pleasure to visit this lodge and see the brethren so much interested. The Secretary deserves great credit for the neatness and correctness of his records.

Day Spring Lodge, No. 107. It would be difficult for me to say upon which communication of Day Spring Lodge I made my official visit during the past year. This being the lodge to which I belong, I have been pretty regular in my attendance during the term of W. Bro. FRANK P. W. COLBY. He is doing excellent work, and has, throughout his term thus far, devoted a great deal of his time and attention to the welfare and prosperity of his lodge, and especially to perfecting his subordinates in the duties of their respective positions. On the evening of October 21st last, I installed the officers elect of this lodge, W. Bro. U. B. THOMPSON acting as Marshal.

Owing somewhat to the weather, I have been unable to visit Adoniram Lodge, No. 27, Limington, and Buxton Lodge, No. 115, at W. Buxton, but learn that they are doing their usual amount of work.

I have issued Past Masters' diplomas during the year to the following named brethren:

NAMES.	LODGES.
JOSEPH LECKENBY,	Preble.
F. H. DEXTER,	Springvale.
J. MERRILL LORD,	Drummond.
FRANK P. W. COLBY,	Day Spring.
LAWTON SAYWARD,	Fraternal.
FRANK M. BRADBURY,	Adoniram.

I thank you for the honor of my appointment as your representative, and have endeavored to attend to the duties of the office to the best of my ability. Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

AI Q. MITCHELL, *D. D. G. M. 23d M. D.*

Newfield, March 31, 1896.

TWENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

In accordance with the requirements of the Grand Lodge of Maine, I herewith submit my annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Twenty fourth Masonic District. I have visited all of the lodges in my district once during the year and find them all prospering and some doing a large amount of work.

February 26, 1896, I visited Tranquil Lodge, No. 29, at Auburn. I had the pleasure of the company of Wor. FRED E. DWINAL, and several brethren of Tyrian Lodge, at Mechanic Falls. This is the largest lodge in the district and is in a prosperous condition. The work of the evening was installation and work on the M. M. degree. The work was done in an able manner and much interest is exhibited by Wor. Bro. BARTLETT and officers. The records are still in the hands of Bro. JAS. F. ATWOOD, and are splendidly kept. They are a marvel of neatness and accuracy. A collation was served at the close of the lodge.

February 27th, I was present at a meeting of Tyrian Lodge, at Mechanic Falls. Witnessed work on the M. M. degree, which was done in a very correct and pleasing manner. This was the first work in the Third degree the new officers had done. There was a very large attendance. The interest manifested by Wor. Bro. DWINAL, and all, is very pleasing. This lodge ranks third in size in the district. Records in the hands of Bro. JEFFERIES. This being my own lodge home, I feel a personal pride in seeing it flourish.

February 28th, I visited Nezinscot Lodge, No. 101, at Turner. This was a special communication called for my convenience. There being no work on hand the M. M. degree was exemplified. The work was done in a prompt and correct manner, and supported the reputation of the lodge for doing good work. This was a very enjoyable visit, and I am indebted to the brethren for their attention and courtesy. Bro. ANDREWS is a faithful Secretary, having held this office twenty-six years.

March 23d, I visited Ashlar Lodge, No. 105, at Lewiston, on their stated communication for March. The work of the evening was the M. M. degree.

This lodge has a well deserved reputation of doing good work, which is fully sustained by the present officers. Ashlar ranks second in size in the district, having two hundred and forty-two members, and being the banner lodge as regards amount of work done. Number of initiates, fifteen. Grand Lodge dues, seventy-eight dollars and forty cents. By the kindness of W. Bro. WM. J. BURNHAM, the historian of Ashlar Lodge, I was presented with a fine copy of their lodge history complete to 1894.

March 26th, I visited Webster Lodge, No. 164, at Sabattus. On account of letters not being delivered, my intention to visit Webster Lodge was not communicated to Wor. Bro. WOODSIDE until the day before my visit. There was no time for a notice, even to the officers. Notwithstanding, a goodly number of the members were present, and the Entered Apprentice degree was conferred on one candidate. The officers have not had any rehearsals or practice, but very good work was done. While at Sabattus I had the good fortune of meeting our genial and pleasant Grand Lecturer, FRANK E. SLEEPER, with whom I spent several hours very profitably. I am indebted to Wor. Bro. WOODSIDE for his kindness and courtesy while there.

March 28th, I visited Cumberland Lodge, No. 12, at New Gloucester. I was accompanied by Bros. JAMES W. WAYNE and FRANK E. BRIGGS, both of Tyrian Lodge, Mechanic Falls. Wor. Bro. MCCOLLISTER being confined to the house by sickness, Bro. GOFF, the Senior Warden, conferred the First degree on one candidate. Although this lodge has had no work for some time, the officers showed much interest and rendered the work well. Records are well kept by Bro. GEO. GODING, who has served in this capacity for twenty-three years. Cumberland Lodge meets in the afternoon at two o'clock, and before the lodge was opened we were much entertained and interested by looking over the old records and antiquities of this lodge. This was one of my most pleasant trips.

March 30th, I visited Ancient Brothers' Lodge, No. 178, at Auburn, at their stated communication. The work of the evening was the F. C. degree, which was done in a very able and impressive manner. This was my first visit to Ancient Brothers' lodge, and was very much enjoyed. At the conclusion of the work a collation awaited us.

April 1st, I visited Rabboni Lodge, No. 150, at Lewiston. The work was on the F. C. degree. Wor. Bro. PAYNE was just recovering from a very severe illness, and was unable to be present, but the Senior Warden, Bro. MURCH, filled the East with much grace and dignity. All of the officers took much interest in the work, which was very nicely and correctly done. I had the pleasure of meeting R. Wor. Bro. E. K. SMITH at this visit. Records neatly kept by Bro. TURNER.

In closing my report, I would say that in the matter of lodge history, some of the lodges have completed it to date, others have it in the manu-

script, and still others are in progress. And now, Most Worshipful, I desire to thank you for the confidence you have reposed in me by the appointment to this position, and to the brethren I am indebted for their courtesy on every occasion. Very truly and fraternally,

April 30, 1896.

HOLLIS E. DENNEN, *D. D. G. M., 24th M. D.*

— . . —

ADDRESSES.

AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM, *Grand Master*, - - Bangor, Me.

MARQUIS F. KING, *Grand Treasurer*, - - Portland, Me.

STEPHEN BERRY, *Grand Secretary*, - - Portland, Me.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, - - - - Portland, Me.

Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Trustees of the Charity Fund.

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND,
TUESDAY, May 5, 1896.

The Trustees met in the Library Room at 5 p. m.

Present—AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM, *President*.

JOSEPH A. LOCKE,
CHARLES I. COLLAMORE,
EDWARD P. BURNHAM,
ARCHIE LEE TALBOT,
FRANK E. SLEEPER,
A. M. WETHERBEE,
STEPHEN BERRY, *Secretary*.

The Grand Treasurer reported as follows:

To the Trustees of the Charity Fund of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your Treasurer presents a synopsis of his account for the past year as follows:

Receipts.

Cash balance as per last report,.....	\$2,420.25
“ from Henry B. Bennett, balance principal and interest,.....	515.00
“ dividend Canal National Bank,.....	187.50
“ “ Casco “ “	222.00
“ “ First “ “	74.00
“ “ Trader’s “ “	66.00
“ “ Maine Savings “	76.76
“ “ Portland “ “	79.84

Cash dividend Saco and Biddeford Savings Bank,	73.56
“ interest City of Portland bonds,	210.00
“ “ Leeds and Farmington R. R. bonds,	60.00
“ “ Town of Brunswick bonds,	40.00
“ “ Delaware Water Co. bonds,	30.00
“ “ Maine Central R. R. bonds,	35.00
“ “ City of Columbus bonds,	25.00
“ “ Muncie Water Co. bonds,	30.00
“ “ City of Belfast bonds,	60.00
“ “ Rockland Water Co. bonds,	75.00
“ “ Henry County bonds,	29.00
“ “ Henry County bond, called,	500.00
	<hr/> \$4,808.91

Disbursements.

Cash to beneficiaries,	\$1,245.00
“ for rent of safe,	10.00
“ 3 Rockland Water Co. bonds at par and interest, ..	1,517.92
“ 2 shares First National Bank,	200.00
“ addition to deposit in Portland Savings Bank,	79.84
“ “ “ Maine “ “	76.76
“ “ “ Saco and Biddeford Savings Institution,	73.56
“ in Union Safe Deposit and Trust Co.,	1,605.83
	<hr/> \$4,808.91

Respectfully submitted,

MARQUIS F. KING, *Grand Treasurer.*

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Bros. BURBANK and COLLAMORE were appointed a Committee on Finance.

Voted, That the bond of the Grand Treasurer be fixed at \$10,000.

Voted, To accept from the Grand Treasurer a bond with the Union Safe Deposit and Trust Company of Portland as surety.

The Secretary presented ninety-one applications for charity, which were referred to a committee of two for examination.

Voted, That the Grand Treasurer, with the approbation of the Grand Master, invest any sums that may need to be invested during the year.

The Grand Master reported that he had expended \$60 in charity and will return to the Grand Treasurer \$90.

Voted, That \$150 be placed in the hands of the Grand Master.

Adjourned until 9 Wednesday morning.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, May 6, 1896.

Met at 9 o'clock.

Present—AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM, *President*.

JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

CHARLES I. COLLAMORE,

WINFIELD S. CHOATE,

A. M. WETHERBEE,

ARCHIE LEE TALBOT,

FRANK E. SLEEPER,

STEPHEN BERRY, *Secretary*.

The Committee on Applications for Relief reported a schedule, which was accepted.

Voted, That one represent five dollars.

Voted, That \$1,040.00 be appropriated to pay the schedule.

BRO. COLLAMORE, for the Committee on Finance, reported that they had examined the Grand Treasurer's report and the securities of the Charity Fund, and found them correct as stated.

Adjourned *sine die*.

Attest:

STEPHEN BERRY, *Secretary*.

Regulations of the Charity Fund of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

ARTICLE I.

The fund is applicable to the following cases, viz:

First, to poor and worthy members of lodges under this jurisdiction, in cases where the funds of their own lodges are not adequate to the exigency of the case.

Secondly, to poor and worthy masons resident in this state not members of any subordinate lodge, and being in circumstances to render such membership not a masonic duty.

Thirdly, to poor and worthy masons being sojourners in this state.

Fourthly, to other cases of distress.

ARTICLE II.

The widows and orphans of deceased masons are to be relieved as the husband or parent would be upon the principle stated in preceding article.

ARTICLE III.

Applications for relief are to be made to the Recording Grand Secretary, in writing, signed by the applicant, or some Master Mason in his behalf who is personally cognizant of his circumstances, stating the peculiar circumstances of the case, accompanied with a certificate from the Master of the lodge to which the applicant belongs, or of the nearest lodge, vouching for his masonic standing and his need of the relief prayed for.

In Board of Trustees, Portland, May 5, 1858.

Voted, That every brother entrusted with funds be required to take receipts for the same, when paid, and forward said receipts forthwith to the Grand Treasurer.

In Board of Trustees, Portland, May 8, 1862.

Voted, That each Almoner be provided by the Grand Treasurer with one printed blank receipt for each person for whom such Almoner draws money from the Charity Fund, which receipts such Almoner is to cause to be signed by the beneficiaries respectively, and file the same with the Grand Treasurer.

Voted, That no Almoner who fails to file with the Grand Treasurer a receipt from each person for whose benefit money has been appropriated by

this Board for the full amount of such appropriation, when the money has been drawn by such Almoner, shall be considered worthy to be entrusted with the sacred office of Almoner for this Charity Fund.

In Board of Trustees, Portland, May 4, 1871.

Voted, That hereafter no application for relief be considered by the Trustees, unless made in writing, according to Article III of the Regulations of the Charity Fund.

Voted, That the Secretary be directed to make a list of such applications, including all that come to his hands up to Monday evening preceding the day of the Annual Communication; and that all applications presented after that time be referred to the next annual meeting of the Trustees.

Voted, That the Grand Secretary notify every lodge of this action, at least one month before the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

In Board of Trustees, Portland, May 8, 1872.

Resolved, That applications for relief from the Grand Charity Fund *must* state the amount expended in charity during the past year, by the lodge making such application, the names of recipients, and the condition of the finances of the lodge at last annual meeting, or such applications will not be considered by the Trustees.

Voted, That whenever the Grand Treasurer has any money to invest, or considers any change should be made in the investments, it shall be necessary that such investments and re-investments shall first receive the written approval of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Secretary, or a majority of them.

In Board of Trustees, Portland, May 6, 1885.

Voted, That hereafter all applications for relief, not seasonably presented in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Charity Fund, be passed over.

In Board of Trustees, Portland, May 5, 1886.

Voted, That the Grand Secretary, when he sends his papers to the different lodges for their returns, issue a circular to each lodge, notifying them that applications to the Board of Trustees for relief must be made in accordance with the rules of the Board of Trustees,—otherwise they will not be considered.

A true copy from the Record of Regulations and Votes.

Attest:

STEPHEN BERRY, *Sec'y of Board of Trustees.*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OF THE

Charity • Fund • of • the • Grand • Lodge.

1896.



AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM, Grand Master,	Ex-Officio.
JOSEPH A. LOCKE, Deputy Grand Master,	"
ALBERT M. PENLEY, Senior Grand Warden,	"
BENJAMIN L. HADLEY, Junior Grand Warden,	"
STEPHEN BERRY, Rec. Grand Secretary,	"
EDWARD P. BURNHAM, elected May 1, 1894, for three years.	
ARCHIE LEE TALBOT,	" " 1, " " " "
FRANK E. SLEEPER,	" " 7, 1895, " " "
A. M. WETHERBEE,	" " 7, " " " "
CHARLES I. COLLAMORE,	" " 5, 1896, " " "
FESSENDEN I. DAY,	" " 5, " " " "

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION.

Adopted since Edition of 1893.

SEC. 35. The clothing of a Grand Officer shall be as the Grand Lodge shall, from time to time, prescribe. Permanent members of the Grand Lodge shall wear the apron prescribed for Grand Officers.

An officer of a lodge shall wear a blue velvet collar, a silver jewel, and white or figured apron. [1896, p. 64.]

GRAND LODGE CLOTHING UNDER THE FOREGOING PROVISION.

Voted, That the clothing of the Grand Officers shall be as follows:

The aprons of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Wardens shall be of white lambskin, lined with purple, having the emblem of his office suitably embroidered on the edgings thereof, with purple edging and strings.

The aprons of the other Grand Officers shall be of white lambskin, lined with purple, with purple strings and edging.

That the jewels of the Grand Officers shall be as follows:

That of the Grand Master, the Compasses extended to forty-five degrees, with the segment of a circle at the points and a gold or metal gilt plate included, on which is represented an eye, eradiated, with a triangle, also eradiated.

That of the Deputy Grand Master, the Compasses and Square united with a five pointed star in the centre.

That of the Senior Grand Warden, the Level; Junior Grand Warden, the Plumb; the Grand Treasurer, a Key; Recording Grand Secretary, Crossed Pens; Corresponding Grand Secretary, Crossed Pens; Grand Chaplain, Book with a Triangle; Grand Marshal, Crossed Rods; Grand Deacons, Dove and Olive Branch; Grand Stewards, Cornucopia; Grand Sword Bearer, Crossed Swords; Grand Standard Bearer, Banner; Grand Pursuivants, a Rod and Sword, crossed; Grand Organist, Lyre; Grand Tyler, Sword.

Each Past Grand Master, Past Deputy Grand Master and Past Grand Warden may be distinguished by the jewel prescribed for the office he has filled, with this difference, that such jewel shall be fixed within a circle or oval, of gold or metal gilt. It shall be worn over the left breast.

The Collars of the Grand Officers shall be a purple velvet collar suitably embroidered. [1896, pp. 64 and 65.]

STANDING REGULATION.

AMENDED SINCE EDITION OF CONSTITUTION, 1893.

19. The Grand Secretary shall notify each Grand Officer, elect or appointed, who has not been installed in the Grand Lodge, of his election or appointment and transmit to him an abstract of Section 10 of the Constitution.

[Page 57, 1894, re-enacted.]

List of Lodges by Districts.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

District Deputy Grand Master—ALFRED D. SAWYER, Fort Fairfield.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 72 Pioneer, <i>Ashland</i> . | 170 Caribou, <i>Caribou</i> . |
| 96 Monument, <i>Houlton</i> . | 193 Washburn, <i>Washburn</i> . |
| 112 Eastern Frontier, <i>Fort Fairfield</i> . | 197 Aroostook, <i>Blaine</i> . |
| 130 Trinity, <i>Presque Isle</i> . | |

DISTRICT NO. 2.

District Deputy Grand Master—WALTER F. BRADISH, Eastport.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 7 Eastern, <i>Eastport</i> . | 78 Crescent, <i>Pembroke</i> . |
| 37 Washington, <i>Lubec</i> . | 138 Lewy's Island, <i>Princeton</i> . |
| 46 St. Croix, <i>Calais</i> . | |

DISTRICT NO. 3.

District Deputy Grand Master—NEHEMIAH GUPTILL, Jonesport.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 Warren, <i>East Machias</i> . | 131 Lookout, <i>Cuttler</i> . |
| 88 Narraguagus, <i>Cherryfield</i> . | 173 Pleiades, <i>Millbridge</i> . |
| 91 Harwood, <i>Machias</i> . | 188 Jonesport, <i>Jonesport</i> . |
| 106 Tuscan, <i>Addison Point</i> . | |

DISTRICT NO. 4.

District Deputy Grand Master—JOHN P. SHEPHERD, Castine.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 4 Hancock, <i>Castine</i> . | 177 Rising Star, <i>Penobscot</i> . |
| 122 Marine, <i>Deer Isle</i> . | 187 Ira Berry, <i>Bluehill</i> . |
| 128 Eggemoggin, <i>Sedgwick</i> . | 195 Reliance, <i>Green's Landing</i> . |
| 171 Naskeag, <i>Brooklin</i> . | |

DISTRICT NO. 5.

District Deputy Grand Master—THOMAS J. PEAKS, Charleston.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 39 Penobscot, <i>Dexter</i> . | 149 Doric, <i>Monson</i> . |
| 44 Piscataquis, <i>Milo</i> . | 163 Pleasant River, <i>Brownville</i> . |
| 52 Mosaic, <i>Foxcroft</i> . | 168 Composite, <i>La Grange</i> . |
| 109 Mount Kineo, <i>Guilford</i> . | U.D. Columbia, <i>Greenville</i> . |
| 124 Olive Branch, <i>Charleston</i> . | |

DISTRICT NO. 6.

District Deputy Grand Master—ALBERT J. DURGIN, Orono.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 10 Rising Virtue, <i>Bangor</i> . | 83 St. Andrew's, <i>Bangor</i> . |
| 60 Star in the East, <i>Oldtown</i> . | 87 Benevolent, <i>Carmel</i> . |
| 65 Mystic, <i>Hampden</i> . | 137 Kenduskeag, <i>Kenduskeag</i> . |
| 66 Mechanics, <i>Orono</i> . | 174 Lynde, <i>Hermon</i> . |
| 69 Howard, <i>Winterport</i> . | |

DISTRICT NO. 7.

District Deputy Grand Master—GEORGE P. BILLINGS, Clinton.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 45 Central, <i>China</i> . | 111 Liberty, <i>Liberty</i> . |
| 58 Unity, <i>Thorndike</i> . | 129 Quantabacook, <i>Searsmont</i> . |
| 85 Star in the West, <i>Unity</i> . | 146 Seabasticook, <i>Clinton</i> . |
| 102 Marsh River, <i>Brooks</i> . | |

DISTRICT NO. 8.

District Deputy Grand Master—RODEL A. PACKARD, Northport.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 24 Phoenix, <i>Belfast</i> . | 119 Pownal, <i>Stockton</i> . |
| 62 King David's, <i>Lincolnville</i> . | 126 Timothy Chase, <i>Belfast</i> . |
| 68 Mariners', <i>Searsport</i> . | 151 Excelsior, <i>Northport</i> . |
| 89 Island, <i>Islesboro'</i> . | |

DISTRICT NO. 9.

District Deputy Grand Master—FREDERIC M. RICHARDS, Camden.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 6 Amity, <i>Camden</i> . | 79 Rockland, <i>Rockland</i> . |
| 15 Orient, <i>Thomaston</i> . | 82 St. Paul's, <i>Rockport</i> . |
| 16 St. George, <i>Warren</i> . | 84 Eureka, <i>Tenant's Harbor</i> . |
| 31 Union, <i>Union</i> . | 145 Moses Webster, <i>Vinalhaven</i> . |
| 50 Aurora, <i>Rockland</i> . | 189 Knox, <i>South Thomaston</i> . |

DISTRICT NO. 10.

District Deputy Grand Master—WALTER E. CLARK, Waldoboro.

3 Lincoln, Wiscasset.	135 Riverside, North Jefferson.
43 Alna, Damariscotta.	144 Seaside, Boothbay Harbor.
61 King Solomon's, Waldoboro.	158 Anchor, South Bristol.
74 Bristol, Bristol.	196 Bay View, East Boothbay.
103 Dresden, Dresden.	

DISTRICT NO. 11.

District Deputy Grand Master—HERBERT M. STARBIRD, Litchfield.

5 Kennebec, Hallowell.	41 Morning Star, Litchfield Corner.
25 Temple, Winthrop.	104 Dirigo, Weeks' Mills.
32 Hermon, Gardiner.	110 Monmouth, Monmouth.
35 Bethlehem, Augusta.	141 Augusta, Augusta.

DISTRICT NO. 12.

District Deputy Grand Master—FRANKLIN WALKER, Waterville.

33 Waterville, Waterville.	99 Vernon Valley, Mt. Vernon.
48 Lafayette, Readfield.	118 Messalonskee, Oakland.
53 Rural, Sidney.	133 Asylum, Wayne.
54 Vassalboro', North Vassalboro'.	166 Neguenekeag, Vassalboro'.

DISTRICT NO. 13.

District Deputy Grand Master—FRANCIS H. WING, Skowhegan.

28 Northern Star, North Anson.	116 Lebanon, Norridgewock.
34 Somerset, Skowhegan.	161 Carrabassett, Canaan.
80 Keystone, Solon.	194 Euclid, Madison.
92 Siloam, Fairfield.	199 Bingham, Bingham.

DISTRICT NO. 14.

District Deputy Grand Master—SETH T. SNIPE, Bath.

8 United, Brunswick.	63 Richmond, Richmond.
14 Solar, Bath.	114 Polar Star, Bath.
23 Freeport, Freeport.	121 Acacia, Durham.
26 Village, Bowdoinham.	155 Ancient York, Lisbon Falls.

DISTRICT NO. 15.

District Deputy Grand Master—NEWELL P. NOBLE, Phillips.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 20 Maine, Farmington. | 154 Mystic Tie, Weld. |
| 21 Oriental Star, Livermore Falls. | 156 Wilton, Wilton. |
| 67 Blue Mountain, Phillips. | 167 Whitney, Canton. |
| 123 Franklin, New Sharon. | 191 Davis, Strong. |

DISTRICT NO. 16.

District Deputy Grand Master—GEORGE W. HOLMES, Norway.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 18 Oxford, Norway. | 100 Jefferson, Bryant's Pond. |
| 30 Blazing Star, Rumford Falls. | 147 Evening Star, Buckfield. |
| 57 King Hiram, Dixfield. | 152 Crooked River, Bolster's Mills. |
| 94 Paris, South Paris. | 182 Granite, West Paris. |
| 97 Bethel, Bethel. | |

DISTRICT NO. 17.

District Deputy Grand Master—FRANKLIN R. REDLON, Portland.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Portland, Portland. | 86 Temple, Westbrook. |
| 17 Ancient Land-Mark, Portland. | 127 Presumpscot, North Windham. |
| 36 Casco, Yarmouth. | 180 Hiram, Cape Elizabeth. |
| 38 Harmony, Gorham. | 183 Deering, Deering. |
| 70 Standish, Standish. | 186 Warren Philips, Cumb'd Mills. |
| 81 Atlantic, Portland. | |

DISTRICT NO. 18.

District Deputy Grand Master—JAMES C. AYER, Cornish.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 11 Pythagorean, Fryeburg. | 132 Mount Tir'em, Waterford. |
| 13 Oriental, Bridgton. | 153 Delta, Lovell. |
| 56 Mount Moriah, Denmark. | 169 Shepherd's River, Brownfield. |
| 117 Greenleaf, Cornish. | |

DISTRICT NO. 19.

District Deputy Grand Master—ISAAC N. HURD, Kittery.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 9 Saco, Saco. | 142 Ocean, Wells. |
| 22 York, Kennebunk. | 162 Arion, Goodwin's Mills. |
| 47 Dunlap, Biddeford. | 179 Yorkshire, North Berwick. |
| 51 St. John's, South Berwick. | 184 Naval, Kittery. |
| 76 Arundel, Kennebunkport. | 198 St. Aspinquid, York Village. |

DISTRICT NO. 20.

District Deputy Grand Master—PITT H. JONES, Springfield.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 93 Horeb, <i>Lincoln</i> . | 165 Molunkus, <i>Sherman Mills</i> . |
| 98 Katahdin, <i>Patten</i> . | 172 Pine Tree, <i>Mattawamkeag</i> . |
| 148 Forest, <i>Springfield</i> . | 175 Baskahegan, <i>Danforth</i> . |

DISTRICT NO. 21.

District Deputy Grand Master—EZRA G. MASON, Mount Desert.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 19 Felicity, <i>Bucksport</i> . | 140 Mount Desert, <i>Mount Desert</i> . |
| 40 Lygonia, <i>Ellsworth</i> . | 159 Esoteric, <i>Ellsworth</i> . |
| 71 Rising Sun, <i>Orland</i> . | 185 Bar Harbor, <i>Bar Harbor</i> . |
| 77 Tremont, <i>Tremont</i> . | 192 Winter Harbor, <i>Winter Harbor</i> . |

DISTRICT NO. 22.

District Deputy Grand Master—JOHN H. SHEPHERD, Corinna.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 49 Meridian Splendor, <i>Newport</i> . | 125 Meridian, <i>Pittsfield</i> . |
| 64 Pacific, <i>Exeter</i> . | 139 Archon, <i>East Dixmont</i> . |
| 75 Plymouth, <i>Plymouth</i> . | 157 Cambridge, <i>Cambridge</i> . |
| 95 Corinthian, <i>Hartland</i> . | 160 Parian, <i>Corinna</i> . |

DISTRICT NO. 23.

District Deputy Grand Master—A1 Q. MITCHELL, West Newfield.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 27 Adoniram, <i>Limington</i> . | 115 Buxton, <i>West Buxton</i> . |
| 42 Freedom, <i>Limerick</i> . | 118 Drummond, <i>Parsonsfield</i> . |
| 55 Fraternal, <i>Alfred</i> . | 143 Preble, <i>Sanford</i> . |
| 107 Day Spring, <i>West Newfield</i> . | 190 Springvale, <i>Springvale</i> . |

DISTRICT NO. 24.

District Deputy Grand Master—FRED G. PAYNE, Lewiston.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 12 Cumberland, <i>New Gloucester</i> . | 105 Ashlar, <i>Lewiston</i> . |
| 29 Tranquil, <i>Auburn</i> . | 150 Rabboni, <i>Lewiston</i> . |
| 73 Tyrian, <i>Mechanic Falls</i> . | 164 Webster, <i>Webster</i> . |
| 101 Nezinscot, <i>Turner</i> . | 178 Ancient Brothers', <i>Auburn</i> . |

Officers of the Grand Lodge, 1896.

M.W.	AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,	<i>Grand Master,</i>	Bangor.
R.W.	JOSEPH A. LOCKE,	<i>Deputy Grand Master,</i>	Portland.
"	ALBERT M. PENLEY,	<i>Senior Grand Warden,</i>	Auburn.
"	BENJAMIN L. HADLEY,	<i>Junior " "</i>	Bar Harbor.
"	MARQUIS F. KING,	<i>Grand Treasurer,</i>	Portland.
"	STEPHEN BERRY,	<i>" Secretary,</i>	Portland.
"	CHARLES D. SMITH,	<i>Cor. Grand Secretary,</i>	Portland.
"	ALFRED D. SAWYER,	<i>D. D. G. M. 1st Dist.,</i>	Fort Fairfield.
"	WALTER F. BRADISH,	<i>" 2d "</i>	Eastport.
"	NEHEMIAH GUPTILL,	<i>" 3d "</i>	Jonesport.
"	JOHN P. SHEPHERD,	<i>" 4th "</i>	Castine.
"	THOS. J. PEAKS,	<i>" 5th "</i>	Charleston.
"	ALBERT J. DURGIN,	<i>" 6th "</i>	Orono.
"	GEO. P. BILLINGS,	<i>" 7th "</i>	Clinton.
"	RODEL A. PACKARD,	<i>" 8th "</i>	Northport.
"	FRED M. RICHARDS,	<i>" 9th "</i>	Camden.
"	WALTER E. CLARK,	<i>" 10th "</i>	Waldoboro.
"	HERBERT M. STARBIRD,	<i>" 11th "</i>	Litchfield.
"	FRANKLIN WALKER,	<i>" 12th "</i>	Waterville.
"	FRANCIS H. WING,	<i>" 13th "</i>	Skowhegan.
"	SETH T. SNIPE,	<i>" 14th "</i>	Bath.
"	NEWELL P. NOBLE,	<i>" 15th "</i>	Phillips.
"	GEORGE W. HOLMES,	<i>" 16th "</i>	Norway.
"	FRANKLIN R. REDLON,	<i>" 17th "</i>	Portland.
"	JAMES C. AYER,	<i>" 18th "</i>	Cornish.
"	ISAAC N. HURD,	<i>" 19th "</i>	Kittery.
"	PITT H. JONES,	<i>" 20th "</i>	Springfield.
"	EZRA G. MASON,	<i>" 21st "</i>	Mount Desert.
"	JOHN H. SHEPHERD,	<i>" 22d "</i>	Corinna.
"	AI Q. MITCHELL,	<i>" 23d "</i>	W. Newfield.
"	FRED G. PAYNE,	<i>" 24th "</i>	Lewiston.
W. & Rev.	MARTYN SUMMERBELL,	<i>Grand Chaplain,</i>	Lewiston.
"	ELMER E. NEWBERT,	<i>" "</i>	Augusta.
"	WILLIAM A. NEWCOMB,	<i>" "</i>	Thomaston.
"	ELMER F. PEMBER,	<i>" "</i>	Bangor.
"	JOHN GIBSON,	<i>" "</i>	C. Elizabeth.
"	WOODBURY P. MERRILL,	<i>" "</i>	Berwick.
W.	HUGH R. CHAPLIN,	<i>" Marshal,</i>	Bangor.
"	HORACE MITCHELL,	<i>" Senior Deacon,</i>	Kittery Point.
"	JAMES E. PARSONS,	<i>" Junior Deacon,</i>	Ellsworth.
"	GEO. O. MITCHELL,	<i>" Steward,</i>	Bucksport.
"	JACOB R. STEWART,	<i>" "</i>	Rockland.
"	EDWIN F. DAVIES,	<i>" "</i>	Castine.
"	ENOCH O. GREENLEAF,	<i>" "</i>	Farmington.
"	WM. N. HOWE,	<i>" Sword Bearer,</i>	Portland.
"	CHAS. W. CROSBY,	<i>" Standard "</i>	Kent's Hill.
"	WM. O. FOX,	<i>" Pursuivant,</i>	Portland.
"	EDWIN A. PORTER,	<i>" "</i>	Pittsfield.
M.W.	FRANK E. SLEEPER,	<i>" Lecturer,</i>	Sabattus.
W.	WALTER S. SMITH,	<i>" Organist,</i>	Portland.
"	WARREN O. CARNEY,	<i>" Tyler,</i>	Portland.

* List of Subordinate Lodges *

WITH THEIR PRINCIPAL OFFICERS,

AS RETURNED MARCH 1, 1896.

- Acacia, 121, Durham. Josiah L. Wright, m; Marcus W. Eveleth, sw;
Joseph W. Thomas, jw; Everett L. Macomber, s. Meeting Tuesday
on or before full moon; election, December. 14
- Adoniram, 27, Limington. John F. Moulton, m; Samuel N. Small, sw;
Charles L. Cousins, jw; Charles E. Small, s. Meeting Tuesday on or
before full moon; election, December. 23
- Alna, 43, Damariscotta. Lincoln H. Chapman, m; Isaac C. Stetson, sw;
Frank L. Smithwick, jw; Edward E. Philbrook, s. Meeting Wednes-
day on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Amity, 6, Camden. Henry L. Maker, m; Will V. Farnsworth, sw; Fred'k
K. Shaw, jw; Orris I. Gould, s. Meeting Friday on or before full
moon; election, October. 9
- Anchor, 158, South Bristol. John F. Hyson, m; John F. French, sw;
Ernest E. Gamage, jw; Merritt E. Thompson, s. Meeting Wednesday
on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Ancient Brother's, 178, Auburn. William S. Noyes, m; George E. Mc-
Cann, sw; William E. Cutler, jw; Harry I. Jordan, s. Meeting Mon-
day on or after full moon; election, October. 24
- Ancient Landmark, 17, Portland. Charles P. Costello, m; George H. Owen,
sw; Winslow E. Howell, jw; John S. Russell, s. Meeting first Wed-
nesday; election, December. 17
- Ancient York, 155, Lisbon Falls. Fenton Haigh, m; James H. Brewster,
sw; Harry E. Plummer, jw; William Parkin, s. Meeting Monday on
or before full moon; election, September. 14
- Archon, 139, East Dixmont. C. Hale Thurlough, Monroe, m; Porter Luf-
kin, South Newburg, sw; Andrew J. Mudgett, jw; Benjamin F. Porter,
s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, October. 22

- Arion, 162, Goodwin's Mills. Samuel F. Griffin, m; William M. Staples, sw; J. H. Hanson, jw; Cyrus K. Littlefield, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, November. 19
- Arroostook, 197, Blaine. Howard W. Safford, m; Elijah A. Tompkins, sw; Wm. A. Beals, jw; John M. Ramsey, s. Meeting Saturday on or after full moon; election, December. 1
- Arundel, 76, Kennebunkport. Ruel W. Norton, m; George H. Robinson, sw; George H. Bourne, jw; Fordyce B. Perkins, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, February. 19
- Ashlar, 105, Lewiston. George W. Haynes, m; Charles A. Jumper, sw; Ed. S. Stetson, jw; Fred I. Morrell, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, January. 24
- Asylum, 133, Wayne. Clarence M. Stevens, m; B. Frank Bradford, sw; Arthur W. Manter, jw; Charles S. Haynes, s. Meeting Tuesday before full moon; election, September. 12
- Atlantic, 81, Portland. Edwin G. Jackson, m; Fred H. York, sw; James E. Leighton, jw; Charles D. Smith, s. Meeting third Wednesday; election, December. 17
- Augusta, 141, Augusta. George K. Black, m; Frank L. Staples, sw; Weston Lewis, jw; Joseph Williamson, Jr., s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 11
- Aurora, 50, Rockland. Frank A. Peterson, m; Leonard H. Snow, sw; Asa P. St. Clair, jw; Lorenzo S. Robinson, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 9
- Bar Harbor, 185, Bar Harbor. Frank E. Whitmore, m; Charles F. Paine, sw; Frank O. Alley, jw; Benj. L. Hadley, s. Meeting third Thursday; election, December. 21
- Baskahegan, 175, Danforth. David C. Parker, m; Leo H. Tuck, sw; Daniel J. Floyd, jw; Martin L. Porter, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, August. 20
- Bay View, 196, East Boothbay. Edward Whitehouse, m; C. Tyler Hodgdon, sw; Isaac L. Murray, jw; Victor K. Montgomery, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Benevolent, 87, Carmel. Frank E. Stevens, m; George D. Pinkham, sw; John E. Winslow, jw; Camillus K. Johnson, s. Meeting Wednesday week of full moon; election, December 27th. 6
- Bethel, 97, Bethel. Eben S. Kilborn, m; Albert W. Grover, sw; James H. Barrows, jw; Jarvis C. Billings, s. Meeting second Thursday; election, November. 16
- Bethlehem, 35, Augusta. John G. Rowe, m; Charles A. Price, sw; Chas. B. Adams, jw; James E. Blanchard, s. Meeting first Monday; election, November. 11

- Bingham, 199, Bingham. Arthur N. Burke, m; Benjamin F. Smith, sw; Edwin O. Vittum, jw; Elmer H. Dunton, s. Meeting Saturday on before full moon; election, June. 13
- Blazing Star, 30, Rumford Falls. Joseph W. Simpson, m; Edwin P. Smith, sw; Cyrus P. Eaton, jw; Henry M. Colby, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, October. 16
- Blue Mountain, 67, Phillips. Charles E. Smith, m; Arthur W. McLeary, sw; Mason Parker, jw; William A. D. Cragin, s. Meeting Wednesday week of full moon; election, September. 15
- Bristol, 74, Bristol Mills. Oscar S. Yates, m; Calvin V. Robbins, sw; Norris A. Miller, jw; Edwin J. Ervine, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Buxton, 115, West Buxton. Frank H. Hargraves, m; Joseph F. Warren, sw; Leonard Palmer, jw; Cyril P. Harmon, s. Meeting Monday evening on or before full moon; election, January. 23
- Cambridge, 157, Cambridge. Charles A. Mitchell, m; Alfred H. Willis, sw; Jacob T. Brown, jw; G. W. Chadbourne, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 22
- Caribou, 170, Caribou. Parker L. Hardison, m; Charles B. Margesson, sw; Bertram L. Fletcher, jw; Charles G. Littlefield, s. Meeting first Thursday; election, December. 1
- Carrabassett, 161, Canaan. Frank Weymouth, m; Cecil B. Gardiner, sw; Oscar F. Nutting, jw; Alpheus Nason, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, first Tuesday in October. 13
- Casco, 36, Yarmouth. Herbert M. Moore, m; Louis P. Pomeroy, sw; David H. Bennett, jw; Monroe Stoddard, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, October. 17
- Central, 45, China. John A. Woodsum, m; Gustavus J. Nelson, sw; Everett B. Besse, jw; Willis W. Washburn, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, September. 7
- Columbia, 200, Greenville. Hiram Hunt, m; Charles D. Shaw, sw; Gideon D. Sturtevant, jw; Jesse M. Prentiss, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 5
- Composite, 168, La Grange. Rodney Q. Lancaster, Howland, m; Henry J. Bailey, sw; Henry B. Dyer, jw; Andrew H. Dyer, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, October. 5
- Corinthian, 95, Hartland. Thomas A. Linn, m; George M. Lancey, sw; Wilbert E. Dearborn, jw; Edwin A. Bean, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, August. 22
- Crescent, 78, Pembroke. Everett H. Fisher, m; Oscar I. Sinclair, sw; Allan, H. Brown, jw; George W. Allan, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, December 27th. 2

- Crooked River, 152, Bolster's Mills. George A. Haskell, m; William H. Noyes, sw; Edward A. Wight, jw; Leander Dorman, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, January. 16
- Cumberland, 12, New Gloucester. Elisha A. McCollister, Gray, m; Ozias M. Goff, East Gray, sw; John W. Rideout, Intervale, jw; George H. Goding, Lewiston Junction, s. Meeting Saturday before full moon; election, November. 24
- Davis, 191, Strong. Nelson Walker, m; Charles F. Thompson, sw; Charles B. Richardson, jw; Andrew J. Norton, s. Meeting Friday evening of week in which moon is full; election, September. 15
- Day Spring, 107, West Newfield. Frank P. W. Colby, m; George E. Mitchell, sw; Everett E. Ham, jw; George O. Hannaford, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, September. 23
- Deering, 183, Deering. Isaac L. Elder, m; Edward S. Waite, sw; Charles W. Blake, jw; Francis E. Chase, Woodfords, s. Meeting second Monday; election, February. 17
- Delta, 153, Lovell. William R. Kneeland, m; George W. Walker, sw; James H. Walker, jw; Edward L. Bell, s. Meeting second Thursday election, December. 18
- Dirigo, 104, Weeks' Mills. Fred W. Barton, m; Fred D. Studley, sw; Edward W. Pierce, jw; Orrin F. Sproul, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, September. 11
- Doric, 149, Monson. Ambrose H. Harding, m; Harold E. Morrill, sw; George W. Morrill, jw; Edwin R. Haynes, s. Meeting Monday on or after full moon; election, December. 5
- Dresden, 103, Dresden Mills. John H. Mayers, m; L. W. Carlton, sw; George H. Colby, jw; Nathaniel F. Leeman, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, October. 10
- Drummond, 118, Parsonsfield. J. Merrill Lord, m; Henry D. Moulton, sw; Herbert Edwards, jw; Albert R. Leavitt, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, September. 23
- Dunlap, 47, Biddeford. Harold Kelly, m; Clement A. Wakefield, sw; John B. Lowell, jw; James Beaumont, s. Meeting first Monday; election, December. 19
- Eastern, 7, Eastport. James I. Brewster, m; Wheeler C. Hawkes, sw; Andrew R. Holmes, jw; Noel B. Nutt, s. Meeting first Monday; election, December 27th. 2
- Eastern Frontier, 112, Fort Fairfield. George S. Stevens, m; Herbert W. Trafton, sw; John M. Thurlough, jw; Nelson H. Martin, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 1
- Eggmoggin, 128, Sedgwick. Theodore A. Smith, m; Henry L. Morgan, sw; Fred J. Sargent, jw; Orrin P. Carter, s. Meeting second Monday; election, January. 4

warrants for new lodges shall be issued, within six months after such recognition, every lodge must hold a meeting, upon notice of not less than twenty-one days, and determine by a two-thirds vote whether it would go with the new Grand Lodge or not.

The opponents of the recognition of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand opposed the motions. They denied that the Grand Lodge of New Zealand had been recognized, while the Grand Registrar asserted that it had been, and quite a sharp debate took place on that question. One of the opponents said:

"I do not like repealing our old Constitutions, that have worked well in the past; probably they will work well in the future. These that are proposed to be added, are not required; at least there is no immediate hurry for them."

This brought to his feet Bro. J. WIMBURN LAURIE, Past Grand Master of Nova Scotia, and now Provincial Grand Master for New South Wales, who commenced by saying:

"It has been said that the present constitution works well. I can speak from actual personal experience that it works exceedingly—I was going to say scandalously. I have had the honour of presiding over a Colonial Grand Lodge for some fifteen years; but I was in the Colony of Nova Scotia when it was decided by the masons there to form a separate and independent Grand Lodge. I will give you an explanation, that Grand Lodge may know."

He then went on to describe in forcible terms the condition of things in Nova Scotia, and how the present system worked there. It is safe to say that the statement that the present system has worked well in the past will not be repeated in his presence!

The opponents moved to refer the matter to the Board of General Purposes, but the motion was defeated by a vote of 248 to 148.

It was then agreed to refer the matter to the Grand Registrar, GEN. LAURIE, Bro. FENN, (Past Grand Warden), Bro. EVE (the leader of the opposition), and the Colonial Committee of the Board G. P. as a special committee to report at next Grand Lodge.

We are glad to find that the Grand Registrar (who is the "law officer" of the Grand Lodge) holds that a mason is amenable to discipline in the place in which he commits an offence, without regard to the place of his membership.

The lodges number up to 2,646, of which about 800 made returns for the quarter. We regret that we have no method of ascertaining or even of estimating the total membership of the obedience of this Grand Lodge.

- Harmony, 38, Gorham. Charles H. Ridlon, m; Everett P. Hanson, sw; Moses E. Little, jw; Fred W. Harding, s. Meeting Wednesday on or preceding full moon; election, December. 17
- Harwood, 91, Machias. Amos L. Heaton, m; Stephen Hadley, sw; Willis H. Allen, jw; Cyrus W. Beverly, s. Meeting first Monday; election, December 27th. 3
- Hermon, 32, Gardiner. Arthur C. Brown, m; Thomas A. Jewett, sw; William L. Powers, jw; James M. Larrabee, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 11
- Hiram, 180, South Portland. John A. S. Dyer, m; John Melia, sw; Albert A. Cole, jw; Stephen Scamman, Knightville, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, November. 17
- Horeb, 93, Lincoln. George W. Haskell, m; Wallace C. Thibodeau, sw; Leslie F. Pinkham, jw; Charles F. Plumly, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, first Monday in December. 20
- Howard, 69, Winterport. George W. Crockett, m; Daniel M. Spencer, sw; Fred C. Atwood, jw; John H. Baker, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, December. 6
- Ira Berry, 187, Bluehill. John Phillips, m; Harry Saunders, sw; Bailey W. Bowden, jw; Frank A. Davis, s. Meeting third Monday; election, December. 4
- Island, 89, Islesboro'. Frank W. Sherman, m; Augustine H. Parker, sw; Ernest L. Sprague, jw; Thomas R. Williams, North Islesboro', s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, February. 8
- Jefferson, 100, Bryant's Pond. Arthur C. Ricker, m; James L. Bowker, sw; Walter H. Small, jw; Alden Chase, s. Meeting Tuesday or before full moon; election, September. 16
- Jonesport, 188, Jonesport. Nehemiah Guptill, m; Seth S. Nickerson, sw; Darius D. Kelley, jw; Henry A. Mansfield, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 3
- Katahdin, 98, Patten. Charles H. Gilman, m; George A. P. Bryant, sw; Bachelder H. Huston, jw; Charles C. Perry, s. Meeting Thursday on or preceding full moon; election, December. 20
- Kenduskeag, 137, Kenduskeag. Wallace W. Patterson, m; Peter Barker, sw; Hosea B. Emery, jw; William C. Spratt, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 6
- Kennebec, 5, Hallowell. George A. Safford, m; Lorenzo D. Merchant, sw; John M. Robinson, jw; William Hosken, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, November. 11
- Keystone, 80, Solon. Lyman C. Jewett, m; Cornelius A. Merrill, sw; Wright S. Cram, jw; Perry S. Longley, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, third Wednesday of October. 13

- King David's, 62, Lincolnville. Nathan D. Ross, m; Leslie D. Ames, sw; Alton E. Andrews, jw; Henry Crehore, s. Meeting Tuesday evening nearest full moon; election, December. 8
- King Hiram, 57, Dixfield. William M. Kidder, m; Henry F. Floyd, sw; Emerson W. Murch, jw; Charles L. Dillingham, s. Meeting Tuesday on or after full moon; election, October. 16
- King Solomon's, 61, Waldoboro. Frank W. Achorn, m; George H. Douglas, sw; Fred A. Hovey, jw; George L. Welt, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Knox, 189, South Thomaston. Milton E. Bassick, m; J. Merrill Bartlett, sw; Richard A. Snow, jw; Lewis M. Butler, s. Meeting first Saturday; election, February. 9
- Lafayette, 48, Readfield. Frank A. Dow, m; John B. Roderick, sw; David Dudley, jw; Ernest A. Morgan, s. Meeting first Saturday; election, February. 12
- Lebanon, 116, Norridgewock. Charles H. Girdler, m; George O. Carr, sw; Charles E. Moore, jw; Henry C. Powers, South Norridgewock, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, September. 13
- Lewy's Island, 138, Princeton. Benjamin F. Chadbourn, m; Leander R. Horsman, sv; Theo. Morrison, jw; Samuel O. Hoar, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, December, St. John's Day. 2
- Liberty, 111, Liberty. John C. Sherman, Libertyville, m; Oren W. Ripley, South Montville, sw; Winfield W. Lunt, jw; Ambrose P. Cargill, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, September. 7
- Lincoln, 3, Wiscasset. Charles H. Metcalf, m; Clarence A. Peaslee, sw; George W. Pooler, jw; William D. Patterson, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Lookout, 131, Cutler. Silas E. Turner, m; Hermitta U. Davis, sw; Frederick W. Thurlow, jw; Forrest S. Stevens, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, January. 3
- Lygonia, 40, Ellsworth. Charles A. Allen, m; William Goggins, sw; Elvert E. Parker, jw; James E. Parsons, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 21
- Lynde, 174, Hermon. Charles N. Patten, m; Frank P. Whitaker, sw; Charles E. Phillips, jw; West. D. Eaton, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, December. 6
- Maine, 20, Farmington. Edward C. Merrill, m; George C. Purington, sw; Frederick P. Adams, jw; Frank W. Butler, s. Meeting Monday in week of full moon; election, October. 15
- Marine, 122, Deer Isle. Benjamin G. Barbour, m; Cecil E. Wasgatt, sw; John J. Spofford, jw; Austin D. Haskell, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 4

- Mariners', 68, Searsport. James C. Wentworth, m; James A. Colson, sw; Clifton Whittemore, jw; Charles E. Adams, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, January. 8
- Marsh River, 102, Brooks. Laurent C. Jones, m; Willard S. Jones, sw; Allen B. Stantial, jw; Forrest K. Roberts, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 7
- Mechanics', 66, Orono. Andrew M. Shaw, m; Daniel H. Lambert, sw; Alonzo H. Harriman, jw; Albert J. Durgin, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, December 27th. 6
- Meridian, 125, Pittsfield. James E. Kenney, m; John F. Webendorfer, sw; Truman M. Griffin, jw; Leon L. Libby, s. Meeting Friday evening on or before full moon; election, January. 22
- Meridian Splendor, 49, Newport. Henry A. King, m; Watson B. Marsh, sw; Percy L. Oakes, jw; Charles E. Smith, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, December. 22
- Messalonskee, 113, Oakland. James H. Witherell, m; Charles A. Ridley, sw; Frank E. Burrill, jw; J. Wesley Gilman, s. Meeting on the first Saturday; election, December. 12
- Molunkus, 165, Sherman Mills. Isaac Cushman, m; Freeman C. Harris, sw; Edward H. Townsend, jw; John Gosnell, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, October. 20
- Monmouth, 110, Monmouth. Otis K. Prescott, m; John M. Prescott, sw; Everett F. Heath, jw; Horace S. Bent, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, September. 11
- Monument, 96, Houlton. J. Frank Bryson, m; George A. Gorham, Jr., sw; Charles H. Fogg, jw; Charles E. F. Stetson, s. Meeting second Wednesday; election, March. 1
- Morning Star, 41, Litchfield Corner. Chapin Lydston, m; William E. Tarr, sw; John Purinton, jw; Irving W. Gilbert, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, September. 11
- Mosaic, 52, Foxcroft. Allen P. Clark, m; Frank H. Glover, sw; Wm. C. Woodbury, jw; James T. Roberts, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, December. 5
- Moses Webster, 145, Vinalhaven. Fred A. Grindle, m; Freeman S. Hamilton, sw; W. Frank Pierce, jw; Winfield S. Carver, s. Meeting second Tuesday; election, November. 9
- Mount Desert, 140, Mount Desert. Melville L. Allen, m; Eugene D. Richardson, sw; R. H. B. Fernald, jw; Lyman H. Somes, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, January. 21
- Mount Kineo, 109, Guilford. Angus O. Campbell, m; Albion W. Ellis, sw; Alexander F. Edes, jw; David Pearson, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, December. 5

- Mount Moriah, 56, Denmark. Sidney T. Brown, m; Albion P. Merrill, sw; Elmore E. Swan, jw; Almon P. Pingree, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 18
- Mount Tire'm, 132, Waterford. Addison Millett, m; Warren V. Kneeland, sw; Francis S. Packard, jw; Isaac F. Jewett, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 18
- Mystic, 65, Hampden. Fred L. Wyman, m; Charles W. Page, sw; Sumner D. Greeley, jw; William H. Tribou, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, December. 6
- Mystic Tie, 154, Weld. Wm. A. Allen, m; Roscoe E. Scamman, sw; Cleff Maxwell, jw; Lyman L. Jones, s. Meeting Tuesday of the week of full moon; election, December. 15
- Narraguagus, 88, Cherryfield. David W. Campbell, m; Arthur H. Bartlett, sw; Phineas B. Gupthill, jw; George G. Freeman, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before the full moon; election, January. 3
- Naskeag, 171, Brooklin. Fred S. Herrick, m; Eldorus H. Bridges, sw; Charles H. Johnston, jw; Augustus G. Blake, s. Meeting first Monday; election, January. 4
- Naval, 184, Kittery. Ernest L. Chaney, m; Fred'k W. Cross, sw; Daniel O. Seaward, jw; Levi L. Goodrich, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, July. 19
- Neguemkeag, 166, Vassalboro. George F. Richards, m; Bert K. Maservey, sw; Charles H. Hanson, jw; Daniel Rollins, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, September. 12
- Nezinscot, 101, Turner. William B. Bradford, m; William H. Downing, sw; ————, jw; Seth D. Andrews, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, June. 24
- Northern Star, 28, North Anson. Samuel S. Gould, m; Bert. Witham, sw; George L. Hovey, jw; Wilbur C. Simmons, s. Meeting Tuesday on or next preceding full moon; election, December. 13
- Ocean, 142, Wells' Depot. Lyman F. Getchell, m; Albert H. Hatch, sw; Thomas A. Chick, jw; Frank L. Buker, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 19
- Olive Branch, 124, Charleston. John L. Herrick, m; Fred A. Thayer, sw; Frank H. Drummond, jw; Oscar L. Smith, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, December. 5
- Orient, 15, Thomaston. Levi Morse, m; A. C. Strout, sw; W. H. Stackpole, jw; A. O. Tobie, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 9
- Oriental, 13, Bridgton. David P. Chaplin, m; Norman H. Libbey, sw; John B. Bray, jw; D. Eugene Chaplin, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, October. 18

- Oriental Star, 21, Livermore Falls. Alphonso D. Cole, m; Chester H. Thurston, sw; Luther B. Farnum, jw; George O. Eustis, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, January. 15
- Oxford, 18, Norway. Bial F. Bradbury, m; Eugene E. Andrews, sw; Merton L. Kimball, jw; Howard D. Smith, s. Meeting Monday on or next before full moon; election, September. 16
- Pacific, 64, Exeter. George M. Bond, Stetson, m; Alfred W. Hicks, Garland, sw; Roswell C. Rich, jw; David E. Knight, Garland, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, January. 22
- Parian, 160, Corinna. Lewis Hutchins, m; Oliver L. Jones, sw; Silas F. Briggs, jw; George W. Nutter, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, September. 22
- Paris, 94, South Paris. William H. Jenne, m; Arthur E. Forbes, sw; William P. Morton, jw; Horatio Woodbury, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, at first stated meeting in year. 16
- Penobscot, 39, Dexter. William C. Elder, m; Lafayette B. Waldron, sw; Joseph H. Larrabee, jw; Charles S. Hutchinson, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, at last stated meeting preceding 27th December. 5
- Phoenix, 24, Belfast. Henry J. Chaples, m; William C. Libby, sw; Upham A. Hoyt, jw; James Pattee, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, January. 8
- Pine Tree, 172, Mattawamkeag. John E. Clark, m; Thorndike A. Ranney, sw; Josiah F. Shedd, jw; George W. Smith, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, third Monday in December. 20
- Pioneer, 72, Ashland. Alonzo T. Kalloch, m; George S. Orcutt, sw; Sanford C. Murphy, jw; Henry S. Brown, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 1
- Piscataquis, 44, Milo. Abiel E. Leonard, m; Frank E. Monroe, sw; Thomas F. Hodgden, jw; Albert W. Murray, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, September. 5
- Pleasant River, 163, Brownville. George W. McClain, m; Edgar C. Smith, sw; John Levensaler, jw; Edwin M. Johnston, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, November. 5
- Pleiades, 173, Milbridge. Henry H. Gray, m; Nelson C. Wallace, sw; Elmer E. Sawyer, jw; Augustine C. Leighton, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, January. 3
- Plymouth, 75, Plymouth. Frank H. Pickard, m; Dana N. Gray, sw; L. Howard Gray, jw; Walter G. Loud, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, September. 22

- Polar Star, 114, Bath. Frank D. Monroe, m; Ernest W. Mitchell, sw; Joseph E. Anderson, jw; Herbert D. Maxwell, s. Meeting second Wednesday; election, March. 14
- Portland, 1, Portland. Charles E. Davis, m; Convers E. Leach, sw; C. Fred Berry, jw; George F. Gould, s. Meeting second Wednesday; election, November. 17
- Pownal, 119, Stockton Springs. Albert M. Ames, m; Clifford N. Fletcher, sw; Charles C. Heath, jw; Frank H. Cousens, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 8
- Preble, 143, Sanford. William I. Beck, m; William O. Nute, sw; Fred Stubbs, jw; Joseph Leckenby, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 23
- Presumpscot, 127, No. Windham. Harrison R. Waterhouse, m; George A. Gordon, sw; William F. Libby, jw; William H. Cram, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, December. 17
- Pythagorean, 11, Fryeburg. Frank A. Hill, m; John L. Osgood, sw; George H. Walker, 2d, jw; Tobias L. Eastman, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 18
- Quantabacook, 129, Searsmont. Uriah N. Dyer, m; Loxley T. Ness, sw; James Fuller, jw; Loima C. Poor, s. Meeting first Saturday; election, October. 7
- Rabboni, 150, Lewiston. Fred. G. Payne, m; Albert L. Murch, sw; T. Lloyd Pratt, jw; George F. Turner, s. Meeting Wednesday after full moon; election, September. 24
- Reliance, 195, Green's Landing. Butler H. Mills, m; Joseph H. Eaton, sw; William McKenzie, jw; Rollins Y. Stinson, s. Meeting first Saturday; election, December. 4
- Richmond, 63, Richmond. George B. Jenkins, m; Isaac L. Spaulding, sw; Melvin G. Bunker, jw; William R. Fairelough, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, October. 14
- Rising Star, 177, Penobscot. Frank M. Clements, m; Hosea B. Wardwell, sw; Cyrus K. Bridges, jw; Benjamin H. Cushman, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, December. 4
- Rising Sun, 71, Orland. Frank E. Cotton, m; Hugh McVeigh, sw; Enoch W. Harriman, jw; Richard P. Harriman, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, December. 21
- Rising Virtue, 10, Bangor. Walter S. Bolton, m; Warren H. Knowles, sw; Charles J. Wardley, jw; Charles I. Collamore, s. Meeting last Tuesday; election, December. 6
- Riverside, 135, East Jefferson. Thomas S. Bowden, m; Charles W. Besse, sw; Albert E. Jones, jw; William A. Jackson, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 10

- Rockland, 79, Rockland. Henry Jenkins, m; Henry J. Keating, sw; George A. Crockett, jw; Samuel A. Keyes, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 9
- Rural, 53, Sidney. Nathan A. Benson, m; Sewall A. Clark, sw; William A. Shaw, jw; James F. Warren, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, September. 12
- Saco, 9, Saco. Abram T. Lord, m; Herbert H. Dame, sw; Fred B. Wiggin, jw; George A. Emery, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 19
- Saint Andrew's, 83, Bangor. George M. Fletcher, m; Fred W. Adams, sw; Frank A. Robinson, jw; Arlington B. Marston, s. Meeting last Friday; election, December. 6
- Saint Aspinquid, 198, York Village. Wilson L. Hawkes, m; Edward W. Baker, sw; Charles L. Bowden, jw; George F. Plaisted, York Corner, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, September. 19
- Saint Croix, 46, Calais. George R. Gardner, m; Thomas S. Boles, sw; John Dougherty, jw; Stephen D. Morrell, s. Meeting first Monday; election, December, St. John's Day. 2
- Saint George, 16, Warren. Warren Morse, m; Edgar C. Crawford, sw; Edwin S. Carroll, jw; A. M. Wetherbee, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, October. 9
- Saint John's, 51, South Berwick. Charles M. Sleeper, m; John B. Whitehead, sw; Joseph A. Lord, jw; Edward A. Chesley, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, May. 19
- Saint Paul's, 82, Rockport. Everett E. Fales, m; George L. Wentworth, sw; Frank E. Achorn, jw; Charles W. Jenkins, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, October. 9
- Seaside, 144, Boothbay Harbor. John R. McDougall, m; Thaddeus L. Montgomery, sw; Lewis A. Dunton, jw; Henry S. Perkins, s. Meeting first Friday; election, December. 10
- Sebasticook, 146, Clinton. George P. Billings, m; Willard W. Eastman, sw; Charles F. Baker, jw; Ruel W. Gerald, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, October. 7
- Shepherd's River, 169, Brownfield. Orion A. Morton, m; Llewellyn A. Cole, sw; John Sands, Jr., jw; Hubert F. Fitch, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, December. 18
- Siloam, 92, Fairfield. George C. Eaton, m; George G. Weeks, sw; William F. Nutt, jw; George M. Chapman, s. Meeting first Thursday; election, December. 13
- Solar, 14, Bath. Herbert L. Grinnell, m; Howard B. Johnson, sw; Langdon T. Snipe, jw; John R. Knowlton, s. Meeting first Monday; election, December. 14

- Somerset, 34, Skowhegan. Frank W. Allen, m; Benjamin A. Sawyer, sw; George C. Thompson, jw; Charles M. Lambert, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, January. 13
- Springvale, 190, Springvale. Charles A. Hutchins, m; Harmon G. Allen, sw; Willie F. Ferguson, jw; Frank H. Dexter, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 23
- Standish, 70, Standish. John D. Higgins, m; Joseph C. Shaw, sw; George E. Whitney, jw; William H. Dresser, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, January. 17
- Star in the East, 60, Oldtown. George H. Richardson, m; Fred C. Barton, sw; Virgil E. Tucker, jw; Charles A. Dillingham, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, September. 6
- Star in the West, 85, Unity. Fred A. Whitten, m; Albert Bacon, sw; George R. Mosher, jw; Reuel M. Berry, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 7
- Temple 25, Winthrop. Levi E. Jones, m; Charles G. Stackpole, sw; Geo. W. Bates, jw; Frank I. Bishop, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 11
- Temple, 86, Westbrook. Albert H. Burroughs, m; Frank O. Mariner, sw; Ernest A. Bodge, jw; Oliver A. Cobb, s. Meeting second Wednesday; election, December. 17
- Timothy Chase, 126, Belfast. Edward H. Kaler, m; Dalton F. Stephenson, sw; Marcel R. Knowlton, jw; Charles E. Johnson, s. Meeting first Thursday; election, January. 8
- Tranquil, 29, Auburn. Frank L. Bartlett, m; James P. Hutchinson, sw; Albert E. Verrill, jw; James F. Atwood, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, January. 24
- Tremont, 77, South West Harbor. Franklin S. Doliver, m; William L. Gilley, sw; William W. King, jw; William R. Keene, Manset, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, December. 21
- Trinity, 120, Presque Isle. Marcus S. Huson, m; Fred H. Blake, sw; Ronaldo H. McDonald, jw; Zadoc P. Shaw, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 1
- Tuscan, 106, Addison. Fred A. Chandler, m; Melvin L. Cleaves, sw; Amos G. Godfrey, jw; Amasa D. Tracy, Westcogus, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, December. 3
- Tyrian, 73, Mechanic Falls. Fred E. Dwinal, m; Will P. Perkins, sw; Winfield C. Dwinal, jw; Lewin Jefferies, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, October. 24
- Union, 31, Union. Charles M. Lucas, m; George C. Hawes, sw; Benjamin F. Jones, jw; Benjamin Burton, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, December. 9

- United, 8, Brunswick. Adelbert J. Hutchinson, m; Gilbert M. Elliott, sw; Henry C. Upton, jw; Lemuel H. Stover, s. Meeting second Tuesday; election, December. 14
- Unity, 58, Thorndike. Alonzo H. Higgins, m; Charles P. Hutchins, sw; Phineas P. Shibbes, jw; John N. Tilton, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, January. 7
- Vassalboro', 54, North Vassalboro'. Abel Wall, m; Albert S. Priest, sw; Joseph Jewett, jw; Henry A. Ewer, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, September. 12
- Vernon Valley, 99, Mt. Vernon. William M. Tyler, m; William A. French, sw; George H. Poole, jw; Silas Burbank, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, November. 12
- Village, 26, Bowdoinham. Robert W. Carr, m; Frank H. Purington, sw; Albion H. Hillman, jw; Henry E. Cornish, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, October. 14
- Warren, 2, East Machias. Calvin B. Ober, m; Francis L. Talbot, sw; Herbert M. Hanscom, jw; Warren F. Pope, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December 27th. 3
- Warren Phillips, 186, Cumberland Mills. Wingate C. Titcomb, m; George B. Swett, sw; Clinton S. Eastman, jw; Calvin S. Walker, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, October. 17
- Washburn, 193, Washburn. Calvin D. Carter, m; Jarvis B. Harris, sw; Bowdoin R. Blackstone, jw; Edward M. Hines, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 1
- Washington, 37, Lubec. Robert G. McBride, m; Irving W. Case, sw; William Merriam, jw; Verdi Ludgate, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, December. 2
- Waterville, 33, Waterville. Martin F. Bartlett, m; Herbert M. Fuller, sw; Edward L. Meader, jw; Thomas E. Ransted, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 12
- Webster, 164, Sabattus. Edwin Woodside, m; George W. Jordan, sw; Charles A. Bagnall, jw; Judson Bangs, s. Meeting Thursday on or next before full moon; election, December. 24
- Whitney, 167, Canton. Cyrus T. Bonney, Jr., m; Geo. H. Strout, sw; Charles H. Randall, jw; Herbert J. DeShon, s. Meeting first Thursday; election, September. 15
- Wilton, 156, Wilton. Fred J. Ward, m; Cyrus N. Blanchard, sw; Maurice E. Allen, jw; Fred E. Trefethen, s. Meeting Wednesday week of full moon; election, September. 15
- Winter Harbor, 192, Winter Harbor. George W. Tracy, m; Charles E. Grover, sw; Ira N. Workman, jw; Bedford E. Tracy, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 4

irrevocable landmarks of Masonry, you are invested as Grand Master, with powers and prerogatives well nigh absolute. The interests of the craft, and the happiness of your brethren throughout this Colony are practically in your hands during your term of office. But the very consciousness of the possession of great power will ever incline a man of generous mind to be cautious and gentle in its exercise. To rule has been the lot of many, and does not necessarily require either strength of intellect or soundness of judgment. To rule well has been the fortune of but few, and may well be the object of an honourable ambition. Let me remind you, sir, that it is not by the strong arm and iron will that obedience and order, those first requisites of good government, are best secured, but rather by holding the key to the hearts of men."

The Grand Master made an excellent address, which may be read with great profit by all who are concerned in administering the affairs of the craft. Among other things, he said:

"We have in the Grand Lodge two charges: We have the charge of the administration of the ordinary affairs of the Grand Lodge, and we are charged to see that our ancient landmarks are observed in the closest manner by the large and rapidly increasing number of lodges that come under our rule. Most Worshipful sir, it is part of our duty never to forget, and, indeed, we cannot forget, that the rites of Freemasonry, its ceremonies, its allegorical teachings, and its noble precepts, are not of our own devising. They were practiced ages before our time, and they will survive after we have been forgotten, and while we are entrusted with the care and supervision of our lodges it must be our close endeavour to see that they hand on unimpaired the landmarks that have reached us through centuries."

The receipt of three copies of our Proceedings was acknowledged. The name of Bro. HERBERT HARRIS, as Representative near our Grand Lodge, is given, but in the table of Representatives it is said "From. Not yet appointed." While we find no mention later, that the appointment had been made, it is noted in the proceedings in October, that congratulations were tendered by the Representative (among others) of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

In October, the Board report:

"Since the annual communication, Lodge Unanimity, of Marlborough, has transferred its allegiance from the Grand Lodge of England, was welcomed into the fold by Rt. Wor. Bro. H. J. Williams, and is now No. 106 on our roll. Lodge Ohinemuri, No. 107, at Paeroa, was consecrated and opened by Mt. Wor. Bro. Niccol, Past Grand Master, on July 23, under the most favourable auspices, the proceedings forming altogether 'one of the grandest and most impressive masonic ceremonies that have ever taken place in New Zealand.' Lodge Winton, No. 108, at Winton, Southland, was consecrated by the Mt. Wor. Grand Master, Bro. Wm. Barron, on September 23d, assisted by the Grand Superintendent of the District, Rt. Wor. Bro. M. R. Bree, and the Grand Secretary. There was a large attendance of brethren from Invercargill and the surrounding districts."

Past Grand Master BELL had written that the Grand Lodge of England had recognized the Grand Lodge, but no official announcement had been received.

BRETHREN · DIED · DURING · THE · YEAR,

FROM MARCH 1, 1895, TO MARCH 1, 1896.

THOSE MARKED * WERE RETURNED AS BURIED WITH MASONIC RITES.

- 1 Portland. Edwin S. Stevens, Feb. 17; Pliny Crowell, Aug. 5; William E. Dennison, Sept. 4; Henry W. Lindsay, Oct. 7; John W. Crowther in 1893—death not reported until annual meeting of 1895; Albion W. Mayo, Feb. 2, 1896.
- 2 Warren. Ivory Hovey Robinson,* Nov. 4, Past Master, Past D. D. G. M. and High Priest of Warren R. A. Chapter.
- 3 Lincoln. Isaac G. Williamson, Nov. 4; Joseph E. Nutter, Feb. 4.
- 4 Hancock. Leroy S. Brophy, Nov. 14; Edward P. Adams, July 10.
- 5 Kennebec. Mark Johnson, March 16; Frank E. Hodgdon, July 1; Hiram Fuller, January 14; John H. Lowell, Jan. 31.
- 6 Amity. Nathaniel Crooker, Sept. 28; Joseph A. Graffam, March 24; Jesse F. Hosmer, April 17; Gideon Tower, Nov. 6; Chas. N. Fernald, July 4.
- 7 Eastern. John N. Woodworth, Mar. 18; Thomas M. Bibber, April 21; Alexander D. Jones, Aug. 10; Warren Brown, Jan. 22; Edward B. Davis, Feb. 9.
- 8 United. Stephen J. Young; J. Amherst Whitmore, Sep. 3; Stephen A. Winslow, February 2; Charles H. Wagg, March 2, drowned in the Androscoggin freshet.
- 9 Saco. Charles Nutter, February 18, honorary member.
- 10 Rising Virtue. William Flowers, April 16; Charles L. Marston, December 10; Gustavus B. Marden, January 15; Charles W. Jordan, February 17; John A. Wallis, February 19.
- 13 Oriental. Arthur J. Noone,* March 18; Henry E. Warren, June 29; John Mead, August 10; Wm. A. Stevens, February 7.
- 14 Solar. Alexander Farrar, September 28; Turner McCarty, August 8; Frank O. Moses, March 11.

- 15 Orient. W. H. Smith, May 12; J. H. Burkett, July 19.
- 16 St. George. John C. Crawford,* March 21; Alexander Spear,* May 10.
- 17 Ancient Landmark. Charles E. Somerby, May 1, life member; William S. Corey,* May 23; Edward L. O. Adams, July 13; Thomas S. Smyth, at Wilmington, N. C.; John Q. Twitchell, February 29, life member, accidental death.
- 18 Oxford. Benjamin G. Barrows,* March 9; Stephen Pottle,* May 1; C. Washington Hobbs, May 5, died and buried at Island Pond, Vt.; Alfred C. Hicks, November 1, in Boston.
- 19 Felicity. Otis A. Eldridge, April 28; Joseph H. Emerton, February 6, Masonic House Service; Albert M. Huston,* June 4; Ira W. Heath, July 30.
- 21 Oriental Star. David Cargill, June 13, P. G. M. of Grand Lodge; Geo. S. Winn; Orrin F. Foss; Elijah Wadsworth, December 23; Robert Blacker, January 7.
- 22 York. Fred L. Thompson, May 10; Alvah Cook, November 10; L. K. Dorrance, October 9.
- 23 Freeport. Albert R. Winslow, June 16.
- 24 Phoenix. Jediah C. Cates, July 17; Winfield S. Adams, August 3, at Bluehill, Me.; Lewis H. Ryan, August 31, at Cambridge, Mass., hospital; Hiram Y. Hodgdon, October 12; John D. Smart, October; James W. Holt, November 9, at Alameda, Cal.; Isaac E. Hatch, November 26; Arthur W. Robinson, Feb. 4.
- 26 Village. Noble M. Buker, May 13; Zina Campbell; John L. Patten, March 17.
- 27 Adoniram. Cyrus H. Moody, December 1; Luther Whitney, Jan. 20.
- 28 Northern Star. Albert Moore, April 7, Past Grand Master; Samuel A. Mitchell, December 14.
- 29 Tranquil. Charles A. Bridge,* March 11; Louville G. Lord,* July 19; George McClure,* September 8, Past Master of Tranquil Lodge.
- 30 Blazing Star. William W. Bragg, 1894.
- 31 Union. W. A. Albee,* November 2; D. P. Andrews, January 29; Nathan Hawkes,* March 4; Orrison McGuire, October 22, died and buried at sea.
- 32 Hermon. George M. Douglass, June 16.
- 33 Waterville. Charles G. Carleton, July 2; George Jewell, Oct. 30; William D. Stevens, March 18.
- 34 Somerset. William Folsom, Mar. 16; Brooks D. Savage,* April 7; Henry H. Page, Aug. 1; Francis A. Seveno,* Sept. 7.
- 35 Bethlehem. John E. Ward,* May 20; Frank O. Ward,* Nov. 22; Isaac Hilton,* Jan. 8; James A. Craig,* Jan. 17; David T. Neal,* Feb. 6.

- 36 Casco. Wm. J. Drinkwater, Mar. 24, aged 74 years; Eben Y. Pomeroy, Feb. 15, aged 78 years.
- 38 Harmony. Charles Johnson,* April 7; Josiah C. Shirley,* July 17.
- 39 Penobscot. Levi Bridgham, May 2; William H. P. Bement, Jan. 24.
- 40 Lygonia. Calvin P. Moore, Sept. 19, in Boston, Mass.; Jesse H. Bragdon, Dec. Supposed to have been lost at sea.
- 42 Freedom. Leander Staples, April.
- 43 Alna. Charles G. Merry,* Feb. 15, lodge historian for two decades; John McWhorter,* Aug. 3.
- 44 Piscataquis. Theodore Wyman, Mar. 13; Jasen Hassell, Nov. 9.
- 46 St. Croix. Alexander W. Todd, March, at Kansas City; Stephen B. Berry, Sept. 25; Lemuel G. Downes, Dec. 5.
- 47 Dunlap. Jeremiah Goldsbrough, June 19; Harry J. Tatterson, July 22, Past Master; Abel H. Jellison, Aug. 15; Andrew A. Mason, Sept. 24; Charles H. Parcher, Mar. 4.
- 48 Lafayette. Varus Stearns, Oct. 20; George W. Cofran, Mar. 20; Francis B. Aubin, Nov. 10; Matthias Smith, Aug. 21.
- 49 Meridian Splendor. Judson E. Friend, August; Chas. L. Young, October.
- 50 Aurora. Bernard T. Weeks,* June 11, at North Adams; William Pendleton,* July 29; John B. Waterhouse,* Sept. 13; Oliver D. Brown, Dec. 14; Charles W. Snow, Past Master.
- 51 St. John's. Samuel M. Carleton, Sept. 15; Austin Clement, April 1; Geo. W. Brackett, April 2; Frank G. Hobbs, Jan. 4; George E. Littlefield, Jan. 17.
- 52 Mosaic. Elias J. Hale, March 28; Caleb J. Ford, August 25; John F. Ham, January 12; John H. Ramsdell, February 13.
- 56 Mt. Moriah. Seth Douglass, July 6; George R. Bean, January.
- 57 King Hiram. George G. Richardson, January 22; Nathan S. Bishop, February 24.
- 60 Star in the East. Wellman Bosworth, July 15; Reuben Holbrook, August 23; Theodore L. Jellison, April; Edward K. Longley, July 25; Charles E. Rogers, October 29.
- 61 King Solomon's. Francis M. Eveleth, April 9; A. E. Howard, Aug. 2; D. W. Dennett, October 28; Sanford O. Wallace, April 11.
- 64 Pacific. Charles H. Whiting, May 13; J. L. Twombly, June 7; Cyrus P. Church.
- 65 Mystic. George Jose, July 13; William Temple, April 22.
- 66 Mechanics'. Henry Rolf, April 11; Edwin F. Atwell, September 15.
- 67 Blue Mountain. George W. Reed, July 20.
- 68 Mariners'. Frank W. McGilvery, sailed from Baltimore and never heard from; Ernest Steger, July, drowned at a South American port; John E. Nichols,* May.

- 70 Standish. Thomas Davis, April 21; Wm. H. Sturgis, Dec.
71 Rising Sun. Hudson Saunders, April 22.
72 Tyrian. Dennis H. Andrews,* March 26; John Hooker,* September 22; Benj. Collins,* November 6; A. L. Lambert; A. H. Milliken; Daniel P. Atwood.
73 Bristol. Thomas McFarland,* September 27; Edmund G. Lane,* November 25.
74 Arundel. James Cameron, June 14; Eliphalet P. Wildes, September 13; George E. Walker, December 18.
75 Tremont. Jonathan Norwood,* August 10; Woodbury W. Norwood, March 1; Cummings M. Holden, December 5; James F. Ross, in Colorado.
76 Crescent. William C. Sprague, December 25, at San Francisco, Cal.; Charles E. Hersey, February 12, at Everett, Mass.
77 Rockland. William Abrams, September 14, at Portland, Me.; Joseph Farwell, May 23, at Unity, Me.; Charles H. Kenniston, Nov. 12, at Rockland, Me.
78 Keystone. Wm. M. E. Brown, April 17; Irvin S. Young, Dec. 10.
79 Atlantic. Zebulon K. Harmon, March 16; Benj. F. Swett, March 22; Andrew J. Chase, May 15; Charles H. Holland, May 24; Henry H. Hay, August 9; Daniel Brazier, August 25; William F. Todd, January 29.
80 St. Paul's. John E. Peabody, March 23; Joseph F. Spear, June 1; James R. Thurston, December 27; Albion McAlister, February 12.
81 St. Andrew's. William P. Wingate, April 5; Sylvanus W. Holt, June 6; Robert Powers, June 19; Bartlett S. Nye, June 22; John F. Colby, October 31; Albert F. Snow, November 11; Edward F. Roberts, November 16; James M. Daggett, November 19; J. Frank Newmarch, December 30.
82 Eureka. John D. Snow,* June 19, aged 76 years; Enoch R. Clark,* July 19, aged 66 years; John Keen.
83 Star in the West. Benj. J. Woods, December.
84 Temple. Freeman Higgins, October 12, aged 70; Angus W. Shaw, February 16, at Riverside, Cal.
85 Narraguagus. Nahum B. Bartlett, March 14; Samuel Parritt, August; Winslow Stevens.
86 Island. George W. Hatch, June 6, on board ship S. D. Carleton, from new York for Melbourne, Australia.
87 Harwood. George W. Campbell, March 3; Russell L. Gilman,* July 20; William M. Andrews,* February 8.
88 Siloam. John P. Leavitt, Mar. 22; Marcellus Hayes, June 1; Madison R. Crosby, July 5.

- 93 Horeb. John A. Henderson, December 24; Merritt Goodwin,* December 30; Willard N. Wyman, February 6, at Presque Isle, Me.
- 94 Paris. William R. Howe, July 7; James Smith, lost at sea.
- 95 Corinthian. Lorenzo Judkins, July; N. B. Turner, February.
- 96 Monument. Geo. G. Bickford,* October 9; Joseph B. Stetson, Nov. 27; Alfred B. Cottle.
- 97 Bethel. David M. Grover,* May 16; Alvin B. Godwin, May 30; James M. Brown,* Sept. 11; Jonas G. Lang,* November 5.
- 98 Katahdin. Henry L. Whitehouse.
- 99 Vernon Valley. Sylvanus C. Currier, Sept. 1, aged 75.
- 100 Jefferson. James T. Moore; Jeremiah J. Cram; John W. Sampson, May, in Providence, R. I.; Nathan L. Marshall,* January 8.
- 101 Nezinscot. William H. French, Dec. 28, Junior Warden.
- 102 Marsh River. Z. L. Downs, November 15.
- 105 Ashlar. W. H. Washburn, May 27.
- 107 Day Spring. James S. Sanborn,* Oct. 14.
- 109 Mount Kineo. Joseph F. Drew; Abner T. Wade.
- 110 Monmouth. Benj. H. Prescott, Nov. 12; George W. Frost, Dec. 3.
- 111 Liberty. Elisha H. Carter, May 10, aged 88 years; James Lewis, Feb. 24, aged 83 years.
- 112 Eastern Frontier. Manley E. Wheeler, July 13; George F. Huntress, July 18.
- 113 Messalonskee. Charles W. Folsom, Dec. 8; Charles W. Heney,* Jan. 26; Louis Belanger,* February 17.
- 114 Polar Star. John B. Fielding, Oct. 14, in Boston, Mass.; Albert T. Thompson, June 20, in Bangor, Me.
- 115 Buxton. Daniel Townsend,* March 1; Samuel Edgerly,* March 21; Samuel D. Atkinson,* December 25.
- 116 Lebanon. Henry Murphy, July 1; Seth Parlin, September; Freeman Sawyer, December 15, charter member.
- 117 Greenleaf. Henry Merrill, March 20; Ezra W. Barker, Feb. 19.
- 118 Drummond. James W. Cook, Nov. 23.
- 119 Pownal. Isaac H. Griffen, March 29, Past Master; Edward Patridge, May 12.
- 121 Acacia. Joseph H. Lang, October 6.
- 125 Meridian. Geo. N. Pushaw, March 8; Nathan McCausland, Feb. 15; Alonzo Patten, April 12; Stephen W. Tibbetts, April 12; Nelson Vickery, March 9.
- 126 Timothy Chase. William Davis, August 2; Fred. A. White, Oct. 26.
- 128 Eggmoggin. Lucius B. Sargent,* October 20; Robert I. Roper, in the West Indies.
- 130 Trinity. J. W. Bolton, May 18; Will A. Smith, October 4.

- 131 Lookout. Jesse S. Larchin, January 3.
- 132 Mount Tir'em. Emerson Wilkins, April 7; Horace Maxfield, July 21, died while Master; Cyrus S. Green, August 1.
- 133 Asylum. Otis H. Nelke,* Dec. 30, in Lewiston.
- 135 Riverside. Warren C. Ames, Feb. 23.
- 137 Kenduskeag. Frank P. Barker,* April 22; David C. Turner, August 11; William B. Baston, Aug. 16; Lorenzo A. Bowles, Jan. 29.
- 138 Lewy's Island. Manly G. Stevens, April 10; Horace L. Buck, July 5; Joseph Jellison, August 10.
- 139 Archon. John L. Baker.
- 140 Mt. Desert. Andrew J. Whiting, February 2.
- 141 Augusta. Benj. F. Harris, Dec. 30, Sup. Public Buildings, and General during late war.
- 143 Preble. Howard H. Day,* Nov. 9.
- 144 Seaside. Charles S. Witham, Nov. 27, aged 35 years.
- 145 Moses Webster. Edmund P. Walker,* March 19; Eben Fifield,* July 8; Bloomfield Calderwood,* Sept. 25.
- 146 Seabasticook. Charles W. Bradford, Sept. 21; Simon W. Baker, October 30.
- 147 Evening Star. Alanson Young, Sept. 23, 1893.
- 149 Doric. William D. Poole, December 2.
- 150 Rabboni. Benj. F. Getchell, February 5.
- 153 Delta. Seth Walker, March 24.
- 154 Mystic Tie. Albert Storer.
- 155 Ancient York. John Shore, August 8; Thomas C. Rogers, Oct. 16.
- 156 Wilton. Gustavus Kyes,* May 21; Jonathan O. Kyes, November 5.
- 157 Cambridge. S. Everett Bailey, April 30; Elisha Skinner.
- 159 Esoteric. Joseph W. Bowden, November 7.
- 160 Parian. Job P. Nelson, August 16; Joseph Weymouth, January 18.
- 161 Carrabassett. Charles H. Rolfe, January 26; Loriston G. Lord, January 26.
- 164 Webster. Joseph G. Bragg,* December 16, Past Master.
- 166 Neguemkeag. John M. Hussey, May 11, in Portland; Hon. Hall C. Burleigh, May 17.
- 167 Whitney. Frank E. Capen, April 8.
- 169 Shepherd's River. F. S. Thom, September.
- 171 Naskeag. Benj. L. Phillips, August 28.
- 172 Pine Tree. Pliny P. Davis,* October 5.
- 173 Pleiades. Ira E. Foster, Jan. 10; Isaac M. Farrar; F. G. W. Peterson, lost at sea; H. G. Small, June; Franklin Sawyer, December.
- 174 Lynde. Eben T. Fletcher, January 22; Charles H. Patten, July 8; Frank C. Barnes, February 15.

- 175 Baskahegan. William Thayer, October; S. Butterfield, August.
177 Rising Star. Edwin A. Sprague, December 24; Silas N. Mitchell, January 27.
178 Ancient Brothers'. Elmer I. Thomas, January 1.
180 Hiram. James C. Rundlett, P. M. of Hiram Lodge; Edmond H. Skinner.
183 Deering. Joseph F. Freeman,* May 31; Frederick S. Dyer, Nov. 28.
185 Bar Harbor. John T. Higgins, May 20, at Pueblo, Col.
186 Warren Phillips. John E. Ford, May 4; John Goodell, September 5; Henry I. Clark, October 10; Josiah D. Lewis, February 2.
187 Ira Berry. Harry B. Parker, April 13; Geo. W. Clay, January 13.
189 Knox. Mark D. Ames, February 20, he was the first Master of Knox Lodge. In the civil war he was an officer in the navy.
193 Washburn. Arthur J. Brown, November 27.

PERMANENT • MEMBERS.

M.W.	HIRAM CHASE,	Belfast,	P. G. M.
"	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,	Portland,	"
"	WILLIAM P. PREBLE,	New Brighton, N. Y.,	"
"	EDWARD P. BURNHAM,	Saco,	"
"	CHARLES I. COLLAMORE,	Bangor,	"
"	MARQUIS F. KING,	Portland,	"
"	WILLIAM R. G. ESTES,	Skowhegan,	"
"	FESSENDEN I. DAY,	Lewiston,	"
"	FRANK E. SLEEPER,	Sabatis,	"
"	ALBRO E. CHASE,	Portland,	"
"	HENRY R. TAYLOR,	Machias,	"
"	HORACE H. BURBANK,	Saco,	"
R.W.	GUSTAVUS F. SARGENT,	Boston,	P. S. G. W.
"	DAVID RUGBEE,	Bangor,	"
"	THADDEUS R. SIMONTON,	Camden,	"
"	SUMNER J. CHADBOURNE,	Augusta,	"
"	JOHN R. REDMAN,	Ellsworth,	"
"	ARLINGTON B. MARSTON,	Bangor,	"
"	JOSEPH M. HAYES,	Bath,	"
"	LEANDER M. KENNISTON,	Camden,	"
"	MANLY G. TRASK	Bangor,	"
"	DANIEL P. BOYNTON,	Monmouth,	"
"	GEORGE R. SHAW,	Portland,	"
"	JOSEPH A. LOCKE,	Portland,	"
"	HERBERT HARRIS,	East Machias,	"
"	WINFIELD S. CHOATE,	Augusta,	"
"	JOHN W. BALLOU,	Bath,	P. J. G. W.
"	A. M. WETHERBEE,	Warren,	"
"	EDWIN HOWARD VOSE,	Calais,	"
"	ARCHIE LEE TALBOT,	Lewiston,	"
"	GOODWIN R. WILEY,	Bethel,	"
"	AUGUSTUS BAILEY,	Gardiner,	"
"	BENJAMIN AMES,	Thorndike,	"
"	WILFORD J. FISHER,	Eastport,	"
"	SAMUEL G. DAVIS,	Denmark,	"
"	ALGERNON M. ROAK,	Auburn,	"
"	EDMUND B. MALLET,	Freeport,	"
"	SAMUEL L. MILLER,	Waldoboro,	"
"	HOWARD D. SMITH,	Norway,	"
"	WM. FREEMAN LORD,	Auburn,	"
"	GUSTAVUS H. CARGILL,	Liberty,	"
"	MOSES TAIT,	Calais,	"

“UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND,
FREEMASONS' HALL, GREAT QUEEN STREET,
LONDON, W. C., June 22, 1896.

“*Dear Sir and V. W. Brother:*

“The relations between the Grand Lodge of England and that of Victoria are of so cordial and fraternal a character that I feel some hesitation in even referring to a report which has reached me, that the Grand Lodge of Victoria has entertained an application from certain brethren resident in Western Australia, for a warrant to establish a new lodge in that colony, which, as you are aware, is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England.

“It is needless to point out to you that the granting of such a warrant would be a most flagrant act of aggression, and one which would be naturally resented by the Grand Lodge of England.

“I shall be glad to learn from you that there is no foundation for the rumour, to which I find reference is made in an Australian masonic newspaper called ‘Masonry,’ a copy of which reached me a few days since.

“I am dear Sir and V. W. Brother,

“Yours faithfully and fraternally,

“E. LETCHWORTH, G. S.

“V. W. BRO. JOHN BRAIM, Grand Secretary, Victoria.

“The Grand Secretary was instructed to communicate the decision arrived at by Grand Lodge on 15th June last, viz: ‘That this Grand Lodge does not desire to assume jurisdiction.’ ”

We had not seen the item in relation to lodges in Western Australia, when we wrote our comments above.

We commend the second item to those who hold that all, that a rejection means, is that some member of the lodge does then desire the candidate to become a member of the lodge.

Three charters for new lodges were granted upon the recommendation of the Board.

In December, a form of application was adopted to be used by all lodges and to be preserved on file by the Secretary, at least one year. We give the form in order to show something of the law of eligibility of candidates:

“FORM OF APPLICATION.

“*To the Worshipful Master, Officers and Members of the Lodge, No.*

“I, _____ being a free man, and of the full age of twenty-one years, do declare that, unbiassed by the improper solicitation of friends, and uninfluenced by mercenary or other unworthy motives, I freely and voluntarily offer myself a candidate for the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry; that I am prompted by a favorable opinion preconceived of the institution, and a desire for knowledge; and that I will cheerfully conform to all the ancient usages and established customs of the Order.

“QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY CANDIDATE.

“Name in full, _____ Age, _____ Occupation, _____

“Married or Single, _____ Address, Business, _____ Private, _____

“Have you ever made application to be proposed in any other masonic lodge?

“If so, please state name of lodge, and where holden.

“Were you accepted? _____ If not, for what reason?

“Freemasonry not being a Benefit Society, have you seriously considered whether your circumstances will enable you to support the institution?

“Candidate's Signature.

“WE PROPOSE the above-named Gentleman as a Candidate for Initiation

Addresses of Grand Officers.

GRAND SECRETARIES.

Henry C. Armstrong, Montgomery.
 George J. Roskruege, Tucson.
 Fay Hempstead, Little Rock.
 Walter J. Quinlan, Victoria.
 George Johnson, San Francisco.
 John J. Mason, Hamilton, Ont.
 José F. Pellon, Havana.
 Ed. C. Parmelee, Denver.
 John H. Barlow, Hartford.
 Benjamin L. Bartram, Wilmington.
 William R. Singleton, Washington.
 Edward Letchworth, London.
 Wilber P. Webster, Jacksonville.
 Andrew M. Wolihin, Macon.
 Charles C. Stevenson, Boise City.
 Joseph H. C. Dill, Bloomington.
 William H. Smythe, Indianapolis.
 Joseph S. Murrow, Atoka.
 Theodore S. Parvin, Cedar Rapids.
 Archibald St. George, Dublin.
 Albert K. Wilson, Topeka.
 Henry B. Grant, Louisville.
 Richard Lambert, New Orleans.
 Stephen Berry, Portland.
 William G. Scott, Winnipeg.
 Jacob H. Medairy, Baltimore.
 Sereno D. Nickerson, Boston.
 Jefferson S. Conover, Coldwater.
 Thomas Montgomery, St. Paul.
 John L. Power, Jackson.
 John D. Vincil, St. Louis.
 Cornelius Hedges, Helena.
 William R. Bowen, Omaha.

CHAIRMEN COM. CORRESPONDENCE.

Palmer J. Pillans, Belknap.
 Morris Goldwater, Prescott.
 Sam. H. Davidson, Evening Shade.
 Marcus Wolfe, Nanaimo.
 William A. Davies, San Francisco.
 Henry Robertson, Collingwood.
 Francisco de P. Rodriguez, Havana.
 Lawrence N. Greenleaf, Denver.
 John H. Barlow, Hartford.
 Lewis H. Jackson, Wilmington.
 William R. Singleton, Washington.
 None.
 William A. McLean.
 Whiteford S. Ramsay, Dublin.
 Charles C. Stephenson, Boise City.
 Joseph Robbins, Quincy.
 Nicholas R. Ruckle, Indianapolis.
 Joseph S. Murrow, Atoka.
 James C. W. Coxe, Washington.
 None.
 Matthew M. Miller, Topeka.
 William W. Clarke, Owensboro.
 J. Q. A. Fellows, New Orleans.
 Josiah H. Drummond, Portland.
 William G. Scott, Winnipeg.
 Edward T. Schultz, Baltimore.
 None.
 Jefferson S. Conover, Coldwater.
 Irving Todd, Hastings.
 Andrew H. Barkley, Crawford.
 John D. Vincil, St. Louis.
 Cornelius Hedges, Helena.
 William R. Bowen, Omaha.

GRAND LODGES.	GRAND MASTERS.
Nevada, June 9, 1896,	Enoch Strother, Virginia City.
New Brunswick, Aug. 27, 1895,	Julius T. Whitlock, St. Stephen.
New Hampshire, May 20, 1896,	Henry A. Marsh, Nashua.
New Jersey, Jan. 29, 1896,	George W. Fortmeyer, East Orange.
New Mexico, Oct. 7, 1895,	James H. Wroth, Albuquerque.
New South Wales, June, 1895.	Sir Joseph Palmer, Abbott, Sydney.
New York, June 4, 1896,	John Stewart, New York.
New Zealand, April 30, 1896,	William Barron, Wellington.
North Carolina, Jan. 14, 1896,	Francis M. Moye, Wilson.
North Dakota, June 9, 1896,	William T. Perkins, Bismarck.
Nova Scotia, June 12, 1895,	William F. MacCoy, Halifax.
Ohio, Oct. 23, 1895,	William B. Melish, Cincinnati.
Oklahoma, Feb. 11, 1896,	Henry Rucker, Perry.
Oregon, June 10, 1896,	Philip Metschan, Salem.
Pennsylvania, Dec. 27, 1895,	Matthias H. Henderson, Philadelphia.
Peru, March 28, 1896,	Christian Dam, Lima.
P. E. Island, June 24, 1895,	Roderick McNeill, Stanley Bridge.
Quebec, Jan. 29, 1896,	Frederick Massey, Montreal.
Rhode Island, May 20, 1895,	Edward P. Lowden, Pawtucket.
Scotland, 1895,	Sir Charles Dalrymple, Newhailes.
South Australia, April 17, 1895,	Earl of Kintore, Adelaide.
South Carolina, Dec. 10, 1896,	Claude E. Sawyer, Aiken.
South Dakota, June 9, 1896,	James Lewis, Canton.
Tasmania, Jan. 30, 1896,	Charles E. Davies, Hobart.
Tennessee, Jan. 29, 1896,	Philip N. Matlock, Kenton.
Texas, Dec. 3, 1895,	Benjamin R. Abernethy, Gonzales.
Utah, Jan. 21, 1896,	William T. Dally, Salt Lake City.
Vermont, June 13, 1895,	Kittredge Haskins, Brattleboro.
Victoria, May 4, 1896,	Lord Brassey, Melbourne.
Virginia, Dec. 3, 1895,	John P. Fitzgerald, Farmville.
Washington, June 11, 1895,	Wm. W. Witherspoon, Spokane.
West Virginia, Nov. 12, 1895,	John M. Collins, Charleston.
Wisconsin, June 12, 1895,	William W. Perry, Madison.
Wyoming, Sept. 10, 1895,	Fenimore Chatterton, Rawlins.

GRAND SECRETARIES.	CHAIRMAN COM. CORRESPONDENCE.
Chauncey N. Noteware, Carson.	Frank Bell, Reno.
Freeman W. Wisdom, St. John.	John V. Ellis, St. John.
George P. Cleaves, Concord.	Albert S. Wait, Newport.
Thomas H. R. Redway, Trenton.	George B. Edwards, Jersey City.
Alpheus A. Keen, Albuquerque.	Max Frost, Santa Fé.
Arthur H. Bray, Sidney,	Donelly Fisher, Sydney.
Edward M. L. Ehlers, New York.	Jesse B. Anthony, Troy.
Rev. William Ronaldson, Dunedin.	None.
John C. Drewry, Raleigh.	John A. Collins, Enfield.
Frank J. Thompson, Fargo.	Frank J. Thompson, Fargo.
Hon. William Ross, Halifax.	Thomas B. Flint, Yarmouth.
J. H. Bromwell, Cincinnati.	William M. Cunningham, Newark.
James S. Hunt, Stillwater.	James S. Hunt, Stillwater.
James F. Robinson, Eugene.	Robert Clow, Junction City.
William A. Sinn, Philadelphia.	Michael Arnold, Philadelphia.
José B. Ugarte, Lima.	J. Arturo Ego Aguirre, Lima.
Neil McKelvie, Summerside.	Donald Darrach, Kensington.
John H. Isaacson, Montreal.	E. T. D. Chambers, Quebec.
Edwin Baker, Providence.	Henry W. Rugg, Providence.
D. Murray Lyon, Edinburgh.	None.
J. H. Cunningham, Adelaide.	None.
Charles Inglesby, Charleston.	Charles Inglesby, Charleston.
George A. Pettigrew, Flandreau.	William Blatt, Yanktown.
John Hamilton, Hobart.	None.
John B. Garrett, Nashville.	George H. Morgan, Cookeville.
John Watson, Houston.	Thomas M. Matthews, Athens.
Christopher Diehl, Salt Lake City.	Christopher Diehl, Salt Lake City.
Warren G. Reynolds, Burlington.	Marsh O. Perkins, Windsor.
John Braim, Melbourne.	David Meadowcraft, Melbourne.
George W. Carrington, Richmond.	William F. Drinkard, Richmond.
Thomas M. Reed, Olympia.	Thomas M. Reed, Olympia.
George W. Atkinson, Wheeling.	George W. Atkinson, Wheeling.
John W. Laffin, Milwaukee.	Gabriel Bouck, Oshkosh.
William L. Kuykendall, Saratoga.	William L. Kuykendall, Saratoga.

REPRESENTATIVES

of the Grand Lodge of Maine near other Grand Lodges.

-
- Alabama*—B. DUDLEY WILLIAMS, Oxford.
Arizona—MARTIN WILLIAM KALES, Phoenix.
Arkansas—OLIVER C. GRAY, Fayetteville, Washington County.
British Columbia—MARCUS WOLF, Nanaimo.
California—NATHAN W. SPAULDING, Oakland.
Canada—JOHN W. MURTON, Hamilton, Ont.
Colorado—EDWARD C. PARMELEE, Denver.
Cuba—AURELIO MIRANDA, Havana.
Connecticut—ALBERT H. CARGILL, Fairhaven.
Delaware—JACOB H. EMERSON, Middletown.
District of Columbia—GEORGE WALLACE, Washington.
Florida—WILLIAM FOX, Ocala.
Georgia—WILLIAM K. MILLER, Augusta.
Idaho—GEORGE W. RICHARDS, Hailey City.
Illinois—CHARLES H. BRENNAN, Chicago.
Indiana—WALTER VAIL, Michigan City.
Indian Territory—WALTER N. EVANS, Tablequah.
Kansas—DAVID B. FULLER, Eureka.
Louisiana—SAMUEL M. TODD, New Orleans.
Manitoba—SAMUEL R. MARLATT, Portage la Prairie.
Maryland—THOMAS H. HOOVER, Union Bridge.
Michigan—WILLIAM WENTE, Manistee.
Minnesota—L. Z. ROGERS, Waterville.
Mississippi—JOHN F. McCORMICK, Biloxi.
Missouri—XENOPHON RYLAND, Lexington.
Montana—CORNELIUS HEDGES, Helena City.
Nebraska—THOMAS K. SUDBOROUGH, Omaha.
Nevada—SAMUEL S. SEARS, Elko.
New Brunswick—JOHN STARR DEWOLF CHIPMAN, St. Stephen.
New Hampshire—EDWARD GUSTINE, Keene.
New Jersey—JAMES S. AITKIN, Trenton.
New Mexico—ALPHEUS A. KEENE, Albuquerque.
New York—ELON G. BROWN, Utica.
New Zealand—JOHN JOYCE, Lyttleton.
North Carolina—DAVID BELL, Enfield.
North Dakota—FRANKLIN ESTABROOK, Inkster.
Nova Scotia—JOHN W. RUHLAND, Halifax.
Ohio—CHARLES C. KIEFER, Urbana.
Oregon—JOHN MCCracken, Portland.
Peru—FRANCISCO L. CROSBY, Lima.
Prince Edward Island—GEORGE W. WAKEFORD, Charlottetown.
Quebec—JOHN HELDER ISAACSON, Montreal.
Rhode Island—EDWARD L. FREEMAN, Central Falls.
South Australia—EBENEZER COOKE, Adelaide.
South Carolina—CLAUDE E. SAWYER, Aiken.
South Dakota—SAMUEL H. JUMPER, Aberdeen.
Tasmania—W. STROUD, (Dep. G. Sec.) Hobart.
Texas—T. W. HUDSON, Sherman.
Utah—WILLIAM THOMAS DALBY, Salt Lake City.
Vermont—ALBRO F. NICHOLS, St. Johnsbury.
Victoria—BENJAMIN DOUGHTY SMITH, Melbourne.
West Virginia—HUGH STERLING, Wheeling.
Wisconsin—MELVIN S. YOUNGS, Milwaukee.

REPRESENTATIVES

of other Grand Lodges near the Grand Lodge of Maine.

- Alabama*—JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Portland.
Arizona—AUGUSTUS BAILEY, Gardiner.
Arkansas—JOHN W. BALLOU, Bath.
British Columbia—THADDEUS R. SIMONTON, Camden.
California—HENRY R. TAYLOR, Machias.
Canada—SUMNER J. CHADBOURNE, Augusta.
Colorado—FRANK E. SLEEPER, Sabattus.
Cuba—E. HOWARD VOSE, Calais.
Connecticut—AUSTIN D. KNIGHT, Hallowell.
Delaware—AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM, Bangor.
District of Columbia—STEPHEN BERRY, Portland.
Florida—JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Portland.
Georgia—“ “ “ “ “ “
Idaho—ALBRO E. CHASE, Portland.
Illinois—JOSEPH A. LOCKE, Portland.
Indiana—EDWIN F. DILLINGHAM, Bangor.
Indian Territory—JOSEPH M. HAYES, Bath.
Kansas—ARCHIE LEE TALBOT, Lewiston.
Louisiana—JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Portland.
Manitoba—A. M. WETHERBEE, Warren.
Maryland—SAMUEL L. MILLER, Waldoboro.
Michigan—FESSENDEN I. DAY, Lewiston.
Minnesota—JOHN B. REDMAN, Ellsworth.
Mississippi—CHARLES I. COLLAMORE, Bangor.
Missouri—DANIEL P. BOYNTON, Monmouth.
Montana—ARLINGTON B. MARSTON, Bangor.
Nebraska—EDWARD P. BURNHAM, Saco.
Nevada—LEANDER M. KENNISTON, Camden.
New Brunswick—DENISON E. SEYMOUR, Calais.
New Hampshire—HOWARD D. SMITH, Norway.
New Jersey—JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Portland.
New Mexico—MANLY G. TRASK, Bangor.
New York—MARQUIS F. KING, Portland.
New Zealand—HERBERT HARRIS, East Machias.
North Carolina—WILLIAM R. G. ESTES, Skowhegan.
North Dakota—ALGERNON M. ROAK, Auburn.
Nova Scotia—JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Portland.
Ohio—WILLIAM J. BURNHAM, Lewiston.
Oregon—MARQUIS F. KING, Portland.
Peru—ARCHIE LEE TALBOT, Lewiston.
Prince Edward Island—JAMES ADAMS, Bangor.
Quebec—JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Portland.
Rhode Island—HORACE H. BURBANK, Saco.
South Australia—BENJAMIN AMES, Thorndike.
South Carolina—SAMUEL G. DAVIS, Denmark.
South Dakota—FRANCIS T. FAULKNER, Turner.
Tasmania—WILFORD J. FISHER, Eastport.
Texas—JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Portland.
Utah—HIRAM CHASE, Belfast.
Vermont—GEORGE R. SHAW, Portland.
Victoria—GOODWIN R. WILEY, Bethel.
West Virginia—NATHAN WOODBURY, Lewiston.
Wisconsin—EDMUND B. MALLET, Freeport.

PERMANENT . MEMBERS . DECEASED.

M.W. WILLIAM KING,	P. G. M.	R.W. ELISHA HARDING,	P. D. G. M.
" SIMON GREENLEAF,	"	" SAM'L L. VALENTINE,	"
" WILLIAM SWAN,	"	" JOHN J. BELL,	"
" CHARLES FOX,	"	" GEORGE THACHER,	P. S. G. W.
" SAMUEL FESSENDEN,	"	" JOHN L. MEGQUIER,	"
" ROBERT P. DUNLAP,	"	" JOEL MILLER,	"
" NATHANIEL COFFIN,	"	" EZRA B. FRENCH,	"
" REUEL WASHBURN,	"	" WILLIAM ALLEN,	"
" ABNER B. THOMPSON,	"	" ISAAC DOWNING,	"
" HEZEKIAH WILLIAMS,	"	" EDMUND B. HINKLEY,	"
" THOMAS W. SMITH,	"	" F. LORING TALBOT,	"
" JOHN T. PAINE,	"	" WILLIAM O. POOR,	"
" ALEX'R H. PUTNEY,	"	" WILLIAM H. SMITH,	"
" JOSEPH C. STEVENS,	"	" J. W. MITCHELL,	P. J. G. W.
" JOHN C. HUMPHREYS,	"	" REUBEN NASON,	"
" FREEMAN BRADFORD,	"	" FRYE HALL,	"
" TIMOTHY CHASE,	"	" STEPHEN WEBBER,	"
" JOHN MILLER,	"	" WILLIAM SOMERBY,	"
" JABEZ TRUE,	"	" THOMAS B. JOHNSTON,	"
" TIMOTHY J. MURRAY,	"	" WILLIAM KIMBALL,	"
" JOHN H. LYNDE,	"	" JOHN WILLIAMS,	"
" DAVID CARGILL,	"	" STEPHEN B. DOCKHAM,	"
" ALBERT MOORE,	"	" OLIVER GERRISH,	"
R.W. PELEG SPRAGUE,	P. D. G. M.	" JOSEPH COVELL,	"
" AMOS NOURSE,	"	" FRANCIS J. DAY,	"
" DAVID C. MAGOUN,	"	" THOMAS K. OSGOOD,	"
" ASAPH R. NICHOLS,	"	" HENRY H. DICKEY,	"
" JAMES L. CHILD,	"	" CHARLES W. HANEY,	"

Inscribed

To the Memory of

M. W. David Cargill,

GRAND MASTER 1872, 1873 AND 1874.

Born in Jefferson, September 13, 1818.

Died at Livermore Falls, June 13, 1895,

AGED 76 YEARS, 8 MONTHS, 26 DAYS.

"There comes a time—it comes to all—
When we shall hear the Warden's call;
And each with Ashlar rough or true,
Must pass Death's solemn portal through."

Inscribed

To the Memory of

R. W. Ivory H. Robinson,

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER OF THE THIRD
MASONIC DISTRICT, 1894.

Born in Augusta, March 3, 1859.

Died in East Machias, November 4, 1895,

AGED 36 YEARS, 8 MONTHS, 1 DAY,

“The Book of Life the shining record tells.”

* Recapitulation---1896. *

Lodges enrolled,	200
“ extinct,	8
“ working,	192
“ under dispensation,	0
“ chartered at communication 1896,	1
“ represented at communication 1896,	176
“ “ by proxy exclusively,	60
Number of representatives,	242
Lodges to make returns,	192
Making returns in time,	192
Initiated,	831
Raised,	837
Affiliated,	137
Re-instated,	50
Added,	3
Total increase,	—1,027
Dimitted,	209
Died,	366
Suspended for unmasonic conduct,	0
Expelled,	3
Lost membership by non-payment of dues,	305
Total decrease,	— 883
Net increase,	144
Members, March 1, 1896,	21,953
Grand Lodge Receipts,	\$6,555.23
“ “ Disbursements,	5,674.92
Amount of Charity Fund,	27,234.21

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Grand Lodge of Maine.

→1897←

Seventy-eighth Annual Communication.

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, }
Tuesday, May 4, 1897. }

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Maine, met in Annual Communication in Corinthian Hall, at nine in the morning.

GRAND OFFICERS PRESENT.

M.W.	AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,	Grand Master;
R.W.	JOSEPH A. LOCKE,	Deputy Grand Master;
"	ALBERT M. PENLEY,	Senior Grand Warden;
"	BENJAMIN L. HADLEY,	Junior Grand Warden;
"	MARQUIS F. KING,	Grand Treasurer;
"	STEPHEN BERRY,	Grand Secretary;
"	CHARLES D. SMITH,	Cor. Grand Secretary;
W.	MARTYN SUMMERBELL,	Grand Chaplain;
"	ELMER F. PEMBER,	" "
"	JOHN GIBSON,	" "
"	HUGH R. CHAPLIN,	" Marshal;
"	HORACE MITCHELL,	" Senior Deacon;
"	JAMES E. PARSONS,	" Junior Deacon;
"	JACOB R. STEWART,	" Steward;
"	EDWARD F. DAVIES,	" "
"	ENOCH O. GREENLEAF,	" "
"	WM. N. HOWE,	" Sword Bearer;
"	CHARLES W. CROSBY,	" Stand. Bearer;
"	WILLIAM O. FOX,	" Pursuivant;
M.W.	FRANK E. SLEEPER,	" Lecturer;
W.	WALTER S. SMITH,	" Organist;
"	WARREN O. CARNEY,	" Tyler.

The Grand Lodge was opened in ample form, with prayer by Grand Chaplain, REV. ELMER F. PEMBER.

The Grand Master ordered that all Master Masons, in good standing, be admitted as visitors during this Communication.

On motion of R. W. Bro. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Voted, To dispense with the reading of the records of the last annual communication, and that as printed they be confirmed.

Voted, That the Grand Tyler be authorized to employ assistants, not exceeding three, to aid him in the work of his office during the session of the Grand Lodge, and that the Committee on Pay Roll be authorized to place the names of such employees upon the pay roll, and that they receive the usual *per diem* for their services.

Voted, That an Assistant Grand Secretary be appointed for the communication.

The Grand Master appointed Bro. ARTHUR H. BERRY as such assistant.

TRANSPORTATION.

Bro. STEPHEN BERRY submitted the following report, which was accepted:

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, }
Tuesday, May 4, 1897. }

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your Committee on Transportation made favorable terms with the several railroad and steamboat lines, and all delegates were duly notified in the annual notices.

Fraternally submitted,

STEPHEN BERRY,
W. FREEMAN LORD, } *Committee.*
DAVID W. CAMPBELL, }

CREDENTIALS.

BRO. WILLIAM N. HOWE presented the report of the Committee on Credentials, as follows :

IN GRAND LODGE OF MAINE, }
MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 4, 1897. }

Your Committee on Credentials have attended to the duty assigned them, and ask leave to report that they find the lodges in this jurisdiction represented as follows:

- 1 *Portland*, by Convers E. Leach, M; Charles Fred Berry, SW; George W. Sturgis, JW; Charles E. Davis, Proxy.
- 2 *Warren*, by Francis L. Talbot, M.
- 3 *Lincoln*, by James M. Knight, Proxy.
- 4 *Hancock*, by Edward F. Davies, Proxy.
- 5 *Kennebec*, by Lorenzo D. Merchant, SW; James J. Jones, Proxy.
- 6 *Amity*, by Henry L. Maker, M.
- 7 *Eastern*, by Wheeler C. Hawkes, M.
- 8 *United*, by John Furbish, Proxy.
- 9 *Saco*, by Fred B. Wiggin, M; William J. Maybury, Proxy.
- 10 *Rising Virtue*, by Warren H. Knowles, M.
- 11 *Pythagorean*, by Tobias L. Eastman, Proxy.
- 12 *Cumberland*, by Henry W. Loring, SW; True M. Merrill, Proxy.
- 13 *Oriental*, by Norman H. Libby, M; John L. Meserve, JW; D. Eugene Chaplin, Proxy.
- 14 *Solar*, by John Scott, Proxy.
- 15 *Orient*, by William H. Stackpole, SW; Edward G. Weston, Proxy.
- 16 *St. George*, by G. Dudley Gould, Proxy.
- 17 *Ancient Landmark*, by Charles P. Costello, M; George H. Owen, SW; Winslow E. Howell, JW; Franklin R. Redlon, Proxy.
- 18 *Oxford*, by Charles F. Redlon, M; Merton L. Kimball, JW.
- 19 *Felicity*, by James M. Nevens, Proxy.
- 20 *Maine*, by Enoch O. Greenleaf, Proxy.
- 21 *Oriental Star*, by Chester H. Thurston, M; George O. Eustis, Proxy.
- 22 *York*, by William H. Littlefield, JW; Edwin Parsons, Proxy.
- 23 *Freeport*, by Freeman M. Grant, M.
- 24 *Phoenix*, by William C. Libby, M.
- 25 *Temple*, by Elliott Wood, Proxy.
- 26 *Village*, by Robert W. Carr, Proxy.
- 27 *Adoniram*, by Frank M. Bradbury, Proxy.
- 28 *Northern Star*, by Walter W. Poor, JW.
- 29 *Tranquil*, by James P. Hutchinson, M; Albert E. Verrill, SW; Murray B. Watson, Proxy.

- 30 *Blazing Star*, by Edwin P. Smith, M; Cyrus P. Eaton, SW; George D. Bisbee, Proxy.
- 31 *Union*, by Fred. M. Lucas, M.
- 32 *Hermon*, by Thomas A. Jewett, SW; Asbury C. Stilphen, Proxy.
- 33 *Waterville*, by Herlert M. Fuller, M; Harry E. Shempp, Proxy.
- 34 *Somerset*, by Frank W. Allen, M.
- 35 *Bethlehem*, by Frederick W. Plaisted, Proxy.
- 36 ————*Casco*, not represented.
- 37 *Washington*, by Robert G. McBride, M.
- 38 *Harmony*, by Henry R. Millett, Proxy.
- 39 *Penobscot*, by William C. Elder, M; Owen W. Bridges, Proxy.
- 40 *Lygonia*, by William Goggins, M.
- 41 *Morning Star*, by Chapin Lydston, M.
- 42 *Freedom*, by Samuel T. Bradbury, M; John P. Fogg, SW.
- 43 *Alna*, by Frank L. Smithwick, JW; John W. David, Proxy.
- 44 ————*Piscataquis*, not represented.
- 45 *Central*, by Willis W. Washburn, Proxy.
- 46 *St. Croix*, by Thomas S. Boles, M.
- 47 *Dunlap*, by John B. Lowell, M; Melville Woodman, Proxy.
- 48 *Lafayette*, by Frank A. Dow, M.
- 49 *Meridian Splendor*, by Watson B. Marsh, M.
- 50 *Aurora*, by L. H. Snow, M; Asa P. St. Clair, SW; Frank A. Peterson, Proxy.
- 51 *St. John's*, by Charles M. Sleeper, M; John M. Burleigh, Proxy.
- 52 *Mosaic*, by Frank H. Glover, M.
- 53 *Rural*, by Sewall A. Clark, M.
- 54 *Vassalboro*, by Allie S. Priest, M.
- 55 *Fraternal*, by Otis R. Whicher, M.
- 56 *Mount Moriah*, by Isaac H. Berry, Proxy.
- 57 *King Hiram*, by George D. Kidder, M.
- 58 *Unity*, by Albert W. Ward, Proxy.
- 59 *Mount Hope*,—*Charter surrendered, 1879.*
- 60 *Star in the East*, by Fred C. Barton, M.
- 61 *King Solomon's*, by George H. Douglas, M; Webster Hazlewood, Proxy.
- 62 *King David's*, by Leslie D. Ames, M.
- 63 *Richmond*, by George B. Jenkins, Proxy.
- 64 *Pacific*, by Alfred Hicks, M.
- 65 *Mystic*, by Sumner D. Greely, JW.
- 66 *Mechanic's*, by Alonzo H. Harriman, M.
- 67 *Blue Mountain*, by Arthur W. McLeary, M; Fremont E. Timberlake, Proxy.

- 68 *Mariners'*, by James E. Wentworth, Proxy.
69 *Howard*, by John H. Baker, Proxy.
70 ————*Standish*, not represented.
71 *Rising Sun*, by Asher B. Hutchins, SW.
72 *Pioneer*, by Silas S. Gilman, Proxy.
73 *Tyrian*, by Fred E. Dwinal, M.
74 ————*Bristol*, not represented.
75 *Plymouth*, by Llewellyn P. Toothaker, M.
76 *Arundel*, by William F. Walker, Proxy.
77 *Tremont*, by Levi Lurvey, Proxy.
78 *Crescent*, by George W. Allan, Proxy.
79 *Rockland*, by Jacob R. Stewart, Proxy.
80 *Keystone*, by Cornelius A. Merrill, M; Wright S. Cram, SW; Malon Patterson, Proxy.
81 *Atlantic*, by Fred H. York, M; James E. Leighton, SW; Fred H. Cobb, JW; Edwin G. Jackson, Proxy.
82 *St. Paul's*, by Perez B. Cooper, Proxy.
83 *St. Andrew's*, by Fred W. Adams, M.
84 *Eureka*, by Nathan Bachelder, Proxy.
85 *Star in the West*, by Albert Bacon, M.
86 *Temple*, by Frank O. Mariner, M; George H. Knowlton, JW; Oliver A. Cobb, Proxy.
87 *Benevolent*, by George D. Pinkham, M.
88 *Narraguagus*, by David W. Campbell, M.
89 *Island*, by Ernest L. Sprague, SW.
90 *Hiram Abiff*,—*Charter revoked, 1868.*
91 *Harwood*, by Stephen Hadley, M.
92 *Siloam*, by George G. Weeks, M; William F. Nutt, SW.
93 *Horeb*, by Charles F. Plumly, Proxy.
94 *Paris*, by A. C. Thomas King, Proxy.
95 *Corinthian*, by Calvin Blake, Proxy.
96 *Monument*, by J. Frank Bryson, Proxy.
97 *Bethel*, by Eben S. Kilborn, M.
98 *Katahdin*, by John Jackman, SW.
99 *Vernon Valley*, by Willie A. French, M.
100 *Jefferson*, by James L. Bowker, SW.
101 *Nezinscot*, by Frank S. French, SW; Harry W. Burdin, JW.
102 *Marsh River*, by Willard S. Jones, M.
103 *Dresden*, by John H. Mayers, Proxy.
104 *Dirigo*, by John W. Boynton, JW.
105 *Ashlar*, by Edward Stetson, SW.
106 ————*Tuscan*, not represented.

- 107 ——— *Day Spring*, not represented.
- 108 *Relief*,—*Charter recalled*, 1894.
- 109 *Mount Kineo*, by Albion W. Ellis, M.
- 110 *Monmouth*, by John M. Prescott, SW.
- 111 *Liberty*, by John C. Sherman, M; Orin W. Ripley, SW; Levi L. Prescott, Proxy.
- 112 *Eastern Frontier*, by George S. Stevens, M; John M. Thurlough, JW.
- 113 *Messalonskee*, by Frank E. Burrill, SW; James H. Witherell, Proxy.
- 114 *Polar Star*, by Frank D. Monroe, M; John W. Ballou, Proxy.
- 115 *Buxton*, by John Berryman, Proxy.
- 116 ——— *Lebanon*, not represented.
- 117 *Greenleaf*, by William R. Copp, M; Ezra B. Pike, Proxy.
- 118 ——— *Drummond*, not represented.
- 119 *Pownal*, by Horace M. Griffin, M.
- 120 *Meduncook*,—*Charter surrendered*, 1884.
- 121 *Acacia*, by Josiah L. Wright, M.
- 122 *Marine*, by John J. Spofford, M.
- 123 *Franklin*, by Samuel W. Bailey, JW.
- 124 ——— *Olive Branch*, not represented.
- 125 *Meridian*, by Nelson C. Smith, Proxy.
- 126 *Timothy Chase*, by S. Augustine Parker, Proxy.
- 127 *Presumpscot*, by Frank H. Haskell, JW; Harrison R. Waterhouse, Proxy.
- 128 *Eggemoggin*, by Amos H. Small, JW.
- 129 *Quantabacook*, by Adelbert Millett, SW.
- 130 *Trinity*, by Fred H. Blake, M.
- 131 *Lookout*, by Hermetre U. Davis, M.
- 132 *Mount Tire'm*, by William Douglas, M; Andrew L. Hapgood, Proxy.
- 133 *Asylum*, by Wm. H. Brownson, Proxy.
- 134 *Trojan*,—*consolidated with Star in the West Lodge, No. 85, in 1888.*
- 135 *Riverside*, by Charles W. Besse, M; James L. Burns, Proxy.
- 136 *Ionic*,—*charter surrendered in 1882.*
- 137 ——— *Kenduskeag*, not represented.
- 138 *Lewy's Island*, by John Roix, Proxy.
- 139 *Archon*, by C. Hale Thurlough, M.
- 140 *Mount Desert*, by Melville L. Allen, M; E. Webster French, Proxy.
- 141 *Augusta*, by George K. Black, M.
- 142 *Ocean*, by Lyman F. Getchell, M.
- 143 *Preble*, by William T. Beck, M.
- 144 ——— *Seaside*, not represented.
- 145 *Moses Webster*, by Joseph H. Sanborn, M; Winfield S. Carver, Proxy.
- 146 *Sebasticook*, by John H. McGorrell, M; Geo. H. Piper, SW; Frank L. Besse, JW.

GRAND LODGES.	M.	R.	A. & R.	W.	E.	S.	S. for n p. d.	D.
Texas,.....	30,567	1,491	1,751	1,539	65	38	706	499
Utah,.....	763	49	36	18	1	0	22	9
Vermont,.....	9,694	430	140	105	0	....	*97	137
Virginia,.....	12,652	.....	193	426	19	13	318	222
Washington,.....	4,991	239	231	183	6	5	223	64
West Virginia,.....	5,867	459	136	158	3	2	123	74
Wisconsin,.....	16,408	936	592	506	1	51	334	256
Wyoming,.....	1,023	64	34	22	3	2	9	15
Total,.....	804,706	43,721	22,574	17,916	478	383	18,700	12,062

*Including suspensions for unmasonic conduct.

†Including expulsions.

‡Restorations only.

PROCEEDINGS REVIEWED.

The following Table gives the Proceedings reviewed, the date and length of the annual communication, and the page of these Proceedings upon which the review of each commences.

Grand Lodge.	Date and Length of Annual Communication.	Page.
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Arizona,	November 10 to 12, 1896.	278
Arkansas,	November 17 and 18, 1896.	279
British Columbia,	June 18 and 19, 1896.	284
California,	October 13 and 17, 1896.	286
Canada,	July 15 and 16, 1896.	293
Colorado,	September 15 and 16, 1896.	296
Connecticut,	January 20 and 21, 1897.	301
Delaware,	October 7 and 8, 1896.	304
District of Columbia,	November 11, 1896.	308
Florida,	January 19 to 21, 1897.	312
Georgia,	October 27 and 28, 1896.	314
Idaho,	September 8 to 10, 1896.	317
Illinois,	October 6 to 8, 1896.	322
Indiana,	May 26 and 27, 1896.	330
Indian Territory,	August 11 and 12, 1896.	334
Iowa,	June 2 to 4, 1896.	339
Kansas,	February 17 and 18, 1897.	346
Kentucky,	October 20 to 22, 1896.	353
Louisiana,	February 8 to 10, 1897.	359
Manitoba,	August 15 and 16, 1896.	363
Maryland,	November 17, 1896.	366
Massachusetts,	December 27, 1896.	499

- 187 *Ira Berry*, by Ithamer E. Stanley, Proxy.
 188 ————*Jonesport*, not represented.
 189 *Knox*, by George C. Horn, M.
 190 *Springvale*, by Harmon G. Allen, M.
 191 *Davis*, by Chas. B. Richardson, SW.
 192 *Winter Harbor*, by James W. Wescott, Proxy.
 193 *Washburn*, by Herbert S. Sleeper, Proxy.
 194 *Euclid*, by Alfred E. Moore, M.
 195 *Reliance*, by Geo W. Redman, Proxy.
 196 *Bay View*, by Frank Seavey, JW.
 197 *Aroostook*, by John M. Ramsey, Proxy.
 198 *St. Aspinquid*, by Rev. Thomas G. Moses, Proxy.
 199 *Bingham*, by William H. Collins, Proxy.
 200 *Columbia*, by Hiram Hunt, M.

Number of chartered lodges, 192; represented, 176; delegates, 241; represented by proxy only, 49.

Your committee further find that the following Permanent Members of the Grand Lodge are present:

M.W.	HIRAM CHASE,	.	-	-	-	-	P. G. M.
"	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,	.	-	-	-	-	"
"	EDWARD P. BURNHAM,	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	CHARLES I. COLLAMORE,	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	MARQUIS F. KING,	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	WILLIAM R. G. ESTES,	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	FESSENDEN I. DAY,	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	FRANK E. SLEEPER,	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	ALBRO E. CHASE,	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	HENRY R. TAYLOR,	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	HORACE H. BURBANK,	-	-	-	-	-	"
R.W.	SUMNER J. CHADBOURNE,	-	-	-	-	-	P. S. G. W.
"	JOHN B. REDMAN,	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	JOSEPH M. HAYES,	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	LEANDER M. KENNISTON,	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	DANIEL P. BOYNTON,	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	JOSEPH A. LOCKE,	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	WINFIELD S. CHOATE,	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	JOHN W. BALLOU,	-	-	-	-	-	P. J. G. W.
"	A. M. WETHERBEE,	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	EDWIN HOWARD VOSE,	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	ARCHIE L. TALBOT,	-	-	-	-	-	"

Michigan,	January 26 and 27, 1897.	371
Minnesota,	January 13 and 14, 1897.	377
Mississippi,	February 11 and 12, 1897.	506
Missouri,	October 20 and 21, 1896.	382
Montana,	September 16 and 17, 1896.	386
Nebraska,	June 10 and 11, 1896.	392
Nevada,	June 9 and 10, 1896.	397
New Brunswick,	August 25 and 26, 1896.	513
New Hampshire,	May 20, 1896.	400
New Jersey,	January 27 and 28, 1897.	404
New Mexico,	October 5 and 6, 1896.	407
New York,	June 2 to 4, 1896.	410
North Carolina,	January 12 to 14, 1897.	416
North Dakota,	June 9, 1896.	418
Nova Scotia,	June 10, 1896.	421
Ohio,	October 21 and 22, 1896.	423
Oklahoma,	February 11 and 12, 1896.	428
Oregon,	June 10 to 13, 1896.	431
Pennsylvania,	December 28, 1896.	434
Prince Edward Island,	June 24, 1896.	439
Quebec,	January 27 and 28, 1897.	442
Rhode Island,	May 18, 1896.	446
South Carolina,	December 8 and 9, 1896.	447
South Dakota,	June 9 and 10, 1896.	451
Tennessee,	January 27 to 29, 1897.	456
Texas,	December 1 to 3, 1896.	461
Utah,	January 19 to 21, 1897.	468
Vermont,	June 10 and 11, 1896.	472
Virginia,	December 1 to 3, 1896.	474
Washington,	June 9 and 10, 1896.	482
West Virginia,	November 10 and 11, 1896.	490
Wisconsin,	June 9 to 11, 1896.	492
Wyoming,	September 8, 1896.	496
England,		514
Ireland,		519
Mexico,		519
New South Wales,		520
New Zealand,		522
Scotland,		525
South Australia,		527
Victoria,		528

W.	HUGH R. CHAPLIN,	-	-	-	Grand Marshal.
"	HORACE MITCHELL,	-	-	-	" Senior Deacon.
"	JAMES E. PARSONS,	-	-	-	" Junior Deacon.
"	JACOB R. STEWART,	-	-	-	" Steward.
"	EDWARD F. DAVIES,	-	-	-	" "
"	ENOCH O. GREENLEAF,	-	-	-	" "
"	WM. N. HOWE,	-	-	-	" Sword Bearer.
"	CHAS. W. CROSBY,	-	-	-	" Standard Bearer.
"	WM. O. FOX,	-	-	-	" Pursuivant.
M. W.	FRANK E. SLEEPER,	-	-	-	" Lecturer.
W.	WALTER S. SMITH,	-	-	-	" Organist.
"	WARREN O. CARNEY,	-	-	-	" Tyler.

Your committee further report that Grand Representatives from other Grand Lodges are present, as follows:

Alabama—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.	Mississippi—	CHAS. I. COLLAMORE.
Arizona—	AUGUSTUS BAILEY.	Missouri—	DANIEL P. BOYNTON.
Arkansas—	JOHN W. BALLOU.	Nebraska—	EDWARD P. BURNHAM.
California—	HENRY R. TAYLOR.	Nevada—	LEANDER M. KENNISTON.
Canada—	SUMNER J. CHADBOURNE.	New Hampshire—	
Colorado—	FRANK E. SLEEPER.		HOWARD D. SMITH.
Cuba—	E. HOWARD VOSE.	New Jersey—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.
Delaware—	AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM.	New York—	MARQUIS F. KING.
District of Columbia—		North Carolina—	
	STEPHEN BERRY.		WILLIAM R. G. ESTES.
Florida—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.	North Dakota—	ALGERNON M. ROAK.
Georgia—	" " "	Nova Scotia—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.
Idaho—	ALBRO E. CHASE.	Ohio—	WILLIAM J. BURNHAM.
Illinois—	JOSEPH A. LOCKE.	Oregon—	MARQUIS F. KING.
Indian Territory—		Peru—	A. LEE TALBOT.
	JOSEPH M. HAYES.	Quebec—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.
Kansas—	A. LEE TALBOT.	Rhode Island—	HORACE H. BURBANK.
Louisiana—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.	South Australia—	BENJAMIN AMES.
Manitoba—	A. M. WETHERBEE.	Texas—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.
Maryland—	SAMUEL L. MILLER.	Utah—	HIRAM CHASE.
Michigan—	FESSENDEN I. DAY.	Wisconsin—	EDMUND B. MALLET.
Minnesota—	JOHN B. REDMAN.		

Fraternally submitted,

WM. N. HOWE,
CHARLES E. SNOW, } Committee.
FRED W. ADAMS, }

The report was accepted, with permission to add future arrivals.

The Grand Master then appointed the following

STANDING COMMITTEES.

On Doings of the Grand Officers.

FRANK E. SLEEPER, WILLIAM R. G. ESTES, HENRY R. TAYLOR.

On the Pay Roll.

LEANDER M. KENNISTON, HIRAM W. POTTER, FRANK H. DEXTER.

On Unfinished Business.

JOSEPH M. HAYES, ARCHIE L. TALBOT, A. C. T. KING.

The Grand Master then delivered his

ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Brethren of the Grand Lodge :

The all wise and all merciful Father of our being has protected us during our daily walk for the past year, and permitted us to again assemble on this our seventy-eighth Annual Communication. We have invoked his blessing upon our deliberations, and I trust we may be enabled to legislate for the best interests of the Fraternity.

I desire to extend a cordial greeting to each and every member of this Grand Lodge, not only to the older and honored members whose counsel we seek, and whose teachings have helped to make this Grand Body honored wherever the Fraternity is known, but I desire especially to welcome the younger members, who for the first time honor us with their presence, and to remind them that in a few short years they will be called upon to guide the destinies of our organization. Here you will form friendships that will be as lasting as life itself. The precepts we strive to inculcate, and the lessons taught here and in the lodge room, should leave their imprint for good upon our lives and characters.

No man who is a consistent mason can fail to be an upright and law-abiding citizen. The laws of Masonry are subordinate to the civil law. A belief in God, the Creator and Father, is indispensably requisite in a candidate for the honors of Masoury. It therefore follows, as a natural sequence, that all members of the Fraternity should be good men and true. Bad men are to be found in every walk in life, and even our churches are not always without them, but it is safe to say if a man is a masou there was a time when he stood well in the community in which he lived, and had the respect and confidence of his fellow men. If he has fallen from grace in any way let it be our pleasure, as it is our duty, to strive to place him once more in the path of rectitude and honor.

I congratulate the members of this Grand Lodge that harmony and prosperity attend us, and that most friendly relations exist between this Grand Lodge and all sister Grand Lodges.

It affords me pleasure to say that the angel of death has not visited our ranks during the past year, but our sister jurisdictions have not been so fortunate. The roll of the honored dead will be given by our able chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, but I cannot refrain from calling your attention to a number who have finished their pilgrimage here below, and been called to the higher life.

*** Death's Second Name. ***

Once Death drew near me and a light divine,
As calm as falls from stars in twilight skies,
Revealed the beauty of his earnest eyes.
So near he came, his hand stole into mine,
Yet feared I not, but felt my soul incline
To leave this toilsome world with all its sighs,
And enter that eternal paradise
That shines with God at Heaven's inmost shrine.

He breathed his loving secret in my ear,
"Go, tell the grieving world Death smiles, and saith
He hath a second name to soothe all strife;
Go, say man gave him that sad first name, 'Death,'
But say his second name is sweet to hear,
For God and all His angels call him 'Life.'"

Pennsylvania.—Michael Nisbet, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, died at his home in Philadelphia, suddenly, on May 7th, aged 66. He was Grand Master in 1879 and 1880, and proved himself to be a very able and efficient officer.

Connecticut.—Edward B. Rowe died at Boston, June 1st, aged 61. He was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut in 1876 and 1877.

Ohio.—Asa H. Battin, Grand Master of Ohio in 1872, 3, 4, died at Steubenville, June 3d. He was born in Hanover, March 16, 1829.

Colorado.—Webster D. Anthony, Past Grand Master and Past Grand Commander of Colorado, died at St. Luke's Hospital, Denver, June 22d, aged 58. He was a prominent mason and held many positions of honor and trust in civil life.

Tennessee.—Joseph M. Anderson, Past Grand Master of Tennessee in 1866 and 1867, died July 14th. He was gentle and sympathetic in his nature, but fearless and outspoken in defence of the right. He had been honored by his fellow citizens with many positions of trust.

Kansas.—Owen A. Bassett, Past Grand Master of Kansas, died at Ellsworth, Kansas, July 19, 1896. He served with distinction during the war; was noted as a masonic jurist. The Masonic Code of Kansas is the ever enduring monument which he has erected to his own memory.

Kentucky.—Campbell H. Johnson, Grand Master of Kentucky in 1877, died at Henderson, Kentucky, June 19th. He was a Federal officer in the war. He had been Grand High Priest.

Michigan.—Rufus C. Hatheway died at Grand Rapids, Mich-

igan, December 9th. He was Grand Master of Michigan in 1887, and had also been Grand Master of the Grand Council.

Massachusetts.—Benjamin Dean died at South Boston, Massachusetts, April 9th. He had been an active and prominent member of the craft.

Manitoba.—John Headley Bell, Past Grand Master of Manitoba, died at the city of Winnipeg, March 16, 1897. He was Grand Master in 1880, 1, 2 and 3, and filled the office with marked ability.

Montana.—John Stedman, Past Grand Master of Montana, died at Helena, Montana, March 28, 1897. He was born in Hartland, Maine, February 11, 1836, went to California in 1855, and to Montana in 1867. He had filled many positions of trust and honor.

BY-LAWS.

I have approved by-laws from time to time during the past year. I do not regard it necessary that they should be specified, as they were all in accordance with the regulations of the Grand Lodge. I would suggest to the Grand Lodge the propriety of adopting a general regulation in relation to life membership.

CORNER STONE.

July 15, 1896, the corner stone of the Eastern Maine Insane Hospital at Bangor, Maine, was laid by the Grand Lodge in ample form, in the presence of a large number of people. St. John's Commandery, K. T., No. 3, under the command of Em. Sir Hugh R. Chaplin, preceded by the Bangor Band, very kindly furnished an escort to the Grand Lodge. I was assisted by the following officers :

CHARLES I. COLLAMORE,	as D. G. Master;
THOMAS W. BURR,	as S. G. Warden;
DANIEL W. MAXFIELD,	as J. G. Warden;
MANLY G. TRASK,	as G. Treasurer;
ANDREW J. DURGIN,	as G. Secretary;

ELMER F. PEMBER,	G. Chaplain;
HUGH R. CHAPLIN,	G. Marshal;
GEO. F. CAMERON,	<i>as</i> G. S. Deacon;
CHARLES M. SMILEY,	<i>as</i> G. J. Deacon;
GEO. O. MITCHELL,	<i>as</i> G. S. Steward;
EDWIN LORD,	<i>as</i> G. J. Steward;
FRED A. ADAMS,	<i>as</i> G. St. Bearer;
CHAS. H. GLASS,	<i>as</i> G. Sword Bearer;
WARREN O. CARNEY,	G. Tyler.

Hon. Albion Little, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, delivered an appropriate address descriptive of the institution. Eloquent and able addresses were also delivered by a number of distinguished gentlemen.

CONSTITUTION OF LODGES.

On Tuesday, September 15th, Columbia Lodge, No. 200, was constituted at Greenville, in conformity to the rites of Freemasonry, by the Grand Lodge. The officers were publicly installed by Past Grand Master Charles I. Collamore. Kineo Lodge, of Guilford, and Dorie Lodge, of Monson were present, and each lodge conferred the third degree upon a candidate. The fair wives and daughters of the brethren of Columbia Lodge provided a fine repast and graced it with their presence.

On Wednesday, about one hundred and forty-five persons, including the Grand Lodge and invited guests, were given a delightful sail on the fine steamer Katahdin, up Moosehead Lake to Kineo, and around under the cliff to Pebble Beach. The party returned to the "Crow's Nest," where a splendid dinner was served to all.

The brethren have very fine accommodations in a new building erected and owned by members of the Fraternity. The officers and members are men of standing in the community, and I have no doubt that Columbia Lodge will soon be classed as among our most prosperous lodges.

I was assisted by the following officers:

CHARLES I. COLLAMORE,	<i>as</i> D. G. Master ;
DANIEL W. MAXFIELD,	<i>as</i> S. G. Warden ;
BENJAMIN L. HADLEY,	J. G. Warden ;
JOHN M. OAK,	<i>as</i> G. Secretary ;
ELMER F. PEMBER,	<i>as</i> G. Chaplain ;
THOMAS W. BURR,	<i>as</i> G. Marshal ;
EDWIN M. JOHNSTON,	<i>as</i> G. S. Deacon ;
RODNEY C. PENNEY,	<i>as</i> G. J. Deacon ;
THOMAS J. PEAKS,	<i>as</i> G. S. Steward ;
A. F. JACKSON,	<i>as</i> G. J. Steward ;
WARREN O. CARNEY,	G. Tyler.

CONVENTIONS.

Five conventions for instruction in masonic work were called as follows, viz :

- At Augusta, Thursday, October 22d.
- At Rockland, Wednesday, October 26th.
- At Portland, Wednesday, November 11th.
- At Bangor, Wednesday, November 18th.
- At Presque Isle, Friday, November 20th.

I think it but justice to our Grand Lecturer to say that in my opinion he is entitled to the thanks of this Grand Lodge, for the painstaking and efficient manner in which he has discharged the duties of his office. These conventions are, I believe, productive of good results, and as a rule well attended. I regard this method of disseminating masonic instruction as one of the best that has so far been devised, and in a short time the result must be uniformity of work throughout this jurisdiction.

The District Deputy Grand Masters should attend at least one of these conventions, and every Master of a lodge should, if possible, attend with his wardens, and as many of the other members of his lodge as possible.

I append the report of the Grand Lecturer.

CENTENNIAL OF KENNEBEC LODGE.

On St. John's Day, June 24th, Kennebec Lodge, No. 5, of Hallowell, celebrated its one-hundredth anniversary. The ceremonies consisted of a parade, banquet, and addresses from M. W. Bro. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND and other distinguished members of the fraternity. A most hearty and cordial invitation was extended to the officers of the Grand Lodge to attend. I regret exceedingly that it was utterly impossible for me to accept the very kind invitation, and I know the loss was mine. This Grand Lodge was most ably represented by R. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE, Deputy Grand Master. At my request, a detailed report of the celebration has been forwarded to H. M. Starbird, D. D. Grand Master, and will be published with the proceedings.

CHARGES.

On March 23d I received papers charging Hugh McVeigh, W. M. of Rising Sun Lodge, of Orland, with gross unmasonic conduct. On the same day I issued an order suspending him from his high office as Master, and placed the lodge in charge of the Senior Warden pending the investigation. Having been informed that W. M. Hugh McVeigh had left the state, I forwarded an attested copy of the charge and specification to the Secretary of said lodge, with instructions to forward the same to Hugh McVeigh if his address was known. The papers are on file, subject to the action of this Grand Body.

CONDITION OF THE CRAFT.

The reports from the District Deputy Grand Masters indicate that harmony prevails throughout our jurisdiction. A great degree of interest is shown by the officers of the several lodges, and largely as a result of the masonic conventions which have been held during the past few years the ritual is more closely followed, and the ancient usages and customs of the fraternity more fully observed. We now have in the state a membership of 22,085, a gain of 132 over last year.

DISPENSATIONS.

May 30, 1896, dispensation was granted to Penobscot Lodge, No. 30, to appear in public on June 21st, for the purpose of celebrating St. John's Day by attending church.

June 6th, to Kennebec Lodge, No. 5, to parade in public on June 24th, St. John's Day, for the purpose of celebrating the centennial of Kennebec Lodge.

June 18th, to Bethlehem Lodge, No. 35, to parade in public for the purpose of attending the celebration of the centennial celebration of Kennebec Lodge, on St. John's Day.

June 19th, to Hermon Lodge, No. 32, for the same purpose.

June 20th, to Augusta Lodge, No. 141, for the same purpose.

July 21st, to Tuscan Lodge, No. 106, to receive and act on application in less than the usual time.

October 7th, to Plymouth Lodge, No. 75, to elect officers on Tuesday, October 20th, provided all regulations of the Grand Lodge are complied with.

October 10th, to Rural Lodge, No. 53, to elect officers on October 17th, on same conditions.

October 22d, to Composite Lodge, No. 168, to install their officers at Howland, October 30th.

November 6th, to Edwin F. Clapham and others to hold a lodge of instruction at West Sullivan.

November 6th, to Dresden Lodge, No. 103, to elect officers on November 18th.

December 26th, to Doric Lodge, No. 149, to hold a meeting in the town of Willimantic on the 22d day of January, for the purpose of conferring the Third degree.

January 2, 1897, to Katahdin Lodge, No. 98, to elect a Master, provided notice is given to every member of the lodge.

January 6th, to St. Croix Lodge, No. 46, to receive and act upon an application in less than the usual time, after proper notice to each member.

January 9th, to Drummond Lodge, No. 118, to elect officers on Thursday, January 14th, provided legal notice is given.

January 16th, to Harmony Lodge, No. 38, to appear in public on Wednesday, January 20th, for the purpose of celebrating their seventy-fifth anniversary.

February 8th, to Timothy Chase Lodge, No. 128, to receive and ballot upon an application in less than the usual time.

April 3d, to Seaside Lodge, No. 144, to receive and act upon an application in less than the usual time, after proper notice to each members.

DECISIONS.

A large number of communications have been received asking for information, but as no new points are involved I will mention only a few of them.

Question.—Can a lodge make an unaffiliated mason an honorary member without the party first making an application for membership?

Answer.—No. Every mason is required to be a member of a lodge, or in case he is rejected from membership, to register with the Grand Lodge. An unaffiliated mason is not entitled to masonic relief for himself or his family, to masonic burial, to the right to visit lodges, or participate in masonic labors or ceremonies.

Question.—Can a man with his right hand cut off at the wrist be made a mason?

Answer.—No. See page 322, Masonic Text Book. It is as follows: "A man who has lost his right hand can not be made a mason."

Question.—Is it proper for a masonic lodge to take part in its masonic character in a funeral procession, honoring the mayor of a city, when no masonic labor is to be performed?

Answer.—The rule is that masonic processions are allowable only when some masonic work is to be done. The constitution of the Grand Lodge, Sect. 127, is as follows: "No lodge shall form a procession, funeral processions excepted, without permission from the Grand Master or the District Deputy Grand Master within whose district it is located. And it is proper,

as a mark of respect for the chief magistrate of the nation or state, to permit lodges to appear in public either upon occasions of a public reception of him or of public mourning for his death."

On page 117, in the Grand Lodge report for 1865, will be found the following decision: "It is contrary to the usages of the order, and improper for the fraternity to take part in their masonic character in any demonstration, except to perform some masonic labor."

On pages 267 and 268 of the Grand Lodge report for 1874, will be found the following: "A lodge can not participate in the ceremonies of Decoration Day."

I have quoted the constitution and the several decisions as they all point in the same direction. My answer to your question is "No."

Question.—At a stated communication the secretary reported that a certain brother, who had been suspended from membership the year before for non-payment of dues, had now paid all dues to date, and read from his letter his request for a dimit. The W. M. called for a vote on the question. A vote was taken and declared in the affirmative, granting the brother his dimit. Subsequently this proceeding was criticized, and it was stated that the vote of the lodge was entirely unnecessary, and the brother was entitled to a dimit at any time, whenever clear of charges, on the books, without action of the lodge. Your decision on this point is respectfully requested.

Answer.—I think the action of the lodge in voting a dimit was correct. The constitution of the Grand Lodge says: "Upon application at any stated communication the lodge may vote a dimit at once, either in the form of an honorable discharge from membership, or with a recommendation, as it may see fit. Tranquil Lodge elected that method of granting a dimit, and I think it was correct, and in accordance with the constitution and decision of the Grand Lodge. A dimit should always be made a matter of record.

There is also another way of granting a dimit provided by the constitution, viz: A member may give notice at a stated communication that at the next he shall apply for a dimit, and at such next stated meeting, if no charges have been filed, and his dues are paid to the time, it is the secretary's duty to give him a certificate of honorable discharge from membership. The lodge may also vote him such recommendations as it sees fit. The secretary should note on his record the giving of the notice and the issuing of the dimit. Either of the methods above stated may be adopted in granting a dimit.

A brother is entitled to a dimit if his dues are paid, and he has not violated any of our masonic laws. If he is guilty of any masonic offence a dimit should not be granted, but charges should be preferred and a trial had. In this connection it may be well to state, when the record shows that a brother was suspended for non-payment of dues, it should also show that he was re-instated when his dues were paid. The usual form is for the secretary to inform the lodge that Brother ———, having paid his dues, is re-instated. This is spread upon the record, and the brother is restored to membership.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

You will find herewith the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters, and the information contained in them will well repay a careful perusal. As a rule our Deputies are the representative members of the fraternity,—faithful and zealous in the discharge of their official duties. Next to the Grand Lecturer, we rely upon them to disseminate information in their several districts. I desire to thank them for the courtesy with which they have treated me during my term of office, and the active interest they have taken in the duties pertaining to their positions.

I would urge upon them the necessity of visiting the smaller lodges. ¶ If it is necessary to omit any visitations, omit those to the larger and more prosperous lodges, for in a certain degree

they are better able to care for themselves; but under no circumstances omit a visitation to a smaller lodge.

SUGGESTION.

Our Grand Lodge has made five years the limit to jurisdiction after rejection, but this rule is of no avail to a candidate who remains in the jurisdiction of the rejecting body; because a waiver requires an unanimous vote, and a candidate rejected through prejudice must either leave his home and reside elsewhere, or he may be forever kept out. It would seem that in such cases more than one vote should be required to refuse the waiver. If a man has waited five years under the scrutiny of the members of the lodge, and all but one deem him worthy, the chance is that they are right, and that the one objecting is wrong.

I desire to call the attention of the Grand Lodge to the matter, and would recommend that *after five years* a waiver may be granted by a majority vote.

ARION LODGE.

At the last session of the Grand Lodge I requested R. W. Brother JOSEPH A. LOCKE to visit Arion Lodge, No. 162, at Goodwin's Mills, with W. Bro. ISAAC N. HURD, D. D. Grand Master for the 19th District. The report of the visitation will be found on file. Bros. LOCKE and HURD spent an afternoon and evening with the members of the lodge examining their condition, and as a result I have no doubt we shall see a great improvement, not only in their work, but in the financial and business management of the lodge.

DISCIPLINE.

June 29, 1896, forwarded proceedings of Yorkshire Lodge, No. 119, in the case of Charles O. Durgin, to Chairman of Committee on Grievances and Appeals.

September 25th, forwarded protest of Ashlar Lodge, of Lewiston, Me., against the action of Massachusetts Lodge, of Boston, Mass., in the case of Frank W. Dana.

December 26th, forwarded proceedings of Delta Lodge, No. 153, in case of Ernest H. Nason.

February 6, 1897, forwarded proceeding of Hermon Lodge, No. 32, vs. Geo. R. Sager.

March 6th, forwarded proceedings of Pythagorean Lodge, No. 11, vs. Harry Y. B. Osgood.

April 17th, forwarded proceeding of Bar Harbor Lodge, No. 185, vs. Geo. L. Barrows.

FIRE.

On January 12th, the records and papers of Doric Lodge, No. 149, of Monson, were destroyed by fire. This should serve to remind us that the records of our masonic lodges are often times of great value, and can not be replaced if destroyed, and that it would be wise to provide, if possible, suitable and safe places to deposit them.

REPRESENTATION.

November 24, 1896, W. WILLIAM HAWES SMITH, of Schenectady, N. Y., was appointed Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Maine near the Grand Lodge of New York, in place of R. W. ELON G. BROWN, of Utica, resigned.

December 26th, nominated R. W. FESSENDEN I. DAY as representative of the Grand Lodge of Michigan near the Grand Lodge of Maine.

February 6, 1897, appointed Rev. E. D. McLAREN, of Vancouver, British Columbia, Representative of the Grand Lodge of Maine near the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, in place of M. W. Bro. MARCUS WOLFE, deceased.

March 3d, appointed ETHELBERT F. ALLEN, of Kansas City, Mo., Representative of the Grand Lodge of Maine near the Grand Lodge of Missouri.

MASONIC RELIEF.

During the past year I have had considerable correspondence with the Masonic Board of Relief of San Francisco, Cal., in relation to the case of Robert C. Green, a Past Master of Eastern Lodge, No. 7, of Eastport, Maine. In some way the impression was given the Board of Relief that the amount expended would be re-imbursed. For that reason, in order to protect the Grand Lodge of Maine from any shadow of suspicion that it desires to act otherwise than in accordance with masonic law, I forwarded forty dollars, the amount expended. At the same time, I requested the Board of Relief hereafter to bear in mind that in this jurisdiction we believe that, while the organization of a method of organized relief is very desirable, it in no manner changes the character of organized relief. The fact that the relief is afforded by an organized charity no more entitles it to re-imbursement than the giving of relief by an individual mason entitles him to it. The correspondence will be found on file.

SAN DIEGO BOARD OF RELIEF.

I present a communication from M. W. W. T. Lucas, Grand Master of California, in relation to the claim of the San Diego Board of Relief for money expended for the relief of a Master Mason's family hailing from this Grand Jurisdiction.

Since the 6th day of September, 1891, the board has expended for the relief of the family of C. N. Marston, a former member of Aurora Lodge, No. 50, of Rockland, Me., the sum of \$1,070. On January 20, 1892, Aurora Lodge paid for funeral expenses and relief \$172.38. The Board of Relief was notified by the lodge of its intention to reject all additional expenditures. The papers will be placed before the proper committee.

I have received during the past year numerous invitations to install officers and attend masonic gatherings, which I have been obliged to decline. I desire to thank the brethren for the uniform consideration and kindness extended to me, and to

assure them that I regret exceedingly that I have not been able to accept all the courtesies extended.

M. W. Bros. DRUMMOND, COLLAMORE and CHASE have rendered me valuable assistance during the past year, which I most fully appreciate.

I desire to extend my thanks to all the Grand Officers for the support they have given me, and especially to Bro. STEPHEN BERRY, our efficient Grand Secretary, for valuable aid rendered during my term of office. He is perfectly familiar with all the details of his position, and has proved to me a strong support whenever called upon during the past two years.

CONCLUSION.

I have referred in brief to the most important matters that have been brought to my attention. The volume of business is increasing every year, and unless the Grand Master is familiar with masonic law and the thousand and one questions that present themselves in different ways, he must necessarily give much time to research and investigation, and even then he will find himself called upon to appeal for aid and counsel to the older and more experienced members of this Grand Body. I have endeavored to discharge the duties of my official position with "Malice towards none and with charity for all," and I feel that my hands have been upheld by every member of our order with whom I have been brought in contact.

I entered upon the discharge of the duties of this high office which you were so graciously pleased to bestow upon me with many misgivings, and if I have in any measure succeeded, I owe it in a large degree to the support which has been given me by the entire fraternity. I shall look back with pleasure upon my official relation with this Grand Body during the two years just passed, and as long as life shall last may we continue to labor in season and out of season for the best interests of the fraternity. Fraternally submitted,

AUG. B. FARNHAM *Grand Master.*

REPORT OF THE GRAND LECTURER.

GRAND LODGE OF MAINE.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND LECTURER,

SABBATH, April 27, 1897.

To Most Worshipful AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM, *Grand Master of Masons in Maine:*

Obedient to your order, I issued the following call for conventions for instruction in masonic work:

GRAND LODGE OF MAINE.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND LECTURER,

SABBATH, October 1, 1896.

BRETHREN:—I am directed by the Grand Master to call conventions for instruction in masonic work as follows:

At Augusta, Thursday, October 22d, at 10.00 A. M.

At Rockland, Wednesday, October 28th, at 10.00 A. M.

At Portland, Wednesday, November 11th, at 10.00 A. M.

At Bangor, Wednesday, November 18th, at 10.00 A. M.

At Presque Isle, Friday, November, 20th, at 10.00 A. M.

The Grand Master specially requests each District Deputy Grand Master to attend at least one of these conventions.

All Master Masons are cordially invited to be present.

Fraternally yours,

FRANK E. SLEEPER, *Grand Lecturer.*

For the purpose of making the notice as thorough as possible, I also issued the following circular to District Deputy Grand Masters:

GRAND LODGE OF MAINE.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND LECTURER,

SABBATH, October 1, 1896.

R. W. Bro. —————, D. D. G. M. ————— *District.*

In order to secure uniformity of work in our state, it is necessary that District Deputies attend the conventions held for the purpose of imparting to them such instruction as they might not otherwise be able to obtain. I shall therefore expect you to be present at one of the conventions called for this year.

I also hope that for the benefit of the craft you will make an urgent request, in person or by letter, to every lodge in your district to be represented

at the most convenient convention by its Master, Wardens, and as many brethren as may be able to attend.

Yours fraternally,

FRANK E. SLEEPER, *Grand Lecturer.*

The conventions in general were very successful, that at Augusta being least so. From the minutes given me by brethren acting as secretaries, I find that of the 24 D. D. G. M.s, only 18 attended meetings, and 73 lodges were represented.

Districts No. 3, 7, 13, 15, 19 and 23 were not represented, either by District Deputy or lodges; and to show the usefulness of these conventions I will add, that of all the letters of inquiry relative to ritual received by me this year more have come from those six districts than from all the other eighteen combined.

The attendance at the five conventions was:

	D. D. G. M. present	Lodges represented
At Augusta,	2	10
“ Rockland,	3	15
“ Portland,	5	23
“ Bangor,	7	18
“ Presque Isle,	1	7
	<hr/> 18	<hr/> 73

The brethren who were present seemed to be greatly interested in getting correct work, and no limit was placed upon the asking of questions, in order that *exactness* might be secured.

The masonic light which will be given by those brethren to the seventy-three lodges represented, and by them to their neighbors, will be reflected for years to come.

The work in Maine was never so uniform as it is to-day, and a large part of the credit for this is due to our “conventions for instruction.”

The usual amount of correspondence has been attended to as promptly as my time permitted.

I have made arrangements to have the Master Mason’s degree worked in the presence of the Grand Lodge at its coming session by officers selected from the lodges in Lewiston and Auburn.

Fraternally submitted,

FRANK E. SLEEPER, *Grand Lecturer.*

The address was referred to the Committee on Doings of Grand Officer.

R. W. ARLINGTON B. MARSTON.

Past Grand Master COLLAMORE announced the mortal illness of R. W. ARLINGTON B. MARSTON, Past Senior Grand Warden, and offered the following, which was unanimously adopted, and a copy ordered sent to his family:

Resolved, That the sympathy of the Grand Lodge is extended to R. W. Bro. ARLINGTON B. MARSTON, Past Senior Grand Warden, now upon a bed of sickness and suffering.

NATHAN WOODBURY.

P. G. Master WILLIAM R. G. ESTES presented the following memorial, which was received, and ordered to be spread upon the records and printed in the proceedings:

The death of Wor. Bro. NATHAN WOODBURY, which occurred at his home in Auburn, Maine, February 27, 1897, renders it highly fitting for us to pause in our labors in the Grand Lodge and take suitable notice of the sad event.

Bro. WOODBURY was born in the town of Minot in this state, November 15, 1818. He worked when a young man at the hatter's trade with his father. He was a Deputy Sheriff in Androscoggin County eight years, performing the duties with faithfulness and accuracy. He then learned dentistry, and in 1858 located in Skowhegan, where he successfully practiced until he returned to Androscoggin County in 1870. He pursued the same business several years in Lewiston in company with his son, until the infirmities of age compelled him to relinquish it.

Bro. WOODBURY was made a mason in Somerset Lodge, Skowhegan, July 11, 1859, and was its distinguished Master three consecutive years, 1861-2-3. He received the Capitular degrees in Somerset Royal Arch Chapter. He was its first King and second High Priest. He was a charter member of De Molay Commandery of Knights Templar, and its first Eminent Commander. He was honored in the Grand Chapter by being elected Grand Scribe, and twice Deputy Grand High Priest, when he declined further promotion and the honors that awaited him.

Although at the time of our brother's death he was not a member of this Grand Lodge, it will be seen that he served the craft in some capacity long

and faithfully, and left in that service an influence not readily forgotten by those who worked with him in the masonic vineyard.

It does not fall to the lot of all to be endowed by nature with those rare gifts which made our brother so peculiarly qualified to preside over masonic bodies, and impart masonic instruction to those less informed. Hence, as Master of a Lodge, High Priest of a Chapter and Commander of a Commandery, over which he presided with such marked ability, he exerted an invaluable and salutary influence by his dignified manner, by his impressive rendering of rituals, when conferring degrees, by his extensive knowledge of masonic literature, and by his generally accurate interpretation of masonic law.

In the performance of his masonic duties he gave no begrudging service. Whatever station he filled he carried to it the same zeal and honest purpose, and gave to it the same assiduous attention. Hence his monument to-day is the faithful work he performed in the Lodge, Chapter and Commandery. He is gone, but his work remains, and his memory is enshrined in the hearts of his brethren. His co-workers, while appreciating his labors so well performed, and the zeal and ability which he put into his unremitting service, will long remember him for his sterling integrity and firmness of character, which were as unyielding as the giant oak in the midst of saplings. The tribute we now bestow upon his memory will be most appreciated by those who knew him best.

We believe the services Bro. WOODBURY rendered to Masonry justly entitle his name to be enrolled with the worthy and faithful dead on the records of this Grand Lodge.

GRAND SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The report of the Grand Secretary was accepted, as follows:

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, Tuesday, May 4, 1897.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The duties of Grand Secretary have been faithfully discharged, and the details of part of them may be found in the reports of the Committees on Returns, Library, History, Transportation, and others. In regard to the manifold daily calls to be daily answered, I must rely upon the brethren to say if they have been promptly responded to. From the uniformly kind and brotherly tone of the letters received, I infer that my endeavors to please have not been unappreciated.

One brother has registered during the year, and as three have failed to renew there are now but two upon the roll.

Although it is five years since the fraternity ceased to have a free bed at

the Maine General Hospital, it proved so useful that frequent calls are still made for it, generally from brethren who need for themselves or their families surgical relief which must be foregone unless obtained without cost. The difficulty of obtaining a free bed may be judged from the fact that last year, although three-eighths of the patients were free, four-fifths of the applications had to be refused for lack of funds. It is sad to think of brethren being obliged to suffer from want of surgical treatment when that is the touch of nature which makes the whole world kin, which treats alike the friend and the foe, the good man and the criminal, the king and the beggar. But I have been obliged to answer that there is no bed at the disposal of the Grand Master.

The resolutions in regard to relief were printed as ordered by Grand Lodge, and sent out with the proceedings, one for each member of the lodge and a surplus for coming candidates. The sheet contained a request to secretaries to distribute them as intended.

The resolutions respecting rejected candidates were called to the attention of all our Grand Representatives by a circular letter, and twenty-one of them acknowledged them in writing. I have no doubt the other thirty-one brought them before their Grand Lodges in due time.

Faternally submitted,

STEPHEN BERRY, *Grand Secretary*.

TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION.

BRO. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND offered the following propositions:

1. To amend section ninety-four of the constitution, by adding thereto the following:

“But when one municipality, or a part of a municipality, is annexed to another under the law of the state, the territorial jurisdiction of all the lodges interested shall remain as it is at the time of the annexation, unless the Grand Lodge shall otherwise provide in particular cases.”

So that said section as amended shall read:

“Sec. 94. Every candidate must apply to the lodge in this state nearest his residence, *except* that he must apply to a lodge in the town in which he resides, if one is located there. But when one municipality, or a part of one municipality, is annexed to another under the law of the state, the territorial jurisdiction of all the lodges interested shall remain as it is at the time of the annexation, unless the Grand Lodge shall otherwise provide in particular cases.”

2. To amend section ninety-four of the constitution, by adding thereto the following:

"But when a municipality, or a part of one, is annexed to another under the law of the state, the Grand Lodge may modify this rule in particular cases as it may deem wise."

So that as amended it shall read as follows:

"Sec. 94. Every candidate must apply to the lodge in this state, nearest his residence, *except* that he must apply to a lodge in the town in which he resides, if one is located there. But when a municipality, or a part of one, is annexed to another under the law of the state, the Grand Lodge may modify this rule in particular cases as it may deem wise."

The two amendments were entertained and referred to the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution.

The Grand Master presented the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters, which were referred to the Committee on Condition of the Fraternity.

The Grand Secretary presented petitions for new lodges at Sullivan and Stratton, which were referred to the Committee on Dispensations and Charters.

BRO. HUGH R. CHAPLIN was added to the Committee on Dispensations and Charters to fill vacancy.

GRAND TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Grand Treasurer reported as follows :

To the Master, Wardens and Members of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

In compliance with the constitution, the subscriber submits a report of his transactions, exhibiting the amount received and paid out during the masonic year, and on what account.

For invested fund, see report to Trustees of the Charity Fund.

1896.

RECEIPTS.

May 7.	By cash balance,	\$ 10,393.75
Aug. 25.	" from Grand Secretary, charter of Columbia Lodge,	30.00
	" from Aug. B. Farnham, Grand Master, dispensations to four lodges at various dates, ..	12.00

Aug. 25.	By cash from interest on deposit in Union Safe Deposit and Trust Company,.....	69.83
	“ dividends Portland National Bank savings department,.....	42.02
1897.		
April 26.	“ from Stephen Berry Grand Secretary, Registrations, Diplomas &c.,.....	15.66
28.	“ from Grand Chapter, 3-10 expense Grand Secretary's office,.....	138.25
	“ from Grand Commandery, 2-10 expense Gr. Secretary's office,.....	92.17
	“ from District Deputy Grand Masters, as follows:	
Mar. 16.	Walter F. Bradish, 2d District,.....	158.40
19.	Ezra G. Mason, 21st District,.....	304.00
20.	Rodel A. Packard, 8th District,.....	170.00
27.	Franklin Walker, 12th District,.....	167.60
29.	John H. Shepherd, 22d District,.....	186.20
April 3.	Nehemiah Guptill, 3d District,.....	200.20
5.	Francis H. Wing, 13th District,.....	222.60
	Seth T. Snipe, 14th District,.....	308.60
7.	Thomas J. Peaks, 5th District,.....	255.20
9.	Franklin R. Redlon, 17th District,.....	632.60
	Albert J. Durgin, 6th District,.....	262.20
13.	Fred M. Richards, 9th District,.....	407.00
14.	George P. Billings, 7th District,.....	165.00
	Walter E. Clark, 10th District,.....	221.60
	John P. Shepherd, 4th District,.....	168.40
	Al Q. Mitchell, 23d District,.....	108.20
15.	Alfred D. Sawyer, 1st District,.....	181.60
16.	James C. Ayer, 18th District,.....	171.00
17.	Fred'k G. Payne, 24th District,.....	377.20
19.	Herbert M. Starbird, 11th District,.....	375.20
23.	Pitt H. Jones, 20th District,.....	158.80
24.	Newell P. Noble, 15th District,.....	210.80
	Isaac N. Hurd, 19th District,.....	257.00
30.	George W. Holmes, 16th District,.....	242.20
		<hr/>
		\$16,705.28
1896.	DISBURSEMENTS.	
May 7.	To cash paid orders of Committee on Pay Roll,.....	\$1,831.82
	“ “ Hollis E. Denen, special expense as D. D.	
	G. Master, 1895-96,.....	21.00

May 7.	To cash paid Miss M. M. Laughlin, clerk to Committee on Pay Roll,	10.00
" "	" " typewriter for Committee on Jurisprudence,	7.25
19,	" " Warren O. Carney, Grand Tyler, and assistants, for attendance at Gr. Lodge,	30.00
20.	" " Walter S. Smith, Grand Organist, attendance at Grand Lodge,	10.00
" "	" " deposits in Banks at Waterville, Wiscasset, Ellsworth, Augusta, Brunswick, Bath, Skowhegan and Gardiner, transferred to Charity Fund,	4,160.84
" "	" " Union Safe Deposit and Trust Co., Treasurer's bond,	50.00
" "	" " Penobscot Lodge, dues for 1896 refunded,	40.20
" "	" " A. D. Pearson, two bills for binding Proceedings,	137.70
" "	" " Portland Savings Bank, for rent of Grand Lodge offices,	400.00
" "	" " Mrs. O'Toole, for care of Grand Lodge offices,	55.00
" "	" " American Bank Note Co., two bills for diplomas,	200.00
" "	" " Board of Masonic Trustees, use of halls,	125.00
" "	" " Warren O. Carney, Grand Tyler, expense to Bangor, laying corner stone of Insane Hospital,	13.40
" "	" " expense to Greenville, constituting Columbia Lodge,	12.55
" "	" " Stephen Berry, Grand Secretary, salary,	500.00
" "	" " printing Proceedings,	829.55
" "	" " mailing Proceedings,	37.34
" "	" " envelopes and sundries for office,	13.84
" "	" " letter heads for D. D. G. Masters,	7.25
" "	" " returns, circulars and advertisements,	95.00
" "	" " relief resolutions, notices, &c.,	48.85
" "	" " postage stamps and expressage,	31.90
" "	" " Frank E. Sleeper, Grand Lecturer, expense attending conventions at Augusta and Rockland,	42.80
" "	" " expense attending convention at Portland,	16.20

	expense attending conventions at Bangor and Presque Isle,	54.60
	by vote of Grand Lodge, (25)	25.00
To cash paid Josiah H. Drummmond, Chairman Committee on Foreign Correspondence, . . .		100.00
" " J. A. Merrill & Co., jewels and aprons, . .		240.00
" " The Henderson Ames Co., collars and aprons,		454.50
" " M. F. King, Grand Treasurer,		150.00
	postage stamps and envelopes,	3.50
" " Aug. B. Farnham, Grand Master, expenses,		22.84
" " D. D. G. Masters' expenses, as follows:		
	Alfred D. Sawyer, 1st District,	17.85
	Walter F. Bradish, 2d District,	27.20
	Nehemiah Guptill, 3d District,	28.50
	John P. Shepherd, 4th District,	39.35
	Thomas J. Peaks, 5th District,	30.43
	Albert J. Durgin, 6th District,	3.93
	George P. Billings, 7th District,	17.25
	Rodel A. Packard, 8th District,	15.75
	Fred M. Richards, 9th District,	18.10
	Walter E. Clark, 10th District,	33.70
	Herbert M. Starbird, 11th District, . . .	21.25
	Franklin Walker, 12th District,	22.00
	Francis H. Wing, 13th District,	17.57
	Seth T. Snipe, 14th District,	9.90
	Newell P. Noble, 15th District,	25.20
	George W. Holmes, 16th District,	26.90
	Frank R. Redlon, 17th District,	33.35
	James C. Ayer, 18th District,	24.71
	Isaac N. Hurd, 19th District,	14.50
	Pitt H. Jones, 20th District,	34.92
	Ezra G. Mason, 21st District,	32.00
	John H. Shepherd, 22d District,	15.90
	Ai Q. Mitchell, 23d District,	17.45
	Fred G. Payne, 24th District,	3.20
	Committee on Finance,	15.95
Cash deposited in Portland National Bank, savings department, ..		1,082.42
Cash to new account,		5,298.07

Respectfully submitted,

\$16,705.28

MARQUIS F. KING, *Grand Treasurer.*

The report was referred to the Committee of Finance.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

BRO. DRUMMOND presented the Report on Foreign Correspondence, in print, which was accepted, and permission given to add thereto. (*See Appendix.*)

RETURNS.

BRO. STEPHEN BERRY presented the following:

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, Tuesday, May 4, 1897.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your Committee on Returns would report that returns have been received from all the 192 chartered lodges.

The following summary shows the comparison with the last four years:

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
Initiated,.....	838	797	850	831	746
Raised,.....	827	795	823	837	721
Affiliated,.....	123	108	124	137	118
Re-instated,.....	63	66	52	50	59
Dimitted,.....	243	240	224	209	160
Died,.....	321	397	372	366	339
Suspended,.....	3	0	1	0	1
Expelled,.....	2	1	2	3	2
Susp. from membership,.....	195	211	207	283	224
Deprived of membership,.....	28	4	6	22	18
Number of members,.....	21,487	21,564	21,809	21,953	22,085
Rejected,.....	225	223	172	222	174

The initiations have fallen off ten per cent., the raised almost fourteen per cent.; the affiliations thirteen per cent.; the restorations have increased ten per cent., which is a good sign. The dimitted have fallen off twenty per cent., the deaths seven per cent., and the suspensions twenty per cent. The result is a gain of 132, equal to $\frac{3}{8}$ of one per cent. The death rate is a little under $15\frac{1}{2}$ to a thousand, against $16\frac{3}{4}$ last year.

The accompanying abstract will show the work in detail.

Fraternally submitted,

STEPHEN BERRY, }
ALBERT M. AMES, } *Committee.*

ABSTRACT OF RETURNS, 1897.

Nos.	LODGES.	Initiated.	Raised.	Affiliated.	Re-instated.	Dimitted.	Died.	Suspended.	Expelled.	N. P. Dues.		No. Members.	Rejected.
										Suspended.	D. of Mem.		
1	Portland,.....	16	13	1	0	3	7	0	0	0	0	334	9
2	Warren,.....	3	4	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	97	0
3	Lincoln,.....	1	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	72	0
4	Hancock,.....	6	6	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	75	0
5	Kennebec,.....	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	145	0
6	Amity,.....	4	3	1	5	1	3	0	0	2	0	189	0
7	Eastern,.....	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	127	2
8	United,.....	2	2	2	0	2	2	0	0	3	0	122	0
9	Saco,.....	5	7	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	125	9
10	Rising Virtue,....	4	3	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	156	1
11	Pythagorean,.....	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	94	0
12	Cumberland,.....	5	4	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	170	0
13	Oriental,.....	9	8	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	62	2
14	Solar,.....	8	5	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	258	1
15	Orient,.....	3	4	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	168	0
16	St. George,.....	3	3	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	102	0
17	Ancient Landmark, ..	19	21	6	1	0	6	0	0	2	0	437	15
18	Oxford,.....	3	2	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	163	0
19	Felicity,.....	2	3	0	0	3	7	0	0	3	0	102	0
20	Maine,.....	2	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	108	2
21	Oriental Star,.....	5	2	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	177	0
22	York,.....	3	3	1	0	2	3	0	0	1	0	111	0
23	Freeport,.....	8	8	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	137	0
24	Phoenix,.....	5	6	1	0	0	2	0	0	9	0	171	0
25	Temple,.....	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	79	0
26	Village,.....	3	3	0	1	2	5	0	0	7	0	93	0
27	Adoniram,.....	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	61	0
28	Northern Star,.....	2	8	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	91	0
29	Tranquil,.....	14	11	3	2	3	3	0	0	11	0	245	1
30	Blazing Star,.....	19	19	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	126	5
31	Union,.....	7	6	1	0	0	2	0	0	8	0	107	0
32	Hermon,.....	9	9	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	331	3
33	Waterville,.....	6	4	3	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	216	1
34	Somerset,.....	3	2	1	0	4	4	0	0	2	0	174	0
35	Bethlehem,.....	15	16	1	1	1	6	0	0	3	0	283	6
36	Casco,.....	4	5	3	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	166	2
37	Washington,.....	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	89	0
38	Harmony,.....	2	5	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	137	1
39	Penobscot,.....	4	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	143	2
40	Lygonia,.....	9	7	0	0	3	4	0	0	7	0	230	1
41	Morning Star,.....	1	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	114	0
42	Freedom,.....	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	33	0
43	Alna,.....	4	4	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	137	0
44	Piscataquis,.....	3	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	112	0
45	Central,.....	2	1	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	116	0
46	St. Croix,.....	7	5	5	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	192	0
47	Dunlap,.....	11	11	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	247	3
48	Lafayette,.....	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	87	0
49	Meridian Splendor,...	2	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	83	1
50	Aurora,.....	4	3	5	1	1	8	0	0	1	0	285	0
51	St. John's,.....	5	5	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	91	0

Nos.	Lodges.	In.	R.	A.	R.	D.	D.	S.	E.	N. P. S.	Dues. D.	Mem.	R.
52	Mosaic,.....	6	5	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	159	0
53	Rural,.....	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	44	1
54	Vassalboro,.....	1	1	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	60	0
55	Fraternal,.....	1	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	15	0	62	0
56	Mount Moriah,.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	0
57	King Hiram,.....	3	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	87	0
58	Unity,.....	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	56	0
59	Mt. Hope, (ch. sur.),.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
60	Star in the East,...	3	3	1	0	2	1	0	0	6	0	169	0
61	King Solomon's,...	2	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	107	0
62	King David's,.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	74	0
63	Richmond,.....	3	3	0	1	0	2	0	0	10	0	111	1
64	Pacific,.....	4	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	100	1
65	Mystic,.....	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	117	0
66	Mechanics',.....	4	4	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	85	2
67	Blue Mountain,.....	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	83	0
68	Mariners',.....	6	5	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	104	0
69	Howard,.....	3	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	109	0
70	Standish,.....	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	58	0
71	Rising Sun,.....	3	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	84	1
72	Pioneer,.....	10	9	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	72	0
73	Tyrian,.....	8	8	2	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	216	0
74	Bristol,.....	5	5	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	137	0
75	Plymouth,.....	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	68	0
76	Arundel,.....	6	4	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	59	0
77	Tremont,.....	3	2	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	136	1
78	Crescent,.....	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	8	0	120	0
79	Rockland,.....	1	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	287	0
80	Keystone,.....	3	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	106	1
81	Atlantic,.....	14	12	1	3	2	1	0	0	2	0	274	0
82	St. Paul's,.....	2	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	8	0	183	0
83	St. Andrew's,.....	6	11	0	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	216	1
84	Eureka,.....	3	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	110	0
85	Star in the West,...	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	101	0
86	Temple,.....	8	6	1	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	164	2
87	Benevolent,.....	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	60	0
88	Narraguagus,.....	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	95	0
89	Island,.....	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	78	1
90	H. Abiff, (ch. rev.),.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
91	Harwood,.....	2	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	164	0
92	Siloam,.....	4	6	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	151	1
93	Horeb,.....	2	4	0	0	2	3	0	0	4	0	126	0
94	Paris,.....	2	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	105	0
95	Corinthian,.....	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	79	0
96	Monument,.....	4	4	1	0	1	4	0	0	14	0	170	7
97	Bethel,.....	1	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	93	0
98	Katahdin,.....	7	8	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	81	0
99	Vernon Valley,.....	4	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	85	0
100	Jefferson,.....	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	69	0
101	Nezinscot,.....	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	91	1
102	Marsh River,.....	2	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	71	0
103	Dresden,.....	3	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	47	0
104	Dirigo,.....	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	92	0
105	Ashlar,.....	20	20	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	261	4

Nos.	Lodges.	In.	R.	A.	R.	D.	D.	S.	E.	N. P. S.	Dues. D.	Mem.	R.
106	Tuscan,	6	3	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	123	1
107	Day Spring,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	0
108	Relief, (<i>ch. recalled</i>),												
109	Mount Kineo,	4	3	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	151	1
110	Monmouth,	2	2	0	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	95	0
111	Liberty,	4	3	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	99	2
112	Eastern Frontier,	2	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	103	0
113	Messalonskee,	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	92	0
114	Polar Star,	8	8	0	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	234	2
115	Buxton,	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	93	0
116	Lebanon,	1	1	0	5	1	4	0	0	0	0	82	0
117	Greenleaf,	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	182	3
118	Drummond,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	0
119	Pownal,	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	88	0
120	Meduncook, (<i>ch. sr.</i>)												
121	Acacia,	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	6	0	76	0
122	Marine,	8	7	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	131	2
123	Franklin,	2	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	77	0
124	Olive Branch,	4	3	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	74	1
125	Meridian,	13	14	6	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	122	4
126	Timothy Chase,	1	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	7	0	129	1
127	Presumpscot,	4	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	93	0
128	Eggmoggin,	2	2	2	0	2	3	0	0	1	0	86	0
129	Quantabacook,	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	107	2
130	Trinity,	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	98	2
131	Lookout,	3	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	34	0
132	Mount Tire'm,	4	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	81	0
133	Asylum,	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	58	0
134	Trojan, (<i>consol'd</i>)												
135	Riverside,	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	110	2
136	Ionic, (<i>ch. sur.</i>)												
137	Kenduskeag,	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	91	0
138	Lewy's Island,	4	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	114	1
139	Archon,	4	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	0
140	Mount Desert,	2	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	109	0
141	Augusta,	17	17	2	2	2	1	0	0	2	0	237	3
142	Ocean,	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	48	1
143	Preble,	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	79	1
144	Seaside,	2	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	2	136	0
145	Moses Webster,	7	8	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	198	1
146	Seabaticook,	6	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	93	0
147	Evening Star,	1	1	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	80	0
148	Forest,	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	105	0
149	Doric,	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	103	0
150	Rabboni,	9	9	2	0	2	2	0	0	5	0	165	2
151	Excelsior,	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	46	0
152	Crooked River,	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	89	0
153	Delta,	3	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	70	0
154	Mystic Tie,	3	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	64	1
155	Ancient York,	7	9	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	111	3
156	Wilton,	8	9	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	120	1
157	Cambridge,	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	73	0
158	Anchor,	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	39	0
159	Esoteric,	19	21	3	0	1	4	0	0	2	1	181	0

Nos.	Lodges.	In.	R.	A.	R.	D.	D.	S.	E.	N. S.	P. Dues.	D.	Mem.	R.
160	Parian,.....	2	1	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	87	0
161	Carrabassett,.....	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	92	0
162	Arion,.....	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	56	0
163	Pleasant River,....	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	92	5
164	Webster,.....	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	2
165	Molunkus,.....	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	0
166	Negumkeag,.....	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	36	0
167	Whitney,.....	3	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	79	1
168	Composite,.....	3	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	61	3
169	Shepherd's River, ..	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	40	0
170	Caribou,.....	4	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	103	0
171	Naskeag,.....	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	68	0
172	Pine Tree,.....	3	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	126	1
173	Pleiades,.....	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	126	0
174	Lynde,.....	2	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	68	1
175	Baskahegan,.....	4	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	110	1
176	Palestine, <i>Consol'd</i> ,	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69	0
177	Rising Star,.....	6	6	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	136	0
178	Ancient Brothers', ..	2	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	64	3
179	Yorkshire,.....	11	9	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	166	6
181	Reuel Washburn, ..	<i>Consolidated</i>												
182	Granite,.....	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	79	0
183	Deering,.....	15	14	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	199	1
184	Naval,.....	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	71	0
185	Bar Harbor,.....	4	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	120	1
186	Warren Phillips,...	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	155	0
187	Ira Berry,.....	2	3	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	55	0
188	Jonesport,.....	6	6	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	95	2
189	Knox,.....	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	0
190	Springvale,.....	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	75	3	
191	Davis,.....	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	86	0	
192	Winter Harbor,....	5	4	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	88	2	
193	Washburn,.....	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	44	0	
194	Euclid,.....	5	7	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	106	8	
195	Reliance,.....	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	118	0	
196	Bay View,.....	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	0	
197	Aroostook,.....	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	79	1	
198	St. Aspinquid,.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	0	
199	Bingham,.....	5	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	71	1	
200	Columbia,.....	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	3	
		746	721	118	59	160	339	1	2	224	18	22,085	174	

Report accepted.

A petition was received from Blazing Star Lodge, No. 30, to be established permanently at Rumford Falls. It was referred to the Committee on Dispositions and Charters.

Protests were received from Ashlar and Rabboni Lodges, of Lewiston, against a lodge in Massachusetts, for illegally conferring the degrees upon a resident of Lewiston, and were referred to the Committee on Grievances and Appeals.

CLOTHING.

BRO. ALBRO E. CHASE, for the Committee of Finance, reported as follows:

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 4, 1897.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the resolution on page 65, proceedings of 1896, directing them "to procure new clothing and jewels for the Officers of this Grand Lodge," etc., have attended to that duty and hope that their labor meets with your approval.

Fraternally submitted,

EDWARD P. BURNHAM, }
ALBRO E. CHASE, } *Committee.*

Report accepted.

MILEAGE.

The same committee offered the following:

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 4, 1897.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The Committee of Finance, who, in 1896, asked for further time to consider the question of mileage, would report that the same conditions exist as existed in 1896, with the complication of several additional lines of railroad and electrics, and your committee would ask to have another year to complete the duty assigned them.

Fraternally submitted,

EDWARD P. BURNHAM, }
ALBRO E. CHASE, } *Committee.*

Report accepted and further time granted.

DUES.

BRO. HENRY R. MILLETT offered the following, which was referred to the Committee of Finance:

Resolved, That Standing Regulation No. 22 be and hereby is repealed.

At 11:45 the Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment until two P. M.

..

FIRST DAY—AFTERNOON.

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, }
Tuesday, May 4, 1897. }

The Grand Lodge was called from refreshment to labor, at two o'clock.

BRO. WILLIAM R. G. ESTES offered the following, which was accepted and the recommendations were adopted :

IN GRAND LODGE, PORTLAND, May 4, 1897.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your Committee on Doings of Grand Officers have attended to their duty and submit the following report:

We recommend that so much of the Grand Master's report as relates to charges be referred to the Committee on Grievances and Appeals.

That the decisions of the Grand Master be referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence.

That the careful attention of District Deputies and Masters of lodges be called to the recommendations of the Grand Master relating to masonic conventions and the Grand Lecturer's services.

That so much as relates to "jurisdiction after rejection" be referred to the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution.

That so much as relates to the reports of District Deputies be referred to the Committee on Condition of the Fraternity.

Your committee would further commend to the consideration of the craft the valuable services and instructive address of the Grand Master, and unite

with all in making more practical, throughout this jurisdiction, his counsels and suggestions.

Fraternally submitted,

FRANK E. SLEEPER,	} Committee.
WM. R. G. ESTES,	
HENRY R. TAYLOR,	

WISCONSIN RELIEF PROPOSITION.

R. W. EDMUND B. MALLET, Grand Representative from Wisconsin, presented the proposition regarding Masonic Relief (reported upon last year, pages 67-71) and it was referred to the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

LIBRARY.

Bro. CHASE reported as follows:

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 4, 1897.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The Committee on Library would report that during the year they have had bound 130 volumes of Proceedings. Among these are complete sets, from the time they began publishing in octavo form, of the Grand Lodge and the Supreme Grand Chapter of England. We have also supplied the Grand Lodge Library of England with a complete set of our Grand Chapter Proceedings, and completed its set of our Grand Lodge with the exception of 1857, for which the Grand Secretary is diligently advertising. Bro. HENRY SADLER, the English Grand Librarian, says that in his opinion, our Proceedings are about the best in the world, and he admires our style of binding, which is similar to his own. We have also filled out many gaps in our list, and been able to bind volumes which were waiting completion.

On July 17th, we received the 125th anniversary volume of Massachusetts Lodge, of Boston, 1770-1895, from SAMUEL W. CREECH, Chairman.

November 12th, the 100th anniversary volume of Washington Lodge, Roxbury, 1796-1896, from HERBERT F. MORSE, Master.

January 12th, Kane Lodge Reception of ROBERT E. PEARY and others, April 8, 1896.

And the thanks of the Grand Lodge were returned to each of the donors by the Grand Secretary.

A few Proceedings have been purchased during the year, and we would recommend that a sum not exceeding thirty dollars be placed at the disposal of the committee to purchase Proceedings during the coming year.

Your committee would also recommend that they have power given them to bind such sets of Proceedings as may be completed during the year.

Your committee have not made any changes the past year in the library room by purchasing more shelving, but it must be done the coming year, and your committee, therefore, recommend that they have authority to procure such additional shelving as may be necessary for the best interests of the library.

Fraternally submitted,

AUG. B. FARNHAM,	} Committee.
ALBRO E. CHASE,	
FRANK E. SLEEPER,	

Report accepted and recommendations adopted.

BRO. SUMNER J. CHADBOURNE was appointed upon the Committee on Condition of the Fraternity, to fill a vacancy.

ELECTION.

Three o'clock being the constitutional hour for election of Grand Officers, the Grand Master appointed two committees to receive, sort and count votes, viz:

I. HENRY R. MILLETT, WILLIAM F. LORD, FRED W. ADAMS.

II. JOHN W. BALLOU, ALBERT M. AMES, FRED C. BARTON.

These committees, having attended to their duties, reported the election of:

JOSEPH A. LOCKE,	<i>Grand Master,</i>	Portland;
WINFIELD S. CHOATE,	<i>Deputy Grand Master,</i>	Augusta;
ALFRED S. KIMBALL,	<i>Senior Grand Warden,</i>	Norway;
ENOCH O. GREENLEAF,	<i>Junior Grand Warden,</i>	Farmington;
MARQUIS F. KING,	<i>Grand Treasurer,</i>	Portland;
STEPHEN BERRY,	<i>Grand Secretary,</i>	Portland.

Committee of Finance—EDWARD P. BURNHAM, SACO; ALBRO E. CHASE, Portland; GEORGE R. SHAW, Portland.

Trustees of Charity Fund for three years—EDWARD P. BURNHAM, Saco;
ARCHIE L. TALBOT, Lewiston.

TRIAL OF A MASTER.

On motion of Bro. DRUMMOND,

Voted, That the Committee on Grievances and Appeals be a commission to hear evidence regarding HUGH McVEIGH, Master of Rising Sun Lodge, and report to Grand Lodge.

PAYMENT OF PERMANENT MEMBERS.

Bro. SUMNER J. CHADBOURNE offered the following, which was referred to the Committee of Finance :

Resolved, That the Grand Treasurer be directed to pay each permanent member of the Grand Lodge in attendance at the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, annually, the same, for attendance and mileage, as is paid delegates to the Grand Lodge.

At 4:30 the Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment until 2 P. M. Wednesday.

— . . —

SECOND DAY—AFTERNOON.

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND,
Wednesday, May 5, 1897.

The Grand Lodge was called from refreshment to labor at 2 P. M.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion of Bro. SLEEPER,

Voted, That the Committee on Pay Roll be also a Committee on Leave of Absence.

GRAND LODGE OF MICHIGAN.

The following telegram was received:

COLDWATER, MICHIGAN, May 4, 1897.

TO STEPHEN BERRY, *Grand Secretary, Masonic Temple.*

The Grand Master and Grand Secretary of Michigan send greetings to the Grand Lodge of Maine, assembling to day. May your shadow never grow less.

JEFFERSON S. CONOVER,
Grand Secretary.

LOU B. WINSOR,
Grand Master.

Ordered, That it be received and placed on the records, and that it be acknowledged, with a cordial appreciation of the courtesy of the Grand Lodge of Michigan.

The following reply was sent.

PORTLAND, May 5, 1897.

TO JEFFERSON S. CONOVER, *Grand Secretary.*

Grand Lodge assembled receives congratulations and cordially reciprocates with warmest greetings.

STEPHEN BERRY, *Grand Secretary.*

EXEMPLIFICATION OF WORK.

The Grand Master announced that the afternoon would be devoted to the exemplification of work.

Grand Lecturer SLEEPER was invited to the East. He explained that a working lodge composed of officers of Tranquil and Ancient Brothers' Lodges of Auburn, and Ashlar and Rabboni Lodges of Lewiston, would exemplify the third degree.

The working lodge entered, and assumed the stations, Wor. Bro. GEORGE E. McCANN, of Ancient Brothers' Lodge, presiding.

The work of the Master Mason's degree was given in an admirable manner, after which the working lodge retired.

The Grand Master assumed the East and heartily thanked Grand Lecturer SLEEPER and the brethren who presented the work.

LOOKOUT LODGE.

Bro. TAYLOR presented the following :

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Maine.

The members of Lookout Lodge, No. 131, F. & A. M., of Cutler, having by fire of last December lost their hall, furniture and other property, upon which there was a small insurance, respectfully represent, that it had for many years struggled to free itself from the burden of debt incurred by its former building and furnishing, and now finds itself in straitened circumstances and without a masonic home, requiring assistance before it can again hope to secure a suitable place for continuing its meetings, or resuming its labors. Wherefore, the brethren of said lodge solicit the aid of this Grand Lodge to the extent of remitting the Grand Lodge dues for the current year.

Respectfully submitted,

HERMETA U. DAVIS, *Master of Lookout Lodge.*

Voted, That the memorial be received and the request granted to the extent of remitting the dues for the current year, \$12.80.

PAY ROLL.

Bro. KENNISTON reported that the Committee on Pay Roll had completed their duty and presented a schedule.

The pay-roll was accepted and payment ordered.

The Grand Lodge was then called from labor to refreshment until 9 A. M. Thursday.

THIRD DAY—MORNING.

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND,

Thursday, May 6, 1897.

The Grand Lodge was called from refreshment to labor at 9 A. M.

CONDITION OF THE FRATERNITY.

BRO. HOWARD D. SMITH presented the following:

IN GRAND LODGE, May 6, 1897.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your Committee on Condition of the Fraternity have attended to their duties, and beg leave to report:

We have examined the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters, and find that general prosperity prevails. There are a few points to which we call attention:

1st. Collection of dues. While the reports show that dues are fairly well collected, yet there are a few lodges which show a large amount due from their members, and these are the lodges which are in the poorest condition generally. The financial affairs of a lodge must be managed in a business-like manner or the lodge will be a failure. We believe it to be the duty of District Deputies to examine the financial methods of lodges as carefully as they do the work.

2d. We believe that candidates should be examined in open lodge before advancement. This is already the practice of many of our best lodges, and should be the custom of *all*.

3d. The conventions of the Grand Lecturer have been of great benefit to the Order, and should be continued, and especial attention should be given by District Deputies and by lodge officers to *attend* those conventions.

Respectfully submitted,

H. R. TAYLOR,	} Committee.
H. D. SMITH,	
S. J. CHADBOURNE,	

The report was accepted.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS.

BRO. CHARLES I. COLLAMORE submitted the following:

PORTLAND, May 6, 1897.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The Committee on Grievances and Appeals respectfully presents the following report:

1. In the case of Yorkshire Lodge, No. 119, North Berwick, against CHARLES O. DURGIN, wherein Bro. CHAS. O. DURGIN was suspended from all the rights and benefits of Masonry for one year from May 22, 1896, we recommend the passage of the following:

Resolved, That the doings of Yorkshire Lodge, in this matter, be approved and confirmed.

2. In the case of Delta Lodge, No. 153, at Lovell, against ERNEST H. NASON, we recommend the passage of the following:

Resolved, That the doings of Delta Lodge, No. 153, in expelling ERNEST H. NASON from all the rights and benefits of Masonry, be approved and confirmed.

3. In the case of Hermon Lodge, No. 32, at Gardiner, against GEORGE R. SAGER, we recommend the passage of the following:

Resolved, That the doings of Hermon Lodge, No. 32, in expelling GEORGE R. SAGER, from all the rights and benefits of Masonry, be approved and confirmed.

4. In the case of Bar Harbor Lodge, No. 185, at Bar Harbor, against GEORGE L. BARROWS, we recommend the passage of the following:

Resolved, That the doings of Bar Harbor Lodge, No. 185, in expelling GEORGE L. BARROWS from all the rights and benefits of Masonry, be approved and confirmed.

5. In the case of Pythagorean Lodge, No. 11, at Fryeburg, against HENRY Y. S. OSGOOD, we recommend the passage of the following:

Resolved, That the doings of Pythagorean Lodge, No. 11, in expelling HENRY Y. S. OSGOOD from all the rights and benefits of Masonry, be approved and confirmed.

In the matter of the petition of Asylum Lodge, No. 133, at Wayne, for the restoration of LUTHER W. FILLEBROWN, we recommend the passage of the following:

Resolved, That LUTHER W. FILLEBROWN, who was suspended from all the rights and benefits of Masonry in 1868, be hereby restored.

In the matter of the protest of Ashlar Lodge, No. 105, and Rabboni Lodge, No. 150, at Lewiston, against the conferring of the degrees in Massachusetts upon one FRANK W. DANA, it having been satisfactorily shown to us that he was a citizen and resident of Lewiston, and that his family resided there at the time, we recommend the passage of the following:

Resolved, That the said FRANK W. DANA be debarred from all masonic recognition within this state.

Fraternally submitted,

C. I. COLLAMORE,	} <i>Committee.</i>
JOS. M. HAYES,	
EDWARD P. BURNHAM,	

The report was accepted, and the recommendations were severally adopted.

Bro. COLLAMORE further reported:

PORTLAND, May 6, 1897.

To the Grand Lodge of Maine.

The Grand Lodge voted May 4th that the Committee on Grievances and Appeals be a commission to investigate, in the name of the Grand Lodge, the case of Bro. HUGH McVEIGH, W. M. of Rising Sun Lodge, No. 71, at Orland, against whom charges of unmasonic conduct had been filed, and whom the Grand Master had suspended from his office, placing the lodge in charge of the Senior Warden.

The commission met on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock.

BRO. J. M. HAYES was appointed to take the minutes of the testimony in the case.

BRO. E. P. BURNHAM was appointed to represent Bro. McVEIGH.

The charge was read, No. 1.

The certified copy of the charge which was sent by the Grand Master to the Secretary of Rising Sun Lodge, to be served upon HUGH McVEIGH, was returned to us, with the following endorsement:

"HANCOCK, ss.

ORLAND, March 27, 1897.

The residence of HUGH McVEIGH not being known to me, I have therefore been unable to serve him, as directed, with an attested copy of the within.

(Signed,)

R. P. HARRIMAN,
Secretary of Rising Sun Lodge, No. 71."

HUGH McVEIGH having left his home, and no one in the town knowing his address, no service except the above was made.

The commission then proceeded to hear testimony, in the following order, as per sheets submitted herewith, numbered two, three, four and five.

After a full hearing of all the evidence produced, and mature deliberation thereupon, it was ordered, adjudged and decreed by the commission, that the said HUGH McVEIGH is guilty of the charge alleged, against him, and we therefore recommend that he be expelled from all the rights and benefits of Masonry.

CHAS. I. COLLAMORE,	} <i>Commissioners.</i>
JOSEPH M. HAYES,	
EDWARD P. BURNHAM,	

The report was accepted and the recommendation adopted.

The committee further recommended, and it was

Voted, That the necessary expenses of Bros. HARRIMAN and CORTON be paid on approval by the Committee of Finance.

DISPENSATIONS AND CHARTERS.

Bro. TALBOT submitted the following:

PORTLAND, MAY 6, 1897.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The Committee on Dispensations and Charters have carefully considered the matters referred to them and respectfully present the following report.

In the matter of the petition of Master Masons, residents of Stratton and vicinity, for a charter for new lodge at Stratton to be named Mt. Bigelow Lodge, we find that the petitioners have not the recommendation of all the lodges whose jurisdiction would be effected thereby, as required by Section 63 of the Constitution, and that the situation remains the same as last year, when a similar petition of Mt. Bigelow Lodge, u. v., for a charter was, after a very full hearing, refused by the Grand Lodge. We recommend that the petitioners have leave to withdraw.

In the matter of the petition of Master Masons, residents of Sullivan and vicinity, for a dispensation for a new lodge at Sullivan, to be named Sullivan Lodge, we find that the petitioners have the recommendation of the District Deputy Grand Master within whose district the petitioners reside, and the following lodges, Bar Harbor, No. 185, Bar Harbor, Winter Harbor, No. 192, Winter Harbor, and Lygonia, No. 40, Ellsworth. Esoteric, No. 159, of Ellsworth, alone of all the lodges whose jurisdiction would be affected, withholding such recommendation. Your committee, after a most thorough examination, consider the recommendation of Esoteric Lodge to

be "unreasonably withheld" and recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be granted.

In the matter of the petition of Blazing Star Lodge, No. 30, of Rumford, located at Rumford Falls the past year by permission of the Grand Lodge, that the place of meetings of said lodge be permanently established at Rumford Falls, where the meetings are now held, instead of Rumford Center, where the meetings were formerly held, also petitions of Master Masons, residents of Rumford Falls and vicinity, for the same, we find as follows: The petitioners have the sanction of the District Deputy Grand Master of the district where said lodge is situated, and the qualified approval of the nearest lodge, King Hiram, of Dixfield, the qualification being that the jurisdiction shall not thereby be changed. While such permanent location would not affect the jurisdiction of either lodge in its own town it would affect the jurisdiction of King Hiram Lodge, in the adjacent town of Mexico.

The prosperity of Blazing Star Lodge, at Rumford Falls, has demonstrated the wisdom of the Grand Lodge in permitting it to hold meetings there, and the need of a lodge at Rumford Falls is clearly established. A new lodge there would be the ruin of Blazing Star Lodge in its former location, and the loss of Mexico to King Hiram in Dixfield. Believing that the greatest good to the largest number, and the interest of the craft as a whole should be considered in determining such matters, the approval of the nearest lodge in this case, therefore, is deemed to be "unreasonably withheld." Your committee recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be granted.

Fraternally submitted,

A. L. TALBOT,	} Committee.
EDMUND B. MALLETT,	
HUGH R. CHAPLIN,	

The report was accepted and the several recommendations were adopted.

HISTORY.

Bro. KIMBALL presented the following, which was accepted:

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your Committee on the History of Masonry in Maine are obliged to report less progress than expected, early in the year. We have received in print, the history of York Lodge, No. 22, from 1865 to 1896, and of Asylum Lodge, No. 133, heretofore reported in manuscript, from the date of its organization in 1865 to 1895. Also in manuscript that of Ocean Lodge, No. 142, from organization in 1867 to 1897. The last named is to be printed, and

several others are in an advanced state of preparation and will undoubtedly be completed during the coming masonic year.

Respectfully submitted,

ALFRED S. KIMBALL, }
CHARLES W. JONES, } *Committee.*

JURISPRUDENCE.

Bro. DRUMMOND reported as follows :

IN GRAND LODGE OF MAINE, May 6, 1897.

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, to which was referred the decisions announced last year, have considered the same and ask leave to report.

To save the trouble of referring back to the decisions in former Proceedings, we embody the substance of each decision in this report.

1. After the acceptance of a candidate and before his initiation, objection was made to him. Under our law, this objection was equivalent to a rejection by ballot. It was the Master's duty to announce it to the lodge and the Secretary's to record it; but the Secretary failed to do so; this failure did not affect the rejection; and the Grand Master properly directed that the fact should be noted on the record as made by his order: and the future proceedings must be the same as if the objection was properly recorded.

2. In refusing permission to a lodge to take a candidate to a District Convention outside of its jurisdiction, for the purpose of having the degrees conferred, the Grand Master clearly acted within the powers conferred on him, in this respect, by the constitution. We believe that his action was eminently wise. To grant the authority would have been to empower a special meeting of the lodge to be held away from home, the hour of holding which would have been more or less uncertain, and which many members of the lodge would not have attended. The making of a mason is of so much importance to the fraternity, that none of the safeguards thrown around it by our laws to prevent the admission of the unworthy, should be neglected. It should never be done save by a lodge, in its own hall, and according to the ancient usage, save for extraordinary and pressing reasons.

3. A member of a Canadian lodge desired to become a member of a Maine lodge. It does not appear why he did not procure and present a dimit. Upon referring the matter to the M. W. Grand Master of Canada, he stated that under the masonic law of Canada, a mason may be a member of more than one lodge, and there was nothing to prevent the Maine lodge's receiving the petition, and our M. W. Grand Master decided that it could be received. This was undoubtedly correct, but under the law of this

Grand Lodge, we do not see how he could actually become a member of a Maine lodge until he should produce a dimit (or its equivalent) from the Canadian lodge. While there is no express provision in our Constitution that a mason cannot be a member of more than one lodge, such has been the practice in this, in common with almost every Grand Jurisdiction in this country. Section 113, Par. III of our Constitution, seems to assume this.*

4. "*Question.* Is it in accordance with the teachings of Masonry, to allow the introduction of intoxicating liquors into a hall or apartments that have been solemnly dedicated to the purposes of Freemasonry?"

Your committee repeat the forcible language of the Grand Master, expressing the wish that every mason in the state would keep it always in mind.

"*Answer.* It most certainly is not in accordance with the principles of our order. Temperance is one of the four Cardinal Virtues, and we are taught that it should be the constant practice of every mason. We should exercise at all times the greatest care never to place temptation before a brother mason. The strongest may fall, and the weak will be sure to fall. Let us banish, therefore, at all times from our masonic halls intoxicating liquors and everything that will cause our brother to err."

5. In relation to Hiram Abiff Lodge, the committee recommend that the Grand Lodge, by formal vote, declare the status of the members of that lodge to be that the action of the Grand Lodge in revoking the charter of Hiram Abiff left its members unaffiliated masons in good standing.

Fraternally submitted,

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,	} <i>Committee.</i>
MARQUIS F. KING,	
HORACE H. BURBANK,	

Report accepted and recommendations adopted.

Permission was given to the committee to report next year on subjects referred to them, but not included in this report.

FIVE CENT TAX.

BRO. ALBRO E. CHASE presented the following:

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 6, 1897.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your Committee of Finance, to whom was referred the resolution to repeal Standing Regulation No. 22, which has for its purpose the annual tax of

* NOTE.—This question did not arise practically, for the party did not apply for membership.

five cents additional to the regular dues payable to this Grand Lodge, have given the matter careful attention and would report as follows:

The average income of this Grand Lodge for the past ten years has been about \$6,300.00. The tax of five cents amounts to about \$1,100 per year during the same time. If this tax is remitted the income of this Grand Lodge would be reduced to \$5,200.00. Now the average expenditures have been about \$5,500 each year. Extraordinary expenses have brought up the average to nearly \$5,800 per year. Should this five cent tax, so called, be removed your Grand Lodge would hardly be able to pay its average usual expenditures. Your committee are entirely in sympathy with the proposed repeal, but from a financial standpoint must recommend that the resolution do not have a passage.

Fraternally submitted,

EDWARD P. BURNHAM, }
ALBRO E. CHASE, } *Committee.*

Report accepted and recommendation adopted.

TO PAY PERMANENT MEMBERS.

Bro. CHASE further reported:

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 6, 1897.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your Committee of Finance, to whom was referred the resolution to pay to the permanent members of this Grand Lodge who may be in attendance at its sessions, a mileage and per diem, have considered the subject matter and report that in view of the fact that many representatives of the lodges are urging the removal of the tax of five cents and are asking that the expenditures of this Grand Lodge may be reduced to such a limit as to allow this to be done, your committee recommend that the resolution do not have a passage. Fraternaly submitted,

EDWARD P. BURNHAM, }
ALBRO E. CHASE, } *Committee.*

Report accepted.

Bro. DRUMMOND moved that the resolution referred to the committee be substituted for the recommendation of the committee.

Bro. MILLETT moved that the whole matter be laid upon the table until next year, which was rejected.

The resolution was then substituted for the recommendation of the committee and was adopted.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Bro. CHASE then submitted the following:

I move the following amendment to Sec. 85 of Article V, by striking out the word "fifteen" in said section, and inserting the word "twenty," so that the section, as amended, may read:

Sec. 85. Each lodge shall pay annually towards the support of the Grand Lodge twenty cents each for all of its members, including honorary members and those absent from the state, and two dollars for every candidate initiated. Each lodge shall be entitled to receive as many diplomas from the Grand Lodge as they make Master Masons. And no dues will be remitted, unless upon petition of the lodge and the report of a committee of the Grand Lodge thereon.

The amendment was entertained, and referred to the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution.

REPORT ON FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS.

Bro. CHASE reported the following:

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 6, 1897.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The Committee of Finance have performed the duty required of them in examination of the bills against this Grand Lodge, in auditing the accounts of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, and in inspecting the records of the Grand Secretary. In all particulars we find the accounts correct, properly avouched for, and the affairs of the Grand Lodge in good condition.

The receipts for the past year have been as follows:

May 5, 1896.	Cash in several Savings Banks,	\$5,201.24	
	Cash in Portland National Bank,	5,192.51	
	Receipts for the year,	6,311.53	
			\$16,705.28
	Transferred during the year to Charity		
	Fund,	\$4,160.84	
	Cash paid year's expenses,	6,163.95	
	Cash deposited in Portland National Bank,		
	(Savings Dept.,)	1,082.42	
	Cash to new account,	5,298.07	
			\$16,705.28

Your committee omit a statement of the property in the Charity Fund, inasmuch as the Grand Treasurer has submitted a detailed account thereof in his report; the amount is \$31,458.95.

Your committee submit the following recommendations:

1. That for compensation for their services for the year ending May 1, 1898, there to be paid to the following officers the following amounts:
 To the Chairman Committee on Correspondence, \$100.00
 To the Grand Lecturer, 25.00
 To the Grand Treasurer, 250.00
 out of which sum the Grand Treasurer shall furnish a satisfactory bond of a surety company.

2. That the amount deposited in Portland National Bank (Savings Department) be transferred to the Charity Fund.

Fraternally submitted,

EDWARD P. BURNHAM, }
 ALBRO E. CHASE, } *Committee*

Report accepted and recommendations adopted.

The Grand Treasurer's report was then accepted.

INSTALLATION AND APPOINTMENTS.

Past Grand Master JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND was called to the East, and Grand Master FARNHAM presented his successor, M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE, who was installed, prayer being offered by the Rev. JOHN GIBSON, Grand Chaplain.

The Grand Master made the following announcement:

I establish a new District, No. 25, and the lodges constituting the same are as follows:

96 Monument, Houlton,	Taken from District No. 1
197 Aroostook, Blaine,	" " " " 1
98 Katahdin, Patten,	" " " " 20
165 Molunkus, Sherman Mills,	" " " " 20

He then proclaimed his appointed officers, as follows:

R. W.	CHARLES D. SMITH,	<i>Cor. Grand Secretary,</i>	Portland.
"	HERBERT S. SLEEPER,	<i>D. D. G. M. 1st Dist.</i>	Washburn.
"	WALTER F. BRADISH,	" 2d	Eastport.
"	G. HARRIS FOSTER,	" 3d	Machias.
"	EDWARD F. DAVIES,	" 4th	Castine.
"	THOMAS J. PEAKS,	" 5th	Charleston.
"	ALBERT J. DURGIN,	" 6th	Orono.
"	ALBERT W. WARD,	" 7th	Thorndike.
"	JAMES E. WENTWORTH,	" 8th	Searsport.
"	JAMES M. SMITH,	" 9th	St. George.
"	WALTER E. CLARK,	" 10th	Waldoboro.
"	LEVI E. JONES,	" 11th	Winthrop.
"	FRANKLIN WALKER,	" 12th	Waterville.
"	HERMAN W. S. LOVEJOY,	" 13th	Fairfield.
"	ROBERT W. CARR,	" 14th	Bowdoinham.
"	JAMES H. HOWES,	" 15th	New Sharon.
"	ARTHUR C. RICKER,	" 16th	Bryan's Pond.
"	FRANKLIN R. REDLON,	" 17th	Portland.
"	JAMES C. AYER,	" 18th	Cornish.
"	ISAAC P. GOOCH,	" 19th	Kennebunkp't.
"	EDWIN A. REED,	" 20th	North Lee.
"	EZRA G. MASON,	" 21st	Mt. Desert.
"	JOHN H. SHEPHERD,	" 22d	Corinna.
"	FRANK H. DEXTER,	" 23d	Springvale.
"	FREDERICK G. PAYNE,	" 24th	Lewiston.
"	J. FRANK BRYSON,	" 25th	Houlton.
W. & Rev.	MARTYN SUMMERBELL,	<i>Grand Chaplain,</i>	Lewiston.
"	ELMER F. PEMBER,	" "	Bangor.
"	JOHN R. CLIFFORD,	" "	Deering.
"	CHARLES A. HAYDEN,	" "	Augusta.
"	JOHN GIBSON,	" "	C. Elizabeth.
"	WOODBURY P. MERRILL,	" "	Berwick.
W.	WM. J. BURNHAM,	<i>Marshal,</i>	Lewiston.
"	HUGH R. CHAPLIN,	<i>Senior Deacon,</i>	Bangor.
"	JAMES E. PARSONS,	<i>Junior Deacon,</i>	Ellsworth.
"	JACOB R. STEWART,	<i>Steward,</i>	Rockland.
"	CHAS. W. CROSBY,	" "	Kent's Hill.
"	EDWIN A. PORTER,	" "	Pittsfield.
"	WM. A. REMICK,	" "	Bucksport.
"	WM. N. HOWE,	<i>Sword Bearer,</i>	Portland.
"	ISAAC N. HURD,	<i>Standard</i>	Kittery.
"	WM. O. FOX,	<i>Pursuivant,</i>	Portland.

W.	ALBERT M. AMES,	<i>Grand Pursuivant,</i>	Stockton Sp'gs.
M.W.	FRANK E. SLEEPER,	" <i>Lecturer,</i>	Sabattus.
W.	WALTER S. SMITH,	" <i>Organist,</i>	Portland.
"	WARREN O. CARNEY,	" <i>Tyler,</i>	Portland.

The remaining Grand Officers, elected and appointed, were presented and installed, and proclamation was made, after which the Grand Master assumed the East.

BRO. STEPHEN BERRY offered the following, which was unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Grand Lodge are returned to M.W. Past Grand Master AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM for the faithful manner in which he has discharged the duties of his high office, and for the unvarying kindness which has characterized all his dealings with the craft.

The Grand Master appointed the following

STANDING COMMITTEES.

On Credentials.

WM. N. HOWE, FRED W. ADAMS, FRANCIS L. TALBOT.

On Grievances and Appeals.

CHARLES I. COLLAMORE, JOSEPH M. HAYES, EDWARD P. BURNHAM.

On Publication.

FESSENDEN I. DAY, SAMUEL L. MILLER, W. SCOTT SHOREY.

On History.

FRANK E. SLEEPER, SUMNER J. CHADBOURNE, CHARLES W. JONES.

On Dispensations and Charters.

AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM, ARCHIE L. TALBOT, EDMUND B. MALLETT.

On Amendments to the Constitution.

EDWARD P. BURNHAM, WM. R. G. ESTES, ALDEN M. WETHERBEE.

On Masonic Jurisprudence.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, MARQUIS F. KING, HORACE H. BURBANK.

On Foreign Correspondence.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, EDWARD P. BURNHAM, ALBRO E. CHASE.

On Condition of the Fraternity.

HENRY R. TAYLOR, HOWARD D. SMITH, ALBERT M. PENLEY.

*On Library.*JOSEPH A. LOCKE, (*ex-officio*) ALBRO E. CHASE, FRANK E. SLEEPER.*On Transportation.*

STEPHEN BERRY, W. FREEMAN LORD, DAVID W. CAMPBELL.

On Returns.

STEPHEN BERRY, MOSES TAIT, JAMES H. WITHERELL.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

BRO. EDWARD P. BURNHAM submitted the following:

GRAND LODGE OF MAINE, May 6, 1897.

The Committee on Amendments to the Constitution, to whom has been committed that portion of Grand Master FARNHAM's address relating to a change of Section 96 of the Constitution, which reads: "No candidate whose application may be rejected by a lodge, shall be initiated in any lodge under this jurisdiction other than the one which rejected him, except after five years from such rejection, unless the lodge recommend him to another lodge by a unanimous vote," have considered the same, and submit the following amendment:

That the constitution be amended by adding the following to the first clause of Section 96:

"Provided, however, that if the candidate shall, at the end of five years from such rejection, be a resident within the jurisdiction of the rejecting lodge, consent shall be granted unless there are more than three negative ballots."

So that said section as amended shall read as follows:

"SEC. 96. No candidate, whose application may be rejected by a lodge, shall be initiated in any lodge under this jurisdiction other than the one which rejected him, except after five years from such rejection, unless the lodge recommend him to another lodge by a unanimous vote—the vote to be taken by the secret ballot; *provided, however*, that if the candidate shall, at the end of five years from such rejection, be a resident within the jurisdiction of the rejecting lodge, consent shall be granted unless there are more than three negative ballots. And if any mason knowingly assist, or recommend for initiation, to any lodge whatever, any candidate rejected as aforesaid, except as above provided, such mason shall be expelled from the institution."

Fraternally submitted,

EDWARD P. BURNHAM, }
A. M. WETHERBEE, } *Committee.*

Report accepted, and amendment entertained and referred to the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution.

Bro. BURNHAM further reported:

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 6, 1897.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The Committee on Amendments to the Constitution report, that there is before them the amendment on page 66, proceedings of 1896, offered by Bro. LOCKE, relative to Grand Lecturers. Your committee would recommend that the further consideration of the amendment be indefinitely postponed.

EDWARD P. BURNHAM, }
A. M. WETHERBEE, } *Committee.*

Report accepted and recommendation adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Bro. JOSEPH M. HAYES submitted the following report, which was accepted:

GRAND LODGE OF MAINE,

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 6, 1897.

The Committee on Unfinished Business report, that so far as our knowledge extends, the various committees have attended to all matters placed in their hands by the Grand Lodge. Fraternally submitted,

JOS. M. HAYES, }
A. L. TALBOT, } *Committee.*
A. C. THOS. KING, }

The minutes were then read and approved, and at 12:15 the Grand Lodge was closed.

Attest:

Stephen Berry

Grand Secretary.



REPORTS

OF

District · Deputy · Grand · Masters.

FIRST DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUG. B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith present my second annual report as D. D. G. M. of the First Masonic District.

There are two lodges in the district which owing to unavoidable circumstances I have been unable to visit, although I had made appointments to visit them. I witnessed work in both these lodges the previous year, and have talked with several of their officers, and am satisfied of their good condition.

I am glad to report a more general uniformity and correct work than the preceding year. This is due largely to the efforts of the Grand Lecturer at the convention held at Presque Isle, at which all the lodges in the district were represented with one exception. This lodge I have recently visited and given the same plan of work as our instructions there received.

I regret to report a slight falling off in membership in this district, which is not due to any lack of interest, but to the depressing financial conditions at present existing; there have been an unusual number suspended for non-payment of dues, and there has, also, been rather less work done.

It seems to me that one serious drawback, and one, too, which I had presented to the lodges the preceding year, in our work, is that candidates do not prepare themselves as they ought in the work of the degrees before advancing, whereas, if they did, better masons and more proficient work would result.

The lodges in the district with one, or possibly two exceptions, are in good financial condition, and these exceptions are due to a laxity of the proper officers in collecting the dues.

In one of these lodges there are members whose dues have not been paid for twenty years, which fault is due largely to the neglect in not collecting, as the members are amply able to pay.

Thanking you, M. W. Grand Master, for my re-appointment and the brethren of the lodges in the district for their kindnesses and courtesies extended to me,

I am yours truly and fraternally,

A. D. SAWYER, *D. D. G. M. 1st M. D.*

Fort Fairfield, Me., March 24, 1897.

SECOND DISTRICT.

To M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my second annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Second Masonic District.

My first official act was on June 15th, when I granted permission to Lewy's Island Lodge, No. 138, at Princeton, to appear in public at divine worship, on Sunday, June 28th, in commemoration of the eminent Christian Patron of Freemasonry, "St. John the Baptist."

On Wednesday eve, Oct. 21st, visited the above lodge. On account of a severe rain storm the attendance was not large, but quite satisfactory considering the inclemency of the weather.

Work on the Second degree was conferred in a creditable manner by W. Bro. CHADBOURNE.

The fraternal and financial condition of this lodge is equally as good as in former years.

Wednesday, Nov. 11th, attended a Lodge of Instruction at Portland, Grand Lecturer SLEEPER presiding.

Wednesday, Nov. 18th, at Lubec, witnessed work on the Third degree by Washington Lodge. The same zeal, and correctness of work, which has ever characterized this lodge, was manifest. Attendance good. Records well kept, and financial condition equal to last report. The dignified demeanor of officers and members is worthy of imitation.

Friday, December 4th, the 9th annual convention of the several lodges in this district met with St. Croix Lodge, No. 46, at Calais. Every lodge was well represented and about two hundred delegates reported present. Called

to order at 2.30 p. m. The Entered Apprentice Degree was exemplified by Lewy's Island Lodge, No. 138, of Princeton, the Fellow Craft degree was conferred by Washington Lodge, No. 37, of Lubec, and the Master Mason's degree by St. Croix Lodge, No. 46, of Calais. The usual number of questions were asked, and suggestions made as at previous conventions, and to all who were present, the great value of these conventions became the more apparent. The members of St. Croix deserved the well earned vote of thanks which the convention passed. As a whole this meeting stands as one of the most beneficial in masonic light, of any yet held. Voted to meet at Princeton next June. My official visit to St. Croix was made on this occasion.

Arranged to meet with Crescent Lodge, at Pembroke, at stated communication (or first Wednesday) in April, but in consequence of an attack of la grippe at the time appointed, confining me to the house for a week, was, much to my regret, obliged to cancel the arrangement. However, from subsequent interviews with members, I learn that every thing is moving along as usual. There is no work on hand, but the financial and fraternal relations are equal to last year.

Eastern Lodge, No. 7, my masonic home, has been regularly attended. My frequent interviews with W. Bro. HAWKES has rendered an "official" wholly unnecessary.

In closing permit me to say, that throughout the district peace and harmony prevail. Every lodge is well officered, and considering the depressed condition of business our work is quite satisfactory.

Again thanking you for the honor you have conferred upon me by this appointment, and hoping my successor may receive equal courtesies as has been my lot to enjoy for the past two years from the brethren of the district,

I am very truly yours,

WALTER F. BRADISH, D. D. G. M. 2d M. D.

THIRD DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor herewith to submit the annual report for the Third Masonic District. I have visited each lodge once during the year.

January 12th, I visited Warren Lodge, at East Machias, and witnessed work in the First degree, which was done very nicely; the officers were all very prompt in their duties. After the degree was worked the lodge was closed and a Master Mason's lodge was opened, and I then proceeded to in-

stall the officers with the assistance of Past Master OBER, of Warren Lodge. Their dues were well collected and their financial standing is good; records very neatly kept.

January 25th, I visited Pleiades Lodge, at Millbridge, and publicly installed their officers: did not witness any work: the records are very neatly kept. I was assisted in the installation by Bro. W. L. PRAY, as Grand Marshal. After the installation, they had a fine collation prepared by the ladies, after which we again went to the lodge room and enjoyed ourselves with pleasant games and social intercourse.

January 26th, I visited Narraguagus Lodge, at Cherryfield, and publicly installed officers, assisted by Past D. D. G. Master WINGATE, of Narraguagus, as Grand Marshal. Their dues are very well collected, and their records are neatly kept. After installation, we were invited to a fine turkey supper served by the ladies, where we found plenty to eat and smiling faces.

January 29th, I publicly installed the officers of Jonesport Lodge, assisted by P. M. RUMERY acting as Marshal. The officers were installed in their new hall. Jonesport has a fine home now, and I think that they are justly proud of it. Their records are well kept, and their dues are fairly well collected, thanks to Bro. H. A. MASSFIELD, who gets right after the forgetful ones. I think there is no trouble but what this lodge will do good work.

February 1st, I visited Harwod Lodge, at Machias, and installed the officers. The installation was held in their old hall, their new one not yet being completed. I was assisted with the installation by P. M. BRYANT, of Harwood Lodge, as Grand Marshal. Past Grand Master TAYLOR was present and made some very appropriate remarks. Their records are well kept and their dues well collected.

February 10th, I visited Tuscan Lodge, Addison, and publicly installed the officers, assisted by P. M. CURTIS, who acted as Grand Marshal. They have a fine lodge: their records are neatly kept and dues quite well collected. Before installation they had a very fine banquet in the lower hall, at which we all fared bountifully; after which we all went up to the lodge room and proceeded to install the officers.

February 16th, held convention at the lodge room of Narraguagus Lodge, Cherryfield. At 2 p. m. the convention was called to order, and a lodge of E. A. Masons opened, with Bro. DAVID CAMPBELL in the East. There being a candidate in waiting, he was duly prepared and brought forward, and took the degree of an E. A. The work was well done; after the work was done, there was some discussion of points, of which P. D. D. G. M.'s WINGATE and WALLING took part. At 5 p. m. this lodge closed, and a lodge of F. C. was opened by Tuscan Lodge, of Addison, who worked the degree of F. C. in a very smooth manner. After the usual remarks the lodge was closed. At 8 p. m. a M. M. lodge was opened by Narraguagus

Lodge, who proceeded to work the Third degree. They did their work in a very prompt and masterly manner. After the work was done, they proceeded to discuss several points. At 11 p. m. the lodge closed, and refreshments were served to the brethren. The convention was well attended. Most of the lodges were well represented, and a marked degree of interest was shown. The thanks of the convention are due to Narraguagus Lodge for the courteous manner in which it received its guests.

February 20th, I visited Lookout Lodge, at Cutler, for the purpose of installing the officers, but owing to some mistake the officers elect were not present. I met quite a number of the members and had a very enjoyable time in social converse. They met with the misfortune to have their hall burned last fall. They had some insurance, which will help them to start anew. Their records are well kept. I left the matter of installation with W. M. TURNER, and I think that he has attended to it.

I was unable, on account of my business, to attend the convention held at Bangor. I was very sorry that it so happened. I think there is a great interest in all the lodges throughout the district, and I think the next year will show marked interest in work.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the officers and brethren of the several lodges for the kindly manner in which I have been received. I also wish to thank you, Most Worshipful, for the honor of my appointment.

Fraternally submitted,

NEHEMIAH GUPTILL, D. D. G. M. 3d M. D.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor herewith to submit the annual report for the Fourth Masonic District.

I have made official visits to every lodge at least once during my term of office, except my home lodge, at which, being a regular attendant, I did not deem it necessary to visit officially.

VISITATIONS.

December 12th, I visited Reliance Lodge, No. 195, and witnessed work in the E. A. degree. The degree was conferred in a very excellent manner by W. M. MILLER. The work was almost perfect with the ritual.

January 18th, I visited Eggemoggin Lodge, No. 128, and witnessed work in the E. A. degree which was done in a very able and correct manner.

The records were very neatly kept in a manner characteristic of Bro. ORRIS P. CARTER.

February 16th, I visited Marine Lodge, No. 122, where I witnessed the exemplification of the work in the M. M. degree, which was done in a very satisfactory and accurate manner. Records very neatly and correctly kept. Marine lodge should be complimented on their beautiful hall and furniture, to which they are constantly adding.

March 22d, I visited Ira Berry Lodge, No. 187, and witnessed work in the M. M. degree, which was very well done. Some of the officers and a great many members were absent, on account of sickness. The records, in the hands of Bro. DAVIS, are very neatly kept.

March 30th, I visited Rising Star Lodge, No. 177, and witnessed the exemplification of work in the E. A. degree. The work was done in a very nice manner, although there was a very small attendance on account of sickness.

March 31st, I visited Naskeag Lodge, No. 171, and witnessed the exemplification of work in F. C. degree. The lodge, although they have had no work during the past year, is in a fine working condition. The records are very neatly kept and the dues well paid.

Although I have not visited Hancock Lodge, No. 4, officially, it being my home lodge, I have been present at nearly every meeting during the year, especially when there has been work. The lodge is very prosperous, the dues well paid, and in our new quarters I think we have as neat a hall as there is in the district. The books, in the hands of Bro. HOOPER, are very neatly and correctly kept.

INSTALLATIONS.

January 27th, I publicly installed the officers of Reliance Lodge, No. 195, in Music Hall, Green's Landing. There was an attendance of about four hundred. A very pleasant meeting indeed.

December 17th, I installed the officers of Hancock Lodge, No. 4, the P. M. degree being conferred in the afternoon.

CONVENTION.

November 18th, I attended the convention in Bangor, held by M. W. Grand Lecturer FRANK E. SLEEPER. The work was taken up very carefully in three degrees and corrections made by the Grand Lecturer. The meeting was very profitable and instructive to all.

November 20th, received the sad news of the death of P. D. D. G. M. HARVEY P. HINCKLEY. Bro. HINCKLEY will be missed by all the lodges in the district.

November 30th, I visited Blue Hill and personally inspected the hall which Ira Berry Lodge had asked permission to move into. The hall was

less than a quarter of a mile from their former hall. After looking into the matter carefully, I granted a permit December 1st.

In conclusion, Most Worshipful, I wish to thank the members of the lodges in the district for the courtesies and kind attentions shown me in my visits. The lodges in this Fourth Masonic District are doing very good and very uniform work, and I have endeavored to perform my duties to the best of my ability. And to you, Most Worshipful, permit me to return thanks for the honor conferred by the appointment.

JOHN P. SHEPHERD, D. D. G. M., 4th M. D.

FIFTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit my annual report as D. D. G. M. of the Fifth District.

September 15th, I visited Columbia Lodge, at Greenville. This lodge was constituted on that evening by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, A. B. FARNHAM, assisted by officers of the Grand Lodge. The service was public, and witnessed by a large audience. After the constitution the officers were installed by Past Grand Master COLLAMORE. After the installation, the lodge opened on the Third degree, and the M. M. degree was conferred upon two candidates. The first was made by the officers of Mount Kineo Lodge, the other by the officers of Doric Lodge. The work as done by each lodge was very fine. I had no opportunity to judge of the working capacity of Columbia Lodge, but it starts on its mission of masonic work under the most favorable auspices. The officers are men of high standing in the community, and I shall look for grand results from Columbia Lodge. At the close of the work, a fine banquet was served in the elegant banquet hall adjoining the lodge room. They have a splendid hall, finely furnished. The next day, September 16th, the brethren of Columbia Lodge, gave an excursion to the Most Worshipful Grand Officers and invited guests, to Mount Kineo, with a grand dinner at the Crow's Nest; it was a very enjoyable occasion.

September 21st, I made my official visit to Penobscot Lodge, at Dexter, I witnessed work in the M. M. degree, which was very fine, each officer performing his part in a faultless manner. This was the first meeting in their hall after the fire; they have a splendid hall, beautifully furnished. I consider this one of the finest lodges in eastern Maine. The records are in good

hands. There was a very large attendance, with a large number of visiting brethren. After the lodge closed, the brethren repaired to the banquet hall, where they found the tables loaded with all the delicacies of the season, to which they did ample justice.

October 31st, I went to Howland and installed the officers of Composite Lodge. The service was public, and a fine oyster supper was served after the installation services. There was a large attendance, though the weather was stormy and traveling very bad.

November 18th, I attended the convention at Bangor; it was very profitable to the craft. There was a goodly number present, but there ought to have been more.

November 30th, I visited Pleasant River Lodge, at a special meeting. After opening a lodge on M. M. degree the P. M. degree was conferred. The brethren repaired to Briggs' Hall, where a public installation of the officers took place. After the installation the brethren, with their friends, repaired to Hotel Herrick, where an oyster supper was served. I think this lodge is in good hands; the brethren showed great interest and zeal in masonic work. The records being kept by Past D. D. G. M. EDWIN M. JOHNSTON, is a sure guarantee that they are correctly kept.

January 13th, I visited Mosaic Lodge, at Foxcroft, and installed the officers. The installation was public and a large audience was present. A fine supper was served before the installation. After the installation of the lodge officers, the officers of Piscataquis R. A. Chapter were installed by Past H. P. JAMES T. ROBERTS. The service was very impressive. Mosaic Lodge has a fine reputation for correct work. I consider it one of the best in masonic work in the district. The records are kept by Bro. JAMES T. ROBERTS, and are a model of neatness and accuracy.

January 15th, I visited Olive Branch Lodge, at Charleston, and witnessed work in E. A. degree. The work was well done. In the evening of the same day, I installed the officers in the presence of a large audience. After the installation a fine collation was served. This lodge is my masonic home. I have attended every meeting through the year but one. This lodge is now having a degree of prosperity which is very encouraging to the brethren. The records are still kept by Bro. OSCAR L. SMITH, it being his twenty-second year as Secretary.

January 16th, I paid an official visit to Mount Kineo Lodge, at Guilford. I witnessed work in the E. A. degree by the officers of 1896. Then I installed the officers. After the installation, I witnessed work in the E. A. degree by the new officers. The work was very fine, all the officers filling the several stations in a faultless manner. This lodge is in good hands. The records are well kept, showing neatness and accuracy. After the service in lodge, we repaired to the banquet hall, where a fine oyster supper was served.

January 18th, I started to visit Doric Lodge, at Monson. I got as far as Dover, and it came on to snow, and finally turned to rain. Not being very well I telephoned to Past D. D. G. M. A. F. JACKSON, to perform the duty for me. He did so, and reported as follows:

"As per request, I installed the officers. I have met with the brethren of Doric Lodge at most of the regular meetings. There is a good degree of interest manifested on the part of officers and brethren. They do good work. Not many have knocked at the door the past year on account of the hard times. The lodge has a good property, mostly free from debt, and a pleasant lodge room, well furnished. On the morning of January 12th, the records of the lodge were destroyed by fire, Bro. HAYNES having them at his office, in one of the burned buildings, to perfect the records of a former meeting. Through much effort on the part of Bro. HAYNES, this loss has been partially overcome, and yet the loss is a severe one. Bro. HAYNES is a good Secretary, keeps the dues well collected, and the records neat and clean."

February 13th, I made an official visit to Piscataquis Lodge. The Master not being present, P. M. LEONARD presided in the East. Not having any work, by request, the work in M. M. degree was exemplified. The work was fine. This lodge has a fine hall, well furnished, and are in a prosperous condition. The records are neatly and correctly kept.

February 13th, I made my official visit to Composite Lodge, at La Grange, and witnesses work in the M. M. degree. The work was well done, considering that this was the first work of the new officers, and the conditions which surround them. The lodge room is very small, and good first class work cannot be done in so small a hall when crowded. The attendance was good. The brethren who live in Howland, eleven miles away, were out in force. The records are well kept. I think the lodge is in good hands.

In closing my report, I wish to thank you, Most Worshipful, for the honor conferred upon me. It gave me great pleasure, after a lapse of seventeen years, to again visit the lodges in this district officially. I have noted with pleasure, not only the improvement in lodge halls and their furnishings, but also the uniformity of the work throughout the district. I also find a larger part of the lodges in the district own, or nearly so, their halls, and they are financially in good condition. All these tokens of prosperity are cheering to the hearts of true masons.

I wish to thank the brethren of this district for the hospitality which I have received at their hands, and for the assistance rendered me on every occasion.

Fraternally yours,

THOS. J. PEAKS, D. D. G. M. 5th M. D.

SIXTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit to you my first report as D. D. G. M of the Sixth Masonic District.

I regret very much that owing to my being away from home nearly the whole winter, I have been able to visit only six of the nine lodges in this district, but some of those visits were worth a great deal to the Deputy, if not to the lodge. I find nearly all the officers are striving to render the work accurately, and I have thought if the Grand Lecturer could put a little more time into each district, and try to bring out the spirit of the work as well as the letter, it would add very much to its value.

At the request of the W. Master, I installed the officers of Star in the East Lodge, of Old Town, assisted by W. Bro. SHAW. Apollo Quartette was present, and added very much to the beauty of the service and enjoyment of the occasion. There was a large attendance, and, as in every case where I have visited, a banquet.

In December, I installed the officers of Mystic Lodge, of Hampden, at their request. It was a very cold night, but the cold was of no avail so far as keeping the brothers away from the lodge. There was a good attendance; the records are well kept and the interest strong.

February 26th, I visited St. Andrew's Lodge, of Bangor. Their large lodge room was more than full. Their work, the M. M. degree, was excellent. Superlative is the only word to apply to such meetings, where brothers come from all sections to witness the work and enjoy masonic companionship.

March 13th, I visited Lynde Lodge, of Hermon. They expected to work the M. M. degree, but owing to sickness the brother did not come and they exemplified the work very satisfactorily. The attendance was good, the books are well kept and the members interested.

March 17th, I visited Benevolent Lodge, of Carmel, and witnessed the conferring of the M. M. degree. It was the first work done in the lodge for some time and showed that the brothers were interested and desirous of being in the front rank.

I have attended all the meetings of Mechanics' Lodge, except for the months of January, February and March, installed its officers and criticised its work.

Every lodge with one exception has had work. The books are well kept; the visiting is a pleasure and in many cases an inspiration; the banquets are always enjoyable, and I trust, should I be re-appointed, I may report one year hence that I visited all the lodges.

In conclusion, Most Worshipful, allow me thank you for the honor of representing you in this masonic district for the past year, and also to extend to the brothers my appreciation of the masonic courtesies I have received.

Fraternally and truly,

A. J. DURGIN, *D. D. G. M. 6th M. D.*

SEVENTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor of submitting my annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Seventh Masonic District for the year ending May 3, 1897.

I have visited all the lodges in the district, and have found them as a whole in a prosperous condition.

On the evening of November 19th, assisted by Bro. F. W. HATCH, as Grand Marshal, I publicly installed the officers of Seabasticook Lodge, No. 146. The services took place in the Town hall under the lodge room. Fine music was furnished by one of the village choirs. After a pleasant hour in the lodge room, supper was served in the banquet hall below, being furnished by the wives of the brethren.

February 17th, I visited Central Lodge, No. 45, and witnessed work in the Fellow Craft degree, the work being well done, particularly that of the S. W. and S. D. The records are well and correctly kept, being in the same careful hands as for many years.

February 18th, I visited Liberty Lodge, No. 111, and witnessed work in the Master Mason's degree, which was very well done, after which I made such corrections as seemed necessary. Refreshments were served in the banquet hall adjoining. The books and records are in the same good hands as of old, namely, Bro. AMBROSE CARGILL's, and the lodge in a prosperous condition.

February 19th, in company of Bro. G. H. CARGILL, of Liberty Lodge, I visited Quantabacook Lodge, No. 129, and witnessed an exemplification of the work in Master Mason's degree, which was very well rendered. Refreshments were served in the banquet hall adjoining. After a pleasant, and I trust profitable evening, the lodge was closed in peace and harmony.

March 11th, I made my official visit to Seabasticook Lodge, No. 146, my masonic home. This lodge is under the care of an entirely new set of officers, except the Treasurer and Secretary, and are all young men who are deeply interested in the work and anxious to be perfect ritualistically. Under the

care of such it must be prosperous. The records are in the same good condition as usual.

March 16th, I visited Star in the West Lodge, No. 85, and witnessed work in Entered Apprentice degree, which was well nigh perfect. The officers are young men of ability and work carefully and well. After a few remarks, and renewing old acquaintances, the lodge was closed in peace and harmony.

March 17th, I visited Marsh River Lodge, No. 102, and witnessed work in the Master Mason's degree, which was very well done. Bro. JONES will make one of the finest working Masters in the district, judging from his first attempt. Refreshments in hall. Finances and records in good condition. After remarks and corrections, the lodge, at a late hour, closed in peace and harmony.

March 18th, I visited Unity Lodge, No. 58, and witnessed work in the Entered Apprentice degree. As neither the W. M., S. W., J. W., J. D., S. S. or J. S. were present, I could not judge as to the working condition of the lodge. The records are a model of neatness, and the Secretary may well be proud of them.

On account of sickness in my family, I was not able to attend any of the lodges of instruction held the past year, so was hampered somewhat in my work, but trust I have given no instruction contrary to the ritual.

Peace and harmony now reign throughout the district, and I wish to thank the brethren for the way they have received me and such advice as I have felt called upon to give.

Thanking the brethren for their kindness and hospitality, and you, Most Worshipful, for the honor conferred, and hoping that my successor will be more fortunate as to Lodges of Instruction, I close.

Respectfully and Fraternally submitted,

GEO. P. BILLINGS, D. D. G. M. 7th M. D.

EIGHTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my second annual report as D. D. G. M. of the Eighth Masonic District.

I have visited every lodge in my district once, and some of them twice, and have installed the officers of all lodges in my jurisdiction but two, Island and Mariners'. I have found the work more uniform in all cases than last year, thanks to Bro. F. E. SLEEPER and his lodges of instruction. The

dues are better collected, and, although not having as much work as in some former years, peace and harmony prevail.

September 15th, I officially visited Mariners' Lodge, Searsport; witnessed work on M. M. degree and was pleased to observe a decided improvement, the officers taking particular pains to make a deep and lasting impression on the candidate. I was accompanied by several brethren from Excelsior Lodge, and a fine evening was spent with the brethren of Searsport.

October 28th, I was at the lodge of instruction at Rockland.

December 29th, by invitation, I publicly installed the officers of Excelsior Lodge, Northport, with the assistance of Bro. M. G. BLACK as Grand Marshal, and Bro. A. W. HASSON as Grand Chaplain. A banquet was served and a pleasant evening spent.

January 12th, by invitation, I publicly installed the officers of King David's Lodge, at Lincolnville, assisted by Bro. M. G. BLACK as Grand Marshal, and Bro. R. B. SHERMAN as Grand Chaplain. After the ceremonies of installation were performed, which were listened to with great interest, we repaired to the banquet hall, where a bountiful supper was served. I here wish to thank the lodge for the very fine music furnished, as I deem it a great help to have a little interspersed with the ceremonies.

January 12th, after giving proper notice, I officially visited Island Lodge, Islesboro, and found the brethren united and the lodge in good shape. They have had no work this year up to date, but no doubt will have some soon. Exemplified the work on M. M. degree, which was very well rendered indeed. The records are in good hands, well and masonically kept, Bro. T. R. WILLIAMS having been their Secretary for many years, and knowing his duty well. I was accompanied on my visit by P. D. D. G. M. OSCAR HILLS.

January 29th, by invitation, I publicly installed the officers of Pownal Lodge, Stockton, and also made it my official visit. I was assisted in the installation ceremonies by P. D. D. G. M. OSCAR HILLS as Grand Marshal, and also by a fine choir. The records, under the care of Bro. F. H. COUSENS, are neatly and correctly kept. They have not had any work up to date. I enjoyed a very pleasant evening with them.

February 2d, officially visited King David's Lodge. No real work. Exemplified work on F. C. degree, which was very well rendered. Conferred the P. M. degree on LESLIE AMES, the present W. M., after which we sat down to a fine banquet.

February 4th, I privately installed the officers of Timothy Chase Lodge, assisted by P. D. D. G. M. OSCAR HILLS as Grand Marshal, and Rev. Bro. G. E. TUTTS as Grand Chaplain.

February 15th, I publicly installed the officers of Phoenix Lodge, Belfast, accompanied by a full suite. A large company was present, composed of

the members, their wives and daughters, and some invited guests. After the ceremonies, which were listened to with much interest, we were invited to the banquet hall, where the tables were spread with a bountiful repast, to which we did ample justice. Again repaired to the lodge room and listened to some very interesting remarks. I also made this my official visit, witnessing the opening ceremonies. Records well kept, and dues well paid.

February 25th, officially visited Timothy Chase Lodge, examined the records and found them all right. Witnessed work on M. M. degree. This was the first work on this degree by the new officers, and I was very much pleased with the interest and accuracy shown by the officers. I had but very few corrections to make.

March 2d, I again visited Mariners' Lodge, Searsport, and witnessed work on M. M. degree, which, I am pleased to say, was well rendered. The officers are newly-elected, but understand the work. They have a fine new hall, of which any lodge ought to be proud.

R. A. PACKARD, D.D. G. M. 8th M. D.

NINTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit to you my second annual report in accordance with the requirements of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Maine.

Officially visited Eureka Lodge, No. 84, of St. George, October 31st. As I had been notified by the W. M. that there was no prospect of work after that date, and as it is a long journey when the roads are at their best, I concluded to make my visit on that night. It is not necessary for me to say more than I did in my first report, as everything is well with Eureka. The work was on M. M. degree, and was finely done. One pleasing feature of Eureka Lodge, is that they have officers that give close attention to the work, and each officer tries to make his part perfect, and many of them are qualified to fill the chair. The records are in good condition, and the dues are very well collected. I called the W. Master's attention to the lodge history, which is some years behind.

I paid my official visit to Union Lodge, No. 31, of Union, March 4th. I found the lodge with a good board of officers who understood the work, and each officer worked close to the ritual. The work was on M. M. degree. There was a good number of the brethren present. The W. M. is a fine

officer, and made the work very impressive. The records are in good hands. I found the lodge still behind in their dues, but think the Secretary is making an effort to collect them. I again called their attention to their lodge history, which is many years behind. I hope a special effort will be made this year to bring it up at least to 1890.

I visited Knox Lodge, No. 189, at South Thomaston, March 13th. Considering the number of members that were at home there was a good attendance. Work was exemplified on M. M. degree, which was the first time the officers had worked that degree. The work was not up to the standard of the Ninth District, but this lodge has good officers, and I am satisfied when the W. M., who is a physician, and has been very busy, can have more time to give to the work, it will do as good work as any. Records are neat and in fine condition and the dues are fairly well collected.

Officially visited St. George Lodge, No. 16, at Warren, March 15th, and found a good number present. Work was on M. M. degree, which was worked very close to the Grand Lodge work. The records are in good hands. I called the W. M.'s attention to the dues, which were behind.

Visited Orient Lodge, No. 15, at Thomaston, March 16th. I found a full lodge room, much to my surprise, as the W. M. was confined at home by sickness. The S. W. took the chair and opened the lodge. As there was no work, and as some of the officers were on the sick list, I did not think it best to exemplify, for Orient has always done good work. We had a pleasant meeting and remarks were made by many of the brethren for the good of the Order. The records are in good hands and the delinquents are being looked after. In copying my report of last year I left out my visit to Orient Lodge, which I will insert here.

Officially visited Orient Lodge, No. 15, at Thomaston. I found R. W. Bro. MORSE, who has been D. D. G. M., in the chair. I also found one or two more past officers filling offices. These brethren, who felt it was for the interest of their lodge to come forward, had taken their coats off and were again in the harness. I think, without exception, that Orient Lodge has one feature that no other lodge in the Ninth District has. It is that there are more brethren that have been masons thirty or forty years that attend the lodge: not only attend, but are willing to take offices when necessary. I wish other lodges in this district might take pattern. The work was exemplified on the M. M. degree, and was well rendered. Bro. MORSE had been present at the Grand Lecturer's meetings, and was up with the changes. The records were in the hands of Bro. TOBIE, and were well kept and the dues were well collected.

I paid my official visit to Aurora Lodge, No. 50, Rockland, March 17th. Work was exemplified on F. C. degree. The work good, especially the Senior Deacon's part, which was the finest that I have seen this year. There

was a good number of the brethren present, and other lodges near were represented. Records are still in the hands of Bro. ROBINSON, and are in fine condition. Dues are well collected. Lodge history is said to be progressing.

Officially visited St. Paul's Lodge, No. 82, at Rockport, March 22d. Though some of the officers, on account of sickness, were not present, the work, which was an exemplification of the E. A. degree, was very good. Like many of the lodges in the Ninth District, lack of work has affected the interest, but I am satisfied in my own mind if the older masons will again come to the front, or even by their presence in the lodge room, give encouragement, St. Paul will, as she has done, rank with the best working lodge in the district. The records are in the charge of Bro. COOPER, who passed the chair some time ago, and who well knows the duties of a Secretary, and it is not necessary to say those duties are attended to. The dues, which have been behind, are being collected.

I visited officially Moses Webster Lodge, No. 145, March 23d. As the lodge had no work the Third degree was exemplified, and was well done. As I look back on the records of D. D. G. Masters who have been before me, I think I can fully agree with them in all the good things they have said of Moses Webster Lodge. There are three fine working lodges in the Ninth District, and Moses Webster is one of them. My visit to this lodge is looked forward to with pleasure, for not only in their good work, but in the brotherly greeting we receive when we visit their Island home, are they celebrated. The records are in the hands of Bro. CARVER, and are a fine set of books. The dues are well collected.

I visited officially Rockland Lodge, No. 79, March 30th. I found a good number of the brethren present, as well as many from different lodges of the Ninth District. Work was on the E. A. degree, which was well done, considering the lodge had had no work for some time. I found Bro. MATHER as Secretary, and feel safe to say the records are in good hands. The dues are not as well collected as they should be, but as the present Secretary has only been in office since January, I have confidence that he will look after the delinquents.

Officially visited Amity Lodge, No. 6, Camden, April 10th. This is my home lodge, which I have attended regularly when at home. The W. M. having been confined at home on account of sickness, I put off my visit for his convenience. Work was exemplified on the M. M. degree. The W. M. was disappointed in not having a candidate, owing to distance and a very stormy night. The work went very smoothly, and I feel safe to say that there are no officers in this district more interested in their lodge, and doing their work closer to the ritual than Amity. The records show a good attendance at all meetings. The W. M. is thoroughly interested in Masonry,

and inspires his officers to do their best. Amity is the banner lodge of the district in regard to their dues, for at the annual meeting they were but a few dollars behind. This lodge has a Secretary that hustles. I wish a few more of the lodges would elect Secretaries like him. The records are in fine condition.

I have installed the officers of several lodges in the district, but have made no report of them, as I did not consider that as one of the official duties of a D. D. G. M.

I have, as last year, visited all of the lodges in the district. I have found, as a whole, the lodges in good condition; work has been light, which has affected the interest. A few of the lodges have made some improvement over last year in collecting their dues. I have called the attention of all of the lodges to this important duty. I have also called the attention of lodges to their histories, which are in arrears, and think some of them will soon be in the hands of the Grand Secretary. I have enjoyed my meetings with the lodge very much, and have formed many pleasant acquaintances.

In conclusion I thank you, Most Worshipful, for the honor of this second appointment. Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

F. M. RICHARDS, D. D. G. M. 9th M. D.

TENTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor herewith to submit my first annual report as D. D. G. M. of the Tenth Masonic District. I have visited all the lodges in this district once during the year, and some several times.

On the 28th of October I attended a convention called by M. W. FRANK E. SLEEPER, Grand Lecturer, at Rockland, for instruction in masonic work. These conventions, in my judgment, are very essential to the uniformity of the work, and the brethren here think they are entitled to one in this district this year, as it takes two days for most of them to go to Rockland and return.

On December 10th, I visited officially Bay View Lodge, No. 196, at East Boothbay, and witnessed work on the M. M. degree, which was done in a fine and very impressive manner. W. M. Bro. EDWARD WHITEHOUSE is deeply interested in his lodge, is a fine ritualist, and is well supported by the officers.

On December 31st, I publicly installed the officers of this lodge, assisted

by P. M. EDWARD WHITEHOUSE as Marshal. There was a large number present, and, after the installation, we listened to remarks from the brethren, then repaired to the banquet hall and enjoyed a fine supper.

March 11th, I visited this lodge and witnessed work exemplified on E. A. degree, which was, as I expected, nicely done, as W. M. Bro. W. I. ADAMS is a P. D. D. G. M., a fine ritualist and is well supported by the officers and members. I was pleased to meet Rev. A. E. RUSSELL, on whom I had the pleasure to confer the three degrees in King Solomon's Lodge. The records are finely and correctly kept by Bro. V. K. MONTGOMERY. Refreshments at close.

On December 23d, I installed the officers of Anchor Lodge, No. 158, at South Bristol, assisted by P. M. Bro. L. GAMAGE as Marshal. It was a cold night, but there was a goodly number of the brethren present. After the installation, we enjoyed a pleasant evening, a good supper, and I had a twenty-three mile drive with thermometer twenty below zero.

March 9th, I officially visited this lodge and witnessed work on the M. M. degree, which was done in a fine and impressive manner. This lodge has six Past Masters among its present officers, and they are deeply interested in the lodge. The records are neatly and correctly kept by Bro. M. E. THOMPSON. Refreshments were served at the close.

On January 6th, I publicly installed the officers of Riverside Lodge, No. 135, at Jefferson, assisted by Bro. J. E. EATON as Marshal. Although the traveling was bad, there was a large number present. After the ceremony and remarks of the brethren, we enjoyed a fine supper.

February 17th, I officially visited this lodge. Through some misunderstanding, the candidate did not appear, and work on the M. M. degree was exemplified in a fine manner. W. M. Bro. CHAS. W. BESSE is deeply interested in his lodge, and is a ritualist of whom any lodge should be proud. The records are neatly and correctly kept by Bro. W. A. JACKSON. Refreshments at the close.

On January 13th, I publicly installed the officers of Bristol Lodge, No. 74, at Bristol. There was a goodly number present, and after the installation we repaired to the banquet hall, where a fine supper was served.

March 10th, I officially visited this lodge and witnessed work exemplified on E. A. degree, which was well done. W. M. Bro. C. V. ROBBINS takes a deep interest in his lodge. The records are in the hands of P. M. Bro. E. J. ERVINE, and this lodge should be proud of their Secretary. At the close refreshments were served.

On January 14th, I publicly installed the officers of Seaside Lodge, No. 144, at Boothbay Harbor, assisted by P. M. Bro. W. T. MARR as Marshal. There was a large number present, and after the ceremony, and very in-

teresting remarks from the brethren, we repaired to the banquet hall and enjoyed a fine supper.

On March 12th, I officially visited this lodge; having no candidate present they exemplified the E. A. degree in a way that showed study and interest. W. M. GEO. H. SNOW is a skilled craftsman, and is well sustained by his officers. I was much pleased by the manner in which they transacted the business of the lodge: The accommodations of this lodge excel any in the district. The records are neatly and correctly kept by Bro. H. S. PERKINS. Refreshments at the close.

March 17th, I officially visited Dresden Lodge, No. 103, at Dresden, and witnessed work on M. M. degree. There was a good attendance, and the work was conferred nicely. W. M. JOHN H. MAYERS is a good worker, and is well supported by the officers. The records are neatly and correctly kept by Bro. N. F. LEEMAN. Refreshments at the close.

On March 18th, I officially visited Lincoln Lodge, No. 3, at Wiscasset, and witnessed work on the M. M. degree, in a smooth and creditable manner. W. M. CHAS. H. METCALF is an able worker and is well supported by the officers and brethren. I was pleased to meet Past D. D. G. M.'s D. A. CAMPBELL and GEO. B. SAWYER. The records are in the hands of Bro. W. S. PATTERSON, and are finely and correctly kept. At the close refreshments were served.

On March 3d, I made my official visit to Alna Lodge, No. 43, at Damariscotta. Not having a candidate, they exemplified work on the E. A. degree, in an excellent manner. The officers of this lodge take a deep interest in Masonry and are good workers. The records are neatly and correctly kept by Bro. E. E. PHILBROOK. This is the masonic home of Past D. D. G. M.'s CHAS. W. and W. A. STETSON, and I was sorry not to meet them, Bro. CHAS. W. being in Florida and Bro. W. A. being confined to the house. I was pleased to meet the veteran Treasurer, Bro. JOHN W. DAVID. Refreshments were served at the close.

January 21st, I publicly installed the officers of King Solomon's Lodge, No. 61, at Waldoboro, assisted by Past D. D. G. M. W. A. RICHARDS as Marshal. There was a large number present, and after the ceremony we listened to some very interesting remarks from the brethren, and then repaired to the banquet hall, where a fine supper was served. This lodge is my masonic home. I did not make an official visit, as I am present at all the meetings when at home. This lodge has a fine list of officers, they are interested in their work and are fine ritualists. W. M. GEO. H. DOUGLAS is a very fine ritualist. I have done my best to assist them, and with the help of the older Past D. D. G. Masters and Past Masters we are able to see the fruits of our labor.

I have made the necessary corrections in witnessing the work in the several lodges and I trust they were kindly received.

And now, having completed my visitations to all the lodges of this district, it becomes my duty at this time, to thank the brethren of the several lodges which I have visited for the courtesies extended me. And I would thank you, M. W. Grand Master, for the honor you have conferred upon me in appointing me to this office.

Fraternally submitted,

WALTER E. CLARK, *D. D. G. M. 10th M. D.*

Waldoboro, March 30, 1897.

ELEVENTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my official report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Eleventh Masonic District.

It is with pleasure that I report the Order in this district in a prosperous and harmonious condition, and that there has been a gain in membership. I have visited all but one of the lodges in the district and some several times. I have found the work quite well done, yet not so perfect as not to need more or less corrections.

October 22d, I attended convention for instruction at Augusta, called by Grand Lecturer FRANK E. SLEEPER, and the instruction there received I have endeavored to impart to the lodges in this district to the best of my ability. I also notified every lodge in the district of the date of the convention.

September 25th, by invitation, I publicly installed the officers of Morning Star Lodge, No. 41, at Litchfield Corner, assisted by W. Bro. J. E. CHASE as Grand Marshal, in the presence of a large company. Music by High Street Quartette of Auburn, was very beautiful, and Miss Peables, as reader, was the admiration of all. At the conclusion, we repaired to the banquet hall, where refreshments closed a pleasant evening. Morning Star Lodge is my masonic home. I have visited it, but not officially. I think I can truly say that the work compares favorably with that of other lodges in the district. I have endeavored to make corrections from time to time as were needed. The records, in the hands of W. Bro. GILBERT, are in fine order.

November 13th, I officially visited Monmouth Lodge, No. 110, at Monmouth. The Fellow Craft and Master Mason's degrees were presented. The work was given in a ready manner showing that the officers had worked

hard to make themselves familiar with the ritual, which they followed quite closely. Bro. DODD at the organ furnished beautiful and imposing music, which added much to the effect of the work. The records are well kept and in competent hands. At the close, we sat down to a bountiful supper. There was a good attendance, and a pleasant time was enjoyed by all.

November 27th, by invitation of the Master elect, I publicly installed the officers of Bethlehem Lodge, No. 35, at Augusta, assisted by Wor. Bro. ALBERT S. MURPHY, as Grand Marshal, in the presence of a very large company of brethren their ladies and friends. The services were interspersed with appropriate music by the Apollo Male Quartette, of Boston, Mass. After the installation, the quartette delighted the audience with rare and beautiful selections, which were very highly appreciated by all. This is said to have been the most largely attended installation ever held in Augusta, some four hundred being present, and all enjoying an elaborate supper from Weaver's, served in his excellent taste and style.

November 28th, I publicly installed the officers of Monmouth Lodge, No. 110, with the assistance of R. W. Bro. BOYNTON as Grand Marshal, in the presence of brethren, their ladies and friends. After the installation, we partook of a bountiful supper, and were entertained by the local quartette and readings by Mrs. Blake and Miss May Getchell, all of which was very finely rendered.

January 18th, I visited Dirigo Lodge, No. 104, at Weeks' Mills, China, and witnessed work in the M. M. degree, which, considering the limited amount of work they have had in a long time past, was well rendered. I made such corrections and suggestions as I thought were needed, which were kindly received. I believe the future has good things in store for Dirigo. I had the pleasure on this occasion to meet R. W. Bro. BARTON. At the close, refreshments were served, which were very much enjoyed.

January 26th, with the assistance of W. Bro. E. C. DUDLEY as Grand Marshal, I had the honor to publicly install the officers of Augusta Lodge, No. 141, in the presence of a large company. The Hospital orchestra was in attendance, and furnished a fine concert before the installation. The services were rendered very much more impressive by having appropriate music interspersed by the Winthrop Street Quartette of Augusta. Following the installation the Quartette gave a concert; every piece was encored, and seldom has singing been rendered so pleasing to all as on this occasion. After the concert we adjourned to the banquet hall, and about three hundred sat down to a feast of good things.

February 17th, I made my official visit to Augusta Lodge, No. 141, at Augusta. The M. M. degree was presented; the work was done in fairly good shape, but not as well as it ought to be for a lodge whose officers possess abilities of so high an order. This lodge is doing a large amount of

work, having initiated seventeen candidates during the past masonic year. The records are in good hands and well kept. At the close we regaled ourselves with a fine oyster supper.

March 15th, I officially visited Bethlehem Lodge, No. 35, at Augusta. Owing to sickness, W. M. CHARLES A. PRICE was unable to be present, necessitating several changes in the officers. The M. M. degree, therefore, was not worked so well as it would otherwise have been. The officers are mostly young men and are interested for the good of the order, as is shown by fifteen initiates during the masonic year. Bro. JAMES E. BLANCHARD still has the records, which is a guarantee of their safety. At the close, a nice collation was served in the banquet hall and a social time enjoyed.

April 6th, I visited Hermon Lodge, No. 32, at Gardiner, and witnessed work in the F. C. degree, which was performed in a very able and impressive manner. The officers seem very much interested and but few corrections were needed. The records are perfectly safe in the hands of W. Bro. LARRABEE. I was invited to install the officers elect of Hermon Lodge, but owing to a previous engagement I was obliged to forego that pleasure.

April 14th, I made my official visit to Kennebec Lodge, No. 5, at Hallowell. There was a large number of the brethren present. The M. M. degree was presented, but owing to the fact that the officers are not well acquainted with the changes that have been made in the work, the degree was not conferred so well as I expected. I made corrections and such suggestions as I thought were needed. The officers seem to be interested in the order, and peace and harmony prevail. The records, in the hands of Bro. JONES, are correct and neat. An oyster supper closed a very pleasant evening.

I made an appointment to visit Temple Lodge, No. 25, at Winthrop, but owing to the almost impassable condition of the roads I was unable to keep my appointment, and requested W. Bro. JONES to visit the lodge for me. He reports the M. M. degree presented, and taking into consideration that this is the first time the present officers have conferred this degree, it was well done. The records are in the hands of P. M. F. I. BISNOR, and are correct and models of neatness.

I received a communication from Temple Lodge, No. 25, Winthrop, requesting a dispensation to allow Temple Lodge to attend divine service at the Congregational Church in Winthrop, on October 4th. After communicating with the Grand Master, the dispensation was not granted, as masonic processions are allowable only when some masonic work is to be done.

I have issued seven Past Master's diplomas during the year.

In conclusion, I desire to say that I have enjoyed my visits very much, and have endeavored to discharge my duty faithfully, and I trust I have accomplished some good.

Thanking you, M. W. Grand Master for the honor of my appointment,
and also the brethren of the several lodges for their universal kindness, I
am, Yours fraternally,

HERBERT M. STARBIRD, D. D. G. M. 11th M. D.

HALLOWELL, ME., April 26, 1897.

H. M. STARBIRD, D. D. G. M., Litchfield, Me.

Dear Sir and Worshipful Brother:—In accordance with your request, I have the honor to make the following report of the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the institution of Kennebec Lodge, No. 5, F. & A. M., held June 24, St. John's Day, 1896.

The day opened fair and propitious, and the weather was everything that could be desired from dawn to the close of the festivities.

A great deal of interest had been taken in the event, not only by the members of the fraternity, but by the citizens in general, and most of the business buildings, as well as many of the residences along the route of the procession, were handsomely decorated.

Invitations to participate in the observance of the occasion had been extended to all the lodges comprising the Eleventh Masonic District, to the officers of the Grand Lodge and to Maine and Trinity Commanderies of Knights Templar, and the several bodies had signified their acceptance and were all well represented in the parade.

The parade was the main feature of the celebration during the afternoon. It was formed on Water Street, at about two o'clock, in the following order:

City Marshal.

Platoon of Police.

Marshal of the Day.

Aids to Marshal, mounted.

Augusta Cadet Band.

Trinity Commandery, K. T., No. 7, Augusta, F. W. PLAISTED, E. C.

Kennebec Lodge, No. 5, Hallowell, GEO. A. SAFFORD, W. M.

Augusta Lodge, No. 141, Augusta, GEO. A. BLACK, W. M.

Monmouth Lodge, No. 110, Monmouth.

Dirigo Lodge, No. 104, Weeks' Mills, F. W. BARTON, W. M.

Pittsfield Band.

Morning Star Lodge, No. 41, Litchfield, CHAPIN LYDSTON, W. M.

Bethlehem Lodge, No. 35, Augusta, JOHN G. ROWE, W. M.

Hermon Lodge, No. 32, Gardiner, ARTHUR C. BROWN, W. M.

Temple Lodge, No. 25, Winthrop, LEVI E. JONES, W. M.

Litchfield Band.

Maine Commandery, No. 1, K. T., Gardiner, SAMUEL W. CUTTS, E. C.,
escorting representatives of the M. W. Grand Lodge
of Maine in carriages.

Other distinguished brethren in carriages.

Numbering in all about five hundred men.

The route of the procession covered the most attractive portions of the city, and was about three miles in length.

Incidental to the parade were the receptions at the beautiful grounds of Wor. Bro. JAMES ATKINS, where the lines were formed upon the lawn and an excellent souvenir photograph was obtained: also at the residence of WM. W. VAUGHAN, Esq., the old Vaughan homestead, erected in 1795. This courtesy, extended voluntarily by Mr. VAUGHAN, was the more appreciated from the fact that he is not a member of the Fraternity.

The parade was dismissed at about six o'clock, and then followed the banquet in a large tent erected but a few yards from the identical spot where stood in the olden time Norcross Hall, in which meetings of Kennebec Lodge were held one hundred years ago.

After partaking of the good things provided by the caterer, enlivened by music by Gilbert's Orchestra of Portland, the brethren listened to the following post prandial exercises.

Address on the History of Masonry, JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, P. G. M.
In Memoriam, "Our Departed Brothers," Gilbert's Orchestra.

TOASTS.

W. Bro. FRED EMERY BEANE, Toast Master.

The Grand Lodge of Maine.

Response by JOSEPH A. LOCKE, Dep. Grand Master.
Old Time Masonry, and History of Kennebec Lodge.

Response by ORLANDO CURRIER, Past Master.
The youngest lodge in the district.

Response by FRANK L. STAPLES, Augusta Lodge, No. 141.
The oldest lodge in the district, except our own.

Response by LEVI E. JONES, W. M. Temple Lodge, No. 25.
Masonry in the capital of our state.

Response by W. S. CHOATE, P. M. Bethlehem Lodge, No. 35.
Country lodges, their strength and influence.

Response by CHESTER M. CLARK, P. M. Dirigo Lodge, No. 104.
City lodges, their power and potency.

Response by WM. J. LANDERS, P. M. Hermon Lodge, No. 52.
The three great lights of Masonry.

Response by CHAS. L. ANDREWS, Monmouth Lodge, No. 110.
Faith, Hope and Charity.

Response by HERBERT M. STARBIRD, D. D. G. M., Morning Star Lodge.
The future of Masonry in Hallowell.

Response by GEO. A. SAFFORD, W. M. Kennebec Lodge, No. 5.
The commandery in and of itself.

Response by J. M. LARRABEE, P. E. C. Maine Commandery.
The commandery in connection with and influence upon the blue lodge.

Response by F. W. PLAISTED, E. C. Trinity Commandery.

The celebration closed with a grand ball at Wilson Hall, where the lovers of the terpsichorean art whiled away the hours under the inspiration of the fine music furnished by Gilbert's Orchestra.

The brethren of Kennebec Lodge, and we trust their guests also, repaired to their homes with the feeling that the centennial of the lodge had been worthily observed, and with the belief in a propitious opening of its second century of existence. Fraternalty yours,

CHAS. K. TILDEN, *Marshal and Historian.*

TWELFTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor of presenting my second annual report as D. D. G. M. of the Twelfth Masonic District.

September 26th, by invitation, I publicly installed the officers of Vassalboro Lodge, No. 54, at North Vassalboro, excepting the Master, who was sick, Bro. JONATHAN NOWELL acting as Grand Marshal, after which refreshments were served and a pleasant evening enjoyed.

October 8th, by invitation, I publicly installed the officers of Neguemkeag Lodge, No. 166, Vassalboro, Bro. MARRINER acting as Grand Marshal, after which refreshments were served, and a short musical program rendered, which was much enjoyed by all present.

January 11th, I installed the officers of Waterville Lodge, No. 33, which was public to their ladies and invited friends, nearly three hundred being present. Bro. M. E. ADAMS acted as Grand Marshal. Dinsmore's Orchestra furnished music for the occasion. After the installation, refreshments were served and an invitation given to all who desired, to repair to the hall above, where an order of several dances was indulged in, which all seemed to enjoy.

February 11th, I officially visited Neguemkeag Lodge, No. 166, Vassalboro, and witnessed work in E. A. degree, which was well done. This lodge

has not done much work the past year, but is in a healthy condition, and will be capable of doing good work when it is presented. The records are in the hands of Bro. ROLLINS and are well kept.

February 13th, I visited Rural Lodge, No. 53, Sidney. No work appearing, the M. M. degree was exemplified in a creditable manner. I made such corrections as I deemed necessary. The records are well kept.

February 16th, I visited Vassalboro Lodge, No. 54, North Vassalboro. They having no work, exemplified the M. M. degree, which was quite well done. I made some corrections in the work, which were kindly received; they seem to be anxious to do perfect work. After the lodge was closed, refreshments were served and a social hour enjoyed. The records are well kept.

March 2d, I officially visited Vernon Valley Lodge, No. 99, at Mt. Vernon, and witnessed the conferring of the M. M. degree on two candidates, which was very creditably done. The officers not being familiar with some of the new work, I gave them such instructions as I was able, which seemed to be kindly received. Here I had the pleasure of meeting Past D. D. G. M. CROSBY. This lodge is fortunate in retaining, as Secretary, Bro. BURBANK, who has acted in this capacity for twenty-five years, which I think is sufficient guarantee of their correctness.

March 4th, I officially visited Asylum Lodge, No. 133, Wayne. There being no work, and some of the officers absent on account of sickness, the lodge did not open, but we spent the time in an informal study of the ritual, after which light refreshments were served. The evening was a pleasant one to me, and I hope not without profit to them. Bro. HAYNES, the Secretary, was not present, owing to sickness; I therefore had no opportunity to examine the records, but doubt not that they are all right.

March 6th, I visited Lafayette Lodge, No. 48. Here I again met Bro. CROSBY. The work being in the F. C. degree, he was called upon to act as Senior Deacon, which part, it is needless to say, was correctly done, the officers performing their parts very creditably to themselves. The records are well kept. Some very interesting remarks were made by Bro. CROSBY and others. After the lodge closed, an oyster supper was served in the hall below, to which we did ample justice.

April 3d, I visited Messalonskee Lodge, No. 113, Oakland. This lodge has done no work since my official visit last year, but the brethren are hopeful, and capable of doing good work. The records are still in the hands of Bro. GILMAN, and are neatly and correctly kept. This being their stated communication, after routine business had been done, remarks for the good of the Order were made by several of the brethren, after which the lodge was closed and refreshments were served.

Waterville Lodge, No. 33, being my masonic home, I have not deemed an

official visit necessary, as I have been present at nearly all its meetings, and have given such instructions from time to time as I was able, and I think this lodge will compare favorably with any in the district. It is the practice of this and some other lodges in this district, to examine candidates in open lodge before advancement, which I think would be well for all lodges to imitate, and advance none until they are thoroughly posted in the preceding degree. The records of this lodge are in the hands of Bro. T. E. RANSTED and are well kept.

I attended Bro. SLEEPER'S Lodge of Instruction at Augusta, and also at Bangor, which I deemed very beneficial, and wish more of the officers and brethren of the different lodges would attend them, as in no other way can they get so thorough instruction.

And now in closing, M. W., I desire through you to thank the officers and brethren of the several lodges in this district for their uniform kindness and courtesies. My official duties have been very pleasant, and will long be remembered by me. I also desire to thank you, Most Worshipful, for this my second appointment.

Faternally submitted,

FRANKLIN WALKER, D. D. G. M. 12th M. D.

Waterville, April 12, 1897.

THIRTEENTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit my third annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Thirteenth District.

October 20th, I visited Carrabassett Lodge, No. 161, at Canaan. There being no work on hand, the officers were publicly installed by me, after which a banquet was served in the hall below, and the whole concluded with music and recitations. There has been no work done in this lodge; but Carrabassett Lodge is not dead. They have just gotten new aprons, jewels, etc., the best there are in this district, if not in the state. Bro. MASON still has the records, and they are correctly kept.

January 4th, I visited Euclid Lodge, No. 194, at Madison. There was no work at this time, but the prospects for work are good. They received three petitions at this meeting. I spent an hour with the brethren discussing the ritual.

September 21st, I installed the officers of Euclid Lodge, in the presence

of the brethren and their families, after which a banquet awaited us, to which we did ample justice.

January 12th, I visited Northern Star Lodge, No. 28, at North Anson. This lodge had no work, but they had work for me. I installed the officers for the ensuing year, after which refreshments were served in the hall below. I also conferred the Past Master's degree on the Master elect.

January 13th, I visited Keystone Lodge, No. 80, at Solon, and witnessed work in the E. A. degree. The work was done fairly well, as it was the first work which the new board of officers had had. The W. Master was somewhat embarrassed, but on the whole the work was done well. The records are still in the hands of Bro. LONGLEY, and are well kept.

October 21st, I publicly installed the officers of Keystone Lodge, No. 80, in the presence of the brethren and their families. At high twelve they had their annual dinner, which was a good one, I assure you.

January 13th, I visited Bingham Lodge, No. 199, at Bingham, and witnessed work in the F. C. degree, which was well done. The records are still in the hands of Bro. MOORE, and are well kept. Refreshments were served in the hall.

June 20th, I publicly installed the officers of Bingham Lodge, Bro. MARK SAVAGE acting as Grand Marshal. An elegant banquet was served at six P. M.

January 16th, I visited Lebanon Lodge, No. 116, at Norridgewock. There being no regular candidate, the work in the Third degree was exemplified, which was done in a very commendable manner.

October 17th, I publicly installed the officers of Lebanon Lodge, at Norridgewock, after which a banquet was served.

Somerset Lodge, No. 34, at Skowhegan, is my home lodge. I have attended nearly all of the meetings and have witnessed work in all of the degrees. The work has been well done. Bro. F. W. ALLEN, W. M., has done the work as well as I ever saw it done. The records are still in the hands of Bro. LAMBERT and are neatly and correctly kept.

April 1st, I visited Siloam Lodge, No. 92, at Fairfield, and witnessed work in the Third degree, which was as well done as any which I have witnessed this year. The W. M. was sick and Past Master LOVEJOY presided. He is an up-to-date officer, I assure you. I had to make but few corrections. This lodge is in a healthy condition. After the lodge closed, refreshments were served in the hall. Thus ended my last official visitation.

And now, Most Worshipful Grand Master, permit me to extend to you my sincere thanks for the honor conferred by my appointment, and to heartily thank the officers and brethren for their cordial and fraternal greetings, and for their brotherly kindness and hospitality shown me on all occasions.

Fraternally yours,

FRANCIS H. WING, D. D. G. M. 13th M. D.

FOURTEENTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my second annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Fourteenth Masonic District.

I have visited every lodge in this district at least once, and some of them several times, and am pleased to note the usual harmonious and fraternal feeling that prevails in the district.

Before entering upon my duty of making official visits, I attended the meeting of the Grand Lecturer at Portland, and the instruction there received was of great help; if the Worshipful Masters, as well as the District Deputies, were required to attend these lectures, they would find it greatly to their advantage in conferring the degrees correctly.

December 14th, I visited Ancient York Lodge, No. 155, Lisbon Falls, and witnessed work in the F. C. degree, which was well done. This lodge has the reputation of doing good work and on this occasion it was well maintained; but few errors or omissions were noticed. The records are still in the hands of Bro. PARKIN, and are very neatly and correctly kept; from them I learn the attendance has been good the past year.

December 16th, I visited Village Lodge, No. 26, Bowdoinham. Work on the M. M. degree. This was the first time that most of the present officers had worked this degree. The Master had held the same position several years ago. The work was satisfactorily done. The records are finely kept, and dues fairly well collected. I also visited this lodge in October, in company with Past Master JOHN W. BALLOU, and assisted in a public installation of the officers. The officers and members are interested in the work and the lodge is in good condition. Refreshments were served at the close of each of these meetings.

December 17th, I made my official visit to Acacia Lodge, Durham. Work was exemplified on the M. M. degree in the afternoon, and it is seldom that I have heard the ritual more correctly rendered than by Bro. WRIGHT on that occasion. This is a small lodge and the members greatly scattered, yet the records show that their regular meetings were held every month in the year. It has been the practice of this lodge the past year, after completing their regular business, to have a lodge of instruction, and so, not only the Master, but other officers, are well up in the work. I think it would be a good example for some of the larger lodges to follow. In the evening I publicly installed the officers, the families of the members being present. After the installation service, there was an entertainment, consisting of music, reading and recitations by Mr. DENNETT, of Lewiston, making it a very pleasant occasion. A fine banquet was served at the close.

I desire to express publicly my appreciation to Bro. WRIGHT, who met me at the station at Lisbon Falls, and with his own team carried me to Durham, and after the close of the service returned with me to the same station, and also for the very courteous manner in which he and Mrs. WRIGHT entertained me at their pleasant home during my stay in Durham.

In my annual report last year, I said in part of United Lodge, Brunswick: "The W. Master and Wardens are all young men, and the interest they take in the lodge and in doing the work will make some of the older masons look out for their laurels." My visit on December 22d, convinced me that my prediction was correct, for the very fine manner in which they worked the M. M. degree was a proof, as these officers filled the same station. The condition of this, the oldest lodge in this district, is first class. There is one thing about this lodge which to me is very pleasant and encouraging, and that is, that though the officers are young, very many of the older members attend the meetings and thus signify their interest in the lodge, and at the banquet after labor is over, as on this occasion, they have something very interesting to say.

January 18th, I visited Richmond Lodge, Richmond, and witnessed work on the Third degree, which was performed in a most pleasing and creditable manner, not only by the Master, but by the other officers of the lodge. The candidate was examined in the preceding degree, and the way he answered all questions was a proof that he had received proper instruction. The social part of Masonry was not neglected, and the questions asked by the officers during the banquet showed they were interested in doing good work.

My last official visit was at Freeport, March 15th. Here also, they worked the Third degree. This was the first time the present Master had worked this degree, and due allowance is to be made, for one may repeat the ritual ever so correctly when alone, yet when he attempts it in public, and especially when he knows one is watching every word and act, he is very liable to make at least a few errors. This was done on this occasion, and yet, on the whole, I was pleased with the way in which it was done. The lodge is in good condition, the records correctly kept, and the dues fairly well collected.

The two lodges in Bath, Solar and Polar Star, I have visited so often that I did not deem an official visit necessary, but have made such suggestions from time to time as I thought were needed. The officers have been regular in their attendance and take great interest in the work, and have been well supported by the brethren. They have each initiated eight candidates the past year, and I can report them in first class condition.

And now, Most Worshipful, I wish to thank you for the honor conferred in appointing me for the second time District Deputy Grand Master for the Fourteenth Masonic District. I have endeavored to discharge my duty to the best of my ability. My visits to the lodges in the district have been

very pleasant, as I have on all occasions received their cordial and fraternal greetings, and through you, allow me to thank the officers and brethren of this district.

Fraternally yours,

SETH S. SNIPE, D. D. G. M., 14th M. D.

Bath, April 23, 1897.

FIFTEENTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

Again I have the pleasure of submitting for your approval a report of my doings as D. D. G. M. of the Fifteenth District.

I am happy to report a good degree of interest in Masonry prevailing throughout the district. Peace and harmony exist, and the bonds of friendship and brotherly love were never stronger than at the present time.

My report cannot differ materially from that of last year. Wherever I found good workers last year, there I have also witnessed good work this year.

There has been no lodge of instruction this year within a reasonable distance of the masons of this district, so very few, if any, have availed themselves of the benefits derived from attending such a lodge. The results, however, of the one holden at Farmington last year, have been plainly seen in every lodge there represented. I would respectfully urge upon you, Most Worshipful, or your successor, the importance of another such lodge within the district in the near future.

I have visited once every lodge assigned me, excepting Mystic Tie, at Weld. I have been obliged to cancel several appointments made with the Master of this lodge, on account of rough weather, which rendered it impracticable, if not impossible, to take the drive across the country. From personal knowledge, however, I can avouch for the high standard of the work done in this lodge, and for the untiring devotion of its members to the institution they love so well.

February 4th, Canton. Whitney Lodge, No. 167. I have met no brethren in lodge room assembled, where the right hand of fellowship has been extended with a warmer and sincerer grasp than in Whitney Lodge. Their work on E. A. and M. M. degrees was open to very little criticism, being performed with due regard for the ritual and for the dignity of the labor they were then about. I was pleased to meet upon this occasion Past D. D. G. M. Bro. DURA BRADFORD, who as S. F. C. gave ample proof that his masonic enthusiasm has in no measure subsided. A banquet served by the ladies concluded a most enjoyable evening.

February 17th, Livermore Falls. Oriental Star Lodge, No. 21. The election in this lodge occurring in January, but little time had been allowed the new officers to become familiar with the work or the duties of their respective offices. Lodges, in order to be at their best when the visiting officer is present, should hold their elections as early in the year as September. Under the circumstances work on the E. A. degree was very acceptably done. The officers are largely young men, and are apparently enthusiastic in the work. I trust they may succeed in creating a greater interest on the part of the members of this lodge—an achievement much to be desired.

March 15th, Farmington. Maine Lodge, No. 20. Having the same principal officers as at my last visit of last year, I expected exemplary work, and was not disappointed. All who participated in the working of the M. M. degree, even to the candidate himself, performed their parts with precision and dignity. If one enjoys good work, it is a pleasure to visit this lodge—a pleasure, too, that will be enhanced if one observes the business principles on which all its affairs are conducted. A banquet and social hour concluded the evening's enjoyment.

March 17th, Wilton. Wilton Lodge, No. 156. The Master of this lodge being one of the active and prominent legislators of the winter, was consequently unable to be present upon the occasion of my official visit. This lodge seems to be enjoying an unusual era of prosperity, leading all others in the district in the number of initiates for the year. In the early part of the year, they had the misfortune to lose by fire their lodge room and much of their furniture and paraphernalia, having no insurance thereon. They were soon re-established in the old quarters—made over into better and more modern ones—and now appear to be at their work with more interest and enthusiasm, even, than before. Their work on the E. A. degree, with the S. W. in the East, was well performed.

March 18th, New Sharon. Franklin Lodge, No. 123. The ice has at last been broken, and this lodge has been doing the first work for a number of years. It has not been that inferior quality of work, however, which might be expected after a long period of inactivity. The work on the M. M. degree was prompt and impressive, being very close to the requirements of the revised ritual. Bro. JAMES H. HOWES, the Secretary, who succeeds Bro. SRINSON, deceased, is a man of business capacity and experience, an enthusiastic mason, and in his hands the affairs of the lodge will be safe. A banquet was much enjoyed at the close of the lodge.

March 19th, Strong. Davis Lodge, No. 191. Accompanied by several members of Blue Mountain Lodge, I visited the above and witnessed work on the M. M. degree, which was very acceptably performed. This lodge, since its formation, has enjoyed a steady and healthy growth. Although the youngest, yet there are but three lodges in the district having more

members. Its officers are active, earnest, conservative men, anxious to do good work and to advance the interests of true Masonry.

Blue Mountain Lodge, No. 67. I have been present, as a member, at nearly every communication of this, my own lodge, during the year. It has never been in a more flourishing condition than at the present time. Young men who are skillful in masonic work and devoted to masonic interests, men of business ability and sound judgment, fill its offices. I am pleased to present to the Grand Lodge Committee, at this session, an up-to-date printed history of Blue Mountain Lodge, carefully written and prepared by our lodge historian, Bro. HARRY P. DILL.

I granted dispensation to Blue Mountain Lodge to attend, as a lodge, divine worship in Phillips, on February 7th, agreeably to an invitation extended it by Rev. Bro. J. L. DEMOTT.

I have found the same Secretaries in office as last year, with one exception, Franklin Lodge, of New Sharon. In every instance they are good men and true, and well qualified to fill these important positions. Dues are promptly collected, and all the interests of the several lodges carefully guarded.

I have endeavored to make such suggestions and criticisms when visiting the different lodges, as seemed to me necessary, and would tend to elevate the standard of the work. I have, upon all such occasions, tried to emphasize the true principles of Masonry. I trust that I may have been of some help, however slight, in aiding the brethren to a better understanding, and appreciation and application of those principles.

And now, Most Worshipful, in closing my labors as your representative, allow me again to express to you my gratitude for the continued honor you have bestowed upon me; and to the officers and brethren of the several lodges in the Fifteenth District, for the very cordial receptions given me, and the many courtesies extended me as D. D. G. M.

Fraternally submitted,

NEWELL P. NOBLE, D. D. G. M. 15th M. D.

Phillips, April 24, 1897.

SIXTEENTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my second annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Sixteenth Masonic District for the past year.

September 22d, I visited King Hiram Lodge, No. 57, Dixfield, and witnessed work in the M. M. degree. The work was fairly well done, and the

officers showed a good interest in Masonry. After making corrections in the work, we adjourned to the ante-room, where a lunch was served and a pleasant hour spent in social intercourse.

In November, I had the pleasure of being present at Blazing Star Lodge, No. 30, Rumford Falls. Two candidates received the M. M. degree in the afternoon, and the work showed that this lodge was still in practice and doing good work. This lodge is doing a large amount of work, and the officers are all well posted and take great interest in the work. In the evening I installed the officers, assisted by Past D. D. G. M. WALDO PETRENGILL as Grand Marshal; there was a large attendance of masons and their friends. The music furnished by the orchestra and male quartet added much to the interest of the occasion.

December 17th, in company with about twenty members of Oxford Lodge, I visited Crooked River Lodge, No. 152, Bolster's Mills. The work was on the M. M. degree, and although this is one of the smaller lodges in the district, the work shows that the officers and members take great interest and try to follow the ritual as closely as any of the lodges. After the work, a bountiful supper was served in the banquet hall below.

February 15th, I was with Evening Star Lodge, No. 147, Buckfield. Witnessed work in the E. A. degree, which was very well done, the officers showing much interest in the work and corrections.

March 11th, I visited Bethel Lodge, No. 97, Bethel. Work was exemplified in the M. M. degree. This being the home lodge of Past D. D. G. M. BILLINGS, he had left but few chances for corrections.

March 16th, I made my official visit to Jefferson Lodge, No. 100, Bryant's Pond. Owing to sickness, there were but few out and no work, but we had, I trust, a profitable evening, staying till a late hour going over the work on the three degrees.

April 13th, I visited Paris Lodge, No. 94, South Paris. No work, but the officers have a good interest and are capable of doing good work as it comes to them.

April 14th, I visited Granite Lodge, No. 182, West Paris. This lodge has had no work for some time, and the evening was spent in instruction on the different degrees.

Oxford Lodge, No. 18, Norway. I have attended all its meetings for the past year unless absent on masonic business, and feel that I may say that it maintains its usual high standing.

In January, I attended a meeting held by the masonic bodies of this place to celebrate the extinguishment of the debt contracted to build our masonic building. Nine years ago we moved into our new building with a debt of nearly \$3,000, since which time the debt has been paid and there has been added to the personal property some over \$700, with as good a masonic

library as there is in the state, aside from the Grand Lodge. I think I may be excused for speaking of this, as I think it a record to be proud of.

I attended the Grand Lecturer's meeting at Portland, with much profit to myself, and feel satisfied that if the Masters of the lodges would more of them attend these meetings they would be of still more benefit than they are.

In closing, I would say that the records of the different lodges in this district are well kept, and the lodges in good standing financially. Trusting that I may have been of some benefit to the lodges in the district, permit me to thank you, Most Worshipful, for the honor you have conferred upon me, also the brethren of this district for the hearty co-operation and courtesies with which I have been treated as your representative.

Yours fraternally,

GEO. W. HOLMES, D. D. G. M. 16th M. D.

SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I am pleased to report that all the lodges in the Seventeenth District are in a very flourishing condition, and that they show, almost without exception, gains over the preceding year in funds as well as in membership, and the growth in numbers is of such character as to assure the success of our beloved institution in the future.

I have visited officially all the lodges in the district, and the more accessible ones several times. At all of the meetings I have witnessed work, good work, and it would be unbecoming to mention any particular lodge as doing the best work. The candidates are examined in open lodge as to their proficiency in the preceding degrees, and all through the work there is that earnestness and impressiveness which is characteristic of good officers.

On June 9th, I visited Presumpscot Lodge, No. 127, at North Windham, and witnessed work in the Third degree. Some of the officers were not present, but their places were filled by some of the Past Masters of the lodge, who still took a deep interest in it. The work was well done, and Wor. Bro. WATERHOUSE showed that he had given it careful thought. There were two candidates. The records of this lodge are carefully kept and the dues well collected. I had the pleasure of meeting P. D. D.'s C. E. SNOW, H. W. MAXFIELD and F. E. CHASE, as well as a large number of brethren from the Portland, Deering and Westbrook Lodges. A lunch was provided at the close of the work.

December 2d, I privately installed the officers of Ancient Land Mark Lodge, No. 17, in the presence of a large number of brethren.

December 9th, I visited officially Deering Lodge, No. 183, at Deering, and I know of no lodge in the Seventeenth District where more interest is taken in Masonry. Besides having a large amount of work, rehearsals are frequently held, and the inspecting officer finds little need of instructing them in their duties. They are fortunate in having several Past Masters whose interest has not ceased since leaving the chair, but who are present at all the meetings, and by their presence help maintain the interest and high standing of the lodge, which has always been one of the best. Their funds are increasing, and they contemplate moving* from their present quarters to one of the best equipped lodge rooms in the state. On the occasion of my visit, the work was in the Third degree, and under the direction of Wor. Bro. ELDER and his efficient corps of officers, was very impressively given. There was a large number present, and after the work a banquet was served in Lewis Hall.

December 10th, I installed the officers of Portland Lodge, No. 1.

January 27th, I was present by invitation, at the 75th anniversary of Harmony Lodge, No. 38, at Gorham. The exercises commenced at 3.30 p. m., and consisted of an historical sketch of the lodge by Bro. S. T. DOLE, and an interesting address by Rev. Bro. THOMAS TYRIE. In the evening, a bountiful supper was served and a reception and concert followed. The occasion was a very interesting one and was participated in by a large number of brethren and their wives. When one considers the large amount of work necessary to make such an occasion a success (commencing at 3.30 and lasting until 11.30), the Gorham brethren should be congratulated on their efforts. The hospitality is unbounded, and I shall always remember the occasion with pleasure. I am under obligations to all the brethren, especially Wor. Bros. HANSON, HARDING, MILLETT and SHACKFORD, for courtesies extended.

February 20th, I visited Casco Lodge, No. 36, at Yarmouth. I was accompanied R. Wor. Bro. SNOW. Work in Fellow Craft's degree, which was fairly well done. The officers appear interested, and anxious to do as good work as lay in their power. I gave some needed instruction, which was received in a friendly manner; a goodly number of brethren present. Banquet after the work.

March 3d, I visited officially Ancient Landmark Lodge, No. 17, at Portland. Work was presented on the Third degree. This being the largest lodge in the state and my masonic home, I will only say that it is maintaining the high standard it has always held, and under Wor. Bro. CHARLES P. COSTELLO and the officers who are associated with him, are doing work which it is a pleasure to witness. Records in excellent shape and dues well collected.

March 10th, was the occasion of my official visit to Temple Lodge, No. 86, at Westbrook. This lodge is animated by truly masonic feeling, and the visiting officer is warmly greeted and his remarks listened to with close attention. The Third degree was conferred on two candidates in a creditable manner, in the presence of a large number of brethren and visitors from Portland and Deering Lodges. Records all right; finances in good shape.

March 16th, visited Hiram Lodge, No. 180, at South Portland. The work presented was the Third degree; there were two candidates. This lodge is in a prosperous condition. Records, in the hands of Wor. Bro. SCAMMAN, neatly and correctly kept. A fine line of officers, who do earnest and correct work. Lunch after work.

March 17th, officially visited Atlantic Lodge, No. 81, at Portland; saw work on the Third degree; made some corrections, but on the whole, good work was presented. The finances of this lodge are in good shape and the records, under Bro. C. D. SMITH, are models of neatness and excellence. The dues are collected better here than in any lodge under my jurisdiction, for which credit should be given their efficient Secretary.

After some correspondence, I was able to visit Standish Lodge, No. 70, on Thursday evening, March 18th. This lodge has been a stumbling block for my predecessors for some years past, on account of death of prominent members, and the brethren are now so widely scattered that it is almost impossible to get even the officers there.

I was accompanied by P. D. D. C. E. SNOW, Wor. Bros. C. P. COSTELLO, F. H. THOMPSON, Bros. F. B. FISH, T. E. McDONALD and L. W. WHITNEY. After supper at Sebago Lake, accompanied by Wor. Bro. RICH, we drove to Standish, where about a dozen brethren were gathered in the hall, which was well lighted and heated. I installed their officers, and afterwards, with the assistance of the brethren who accompanied me, gave an exemplification of the three degrees. From the interest taken that night, I am inclined to think Standish Lodge has taken a new lease of life and that the report of the next District Deputy will show several new members admitted during the year. I am indebted to Wor. Bros. RICH, SWASEY and DRESSER for courtesies extended.

March 24th, I visited officially Portland Lodge, No. 1, Portland. This was the one hundred and thirty-fifth anniversary of the lodge, and the occasion was one of great interest. The Third degree was conferred on three candidates in a very impressive manner, the officers showing that proficiency which only comes with hard work and study. Records, under Bro. G. F. GOULD, in excellent shape and a good fund in the treasury. I had the pleasure of meeting R. W. J. A. LOCKE, P. D. D.'s SNOW and MAXFIELD. After the work a fine banquet was served, and speeches and music were indulged in till a late hour.

March 31st, was the date of my official visit to Harmony Lodge, No. 38, of Gorham. I was accompanied by P. D. D. SNOW, Wor. Bro. E. G. JACKSON, Bros. KEATING and SCHWARZ. The first degree was conferred on one candidate in a creditable manner. Harmony Lodge has not the amount of material to draw from that some of the more favored lodges have, and are not so familiar with the work as they would be did more candidates present themselves. But while closeness to the ritual is a great desideratum, the tenets of our Order are of far greater importance, and nowhere are they thought more of than by our Gorham brethren. Any visitor at once feels that he is among friends, and the hospitality and brotherly love exhibited by them cannot be exceeded. Records in good hands; a good line of officers. I made some corrections, and suggested changes which were adopted. I had the pleasure of meeting Wor. Bro. MILLETT and several other Past Masters of the lodge. Banquet and speeches after the work.

April 7th, I visited Warren Phillips Lodge, No. 186, at Cumberland Mills. I was accompanied by P. D. D.'s SNOW, MAXFIELD, Wor. Bros. YORK, THOMPSON and WAITE, and a large delegation from the Portland and Deering Lodges. Work was presented on the Third degree; two candidates. W. Bro. SWETT and his officers show themselves familiar with the work, and it was very impressively done; little need of instruction in the ritualistic part of the work. The officers are eager to excel each other; such ambition is commendable, and must result in better work. Records and finances all right; banquet after the work.

This was my last official visit, and at all of them I have been received in the most fraternal manner by the brethren, and the many courtesies extended to me by the officers and members of the various lodges will always be remembered with much pleasure. While I expected to be received in a cordial manner as the representative of the Grand Lodge, I was surprised at the warm greetings and welcome which awaited me, a stranger to almost all of the lodges outside of this city, and the preparations which were made for my entertainment. Many a pleasant hour of social intercourse has been profitably passed with the brethren after the work, and at all of them I have endeavored to give advice suitable to the occasion.

In closing, permit me to thank you, Most Worshipful, for the confidence you reposed in me in appointing me to this responsible position, which I have endeavored to fill with whatever ability I possess.

Courteously and fraternally yours,

FRANKLIN R. REDLON, *D. D. G. M. 17th M. D.*

EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor herewith to submit my first annual report as D. D. G. M. of the Eighteenth Masonic District.

January 14th, I visited Delta Lodge, No. 153, at Lovell, and I received a warm reception from all the brethren there. The F. C. degree was conferred on one candidate. This lodge does good work, with the exception of the changes of 1894; the officers were innocently using the old form and zealously instructing their brethren by its phraseology. The most noticeable part of the work was the examination of the candidate to see if he had made suitable proficiency in the preceding degree to be advanced to the next degree. We only wish that there were more lodges like Delta Lodge, for then we should have more well posted masons. I was invited to make what criticisms I had to make and also to instruct them in the revised work, which I did, after which the lodge was called from "labor to refreshment," and the banquet which followed made the "hour of refreshment" long to be remembered. On returning to the hall, I publicly installed the officers elect, in the presence of the brethren, their ladies and invited friends. I had the pleasure of meeting Past D. D. G. M. JOHN A. FARRINGTON, who is a thorough and zealous mason. I wish to extend thanks to Worshipful Master KNEELAND and the brethren of Delta Lodge for courtesies received at their hands while there. All that I need say in regard to the records is that they are in the hands of Bro. EDWARD L. BELL.

On January 16th, I made my official visit to Oriental Lodge, No. 13, at Bridgton. This is one of the oldest lodges in the district, and bears the reputation of doing good work; that reputation was well sustained this evening. The M. M. degree was conferred on two candidates in a manner highly creditable to W. M. LIBBY and his officers. Bro. LIBBY and his officers are thorough ritualists, and the duty of the visiting officer was made light, for there was but little to criticise or correct. The large attendance of members, among whom I was gratified to learn were eight Past Masters, gave evidence of an interest which good work on the part of the officers always ensures. The opening was of equal merit with the work. Returns are promptly made, and they are conferring the degrees on some of the bright and active young men of the town. Oriental continues to be the "banner" lodge of the eighteenth district. I am indebted to Past D. D. G. M. ISAJAH S. WEBB, W. M. NORMAN H. LIBBY and P. M. MILLARD M. CASWELL, for courtesies extended to me while there. I found the records to be a model of perfection in the hands of Bro. CHAPLIN. Refreshments were served at the close of the meeting.

On March 13th, I visited Shepherd's River Lodge, No. 169, Brownfield, accompanied by Bro. JOHN PARKER, P. M. of Greenleaf Lodge. The officers exemplified the E. A. degree in a manner to convince me that they intend to be ready for work should any present itself. The few corrections made were kindly received. Records well kept.

It was my purpose to have visited Pythagorean Lodge, No. 11, Fryeburg, March 15th. I had notified the brethren to that effect, but unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances deprived me of that pleasure, much to my regret. I secured the services of Bro. JOHN PARKER, P. M., of Greenleaf Lodge, No. 117. He visited Pythagorean Lodge, March 15th. The attendance fair, business well done and in good style; records well kept in every way, and give evidence of being in a good, healthy, harmonious and prosperous condition, the only contention being "that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who can best work and best agree." I have always known that this lodge was one of the best in the district. I am personally acquainted with many of the members, and also know that everything pertaining to the successful lodge can be found here.

On March 16th, I visited Mount Tire'm Lodge, No. 132, Waterford. The traveling was so bad that but a small number were present. I examined the records, which are correctly kept by Bro. J. F. JEWETT. I then spent some time in inquiring into their manner of working, and answering such questions as they were pleased to ask. The officers are new to their stations and positions, but I am confident they will maintain the reputation which they have established of having one of the best working lodges in the district.

On March 17th, accompanied by Bro. JOHN PARKER, P. M. of Greenleaf Lodge, I visited Mount Moriah Lodge, No. 56, Denmark. I can say, with Bro. SUMNER, I found them in a somnambulist state, and I think they will, like "Rip Van Winkle," wake up some morning and find that they have been asleep for "twenty years." I know they labor (as well as one other lodge in the Eighteenth District) under some trying difficulties, but their present mode will not eradicate those difficulties. Their records are well kept.

I did not deem it necessary to officially visit my own lodge, knowing its officers and brethren. The W. Master, Bro. WILLIAM R. COFF, is a young man, full of energy and zeal, and is ably supported by Past D. D. G. M. HOWARD BRACKETT, S. W., Past D. D. G. M. JOHN BRADLEY, J. W., and P. M. JOHN PARKER, S. D., and I might add, that as long as those brethren and others continue to be active members, it is almost impossible for them (as a lodge) to materially err. Most of the lodges in the district seem to be more fortunate than Greenleaf Lodge in making masons, yet we are not discouraged, as we feel we are on firmer ground, with better outlook in future. I have attended most of the meetings of this lodge, and officiated in install-

ing the officers for the ensuing year. The records are in the hands of Bro. GEORGE H. PARKER, and are a pattern of neatness.

November 11th, attended masonic convention at Portland, conducted by W. Bro. FRANK E. SLEEPER, where I received much valuable instruction in the work.

In closing, allow me to extend my thanks to the members of the different lodges, for their kindness and courtesy during my official visits, and to you, Most Worshipful, for the honor you have conferred upon me by this appointment. Fraternally submitted,

JAMES C. AYER, D. D. G. M. 18th M. D.

Cornish, April 7, 1897.

NINETEENTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to present herewith my second annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Nineteenth Masonic District.

In submitting this report I feel that I have, through the occurrence of unavoidable circumstances, in some instances been negligent in my duties, but I can assure you that I have, so far as was possible, performed them to the best of my ability.

Those lodges which I have visited I have found to be in excellent condition, and the fraternity throughout the district is in an apparently healthy state. I question if any district within the Grand Jurisdiction will, as a whole, evince more interest in the work or make a better showing than this, the Nineteenth.

To Dunlap Lodge, No. 47, of Biddeford, the Order is indebted for the interest and devotion shown for the Order by its members. A fine edifice, containing a beautiful masonic home and a vigorous and thriving lodge, are some of the results of its past year's labors. It is a great pleasure for me to record the completion of a work of so much beauty as the new masonic building at Biddeford, and the spirit which led to the conception and completion of this work can, I think, be safely trusted in extending the influence and carrying out the principles of our Order in their community. Having inspected the new building and apartments designed for use of the Order, on April 19th, I gave Dunlap Lodge formal permission to occupy their new home, and with this permission went my best wishes for their future prosperity and happiness, and with the harmonious and fraternal feeling which so evidently

prevails amongst the brethren of this lodge, there can be but little doubt of its continued success.

As previously stated, I have, from various causes, been able to visit but few of the lodges in my district, Arundel, No. 76, Kennebunkport; Ocean, No. 142, Wells; Arion, No. 162, Goodwin's Mills; St. Aspinquid, No. 198, York Village, and Naval No. 184, Kittery, being all that I was able to reach. In most of these lodges I found much interest evinced by the brethren, and in all save one the work performed in a satisfactory manner.

Arundel, No. 76, Kennebunkport, is a fine working lodge, with an interested and wide-awake set of members. To Bro. REUEL W. NORTON, W. M. of the lodge, is without doubt due much of its success, but though his work is of a high standard of excellence, and his interest in the lodge undeniably great, yet the cheerful and intelligent support of the officers and members of his lodge cannot but be of material service in giving him the necessary stimulus to keep the work of the lodge up to its present standard.

Ocean, No. 142, Wells, as in the past, is not behind in her work or interest. Bro. LYMAN F. GETCHELL, W. M. of this lodge for the past two years, was wisely re-elected Master, and to say that he is a most careful, well informed and conscientious officer will be but giving him his just dues. The work of this lodge is good, and the interest and activity of its members encouraging. As it has progressed in the past, so, I trust, may it continue to prosper in the future.

St. Aspinquid, No. 198, York Village, I am able to report as being in the front rank of masonic workers, and its master, officers and members all seem interested and well-informed. Though the work witnessed by me was the first performed by the new officers of the lodge, it was more nearly perfect than some performed by many officers of longer experience. The records of this lodge, in the hands of Bro. GEORGE F. PLAISTED, are models of neatness and accuracy, and it would, in my opinion, be difficult to find records that will excel them for beauty and correctness.

On March 19th, R. W. Deputy Grand Master JOSEPH A. LOCKE, as special representative of the M. W. Grand Master, accompanied by myself, made an official visit to Arion Lodge, No. 162, at Goodwin's Mills. This lodge, as was stated in my last annual report, is not all that can be desired, but though still far below the standard of masonic excellence, there has been a decided change in the feelings of the members of the lodge, as well as in its financial condition. Much may be expected of this lodge, now that it has awakened from its lethargy, and I trust it may be recorded in a few years as one of the best lodges in the district. The material for a good lodge is there, and let us hope that our brethren of Arion Lodge will realize that Masonry imposes obligations upon them which they cannot escape, and can only fulfill by using their best endeavors to establish a perfect working, well-equipped and in-

terested lodge, in which the pure principles of Masonry shall be exemplified in a manner that shall do justice to our Order. That the brethren of this lodge may succeed in attaining for it a position second to none in the district or state, is my most earnest desire. Bro. LOCKE and myself thoroughly investigated the records of the lodge, and after an exemplification of the work of the Third degree, Bro. LOCKE, in a forceful though pleasing manner, called the attention of the members to the faults of the lodge, and suggested as remedies, measures which, if carried out, cannot fail in placing this lodge where it belongs amongst its sister lodges of the district, and where I think its members desire to see it. I hope for much from this visit of our Deputy Grand Master, and cannot but believe that the members were convinced by his remarks that their only hope of ever becoming a credit to the Order lay in following his advice, and in fulfilling the duties which membership in our Order imposes upon us.

I would say that I have ascertained the condition of those lodges which I have been unable to visit from well-informed brethren, and all report a healthy and gratifying condition, though doing but little work.

I have furnished Past Masters' Diplomas during the year to such Past Masters as have applied for them.

I desire to extend my thanks to Bros. GETCHELL, of Ocean Lodge of Wells, NORTON, of Arundel of Kennebunkport, and LITTLEFIELD, of Arion, Goodwin's Mills, for courtesies extended me in the way of lodging and food, saving me much trouble and discomfort, owing to lack of hotel accommodations at these places. To them and their families I return my most sincere thanks for the kindly consideration shown me.

In closing, Most Worshipful, I wish to once more thank you for the confidence shown me in re-appointing me as your representative in this district, and while I may have made errors, I have, I trust, done some little good. The errors I may have committed will, I trust, be forgotten, and only the good I may have done be remembered of me.

With sincerest wishes for the future prosperity of the craft throughout the district and state, I have the honor to remain,

Yours fraternally,

ISAAC N. HURD, D. D. G. M. 19th M. D.

Kittery, Me., April 28, 1897.

TWENTIETH DISTRICT.

To M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

Previous to submitting my annual report as D. D. G. M. of the Twentieth Masonic District, permit me to say, that while I have visited all the lodges

in this district, yet I feel that I have not done my full duty, as I did not make my official visits until April. After attending the Grand Lecturer's meeting at Bangor, I intended to visit, at the earliest possible dates, the various lodges at regular meetings, but pressure of business for some time, and previous arrangements to be out of the state, delayed my visits to this time. However, I have endeavored to fulfill the duty to the best of my knowledge, according to the circumstances.

Assisted by Past Master RALPH SCRIBNER as Marshal, I publicly installed the officers of Baskahegan Lodge, September 19th, and on November 14th publicly installed the officers of Forest Lodge.

November 17th, I attended the Grand Lecturer's meeting at Bangor. The day was spent by different one's reciting the ritual, which was very instructive.

In December, assisted by Bro. R. SCRIBNER as Marshal, I installed the officers of Horeb Lodge.

April 3d, I officially visited Baskahegan Lodge, No. 175, at Danforth. Witnessed work in the M. M. degree, which was very well done. A few mistakes were made, but those making them have the reputation of being well posted and good workers in the lodge, and were of course as well aware of the mistakes as anyone. This was a special meeting well attended, and a very interesting one. After the meeting, a banquet was had at Hotel Vendôme. Past D. D. G. M. M. L. PORTER is Secretary, which is sufficient explanation. The dues are closely collected, and thereby the lodge is in a prosperous condition.

April 13th, I visited Molunkus Lodge, at Sherman Mills. Witnessed very good work in the E. A. and M. M. degrees. There was a very large attendance, and all present, both officers and members, showed much enthusiasm, and especially the Master, Bro. ISAAC CUSHMAN. Bro. CUSHMAN showed himself a thorough Master of the ritual, and considering the fact that he has only been a mason four years, and is now sixty-eight years of age, offers not only a lesson for our consideration, but a worthy example for us younger masons to follow. The dues are better collected than formerly, and an increasing amount of work puts the lodge in good financial condition. The records are neatly and correctly kept. A few corrections were made. Refreshments were served.

April 15th, I visited Katahdin Lodge, at Fatten. Work in the M. M. degree, which to my surprise is very seldom excelled. The work here has been almost at a standstill for several years until the last year, when, through some mysterious channel, applications of a very worthy character have been received, and they already are looking forward to a larger and more commodious hall. The officers, with but one exception, and he only older in years, are young men, full of energy and zeal, and fully determined to keep

on a level. The W. M., Bro. BONNEY, is a fine ritualist and is ably supported by all the officers. The Treasurer informed me that their assets were nearly seven hundred dollars. The Secretary, Bro. PERRY, was in Boston, but his books show the records well kept. Thirty-five members present, and refreshments served in the banquet hall. This was the most interesting meeting I attended.

April 17th, I visited Pine Tree Lodge, at Mattawamkeag. Considering the inclement weather, there was a very good attendance. Work in the E. A. degree, which was very well done. Four of the officers' chairs were filled by members, which is always a hindrance to good work. The records show that the attendance at lodge meetings is quite large, many living several miles away. The records are in the hands of Past D. D. G. M. GEO. W. SMITH, which is sufficient guarantee of their being properly attended to. They report about three hundred dollars in the treasurer's hands.

April 20th, I visited Horeb Lodge, at Lincoln. Special Meeting. There was a very good attendance and work was expected in the E. A. degree, but the candidate did not appear and some time was spent in passing lectures and discussing the work in general. This lodge has done but little work of late, but their officers seem very enthusiastic and efficient in the work. Bro. PLUMLY, as formerly, has charge of the records. They report about four hundred dollars in the treasury.

I have attended Forest Lodge at nearly all of their meetings. This being my own lodge, of course I am greatly interested. We have done no work for the year, but its officers, being so determined to be in proper condition when work does come, often exemplify some parts of the degrees. The duties of Secretary are especially well performed by Bro. L. W. TRASK.

Most Worshipful, I thank you for the honor conferred, and the brethren for the courtesy extended on every occasion.

Fraternally yours,

PITT H. JONES, D. D. G. M. 20th M. D.

TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT.

To M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my first annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Twenty-First Masonic District.

November 18th, I attended Grand Lecturer's convention at Bangor. There were five lodges of this district represented, as follows: Mount Desert, No. 140, by M. L. ALLEN, W. M.; JOHN ALLEN SOMES, J. D.; GEORGE A.

SOMES, Past Master. Bar Harbor, No. 185, by its Secretary, B. L. HADLEY, Junior Grand Warden; Esoteric, No. 159, by T. E. HALE, W. M.; Lygonia Lodge, No. 40, by its Secretary, JAMES E. PARSONS, Grand Junior Deacon; Rising Sun, No. 71, by FRANK E. COTTON, W. M. All were very much pleased with the lectures and the instructions given.

November 19th, officially visited Bar Harbor Lodge, No. 185. A large number of the brethren were present. Work in the Master Mason's degree was well done—very nearly perfect. Bro. B. L. HADLEY is still Secretary, and the records are neatly and correctly kept; the dues are promptly collected, and the finances are carefully looked after; the lodge is in a flourishing condition.

November 25th, visited Lygonia Lodge, No. 40. Owing to a little misunderstanding, I was not expected, but yet there was a goodly number of the brethren present, a candidate for the E. A. degree being available. Work in that degree was performed very satisfactorily. Bro. JAMES E. PARSONS is still in charge of the records of the lodge, and they are models of neatness. His method of keeping the books and collecting the dues is excellent.

November 26th, visited Esoteric Lodge, No. 159. The M. M. degree was conferred on three candidates in a manner that reflected great credit on the Master and other officers of the lodge. They have added a little to the work in this degree, but it does not detract from the work, which was performed in a very impressive and instructive manner. This lodge is very pleasantly situated in its new quarters in the Manning Block. Their meetings are well attended and a large amount of work is being done.

January 14th, I again visited this lodge, by invitation of W. M. HALE, to witness work in the E. A. degree, which was conferred on three candidates. A very pleasant feature of the evening was the presentation of a Knight Templar regalia to W. M. T. E. HALE by the lodge. The records of the lodge are in the hands of Bro. M. S. SMITH, and are well kept, and the dues promptly collected.

December 14th, visited Felicity Lodge, No. 19, at Bucksport. Work in the Fellow Craft's degree. Owing to the meeting of several other orders on this night, and some repairs being done on their hall, there was not a very large attendance of the brethren, but a very pleasant and profitable evening was spent in examining the books, witnessing the work, asking and answering questions; and last but not least, in partaking of a nice supper, which was served at the hotel of Bro. JOSEPH GILLEY. Bro. GEO. O. MITCHELL is another model Secretary, carefully looking after the financial condition of the lodge.

December 15th, visited Rising Sun Lodge, No. 71, Orland. Work in M. M. degree, which was well done according to the old lodge ritual, they not having been instructed in the work of the revised ritual. I did not at-

tempt to note errors during the work, but afterward the Master recited the ritual, and I then made the necessary corrections. Refreshments were served, after which a Past Master's lodge was opened, and that degree conferred on the Master elect.

December 16th, I publicly installed the officers elect of Rising Sun Lodge. Although it was a cold, disagreeable evening, the town hall, where the installation was held, was well filled. After the officers were duly installed a splendid supper was served.

December 23d, I publicly installed the officers elect of Tremont Lodge, No. 77, assisted by M. L. ALLEN, W. M. of Mount Desert Lodge, as Grand Marshal.

January 27th, visited Winter Harbor Lodge, No. 192. A lodge of Fellow Crafts was held in the afternoon. W. M. GEO. W. TRACY being unavoidably absent, had requested P. M. PARKER to take the East, which he did, and conferred the F. C. degree in a very creditable manner; very few corrections were needed. Records of the lodge in fine shape. In the evening conferred the P. M. degree on the Master elect, and afterward publicly installed the officers elect for the ensuing year. This lodge seems to be in good condition, the brethren interested and everything moving smoothly. A chapter of the Eastern Star has been formed here and is flourishing.

February 4th, visited Tremont Lodge, No. 77, and witnessed work in F. C. degree, which was rendered very well by the new officers, who are all young masons, with one or two exceptions. Bro. WM. R. KEENE is Secretary of this lodge, and is a careful and painstaking officer.

Mount Desert Lodge, No. 140, being my home lodge, I have not visited it officially, but think I have missed but one meeting during the year. I shall speak especially of the meeting held February 13th, when the M. M. degree was conferred in the presence of a large number of the brethren of the lodge, and about thirty visitors, mostly from Bar Harbor. The work was performed in a manner that won many words of praise from visiting brethren, especially the M. M. lecture by W. M. M. L. ALLEN, which was pronounced by Bro. B. L. HADLEY, Junior Grand Warden, to be perfect. Bro. ALLEN has few equals as a presiding officer, and deserves great credit for the correctness of his work. Bro. LYMAN H. SOMES is still Secretary, and is as careful and efficient as ever.

A chapter of the Eastern Star has been formed here, which has quite a large membership, and seems to be a great help to the lodge. There is also a chapter formed at Tremont.

Thanking you for the honor conferred upon me, I am, Most Worshipful Grand Master, your obedient servant,

EZRA G. MASON, D. D. G. M. 21st M. D.

TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit the annual report of the D. D. G. M. of the Twenty-second Masonic District. In making this report, I feel constrained to say that owing to poor health I have not been able to do my duty as fully as it would have pleased me to have done. My appointment as D. D. G. M. was an entire surprise to me. However, by your authority I was installed at a regular communication of Parian Lodge, No. 160, Corinna, by Bro. P. M. N. R. PACKARD.

Now, thinking that I should be greatly benefited by attending a Lodge of Instruction, I deferred any official visits until after I attended the convention at Bangor, in November, which I can only speak of in the highest terms.

September 29th, I publicly installed the officers of Parian Lodge, No. 160, at Corinna. This is my home lodge, and I have attended nearly all the meetings the past year, and I will only add that there are but few lodges in this district doing any better work than Parian.

Wednesday, December 14th, I visited Corinthian Lodge, No. 95, Hartland. This was a regular communication. Attendance good. I witnessed work on the M. M. degree, which was done in a passable manner. Refreshments were served. Records good.

Thursday, December 15th, I visited Meridian Splendor Lodge, No. 49, Newport. This was a regular communication, and after the routine business was done, the doors were thrown open and the Hall was well filled with masons, their ladies and friends. I then, by invitation, publicly installed their officers, assisted by R. W. W. H. MITCHELL, P. D. D. G. M., as Marshal. After the installation, a bountiful supper was served, followed by an excellent entertainment. A very enjoyable occasion.

Wednesday, February 17th, I visited Pacific Lodge, No. 64, Exeter. This also was a regular communication, and work was expected, but, owing to the weather and bad traveling, the candidate did not arrive. Work was exemplified on the M. M. degree, which was almost perfect, so far as I was able to judge. This lodge is in a prosperous condition financially. Records good.

Friday, February 12th, I visited Meridian Lodge, No. 125, Pittsfield. There was a small attendance for a regular communication. Work was exemplified in the M. M. degree, which was first class. I felt very much pleased with the manifest interest of the officers to get the work just right. This is the banner lodge this year in the amount of work done in this district, having initiated thirteen. Records well kept.

I very much regret that I have been unable, owing to sickness, to visit Archon, Cambridge or Plymouth Lodges.

And now, Most Worshipful, I desire to thank you for the honor you have conferred upon me, and the brethren for their courtesies extended to me as your representative. Fraternally yours,

J. H. SHEPHERD, D. D. G. M. 22d M. D.

TWENTY-THIRD DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit my annual report of the Twenty-third Masonic District.

The masonic year which has just closed has been marked by no important event in the district over which my jurisdiction extends. Harmony has prevailed between the several lodges and among the brethren. I have visited most of the lodges once during the past year.

On the 26th of December, by invitation of Worshipful Bro. LAWTON M. SAYWARD, P. M., I visited and installed the officers of Fraternal Lodge, of Alfred, assisted by Worshipful Bro. STEPHEN MITCHELL, Marshal. The installation exercises were interspersed with fine vocal and instrumental music, after which refreshments were served and an hour spent socially.

I again visited this lodge on the 17th of March, to inspect their work, at which time the M. M. degree was conferred on one candidate, which was done in a very dignified manner. I was pleased to note that the interest in Masonry here is not confined to the officers only, but pervades the whole lodge. Records neatly kept by Bro. JOHN M. AKERS.

February 16th, visited Springvale Lodge, Sanford, at their stated meeting. After the regular business of the meeting the brethren exemplified work on the E. A. degree, and they fully sustained their reputation of doing good work. The records were in good shape, Worshipful Bro. F. H. DEXTER being Secretary. After closing the lodge, the brethren were served with oyster supper, fruit, etc., which terminated another very enjoyable occasion for the members of Springvale Lodge.

February 17th, visited Sanford Lodge, at Sanford. The officers of this lodge seemed anxious to do their whole duty. No candidate being present, no work was done. The records are kept in a very efficient manner and are worthy of imitation.

March 27th, visited Freedom Lodge, at Limerick. From some cause this lodge has not enjoyed that degree of prosperity the past few years that its

surroundings should warrant. It is hoped that under the administration of the new officials, this lodge may take a new lease of life and attain that place where it rightfully belongs, among the best lodges in the district.

Day Spring Lodge, No. 107, Newfield, being my home lodge, I have attended most of the meetings for the past year, and given such instructions and made such corrections as I thought necessary. The members of this lodge have not taken the interest the last year which they should; but I think they will do better this next year, as the officers are young men and young masons, and are taking a great interest in the work. GEO. O. HANNAFORD still has the books.

On account of stormy weather I have not visited Drummond Lodge, No. 118, Buxton Lodge, No. 115, and Adoniram Lodge, No. 27, but learn that they are prospering masonically.

In conclusion, permit me to thank you, M. W., for the appointment, and also the brethren for their many acts of kindness.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

A. Q. MITCHELL, *D. D. G. M., 23d M. D.*

West Newfield, March 31, 1897.

TWENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR:—I have the honor to submit a statement of my official acts and the condition of the several lodges submitted to my supervision in this district for the year past.

I find, without exception, that the lodges are in a healthy and prosperous condition; nearly all are exceptionally well officered. Records well kept and having each a neat fund in the treasury. There is a growing appreciation of the value of correctly interpreting the design of our sublime teachings, which I am pleased to note is being felt in the steady increase in attendance, and the desire of all to study more carefully, if possible, the nature of the reciprocal duties of lodge and brother.

November 30th, I had the pleasure of assisting (as Marshal) R. W. Bro. A. M. PENLEY, Senior Grand Warden of this Grand Lodge, who publicly installed the officers of his own lodge, Ancient Brothers', No. 178, Auburn, in an impressive manner. The ceremony was followed by a pleasing concert and an hour at refreshment.

Monday, February 8th, assisted by R. W. EDWIN K. SMITH as Marshal,

and Rev. W. MARTYN SUMMERBELL, Chaplain of the Grand Lodge, as Chaplain, I installed the officers of Ashlar Lodge, No. 105, in the presence of its own large membership and of invited male friends. A short concert of much merit was enjoyed, concluding with a visit to the banquet hall, where a fine spread was enjoyed.

Wednesday, February 10th, with the assistance of R. W. EDWIN K. SMITH as Grand Marshal, and Rev. Bro. HENRY E. ROSE as Grand Chaplain, I installed the officers of Tranquil Lodge, No. 29, Auburn. A very large gathering of the craft and their friends was present, and the evening was made very enjoyable by the excellent musical program, and a very interesting talk on Masonry by Rev. Bro. ROSE.

The date of my visit to Nezinscot Lodge, No. 101, Turner, was set for February 13th, but owing to the death of my father calling me to Connecticut, I appointed R. W. FRANK T. FAULKNER to make the visit for me, and he reports the lodge in good condition and maintaining its standard of work, which by the way has always been regarded as among the best in this district.

March 18th, I visited Tyrian Lodge, No. 73, of Mechanic Falls, in company with Bro. E. K. SMITH, and witnessed very good work in the M. M. degree. I was very much pleased with the spirit shown in the interpretation of the ritual, and the music introduced by the quartette was appropriate, and not used to excess as is sometimes the case. The records are still in the hands of that faithful officer, Bro. JEFFERIES, and they are the records of prosperity and good government. Wor. Bro. DWINAL is a good host, and the social hour at refreshment and the post-prandial interchange of masonic sentiment was a fitting finale to a profitable evening in the study of the exoteric and esoteric.

March 29th, I found myself inspecting the work of Ancient Brothers Lodge, No. 178, of Auburn, in the M. M. degree. A very large attendance of brethren from both sides of the river were present. Here also I found good work, particularly so with the W. M., GEORGE E. McCANN, who is a good ritualist and a close student; and I feel confident that the motto here will be ever "onward and upward." The records show a good amount of work and a gain in financial standing. The work was followed by a few moments devoted to the interests of the "inner man" and very interesting remarks were made by prominent brethren. This is the masonic home of R. W. Bro. PENLEY, S. G. W. of this Grand Lodge, who is a constant attendant and an enthusiastic worker.

The date fixed for my visit to the oldest lodge in this district, Cumberland, No. 12, was prevented by a severe storm and the almost impassable condition of the roads. I have received a very complete statement from Bro. GORING, its faithful Secretary, and I am pleased to note that this lodge has

taken a step in advance of previous years in its work and zeal, and has a snug little sum on the right side of the ledger.

April 12th, I called on my nearest neighbor and witnessed work in M. M. degree in Ashlar Lodge, No. 105, the largest in this district. The work was very well done, and I am pleased to say a decided improvement on the previous year, and I look to this lodge to take its place among the best working lodges in the district, as the officers are earnest and show a great interest. Past Master F. I. MORRILL still exercises his vigilance in keeping the records, and they are in good hands. Through W. Bro. WM. J. BURNHAM, Treasurer, I learn of the great work this lodge has done in the way of charity during the past year, and it is a noble record. Wor. Bro. C. A. JUMPER is Master of this lodge and the improvement in work bears witness to his zeal.

April 14th, I was the official guest of Tranquil Lodge, No. 29, Auburn, at which meeting I witnessed the M. M. degree, which, considering the fact that this was the first time this degree had been worked by the new officers, was certainly very creditable. I was extremely well pleased with the interpretation given, which in a considerable measure atoned for ritualistic inaccuracies, which were to be expected in the first work done. I found in this lodge the Hiram Abiff of record-making, in the person of Bro. J. F. ARWOOD, whose books, besides showing an excellent condition of the lodge, contain the most beautifully written records it has ever been my fortune to see. At this communication I had the pleasure of meeting R. W. Bros. W. F. LORD, A. M. ROAK and A. L. TALBOT, permanent members of this Grand Lodge, the first two members of Tranquil Lodge; also Past D. D. G. M. EDWIN K. SMITH, of Rabboni Lodge. Refreshments were served, followed by many excellent fraternal greetings. The affairs of this lodge are safe in the hands of W. M. J. P. HUTCHINSON, an excellent presiding officer and a zealous mason.

Unavoidable circumstances prevented my visit to Webster Lodge, No. 164, Sabbath, at the time appointed, April 24th, much to my disappointment. This being the masonic home of our Grand Lecturer, M. W. Bro. SLEEPER, he kindly reported to me the condition of the lodge, which shows that there is that interest manifested and quality of work which we would expect from such an able officer as Wor. Bro. WOODSIDE, under the watchful and keen eye of Bro. SLEEPER.

Of my own lodge, Rabboni, No. 150, I have followed the custom of previous years and have made no official visit, and a modesty of mine prevents me from speaking in terms which would better come from another. The condition of this lodge, both in financial standing and work, is steadily improving, and there is an adherence to the careful, conservative plan so in keeping with the ancient landmarks, especially in the election of its candi-

dates, that is commendable to the lodge, its sterling Master, Wor. Bro. A. L. MURCH, and his able corps of officers.

On April 1st, I granted a dispensation to Ashlar Lodge to attend the funeral service of its late Bro. Mayor F. L. NOBLE, it being the request of the widow that the lodge attend as such, although the services were to be conducted solely by the church, Rev. Bro. G. M. HOWE officiating.

And now, Most Worshipful sir, in closing the year's surveillance, permit me to assure you that in my humble way it has been my aim and study to bring about, not only a uniformity of ideas in relation to the correct interpretation of the ritual, but of the reciprocal duties and the mutual obligations of lodge and brother. I have endeavored at all times to judge with candor and admonish with friendship, and whatever errors I may have made, I trust may be covered by the broad mantle of charity.

Thanking you, Most Worshipful sir, for having honored me with the appointment to this office the year past, and hoping that the same has been as acceptable to you, as the pleasure it has afforded me, I beg to subscribe myself yours fraternally and obediently,

FREDERICK G. PAYNE, *D. D. G. M. 24th M. D.*

ADDRESSES.

JOSEPH A. LOCKE, <i>Grand Master,</i>	- - -	Portland, Me.
MARQUIS F. KING, <i>Grand Treasurer,</i>	- - -	Portland, Me.
STEPHEN BERRY, <i>Grand Secretary,</i>	- - -	Portland, Me.
JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,	- - - -	Portland, Me.
<i>Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence.</i>		

The Seventy-ninth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge will be held at Masonic Hall, Portland, Tuesday, May 3, 1898, at 9 o'clock A. M.

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Trustees of the Charity Fund.

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND,
TUESDAY, May 4, 1897.

The Trustees met in the Grand Master's office at 5 P. M.

Present—AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM, *President*.

ALBERT M. PENLEY,
STEPHEN BERRY, *Secretary*,
ARCHIE L. TALBOT,
A. M. WETHERBEE,
CHARLES I. COLLAMORE.

The President appointed Bros. STEPHEN BERRY and ARCHIE L. TALBOT a Committee of Finance.

The Grand Treasurer presented his report as follows:

To the Trustees of the Charity Fund of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your Treasurer presents a synopsis of his account for the past year, as follows:

RECEIPTS.

		Cash balance as per last report,.....	\$1,662.43
May	7.	“ returned by Grand Master,.....	90.00
June	15.	“ from Hancock County Savings Bank,.....	511.29
July	1.	“ “ Leeds and Farmington R. R. bond, ma- tured,.....	1,000.00
Sept.	1.	“ from City of Portland bond matured,.....	1,000.00
March	1.	“ from City of Portland bond matured,....	1,000.00

Cash income from investments:

Canal National Bank,	\$175.00	
Casco National Bank,	259.00	
First National Bank,	84.00	
National Traders Bank,	66.00	
Merchants National Bank,	37.50	
Westbrook Trust Co.,	60.00	
Maine Savings Bank,	79.84	
Portland Savings Bank,	80.80	
Saco and Biddeford Savings Inst.,	76.54	
Bath Savings Institution,	21.00	
Brunswick Savings Institution, ...	21.20	
Gardiner Savings Institution, ...	21.00	
Augusta Savings Bank,	21.06	
Hancock County Savings Bank, ..	7.66	
Skowhegan Savings Bank,	18.24	
Waterville Savings Bank,	20.86	
Wiscasset Savings Bank,	21.20	
City of Portland bonds,	180.00	
Leeds and Farmington bond,	30.00	
Town of Brunswick bond,	40.00	
Delaware Water bond,	30.00	
Maine Central R. R. bond,	35.00	
City of Columbus bond,	25.00	
Muncie Water bond,	30.00	
City of Belfast bond,	60.00	
Rockland Water bonds,	75.00	
Union Electric Co. bonds,	30.00	1,605.90
		<hr/> \$6,869.62

DISBURSEMENTS.

		Cash to beneficiaries,	\$1,190.00
May	8.	“ for rent of safe,	10.00
June	30.	“ for 20 shares Westbrook Trust Com- pany stock,	2,020.00
Sept.	4.	“ for 10 shares Merchants National Bank stock,	1,150.00
	8.	“ for expense on Denver City Cable R. R. bond,	10.00
March	12.	“ for Union Electric Company bonds, ..	1,000.00
		Added to deposits in—	
		Maine Savings Bank,	79.84
		Portland Savings Bank,	80.80

Saco and Biddeford Savings Inst.,	76.54	
Waterville Savings Bank,.....	20.86	
Wiscasset " " 	21.20	
Brunswick Savings Institution,...	21.20	
Skowhegan Savings Bank,.....	18.24	
Bath Savings Institution,.....	21.00	
Gardiner Savings Institution,....	21.00	
Augusta Savings Bank,.....	21.06	5,761.74
Cash on deposit with Union Safe Deposit and Trust Company,.....		1,107.88
		<hr/> \$6,869.62

The Charity Fund consists of—

25 shares Canal National Bank,.....	\$2,500.00
37 shares Casco " " 	3,700.00
14 shares First " " 	1,400.00
11 shares National Traders Bank,.....	1,100.00
10 shares Merchants National Bank,.....	750.00
20 shares Westbrook Trust Co.,.....	2,000.00
2 City of Portland bonds,.....	1,500.00
1 Town of Brunswick bond,.....	1,000.00
1 Delaware Water bond,.....	500.00
1 Denver City Cable R. R. bond,.....	1,000.00
1 Maine Central R. R. bond,.....	500.00
1 City of Columbus bond,.....	500.00
1 Muncie Water bond,.....	500.00
1 City of Belfast bond,.....	1,000.00
3 Rockland Water Co. bonds,.....	1,500.00
2 Union Electric Co. bonds,.....	1,000.00

Cash on deposit in—

Portland Savings Bank,.....	2,080.80
Maine " " 	2,056.60
Augusta " " 	542.98
Skowhegan " " 	535.89
Waterville " " 	537.64
Wiscasset " " 	546.60
Saco and Biddeford Savings Institution,....	1,971.56
Bath " " 	541.20
Brunswick " " 	546.60
Gardiner " " 	541.20
Union Safe Deposit and Trust Co.,.....	1,107.88

\$31,458.95

Respectfully submitted,

MARQUIS F. KING, *Grand Treasurer.*

The Secretary presented 89 applications for aid, with a schedule of the same, which were referred to a committee of two for examination.

Voted, That the bond of the Grand Treasurer be fixed at \$10,000, and that a bond with the Union Safe Deposit and Trust Company of Portland, as surety, be accepted.

Adjourned to 5 afternoon Wednesday, or after close of Grand Lodge session.

WEDNESDAY, May 5, 1897.

Met at 5 P. M.

Present—AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM, *President*.

STEPHEN BERRY, *Secretary*.

A. M. WETHERBEE,

ALBERT M. PENLEY,

CHAS. I. COLLAMORE,

FRANK E. SLEEPER,

FESSENDEN I. DAY,

JOSEPH A. LOCKE.

BRO. BERRY reported for the Committee of Finance, that they had examined the securities and found them to compare correctly with the Grand Treasurer's report.

The Grand Treasurer's report was then accepted.

The Committee on Applications for Aid reported a schedule, which was accepted.

Voted, That \$150 be placed in the hands of the Grand Master.

Voted, That one represent six dollars.

Voted, That \$2,058 be appropriated to pay the schedule.

Adjourned *sine die*.

Attest :

STEPHEN BERRY, *Secretary*.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OF THE

Charity Fund of the Grand Lodge.

—1897.—



JOSEPH A. LOCKE, Grand Master,	Ex-Officio.
WINFIELD S. CHOATE, Deputy Grand Master,	“
ALFRED S. KIMBALL, Senior Grand Warden,	“
ENOCH O. GREENLEAF, Junior Grand Warden,	“
STEPHEN BERRY, Rec. Grand Secretary,	“
FRANK E. SLEEPER,	elected May 7, 1895, for three years.
A. M. WETHERBEE,	“ “ 7, “ “ “ “
CHARLES I. COLLAMORE,	“ “ 5, 1896, “ “ “
FESSENDEN I. DAY,	“ “ 5, “ “ “ “
EDWARD P. BURNHAM,	“ “ 4, 1897, “ “ “
ARCHIE L. TALBOT,	“ “ 4, “ “ “ “

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION.

Adopted since Edition of 1893.

SEC. 35. The clothing of a Grand Officer shall be as the Grand Lodge shall, from time to time, prescribe. Permanent members of the Grand Lodge shall wear the apron prescribed for Grand Officers.

An officer of a lodge shall wear a blue velvet collar, a silver jewel, and white or figured apron. [1896, p. 64.]

GRAND LODGE CLOTHING UNDER THE FOREGOING PROVISION.

Voted, That the clothing of the Grand Officers shall be as follows :

The aprons of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Wardens shall be of white lambskin, lined with purple, having the emblem of his office suitably embroidered on the edgings thereof, with purple edging and strings.

The aprons of the other Grand Officers shall be of white lamb-skin, lined with purple, with purple strings and edging.

That the jewels of the Grand Officers shall be as follows :

That of the Grand Master, the Compasses extended to forty-five degrees, with the segment of a circle at the points and a gold or metal gilt plate included, on which is represented an eye, eradiated, with a triangle, also eradiated.

That of the Deputy Grand Master, the Compasses and Square united with a five pointed star in the centre.

That of the Senior Grand Warden, the Level; Junior Grand Warden, the Plumb; the Grand Treasurer, a Key; Recording Grand Secretary, Crossed Pens; Corresponding Grand Secretary, Crossed Pens; Grand Chaplain, Book with a Triangle; Grand Marshal, Crossed Rods; Grand Deacons, Dove and Olive Branch; Grand Stewards, Cornucopia; Grand Sword Bearer, Crossed Swords; Grand Standard Bearer, Banner; Grand Pursuivants, a Rod and Sword, crossed; Grand Organist, Lyre; Grand Tyler, Sword.

Each Past Grand Master, Past Deputy Grand Master and Past Grand Warden may be distinguished by the jewel prescribed for the office he has filled, with this difference, that such jewel shall be fixed within a circle or oval, of gold or metal gilt. It shall be worn over the left breast.

The Collars of the Grand Officers shall be a purple velvet collar suitably embroidered. [1896, pp. 64 and 65.]

STANDING REGULATION.

AMENDED SINCE EDITION OF CONSTITUTION, 1893.

19. The Grand Secretary shall notify each Grand Officer, elect or appointed, who has not been installed in the Grand Lodge, of his election or appointment and transmit to him an abstract of Section 10 of the Constitution.

[Page 57, 1894, re-enacted.]

ADDITION TO 1.

Resolved, That the Grand Treasurer be directed to pay each permanent member of the Grand Lodge in attendance at the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, annually, the same, for attendance and mileage, as is paid delegates to the Grand Lodge.

[Page 222, 1897.]

LODGES IN MAINE,

With Dates of Precedence and Charter.

† Charter surrendered. ‡ Charter re-issued. § Revoked. ¶ Consolidated.

LODGE.	LOCATION.	DATE OF PRECEDENCE.	DATE OF CHARTER.
1 Portland,	Portland,	March 30, 1769.	March 30, 1769.
2 Warren,*	East Machias,	Sept. 10, 1778.	Sept. 10, 1778.
3 Lincoln,	Wiscasset,	June 1, 1792.	June 1, 1792.
4 Hancock,	Castine,	June 9, 1794.	June 9, 1794.
5 Kennebec,	Hallowell,	March 14, 1796.	March 14, 1796.
6 Amity,	Camden,	March 10, 1801.	March 10, 1801.
7 Eastern,	Eastport,	June 8, 1801.	June 8, 1801.
8 United,	Brunswick,	Dec. 14, 1801.	Dec. 14, 1801.
9 Saco,	Saco,	June 14, 1802.	June 16, 1802.
10 Rising Virtue,	Bangor,	Sept. 13, 1802.	Sept. 16, 1802.
11 Pythagorean,	Fryeburg,	June 13, 1803.	June 13, 1803.
12 Cumberland,	New Gloucester,	June 13, 1803.	June 13, 1803.
13 Oriental,	Bridgton,	March 12, 1804.	March 12, 1804.
14 Solar,	Bath,	Sept. 10, 1804.	Sept. 10, 1804.
15 Orient,	Thomaston,	Sept. 10, 1805.	Sept. 10, 1805.
16 St. George,	Warren,	March 10, 1806.	March 10, 1806.
17 Ancient Landmark,	Portland,	June 10, 1806.	June 10, 1806.
18 Oxford,	Norway,	Sept. 14, 1807.	Sept. 14, 1807.
19 Felicity,	Bucksport,	March 14, 1809.	March 14, 1809.
20 Maine,	Farmington,	June 13, 1809.	Jan. 13, 1810.
21 Oriental Star,	Livermore,	June 13, 1811.	June 13, 1811.
22 York,	Kennebunk,	March 9, 1813.	March 9, 1813.
23 Freeport,	Freeport,	Sept. 13, 1814.	Sept. 13, 1814.
24 Phoenix,	Belfast,	Sept. 9, 1816.	Dec. 30, 1816.
25 Temple,	Winthrop,	Sept. 8, 1817.	Oct. 6, 1817.
26 Village,	Bowdoinham,	June 9, 1817.	Sept. 16, 1817.
27 Adoniram,	Limington,	Sept. 9, 1818.	Sept. 10, 1818.
28 Northern Star,	North Anson,	Dec. 9, 1818.	Dec. 15, 1818.
29 Tranquil,	Auburn,	Dec. 9, 1818.	Dec. 9, 1818.
30 Blazing Star,	Rumford,	March 10, 1819.	March 11, 1819.
31 Union,	Union,	Dec. 27, 1819.	April 8, 1820.
32 Hermon,	Gardiner,	June 23, 1820.	June 23, 1820.
33 Waterville,	Waterville,	June 27, 1820.	June 27, 1820.
34 Somerset,	Showhegan,	Jan. 11, 1821.	Jan. 11, 1821.
35 Bethlehem,	Augusta,	July 12, 1821.	May 3, 1866†.
36 Casco,	Yarmouth,	Oct. 11, 1821.	Oct. 24, 1821.
37 Washington,	Lubec,	Jan. 10, 1822.	Jan. 24, 1822.
38 Harmony,	Gorham,	Jan. 10, 1822.	Jan. 24, 1822.
39 Penobscot,	Dexter,	Jan. 10, 1822.	Jan. 24, 1822.
40 Lygonia,	Ellsworth,	April 11, 1822.	April 11, 1822.
41 Morning Star,	Litchfield,	July 11, 1822.	July 16, 1822.
42 Freedom,	Limerick,	Jan. 11, 1823.	Jan. 14, 1823.

* This lodge assisted in educating the orphan children of the Patriot General JOSEPH WARREN, for whom it was named.

LODGE.	LOCATION.	DATE OF PRECEDENCE.	DATE OF CHARTER.
43 Alna,	Alna,	Jan. 11, 1823.	Jan. 14, 1823.
44 Piscataquis,	Milo,	Oct. 9, 1823.	Oct. 28, 1823.
45 Central,	China,	April 8, 1824.	April 8, 1824.
46 St. Croix,	Calais,	May 29, 1845.	May 29, 1845.
47 Dunlap,	Biddeford,	Jan. 13, 1826.	Jan. 30, 1826.
48 Lafayette,	Readfield,	Jan. 13, 1826.	May 20, 1850. †
49 Meridian Splendor,	Newport,	July 13, 1826.	July 18, 1826.
50 Aurora,	Rockland,	July 18, 1826.	May 9, 1872. †
51 St. John's,	South Berwick,	Jan. 12, 1827.	Feb. 13, 1827.
52 Mosaic,	Foxcroft,	April 12, 1827.	July 16, 1827.
53 Rural,	Sidney,	April 12, 1827.	July 25, 1827.
54 Vassalborough,	No. Vassalboro',	April 12, 1827.	May 31, 1827.
55 Fraternal,	Alfred,	Jan. 10, 1828.	Jan. 10, 1828.
56 Mount Moriah,	Denmark,	Jan. 10, 1828.	Jan. 23, 1828.
57 King Hiram,	Dixfield,	April 10, 1828.	May 9, 1872. †
58 Unity,	Thorndike,	April 10, 1828.	May 15, 1828.
59 Mount Hope,	Hope,	Jan. 25, 1848.	May 4, 1848. †
60 Star in the East,	Oldtown,	Feb. 23, 1848.	May 5, 1848.
61 King Solomon's,	Waldoboro',	April 4, 1849.	Feb. 5, 1855. †
62 King David's,	Lincolnton,	June 16, 1849.	Jan. 13, 1850.
63 Richmond,	Richmond,	Jan. 1, 1850.	May 10, 1850.
64 Pacific,	Exeter,	Oct. 22, 1850.	May 12, 1851.
65 Mystic,	Hampden,	March 1, 1851.	May 12, 1851.
66 Mechanics',	Orono,	March 3, 1851.	May 12, 1851.
67 Blue Mountain,	Phillips,	July 12, 1850.	May 10, 1852.
68 Mariners',	Searsport,	Oct. 23, 1851.	May 10, 1853.
69 Howard,	Winterport,	Nov. 28, 1851.	May 6, 1853.
70 Standish,	Standish,	June 10, 1852.	May 10, 1853.
71 Rising Sun,	Orland,	Oct. 18, 1852.	May 10, 1853.
72 Pioneer,	Ashland,	Oct. 26, 1852.	May 5, 1854.
73 Tyrian,	Mechanic Falls,	Jan. 21, 1853.	May 10, 1853.
74 Bristol,	Bristol,	March 1, 1853.	May 5, 1854.
75 Plymouth,	Plymouth,	May 9, 1853.	May 5, 1854.
76 Arundel,	Kennebunkport,	May 5, 1854.	June 26, 1854.
77 Tremont,	Tremont,	June 12, 1854.	May 3, 1856.
78 Crescent,	Pembroke,	July 4, 1854.	July 10, 1854.
79 Rockland,	Rockland,	Oct. 25, 1854.	April 4, 1872. †
80 Keystone,	Solon,	Dec. 16, 1854.	May 4, 1855.
81 Atlantic,	Portland,	May 3, 1855.	May 3, 1855.
82 St. Paul's,	Rockport,	Oct. 27, 1855.	May 2, 1856.
83 St. Andrew's,	Bangor,	Feb. 6, 1856.	May 3, 1856.
84 Eureka,	St. George,	July 27, 1855.	May 2, 1856.
85 Star in the West,	Unity,	May 4, 1855.	May 24, 1856.
86 Temple,	Saccarappa,	March 1, 1856.	May 5, 1856.
87 Benevolent,	Carmel,	March 12, 1857.	May 7, 1857.
88 Narraguagus,	Cherryfield,	March 25, 1857.	May 28, 1857.
89 Island,	Islesboro,	April 3, 1857.	Nov. 5, 1857.
90 Hiram Abiff,	West Appleton,	Jan. 27, 1857.	May 5, 1858. §
91 Harwood,	Machias,	April 8, 1858.	Oct. 15, 1858.
92 Siloam,	Fairfield,	March 8, 1858.	Jan. 1, 1859.
93 Horeb,	Lincoln,	June 5, 1858.	May 5, 1859.
94 Paris,	South Paris,	June 18, 1858.	May 5, 1859.
95 Corinthian,	Hartland,	Sept. 13, 1858.	May 5, 1859.
96 Monument,	Houlton,	Nov. 18, 1858.	May 5, 1859.
97 Bethel,	Bethel,	July 6, 1859.	May 5, 1860.
98 Katahdin,	Patten,	Aug. 24, 1859.	May 3, 1860.
99 Vernon Valley,	Mount Vernon,	Oct. 18, 1859.	May 3, 1860.

LODGE.	LOCATION.	DATE OF PRECEDENCE.	DATE OF CHARTER.
100 Jefferson,	Bryant's Pond,	Feb. 8, 1860.	May 3, 1860.
101 Nezinscot,	Turner,	March 1, 1860.	May 3, 1860.
102 Marsh River,	Brooks,	Dec. 24, 1859.	May 9, 1861.
103 Dresden,	Dresden,	Feb. 3, 1860.	May 9, 1861.
104 Dirigo,	South China,	June 12, 1860.	May 9, 1861.
105 Ashlar,	Lewiston,	Nov. 5, 1860.	May 9, 1861.
106 Tuscan,	Addison Point,	Dec. 27, 1860.	May 9, 1861.
107 Day Spring,	West Newfield,	March 19, 1861.	May 9, 1861.
108 Relief,	Belgrade,	Jan. 11, 1861.	May 8, 1862. §
109 Mount Kinco,	Abbot,	May 10, 1861.	May 8, 1862.
110 Monmouth,	Monmouth,	May 21, 1861.	May 8, 1862.
111 Liberty,	Liberty,	Nov. 8, 1861.	May 8, 1862.
112 Eastern Frontier,	Fort Fairfield,	May 8, 1862.	May 7, 1863.
113 Messalonskee,	Oakland,	May 15, 1862.	May 7, 1863.
114 Polar Star,	Bath,	March 7, 1863.	May 7, 1863.
115 Moderation,	West Buxton,	March 18, 1863.	May 7, 1863.
116 Lebanon,	Norridgewock,	April 30, 1863.	May 7, 1863.
117 Greenleaf,	Cornish,	April 22, 1863.	May 4, 1864.
118 Drummond,	Parsonsfield,	May 7, 1863.	May 4, 1864.
119 Pownal,	Stockton,	July 4, 1863.	May 6, 1875. †
120 Meduncook,	Friendship,	Feb. 6, 1864.	May 4, 1864. †
121 Acacia,	Durham,	May 7, 1863.	May 4, 1865.
122 Marine,	Deer Isle,	March 18, 1864.	May 3, 1865.
123 Franklin,	New Sharon,	May 4, 1864.	May 3, 1865.
124 Olive Branch,	Charleston,	May 4, 1864.	May 3, 1865.
125 Meridian,	Pittsfield,	June 7, 1864.	May 3, 1865.
126 Timothy Chase,	Belfast,	Oct. 26, 1864.	May 3, 1865.
127 Presumpscot,	Windham,	Nov. 19, 1864.	May 3, 1866.
128 Eggemoggin,	Sedgwick,	March 1, 1865.	May 3, 1866.
129 Quantabacook,	Searsmont,	March 28, 1865.	May 3, 1866.
130 Trinity,	Presque Isle,	July 17, 1865.	May 3, 1866.
131 Lookout,	Cutler,	July 18, 1865.	May 3, 1866.
132 Mount Tire'm,	Waterford,	Oct. 18, 1865.	May 3, 1866.
133 Asylum,	Wayne,	July 20, 1865.	May 9, 1867.
134 Trojan,	Troy,	Feb. 19, 1866.	May 9, 1867. ¶
135 Riverside,	Jefferson,	March 13, 1866.	May 8, 1867.
136 Ionic,	Gardiner,	April 24, 1866.	May 9, 1867. †
137 Kenduskeag,	Kenduskeag,	May 3, 1866.	May 8, 1867.
138 Lewy's Island,	Princeton,	May 3, 1866.	May 8, 1867.
139 Archon,	Dixmont,	Sept. 26, 1866.	May 8, 1867.
140 Mount Desert,	Mount Desert,	Feb. 14, 1867.	May 8, 1867.
141 Augusta,	Augusta,	March 21, 1867.	May 8, 1867.
142 Ocean,	Wells,	March 22, 1867.	May 7, 1868.
143 Preble,	Sanford,	May 9, 1867.	May 7, 1868.
144 Seaside,	Boothbay,	Oct. 7, 1867.	May 7, 1868.
145 Moses Webster,	Vinalhaven,	Jan. 13, 1868.	May 7, 1868.
146 Seabastcook,	Clinton,	Feb. 3, 1868.	May 7, 1868.
147 Evening Star,	Buckfield,	Feb. 22, 1869.	May 5, 1869.
148 Forest,	Springfield,	April 1, 1869.	May 5, 1869.
149 Doric,	Monson,	May 7, 1868.	May 5, 1869.
150 Rabboni,	Lewiston,	Dec. 28, 1868.	May 5, 1869.
151 Excelsior,	Northport,	March 1, 1869.	May 5, 1869.
152 Crooked River,	Bolster's Mills,	April 15, 1869.	May 5, 1870.
153 Delta,	Lovell,	May 5, 1869.	May 4, 1870.
154 Mystic Tie,	Weld,	June 8, 1869.	May 4, 1870.
155 Ancient York,	Lisbon Falls,	Jan. 1, 1870.	May 4, 1870.
156 Wilton,	Wilton,	Jan. 31, 1870.	May 4, 1870.

LODGE.	LOCATION.	DATE OF PRECEDENCE.	DATE OF CHARTER.
157 Cambridge,	Cambridge,	May 5, 1870.	May 4, 1871.
158 Anchor,	South Bristol,	May 5, 1870.	May 4, 1871.
159 Esoteric,	Ellsworth,	Sept. 3, 1870.	May 4, 1871.
160 Parian,	Corinna,	Sept. 9, 1870.	May 9, 1872.
161 Carrabassett,	Canaan,	March 2, 1871.	May 9, 1872.
162 Arion,	Goodwin's Mills,	March 18, 1871.	May 9, 1872.
163 Pleasant River,	Brownville,	July 28, 1871.	May 9, 1872.
164 Webster,	Webster,	July 28, 1871.	May 9, 1872.
165 Molunkus,	Sherman Mills,	Aug. 26, 1871.	May 9, 1872.
166 Neguemkeag,	Vassalborough,	Dec. 22, 1871.	May 9, 1872.
167 Whitney,	Canton,	March 9, 1872.	May 9, 1872.
168 Composite,	Lagrange,	May 9, 1872.	May 8, 1873.
169 Shepherd's River,	Brownfield,	July 1, 1872.	May 8, 1873.
170 Caribou,	Caribou,	July 27, 1872.	May 8, 1873.
171 Naskeag,	Brooklin,	Feb. 3, 1873.	May 8, 1873.
172 Pine Tree,	Mattawamkeag,	Nov. 14, 1873.	May 7, 1874.
173 Pleiades,	Millbridge,	May 7, 1874.	May 7, 1874.
174 Lynde,	Hermon,	May 7, 1874.	May 7, 1874.
175 Baskahegan,	Danforth,	Dec. 3, 1874.	May 20, 1875.
176 Palestine,	Biddeford,	May 5, 1875.	May 6, 1875.†
177 Rising Star,	Penobscot,	June 17, 1875.	May 4, 1876.
178 Ancient Brothers',	Auburn,	June 21, 1875.	May 4, 1876.
179 Yorkshire,	North Berwick,	Sept. 18, 1875.	May 4, 1876.
180 Hiram,	Cape Elizabeth,	Nov. 1, 1875.	May 4, 1876.
181 Reuel Washburn,	East Livermore,	May 4, 1876.	May 3, 1877.†
182 Granite,	West Paris,	Sept. 16, 1878.	May 8, 1879.
183 Deering,	Deering,	April 2, 1879.	May 8, 1879.
184 Naval,	Kittery,	May 8, 1879.	May 6, 1880.
185 Bar Harbor,	Bar Harbor,	April 19, 1882.	May 2, 1882.
186 Warren Phillips,	Cumberl'd Mills,	April 18, 1883.	May 3, 1883.
187 Ira Berry,	Bluehill,	Nov. 12, 1883.	May 8, 1884.
188 Jonesport,	Jonesport,	May 8, 1884.	May 8, 1884.
189 Knox,	So. Thomaston,	Sept. 6, 1884.	May 7, 1885.
190 Springvale,	Springvale,	May 7, 1885.	May 6, 1886.
191 Davis,	Strong,	May 7, 1885.	May 6, 1886.
192 Winter Harbor,	Winter Harbor,	Aug. 12, 1887.	May 3, 1888.
193 Washburn,	Washburn,	Dec. 14, 1887.	May 3, 1888.
194 Euclid,	Madison,	May 4, 1888.	May 9, 1889.
195 Reliance,	Green's Landing,	May 9, 1889.	May 8, 1890.
196 Bay View,	East Boothbay,	Dec. 20, 1889.	May 8, 1890.
197 Aroostook,	Blaine,	Dec. 17, 1890.	May 7, 1891.
198 St. Aspinquid,	York,	July 22, 1892.	May 4, 1893.
199 Bingham,	Bingham,	Dec. 23, 1892.	May 4, 1893.
200 Columbia,	Greenville,	July 23, 1894.	May 7, 1896.
U. D. David A. Hooper,	W. Sullivan,	June 3, 1897.	
U. D. Mount Bigelow,	Flagstaff,	June 19, 1897.	

NOTE. 59 Mt. Hope, charter surrendered 1879.

90 Hiram Abiff, charter revoked 1868.

108 Relief, charter revoked 1894.

120 Meduncook, charter surrendered 1884.

134 Trojan, consolidated with Star in the West, No. 85, in 1888.

136 Ionic, charter surrendered 1882.

176 Palestine, consolidated with Dunlap, No. 47, in 1895.

181 Reuel Washburn, consolidated with Oriental Star, No. 21, in 1892.

Lodges enrolled, 202; extinct, 8; working, 194.

List of Lodges by Districts.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

District Deputy Grand Master—HERBERT S. SLEEPER, Washburn.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 72 Pioneer, Ashland. | 170 Caribou, Caribou. |
| 112 Eastern Frontier, Fort Fairfield. | 193 Washburn, Washburn. |
| 130 Trinity, Presque Isle. | |

DISTRICT NO. 2.

District Deputy Grand Master—WALTER F. BRADISH, Eastport.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 7 Eastern, Eastport. | 78 Crescent, Pembroke. |
| 37 Washington, Lubec. | 138 Lewy's Island, Princeton. |
| 46 St. Croix, Calais. | |

DISTRICT NO. 3.

District Deputy Grand Master—GEORGE HARRIS FOSTER, Machias.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 Warren, East Machias. | 131 Lookout, Cutler. |
| 88 Narraguagus, Cherryfield. | 173 Pleiades, Millbridge. |
| 91 Harwood, Machias. | 188 Jonesport, Jonesport. |
| 106 Tuscan, Addison Point. | |

DISTRICT NO. 4.

District Deputy Grand Master—EDWARD F. DAVIES, Castine.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 4 Hancock, Castine. | 177 Rising Star, Penobscot. |
| 122 Marine, Deer Isle. | 187 Ira Berry, Bluehill. |
| 128 Eggemoggin, Sedgwick. | 195 Reliance, Green's Landing. |
| 171 Naskeag, Brooklin. | |

DISTRICT NO. 5.

District Deputy Grand Master—THOMAS J. PEAKS, Charleston.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 39 Penobscot, <i>Dexter</i> . | 149 Doric, <i>Monson</i> . |
| 44 Piscataquis, <i>Milo</i> . | 163 Pleasant River, <i>Brownville</i> . |
| 52 Mosaic, <i>Foxcroft</i> . | 168 Composite, <i>La Grange</i> . |
| 109 Mount Kineo, <i>Guilford</i> . | 200 Columbia, <i>Greenville</i> . |
| 124 Olive Banch, <i>Charleston</i> . | |

DISTRICT NO. 6.

District Deputy Grand Master—ALBERT J. DURGIN, Orono.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 10 Rising Virtue, <i>Bangor</i> . | 83 St. Andrew's, <i>Bangor</i> . |
| 60 Star in the East, <i>Oldtown</i> . | 87 Benevolent, <i>Carmel</i> . |
| 65 Mystic, <i>Hampden</i> . | 137 Kenduskeag, <i>Kenduskeag</i> . |
| 66 Mechanics', <i>Orono</i> . | 174 Lynde, <i>Hermon</i> . |
| 69 Howard, <i>Winterport</i> . | |

DISTRICT NO. 7.

District Deputy Grand Master.—ALBERT W. WARD, Thorndike.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 45 Central, <i>China</i> . | 111 Liberty, <i>Liberty</i> . |
| 58 Unity, <i>Thorndike</i> . | 129 Quantabacook, <i>Searsmont</i> . |
| 85 Star in the West, <i>Unity</i> . | 146 Seabasticook, <i>Clinton</i> . |
| 102 Marsh River, <i>Brooks</i> . | |

DISTRICT NO. 8.

District Deputy Grand Master—JAMES E. WENTWORTH, Searsport.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 24 Phoenix, <i>Belfast</i> . | 119 Pownal, <i>Stockton</i> . |
| 62 King David's, <i>Lincolntonville</i> . | 126 Timothy Chase, <i>Belfast</i> . |
| 68 Mariners', <i>Searsport</i> . | 151 Excelsior, <i>Northport</i> . |
| 89 Island, <i>Islesboro'</i> . | |

DISTRICT NO. 9.

District Deputy Grand Master—JAMES M. SMITH, St. George.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 6 Amity, <i>Camden</i> . | 79 Rockland, <i>Rockland</i> . |
| 15 Orient, <i>Thomaston</i> . | 82 St. Paul's, <i>Rockport</i> . |
| 16 St. George, <i>Warren</i> . | 84 Eureka, <i>Tenant's Harbor</i> . |
| 31 Union, <i>Union</i> . | 145 Moses Webster, <i>Vinalhaven</i> . |
| 50 Aurora, <i>Rockland</i> . | 184 Knox, <i>South Thomaston</i> . |

DISTRICT NO. 10.

District Deputy Grand Master—WALTER E. CLARK, Waldoboro.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3 Lincoln, Wiscasset. | 135 Riverside, North Jefferson. |
| 43 Alna, Damariscotta. | 144 Seaside, Boothbay Harbor. |
| 61 King Solomon's, Waldoboro. | 158 Anchor, South Bristol. |
| 74 Bristol, Bristol. | 196 Bay View, East Boothbay. |
| 103 Dresden, Dresden. | |

DISTRICT NO. 11.

District Deputy Grand Master—LEVI E. JONES, Winthrop.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5 Kennebec, Hallowell. | 41 Morning Star, Litchfield Corner. |
| 25 Temple, Winthrop. | 104 Dirigo, Weeks' Mills. |
| 32 Hermon, Gardiner. | 110 Monmouth, Monmouth. |
| 35 Bethlehem, Augusta. | 141 Augusta, Augusta. |

DISTRICT NO. 12.

District Deputy Grand Master.—FRANKLIN WALKER, Waterville.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 33 Waterville, Waterville. | 99 Vernon Valley, Mt. Vernon. |
| 48 Lafayette, Readfield. | 118 Messalonskee, Oakland. |
| 53 Rural, Sidney. | 133 Asylum, Wayne. |
| 54 Vassalboro', North Vassalboro'. | 166 Neguemkeag, Vassalboro'. |

DISTRICT NO. 13.

District Deputy Grand Master—HERMAN W. S. LOVEJOY, Fairfield.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 28 Northern Star, North Anson. | 116 Lebanon, Norridgewock. |
| 34 Somerset, Skowhegan. | 161 Carrabassett, Canaan. |
| 80 Keystone, Solon. | 194 Euclid, Madison. |
| 92 Siloam, Fairfield. | 199 Bingham, Bingham. |

DISTRICT NO. 14.

District Deputy Grand Master—ROBERT W. CARR, Bowdoinham.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 8 United, Brunswick. | 63 Richmond, Richmond. |
| 14 Solar, Bath. | 114 Polar Star, Bath. |
| 23 Freeport, Freeport. | 121 Acacia, Durham. |
| 26 Village, Bowdoinham. | 155 Ancient York, Lisbon Falls. |

DISTRICT NO. 15.

District Deputy Grand Master—JAMES H. HOWES, New Sharon.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 20 Maine, Farmington. | 156 Wilton, Wilton. |
| 21 Oriental Star, Livermore Falls. | 167 Whitney, Canton. |
| 67 Blue Mountain, Phillips. | 191 Davis, Strong. |
| 123 Franklin, New Sharon. | U. D. Mount Bigelow, Flagstaff. |
| 154 Mystic Tie, Weld. | |

DISTRICT NO. 16.

District Deputy Grand Master—ARTHUR C. RICKER, Bryant's Pond.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 18 Oxford, Norway. | 100 Jefferson, Bryant's Pond. |
| 30 Blazing Star, Rumford Falls. | 147 Evening Star, Buckfield. |
| 57 King Hiram, Dixfield. | 152 Crooked River, Bolster's Mills. |
| 94 Paris, South Paris. | 182 Granite, West Paris. |
| 97 Bethel, Bethel. | |

DISTRICT NO. 17.

District Deputy Grand Master—FRANKLIN R. REDLON, Portland.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Portland, Portland. | 86 Temple, Westbrook. |
| 17 Ancient Land-Mark, Portland. | 127 Presumpscot, North Windham. |
| 36 Casco, Yarmouth. | 180 Hiram, Cape Elizabeth. |
| 38 Harmony, Gorham. | 183 Deering, Deering. |
| 70 Standish, Standish. | 186 Warren Phillips, Cumb'd Mills. |
| 81 Atlantic, Portland. | |

DISTRICT NO. 18.

District Deputy Grand Master—JAMES C. AYER, Cornish.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 11 Pythagorean, Fryeburg. | 132 Mount Tire'm, Waterford. |
| 13 Oriental, Bridgton. | 153 Delta, Lovell. |
| 56 Mount Moriah, Denmark. | 169 Shepherd's River, Brownfield. |
| 117 Greenleaf, Cornish. | |

DISTRICT NO. 19.

District Deputy Grand Master—ISAAC P. GOOCH, Kennebunkport.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 9 Saco, Saco. | 142 Ocean, Wells. |
| 22 York, Kennebunk. | 162 Arion, Goodwin's Mills. |
| 47 Dunlap, Biddeford. | 179 Yorkshire, North Berwick. |
| 51 St. John's, South Berwick. | 184 Naval, Kittery. |
| 76 Arundel, Kennebunkport. | 198 St. Aspinquid, York Village. |

DISTRICT NO. 20.

District Deputy Grand Master—EDWIN A. REED, North Lee.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 93 Horeb, <i>Lincoln</i> . | 172 Pine Tree, <i>Mattawamkeag</i> . |
| 148 Forest, <i>Springfield</i> . | 175 Baskahegan, <i>Danforth</i> . |

DISTRICT NO. 21.

District Deputy Grand Master—EZRA G. MASON, Mount Desert.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 19 Felicity, <i>Bucksport</i> . | 159 Esoteric, <i>Ellsworth</i> . |
| 40 Lygonia, <i>Ellsworth</i> . | 185 Bar Harbor, <i>Bar Harbor</i> . |
| 71 Rising Sun, <i>Orland</i> . | 192 Winter Harbor, <i>Winter Harbor</i> . |
| 77 Tremont, <i>Tremont</i> . | U. D. David A. Hooper, <i>West Sullivan</i> . |
| 140 Mount Desert, <i>Mount Desert</i> . | |

DISTRICT NO. 22.

District Deputy Grand Master—JOHN H. SHEPHERD, Corinna.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 49 Meridian Splendor, <i>Newport</i> . | 125 Meridian, <i>Pittsfield</i> . |
| 64 Pacific, <i>Eceter</i> . | 139 Archon, <i>East Dixmont</i> . |
| 75 Plymouth, <i>Plymouth</i> . | 157 Cambridge, <i>Cambridge</i> . |
| 95 Corinthian, <i>Hartland</i> . | 160 Parian, <i>Corinna</i> . |

DISTRICT NO. 23.

District Deputy Grand Master—FRANK H. DEXTER, Springvale.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 27 Adoniram, <i>Linington</i> . | 115 Buxton, <i>West Buxton</i> . |
| 42 Freedom, <i>Limerick</i> . | 118 Drummond, <i>Parsonsfield</i> . |
| 55 Fraternal, <i>Alfred</i> . | 143 Preble, <i>Sanford</i> . |
| 107 Day Spring, <i>West Newfield</i> . | 190 Springvale, <i>Springvale</i> . |

DISTRICT NO. 24.

District Deputy Grand Master—FREDERICK G. PAYNE, Lewiston.

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|--|--|
| 12 Cumberland, <i>New Gloucester</i> . | 105 Ashlar, <i>Lewiston</i> . |
| 29 Tranquil, <i>Auburn</i> . | 150 Rabboni, <i>Lewiston</i> . |
| 73 Tyrian, <i>Mechanic Falls</i> . | 164 Webster, <i>Webster</i> . |
| 101 Nezinscot, <i>Turner</i> . | 178 Ancient Brothers', <i>Auburn</i> . |

DISTRICT NO. 25.

District Deputy Grand Master—J. FRANK BRYSON, Houlton.

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 96 Monument, <i>Houlton</i> . | 165 Molunkus, <i>Sherman Mills</i> . |
| 98 Katahdin, <i>Patten</i> . | 197 Aroostook, <i>Blaine</i> . |

Officers of the Grand Lodge, 1897.

M. W.	JOSEPH A. LOCKE,	<i>Grand Master,</i>	Portland.
R. W.	WINFIELD S. CHOATE,	<i>Deputy Grand Master,</i>	Augusta.
"	ALFRED S. KIMBALL,	<i>Senior Grand Warden,</i>	Norway.
"	ESOCK O. GREENLEAF,	<i>Junior " "</i>	Farmington.
"	MARQUIS F. KING,	<i>Grand Treasurer,</i>	Portland.
"	STEPHEN BERRY,	<i>Grand Secretary,</i>	Portland.
"	CHARLES D. SMITH,	<i>Cor. Grand Secretary,</i>	Portland.
"	HERBERT S. SLEEPER,	<i>D. D. G. M. 1st Dist.</i>	Washburn.
"	WALTER F. BRADISH,	" 2d "	Eastport.
"	G. HARRIS FOSTER,	" 3d "	Machias.
"	EDWARD F. DAVIES,	" 4th "	Castine.
"	THOMAS J. PEAKS,	" 5th "	Charleston.
"	ALBERT J. DURGIN,	" 6th "	Orono.
"	ALBERT W. WARD,	" 7th "	Thorndike.
"	JAMES E. WENTWORTH,	" 8th "	Searsport.
"	JAMES M. SMITH,	" 9th "	St. George.
"	WALTER E. CLARK,	" 10th "	Waldoboro.
"	LEVI E. JONES,	" 11th "	Winthrop.
"	FRANKLIN WALKER,	" 12th "	Waterville.
"	HERMAN W. S. LOVEJOY,	" 13th "	Fairfield.
"	ROBERT W. CARR,	" 14th "	Bowdoinham.
"	JAMES H. HOWES,	" 15th "	New Sharon.
"	ARTHUR C. RICKER,	" 16th "	Bryant's Pond.
"	FRANKLIN R. REDLON,	" 17th "	Portland.
"	JAMES C. AYER,	" 18th "	Cornish.
"	ISAAC P. GOOCH,	" 19th "	Kennebunkp't.
"	EDWIN A. REED,	" 20th "	North Lee.
"	EZRA G. MASON,	" 21st "	Mt. Desert.
"	JOHN H. SHEPHERD,	" 22d "	Corinna.
"	FRANK H. DEXTER,	" 23d "	Springvale.
"	FREDERICK G. PAYNE,	" 24th "	Lewiston.
"	J. FRANK BRYSON,	" 25th "	Houlton.
W. & Rev.	MARTYN SUMMERBELL,	<i>Grand Chaplain,</i>	Lewiston.
"	ELMER F. PEMBER,	" "	Bangor.
"	JOHN R. CLIFFORD,	" "	Deering.
"	CHARLES A. HAYDEN,	" "	Augusta.
"	JOHN GIBSON,	" "	C. Elizabeth.
"	WOODBURY P. MERRILL,	" "	Berwick.
W.	WM. J. BURNHAM,	" <i>Marshal,</i>	Lewiston.
"	HUGH R. CHAPLIN,	" <i>Senior Deacon,</i>	Bangor.
"	JAMES E. PARSONS,	" <i>Junior Deacon,</i>	Ellsworth.
"	JACOB R. STEWART,	" <i>Steward,</i>	Rockland.
"	CHAS. W. CROSBY,	" "	Kent's Hill.
"	EDWIN A. PORTER,	" "	Pittsfield.
"	WM. A. REMICK,	" "	Bucksport.
"	WM. N. HOWE,	" <i>Sword Bearer,</i>	Portland.
"	ISAAC N. HURD,	" <i>Standard "</i>	Kittery.
"	WM. O. FOX,	" <i>Pursuivant,</i>	Portland.
"	ALBERT M. AMES,	" <i>Pursuivant,</i>	Stockton Sp'gs.
M. W.	FRANK E. SLEEPER,	" <i>Lecturer,</i>	Sabattus.
W.	WALTER S. SMITH,	" <i>Organist,</i>	Portland.
"	WARREN O. CARNEY,	" <i>Tyler,</i>	Portland.

* List of Subordinate Lodges *

WITH THEIR PRINCIPAL OFFICERS,

AS RETURNED MARCH 1, 1897.

- Acacia, 121, Durham. Josiah L. Wright, m; Marcus W. Eveleth, sw; Joseph W. Thomas, jw; Everett L. Macomber, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 14
- Adoniram, 27, Limington. John F. Moulton, m; Samuel N. Small, sw; Charles L. Cousins, jw; Charles E. Small, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 23
- Alna, 43, Damariscotta. Lincoln H. Chapman, m; Isaac C. Stetson, sw; Frank L. Smithwick, jw; Edward E. Philbrook, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Amity, 6, Camden. Henry L. Maker, m; Will V. Farnsworth, sw; Alfred F. Beverage, jw; Orris I. Gould, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, October. 9
- Anchor, 158, South Bristol. Nelson W. Gamage, m; Elliot P. Gamage, sw; John F. French, jw; Merritt E. Thompson, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Ancient Brother's, 178, Auburn. George E. McCann, m; William E. Cutler, sw; John R. Webber, jw; Forest E. Ludden, s. Meeting Monday on or after full moon; election, October. 24
- Ancient Landmark, 17, Portland. Charles P. Costello, m; George H. Owen, sw; Winslow E. Howell, jw; John S. Russell, s. Meetings first Wednesday; election, December. 17
- Ancient York, 155, Lisbon Falls. Fenton Haigh, m; Harry E. Plummer, sw; Harry Doughty, jw; William Parkin, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, September. 14
- Archon, 139, East Dixmont. C. Hale Thurlough, Monroe, m; Porter Lufkin, South Newburg, sw; Andrew J. Mudgett, East Jackson, jw; Benjamin F. Porter, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, October. 22

- Arion, 162, Goodwin's Mills. William M. Staples, m; J. H. Hanson, sw; Ivory W. Murphy, jw; Cyrus K. Littlefield, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, November. 19
- Aroostook, 197, Blaine. Howard W. Safford, m; Aaron J. Fulton, sw; Wm. A. Beals, jw; John M. Ramsey, s. Meeting Saturday on or after full moon; election, December. 25
- Arundel, 76, Kennebunkport. Reuel W. Norton, m; George H. Bourne, sw; C. Ed. Meserve, jw; Fordyce B. Perkins, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, February. 19
- Ashlar, 105, Lewiston. Charles A. Jumper, m; Edward S. Stetson, sw; Lewis V. Winship, jw; Fred I. Morrell, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, January. 24
- Asylum, 133, Wayne. Frederick L. Cheney, m; B. Frank Bradford, sw; Arthur W. Manter, jw; Charles S. Haynes, s. Meeting Tuesday before full moon; election, September. 12
- Atlantic, 81, Portland. Fred H. York, m; James E. Leighton, sw; Fred H. Cobb, jw; Charles D. Smith, s. Meeting third Wednesday; election, December. 17
- Augusta, 141, Augusta. George K. Black, m; Frank L. Staples, sw; Weston Lewis, jw; Freeman J. C. Little, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 11
- Aurora, 50, Rockland. Leonard H. Snow, m; Asa P. St. Clair, sw; Clarence C. Cross, jw; Lorenzo S. Robinson, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 9
- Bar Harbor, 185, Bar Harbor. Charles F. Paine, m; Frank O. Allen, sw; James Brown, jw; Benj. L. Hadley, s. Meeting third Thursday; election, December. 21
- Baskahegan, 175, Danforth. David C. Parker, m; Leo. H. Tuck, sw; Faraday Martin, jw; Martin L. Porter, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, August. 20
- Bay View, 196, East Boothbay. W. Irving Adams, m; Isaac L. Murray, sw; Frank Seavey, jw; Victor K. Montgomery, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Benevolent, 87, Carmel. George D. Pinkham, m; John E. Winslow, sw; Albert M. Day, jw; Camillus K. Johnson, s. Meeting Wednesday week of full moon; election, December 27th. 6
- Bethel, 97, Bethel. Eben S. Kilborn, m; James H. Barrows, sw; Curtis E. Abbott, jw; Jarvis C. Billings, s. Meeting second Thursday; election, November. 16
- Bethlehem, 35, Augusta. Charles A. Price, m; Chas. B. Adams, sw; Alfred P. Fifield, jw; James E. Blanchard, s. Meeting first Monday; election, November. 11

- Bingham, 199, Bingham. Benjamin F. Smith, m; Edwin O. Vittum, sw; Samuel A. Smith, jw; George C. Eames, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election June. 13
- Blazing Star, 30, Rumford Falls. Edwin P. Smith, m; Cyrus P. Eaton, sw; John E. Moore, jw; Fred A. Porter, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, October. 16
- Blue Mountain, 67, Phillips. Arthur W. McLeary, m; Mason Parker, sw; Daniel F. Field, jw; William A. D. Cragin, s. Meeting Wednesday week of full moon; election, September. 15
- Bristol, 74, Bristol Mills. Calvin V. Robbins, m; Matthias A. Benner, sw; Norris A. Miller, jw; Edwin J. Eryine, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Buxton, 115, West Buxton. Frank H. Hargraves, m; Joseph F. Warren, sw; Leonard Palmer, jw; Cyril P. Harmon, s. Meeting Monday evening on or before full moon; election, January. 23
- Cambridge, 157, Cambridge. John B. LaBree, m; Jacob T. Brown, sw; Melvin W. Knowles, jw; G. Willard Chadbourne, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 22
- Caribou, 170, Caribou. Carl C. King, m; Bertram L. Fletcher, sw; Albert J. Taylor, jw; Charles G. Littlefield, s. Meeting first Thursday; election, December. 1
- Carrabassett, 161, Canaan. Frank Weymouth, m; Lafayette Gleason, sw; Abel P. Gleason, jw; Alpheus Nason, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, first Tuesday in October. 13
- Casco, 36, Yarmouth. Herbert M. Moore, m; David H. Bennett, sw; Frank W. Bucknam, jw; Monroe Stoddard, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, October. 17
- Central, 45, China. John A. Woodsum, m; Gustavus J. Nelson, sw; Everett B. Besse, jw; Willis W. Washburn, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, September. 7
- Columbia, 200, Greenville. Hiram Hunt, m; Charles D. Shaw, sw; Charles H. Sawyer, jw; Jesse M. Prentiss, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 5
- Composite, 168, La Grange. Henry J. Bailey, Howland, m; Fred H. Savage, sw; Harry A. Fowles, jw; Andrew H. Dyer, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, October. 5
- Corinthian, 95, Hartland. Edwin A. Pratt, m; George M. Lancey, sw; Edwin G. Varney, jw; Edwin A. Bean, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, August. 22
- Crescent, 78, Fembroke. Oscar I Sinclair, m; Jesse L. Knowlton, sw; Aurelius C. Brown, jw; George W. Allan, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, December 27th. 2

- Crooked River, 152, Bolster's Mills. George A. Haskell, m; Edward A. Wight, sw; Jason B. Scribner, jw; Leander Dorman, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, January. 16
- Cumberland, 12, New Gloucester. Elisha A. McCollister, Gray, m; Henry W. Loring, West Pownal, sw; Frank W. Winter, Upper Gloucester, jw; George H. Goding, Lewiston Junction, s. Meeting Saturday before full moon; election, November. 24
- David A. Hooper, v. d. West Sullivan. Edwin F. Clapham, m; Oliver G. Newman, sw; Ernest C. Gordon, jw; John Mortimer, s. Meeting first Saturday. 21
- Davis, 191, Strong. Charles F. Thompson, m; Charles B. Richardson, sw; Oliver B. Small, jw; Andrew J. Norton, s. Meeting Friday evening of week in which moon is full; election, September. 15
- Day Spring, 107, West Newfield. Frank P. W. Colby, m; Everett E. Ham, sw; Walter E. Whitten, jw; George O. Hannaford, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, September. 23
- Deering, 183, Deering. Edward S. Waite, m; Charles W. Blake, sw; Ernest L. Watkins, jw; Francis E. Chase, Woodfords, s. Meeting second Monday; election, February. 17
- Delta, 153, Lovell. William R. Kneeland, m; George W. Walker, sw; James H. Walker, jw; Edward L. Bell, s. Meeting second Thursday; election, December. 18
- Dirigo, 104, Weeks' Mills. C. M. Clark, m; John A. Peva, sw; John W. Boynton, jw; Orrin F. Sproul, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, September. 11
- Doric, 149, Monson. Harold E. Morrill, m; George W. Morrill, sw; Fred H. Crane, jw; Edwin R. Haynes, s. Meeting Monday on or after full moon; election, December. 5
- Dresden, 103, Dresden Mills. John H. Mayers, m; Lemuel W. Carlton, sw; George H. Colby, jw; Nathaniel F. Leeman, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, October. 10
- Drummond, 118, Parsonsfield. Willie F. Edwards, m; Stephen E. Towle, sw; Herbert Edwards, jw; Albert R. Leavitt, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, September. 23
- Dunlap, 47, Biddeford. John B. Lowell, m; Everett M. Staples, sw; Lytton E. Staples, jw; James Beaumont, s. Meeting first Monday; election, December. 19
- Eastern, 7, Eastport. Wheeler C. Hawkes, m; Andrew R. Holmes, sw; Warren S. Kane, jw; Noel B. Nutt, s. Meeting first Monday; election, December 27th. 2

- Eastern Frontier, 112, Fort Fairfield. George S. Stevens, m; Herbert W. Trafton, sw; John M. Thurlough, jw; Nelson H. Martin, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 1
- Eggemoggin, 128, Sedgwick. Theodore A. Smith, m; Fred J. Sargent, sw; Henry A. Small, jw; Orrin P. Carter, s. Meeting second Monday; election, January. 4
- Esoteric, 159, Ellsworth. Thomas E. Hale, m; William H. Dresser, sw; Edgar P. Kelley, jw; Melvin S. Smith, s. Meeting first Thursday; election, January. 21
- Euclid, 194, Madison. Alfred E. Moore, m; Nyron Churchill, sw; Omer D. Eames, jw; Irvin L. Russell, s. Meeting first Monday; election, September. 13
- Eureka, 84, Tenant's Harbor. Walter H. Matthews, m; George E. Allen, sw; A. A. Morrison, jw; James Edward Shrader, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, January. 9
- Evening Star, 147, Buckfield. Henry C. Ricker, m; Washington Heald, sw; Charles F. Berry, jw; Alfred Cole, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, September. 16
- Excelsior, 151, Northport. George W. Whitcher, m; Isaac Hills, sw; Fred B. Glidden, jw; Rodel A. Packard, s. Meeting Wednesday nearest full moon; election, December. 8
- Felicity, 19, Bucksport. A. Frank Bennett, m; William A. Remick, sw; Howard F. Gilley, jw; George O. Mitchell, s. Meeting first Monday; election, December. 21
- Forest, 148, Springfield. Jasper L. Lewis, m; Charles D. Chase, sw; Herbert E. Murdock, jw; Lysander W. Trask, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, September. 20
- Franklin, 123, New Sharon. Augustus W. Morrill, m; John M. Rowe, sw; Samuel W. Bailey, jw; James H. Howes, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, September. 15
- Fraternal, 55, Alfred. Otis R. Witcher, m; Edwin P. Ferguson, sw; Willis J. Linscott, jw; John M. Akers, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, November. 23
- Freedom, 42, Limerick. Samuel T. Bradbury, m; John P. Fogg, sw; Frank E. Townsend, jw; Fred W. Libby, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 23
- Freeport, 23, Freeport. Freeman M. Grant, m; Perez S. Burr, sw; Charles W. Bennett, jw; William A. Hyde, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 14
- Granite, 182, West Paris. Willard E. Bryant, m; Benton L. Swift, sw; William C. Stearns, jw; Peter C. Fickett, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, November. 16

- Greenleaf, 117, Cornish. William R. Copp, m; Howard Brackett, sw; John Bradley, jw; George H. Parker, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, December. 18
- Hancock, 4, Castine. Walter S. Brown, m; C. Fred Jones, sw; John C. M. Gardner, jw; Charles H. Hooper, s. Meeting first Thursday; election, December. 4
- Harmony, 38, Gorham. Everett P. Hanson, m; Moses E. Little, sw; Chas. E. Cobb, jw; Fred W. Harding, s. Meeting Wednesday on or preceding full moon; election, December. 17
- Harwood, 91, Machias. Stephen Hadley, m; Willis H. Allen, sw; Wm. E. Boynton, jw; Cyrus W. Beverly, s. Meeting first Monday; election, December 27th. 3
- Hermon, 32, Gardiner. Arthur C. Brown, m; Thomas A. Jewett, sw; William L. Powers, jw; James M. Larrabee, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 11
- Hiram, 180, South Portland. John Melia, m; Albert A. Cole, sw; Frank I. Brown, jw; Stephen Scamman, Knightville, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, November. 17
- Horeb, 93, Lincoln. George W. Haskell, m; Wallace C. Thibodeau, sw; Frank R. Linton, jw; Charles F. Plumly, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, first Monday in December. 20
- Howard, 69, Winterport. Daniel McG. Spencer, m; Fred C. Atwood, sw; Joseph L. Eldridge, jw; John H. Baker, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, December. 6
- Ira Berry, 187, Bluehill. Frank H. Binder, m; Harry Saunders, sw; George G. Long, jw; Frank A. Davis, s. Meeting third Monday; election, December. 4
- Island, 89, Islesboro. Augustine H. Parker, m; Ernest L. Sprague, sw; Winfield S. Pendleton, Jr., jw; Thomas R. Williams, North Islesboro, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, February. 8
- Jefferson, 100, Bryant's Pond. Arthur C. Ricker, m; James L. Bowker, sw; Walter H. Small, jw; Alden Chase, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, September. 16
- Jonesport, 188, Jonesport. Seth S. Nickerson, m; Arthur L. Whiting, sw; Darius D. Kelley, jw; Henry A. Mansfield, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 3
- Katahdin, 98, Patten. William L. Bonney, m; John Jackman, sw; Alonzo A. Porter, jw; Charles C. Perry, s. Meeting Thursday on or preceding full moon; election, December. 25
- Kenduskeag, 137, Kenduskeag. Wallace W. Patterson, m; F. Ernest Harvey, sw; Hosea B. Emery, jw; William C. Spratt, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 6

- Kennebec, 5, Hallowell. George A. Safford, m; Lorenzo D. Merchant, sw; John M. Robinson, jw; James J. Jones, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, November. 11
- Keystone, 80, Solon. Cornelius A. Merrill, m; Wright S. Cram, sw; Jonah G. Spaulding, jw; Perry S. Longley, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, third Wednesday of October. 13
- King David's, 62, Lincolnville. Leslie D. Ames, m; Alton E. Andrews, sw; Oliver E. Keene, jw; Henry Crehore, s. Meeting Tuesday evening nearest full moon; election, December. 8
- King Hiram, 57, Dixfield. George D. Kidder, m; William P. Gammon, sw; George W. Dockham, jw; Charles L. Dillingham, s. Meeting Tuesday on or after full moon; election, October. 16
- King Solomon's, 61, Waldoboro. George H. Douglas, m; George L. Welt, sw; Fred A. Hovey, jw; John M. Richards, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Knox, 189, South Thomaston. George C. Horn, m; Richard A. Snow, sw; Willard P. Sleeper, jw; Milton E. Bassick, s. Meeting first Saturday; election, January. 9
- Lafayette, 48, Readfield. Frank A. Dow, m; Sewal J. Hawes, sw; Charles D. Record, jw; Ernest A. Morgan, s. Meeting first Saturday; election, February. 12
- Lebanon, 116, Norridgewock. George O. Carr, m; Charles E. Moore, sw; Charles A. Ward, jw; Charles A. Harrington, South Norridgewock, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, September. 13
- Lewy's Island, 138, Princeton. Leander R. Horsman, m; Theo. Morrison, sw; Charles A. Rolfe, jw; Samuel O. Hoar, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, December, St. John's Day. 2
- Liberty, 111, Liberty. John C. Sherman, Libertyville, m; Oren W. Ripley, South Montville, sw; Winfield W. Lunt, jw; Ambrose P. Cargill, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, September. 7
- Lincoln, 3, Wiscasset. Charles H. Metcalf, m; Clarence A. Peaslee, sw; George W. Pooler, jw; William D. Patterson, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Lookout, 131, Cutler. Hermitre U. Davis, m; Forest S. Stevens, sw; Frederick W. Thurlow, jw; Lucius Davis, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, January. 3
- Lygonia, 40, Ellsworth. William Goggins, m; Elvert E. Parker, sw; Howard W. Dunn, jw; James E. Parsons, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 21
- Lynde, 174, Hermon. Frank P. Whitaker, m; Charles L. Phillips, sw; George E. Barnes, jw; Charles N. Patten, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, December. 6

- Maine, 20, Farmington. Edward C. Merrill, m; George C. Purington, sw; Frederick P. Adams, jw; Frank W. Butler, s. Meeting Monday in week of full moon; election, October. 15
- Marine, 122, Deer Isle. John J. Spofford, m; Frank A. Gross, sw; Edwin L. Haskell, jw; Austin D. Haskell, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 4
- Mariner's, 68, Searsport. Lyman W. Wentworth, m; Clifton Whittemore, sw; Edwin H. Durgin, jw; Charles E. Adams, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, January. 8
- Marsh River, 102, Brooks. Willard S. Jones, m; Allen B. Stantial, sw; Forrest K. Roberts, jw; David P. Curtis, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 7
- Mechanic', 66, Orono. Alonzo H. Harriman, m; Frank A. Clark, sw; Robert M. Hutchinson, jw; Albert J. Durgin, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, December 27th. 6
- Meridian, 125, Pittsfield. John F. Webendorfer, m; Truman M. Griffin, sw; Orin E. Libby, jw; Leon L. Libby, s. Meeting Friday evening on or before full moon; election, January. 22
- Meridian Splendor, 49, Newport. Watson B. Marsh, m; Percy L. Oakes, sw; A. Leslie Oakes, jw; Charles E. Smith, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, December. 22
- Messalonskee, 113, Oakland. Charles A. Ridley, m; Frank E. Burrill, sw; Thomas Walker, jw; J. Wesley Gilman, s. Meeting on the first Saturday; election, December. 12
- Molunkus, 165, Sherman Mills. Isaac Cushman, m; Freeman C. Harris, sw; Isaac T. Maddocks, jw; John Gosnell s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, October. 25
- Monmouth, 110, Monmouth. Otis K. Prescott, m; John M. Prescott, sw; Horace S. Bent, jw; James A. Cunningham, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, September. 11
- Monument, 90, Houlton. George A. Gorham, Jr., m; Charles H. Fogg, sw; George E. Wilkins, jw; Charles E. F. Stetson, s. Meeting second Wednesday; election, March. 25
- Morning Star, 41, Litchfield Corner. Chapin Lydston, m; William E. Tarr, sw; Thomas T. Jenkins, jw; Irving W. Gilbert, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, September. 11
- Mosaic, 52, Foxcroft. Frank H. Glover, m; Wm. C. Woodbury, sw; William M. Steward, jw; James T. Roberts, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, December. 5
- Moses Webster, 145, Vinalhaven. J. Herbert Sanborn, m; Herbert W. Fifield, sw; Edmund B. Roberts, jw; Winfield S. Carver, s. Meeting second Tuesday; election, November. 9

- Mount Bigelow, v. D., Flagstaff. Danville C. Durrell, m; David A. Butler, sw; Walter E. Hinds, jw; John A. Standish, Stratton, s. Meeting second Saturday. 15
- Mount Desert, 140, Mount Desert. Melville L. Allen, m; Clifford B. Richardson, sw; John A. Somes, jw; Lyman H. Somes, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, January. 21
- Mount Kineo, 109, Guilford. Albion W. Ellis, m; Alexander F. Edes, sw; Fred Mellor, jw; David Pearson, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, December. 5
- Mount Moriah, 56, Denmark. Albert F. Trumbull, m; Sidney T. Brown, sw; Luther Trumbull, jw; Almon P. Pingree, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 18
- Mount Tire'm, 132, Waterford. William Douglass, m; Warren V. Kneeland; sw; Francis S. Packard, jw; Isaac F. Jewett, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 18
- Mystic, 65, Hampden. Fred L. Wyman, m; Charles W. Page, sw; Sumner D. Greeley, jw; William H. Tribou, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, December. 6
- Mystic Tie, 154, Weld. Roscoe E. Scamman, m; Cleff Maxwell, sw; Herbert A. Horn, jw; Lyman L. Jones, s. Meeting Tuesday of the week of full moon; election, December. 15
- Narraguagus, 88, Cherryfield. David W. Campbell, m; Arthur H. Bartlett, sw; Phineas B. Guptill, jw; George G. Freeman, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before the full moon; election, January. 3
- Naskeag, 171, Brooklin. Eldorus H. Bridges, m; Stephen E. McFarland, sw; John J. McDonald, jw; Henry S. Kane, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 4
- Naval, 184, Kittery. C. Clifford Muchmore, m; Frederick W. Cross, sw; Dwight F. Faulkner, jw; Levi L. Goodrich, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, July. 19
- Neguemkeag, 166, Vassalboro. Elbridge G. Jackson, m; George D. Cook, sw; Willis B. Crosby, jw; Daniel Rollins, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, September. 12
- Nezinscot, 101, Turner. William H. Downing, m; Harry W. Burdin, sw; Oliver A. Sprague, jw; Seth D. Andrews, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, June. 24
- Northern Star, 28, North Anson. Bert. Witham, m; George L. Hovey, sw; Walter W. Poore, jw; Wilbur C. Simmons, s. Meeting Tuesday on or next preceding full moon; election, December. 13
- Ocean, 142, Wells' Depot. Lyman F. Getchell, m; Albert H. Hatch, sw; Thomas A. Chick, jw; Frank L. Buker, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 19

- Olive Branch, 124, Charleston. Fred A. Thayer, m; Frank H. Drummond, sw; George S. Walker, jw; Oscar L. Smith, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, December. 5
- Orient, 15, Thomaston. William A. Hastings, m; William H. Stackpole, sw; George A. Moore, jw; Edwin O. Cushing, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 9
- Oriental, 13, Bridgton. Norman H. Libbey, m; Fred Willby, sw; John L. Meserve, jw; D. Eugene Chaplin, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, October. 18
- Oriental Star, 21, Livermore Falls. Chester H. Thurston, m; Rutillus A. Ryerson, sw; Charles H. Gibbs, jw; George O. Eustis, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, January. 15
- Oxford, 18, Norway. Charles F. Ridlon, m; Henry F. Favor, sw; Merton L. Kimball, jw; Howard D. Smith, s. Meeting Monday on or next before full moon; election, September. 16
- Pacific, 64, Exeter. Alfred W. Hicks, Garland, m; Roswell C. Rich, sw; Angus Delaney, jw; David E. Knight, Garland, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, January. 22
- Parian, 160, Corinna. Lewis Hutchins, m; Oliver L. Jones, sw; Silas F. Briggs, jw; George W. Nutter, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, September. 22
- Paris, 94, South Paris. Arthur E. Forbes, m; William P. Morton, sw; Albert D. Park, jw; Horatio Woodbury, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, at first stated meeting in year. 16
- Penobscot, 39, Dexter. William C. Elder, m; Freeman D. Draith, sw; Ernest E. Carr, jw; Charles S. Hutchinson, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, at last stated meeting preceding 27th December. 5
- Phoenix, 24, Belfast. William C. Libby, m; Upham A. Hoyt, sw; William A. Wood, jw; James Pattee, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, January. 8
- Pine Tree, 172, Mattawamkeag. John D. McCain, m; Josiah F. Shedd, sw; Walter E. Haynes, jw; George W. Smith, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, third Monday in December. 20
- Pioneer, 72, Ashland. Henry M. Chapman, m; James D. Mahoney, sw; Sanford C. Murphy, jw; Fred O. Orcutt, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 1
- Piscataquis, 44, Milo. Louis C. Ford, m; Thomas F. Hodgden, sw; Percie M. Hamlin, jw; Albert W. Murray, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, September. 5

- Pleasant River, 163, Brownville. Edgar C. Smith, m; Elmer H. Poole, sw; William C. Wells, jw; George W. McClain, Henderson, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, November. 5
- Pleiades, 173, Milbridge. A. L. Wallace, m; Elmer E. Sawyer, sw; Ira S. Sawyer, jw; Augustine C. Leighton, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, January. 3
- Plymouth, 75, Plymouth. L. P. Toothaker, m; Dana N. Gray, sw; L. Howard Gray, jw; Walter G. Loud, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, September. 22
- Polar Star, 114, Bath. Frank D. Monroe, m; Ernest W. Mitchell, sw; Joseph E. Anderson, jw; Herbert D. Maxwell, s. Meeting second Wednesday; election, March. 14
- Portland, 1, Portland. Convers E. Leach, m; C. Fred Berry, sw; George W. Sturgis, jw; George F. Gould, s. Meeting second Wednesday; election, November. 17
- Pownal, 119, Stockton Springs. Horace M. Griffin, m; Charles C. Heath, sw; Willard M. Berry, jw; Frank H. Cousens, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 8
- Preble, 143, Sanford. William I. Beck, m; Fred Stubbs, sw; Fred Hodgson, jw; Joseph Leckenby, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 23
- Presumpscot, 127, No. Windham. George A. Gordon, m; Alexander Speirs, sw; Frank H. Haskell, jw; William H. Cram, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, December. 17
- Pythagorean, 11, Fryeburg. Frank A. Hill, m; John L. Osgood, sw; Fred A. Holt, jw; Tobias L. Eastman, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 18
- Quantabacook, 129, Searsmont. Loxly T. Ness, m; Adelbert Milcott, sw; Charles H. Burgess, jw; Loima C. Poor, s. Meeting first Saturday; election, October. 7
- Rabboni, 150, Lewiston. Albert L. Murch, m; T. Lloyd Pratt, sw; William B. Skelton, jw; George F. Turner, s. Meeting Wednesday after full moon; election, September. 24
- Reliance, 195, Green's Landing. Butler H. Mills, m; Joseph H. Eaton, sw; William McKenzie, jw; Rollins Y. Stinson, s. Meeting first Saturday; election, December. 4
- Richmond, 63, Richmond. William H. Whitney, m; Isaac L. Spaulding, sw; Daniel W. Knight, jw; William R. Fairclough, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, October. 14
- Rising Star, 177, Penobscot. James Cameron, m; Albert P. Leach, sw; Robert Bissett, jw; Benjamin H. Cushman, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, December. 4

- Rising Sun, 71, Orland. ———, m; Ashur B. Hutchins, sw; Enoch W. Harriman, jw; Richard P. Harriman, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, December. 21
- Rising Virtue, 10, Bangor. Warren H. Knowles, m; Charles J. Wardley, sw; Frank J. Cole, jw; Charles I. Collamore, s. Meeting last Tuesday; election, December. 6
- Riverside, 135, East Jefferson. Charles W. Besse, m; Albert E. Jones, sw; Wilber B. Tibbetts, jw; William A. Jackson, s. Meeting Wednesday on or full moon; election, December. 10
- Rockland, 79, Rockland. Henry J. Keating, m; George A. Crockett, sw; C. Frank Jones, jw; Albert I. Mather, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 9
- Rural, 53, Sidney. Sewall A. Clark, m; William A. Shaw, sw; Frank Abbott, jw; James F. Warren, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, September. 12
- Saco, 9, Saco. Fred B. Wiggins, m; Freeland H. Oaks, sw; Harry A. McNeally, jw; George A. Emery, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 19
- Saint Andrew's, 83, Bangor. Fred W. Adams, m; Frank A. Robinson, sw; Edwin Lord, jw; Arlington B. Marston, s. Meeting last Friday; election, December. 6
- Saint Aspinquid, 198, York Village. Edward W. Baker, m; Charles L. Bowden, sw; George N. Thompson, jw; George F. Plaisted, York Corner, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, September. 19
- Saint Croix, 46, Calais. Thomas S. Boles, m; Stephen McCoy, sw; William H. Keen, jw; Stephen D. Morrell, s. Meeting first Monday; election, December, St. John's Day. 2
- Saint George, 16, Warren. John W. Dunbar, m; Roland O. Wade, sw; Mathew Allen, jw; Charles L. Robinson, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, October. 9
- Saint John's, 51, South Berwick. Charles M. Sleeper, m; John B. Whitehead, sw; Joseph A. Lord, jw; Edward A. Chesley, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, May. 19
- Saint Paul's, 82, Rockport. Everett E. Fales, m; Frank E. Achorn, sw; Lorin A. Brewster, jw; Perez B. Cooper, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, October. 9
- Seaside, 144, Boothbay Harbor. George H. Snow, m; Lewis A. Dunton, sw; William O. Seavey, jw; Henry S. Perkins, s. Meeting first Friday; election, December. 10
- Sebasticook, 146, Clinton. John H. McGorrill, m; George H. Piper, sw; Frank L. Besse, jw; Ruel W. Gerald, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, October. 7

- Shepherd's River, 169, Brownfield. Isaac S. Lowell, m; Fred A. Thayer, sw; Fred T. Fogg, jw; Hubert F. Fitch, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, December. 18
- Siloam, 92, Fairfield. George G. Weeks, m; William F. Nutt, sw; Elmer E. Wheeler, jw; Herman W. S. Lovejoy, s. Meeting first Thursday; election, December. 13
- Solar, 14, Bath. Howard B. Johnson, m; Langdon T. Snipe, sw; Walter S. Glidden, jw; John R. Knowlton, s. Meeting first Monday; election, December. 14
- Somerset, 34, Skowhegan. Frank W. Allen, m; George C. Thompson, sw; Charles F. Rochester, jw; Charles M. Lambert, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, January. 13
- Springvale, 190, Springvale. Harmon G. Allen, m; Willie F. Ferguson, sw; Edward Goodwin, jw; Frank H. Dexter, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 23
- Standish, 70, Standish. John D. Higgins, m; Joseph C. Shaw, sw; George E. Whitney, jw; William H. Dresser, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, January. 17
- Star in the East, 60, Oldtown. Fred C. Barton, m; Virgil E. Tucker, sw; Albert H. Maddocks, jw; Charles A. Dillingham, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, September. 6
- Star in the West, 85, Unity. Albert Bacon, m; George R. Mosher, sw; Warren Jones, jw; Reuel M. Berry, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 7
- Temple, 25, Winthrop. Charles C. Stackpole, m; George W. Bates, sw; Everett W. Macomber, jw; Frank I. Bishop, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 11
- Temple, 86, Westbrook. Frank O. Mariner, m; Ernest A. Bodge, sw; George H. Knowlton, jw; Oliver A. Cobb, s. Meeting second Wednesday; election, December. 17
- Timothy Chase, 126, Belfast. Dayton F. Stephenson, m; Hiram L. Partidge, sw; James H. Howes, jw; Charles E. Johnson, s. Meeting first Thursday; election, January. 8
- Tranquil, 29, Auburn. James P. Hutchinson, m; Albert E. Verrill, sw; Lavator O. Morse, jw; James F. Atwood, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, January. 24
- Tremont, 77, South West Harbor. Eben F. Richardson, m; William W. King, sw; Alvah E. Foss, jw; William R. Keene, Manset, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, December. 21
- Trinity, 130, Presque Isle. Fred H. Blake, m; Ronaldo H. McDonald, sw; J. Coburn Lenfest, jw; Rainsford J. Smith, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 1

- Tuscan, 106, Addison. Fred A. Chandler, m; Melvin L. Cleaves, sw; Amos G. Godfrey, jw; Amasa D. Tracy, Westcogus, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, December. 3
- Tyrian, 73, Mechanic Falls. Fred E. Dwinall, m; Will P. Perkins, sw; Winfield C. Dwinall, jw; Lewin Jefferies, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, October. 24
- Union, 31, Union. F. M. Lucas, m; George C. Hawes, sw; E. S. Cummings, jw; Benjamin Burton, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, December. 9
- United, 8, Brunswick. Adelbert J. Hutchinson, m; Gilbert M. Elliott, sw; Henry C. Upton, jw; Lemuel H. Stover, s. Meeting second Tuesday; election, December. 14
- Unity, 58, Thorndike. Alonzo H. Higgins, m; Charles P. Hutchins, sw; Phineas P. Shibles, jw; John N. Tilton, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, January. 7
- Vassalboro, 54, North Vassalboro'. Albert S. Priest, m; Joseph Jewett, sw; Matthew Hodges, jw; Henry A. Ewer, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, September. 12
- Vernon Valley, 99, Mt. Vernon. William A. French, m; Charles H. Severy, sw; Melvin S. Gordon, jw; Silas Burbank, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, November. 12
- Village, 26, Bowdoinham. George H. Blodgett, m; Frank H. Purington, sw; John F. Young, jw; Henry E. Cornish, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, October. 14
- Warren, 2, East Machias. Francis L. Talbot, m; Herbert M. Hanscomb, sw; Frank H. Wiswell, jw; Warren F. Pope, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December 27th. 3
- Warren Phillips, 186, Cumberland Mills. George B. Swett, m; Clinton S. Eastman, sw; Frank H. Swan, jw; Edward H. Smith, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, October. 17
- Washburn, 193, Washburn. Jarvis B. Harris, m; David L. Duncan, sw; Frank E. Gould, jw; Edward M. Hines, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 1
- Washington, 37, Lubec. Robert G. McBride, m; Irving W. Case, sw; William Merriam, jw; George G. Boynton, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, December. 2
- Waterville, 33, Waterville. Herbert M. Fuller, m; Edward L. Meader, sw; Calvin W. Gilman, jw; Thomas E. Ranstead, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 12
- Webster, 164, Sabattus. Edwin Woodside, m; George W. Jordan, sw; Fred A. Richardson, jw; Judson Bangs, s. Meeting Thursday on or next before full moon; election, December. 24

- Whitney, 167, Canton. Cyrus T. Bonney, Jr., m; Charles H. Randall, sw; Herbert V. Foster, jw; Herbert J. DeShon, s. Meeting first Thursday; election, September. 15
- Wilton, 156, Wilton. Cyrus N. Blanchard, m; Maurice E. Allen, sw; Daniel J. Norton, jw; Fred E. Trefethen, s. Meeting Wednesday week of full moon; election, September. 15
- Winter Harbor, 192, Winter Harbor. Charles E. Grover, m; Ira N. Workman, sw; Amos E. Small, jw; B. Frank Sumner, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 4
- York, 22, Kennebunk. Paul I. Andrews, m; Charles H. Cole, sw; William H. Littlefield, jw; George A. Gilpatric, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 19
- Yorkshire, 179, North Berwick. J. Wesley Webber, m; Charles W. Goodwin, sw; James A. Austin, jw; Brainerd S. Drake, s. Meeting last Friday; election, December. 19

Brethren Died during the Year,

FROM MARCH 1, 1896, TO MARCH 1, 1897.

THOSE MARKED * WERE RETURNED AS BURIED WITH MASONIC RITES.

- 1 Portland. V. Richard Foss, March 13; Joseph B. Adie, June 15; Moses S. Bunker, August 16; Benj. F. Libby, Sept.; Royal R. Burnham, Nov. 12; Martin L. Stevens, Nov. 23; Ansel G. Dewey, Feb. 8.
- 2 Warren. Thomas J. Johnson,* April 21, at Bermuda, W. I.; buried by St. George Lodge, No. 200, to whom a vote of thanks was returned; John Jasper,* May 31; James P. F. Tobey,* October 8; B. Thomas Chaloner, Feb. 19, past Secretary,—funeral escorted by lodge; L. Loring Keith, Feb. 25, Master two years, Treasurer 21 years—funeral escorted by lodge.
- 4 Hancock. George L. Weeks, October.
- 5 KenLebec. Frank O. Brown, July 20, in Utica, N. Y.; William H. Manhire,* Dec. 26, Barre, Vt.; Granite Lodge, No. 135, attended his funeral; Herrick S. Barton,* Jan. 25.
- 6 Amity. Franklin L. Start, April 1; Nathan H. Hosmer, April 10; Oscar W. Stone, April 26, in Boulder, Colorado; he was a Past Master.
- 7 Eastern. William Malloch, Oct. 19; Henry Whelpley, Jan. 21.
- 8 United. James Barron; William R. Field, Sept. 11.
- 9 Saco. Cyrus Fenderson, June 10; Edward P. Rodman, Oct. 16.
- 10 Rising Virtue. William H. S. Lawrence,* July 13; Nathan L. Marden, Oct. 23.
- 11 Pythagorean. Amos T. Maxwell, April 8; John A. Webster, June 2.
- 12 Cumberland. Frank L. Gross, April 2, in Newton, Mass., aged 49; Hugh Prince Morrill,* June 7, in Gray; David Winslow Merrill,* Oct. 30, aged 75 yrs. 10 mos.
- 13 Oriental. Charles O. Kilborn, Sept. 21.

- 14 Solar. Albion H. Morse, February 18, 1896; Thomas Minott, Sept. 10; Seth T. Woodward, October; P. H. M. Morrison, October.
- 15 Orient. Cyrus Maxcy, April 30; Samuel Whitcomb, Oct. 2; Angus A. Anderson, Oct. 21; John McDonald, Jan. 6.
- 16 St. George's. Leander Crawford, Dec. 31.
- 17 Ancient Land Mark. William A. Allen, March 21—fell from M. C. R. R. bridge at Auburn; Levi A. Gray, July 23, Past Master; George B. Loring, July 25, suddenly at Rockland; Thomas A. Foster, M. D., Nov. 27; Henry Humphreys, Dec. 4; Jerome B. Fickett, Feb. 25.
- 18 Oxford. George L. Beal,* December 11, Major General in civil war; George P. Jones,* Jan. 16; Osgood N. Bradbury,* Jan. 22.
- 19 Felicity. John Patterson, March 31; Albert C. Page, April 14; Richard Snow, April 27; Warren A. Heywood, June 26; James N. Patterson,* July 10; Joshua A. Whitmore, Sept. 11; Henry S. Lampher, Feb. 26.
- 20 Maine. Jacob E. Eaton, Sept. 27.
- 21 Oriental Star. Elisha Coolidge, June 26; Luthur B. Farnum, Nov. 29; Stillman Noyes, Feb. 21.
- 22 York. Alfred Littlefield,* May 10; John H. Ferguson, June 22, a Past Master; Orin S. Ross, Jan. 8.
- 24 Phoenix. George O. Partridge, June 10; Daniel Harraden, Nov. 3.
- 25 Temple. George A. Wood, Sept. 4.
- 26 Village. William A. Wood, March 9, late Secretary; John Lang, June 24; Curtis G. Sawyer, Oct. 8; Henry H. Williams, Oct. 11; Eben Lancaster.
- 28 Northern Star. Daniel Steward, April 23; C. C. Getchell, Sept. 13; Charles F. Fairbrother, Nov. 4.
- 29 Tranquil. Albert Gay, May 3; Joseph C. Haskell, July 7; Charles C. Jordan, Sept. 14.
- 31 Union. John Arnold, Dec. 11; T. A. Davis,* Feb. 17.
- 32 Hermon. N. P. Lyon, April 26; Daniel Wright, Jan. 28; John L. Gray, Feb. 24, aged 90.
- 33 Waterville. Jesse R. Mathews, March 10, 1895; George A. Phillips, May 6, 1896; W. E. Drummond, July 30; F. A. Waldron, Dec. 19.
- 34 Somerset. Joseph Robinson,* Aug. 15; Mark H. Hilton,* Aug. 23; Samuel A. Bickford,* Sept. 17; Moody J. Weston,* Nov. 24.
- 35 Bethlehem. Henry P. Thayer, December 10, 1895; William A. Wall,* March 10; Jefferson Higgins,* March 16; Hanson C. Turner,* July 21; John W. Rowe,* Sept. 28; George W. Martin,* Oct. 26.
- 36 Casco. Emery W. Hamilton, March 7; Eben R. York, April 2; Gad Hitchcock, April 19, a Past Master; William H. Russell, Oct. 24; Richard Harding, June 30.

- 37 Washington. John Jackson, May 16; James M. Parker, July 11.
- 38 Harmony. Eli Morton, Nov. 8; Daniel C. Libby,* Feb. 28.
- 39 Penobscot. Albert H. Billings, May 23.
- 40 Lygonia. Henry L. Murch,* May 30, buried at Belfast; Charles H. Barton,* June 10; Elliot L. Stratton, July 31; Edmund McFarland,* Feb. 6.
- 41 Morning Star. William Kindrick,* August 7; John L. Allen,* Oct. 17.
- 42 Freedom. Joshua Holland, Jr., August.
- 43 Alna. James C. Leighton,* died at Staten Island, N. Y., buried by Alna Lodge, at Sheepscot, Me.; Joseph Day,* July 11, initiated 1851; Charles A. Jones,* Jan. 31, initiated, 1851, aged 72; Henry Wright,* Feb. 6, initiated 1856, aged 88.
- 44 Piscataquis. Fred E. Packard, Dec. 15.
- 45 Central. William E. Pinkham,* December 21; George A. Morrill, February 9.
- 46 Saint Croix. Henry H. Haskins, Aug. 5, at Kansas City, Mo.; Eugene B. Clark, Aug. 17.
- 47 Dunlap. John Wilson, May 6; Ezekiel H. Foss, Dec. 25.
- 49 Meridian Splendor. Morris E. Trafton, May; Cummings C. Oakes, August.
- 50 Aurora. Horatio Martin,* April 2; Stephen K. Babbage,* April 5, at Newport, Oregon; Alden T. Sherman,* April 26; Frank A. Behr, June 15; Albert A. Flanders,* August 25, at Seal Harbor, on board his vessel; Francis E. Hitchcock, M. D., October 25; Sylvanus C. Spaulding,* Dec. 3, at Nelson, British Columbia; William Munroe,* February 6.
- 51 Saint John's. Howard P. Marston, Aug. 5, a worthy brother.
- 52 Mosaic. Samuel Withee, Aug. 13; Sanford C. Towne, Dec. 17.
- 53 Rural. Jonas M. Hammond,* Dec. 4.
- 54 Vassalboro'. Calvin Williams, April 19; Thomas Williams, Sept. 11; Richard Underwood, Sept. 22; Albert M. Bradley, Feb. 10.
- 55 Fraternal. Richard W. Goding, May 5.
- 58 Unity. Edmund Murch, Oct. 25.
- 60 Star in the East. Samuel Low, March 24.
- 63 Richmond. James L. Pratt, May 12; Lincoln G. Dale.
- 64 Pacific. Horace V. Messenger, April; Daniel F. Davis, Jan. 9.
- 66 Mechanics'. Moses S. Johnston, June 15; Benj. R. Mosher, Dec. 18.
- 67 Blue Mountain. Leroy A. Smith, Jan. 6; Clarence M. Davis, Feb. 22.
- 68 Mariners'. Josiah D. Nickerson,* March 22, funeral at Montville; Otis J. Colson, June 11.
- 69 Howard. Willard O. Taintor, March 14.
- 70 Standish. Amos Boulter, May 16, aged 81; Tobias Lord, June 8, aged

- 49; Seth Higgins, Dec. 4, aged 91; John D. Higgins, Feb. 18, aged 71.
- 72 Pioneer. Joshua Bartlett, May 10; Henry E. Hayden, Sept. 1.
- 73 Tyrian. P. R. Tileston,* May 10; Charles W. Royal,* May 21; L. D. Edgecomb,* Feb. 3.
- 74 Bristol. John A. Sproul, Feb. 4; David Day, Feb. 10, one of the oldest members.
- 75 Plymouth. Alden M. Brown,* Feb. 9.
- 76 Arundel. James G. Consens, Sept. 15.
- 77 Tremont. Andrew H. Haynes,* April 21; Abram C. Fernald.
- 78 Crescent. Samuel Page, May 3, at Cohoes, N. Y.; William Parritt, June 22.
- 79 Rockland. Beniah P. Brackley, February 4, 1896; George F. Stetson, July 23; John W. Newbirt, Aug. 26; Seth C. Arey, in Africa some two years ago.
- 80 Keystone. John Smith, May 17; Asher Davis, August 18; Leonard H. Hayden, Dec. 21.
- 81 Atlantic. John D. Lord, April 23.
- 82 St. Paul's. Oliver J. Bowers, September, at sea; Osborne C. Ropes, October; Lincoln Waldo, December.
- 83 St. Andrew's. Marshall Dyer, June 23; Edward H. Hopkins, Dec. 2; Augustus D. Manson, Jan. 2; George F. Godfrey, Feb. 11.
- 84 Eureka. Joseph A. Studley, Sept. 12, aged 61.
- 85 Star in the West. Benjamin B. Stevens, June.
- 86 Temple. David W. Babb,* March 24, aged 70, a Past Master and a charter member; George F. Leighton, May 9, at North Deering, aged 76; John Woodbury,* Aug. 7, at Cumberland Mills, aged 79; William V. Harmon, Aug. 25, aged 76, a former secretary and treasurer; Henry Hughes, Nov. 14, at Chelsea, Mass.
- 87 Benevolent. William R. Lock; Augustus Mosley; Benjamin Small.
- 89 Island. Thomas H. Parker, Nov. 1; a worthy brother and an honorable citizen.
- 91 Hiram. William Stone, April 13; Amos L. Heaton,* June 24; Barnard L. Farrell,* Aug. 9.
- 92 Siloam. Asher H. Barton, April 15, aged 77 yrs. 28 days; Wilbur C. Chase, April 28, drowned in the Kennebec river by the capsizing of a boat; Thomas B. Brown, Dec. 20, aged 52 yrs. 10 mos.
- 93 Horeb. Alvin Messer,* May 1; William G. Sawyer,* Nov. 24; Daniel Lord, Jan. 8.
- 94 Paris. William A. Frothingham, June 25; Cyrus H. Ripley, Nov. 29.
- 95 Corinthian. Harris Pushor, March; George Robbins, December.

- 96 Monument. Waldo G. Brown, May, in Cuba; George T. Stevens,* July 17; Laurel Monson,* Dec. 14; Wm. H. Stewart, January.
- 97 Bethel. Israel G. Kimball,* Sept. 16; Joshua G. Rich,* February 17; Adelbert C. Scribner,* March 5, 1897.
- 98 Katahdin. Alonzo C. Hersey,* April 22.
- 99 Vernon Valley. Quintin L. Smith, May 10, in Yarmouth.
- 101 Nezinscot. Albert E. Bradford, Oct. 29, aged 43.
- 102 Marsh River. Emerson Davis, June 1.
- 104 Dirigo. H. R. Merithew, May.
- 105 Ashlar. Albert Ring, Feb. 15, a Past Master.
- 106 Tuscan. Ellis B. McKenzie, May 22, at his home in Boston; Charles I. Nash, July 14, murdered on board his vessel.
- 109 Mount Kineo. Ira Faunce, March 21; James A. Munroe, Aug. 22; John P. Hinkley, Aug. 26; Alfred P. Race, Dec. 31.
- 110 Monmouth. John Edwin Pierce, March 13; David Woodbury,* July 21; Benjamin Turner,* Oct. 18; Emerson K. Blake,* Nov. 5.
- 111 Liberty. Anson Gilman, Feb. 13, a Past Master.
- 112 Eastern Frontier. John B. Trafton, June 17.
- 113 Messalonskee. William H. Macartney, Nov. 9. Brethren attended funeral in large numbers, but the family did not desire masonic burial.
- 114 Polar Star. Charles W. Dunning, March 27; John N. Blaisdell, Aug. 31; Parker T. Rivers, Nov. 7; Andrew J. Fuller, Jan. 3, the first Master of the lodge.
- 115 Buxton. N. Deering Clark, March 4; John Martin, Nov. 6.
- 116 Lebanon. John A. Doyen, Aug. 16; Rupert G. Brennan; Herrick M. Eaton; Henry C. Powers, Nov. 5—Past Master and Secretary.
- 117 Greenleaf. Nathaniel Milliken, Nov. 11; Perley C. Sanborn, Jan. 29.
- 119 Pownal. Frank W. Rice, lost at sea, date unknown; Barnabus M. Roberts, Dec. 23, a Past Master.
- 121 Acacia. Harrison B. Strout, May.
- 122 Marine. William H. Haskell, April 5; Thomas S. Fifield, Oct. 2.
- 123 Franklin. Henry Mayhew; C. E. Pinkham; John Willis; Hollis H. Churchill; Hosea W. McGuire, Oct. 17; Albion T. Stinson, Feb. 14, aged 48, a Past Master.
- 124 Olive Branch. Augustus H. Houston, June 13; Jasper D. Smith,* July 25; Job B. Foss,* Aug. 22; Charles P. Church, Dec. 23.
- 126 Timothy Chase. Fred C. Haraden, April; Joseph Clough, July 24.
- 127 Presumpscot. Caleb Morton,* Oct. 27.
- 128 Eggemoggin. Samuel Herrick,* Nov. 25; Groves A. Parker,* Dec. 12; Anson N. Closson,* Jan. 11.
- 131 Lookout. Augustus Jones, April 2.

- 132 Mount Tir'em. John Wilson, June 25; Albert Stanwood, July 20, a charter member.
- 133 Asylum Abiel D. Knapp,* Feb. 21, in Leeds.
- 135 Riverside. William L. Ames, July 20.
- 137 Kenduskeag. Noah S. White, June 20; John B. Watson, Nov. 8; Peter Barker,* Jan 7, a Past Master.
- 138 Lewy's Island. Simeon R. Chadbourne, Dec. 4.
- 140 Mount Desert. Joseph P. Curtis, Jan. 18; Abram T. Leland, Feb. 15.
- 141 Augusta. Winfield S. Tasker, Feb. 13.
- 144 Seaside. Westbrook G. Lewis,* April 17, a Past Master; Joseph Nickerson, Jan. 7, buried in Chatham, Mass., whither lodge sent a delegate; Nathaniel G. Westman,* Feb. 17.
- 145 Moses Webster. George H. Jackson,* May 15; David S. Mullin,* May 27; James McDonald,* Sept. 30.
- 147 Evening Star. Granville A. Harlow, June 29.
- 148 Forest. Eleazer Hutchinson; Emery Johnson, April 8; Alvin H. Lindsay, April 20; John D. Lewis, Jan. 31, Tyler of the lodge.
- 149 Doric. Cyrus A. Packard, Dec. 4.
- 150 Rabboni. Horace C. Little, March 14; Nathan Woodbury, Feb. 27.
- 155 Ancient York. William Mains, Oct. 3.
- 156 Wilton. C. Le Roy Woodward, March 23; Ansel Walker, April 30; Florentine D. S. Brown,* Aug. 6.
- 157 Albert Allen, Sept. 13; George Mitchell,* Oct. 7.
- 159 Esoteric. James Simpson, Aug. 12; George P. Dutton, Sept. 8; David A. Hooper, Sept. 12; Charles C. Clow, November.
- 160 Parian. Ivory M. Knowles, April 5; John T. Dodge, May 13; E. W. Holt, July; Walter L. Knowles, Sept. 5; I. H. Crowell, Oct. 21.
- 162 Arion. Charles E. Downes,* Jan. 27.
- 167 Whitney. Homer Child, March 13.
- 168 Composite. Daniel Hanscom, Aug. 27.
- 169 Shepherd's River. Jacob H. Swan.
- 170 Caribou. J. S. Spaulding, Dec. 15.
- 171 Naskeag. Richard A. Herrick, April 2.
- 173 Pleiades. Willie G. Stevens, April.
- 174 Lynde. Andrew J. Light, May.
- 175 Baskahegan. George W. Miller,* June 27, buried at Vanceboro.
- 179 Yorkshire. Elnathan W. Perkins,* Sept. 13.
- 180 Hiram. Frank G. Pillsbury, March 11.
- 182 Granite. Cyrus H. Howe, March 20; John Black, April 11.
- 183 Deering. J. Herbert Wright,* March 13; Edward H. Elwell, Jr.,* June 8.
- 184 Bar Harbor. William A. Milliken,* June 8. A charter member and highly esteemed.

- 187 Ira Berry. Levi B. Thompson, June 22; Harvey P. Hinckley, Nov. 20; Augustus C. Peters, Jan. 14.
- 188 Jonesport. Fred W. Beal, Dec. 1, lost at sea; Thomas W. Beal, Dec. 29, of pneumonia.
- 190 Springvale. Jonathan R. Foster,* buried at Gray by Cumberland Lodge.
- 192 Winter Harbor. Charles F. Kingsley, Jan. 17; Wilton H. Simpson, Feb. 7.
- 197 Aroostook. George W. Collins,* Aug. 22. A remarkably energetic business man. He had also represented Aroostook County in the Maine Senate. He was the youngest of a family of fourteen sons, and his father, Benjamin Collins, was a soldier of the Revolution, the last of which there is record.
- 199 Bingham. Warren Colby, April 3; Edward L. Webster, Nov. 24.

PERMANENT * MEMBERS.

M. W.	HIRAM CHASE,	Belfast,	P. G. M.
"	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,	Portland,	"
"	WILLIAM P. PREBLE,	New Brighton, N. Y.,	"
"	EDWARD P. BURNHAM,	Saco,	"
"	CHARLES I. COLLAMORE,	Bangor,	"
"	MARQUIS F. KING,	Portland,	"
"	WILLIAM R. G. ESTES,	Skowhegan,	"
"	FESSENDEN I. DAY,	Lewiston,	"
"	FRANK E. SLEEPER,	Sabatis,	"
"	ALBRO E. CHASE,	Portland,	"
"	HENRY R. TAYLOR,	Machias,	"
"	HORACE H. BURBANK,	Saco,	"
"	AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,	Bangor,	"
R. W.	GUSTAVUS F. SARGENT,	Boston,	P. S. G. W.
"	DAVID BUGBEE,	Bangor,	"
"	THADDEUS R. SIMONTON,	Camden,	"
"	SUMNER J. CHADBOURNE,	Augusta,	"
"	JOHN B. REDMAN,	Ellsworth,	"
"	JOSEPH M. HAYES,	Bath,	"
"	LEANDER M. KENNISTON,	Camden,	"
"	MANLY G. TRASK,	Bangor,	"
"	DANIEL P. BOYNTON,	Monmouth,	"
"	GEORGE R. SHAW,	Portland,	"
"	JOSEPH A. LOCKE,	Portland,	"
"	HERBERT HARRIS,	East Machias,	"
"	WINFIELD S. CHOATE,	Augusta,	"
"	ALBERT M. PENLEY,	Auburn,	"
"	JOHN W. BALLOU,	Bath,	P. J. G. W.
"	A. M. WETHERBEE,	Warren,	"
"	EDWIN HOWARD VOSE,	Calais,	"
"	ARCHIE LEE TALBOT,	Lewiston,	"
"	GOODWIN R. WILEY,	Bethel,	"
"	AUGUSTUS BAILEY,	Gardiner,	"
"	BENJAMIN AMES,	Thorndike,	"
"	WILFORD J. FISHER,	Eastport,	"
"	SAMUEL G. DAVIS,	Denmark,	"
"	ALGERNON M. ROAK,	Auburn,	"
"	EDMUND B. MALLET,	Freeport,	"
"	SAMUEL L. MILLER,	Waldoboro,	"
"	HOWARD D. SMITH,	Norway,	"
"	WM. FREEMAN LORD,	Auburn,	"
"	GUSTAVUS H. CARGILL,	Liberty,	"
"	MOSES TAIT,	Calais,	"
"	BENJAMIN L. HADLEY,	Bar Harbor,	"

Grand Lodges and

GRAND LODGES.	GRAND MASTERS.
Alabama, Dec. 1, 1896,	James A. Bilbro, Gadsden.
Arizona, Nov. 10, 1896,	William F. Nichols, Willcox.
Arkansas, Nov. 17, 1896,	Christopher C. Ayers, Fort Smith.
British Columbia, June 18, 1896,	Alex. Charleson, New Westminster.
California, Oct. 13, 1896,	William T. Lucas, Santa Maria.
Canada, July 15, 1896,	William Gibson, Beamsville.
Cuba, March 25, 1894,	Segundo Alvarez, Havana.
Colorado, Sept. 15, 1896,	George W. Rowe, Pueblo.
Connecticut, Jan. 20, 1897,	George A. Kies, Norwich.
Delaware, Oct. 7, 1896,	J. Paul Lukens, Wilmington.
Dist. of Columbia, Nov. 11, 1896,	Matthew Trimble, Washington.
England, 1897,	Prince of Wales,
Florida, Jan. 19, 1897,	James M. Hilliard, Pensacola.
Georgia, Oct. 27, 1896,	James W. Taylor, Luthersville.
Idaho, Sept. 8, 1896,	Fred G. Mock, Nampa.
Illinois, Oct. 6, 1896,	Owen Scott, Bloomington.
Indiana, May 25, 1897,	Mason J. Niblack, Vincennes.
Indian Territory, Aug. 11, 1896,	Silas Armstrong, Wyandotte.
Iowa, June 1, 1897,	Almon R. Dewey, Washington.
Ireland, March 1, 1897,	Duke of Abercorn, Dublin.
Kansas, Feb. 17, 1897,	William M. Shaver, Topeka.
Kentucky, Oct. 20, 1896,	Robert F. Peak, La Grange.
Louisiana, Feb. 8, 1897,	Albert G. Brice, New Orleans.
Maine, May 4, 1897,	Joseph A. Locke, Portland.
Manitoba, June 10, 1896,	Corbet Locke, Morden.
Maryland, Nov. 17, 1896,	Thomas J. Shryock, Baltimore.
Massachusetts, Dec. 27, 1896,	Charles C. Hutchinson, Lowell.
Michigan, Jan. 26, 1897,	Lou B. Winsor, Reed City.
Minnesota, Jan. 13, 1897,	James F. Lawless, St. Paul.
Mississippi, Feb. 11, 1897,	John S. Cobb, Verona.
Missouri, Oct. 20, 1896,	Dorsey A. Jamison, St. Louis.
Montana, Oct. 16, 1896,	Charles H. Gould, Miles City.
Nebraska, June 10, 1896,	Charles J. Phelps, Schuyler.

Addresses of Grand Officers.

GRAND SECRETARIES.

Henry C. Armstrong, Montgomery.
 George J. Roskrue, Tucson.
 Fay Hempstead, Little Rock.
 Walter J. Quinlan, Victoria.
 George Johnson, San Francisco.
 John J. Mason, Hamilton, Ont.
 José F. Pellon, Havana.
 Ed. C. Parmelee, Denver.
 John H. Barlow, Hartford.
 Benjamin L. Bartram, Wilmington.
 William R. Singleton, Washington.
 Edward Leitchworth, London.
 Wilber P. Webster, Jacksonville.
 William A. Wolihin, Macon.
 Charles C. Stevenson, Boise.
 Joseph H. C. Dill, Bloomington.
 William H. Smythe, Indianapolis.
 Joseph S. Murrow, Atoka.
 Theodore S. Parvin, Cedar Rapids.
 Archibald St. George, Dublin.
 Albert K. Wilson, Topeka.
 Henry B. Grant, Louisville.
 Richard Lambert, New Orleans.
 Stephen Berry, Portland.
 William G. Scott, Winnipeg.
 Jacob H. Medairy, Baltimore.
 Sereno D. Nickerson, Boston.
 Jefferson S. Conover, Coldwater.
 Thomas Montgomery, St. Paul.
 John L. Power, Jackson.
 John D. Vincil, St. Louis.
 Cornelius Hedges, Helena.
 William R. Bowen, Omaha.

CHAIRMEN COM. CORRESPONDENCE.

Palmer J. Pillans, Belknap.
 Morris Goldwater, Prescott.
 Sam. H. Davidson, Evening Shade.
 William A. Davies, San Francisco.
 Henry Robertson, Collingwood.
 Francisco de P. Rodriguez, Havana.
 Lawrence N. Greenleaf, Denver.
 John H. Barlow, Hartford.
 Lewis H. Jackson, Wilmington.
 William R. Singleton, Washington.
 None.
 William A. McLean, Jacksonville.
 Whiteford S. Ramsay, Dublin.
 Charles C. Stevenson, Boise.
 Joseph Robbins, Quincy.
 Nicholas R. Ruckle, Indianapolis.
 Joseph S. Murrow, Atoka.
 James C. W. Coxe, Washington.
 None.
 John C. Postlethwaite, Jewell City.
 William W. Clarke, Owensboro.
 J. Q. A. Fellows, New Orleans.
 Josiah H. Drummond, Portland.
 William G. Scott, Winnipeg.
 Edward T. Schultz, Baltimore.
 None.
 Jefferson S. Conover, Coldwater.
 Irving Todd, Hastings.
 Andrew H. Barkley, Crawford.
 John D. Vincil, St. Louis.
 Cornelius Hedges, Helena.
 William R. Bowen, Omaha.

GRAND LODGES.

GRAND MASTERS.

Nevada, June 8, 1897,	Albert Lackey, Gold Hill.
New Brunswick, Aug. 26, 1897,	Julius T. Whitlock, St. Stephen.
New Hampshire, May 19, 1897,	Henry A. Marsh, Nashua.
New Jersey, Jan. 27, 1897,	George W. Fortmeyer, East Orange.
New Mexico, Oct. 5, 1896,	Charles Bowmer, Lucero.
New South Wales, June, 1896,	Sir Joseph Palmer, Abbott, Sydney.
New York, June 3, 1897,	William A. Sutherland, Rochester.
New Zealand, April 28, 1897,	William Barron, Dunedin.
North Carolina, Jan. 12, 1897,	Walter E. Moore, Webster.
North Dakota, June 8, 1897,	Robert M. Carothers, Grand Forks.
Nova Scotia, June 9, 1897,	Thomas B. Flint, Yarmouth.
Ohio, Oct. 21, 1896,	Barton Smith, Toledo.
Oklahoma, Feb. 9, 1897,	Albert W. Fisher, Norman.
Oregon, June 16, 1897,	W. H. Hobson, Salem.
Pennsylvania, Dec. 28, 1896,	William J. Kelly, Philadelphia.
Peru, March 25, 1897.	Christian Dam, Lima.
P. E. Island, June 24, 1896,	John L. Thomson, Charlottetown.
Quebec, Jan. 27, 1897,	E. T. D. Chambers, Quebec.
Rhode Island, May 18, 1896,	William H. Crawley, Warren.
Scotland, 1896,	Sir Chales Dalrymple, Newhailes.
South Australia, April 15, 1896,	S. J. Way, Adelaide.
South Carolina, Dec. 8, 1896,	Jacob T. Barron, Columbia.
South Dakota, June 8, 1897,	Albert W. Coe, Deadwood.
Tasmania, Jan. 30, 1896,	Charles E. Davies, Hobart.
Tennessee, Jan. 27, 1897,	Archibald N. Sloan, Chattanooga.
Texas, Dec. 1, 1896,	A. B. Watkins, Athens.
Utah, Jan. 19, 1897,	Abram D. Gash, Provo.
Vermont, June 9, 1897,	Daniel N. Nicholson, Burlington.
Victoria, May 4, 1896,	Lord Brassey, Melbourne.
Virginia, Dec. 1, 1896.	A. R. Courtney, Richmond.
Washington, June 8, 1897.	A. W. Frater, Snohomish.
West Virginia, Nov. 10, 1896.	Braxton D. Gibson, Charlestown.
Wisconsin, June 8, 1897,	Nathan C. Giffin, Fond du Lac.
Wyoming, Sept. 8, 1896,	De Forest Richards, Douglas.

GRAND SECRETARIES.

CHAIRMAN COM. CORRESPONDENCE.

• Chauncey N. Noteware, Carson.	Robert Lewers, Reno.
J. Twining Hartt, St. John.	John V. Ellis, St. John.
George P. Cleaves, Concord.	Albert S. Wait, Newport.
Thomas H. R. Redway, Trenton.	George B. Edwards, Jersey City.
Alpheus A. Keen, Albuquerque.	Max Frost, Santa Fé.
Arthur H. Bray, Sydney.	Donelly Fisher, Sydney.
Edward M. L. Ehlers, New York.	Jesse B. Anthony, Troy.
Rev. William Ronaldson, Dunedin.	None.
John C. Drewry, Raleigh.	John A. Collins, Enfield.
Frank J. Thompson, Fargo.	Frank J. Thompson, Fargo.
Hon. William Ross, Halifax.	C. E. Willet, Windsor.
J. H. Bromwell, Cincinnati.	William M. Cunningham, Newark.
James S. Hunt, Stillwater.	James S. Hunt, Stillwater.
James F. Robinson, Eugene.	Robert Clow, Junction City.
William A. Sinn, Philadelphia.	Michael Arnold, Philadelphia.
Manuel J. Cáceres, Lima.	J. Arturo Ego Aguirre, Lima.
Neil McKelvie, Summerside.	Donald Darrach, Kensington.
John H. Isaacson, Montreal.	W. H. Whyte, Montreal.
Edwin Baker, Providence.	Henry W. Rugg, Providence.
D. Murray Lyon, Edinburgh.	None.
J. H. Cunningham, Adelaide.	None.
Charles Inglesby, Charleston.	Charles Inglesby, Charleston.
George A. Pettigrew, Flandreau.	William Blatt, Yanktown.
John Hamilton, Hobart.	None.
John B. Garrett, Nashville.	George H. Morgan, Cookeville.
John Watson, Houston.	Thomas M. Matthews, Athens.
Christopher Diehl, Salt Lake City.	Christopher Diehl, Salt Lake City.
Warren G. Reynolds, Burlington.	Marsh O. Perkins, Windsor.
John Braim, Melbourne.	David Meadowcroft, Melbourne.
George W. Carrington, Richmond.	William F. Drinkard, Richmond.
Thomas M. Reed, Olympia.	Thomas M. Reed, Olympia.
George W. Atkinson, Wheeling.	George W. Atkinson, Wheeling.
John W. Laffin, Milwaukee.	Aldro Jenks, Dodgeville.
William L. Kuykendall, Saratoga.	William L. Kuykendall, Saratoga.

REPRESENTATIVES

of the Grand Lodge of Maine near other Grand Lodges.

-
- Alabama*—B. DUDLEY WILLIAMS, Oxford.
Arizona—MARTIN WILLIAM KALES, Phoenix.
Arkansas—OLIVER C. GRAY, Fayetteville, Washington County.
British Columbia—E. D. McLAREN, Vancouver.
California—NATHAN W. SPAULDING, Oakland.
Canada—JOHN W. MURTON, Hamilton, Ont.
Colorado—EDWARD C. PARMELEE, Denver.
Cuba—AURELIO MIRANDA, Havana.
Connecticut—ALBERT H. CARGILL, Fairhaven.
Delaware—JACOB H. EMERSON, Middletown.
District of Columbia—GEORGE WALLACE, Washington.
Florida—WILLIAM S. WARE, Jacksonville.
Georgia—WILLIAM K. MILLER, Augusta.
Idaho—GEORGE W. RICHARDS, Hailey City.
Illinois—CHARLES H. BRENNAN, Chicago, 1007 Adams St.
Indiana—WALTER VAIL, Michigan City.
Indian Territory—WALTER N. EVANS, Claremore.
Kansas—DAVID B. FULLER, Eureka.
Louisiana—SAMUEL M. TODD, New Orleans.
Manitoba—SAMUEL R. MARLATT, Portage la Prairie.
Maryland—THOMAS H. HOOVER, Union Bridge.
Michigan—WILLIAM WENTE, Manistee.
Minnesota—JOHN H. RANDALL, Minneapolis.
Mississippi—JOHN F. MCCORMICK, Biloxi.
Missouri—ETHELBERT F. ALLEN, Kansas City.
Montana—CORNELIUS HEDGES, Helena City.
Nebraska—THOMAS K. SUDBOROUGH, Omaha.
Nevada—SAMUEL S. SEARS, Elko.
New Brunswick—JOSEPH STARR DEWOLF CHIPMAN, St. Stephen.
New Hampshire—EDWARD GUSTINE, Keene.
New Jersey—JAMES S. AITKIN, Trenton.
New Mexico—ALPHEUS A. KEENE, Albuquerque.
New York—WILLIAM H. SMITH, Schenectady.
New Zealand—JOHN JOYCE, Lyttleton.
North Carolina—DAVID BELL, Enfield.
North Dakota—FRANKLIN ESTABROOK, Inkster.
Nova Scotia—JOHN W. RUHLAND, Halifax.
Ohio—CHARLES C. KIEFER, Urbana.
Oregon—JOHN MCCracken, Portland.
Peru—FRANCISCO L. CROSBY, Lima.
Prince Edward Island—GEORGE W. WAKEFORD, Charlottetown.
Quebec—JOHN HELDER ISAACSON, Montreal.
Rhode Island—EDWARD L. FREEMAN, Central Falls.
South Australia—EBENEZER COOKE, Adelaide.
South Carolina—CLAUDE E. SAWYER, Aiken.
South Dakota—SAMUEL H. JUMPER, Aberdeen.
Tasmania—W. STROUD, (Dep. G. Sec.) Hobart.
Texas—T. W. HUDSON, Sherman.
Utah—WILLIAM THOMAS DALBY, Salt Lake City.
Vermont—ALBRO F. NICHOLS, St. Johnsbury.
Victoria—BENJAMIN DOUGHTY SMITH, Melbourne.
West Virginia—HUGH STERLING, Wheeling.
Wisconsin—MELVIN S. YOUNG, Milwaukee.

REPRESENTATIVES

of other Grand Lodges near the Grand Lodge of Maine.

- Alabama*—JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Portland.
Arizona—AUGUSTUS BAILEY, Gardiner.
Arkansas—JOHN W. BALLOU, Bath.
British Columbia—THADDEUS R. SIMONTON, Camden.
California—HENRY R. TAYLOR, Machias.
Canada—SUMNER J. CHADBOURNE, Augusta.
Colorado—FRANK E. SLEEPER, Sabattus.
Cuba—E. HOWARD VOSE, Calais.
Connecticut—AUSTIN D. KNIGHT, Hallowell.
Delaware—AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM, Bangor.†
District of Columbia—STEPHEN BERRY, Portland.
Florida—JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Portland.
Georgia—“ “ “ “
Idaho—ALBRO E. CHASE, Portland.
Illinois—JOSEPH A. LOCKE, Portland.
Indiana—EDWIN F. DILLINGHAM, Bangor.
Indian Territory—JOSEPH M. HAYES, Bath.
Kansas—ARCHIE LEE TALBOT, Lewiston.
Louisiana—JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Portland.
Manitoba—A. M. WETHERBEE, Warren.
Maryland—SAMUEL L. MILLER, Waldoboro.
Michigan—FESSENDEN I. DAY, Lewiston.
Minnesota—JOHN B. REDMAN, Ellsworth.
Mississippi—CHARLES I. COLLAMORE, Bangor.
Missouri—DANIEL P. BOYNTON, Monmouth.
Montana—HENRY R. MILLETT, Gorham.
Nebraska—EDWARD P. BURNHAM, Saco.
Nevada—LEANDER M. KENNISTON, Camden.
New Brunswick—DENISON E. SEYMOUR, Calais.
New Hampshire—HOWARD D. SMITH, Norway.
New Jersey—JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Portland.
New Mexico—MANLY G. TRASK, Bangor.
New York—MARQUIS F. KING, Portland.
New Zealand—HERBERT HARRIS, East Machias.
North Carolina—WILLIAM R. G. ESTES, Skowhegan.
North Dakota—ALGERNON M. ROAK, Auburn.
Nova Scotia—JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Portland.
Ohio—WILLIAM J. BURNHAM, Lewiston.
Oregon—MARQUIS F. KING, Portland.
Peru—ARCHIE LEE TALBOT, Lewiston.
Prince Edward Island—JAMES ADAMS, Bangor.
Quebec—JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Portland.
Rhode Island—HORACE H. BURBANK, Saco.
South Australia—BENJAMIN AMES, Thorndike.
South Carolina—SAMUEL G. DAVIS, Denmark.
South Dakota—FRANCIS T. FAULKNER, Turner.
Tasmania—WILFORD J. FISHER, Eastport.
Texas—JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Portland.
Utah—HIRAM CHASE, Belfast.
Vermont—GEORGE R. SHAW, Portland.
Victoria—GOODWIN R. WILEY, Bethel.
West Virginia—ALBERT M. PENLEY, Auburn.
Wisconsin—EDMUND B. MALLET, Freeport.

PERMANENT . MEMBERS . DECEASED.

M.W. WILLIAM KING,	P. G. M.	R. W. SAM. L. VALENTINE, P. D. G. M.
" SIMON GREENLEAF,	"	" JOHN J. BELL,
" WILLIAM SWAN,	"	" GEORGE THACHER, P. S. G. W.
" CHARLES FOX,	"	" JOHN L. MEGQUIER,
" SAMUEL FESSENDEN,	"	" JOEL MILLER,
" ROBERT P. DUNLAP,	"	" EZRA B. FRENCH,
" NATHANIEL COFFIN,	"	" WILLIAM ALLEN,
" REUEL WASHBURN,	"	" ISAAC DOWNING,
" ABNER B. THOMPSON,	"	" EDMUND B. HINKLEY,
" HEZEKIAH WILLIAMS,	"	" F. LORING TALBOT,
" THOMAS W. SMITH,	"	" WILLIAM O. POOR,
" JOHN T. PAINE,	"	" ARLINGT'N B. MARSTON,
" ALEX'R H. PUTNEY,	"	" WILLIAM H. SMITH,
" JOSEPH C. STEVENS,	"	" J. W. MITCHELL, P. J. G. W.
" JOHN C. HUMPHREYS,	"	" REUBEN NASON,
" FREEMAN BRADFORD,	"	" FRYE HALL,
" TIMOTHY CHASE,	"	" STEPHEN WEBBER,
" JOHN MILLER,	"	" WILLIAM SOMERBY,
" JABEZ TRUE,	"	" THOMAS B. JOHNSTON,
" TIMOTHY J. MURRAY,	"	" WILLIAM KIMBALL,
" JOHN H. LYNDE,	"	" JOHN WILLIAMS,
" DAVID CARGILL,	"	" STEPHEN B. DOCKHAM,
" ALBERT MOORE,	"	" OLIVER GERRISH,
R. W. PELEG SPRAGUE, P. D. G. M.	"	" JOSEPH COVELL,
" AMOS NOURSE,	"	" FRANCIS J. DAY,
" DAVID C. MAGOUN,	"	" THOMAS K. OSGOOD,
" ASAPH R. NICHOLS,	"	" HENRY H. DICKEY,
" JAMES M. CHILD,	"	" CHARLES W. HANEY,
" ELISHA HARDING,	"	"

OFFICERS

OF THE

GRAND LODGE OF MAINE,

FROM ITS ORGANIZATION TO 1897.

GRAND MASTERS.

William King, 1820, '21.*	Robert P. Dunlap, 1857.*
Simon Greenleaf, 1822, '23.*	Hiram Chase, 1858, '59.
William Swan, 1824, '25.*	Josiah H. Drummond, '60-'62.
Charles Fox, 1826, '27.*	William P. Preble, 1863-'65.
Samuel Fessenden, 1828, '29,*	Timothy J. Murray, 1866-'68.*
Robert P. Dunlap, 1830, '31.*	John H. Lynde, 1869-'71.*
Nathaniel Coffin, 1832-'34.*	David Cargill, 1872-'74.*
Reuel Washburn, 1835-'37.*	Albert Moore, 1875, '76.*
Abner B. Thompson, '38-'40.*	Edward P. Burnham, '77, '78.
Hezekiah Williams, 1841.*	Charles I. Collamore, 1879, '80.
Thomas W. Smith, 1842-'44.*	Marquis F. King, 1881, '82.
John T. Paine, 1845, '46.*	William R. G. Estes, 1883, '84.
Alexander H. Putney, '47, '48.*	Fessenden I. Day, 1885, '86.
Joseph C. Stevens, 1849, '50.*	Frank E. Sleeper, 1887, '88.
John C. Humphreys, '51, '52.*	Albro E. Chase, 1889, '90.
Freeman Bradford, 1853.*	Henry R. Taylor, 1891, '92.
Timothy Chase, 1854.*	Horace H. Burbank, 1893, '94.
John Miller, 1855.*	Augustus B. Farnham, 1895, '96.
Jabez True, 1856.*	Joseph A. Locke, 1897.

* Deceased.

DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

Simon Greenleaf, 1820, '21.*	Josiah H. Drummond, '58, '59.
William Swan, 1822, '23.*	William P. Preble, 1860-1862.
Charles Fox, 1824, '25.*	John J. Bell, 1863.*
Samuel Fessenden, 1826, '27.*	Timothy J. Murray, 1864, '65.*
Peleg Sprague, 1828-'30.*	John H. Lynde, 1866-'68.*
Nathaniel Coffin, 1831.*	David Cargill, 1869-'71.*
Amos Nourse, 1832.*	Albert Moore, 1872-'74.*
Reuel Washburn, 1833, '34.*	Edward P. Burnham, '75, '76.
David C. Magoun, 1835-'37.*	Charles I. Collamore, 1877, '78.
Asaph R. Nichols, 1838-'43.*	Marquis F. King, 1879, '80.
James L. Child, 1844.*	William R. G. Estes, 1881, '82.
Asaph R. Nichols, 1845.*	Fessenden I. Day, 1883, '84.
Elisha Harding, 1846.*	Frank E. Sleeper, 1885, '86.
Samuel L. Valentine, '47, '48.*	Albro E. Chase, 1887, '88.
John C. Humphreys, '49, '50.*	Henry R. Taylor, 1889, '90.
Freeman Bradford, 1851, '52.*	Horace H. Burbank, 1891, '92.
Timothy Chase, 1853.*	Augustus B. Farnham, '93, '94.
Jabez True, 1854, 1855.*	Joseph A. Locke, 1895, '96.
Hiram Chase, 1856, '57.	Winfield S. Choate, 1897.

SENIOR GRAND WARDENS.

William Swan, 1820, 1821.*	Timothy Chase, 1851, 1852.*
Charles Fox, 1822, 1823.*	Jabez True, 1853.*
Samuel Fessenden, 1824, '25.*	Ezra B. French, 1854, 1855.*
George Thacher, Jr., '26, '27.*	Isaac Downing, 1856.*
Robert P. Dunlap, 1828, '29.*	William Allen, 1857.*
Amos Nourse, 1830, 1831.*	Gustavus F. Sargent, 1858, '59.
John L. Megquier, 1832-'34.*	John J. Bell, 1860, 1861.*
Joel Miller, 1835-1837.*	David Bugbee, 1862.
Thomas W. Smith, 1838-'41.*	Edmund B. Hinkley, 1863.*
John T. Paine, 1842-1844.*	Francis L. Talbot, 1864, 1865.*
Alexander H. Putney, '45, '46.*	David Cargill, 1866-1868.*
John C. Humphreys, '47, '48.*	Thaddeus R. Simonton, '69, '70.
Freeman Bradford, 1849, '50.*	Albert Moore, 1871.*

Edward P. Burnham, 1872-74.	Horace H. Burbank, 1887.
William O. Poor, 1875.*	Leander M. Kenniston, 1888.
Charles I. Collamore, 1876.	Manley G. Trask, 1889.
Marquis F. King, 1877, 1878.	Daniel P. Boynton, 1890.
Sumner J. Chadbourne, 1879.	George R. Shaw, 1891.
William R. G. Estes, 1880.	Augustus B. Farnham, 1892.
John B. Redman, 1881.	Joseph A. Locke, 1893.
Arlington B. Marston, 1882.*	Herbert Harris, 1894.
William H. Smith, 1883.*	Winfield S. Choate, 1895.
Frank E. Sleeper, 1884.	Albert M. Penley, 1896.
Joseph M. Hayes, 1885.	Alfred S. Kimball, 1897.
Albro E. Chase, 1886.	

JUNIOR GRAND WARDENS.

Nathaniel Coffin, 1820, 1821.*	John Williams, 1857.*
Josiah W. Mitchell, 1822.*	Stephen B. Dockham, 1858.*
Samuel Fessenden, 1823.*	Oliver Gerrish, 1859.*
George Thatcher, Jr., '24, '25.*	Joseph Covell, 1860.*
Robert P. Dunlap, 1826, 1827.*	Francis J. Day, 1861.*
Amos Nourse, 1828, 1829.*	T. K. Osgood, 1862.*
Reuben Nason, 1830, 1831.*	F. Loring Talbot, 1863.*
David C. Magoun, 1832-'34.*	John H. Lynde, 1864, 1865.*
Abner B. Thompson, '35-'37.*	Thaddeus R. Simonton, '66-'68.
Stephen Webber, 1838-'40.*	John W. Ballou, 1869, 1870.
John T. Paine, 1841.*	Henry H. Dickey, 1871.*
Alexander H. Putney, '42-'44.*	William O. Poor, 1872-1874.*
John C. Humphreys, '45, '46.*	Charles I. Collamore, 1875.
Frye Hall, 1847.*	A. M. Wetherbee, 1876.
Joseph C. Stevens, 1848.*	Sumner J. Chadbourne, '77, '78.
Stephen Webber, 1849.*	Edwin Howard Vose, 1879.
Timothy Chase, 1850.*	Archie L. Talbot, 1880.
William Somerby, 1851, '52.*	Fessenden I. Day, 1881.
Thomas B. Johnston, '53, '54.*	Charles W. Haney, 1882.*
William Kimball, 1855.*	Goodwin R. Wiley, 1883.
William Allen, 1856.*	Augustus Bailey, 1884.

Henry R. Taylor, 1885.	Howard D. Smith, 1892.
Benjamin Ames, 1886.	Wm. Freeman Lord, 1893.
Wilford J. Fisher, 1887.	Gustavus H. Cargill, 1894.
Samuel G. Davis, 1888.	Moses Tait, 1895.
Algernon M. Roak, 1889.	Benjamin L. Hadley, 1896.
E. B. Mallet, Jr., 1890.	Enoch O. Greenleaf, 1897.
Samuel L. Miller, 1891.	

GRAND TREASURERS.

Joseph M. Gerrish, 1820-'30.*	Moses Dodge, 1853-'79.*
James B. Cahoon, 1831-'33.*	William O. Fox, 1880-'82.
Benjamin Davis, 1834-'43.*	Frederick Fox, 1883-1894.*
Henry H. Boody, 1844-'52.*	Marquis F. King, June, '94-'97.

GRAND SECRETARIES.

William Lord, 1820-'31.*	Charles B. Smith, 1846-'55.*
Asaph R. Nichols, 1832-'35.*	Ira Berry, 1856-1891.*
Philip C. Johnson, 1836-'44.*	Stephen Berry, Sept., 1891-'97.
Charles Fox, 1845.*	

Inscribed

TO THE MEMORY OF

R.W. Arlington B. Marston,

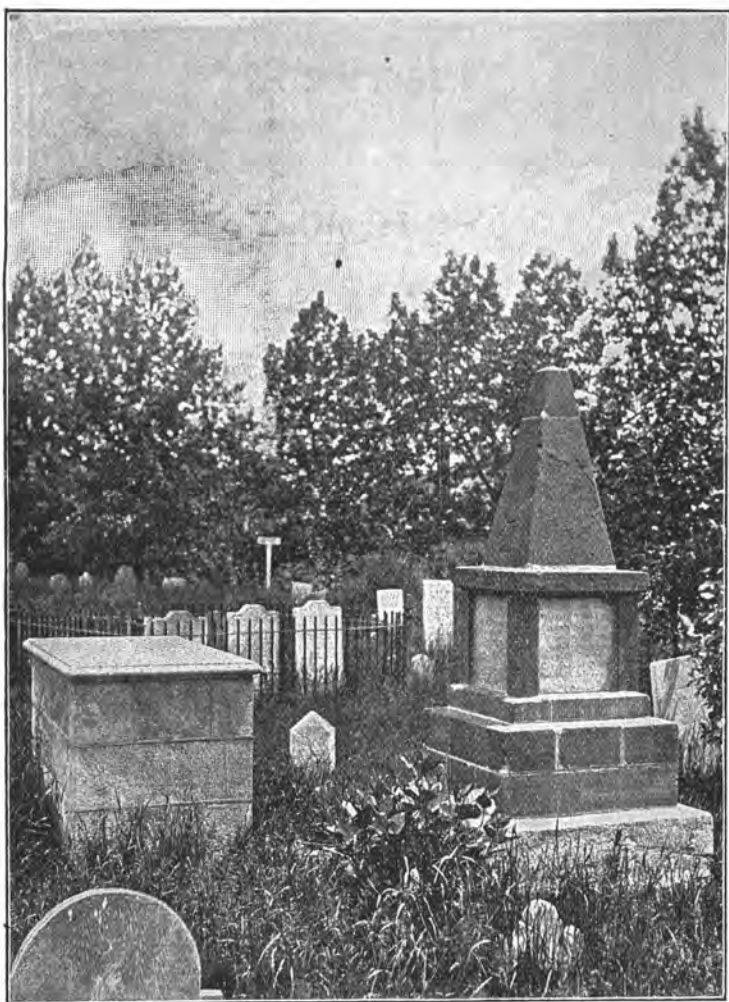
SENIOR GRAND WARDEN 1882.

Born in Smithfield, August 1, 1834.

Died in Bangor, May 6, 1897,

AGED 62 YEARS, 9 MONTHS, 5 DAYS.

"Rest to the tired head and hands!
Peace in the unknown, untried lands!
After him, over the purple sea,
Those loved and left gaze, wistfully.
They would not call him back, but yet
Their eyes with bitter tears are wet."



TOMBS OF
ALEXANDER ROSS AND WILLIAM TYNG,

IN THE OLD EASTERN CEMETERY, PORTLAND, IN 1897.

Capt. Alexander Ross.

BY MARQUIS F. KING, P. G. M.

Upon application of several Brethren residing at Falmouth, The Right Worshipful Jeremiah Gridley, Esq., Grand Master of the Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons in North America, did, on the 20th day of March, 1762, nominate and appoint the Right Worshipful and well beloved Brother Alexander Ross, Esq., to be the first Master of a Lodge at Falmouth, and empowered him to congregate the Brethren together and form them into a regular Lodge, &c.

The authority thereby conferred upon Bro. Ross was never exercised by him, but it is likely that the masons in town were accustomed to meet informally, for in December, 1768, a petition, addressed to the Right Worshipful John Rowe, Esq., Grand Master of Masons for North America, sheweth that the petitioners, have this day met to celebrate the festival of St. John the Baptist, that they have hitherto been destitute of a Lodge, that a deputation had been granted to our late deceased (died the previous month) Brother Alexander Ross, Esq., "but his business being great, and infirmities greater, prevented his opening a Lodge."

They asked that a new deputation be granted, and recommended Brother William Tyng, Esq., as a suitable person to preside as Master.

The petition says: "*We shall always contribute according to our abilities to the support of the Grand Lodge, and we shall en-*

deavor to make a true and perfect Lodge by showing mankind we live in brotherly love."

Signed,

Jedediah Preble,

Wm. Campbell,

Thomas Oxnard,

John Greenwood,

Joshua Moody,

Richard Codman,

John Lowther,

John Ross,

Samuel Moody,

Arthur Howell,

John Perkins.

Brother Drummond, in his History of Portland Lodge, says that Bro. Ross came here some time after the close of the war of 1744, that he was largely engaged in commerce, and became the most wealthy merchant of his day, in the town. The following extracts are from Parson Smith's Journal :

November 23, 1753. "Capt. Ross brought his family to live here."

Sept. 28, 1756. "Capt. Ross had a large ship lanch'd."

March 23, 1760 (Sunday.) "I was this morning called to Capt. Ross, Mr. Flatt and Mr. McClean being killed by the fall of the kitchen garret floor, full of corn, upon the chamber floor (where Mr. McClean was), which carried it down in an instant and killed Mr. Flatt in the kitchen. One of the servants was wounded, but the rest escaped in the chimney."

March 25th. "I prayed at the funeral of Messrs. Flatt and M'Clean. The largest and most solemn funeral that ever was in the town. People were very much affected."

A beautifully engraved tablet, said to have been wrought in Scotland, marks the graves of these young men, near that of Brother Ross.

July 31, 1760. "I dined at Capt. Ross' with Lord Rutherford."

August 7, 1763. "I spent p. m. on board the man of war with Ross, Pearson, Freeman and Longfellow."

February 15, 1767. "Visited Capt. Ross, under a course of mercury, for a cancer."

October 8, 1767. "Capt. Ross sailed for England in Capt. Heath with Capt. Haslop."

July 20, 1768. "Capt. Ross arrived here in a mast ship (Capt. Moor.)"

November 28, 1768. "I prayed at the funeral of Capt. Ross."

Note by William Willis.

"Alexander Ross: he was born in Stroma, Scotland, October 19, 1717, and died here November 24, 1768. He left one daughter, who married the late Col. Wm. Tyng, and died without issue. Mr. Ross, and Col. Tyng after him, occupied the house now (1849) standing on the corner of Middle and Franklin streets, as you pass into Fore street, which was moved from York street, having been previously owned and occupied by Stephen Jones. It was spared in the conflagration of the town in 1775, as it was said, in favor of Col. Tyng, who was a loyalist. Mr. Ross was a merchant in very extensive business, engaged in several large ships which transported masts and lumber to England and Scotland. His wife was a Scotch lady, born in the Orkneys, 1721, named Elizabeth Duguid. She lived many years at Gorham, after the war, and died there March 1, 1798."

Here follows the inscription upon his monument.

This monument is erected to the memory of Alexander Ross, Esq, who was born at Stroma, in Scotland, Oct. 19th, 1717, and deceased at Falmouth, New England, Nov. 24th, 1768.

And also of Mrs. Elizabeth Ross, Relict of Alexander Ross, Esq. She was born in South Ronaldshay, one of the Orkney Islands, Jan'y 1, 1721, and after a life of virtue, piety and benevolence, deceased at Gorham, near Portland, March 1st, 1798.

William Tyng.

BY MARQUIS F. KING, P. G. M.

William Tyng, the founder of Portland Lodge and of Masonry in Maine, was a descendant of the immigrant, Edward Tyng, and his wife Mary Sears, who settled in Boston about 1636. This Edward died December 28, 1681: his will, dated August 5, 1677, mentions his son Edward; his daughter Eunice, who, before his death, married Samuel Willard; and ten grandchildren, *three*, by the name of Savage, *four*, by the name of Dudley (children of Joseph, Governor of the Province from 1702 to 1715), and *three* by the name of Tyng, children of the eldest son Jonathan. Thomas and Henry Kimball conveyed Hog Island in Casco Bay to Edward Tyng by deed dated July 24, 1663, one of the witnesses to which was Jonathan Tyng; the island is still held under that title, which came to the Kimballs from George Cleeves.

The son, Col. Edward Tyng, came to Portland about 1680 and soon after married Elizabeth Clark, daughter of Thaddeus Clark and his wife, Elizabeth, who was the daughter of Michael Mitton and his wife, Elizabeth, the daughter of George Cleeves. Thus, through this line, William Tyng was *sixth* in descent from the founder of Portland. Col. Edward Tyng had four children, Edward, born in 1683, and afterwards known as Commodore Tyng; Jonathan, who died young; Mary, who married Rev. John Fox, of Woburn, ancestor of Charles Fox, who was Master of this lodge, and Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, and of

many others of that name in Portland: and Elizabeth, who married a sister of Dr. Franklin: he was a distinguished officer and statesman, prominent in public affairs: when the Indians drove the whites from this section of the country in 1690, he returned to Boston, but the same year was appointed Governor of Port Royal in Nova Scotia: on his way thither, the vessel, was captured by a French frigate, Col. Tyng taken prisoner and carried to France, where he died.

Edward Tyng, the third of the name, early entered upon a sea-faring life: while apparently a resident of Boston, he was largely engaged in business in Portland: while interested in the merchant service, he won great distinction in the naval service, so that when the expedition against Louisburg was planned he was made Commodore and entrusted with the command of the naval forces; while Commodore Warren, of the British navy, as ranking officer, took command after arrival of the forces at Louisburg, Commodore Tyng very greatly distinguished himself during the siege. He was twice married; by his first wife he had no children; in 1731 he married Ann Waldo, sister of Gen. Samuel Waldo; they had seven children, four of whom died young; one daughter died immediately after her marriage; one son, an officer in the British Army, died unmarried; the remaining child was William Tyng, born August 17, 1737; the mother died in 1754, and the father, September 8, 1755.

William Tyng was eighteen years old when his father died: for the next twelve years but little is known of his history, except that he was proprietor of a book store on Cornhill in Boston: he had many relatives in Portland and had inherited valuable real estate here. In 1767, the office of Sheriff of Cumberland County became vacant, and in December of that year he was appointed to fill the vacancy and immediately moved to Portland. In addition to his official duties, he engaged in trade. On November 3, 1769, he married Elizabeth Ross, daughter of Alexander Ross, to whom one hundred and twenty-five years ago, a warrant, or deputation, as it was then called, was granted for this lodge, and who died November 24, 1768. Tyng, although

the owner of a house in Portland, went to live with his wife's mother. Popular in the community, respected by all, and faithful in his official duties, he enjoyed a career of prosperity until the breaking out of the revolution. He was representative from Falmouth in 1771 and 1772, and in 1774 he received a Colonel's commission from Gov. Gage. In religious sentiment, he as well as his wife and her mother, was an Episcopalian, and weekly joined in prayers for the King. Holding the King's commissions, as he did, and having made loyalty to the King a part of his religion, it was natural that he should lean to the side of the loyalists; and for the same reasons it was equally natural, that he should be suspected of so doing. In 1774, a convention was held in Portland which required him to subscribe to a declaration that he would not, in his official capacity, "act in conformity to, or by virtue of," the act of parliament, which took the appointment of civil officers from the people and vested it in the crown, "unless by general consent of said county." The excitement increased: the dividing line was more sharply drawn; "he that is not for us, is against us," was practically the popular motto: and so it was that Sheriff Tyng deemed it prudent to leave the town directly after the battle of Lexington, not to return to reside for nearly twenty years. In June following, the Committee of Safety allowed him to come back and take his wife away, Madam Ross remaining here; in May, 1779, he and his wife came under a flag of truce, but in about three weeks (according to Parson Smith) "sailed at last without Mrs. Ross, after a great toss." He remained in Boston until Gen. Howe evacuated that city in March, 1776, and then went to New York, where he remained until Lord Howe evacuated that city in November, 1783. While in New York, although he adhered to the side of the King, his loyalty did not prevent his constant performance of deeds of charity and benevolence in behalf of sick and wounded prisoners, especially those from his former home; he not only devoted time to this object, but often spent his private means to provide food and clothing for them. Edward Preble, son of Jedediah

(one of our charter members), and himself subsequently a member of the lodge, was taken prisoner and confined in the prison ship, Jersey, in New York harbor: Col. Tyng secured his release from actual imprisonment, on parole, took him to his own house and ministered to his wants.

When New York was evacuated, he evidently lost faith in the success of the British government, and emigrated to Nova Scotia, and settled in that part, which afterwards became, and now is, the Province of New Brunswick. He settled on St. John River, a few miles above Fredericton. He was appointed Chief Justice and was treated with honor and consideration; but evidently his heart yearned for his old home; we can readily believe, too, that his wife longed to return to the scenes of her early life: it may be, also, that he had learned by correspondence, that he had no longer reason to fear prosecution on account of the course he took during the revolution. Whatever may have been the cause, in 1793, he resigned the office he held in New Brunswick and returned to Portland. After the destruction of Portland, by Mowatt, October 18, 1775, Mrs. Ross, his wife's mother, had built a house in Gorham about two miles beyond Saccarappa, and he went there to live. His reception by the community justified his return and must have been a source of great satisfaction to him. His health had become somewhat impaired and he passed the remainder of his life in substantial retirement, having, however, secured for a small sum the return of his property which had been confiscated and sold. He came regularly every Sunday to Portland to attend St. Paul's church. He died December 10, 1807, struck down by apoplexy, as his father was before him and at nearly the same age. His wife survived him, dying in 1831: they had no children, and with him the family name, in his branch, became extinct.

William Tyng received the first and second degrees, June 16, 1762, in the "Second Lodge" in Boston, under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Grand Lodge organized by Henry Price, June 10, 1733. At that time, this lodge conferred only these two

degrees, and he received the third degree in the "Master's Lodge," under the same jurisdiction, February 3, 1764. He was Junior Warden of the "Second Lodge" in 1765 and 1766. He evidently took a deep interest in Masonry, for, from the time of his initiation until he moved to Portland, he was present at every celebration of both St. Johns' days, and while Junior Warden of his lodge attended every Quarterly Communion of his Grand Lodge; at the funeral of Jeremy Gridley, Grand Master, September 12, 1767, he was acting Senior Warden of his lodge.

After coming to Portland, his relations with the family of Alexander Ross were such that he would be informed of the existence of the charter of Portland Lodge: and, after its lapse by the death of Ross, his interest in Masonry would lead him to seek to revive it. Having been a recent member of the Grand Lodge and a personal acquaintance of the Grand Master, John Rowe (as appears by the latter's diary), he was well situated to succeed in such an attempt. While he did not sign the petition, he was undoubtedly active in promoting it. It was granted at once, and on May 8, 1769, William Tyng opened the first lodge ever held in Maine, at the house of Daniel Ilsley, on Back Cove in Deering. He was continued as Master, notwithstanding his wish at one time to be relieved, and was Master at the meeting held April 19, 1775, two days after the Battle of Lexington. While occasionally absent, his attendance upon the meetings of the lodge was quite regular, and during his administration it prospered satisfactorily: the St. Johns' Days were celebrated and funds raised towards the erection of a Masonic Hall. During all this time, Bro. Tyng was held by the craft in the highest respect and regard. But the revolution came, and divided the lodge, as well as other organizations, and even families. Bro. Tyng, as before stated, adhered to the unpopular, and, as it proved, the losing side. But while he was compelled to flee, there is not the slightest indication that any question was ever made as to the purity of his motives, or that in any respect other than his political belief, he did not possess

the entire confidence and personal good will of the entire community.

As above stated, while in New York, he exemplified practically in a high degree the principles of the Institution. During his residence in New Brunswick, we have no knowledge of his being connected with any lodge, but he continued to aid the destitute and friendless and was an active mediator between the distressed royalists, who had fled with him, and the government, so that many owed to him the privilege of being allowed to return to their old homes and live in undisturbed peace.

When he returned in 1793, the lodge was dormant, and had been for nearly seven years: he was present when it was revived in February, 1795, and was elected Master; but he did not then feel confident of remaining here, and asked to be excused "on account of his local situation (at Gorham) and the uncertainty when he might be called out of the country." He took no active part in lodge work for several years; but when the petition for Ancient Landmark Lodge was started he joined in it. The charter was granted with William Tyng as Master, and on July 22, 1806, he organized and opened for the first time, Ancient Landmark Lodge at his house in Portland. He resided in Gorham, but owned a house in Portland, where he was accustomed to stop when it suited his convenience. On account of the objection of Portland Lodge to the creation of a new lodge in Portland, Ancient Landmark Lodge, at the instance of the Grand Lodge, suspended its meetings during three months in 1806: immediately upon its resumption of its meetings in December, 1806, Bro. Tyng was re-elected Master. In May, following, he sent a letter to the lodge excusing his absence on account of sickness, and on December 10, 1807, he died. He was buried with masonic honors by Ancient Landmark Lodge, Portland Lodge having ceased work and voted to surrender its charter. Many of its members, however, attended the funeral as a mark of the respect and affection they had never ceased to entertain for their first Master.

Thus died the founder of Masonry in Maine, at that time un-

surpassed in this state for his devotion to the Institution and the interest he had taken in its welfare for nearly fifty years. He zealously performed, not merely the routine duties of the lodge, but also the higher duties which the mason owes to his brother and to mankind. While we cherish with veneration the memory of the founder of the lodge, we point to his life as an illustration of the exercise of masonic principles.

Inscription on his monument:

In Memory of William Tyng, Esq., formerly Sheriff of Cumberland and afterwards intrusted with important offices in the Province of New Brunswick, and late resident in Gorham, where, after a useful life, marked with probity, benevolence and piety, he died in the firm hope of a joyful resurrection, Dec. 10, 1807, aged 70, greatly lamented by an affectionate widow, who pays this tribute of conjugal love, and by a family of adopted children to whom he showed more than parental kindness.

“He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.”

* Recapitulation---1897. *

Lodges enrolled,	200
" extinct,	8
" working,	192
" under dispensation,	0
" chartered at communication 1897,	0
" represented at communication 1897,	176
" " by proxy exclusively,	49
Number of representatives,	241
Lodges to make returns,	192
Making returns in time,	192
Initiated,	746
Raised,	721
Affiliated,	118
Re-instated,	59
Total increase,	898
Dimitted,	160
Died,	339
Suspended for unmasonic conduct,	1
Expelled,	2
Lost membership by non-payment of dues,	242
Lost by U. D. lodge and other causes,	22
Total decrease,	766
Net increase,	132
Members, March 1, 1896,	22,085
Grand Lodge Receipts,	\$6,311.53
" " Disbursements,	6,163.95
Amount of Charity Fund,	\$31,458.95

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② Appendix ②

Report • on • Correspondence.

~ 1896 ~

*To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of
Maine.*

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence fraternally submit their Annual Report for 1896.

We continue our usual method of arrangement, leaving all general matters to the end of the review of the particular jurisdictions.

ALABAMA, 1895.

The Grand Master (GEORGE P. HARRISON) gives an account of his official action and decisions. He had issued dispensations for five new lodges, had been obliged to suspend from office, and summon before the Grand Lodge for trial, two Masters charged with immoral conduct, and rendered twenty-nine decisions. Charges were filed against another Master for unmasonic conduct in the discharge of the duties of his office.

He granted dispensations to revive lodges, to change their location, to confer degrees out of time, to elect officers after failure to elect at the annual meeting, and to bury an unaffiliated deceased brother whose application for membership was pending in a lodge at the time of his decease. An examination of these cases shows the wisdom of the founders of our masonic system in vesting this power in the M. W. Grand Master.

We find from his decisions that in Alabama a *majority of all the members of a lodge* must be present when a petition to be restored to the rights and privileges of Masonry is acted upon. We do not think this rule prevails elsewhere to more than a limited extent. In many cases, it would prevent action on a petition for restoration. It seems to us, that after notice is given,

a member who fails to attend should be presumed to acquiesce in the action of the others.

He decided that a lodge may restore a suspended mason to all the rights and privileges of Masonry by a two-thirds vote; but to restore him to membership also, requires a unanimous vote. It would seem that in Alabama, indefinite suspension terminates the membership. We do not understand that the same rule applies to *definite* suspension, though we cannot see why the same principle is not involved; we think the better rule is that restoration in either case, by the lodge, should restore him to all the rights lost by the suspension: the cases are *very* rare in which a lodge should be allowed to restore to Masonry a suspended mason, whom its members are not willing to restore to membership.

The two Masters were tried before the Grand Lodge; one was acquitted, but the other was convicted and expelled. The Proceedings brought out the fact that the Grand Lodge has made no provision for the method of conducting such a trial. A committee was appointed to report a code. We have always held that when charges are filed against a Master, he should be summoned to appear for trial; and the Grand Master has the power to appoint (as he did in these cases) a commission to take the testimony, and report it to the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge seems to have doubted his power to proceed in this manner, for a committee was appointed to "investigate and report, whether the evidence," on both sides had been "fully, fairly and impartially taken." In the case, in which the accused was acquitted, the committee reported that the evidence for the defence had not been fully taken, but that the accused preferred to go to trial upon what had been taken rather than have the case go over a year. It seems to us that inasmuch as the constitution provides that in such cases the Grand Master shall summon the accused before the Grand Lodge for trial, it authorizes him to make all the preparation for the trial in the only practicable manner in which the Grand Lodge *can* try the case. This is what Grand Masters have done in the past; if the present tendency to strict construction, and requiring *enacted* authority, shall continue, it will soon come to the pass that a man will not dare go home to dinner without an Act of the Legislature authorizing it!

A case of much importance was before the Grand Lodge. There were two specifications in the charge, one for falsehood, and the other for forfeiting his bail and absconding to prevent being arrested. He was convicted by the lodge on both specifications, and the Grand Lodge sustained both, holding in effect that absconding to avoid arrest for crime with which he was publicly charged, is a masonic offence. We are glad to find such a decision, which we endorse most heartily.

This leads us to call the attention of the craft to the fact that there has

been, and still is, too great a tenderness for the rights of the individual mason, when his conduct has caused a great scandal to the fraternity. We confess to a decided change of views in one class of cases.

A mason commits a crime and absconds to parts unknown; the commission of the crime and the absconding are matters of public notoriety, to the great scandal of Masonry. In such cases, it has been deemed necessary to go through the farce of attempting to give notice to the accused, though it is well known that it *is* a farce and nothing else. The result is that usually two years, or even more, pass before the Fraternity succeeds in getting rid of a notorious offender. A recent case called our attention to this matter and led us to consider it more fully than ever before, and in consequence to change our views. *Absconding in the face of a public charge of crime, is in itself not only a masonic offence, but a waiver of notice of any charge for such offence.*

An able committee has recently said:

"The fact that for the last nine or ten months the charges have been notorious, and that ——— has neither come forward to vindicate his honor, nor even to ask for a suspension of opinion, but remains in hiding, shows that he has forfeited his own self-respect and has utterly lost that sense of honor and personal dignity which is inseparable from the vows of Masonic Knighthood."

* * * * *

"He has forfeited his Masonic rights, because he has not defended himself from the degrading charges so long current, just as truly and seriously as he has violated his vows, if he be guilty of the charges."

* * * * *

"Nor can it be permitted that this man should wander a fugitive over the earth, with any apparent sanction of his character or conduct" by the Fraternity. "He must be repudiated." [We have substituted "by the Fraternity" for the name of the Body in which the report was made.]

"Suicide is confession," has become a maxim, but absconding and remaining in hiding, in the face of public charges of crime, are much more truly confession than suicide is.

When a man absconds to parts unknown, he knows that the fact will become notorious and will be accepted by the public as a confession of guilt; moreover, he has voluntarily made it impossible for notice to reach him, and thereby has forfeited his right to notice.

Of course, the fact of the absconding should be proved beyond a reasonable doubt; it should also appear that a crime had been committed or a public charge of the commission of a crime been made, or that the absconding was of such a character as to be in itself a scandal to Masonry.

Moreover, we would not have a lodge act finally in such a case: the charges might be filed in the lodge, the testimony taken either before the lodge or by affidavits, and the matter submitted to the Grand Lodge; but we would prefer to have the matter presented directly to the Grand Lodge, which, in

the plenitude of its power, can proceed in each case as it may deem that justice alike to the craft and to the accused requires.

We desire to repeat that the decision of the Grand Lodge of Alabama, that absconding is a masonic offence, is, in our judgment, a correct exposition of the law, and carries with it, in principle, the sanction of the correctness of our position.

Of the condition of the craft, Grand Secretary ARMSTRONG says:

"From my observations in visiting the various lodges, I am impressed that at no time has there been greater zeal and enthusiasm among the craft in this state than exists to-day. A larger number of lodges are now at work than was ever heretofore the case. The moral standard in Masonry is being elevated, and wherever I have visited the earnest desire seems to be to see how we can best live and best agree as brethren."

He speaks very highly of the work of Bro. WILLIAM H. DINGLEY (a son of Maine) in preparing a Register and arranging the papers and files of the Grand Lodge. His presence in the office enabled the Grand Secretary to do what he calls "Field Work," that is, to visit lodges. As the visitation of the lodges is one of the most pressing needs of Masonry in Alabama, Bro. DINGLEY's work on the Register had indirectly a double value.

Of the Proceedings on file, he says:

"A record has been made of the printed Proceedings of the various Grand Lodges which we have in possession. Few of these are complete, but many duplicates are in the office, a record of which has been taken, and which perhaps may be exchanged for those wanted to complete our files.

"The printed Proceedings of this Grand Lodge have been arranged and a record made of all on hand. I find but one copy for each of sixteen Grand Communications, and for the years 1825, 29, 30, 39, 43, 44, 45, 47, 52, 53, 63, none whatever."

* * * * *

"The collections made some years ago by Bros. Penick and Dixon have been filed distinct from other papers. They contain a large amount of valuable historical and biographical information."

The pending amendments to the constitution were lost: it can be amended only by a vote of two-thirds of all the lodges, so that those neglecting to vote count in the negative. The one in favor of biennial sessions received 233 votes to 98 against it: but 250 were necessary to carry it. This Grand Lodge does not possess the sovereignty that most of the other Grand Lodges have.

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand was recognized.

The Report on Correspondence (105 pp.) was presented as usual by Bro. PALMER J. PILLSBURY.

Referring to the expulsion of two brethren in Massachusetts for printing the ritual and the accompanying circumstances, he says:

"We indeed have always thought that we were bound under no circumstances to write out the work, lest by any accident in so doing we discover it

to others. At least we were surely so taught at the very threshold of Masonry. This injunction was oftentimes reiterated in the several degrees we took, lest we should be guilty, even inadvertently, of this heinous offence. But now we see Grand Lodges authorizing this thing. Whence is this power of a Grand Lodge derived? Is it claimed for these bodies that they have the consciences of the brethren within their keeping? Can they absolve the brethren? If so, whence their power? We are unfortunately, perhaps, of those who deny such powers to Grand Lodges. We think these bodies should themselves do nothing subversive of the ancient requirements of Masonry, while they at the same time demand this of their subordinates.

"Secrecy and circumspection was our first and fundamental instruction, and frequently were we reminded of them, so that we became to esteem them, more particularly secrecy, as fundamental landmarks of the Order. Is secrecy not? Then who has the power to do anything that might by any possibility, and under any circumstances, enable others to know any portion of the esoteric work? 'It is not in the power of any man or body of men to make innovations in Masonry.' But is not this putting this arcana of Masonry within the reach of the profane an innovation in the body of Masonry?"

"We specially direct the attention of brethren who read this introduction to the review of Massachusetts, West Virginia, Oregon and Mississippi, that they may see for themselves the enormity of the act. We see it stated that the Grand Master of Kentucky recognizes the right of a Grand Lodge to enact any laws which it may deem proper, on the score of its supreme sovereignty. But if this is so, then France had the right to strike out the prerequisite of a belief in Deity, nor had she committed a very much graver masonic offence than this. Indeed, no Grand Lodge is of such absolute independence as to alter or change the ancient fundamental requirements of the Order. Grand Lodges and authorized lodges are but agents of the great fraternity, scattered, as it is, over the habitable globe, to enlarge the number of its members and extend its principles and usefulness. The Order itself rests upon immutable principles, not to be trifled with by either the one or the other."

Of course we fully endorse the fundamental principles stated by him; but whether the preparation of a cipher comes within these principles is a serious question, although Bro. PILLANS has no doubt on one side and equally learned masons are as positive on the other side. There is a qualifying clause in the law, which those who agree with Bro. PILLANS count as nothing, and upon which those of opposite views rely. The construction of a law, at and soon after its adoption, has great weight in determining its meaning: we have seen rituals in cipher nearly a century old, and it is evident from them that they had previously existed. It is certain that WEBB, who formulated the law in its present form, made and used cipher rituals. He did not invent the R. A. cipher, for that is found in the records of St. Andrew's Chapter, made in 1772. We can come to no other conclusion than that it was assumed that these ciphers were not intelligible and therefore not in conflict with the law, and that the qualifying phrase was put into the law for the very purpose of allowing the use of these ciphers.

In his review of Maine, he quotes the following with his hearty endorsement:

"An election gives the candidate the *status of fitness* to be made a mason; a rejection gives him the status of *unfitness* to be made a mason, and under the general law of Masonry, superior to the enactment of any Grand Lodge, that decision is binding upon masons everywhere."

And adds:

"We believe, however, that Maine puts a limit of five years only to this disability."

Yes, for reasons which we hope to give in a special report upon this subject.

In his review of Wyoming he thus replies to Bro. KUYKENDALL:

"He is a strong, outspoken opponent of what he terms 'prerogative,' and we suppose is equally adverse to the opinion that these are ancient 'usages' in Masonry. The later is but what has been misnamed 'prerogative' or 'powers.' That such unwritten usages do exist, some capable of change by the supreme power and of limitation by the same, and some beyond the power of any man or set of men to alter, we presume the brother will not deny. If this be true, then do they not all operate with full force until the supreme authority acts?"

We would like to quote further, but must pass on.

ARKANSAS, 1895.

The Grand Master (N. P. RICHMOND) says:

"The year through which we have just passed has been one of more than ordinary business and financial prostration throughout the entire land, and especially in our own loved State, and Masonry, I am sorry to say, has felt the full force of this unfortunate state of affairs. But, my brethren, I fear this condition of public affairs is not alone to blame for the state of apathy and loss of interest in Masonry, almost everywhere apparent, throughout this Grand Jurisdiction."

Among other things he adds the following, which we commend to the attention of the opponents of perpetual jurisdiction, as bearing upon a report which we hope to get time to write:

"The ballot box is not guarded now with the same jealous care that it was in the days of our fathers. We are entirely too anxious to increase our numbers, and are not careful enough as to the kind of material that is taken from the quarries, and, as a legitimate result, great numbers of men are finding their way into our lodges who have no sympathy with the objects, teachings and principles of Masonry; are being made masons in name only; at once become drones in the masonic hive, and by their conduct and utter disregard of the tenets of our order bring reproach and disgrace upon the craft."

The modern idea is that in twelve months from the time a man first comes, a stranger, within a jurisdiction, the brethren can come to know him so well that they can determine his fitness to be made a mason, although he comes bearing the brand of rejection by those who have known him all

his life. No wonder that M. W. Bro. RICHMOND found the necessity of uttering these sorrowful words!

After showing how much weaker the bonds of brotherhood among us are than they used to be, he adds:

"My brethren, these things ought not so to be. We must arouse from our apathy, guard well our outer door, and return to the ancient landmarks with full purpose of heart, or, failing in this, the disastrous consequences are not only apparent, but are appallingly imminent. 'Ichabod' will be inscribed upon our altars and Freemasonry will become but as a 'sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal.'"

A man rejected by a lodge now defunct had lived twelve years in the jurisdiction of a lodge at a great distance from the location of the defunct lodge, and asked the Grand Master's permission to apply to the nearest lodge, but the Grand Master could not give it, because, in 1892, the Grand Master decided that—

"The rights of a defunct lodge as to their rejected material revert to the Grand Lodge, and it will require a special dispensation from the Grand Master to enable a lodge to make such an applicant a mason."

But the decision was modified by adding "that the dispensation can only be granted to the lodge nearest the domicile of the defunct lodge."

The Grand Master says:

"Now, in the present case the two lodges domiciled at Pine Bluff appear to be the nearest to the domicile of the defunct lodge. This applicant has been a resident of Little Rock for the past twelve years; never resided in Pine Bluff, and is, most probably, entirely unknown to the members of those lodges, and although spoken of in the highest terms by his neighbors and acquaintances of Western Star Lodge, and considered by them in every way a desirable acquisition to Masonry, he is by the edict of this Grand Lodge, virtually barred from ever becoming a mason.

"Everything else belonging to a defunct lodge, upon its demise, reverts to the Grand Lodge absolutely. The members in good standing must get their dimits from the Grand Lodge; members suspended for non-payment of dues, or for other causes, must be re-instated by the Grand Lodge, and it does appear to me that the Grand Master, acting for the Grand Lodge, should have power, upon proper showing, to grant a special dispensation in such cases as the present, to any lodge applying therefor, without restriction. I therefore most earnestly recommend that you so amend the edicts of 1892, as to confer that power upon the Grand Master."

The former decision was modified so that the candidate may apply to the lodge nearest his residence instead of the one nearest the location of the old lodge, but only with the permission of the Grand Master.

We formerly discussed this case, or a similar one, holding the views now adopted by this Grand Lodge, but they were controverted by one or more writers: hence it is a satisfaction to find those views supported upon re-examination by an able committee.

He gave one decision about a much-elected candidate: living in the jurisdiction of A, he petitioned B, and was elected but was not initiated; he then

got a waiver from A, and petitioned C, and was elected; but C failed to hold a meeting at the fixed time, and he petitioned A, and was elected. To which lodge does he belong? To C: the election by B was void; A could not withdraw its waiver after C had elected him, and so the election by A was void. It is to be hoped that C succeeded in having a meeting!

A man who cannot read or write English can be made a mason, "*Provided, always*, that he understands the English language, as it is spoken, sufficiently well to comprehend the true intent, meaning and teachings of the esoteric work of Masonry."

A petition had been before the lodge more than a month: at a special meeting called by order of the District Deputy, that officer (the Master being absent), the members concurring, had the committee report, the ballot spread, and, the candidate being elected, initiated him. Is the brother entitled to receive other degrees?

"Answer. The D. D. G. Master exceeded his authority, and the proceedings of the lodge were irregular, but not void. The brother is an E. A.; the fault is not his, and, if worthy, he should be advanced without regard to past errors."

The same rule was applied in another case in which there was an irregular election, but the candidate was initiated.

We fraternally commend these decisions to our brethren of New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

One case of etiquette arose. A Master forbade the holding of a meeting called to receive the Deputy, after the brethren had come together, because, among other reasons, the Deputy sent the notice to the Secretary instead of to him! The Grand Master decided that the notice was properly directed to the Secretary, who should immediately notify the Master, and he should direct the Secretary to notify the members, and that the calling of a meeting *by order of the Deputy* is not subject to the by-laws of the lodge in relation to the length of notice or manner of giving it.

The Grand Lodge decided that "when a mason is expelled the masonic rights of his family fall with him."

The following is in accordance with the fundamental principles of Masonry, but we regret to say that the practice of "declaring a brother suspended" prevails in some jurisdictions: but the general opinion is that a declaration of suspension is not suspension and would not be recognized as suspension in any other jurisdiction except those in which this unmasonic practice prevails:

"The Worshipful Master had no power to declare a brother suspended for non-payment of dues, unless said brother had first been regularly summoned to show cause why he should not be so suspended, and the lodge had found his dues in arrears and not paid, and that he had been duly notified to so attend and show cause."

We are glad to find a more favorable financial condition and prospects of the Masonic Temple Association.

The night before the Grand Lodge met the Senior Grand Warden, J. M. PINNELL, died. During the hour of his funeral, memorial services to his memory were held by the Grand Lodge, which was still in session.

The year before, the Grand Lodge directed that the initiation fee of \$10 for the first initiate should be paid to the Grand Lodge to reduce the Temple debt, and \$1,820 had been received for that purpose from 182 lodges: the order was changed so as to require \$2.00 for every initiation, \$1.00 for every passing, and \$1.00 for every raising during the year.

It was hoped that the receipts from the Temple during the next year would pay the expenses, including interest, taxes and insurance.

The membership of the Masonic Mutual Relief Association had fallen off so that there were but 350 remaining—and that with a membership of about 14,000 in the state.

The Grand Orator (H. H. MEYERS) delivered an "able and beautiful" address. His main proposition was that "nothing can resist the immutable laws of time, unless founded on a basis so broad and extensive in its scope that nothing but good can result to the human family." We cannot copy it, but it deserves to be read and studied.

To avoid the necessity for dispensations, the by-laws were amended, providing that if a lodge fails to elect its officers at the fixed time, it may at the same, or next regular meeting, fix a time for the election not more than three months from the regular time, and at such time elect and install its officers.

A petition was presented praying for the revocation of the restoration of a formerly expelled brother on the ground of unmasonic conduct *since his restoration*; the Grand Lodge properly decided that the lodge should proceed against him by new charges.

An important question is suggested by one case: a brother was charged with an offence against a Master Mason's daughter; he denied that he knew that she was a Master Mason's daughter; but his act, if proved, was a masonic offence whether she was or not: query, does not the rule apply, that when a man commits an offence, he must be held responsible *for what he actually does*, and not be allowed to say that he intended to commit only a less offence? When a mason knowingly violates masonic law, does he not take the risk upon himself? Must not he know at his peril, that he does not exceed the limit of the smaller offence?

The Report on Correspondence (110 pp.) was presented by Bro. SAM H. DAVIDSON. It is almost all written, and *well written*. It would be easier reading if he would make his printer distinguish more plainly between extracts and original matter.

Of the "Eastern Star," he says:

"He has a kind feeling for the 'Eastern Star,' in which, as he says, he differs with many masonic writers. The views of masonic scholars generally, that the Eastern Star is not Freemasonry in any sense, is pretty generally understood, even amongst the members of that order, and, this being so, we take it that it is not unmasonic to let them alone."

He gives his space very largely to an abstract and account of what had been done and said in other jurisdictions.

Referring to the "St. John's Mite Society" at Washington, whose sole function is to provide relief for widows and orphans of masons who were never members of a lodge in that jurisdiction, he says: "This is Masonry in its broadest, sweetest and most humane sense." We were about adding, "So say we *all of us*," but alas, that cannot be truthfully said.

He thus refers to the question at issue between Georgia and South Carolina:

"Complaint was raised against a South Carolina lodge for trying and suspending a Georgia mason for an offence committed in South Carolina on the ground of lack of jurisdiction. We think their ground of complaint untenable. It is certainly no longer an open question that any mason is amenable to trial in any jurisdiction where he commits a masonic offence."

Of the recent Wisconsin proposition, he says:

"He does not subscribe to the proposed Wisconsin plan of systematic charity, which would aid a worthy distressed brother and then charge his lodge for it. Changing the broad principles of masonic charity to compulsory business methods, shutting up the grand charity funds, in a steel purse with a bite. Bah! Bro. Goddard, we are with you."

He thus retorts upon Bro. COMMONS, of Indiana:

"In speaking of our temple debt environment he says that from his point of view of Hoosierdom, it looks as if there was a good sized 'devil to pay' in Arkansaw, and the brethren without pitch. Bro. Commons does not seem to understand the currency question in Arkansas. Indianians may discharge their obligations to His Satanic Majesty in pitch, but here, where he is but little acquainted and has but few business connections, we have to put up the clean strained resin. We are straining some now."

Quoting the report of the Minnesota Committee that—

"The wayfaring brother in distress is entitled to relief from the masonic brother to whom he applies, so far as his ability will permit, without injury to himself, and that this relief should be extended without hope of fee or expectation of reward; also that Minnesota's Grand Lodge has enacted that no brother or subordinate lodge extending relief to a wayfaring brother in distress, shall apply for or ask, directly or indirectly, re-imbusement or reward for such relief,"

He adds in italics, "*And this is Masonry as taught in the third degree everywhere.*"

BRITISH AMERICA, 1895.

A special communication was held to lay a corner stone, and we note that the ceremonies were performed by the Grand Lodge open in due form.

Another was held to act upon a revised constitution. We earnestly commend the following to all bodies having a constitution:

“Resolved, That instead of being divided into chapters, the constitution be revised in consecutive sections for the sake of ease in reference, also that it be divided or allotted under headings to be arranged by the Grand Secretary when printed.”

The burial service, ancient charges and other similar matters are included. Provision was made for *presenting a copy to every candidate at the time of his initiation.*

The Grand Master (ROBERT B. McMICKING), in his annual address, sets forth ably and forcibly the objects of the institution, gives a concise statement of his official acts, and makes recommendations upon important matters.

Of the condition of the craft, he says:

“The growth of the craft, as a whole, has been satisfactory, being an average increase of about ten per cent. and notwithstanding the continued financial depression, which has so paralyzed general business pursuits, here as elsewhere, it is pleasing to learn—and, indeed, it was quite a surprise to me to discover—that the revenue from all sources exceeded in amount that of the year previous.”

He had visited quite a number of lodges and made several decisions. We are glad to note that he decided that service as a Warden in any other recognized jurisdiction makes a brother eligible to be made Master.

He urged that measures be taken looking to the establishment of a Masonic Home: the committee was of the opinion that the time is not ripe: the matter was, however, referred to a committee to report next year.

The Deputy Grand Master (LACEY R. JOHNSON), in spite of “a sore affliction in his family circle” in the early part of the year, had visited very many of the lodges and evidently imparted to them some of his own enthusiasm as well as instruction. The Deputies evidently had faithfully and earnestly performed their duties. It is not difficult to account for the growth and prosperity of this jurisdiction.

Two cases of discipline were before the Grand Lodge on the reports of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals; the whole proceedings and evidence were read to the Grand Lodge and the parties heard by their counsel. Then *the members of the Grand Lodge from the lodge interested* and both counsel retired, and the Grand Lodge proceeded to dispose of the case. We have never before noticed a case in which members of the lodge, from which the appeal is taken, were not allowed to act upon the appeal, but we believe that that course is the correct one.

The Finance Committee made a most thorough investigation of the accounts and assets, and reported some irregularities of methods (such as failure to have drafts endorsed when paid, or to have vouchers accompany drafts), but found the accounts correct and the assets on hand as reported. It is best that strict business methods be adopted to prevent confusion and possible disputes. The Grand Lodge thanked the committee, and adopted the following:

“That the Grand Master for next year be respectfully requested to re-appoint the committee for the ensuing year. That they be empowered, together with the Grnd Master, to arrange the details of completing their own valuable suggestions.”

In the afternoon of the second day, the Grand Lodge attended Divine Service, listened to an excellent sermon by Bro. JOHN A. LOGAN, returned to the Hall, and resumed labor, which consisted of the election of Grand Officers; then called off till the next morning, in order to give the members an opportunity to attend a banquet in the evening, which was “most enjoyable.”

It was voted:

“That when the constitution be again printed, a form of Installation of Lodge Officers under the ‘Scotch’ form of ritual be inserted.”

* * * * *

“That copies of paper bound constitutions be supplied free to masons of this jurisdiction. The cloth bound copies to be sold at 50 cents each.”

The Report on Correspondence (199 pp.) was presented by Bro. MARCUS WOLFE.

It is almost wholly an account of the action of other jurisdictions with copious extracts. He quotes Bro. SLEEPER’s report on “Public Grand Honors,” and recommends their adoption by his Grand Lodge.

He copies other reports in full, and if the brethren of his jurisdiction do not become well informed as to the important action of other Grand Lodges, and the reasons given for such action, it will be their own fault.

CALIFORNIA, 1895.

The Grand Lodge, and the masonic fraternity as a whole, have suffered an exceedingly great loss in the death of Past Grand Master WILLIAM CALDWELL BELCHER, for three years Grand Master, and for *twenty-eight* years Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence. He was elected Grand Master in May, 1862, almost the very day on which the writer was elected on his third term. His annual address, in 1864, was one of the first which we had to review in our first report for this committee. We were struck by the unusual ability shown by his address, and as he was

soon after appointed on the Committee on Jurisprudence, we have had occasion to know him through his reports ever since.

At the Templar Reunion in Boston we met Past Grand Master WILLIAM A. DAVIES, and were greatly pleased to receive through him a special message from Bro. BELCHER: we deemed it a special honor. Little did we think that Bro. DAVIES would be unable to deliver our message in reply. But so it was: on the Sunday following our interview, Bro. BELCHER saw the last of earth, and Bro. DAVIES never looked on his face again.

Bro. BELCHER was born in Stockbridge, Vermont, Dec. 12, 1820, and died in San Francisco, Sept. 1, 1895, being nearly seventy-five years old.

He graduated at the University of Vermont in 1843, taught for some years, but studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1852: but in 1856 he went to Marysville, Cal., and went into practice with his brother: subsequently he removed to San Francisco, and continued his practice there till his death, dying with his professional harness on.

The committee say of him:

"As a lawyer, he stood at the head of the profession. He was honest and capable. No one who knew him ever questioned his integrity; and no one who ever practiced law with him doubted his eminent ability. He possessed to a high degree the courage of his convictions. In debate he was strong and convincing. If in the wrong, he sought to be right. If right, he was fearless, and asserted himself with all the vigor of his forceful manhood.

"The gentleness of his disposition, the simplicity of his manners, added to his tall, commanding person, made him at once a most conspicuous and most lovable man. He combined in a high degree the opposite qualities of goodness and greatness."

To which Past Grand Master CURTIS adds:

"He was wise in counsel, bold in action and fearless in debate. Conscious of the rectitude of his own intentions, he was ever ready to grant to others the same honesty of purpose that he claimed for himself. He was a profound jurist, learned in the science and ethics of the civil law, and by his scholarly attainments, his unflinching integrity and unyielding fidelity to every trust reposed in him he left the impress of his genius upon the jurisprudence of his state."

He was an unceasing, tireless worker. He became Senior Grand Warden in 1860; Deputy Grand Master, and really Acting Grand Master in 1861, and Grand Master the next year, and for *thirty-five* sessions of the Grand Lodge was one of its main pillars of support.

It has been our lot to discuss many of his reports, and, educated in different schools of masonic law we did not always agree. He stated his own case *as it was*, and his adversary's also; he never misrepresented, and rarely, if ever, misunderstood his opponent's position. He was not striving for victory, but to discover and maintain the truth. He held that a failure to meet his opponent's attack squarely, was an admission that it could not be done. We shall greatly miss his instructive reports, and the rare privilege of discussing them.

The Grand Master (JAMES BAUNTY STEVENS) was called upon to announce also the death of Past Grand Master JOHN MILLS BROWNE, who died in Washington, Dec. 7, 1894. He was born in Hinsdale, N. H., May 10, 1831: he appeared in the Grand Lodge in 1871 as Master of his lodge. He was then a surgeon in the U. S. Navy. He distinguished himself so much at that session of the Grand Lodge, in support of an amendment to the constitution allowing lodges to receive petitions from candidates in the military and naval service who had not resided the required time in the jurisdiction, and made so favorable an impression, that he was elected Junior Grand Warden. He was elected Senior Grand Warden the next year, Deputy Grand Master the next, and then four times Grand Master. While he had not resided in California for several years before his death, his able administration of masonic affairs made an impress which is still felt. Moreover, he maintained his interest in Masonry to the time of his death. He was an officer and one of the ablest members of the Southern Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite.

In the deaths of Bros. BELCHER and BROWNE, the Institution throughout the country has sustained a severe loss. But in addition to their splendid examples, they have left behind works worthy of the study of the craft for all time.

Grand Master STEVENS calls attention to a matter in the report of one of the Inspectors, who says that a certain lodge has been supporting an indigent brother ten years, until it has used up its fund, has an empty treasury, has lost many members, had small attendance at its meetings, has held those irregularly, and must soon, unless relieved, surrender its charter. We should think that this illustration of the consequences of their doctrine in relation to *relief* would, at least, lead our California brethren to consider whether they had not better return to the old doctrine of masonic *charity*.

Two cases arose, in which a law of the Grand Lodge was disregarded, and yet the proceedings held to be valid. The law provides that members in arrears of dues shall not vote at elections, although that fact may not have been judicially determined in advance. At two elections, members who, it is said, had not paid their dues, voted, and it was afterwards claimed that the election was void, but the Grand Master decided otherwise, and the Grand Lodge sustained him. We can readily see that the danger of the inextricable confusion, which would exist if it was allowed to contest the regularity of elections for such causes, might easily induce the overriding of the law, that if the number of illegal votes may have changed the result, the election is void. This decision practically annuls the law.

The Grand Master had visited a large number of the lodges. At one, he assisted in conferring the third degree upon WALTER CAREY WILCOX—the protégé of the Grand Lodge from his early youth to his majority: he highly

appreciates what the Grand Lodge has done for him, and gives promise of amply repaying it in zealous labors for Masonry. He was forwarded to California by rail, tagged as an article of merchandise, except that the railroad men, appreciating the situation, added tags, till upon his arrival he was pretty well covered. He has given the tags to the Grand Lodge, and they are deposited in its archives.

In his account of his visit to one lodge, the Grand Master says:

"A very pleasant feature connected with this meeting was the presence at the banquet table of the wives and daughters of the brethren. In my judgment, this custom should be of more frequent occurrence at our festive gatherings."

We believe that it is admitted on all hands by those who have seen its effects, that this practice, which prevails very generally in Maine, is productive of the best results.

In concluding his account of his visitations, he says:

"At each and all of these meetings I have invariably been received in the most fraternal spirit by the brethren, and the many courtesies extended me by the officers and members of the various lodges are remembered with much pleasure, and I feel justified in saying that much good will result therefrom. A sumptuous repast concluded each meeting, and an hour or more of social intercourse was profitably passed with the brethren, and in every instance save one it was my pleasure to congratulate them on the absence of the wine at the banquet table. Temperance is one of our cardinal virtues, and every mason should practice it at all times, and more especially in the lodge room or its environments. I have endeavored to impress this upon the minds of my brethren, and hope that the advice I have given may result in good."

By binding Proceedings, &c., the Grand Lodge Library had been increased 391 volumes during the year. A new edition of the constitution had been printed, and, in addition to the usual distribution, a copy had been sent to each of the other Grand Lodges. It continues to be the policy of this Grand Lodge to place bound copies of its Proceedings in the prominent libraries of the state, with a view of perpetuating its history.

The Grand Lecturer had made a very large number of visits to lodges, and, as a rule, the Inspectors had been faithful and competent; but in his judgment there was a pressing need of more visitations. He says:

"Pay a salary amounting to enough to justify a Grand Lecturer devoting his entire time to the work, which would give him on an average, say ten days to each district (some districts will require more, some less), but make it his duty to visit every district, and stay until the Inspector is perfect and give the officers of the lodges, who are accessible, as much general instruction as possible. I would furthermore recommend that each Inspector select the Master or some Past Master of each lodge, who will perfect himself in the entire work, and appoint him an authority on the work in that particular lodge, for the convenient reference of its officers, subject, of course, to the correction of said Inspector. These Past Masters could sit with the Grand Lecturer and Inspector during the former's visit to the district."

We quote the following, because it shows the real weakness of their system: we fully believe, from experience in Maine, and observation elsewhere for many years, that if the Grand Lodge would require the Inspector to visit each lodge in his district, and pay his expenses, there would be no call for the recommendation of the Grand Lecturer:

“While on the subject of expenses, a number of instances have come to my notice where Inspectors have failed to visit certain lodges because they have not been asked to, and the invitation is apparently withheld on account of the lodge's inability to pay the Inspector's expenses, even for one visit a year. In two instances I found Inspectors who would not accept expense money proffered by some lodges, because other lodges in the district had not offered to pay, or had not paid. If an Inspector's purse is long enough to stand it without curtailing his usefulness, presumably no one can object; but, the Inspector being willing to contribute his time and talent, it would seem that an occasional week's board and actual necessary outlay of cash is not an unreasonable return for his services, and surely most of the lodges can stand a solid week of instruction at least once a year. General Regulation No. 15 covers the case and permits the Inspector to visit a lodge at the lodge's expense whenever he deems it necessary in the faithful discharge of his duties, but the Inspector hesitates, from a sense of delicacy, to force an expense upon the lodge, and he cannot always afford to make a trip at his own expense. A lodge should not be allowed to offer economy as an excuse for permitting the work to become warped into distortion, and I recommend that each lodge, during the coming year, extend an invitation to its Inspector to pay it a visit at a time mutually convenient, for the purpose of instruction; that the visit be as protracted as the circumstances require, and that he also be asked to present his bill to the lodge for actual expense incurred, and that it be acted upon just as the lodge would dispose of a bill for rent or fuel.”

The affairs of the Home had not made much progress during the year, but the prospects for the coming year were better.

The various reports of the Boards of Relief furnish material for study. One thing is certain; the amount of relief granted in any one of many cases, would, if granted habitually, bankrupt a large majority of our Eastern lodges.

In this connection we quote the following from the address of the Grand Master:

“It is due to the Southern Pacific Company and its officers in authority that recognition and record should be made of the voluntary assistance which has been rendered me in the discharge of charitable masonic duties. In every case where transportation in this state has been asked for distressed and worthy persons, entitled to masonic care and assistance, it has been cheerfully furnished without charge; and for these repeated and continued favors the Southern Pacific Company is entitled to this mention, and to the thanks of this Grand Body.”

In one case of discipline, the Grand Lodge set aside an expulsion by the lodge for informality, but itself expelled the accused. It is evident that this practice is on the increase. Brethren are discovering that it is generally

much better for the Grand Lodge, when a case is before it, to give final judgment instead of remanding the case.

In another case the committee well says:

"But it must be remembered that a mason has no right to subordinate Masonry to his own business interests, has no right to do any act that will reflect discredit on the Order, even though it may benefit him a little financially. If a mason has not a sufficient regard for the fraternity to restrain him from the commission of acts that must bring a blush of shame to the faces of his brothers, and strike a blow at the reputation of the Order, the sooner it is known that his acts are discountenanced the better it will be for the fair name of Masonry. That the acts of the accused were of such a character cannot admit of question. It may seem a waste of time to state these simple truths, but some have evidently been admitted as members who have not begun to appreciate the nature of the obligations they have assumed. The conduct of the accused was unmasonic, and the fact that it was, in some degree, prompted by business reasons, makes it no less unmasonic."

The Committee on Jurisprudence say:

"It is true that no brother, who is in arrears for dues, is entitled to vote, yet we are of the opinion that, in permitting those who are in arrears to vote, the responsibility rests upon the Master solely, and his irregularity should not vitiate the election. We, however, look upon it as a duty, for the benefit of lodges, to say to all Masters that they should not permit a brother to participate in an annual election unless he is clear of the books."

And in relation to the Tyler:

"We cannot see that the Tyler, because he has taken upon himself the responsible duties of that place, should have favors extended to him whereby he would be released from his obligations as a member of the lodge. It is not only the right of the Tyler to exercise all the privileges of a member of the lodge, but it is his duty, as well as all members of the lodge, to participate in the transaction of the lodge's business."

And in relation to the Representative system:

"We are glad to be able to inform our brethren of Kentucky and Wyoming that we have experienced no 'trouble' or 'vexation' by adopting the Grand Representative system; but, upon the contrary, our intercourse with the Representatives of other Grand Bodies has been of the most cordial and fraternal character. Yet we do not believe that the system is necessary to maintain the comity existing between the Grand Lodges. Still we like the system and would regret to see it abolished."

The Grand Orator, EUGENE NELSON DEUPREY, delivered an exceedingly practical address, in reference to the duties of masons to become familiar with the Ancient Charges, the Constitution, and the Laws and Decisions of the craft. He puts some very searching questions, and in conclusion says:

"It may be unkind to call up these ghosts of shortcomings. It may not be burdened with the praise that might be desired should come from criticism in relation to good work and the full performance of every duty. We ought not to avoid the knowledge of our faults, but seek to amend them, if faults we have. If the intimations that have been made are possible as to the lack of information upon important topics, which reach down to the

foundation stones of the ancient charges and govern that which is builded above, then all we can do is to cry 'All Hail' to the advancement of knowledge of every subject which is most dear and most material in our past, for our present, and so pertinent to our perpetuation in the future."

The Report on Correspondence (140 pp.) was submitted by Bro. WILLIAM ABRAHAM DAVIES. It is limited almost wholly to his plan, which he thus describes:

"In writing the report your committee have endeavored to carry out their idea of the purpose of a correspondence report, viz: to set forth the condition and prospects of Freemasonry in other jurisdictions in condensed and concise form for the information, and, perhaps the guidance of Masters, Wardens and Representatives in this jurisdiction."

That he has done this in a most admirable manner, goes without saying. He frequently expresses briefly assent or dissent, and occasionally a few lines of comment, but adopts, more frequently than his readers wish, the Weller rule of leaving off when they wish there was more of it.

He is against the use of ciphers:

"Under the awful threat of 'you're another,' we side with the protestants Davidson and Pillans. The loose methods adopted in the dissemination of the cipher is the first objection; the second and greatest is the much more careless methods of the individual recipient. We have heard of their being worn out from carrying in the side pocket, and then the copies that are made for convenience—oh, Lord!"

And such a case as the following, does not seem to have converted him:

"It is undoubtedly for the general good that uniform rules should be observed for the discharge of even the simplest lodge duties, but we are reminded, in such matters, of the dispute between two brethren who were learning the uniform California work several years ago. In their zeal to make no departure from the text a dispute arose between them as to whether our Grand Master, in the lecture, was so 'great and good' a man, etc., or was he so 'good and great' a man, etc. The matter was referred to the Grand Lecturer."

In his review of Maine, he says:

"It was only the 19th of the last month (August) that Bro. Belcher sent words of esteem and fraternal greeting to Bro. Drummond, and others whom he had hoped to meet at Boston, by the writer. The messages were delivered, but even at that moment the messenger was winging his flight from the eternal world with the order to strike our brother from the rolls of the living. Bro. Belcher's death occurred September 1st, and he passed to eternal rest with the love and esteem of all who knew him."

Very many of the Grand Lodges, in recent years, (it was not so formerly) have decided that a mason cannot vouch for another by having sat in the chapter, &c., with him; but it seems that the law in California is different.

Bro. DAVIES says:

"Our practice is different, although we remember but one decision upon the question in our Grand Lodge. In 1873, Grand Master Pratt, in his address, said: 'I have been twice asked if sitting in a Chapter of Royal

Arch Masons, with a given individual in this jurisdiction, entitles the brother, so sitting, to vouch for such individual to a lodge of Master Masons. I confess to have been at first a little staggered by the inquiry, for the rule is laid down with a great deal of exactness by the masonic jurists whom we are accustomed to consult, and the case above stated would not come within the precise letter of that rule. He must have sat in the lodge, says the rule, and a chapter is not a lodge. But the question involved was probably not considered by those jurists. Had it been, I have little doubt that the rule would have been so stated as to include the case under consideration. I could not see any rational distinction between the two cases which should make the voucher good in the one case and not in the other, and my decision was pronounced accordingly.

"Past Grand Master Pratt was a masonic jurist of ability, and his decision, as above, has never been questioned in California, and we confess we see nothing in Grand Master Phillips' reasoning that raises a doubt in the matter."

The fact is that Grand Lodges, by decisions, have changed, so far as they have power to change, the rights of the individual mason which masonic usage from time immemorial has vested in him in relation to this matter.

He believes in having refreshments at lodge meetings: he gives an incident which may well have been the cause for his first being of that opinion:

"As a reminder of this ancient custom, we shall carry with us to the grave a recollection of a visit made to Tuolumne Lodge in the year 1852. The lodge room had been destroyed by fire in the month of June of that year, and the lodge was holding forth temporarily in rooms fitted up for the purpose in the Eagle Hotel, in the city of Sonora. At the stated meeting in August of that year we applied for the privilege of visitation and found a lodge of forty masons assembled, presided over by Bro. Charles M. Radcliff, Master, and, at the time, Grand Master; Bro. William W. Traylor was Senior Warden. It being a regular meeting, no work was in order. Upon the completion of the business, principally referring to the building of a new lodge hall, the lodge was called to refreshment, and, at the request of the Master, gathered around a table in the ante-room. There was a spread of cold meats, bread and cheese, sandwiches and coffee. No set speeches were allowed, but an informal conversation was indulged in for nearly an hour, principally in reference to the new hall. The Tyler was an English sailor, known as 'Uncle John.' At the proper time Bro. Radcliff rapped and called the Tyler, making, on behalf of the brethren, a request for a song. Unlike professionals, Uncle John did not excuse himself, but cleared his throat and responded with a rollicking song and chorus. I remember his commencement, as he rolled out with his clear voice:—

"When Adam ruled the world by an order from the Grand,

And with his beauteous spouse traversed Eden's happy land,
To build a bower, to spend an hour, to shield them from the weather
evil,

And his worship plan'd it out with his square, gauge, plumb and
level.

Whack row de dow, de dow, whack row de dow.'

"The song over, Bro. Radcliff remarked: 'Brethren, our charity fund is not as strong as it might be, and perhaps this a good time to nourish it a bit. Bro. Treasurer, place a hat upon the table and take charge of the offering.' The Treasurer, Bro. Charles F. Dodge, reported the collection of \$92.50. The brethren returned to the lodge room and closed."

In his conclusion he pays a brief tribute to the memory of Bro. WILLIAM

C. BELCHER. Though we have already paid our tribute to his memory, the following from the pen of his intimate associate for thirty-five years, is so just, that we add it to what we have already said:

"The Grand Lodge of California can truly say that in the death of Bro. Belcher it loses one who has been through all the past years its guide, counselor and friend; his reports have attracted the attention of the masonic world, and are classed with the best in our literature. William C. Belcher was a great lawyer, and his love and veneration for the system of Freemasonry, with his special attachment for this Grand Lodge, made him a great masonic jurist. There are but few in this world who, having the ability, would give the time from their business demands to the study, the analysis and application of the principles and groundwork of Masonry as did our late brother.

"The writer was associated for many years with Bro. Belcher in his committee work, is witness of his unselfish devotion, his firm, unyielding advocacy of the right, and his unswerving attachment to the Grand Lodge at all times. May his memory remain with us always, as the sweetness of the summer's last rose."

CANADA, 1895.

The Grand Master (WILLIAM R. WHITE) in his concise address says:

"The year has been marked by no masonic event of importance. I have not been called upon to decide any questions of great moment. Our relations with other Grand Lodges have been most cordial, and, within our own jurisdiction, I think I am safe in saying that scarcely a ripple of discord has disturbed that peace and harmony, which seem to have become the normal condition of this Grand Lodge. I am pleased to be able to say that the record for this year as set out in the reports of the D. D. G. M.'s of the different districts shows an ever increasing interest in the work and a healthy condition generally existing among the private lodges."

His views in relation to physical qualifications will be deemed very liberal:

"The subject which I found the most trouble in dealing with was the question of physical qualifications. In all such cases I felt constrained to leave the matter to the W. M. or D. D. G. M., who could personally see whether the candidate could comply with the requirements of the constitution or not. I regret very much that my views on this subject differ slightly from those expressed by some former Grand Masters. I favor a liberal interpretation of the constitution rather than a strict one. I think, if a candidate possesses the necessary mental and moral qualifications, it would be a great hardship if he should be deprived of the benefits of masonry because he has some slight physical defect which prevents him from absolutely, and in the most perfect manner, complying with all the ceremonies of the work of Grand Lodge."

He forcibly condemns electioneering for masonic office, and his remarks are worthy of universal acceptance:

"Friends may speak well of one whose merits and ability entitle him to be promoted to office in either private lodge or Grand Lodge, but the making of slates, the pledging of brethren to vote one way or the other, and all the wiles and dodges so well known to the politicians, are utterly foreign to the

genius and spirit of Masonry, and should be most emphatically frowned upon and discountenanced by every true mason. Let us hope, for the credit of Grand Lodge, as well as private lodges, that this evil does not exist to any alarming extent, and that the representations made to me are either without foundation or somewhat exaggerated."

The enumeration of the dispensations, which he had granted, reminds us that in our review of California, we omitted to notice a decision of that Grand Lodge upon the report of its Committee on Jurisprudence, overruling a decision of the Grand Master, that masonic law does not justify the granting of a dispensation to a lodge to attend worship in regalia, on the ground that it is not a masonic occasion. We have formerly been of the same opinion; but during the past year it has been called to our attention that it has been the usage of the Grand Lodge of England and her daughter Grand Lodges, for many years, to grant these dispensations. How long this usage has existed, we have not ascertained; but we know that it has existed so many years as to raise a very serious doubt in our mind as to the correctness of our former opinion. Masonic usage becomes in time masonic law, and this usage can be no exception to the rule.

The Grand Treasurer's report shows that the payments on account of benevolence amount to \$9,396.25. The total amount granted during the forty years of the existence of the Grand Lodge, is \$218,084.65, out of a total revenue of \$487,028.30.

As usual, the Reports of the District Deputies are one of the chief features of these Proceedings, taking up about 180 pages.

The following may be a useful hint to our own Deputies:

"At all of my official visits I endeavored to take the officers over all of the work pertaining to the wardens and deacons in the three degrees, calling upon the Masters to exemplify certain portions of the work in each degree, and I also asked for exemplification of the manner of balloting, and other ceremonies, usages and customs. I found that procedure to be very entertaining and instructive to the officers and members."

Palestine Lodge, of Detroit, visited the lodge at Chatham and conferred the Third degree, but the Deputy says:

"Many of the members of our craft had never seen the work before, and I believe I am expressing the sentiments of the majority when I say that for impressiveness and pure masonic teaching our beautiful work far excels that done in the Grand Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Michigan."

One Deputy notes, as a pleasing feature of his visit, the handing in of a petition for membership by a brother, who *was a mason of sixty years' standing and ninety-four years of age!*

Of course it is impossible to review these reports in detail, and, therefore, we pass to the report of the committee to which they were referred.

The committee say that while only 35 out of 351 lodges were not visited,

the number is an increase over former years and must be diminished in the future.

This is their conclusion as to the condition of the craft:

"We can congratulate Grand Lodge on continued prosperity. The increase in membership has not been large, owing to the fact that the lodges in the majority of the districts are being conducted on business principles; the brethren therein have to pay their dues or be suspended. With a few exceptions we find that peace and harmony exists within our borders; that the brethren are enthusiastic, and are ruled over by capable and proficient officers.

"The visits of the G. M. and D. G. M. throughout the various districts have been productive of much good. Contact with these illustrious brethren has been the means of creating among the brethren a greater love for the institution and for one another, and an increased attendance at lodge meetings. In every report is to be found evidence of the love and esteem in which these brethren are held."

The first paragraph sounds very harshly. Must we say, "Alas for the rarity, of masonic charity?" But we will not so construe it. We will presume that care was taken not to suspend any one "on business principles" whose dues, on *masonic* principles, should have been remitted.

The following Report of the Board of Jurisprudence was adopted:

"The Board recognize that while Masonry respects the conscientious beliefs of all creeds, and condemns no man for or on account of his particular religious opinions, it constrains none to accept its tenets or teachings, and the Board consider the refusal of a candidate to conform to any of our usages, even though he may fancy in but one of the minor details, as much an objection to his reception as though he declined to accede to any other of the rites and ceremonies, and as the candidate in this case refused to conform to the requirements of our ritual, the Board recommend that the W. M. having honestly erred in proceeding with the initiation, no further degrees be conferred on this candidate unless he brings his opinions into harmony with the masonic view of the questions in difference."

We have a strong suspicion that if the question of the candidate's views as to the binding force of obligations were investigated, he would be found to be ineligible. Indeed, from a part of the report which we have not copied, it would seem that he ought to be expelled for what he has already done and said.

In this jurisdiction, a lodge can only suspend a brother indefinitely and recommend that the Grand Lodge expel him: the Grand Lodge orders the accused summoned to appear the next year and show cause why he should not be expelled. It seems to us that so long a delay should be avoided. When the papers are filed in the Grand Secretary's office, by direction of the Grand Master, or as a matter of course, he might issue a summons to the accused to appear, and the matter be disposed of a year earlier. The delay, which now so frequently happens, in meting out punishment to masonic offenders, is getting to be a reproach to Masonry.

The following action was taken in relation to the so-called "Grand Lodge of Ontario":

"The Board having received from the M. W. the Grand Master a verbal statement that he had been approached by authorities representing the organization called the Grand Lodge of Ontario, with the view of having the members thereof healed and recognized as masons within this jurisdiction, on the understanding that the said Grand Lodge should cease to exist, recommend that a special committee of the Board be appointed, which shall be authorized to treat with the members of the said organization and agree with them if possible in the terms on which the object sought for may be accomplished, and that the said committee shall have full power to dispose finally of the whole matter, and that the committee consist of the M. W. the Grand Master, the Past Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master."

A motion to add the following to the constitution was lost:

"Neither is it lawful for any private lodge to permit any brother or brethren, hailing from a foreign jurisdiction, to illustrate, practice or administer within its precincts, without the permission of the M. W. the Grand Master, under any pretext whatsoever, other than the authorized work of Grand Lodge, and that where special work is authorized in the jurisdiction, the same be confined to the meeting places of lodges having permits."

The Report on Correspondence (109 pp.) was presented by Bro. HENRY ROBERTSON. As usual, it is an abstract of proceedings with well-selected extracts, with rare comments.

He endorses the views of Bro. JACKSON, of Delaware, in relation to public installations, who said, "we do not believe the usage is immemorial, and further, that common usage does not always make a thing right and lawful."

His unbelief does not change the fact, and merely shows that he has not investigated the question; and Bro. ROBERTSON *ought* to know that immemorial masonic usage *does* make a thing masonically right and lawful.

In his review of Maryland, he says:

"It was resolved to prohibit the practice of holding picnics, excursions, and other public entertainments under the auspices and name of any lodge. This is the first movement of the kind that we have seen for some time, and we think it is decidedly a move in the right direction. The appearance of masons in public, clothed as masons, should be confined to strictly masonic occasions, such as the laying of a corner-stone of a public building or of a masonic funeral."

How about attending Divine Service, as the British Grand Lodges do, and allow the subordinates to do? How about St. Johns' Days?

In his review of Mississippi, he says:

"For the first time in the history of this Grand Lodge, the Grand Master exercised his high prerogative of making a mason at sight. His account of the transaction is given below, and we have only to say that the justification attempted seems to us to be entirely inadequate."

If the *power* is conceded, the Grand Master is the sole judge of the circumstances and needs no "justification." If he does not possess the power, there cannot be a justification.

He copies the action of the Grand Lodge of North Dakota in relation to healing one of the bogus Grand Lodge of Ontario initiates, but adds:

"We have no possible objection to this action of the Grand Lodge of North Dakota, provided that the applicant was of good moral character; but the committee are slightly astray as to the distinction between 'clandestine' and 'irregular' masons. A clandestine mason is one who belongs to a clandestine lodge, a lodge that is not recognized by the proper masonic authorities or one that has been formed without the sanction of the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge. An irregular mason is one who was made in a regular lodge, but in disregard of the constitutional formalities required before admission, such as the lapse of a certain time after application, the reference to a committee on character, the report of that committee, the ballot, etc. Both clandestine and irregular masons may be 'healed.' As a matter of fact, all the members under the Grand Lodge of Ontario were clandestine masons, and many of them have been healed by us."

The only doubt, which the Grand Lodge of South Dakota had, was removed by the action of the Grand Lodge of Canada in recognizing the parties as capable of being healed, and authorizing their healing, whatever the meaning of the word "clandestine" may be held to be.

While the original meaning of the word "clandestine" was beyond question that given by our North Dakota brethren, still Grand Lodges in numerous instances have healed "clandestine masons," who have thereafter been recognized by all the masonic world as regular. And yet, it is admitted that there may be persons claiming to be masons, who cannot be "healed," but must be "remade." We have, however, never seen the line drawn. A man initiated in full form by profanes, if such a thing were possible, could not be healed. There must have been in the making some color of masonic authority. In the Ontario case, we believe that the founders of the so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario were, or had been, regular masons.

In his review of Vermont, Bro. R. says:

"On the prerogative of the Grand Master to make masons at sight, he says that Vermont has the same ancient regulation; 'but the memory of man runneth not back to the time when it was ever more than a curiosity enveloped in the accumulated cobwebs of the past.'"

COLORADO, 1895.

The Grand Master (WILLIAM M. BUSH) announces the death of Past Grand Master JOHN M. CHIVINGTON, the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, and adds:

"One of the particularly sad and deplorable occurrences of the year was the death of Brothers Ferdinand French and Bela L. Lorah, Worshipful Master and Junior Warden of Central Lodge, No. 6. These brethren came to Denver on Sunday morning, August 18th, for the purpose of attending the funeral of Brother Matthew Bennett, a member of their lodge, who had died in Denver and was buried on that date by Union Lodge, No. 7. They parted from the brethren of Union Lodge, No. 7, at the Temple, at 6.40 P. M., with the intention of returning to Central City on that evening. For some reason they changed their plans and were guests of the Gumry Hotel

on the night that building was wrecked by the explosion of the boilers, thus losing their lives whilst engaged in the performance of a masonic duty. Bro. Charles Adams, a worthy member of Manitou Lodge, No. 68, was also a victim of this terrible disaster. For the relatives and friends of these brethren our hearts go out in sympathy."

He had performed a large amount of routine business, and his report of it shows that he was a skilled workman.

In the following, he does not agree with some whose opinions we have quoted:

"On June 13, 1895, I issued dispensation to Idaho Springs Lodge, No. 26, to attend divine service on Sunday evening, June 16th. This being my own lodge, I had the pleasure of attending the service and hearing a very pleasing address by Rev. Bro. Sanderson. I believe the attending of church by a lodge in a body must necessarily result in good, and for this reason I would advise giving the Grand Master authority to issue dispensations to lodges for this purpose, without fee. It is a practice that should be encouraged, and the lodges should, in my opinion, be allowed to attend church without paying a fee for the privilege."

The Grand Lodge endorsed his views.

He decided that an E. A. becoming maimed could not be advanced, because a by-law of the Grand Lodge so expressly provided; but he denies the correctness of the by-law, saying:

"Requiring a candidate for initiation to be a perfect man physically is right, in my opinion, but when a candidate has received one or more degrees, and through no fault of his is maimed by an accident, there should be no law to prevent his going on and receiving full light in Masonry."

The Grand Lodge concurred and amended the by-law.

He made the following very pertinent suggestion:

"In view of the fact that many of the lodges of the jurisdiction find themselves with an empty treasury and a heavy debt to carry in consequence of the desire to own a building to be known as a 'Masonic Temple,' it might be well for the Grand Lodge to take some steps toward regulating the amount of indebtedness a lodge could incur. This might be done by passing a law prohibiting a lodge from contracting an indebtedness above a certain amount per capita. I would recommend that this question have careful consideration, as it is one of great importance to the lodges."

Population changes rapidly in that state. A lodge proposed to surrender its charter: it had once been a fairly prosperous lodge; the Grand Master urged the members to make an effort to continue the lodge; the Secretary wrote that that was impossible, because 'within a month there would be only one Master Mason left in town!' It turned out afterwards that that one lived four miles away! The surrender was accepted: the lodge owned unencumbered real estate which was transferred to the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Orator, ALPHONSE A. BURNAND, delivered a forcible and impressive address upon "A Mason's Duty."

The following preamble and resolution were adopted:

"Whereas, There are business organizations operating within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge under various titles, but claiming to be masonic in character, such as 'The _____ Masonic Benefit Association,' 'The _____ Masonic Accident Association,' 'The Mason's Fraternal Accident Association,' 'Masonic Restaurant,' and others of like character.

"Resolved, That this Grand Lodge hereby notify the masons within its jurisdiction that all such organizations, corporations or societies are using the word 'Masonic' in their titles without any right whatever, so far as this Grand Lodge is concerned, and that we deprecate the use of the term in a business connection as wrong and unmasonic."

The Report on Necrology, by Bro. GREENLEAF, is a very beautiful one, but cannot be abbreviated, and the whole of it must be read to be fully appreciated.

An excellent address was also delivered by Bro. WILLIAM A. BURDICK at the laying of a corner stone of a Masonic Temple in the City of Boulder.

The Report on Correspondence (225 pp.) was presented by Bro. LAWRENCE N. GREENLEAF.

He says:

"We have been guided in our review by the same general plan of procedure as that followed by us in former reports. This embraces a running commentary on the routine business of each Grand Body, together with matters which are deemed of essential interest to the craft.

"Questions that appear to demand more extended reference or discussion will be reserved for such consideration in our conclusion."

He adhered so closely to this plan that we have looked in vain through his review of the several Grand Lodges for a peg on which to hang a comment. He compiled a Digest of Decisions, of which he says:

"The decisions here reproduced comprise but a small number of those that have come under our notice. What to discard and what to retain is often a matter of no little perplexity. A majority of those retained have been repeatedly passed upon, and yet they will be as new to many of the brethren as they were once to ourselves. New officers periodically succeed the old, but these latter cannot transmit their wisdom with the office, each must acquire it for himself, by study and experience. The present Digest, in connection with those of former years, will furnish valuable information upon a great variety of questions which are constantly arising in every lodge. It must be borne in mind, however, that the decisions herein quoted are applicable only so far as they are in accordance with our Colorado law. Then again, many of these decisions upon the same question, by different Grand Masters, are in direct conflict, and some of them, in our opinion, contrary to the first principles of masonic law—and yet all have been approved by their respective Grand Lodges. This in itself shows how little reliance can be placed upon isolated decisions, while the Digest, taken as a whole, is valuable for comparison and the study of masonic jurisprudence."

For these reasons, we long ago adopted the plan of copying useful decisions as we proceeded in our work; and as our experience showed that those not in accord with Maine law misled brethren, who have not the time nor materials to study them, we have commented on them as the occasion seemed to demand. The average Master does not care much to know what

the masonic law is somewhere else: his anxiety is to know the law that governs him.

In his "Conclusion," he says:

"From present indications neither the Mississippi uniform rules or the Wisconsin plan for masonic relief will receive general endorsement."

He continues briefly his discussion of masonic history, antiquity and degrees. He gives the history of the adoption of the 1738 Book of Constitutions. In this connection, we desire information. We have a copy of the "History and Constitutions," &c., &c., by James Anderson, D. D. "London: printed; and sold by J. Robinson at the Golden-Lion in Ludgate-Street. In the vulgar year of Masonry, 1746." Dr. MACKEY had a similar copy; he informed us that after the 1738 constitutions were printed, they were found to be erroneous, and the Grand Lodge withdrew its sanction: but that in 1746, an enterprising bookseller printed a new title page, and bound the sheets of the 1738 edition, and put them on the market. The body of the book is the 1738 edition verbatim: the title page leaf seems to be of different paper, and to be pasted to the next leaf. What authority Dr. MACKEY had for his statement, which we have accepted as true, we do not know. What is the real history of this 1746 issue?

CONNECTICUT, 1896.

The great event of the year was the completion and dedication of the Masonic Home, at Wallingford.

The proceedings are given, preceded by a portrait of Rev. ASHBEL BALDWIN, who in 1797 most eloquently advocated, in an address as Grand Chaplain, the establishment of a permanent Charity Fund. It rested, however, till twenty-two years ago, when a beginning was made which has culminated in the fruition of the hope expressed by Bro. BALDWIN nearly a century ago. The exercises were of great interest, but we must be content with some extracts from Past Grand Master LUKE A. LOCKWOOD's masterly address.

"This is the greatest masonic event of the century in Connecticut. Nothing like it has occurred since the introduction of Freemasonry into this state in the year 1750. It is the greatest masonic event because it marks an epoch in the progress of the institution, not a new departure but a new development and outcome of what already existed within it. The fraternity have met in convention many times to lay corner stones and to dedicate buildings, but never to dedicate buildings for the purpose to which these edifices have been piously devoted.

"It may seem strange to many ears to hear of the progress and development of Freemasonry, than which no more conservative institution exists. It is hedged in by irremovable landmarks which by the laws of the Medes and Persians altereth not. No power exists for their abrogation or modification. '*Super Antiquas vias Stare,*' stand in the ancient paths, is inter-

woven into the very warp of its existence, and cannot be removed without total destruction of the entire fabric.

"Yet the event of this day is a most wonderful step in advance of all we have yet known in its history."

* * * * *

"These fundamental principles in the masonic institution are belief in the existence of God, a Revelation of His will, the immortality of the soul, and the resurrection of the body.

"Without a belief in these no man can become a Freemason. The root principle, however, of all is the existence of God and his Fatherhood. From this Fatherhood logically flows the Brotherhood of man, which perhaps more immediately touches us on this occasion."

* * * * *

"These remarks upon the constitution relating to its powers of expansion and adaptation to new circumstances and conditions of men by wise interpretation within the intent and meaning of the constitutional limitations, will illustrate the true character, the purpose and adaptability of the landmarks of Freemasonry. It is a great mistake to decry the development of Freemasonry within even the last fifty years upon the line of masonic jurisprudence. There was before that time no well devised system of jurisprudence. It is true there were regulations, fifteen points, in what is known as the old York Constitution of 1726, and certain general regulations of various succeeding years. But there was nothing like a system in these, and probably but a few copies of them, if any, could be found in the whole country. The principles of its jurisprudence practically were handed down orally as were the traditions of the craft. Within my own recollection a mason of reputation and a legal light in the fraternity declared that the laws of Masonry were written upon the human heart. If this view were correct, frequent collapses by reason of heart failure might be fairly expected. Read the records of Grand Lodges, and you will understand in the crude legislation of earlier days what is meant by the want of a system of jurisprudence. In truth in those early days the condition of the craft required no elaborate system, but when the changed conditions came, Masonry showed the wisdom of its exalted founder by developing a complete system of practical jurisprudence by wise interpretation and construction and by logical deductions from its landmarks, and by adaptation and application of well recognized principles of justice and equity, the result of the experience of centuries, to the present requirements of the craft, and that too within the scope of its unalterable landmarks. The fraternity has now a complete system of jurisprudence established by the consensus of its members and well adapted to its present needs, and when new circumstances or new conditions shall arise, it will be found that this system will expand to direct and control the craft in peace, harmony and justice, and without violence to the landmarks or traditions of the order."

* * * * *

"There is one subject further to which your attention is called in considering the development of Freemasonry — a subject which has been most deeply impressed upon my mind in the discharge of my official duties as President of the Masonic Charity Foundation. I refer to the relation of the mothers, wives, widows, sisters and daughters of Freemasons to the craft.

"It is popular in some quarters to decry the formation of societies by them having any reference to the craft.

"No mason will deny that by his most solemn obligations they stand in special relation to him and are entitled to his assistance and protection.

"It follows that it would be wise that sure proof should be provided by which they may with certainty be able to claim and prove themselves en-

titled to such assistance and protection. The craft has made no such provision. The exigencies of the early days did not require it. Masons were few and their relation well known. Now all this is changed.

"Doubtless the providing of these modes of recognition are beyond and outside of the purview of Freemasonry. It does not require that they shall be made masons, which of course would be an impossibility. It surely would be wise in providing these proofs of relationship to the craft to surround them with the inculcation and enforcement by precept and example of those virtues which ought especially to characterize woman in addition to the virtues which ought to distinguish Freemasons. Such a system would conflict with no landmark and would be in accordance with the spirit and genius of Freemasonry. This can be and indeed it has been already accomplished by those ladies themselves. Neither is this any new thing, for 'from the time the memory of man runneth not to the contrary' there have been adrogyne degrees called side degrees of Masonry, to which they were admitted.

"But this was not efficient or general, and there was an entire absence of organization. Within the last quarter of a century, such an order of these ladies has been organized and made effective for great good."

* * * * *

"Whatever may be said, the Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut will never forget the words of sympathy and good cheer, the generous and noble deeds, and the substantial gifts of the order of the Eastern Star, whose worthy officers are among our most welcome guests to-day. With their ability acquired by organization, the kindly sympathy of their nature, their peculiar powers of making a home a true haven of peaceful rest and of developing and guiding the mind and affection of the young, this Order will find its greatest mission and most satisfying happiness in making this home truly the home of the distressed and the bereaved."

* * * * *

"Brethren of Connecticut: The faithful prayer of your Grand Chaplain which ascended to Heaven nearly a century ago, has been answered. The answer is before you. Our Masonic Home has been established. Our brothers and sisters are even now with us rejoicing in their homes. This home is this day committed to us as a sacred trust. It stands completed and without debt. Our work is not yet finished. Its support rests upon us. Shall we be faithful to this trust? Let no brother say it cannot be done. Let not the magnitude of the work appall. Let each do as he is able, 'not grudgingly nor of necessity.'"

A resolution to impose a *per capita* tax of seventy-five cents for the support of the Home was adopted at the annual communication, apparently without a dissenting vote.

We earnestly congratulate our Connecticut brethren upon the prudence and wisdom which they have manifested in this matter. They raised the money first and persevered against all obstacles for twenty years, and now have their Home without the incubus of a debt.

At the annual communication, Bro. THADDEUS R. SIMONTON, Past Senior Grand Warden of our Grand Lodge, was introduced by Past Grand Master LOCKWOOD, welcomed with the Grand Honors and conducted to a seat in the Grand East.

The Grand Master (HENRY O. WARNER) gives a brief summary of the Reports of the Deputies, from which it appears that that year had been a

prosperous one. Every lodge save one was represented. He reports that the Home has already seventeen inmates.

The Grand Secretary gives a catalogue of the Grand Lodge Library, showing a very full collection of Proceedings, but with some gaps. To our surprise we do not find Maine in the list. How comes that, Bro. BARLOW?

The following *In Memoriam* to Bro. WHEELER was adopted:

"The Freemasons of Connecticut in Grand Lodge assembled, do place upon its record the following minutes of the decease of R. W. Bro. Joseph K. Wheeler.

"1. R. W. Brother Joseph K. Wheeler, for twenty-seven consecutive years has filled the office of Grand Secretary with great ability and faithfulness.

"2. He has also performed with signal ability the important duties of Foreign Correspondent of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut and established a world wide reputation for genial courtesy, good judgment and intimate knowledge of masonic jurisprudence and keen appreciation of the principles and purposes of our institution.

"While we deplore the loss of his ever abundant sympathy, his cordial greetings, and his guiding wisdom, we thank God for his good example, and we extend to his bereaved family our warm sympathy in their sad bereavement."

The following report, adopted by the Grand Lodge, suggests a new remedy for those who go abroad to obtain the degrees. We shall look with much interest to see if the case referred to was of such a character as to call for proceedings in accordance with this suggestion, and if so, the result:

"In the matter of Warren Lodge, No. 51, Portland, your committee find that A. B. applied for the degrees to Warren Lodge, No. 51, and was rejected. He afterwards applied to a lodge in Scotland and there received the degrees, and the question arises as to his masonic status. Your committee report their opinion as follows:

"1st. That A. B. having been made a mason in a regular lodge is a regular mason.

"2d. That if he took the degrees with a knowledge of the masonic law of Connecticut, for the purpose of evading that law, he is subject to trial by Warren Lodge for surreptitiously obtaining the degrees of Masonry.

"3d. That the right of visiting any lodge rests upon unanimous consent of the members present."

The Grand Secretary closes his record as follows:

"Thus closed one of the largest and harmonious communications ever held, and which will long be remembered for its prompt and unanimous action in support of the Masonic Home recently dedicated."

As we understand the reports, the property cost something like \$48,000, and while there are bills outstanding, there is more than sufficient cash on deposit to pay them all.

The Board of Managers, in their report, say:

"Nearly all the furniture of the Home has been given. Hiram Lodge, No. 1, elegantly furnished the reception room. The Order of the Eastern Star, by its Grand Chapter, furnished most beautifully and appropriately

the assembly room, which has been occupied every Sunday afternoon by a large audience composed of the inmates, and the clergy of every denomination in its vicinity have gladly given their services.

"This has been a very popular resort of the people. Thirty-two sleeping rooms have been fully furnished by lodges, R. A. Chapters, Councils, and Chapters of the O. E. S. The Grand Commandery of Connecticut generously fitted up the dining-room with all its appropriate appurtenances.

"Bro. William H. Allen, the able architect, who successfully designed and superintended the improvements, generously donated his valuable services."

The Grand Lodge so highly appreciates the Masonic Veteran Association, that it appropriates \$50.00 a year in its aid.

The Report on Correspondence (158 pp) was presented by Bro. JOHN H. BARLOW.

He says:

"True, in most cases very little or any labors are performed, but the fact that the Representative represents a sister Grand Lodge is no empty honor, and is, we think, as such, entitled to that respect that would be accorded to a member of said jurisdiction if he were actually present."

* * * * *

"Connecticut, and we think nearly all the older jurisdictions, recognize perpetual jurisdiction over rejected material. This regulation, we think, is supported by ancient regulations, so old that like many others, the date of their introduction cannot be given. Those who do not recognize this law are the ones we think who are modernizing our ancient institution. He presents an example to his successors worthy of imitation, in his report of official visits to forty-four of the subordinate lodges, which we have no doubt will be fruitful of good results."

In his review of Maine, he quotes Grand Master BURBANK'S tribute to Bro. MOORE, all of his decisions and all of the concluding portion of his address. He dissents from the decision that it is not permissible for officers of a lodge to wear robes, saying:

"There are a number of lodges in Connecticut who use the robes, and we think it adds interest to the work. It is more reasonable to suppose that King Solomon wore kingly robes than the modern swallow-tail coat and stove-pipe hat."

But masonic usage is against it, and that settles it, even if it were not settled by constitutional enactment or Grand Lodge regulation. The masonic clothing of the officers of a lodge is as well fixed as their jewels. We do not suppose King Solomon wielded the gavel, but we doubt if Bro. BARLOW would justify a master's throwing it aside for a sceptre.

In his review of our report he *apparently* takes issue with us in relation to non-affiliated masons. He says that he was compelled to write his report hurriedly, and he evidently did, for his reply to us is an almost fearful argument in support of our views. He errs in assuming that we were speaking of those suspended for non-payment of dues. The Iowa regulation is so monstrous that it is no wonder that Bro. BARLOW could not conceive that such a one could be adopted.

He says:

"Among the first masonic duties, according to an ancient charge, 'DO GOOD TO ALL MEN, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO ARE OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH' would certainly forbid such construction. That a brother is deprived of his lodge membership because too poor to retain it is not, we think, a fair statement of the other side of the question. As before stated, the regulations should not, and we believe, are not enforced except for willful refusal when able, and then only after due trial and give the delinquent brother the benefit of all doubt as to his ability."

But the regulation expressly says of the non-affiliate, "He shall not receive masonic aid." He has no trial: no matter how poor he may be or how great his want and suffering are, "*he shall not receive masonic aid*"!

DELAWARE, 1895.

Three special communications were held for dedicating halls and laying a corner stone. In each case, the Grand Lodge was opened in a room specially provided for the purpose, proceeded to the hall or place where the ceremony was to be performed, and after the ceremonies "returned to the place where convened and closed in ample form." According to the views of the late Bro. VAUX, whose views as to public installations Bro. JACKSON has adopted, this was unmasonic—in Bro. VAUX's estimation equally so with them.

The address of the Grand Master (VIRGINIUS V. HARRISON) is devoted chiefly to local and routine matters. He announces the appointment of Bro. JACOB H. EMERSON as the Representative of our Grand Lodge near his own.

He decided that an objection after ballot is equivalent to a black ball, but limited the proposition that the candidate could not be made a mason while the objection stood. In this case the objection was withdrawn and the candidate initiated. The law has now got to be quite universal, that an absolute objection is equivalent to a black ball, and should be so recorded, and have the same effect. At the same time, a member may be allowed to make what we will call a temporary objection, to be made absolute or withdrawn as the result of further investigation may determine.

We learn from his address that the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction prevails in Delaware.

He decided that one brother may vouch for another upon lawful information, as well as by having sat in a lodge with him.

Of the Wisconsin Circular, he says:

"I submit this for your consideration, but it seems to me, if we place ourselves in a position that would bind us as a Grand Lodge to be responsible for the return of alms that may be given to a poor and distressed brother in obedience to a fundamental principle, then one of the foundation stones on which our structure is erected crumbles into dust.

"On becoming masons, one of the first lessons we are taught is 'Charity.' Masonry is a charitable institution and not a beneficial one, therefore when it becomes necessary to relieve a distressed brother, let us do so freely without thought of re-imbursement. The adoption of this 'proposition' in my opinion would reduce our Fraternity to a mere beneficial organization."

He makes quite a number of recommendations, which, if adopted, would secure a better administration of the affairs of the lodges, and, in some cases, those of the Grand Lodge. He recommends that the returns give the names of the Past Masters *in the order of service*, instead of alphabetically as now. From a historical standpoint this suggestion seems to be a valuable one. His recommendation was adopted.

We are glad to find the following admonition: it contains the true doctrine, and yet many in these days do not recognize it:

"Look well to the outer door, and see to it that no one crosses its sacred threshold save those who are duly and truly qualified; let not sympathy, interest, or friendship influence you in admitting to our mystic circle any that will not add strength to its character.

"Let us not be over zealous in adding to our numbers, because in our zeal we may overlook important defects of character that would not otherwise escape us.

"Mankind will judge us by our standard, and that standard is set by the individual character of our members; from external dangers we are free, then let us guard against dangers within.

"The strength of a building is not in its size, or the number of stones used in its construction, but in the individual character of each particular stone, therefore in constructing our Mystic Temple let us see to it, that each stone that we add to its walls is without flaw or blemish, so that the ravages of time shall not shake its foundations; or the malignant shafts of envy, hatred and malice prevail against it."

The Grand Master reported that members of one lodge were divided into two bitter factions, each, apparently, when it had a majority present, reversing the action of the other. The Treasurer refused to pay orders and the Secretary refused to submit his books to the auditing committee. The Grand Lodge summarily revoked the charter.

The following regulation was adopted:

"*Resolved*, 1. That it is hereby made the duty of all lodges in this jurisdiction, to restrain, as far as possible, the evil of intemperance, among the brethren, even to the extent of trial and punishment, when necessary.

"2. All lodges are required to exclude from the lodge room and ante-rooms all intoxicating liquors, and for the faithful performance of this duty, will be held strictly accountable to the Grand Lodge.

"3. All subordinate lodges are prohibited from receiving and acting upon a petition for initiation or membership from any person engaged in the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and all masons are fraternally advised and requested to refrain from engaging in the liquor traffic."

The majority of the committee made the third paragraph a *request*, but the minority report, after "a great amount of discussion, was concurred in by a large majority."

The Report on Correspondence (70 pp.) was presented by Bro. LEWIS H. JACKSON.

He says:

"The exaction of an affiliation fee is thought to be a principal factor in causing the great evil of non-affiliation, as not only contrary to the spirit and prosperity of the institution, but a direct incentive to non-affiliation. Delaware does not exact an affiliation fee, and finds great advantage therein."

Our Grand Lodge once adopted the same law; but repealed it on the ground that experience showed that members of smaller and weaker lodges left them to join those which have large funds. How extensive this evil was, did not clearly appear. We would like to know whether it has been noticed in Delaware.

In his review of Maine, he says:

"We, *personally*, believe with him, that the retention of the old law of the Grand Lodge of England relating to Past Masters acting for a lodge in the absence of Masters and Wardens would have been best.

"He is glad to find we hold that 'a Warden is a Warden the world over,' and says:

"If our Grand Lodge will carry this doctrine to its logical result, Past Masters of other jurisdictions affiliated, will be made members."

"Certainly, why not? A Past Master is a Past Master the world over, and entitled to whatever privileges a Grand Lodge would grant its own Past Masters.

"Bro. Drummond and this writer do not agree about 'public installations,' and probably never will, so we must 'agree to disagree.' What he says about *open lodges* laying corner stones and attending funerals, does not convince us that the 'public' should be admitted within the body of an open lodge to participate in the installation of lodge officers."

We are glad to note this about Past Masters, because it is correct, and yet the opposite doctrine prevails in many of the other Grand Jurisdictions.

As to the other point, the public are no more "admitted within the body of an open lodge" at public installations than they are at funerals or laying corner stones. The "public" is permitted to witness the ceremonies in precisely the same manner in all: there is no reason for any distinction.

He agrees with Bro. SCHULTZ in relation to the Grand Honors.

Bro. JACKSON has succeeded admirably in giving an interesting abstract of masonic affairs in brief space, as he says he had endeavored to do.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1895.

The Committee on Jurisprudence made the following report upon the Kentucky circular in relation to Grand Representatives:

"The Grand Master of Kentucky has used pretty strong language in expressing his opinion of the Grand Representative system, but your committee see no just grounds for any expression of 'contempt' for a system which has received the sanction of nearly all the Grand Lodges of the world for the past thirty or forty years, whilst under it very many of the most dis-

tinguished masons of our time now hold or have held commissions as Grand Representatives of other Grand Lodges than their own.

"If it be determined by the Grand Lodges generally, or by a majority of them, that the Grand Representative system has not proved useful in any way, but on the contrary, has tended to interfere with rather than promote harmony and fraternal feeling among the Grand Bodies; if it has failed to do away, in some measure, with that isolation from each other which their individual sovereignty tends to foster, then it has not realized the hopes and intentions of those who were instrumental in instituting it, nor of the many eminent brethren who have given it their sanction.

"If such should be the verdict, this Grand Lodge, with the others, can quietly resolve to take no further part in it. But there seems to be no good reason to revile the system or express 'contempt' for it.

"As there is no question of masonic law to be considered in this case, but a mere matter of expediency, and as each member of your Jurisprudence Committee has the honor of holding a commission or commissions as Grand Representative of other Grand Lodges, and feels honored in having been selected as such, and in having been received by this Grand Lodge in that capacity, it follows that they are to be looked upon as interested parties in this matter. They therefore prefer to offer no recommendation, either in favor of or against the longer continuance of the representative system by this Grand Lodge, but would recommend that the matter be referred to a committee of three members of the Grand Lodge, who are not the representatives of any other Grand Lodge, to consider this matter and report at our next annual meeting."

And the following in regard to the Mississippi proposition:

"Your committee believe that the adoption *by all* the Grand Lodges in our country of some uniform rules governing their respective jurisdictions over candidates (if such a thing could be brought about) would result in great good, and that the action of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, looking to that end, is to be commended. Yet it is by no means apparent that any rules could possibly be framed which would meet with approval by all or even a majority of the Grand Lodges.

"Custom, constitutional provisions, and the jealous regard which each cherishes for its own sovereignty would, we fear, militate against any general agreement. Yet, notwithstanding the difficulties in the way, we may hope that a consummation so much to be desired may eventually be brought about.

"The 'uniform rules' submitted by the Grand Lodge of Mississippi are not, in all respects, such as your committee could approve.

"In Rule I it will be noticed that when a rejected applicant for the degrees subsequently removes to another jurisdiction and applies there for the degrees, the lodge to which he applies requires the one which rejected him to furnish 'the grounds upon which such rejection was made'; and if the grounds of the objection should be furnished the lodge to which he makes his new petition, 'it shall judge the sufficiency thereof and proceed in its discretion'! If the grounds for the rejection are not furnished within six months, it proceeds with the petition 'as in other cases.'

"Your committee fail to see how Rule I could be made operative in this jurisdiction without disregarding the law and usage requiring a secret ballot for all candidates for the degrees. The only answer that one of our lodges could possibly give to an inquiry as to the *cause* of a rejection would be, 'There was a black ball in the ballot-box.'

"Rule II will not, in the opinion of your committee, be acceptable to our lodges, as the usage which obtains in this, as well as in most Grand Lodge Jurisdictions, of requesting another lodge to act as proxy in conferring the degrees to which a candidate has been elected, when said candidate removes

temporarily or permanently from the jurisdiction, has, we believe, always worked satisfactorily; and until some better arrangement than that suggested in the rules under consideration shall be presented for the action of the Grand Lodge, it would be wiser to continue our present system.

“With the greatest respect and fraternal regard for our brethren of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, your committee feel constrained to recommend that the uniform rules proposed by that Grand Lodge be not adopted.”

The same committee report in substance that an objection to the reception of a petition by a lodge, can be properly made only when based upon the want of jurisdiction of the lodge, or the ineligibility of the candidate, and then the question must be decided by the Master, if it is one of masonic law, or by the lodge if it is not. It is unmasonic to base it upon the alleged unworthiness of the candidate: that must be settled by the secret ballot. This we believe to be sound, and if the facts are in dispute, the petition ought to be received and referred to the committee to ascertain the facts. However, there may be exceptions to the first part of this rule: we knew one once, but that could not occur now in most jurisdictions; some other case might, however. In former times a rejected candidate could file a petition at once: a case happened in which the friends of a rejected candidate filed a new petition at the same meeting, and kept pursuing that same course, so that a rejection and the reception of a new petition was the regular order of business at every meeting. Of course, the effect on the lodge was not very favorable. Finally a brother objected to the reception of the petition, on the ground that in view of so many repeated rejections, it was best for all concerned that there should be a rest from the excitement, and the lodge so voted. The circumstance led to a change of the by-laws, so that six months must intervene between a rejection and the presentation of a new petition.

The question of allowing Past Masters to vote in the Grand Lodge was before it, and discussed at considerable length; but as the propositions are given only by reference to former Proceedings, we cannot tell precisely what they were, but as they were all ultimately defeated, their form is not material. The committee refer to the excitement growing out of the same matter in the Grand Lodge of New York, but do not seem to us to state clearly the real question then involved: the proposed legislation at that time had the effect to deprive brethren, who were then permanent members of the Grand Lodge, of their membership; the proposition was retroactive as well as prospective: it is worthy of remark that when the settlement came, the membership of those who, at the time of the adoption of the amendment, were members, was recognized and continued. The Grand Lodge has the *power* to deprive members of vested rights only because it is supreme and there is no appeal from its action; but we believe that it is now quite universally held that such an act is utterly wrong and, therefore, highly unworthy of any Grand Lodge.

Of the condition of the craft, the Grand Master (DAVID G. DIXON) says:

"It gives me pleasure to state that notwithstanding the continued depression of business throughout the country the various lodges of this jurisdiction, with perhaps one or two exceptions, are in a prosperous condition, and that peace and harmony, so far as I am aware, prevail within our borders. There has been no contention 'save that noble contention or rather emulation, of who can best work and best agree.'"

And the new Grand Master (GEORGE W. BAIRD) says that the prospects were good for a peaceful and prosperous year.

He makes one suggestion that seems to us to be utterly inadmissible:

"There is an excellent custom in a certain lodge in New York, so admirable in its character, and so just and beneficial in its results, that I would advise its adoption in our lodges; it may be done even without a change in by-laws. It is to announce the intention of proposing at the next stated communication the name of a person for the degrees. Should any brother in the lodge prefer not to have this person in his lodge and yet have too much consideration for him to black-ball him, he may advise, in perfect confidence, that the petition be given to some other lodge. There are sometimes personal reasons which govern just such cases. We may protect ourselves without offending the applicant; without marking a good citizen as a rejected man; without making an enemy for the craft."

This seems to us a "trying-the-ice" performance, in direct conflict with masonic law and usage, and liable to gross abuse.

The Report on Correspondence (141 pp.) was presented by Bro. WILLIAM R. SINGLETON, the veteran Grand Secretary.

He says:

"We have put in italics, the sentence which gives masonic doctrine and which has been our own opinion always, and after many years we have at last succeeded in having it expressly so declared in our own Grand Constitution. No mason has a right to decline to ballot for a candidate, for the best of all reasons that should the candidate be rejected he will be *free from any responsibility*. Every member present should share alike with the others—let it be the solemn act of the lodge."

We have held to the same views, but have now serious doubts as to their correctness; Bro. SINGLETON's reasons would logically require the vote of every member of the lodge, present or absent: for by simply staying away he frees himself from responsibility as much as by refraining from voting. A member is not altogether satisfied with the candidate, but hesitates to reject him; he is willing, however, to abide the decision of the other members of the lodge; if he votes he must either reject the candidate or vote for him when he is not satisfied: if he votes for him, he leaves the decision to the other members as fully as if he were excused from voting.

If we understand him, he holds that the Master has a right to vote as a member, and then another vote in case of a tie. We do not think so; unless this right is given to him by the By-Laws of the lodge or the Constitution of the Grand Lodge; a tie vote is a negative vote, and we see no more reason to give the Master one additional vote to enable him to reverse it, than to

give two votes to reverse it in case there should be one majority against it. The approved rule is that when the presiding officer is a member of the body and has a vote as such, he has no additional vote as presiding officer; when he is not a member, he is usually accorded a vote in case of a tie, by express constitutional or statute enactment.

He says:

"The brethren of Pennsylvania, we understand, close the lodge before going to a funeral, and perform all the services at the grave not as a lodge, for how can there be a lodge, when it has been closed? yet all of their Ahiman Rezon provide for an open lodge."

The Ahiman Rezon of 1894 is an exception; that provides for a "Masonic Burial Service," by the Master and Wardens in the presence of the brethren. To be sure, this provision conflicts with Article XXIII of the Ahiman Rezon; and one has only to compare the present provision for a Masonic Burial Service with that in the Ahiman Rezon of 1825, to know that the more recent generation of masons in that jurisdiction have presumed to set aside the usages of the fathers and adopted innovations to suit these modern ideas. Now the brethren "appear in masonic dress, viz: suit of black clothes, white gloves, and black silk hat, a blue ribbon attached to the left lapel of the coat, and each carrying in his hand a sprig of evergreen." In 1825, the brethren must wear aprons, and the officers the badges of the lodge; the past officers their jewels, but the brethren actually in office are distinguished by sashes, &c. The lodge must be opened in due form, the regular masonic procession formed (with the lights), the ceremony at the grave performed, and after the return to the hall, the lodge closed. A part of the service was, "Invested with the badges of masonry, publicly we declare our obedience and our submission to the laws and government of the country in which we live, and an ardent wish to promote the general good of society." Can Bro. S. tell us when this change was made?

He was made a mason in 1840; referring to that time he says:

"Again: at that time, a rejected candidate, having left the jurisdiction of the lodge which rejected him, could apply to the lodge nearest his present place of residence. Many jurisdictions now hold to the old rule. We have not fully settled upon the merits of this point. Sometimes we have thought that the application of a petition to a lodge does not give that lodge any claim to him if they refused to receive him."

The rule was then otherwise in Massachusetts and Maine, and in fact, as far back as we can trace it.

This is his testimony in relation to public installations:

"When we were a young mason, in the early forties, in Missouri, it was the common practice of lodges to have public installations in a church, and have a sermon, and after that, a first-class dinner at which the ladies accompanied their husbands, fathers, and brothers, and we failed to notice any bad effects from the practice; on the contrary, much good was done thereby."

We have seen no expression of opinion that they are not beneficial, except from those who form their opinions from theories, without having had opportunities to observe the actual effect.

He gives the following masonic history:

"Under the constitution of the Grand Lodge of England originally, whenever it was desirable to form a new lodge, the Grand Master was authorized to issue a dispensation empowering the brethren to organize their lodge, select a suitable hall and furnish everything necessary for the proper working of a lodge. Having completed all arrangements, the Grand Master was duly notified and he or his constituted deputy visited the premises and after a satisfactory inspection and approval a charter was issued empowering the lodge to proceed to business.

"Under the dispensation nothing could be done other than to get ready for work. Gradually the custom *crept* into Masonry of allowing a lodge to do work and transact all regular business, and the dispensation now has become a provisional charter.

"We do not know that such a paper as a dispensation is even issued for a lodge to work under except from the Grand Masters of American Grand Lodges."

He "hits the nail on the head" when he says of the system of Grand Representation, "In our opinion the 'system' is not at fault, but the fault lies in the want of observance of the system." We think we would add, however, "as it was originally established."

In reply to a question of ours, he says:

"In reference to our remarks that there were five Grand Lodge jurisdictions which 'hold to personal jurisdiction after a profane has permanently left,' we refer him to Connecticut, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, West Virginia. In our report of 1893, on page ninety-seven, we made the statement predicated upon replies made by the Grand Secretaries of these jurisdictions to our inquiry, and as we have seen no denial we conclude it must be correct."

It seems as if the Grand Secretaries must have misunderstood the question. The doctrine of exclusive territorial jurisdiction was first established when Provincial Grand Masters were appointed in this country. Those holding under the same Grand Lodge were given exclusive jurisdiction in specified territory. But the idea that jurisdiction attaches to a profane by residence in a certain territory and follows him after he leaves that territory is in conflict with that whole doctrine. We believe that it is founded on a gross blunder; as a man must reside in a certain territory a certain time before lodges in that territory have jurisdiction of him, it has been assumed that his old lodge continued to have jurisdiction, upon the false assumption that every man must be able at any time to apply somewhere—a blunder so manifest that we wonder that it was ever made.

He apparently has come to no satisfactory conclusion as to the propriety of recognizing the Grand Dieta of Mexico.

FLORIDA, 1896.

Upon the wrapper bringing us these Proceedings was the name "W. P. WEBSTER, Grand Secretary." We hastily tore it open, turned quickly to the Grand Master's address, and with heavy heart read the following:

"The Sixty-Seventh Annual Communication is ushered in with gloom and sadness. The grim archer Death aimed his shaft at a shining mark and claimed for his victim, the gifted, the brilliant, the eloquent man and mason. Upon the very threshold of our meeting the funeral bell rings the sad requiem, and we are summoned on this afternoon to consign to Mother Earth all that is mortal of M. W. Past Grand Master Albert J. Russell, and, as a Grand Lodge, pay in the most fitting manner, that tribute due to the memory of one so conspicuously eminent in the history and councils of this Grand Lodge.

"In the midst of his labors as Grand Secretary, preparing the work for this session, he was stricken, and after a brief period in which no serious apprehension was felt, he sank rapidly for several days, when the disease seemed stayed. Thereafter hope and fear held equal poise until the morning of the 17th inst., when the summons came suddenly, and his spirit passed into realms to mortals unknown, where we can confidently trust that the 'trestle board' of his life's work will secure him an abundant entrance into the Eternal Grand Lodge above.

"No public man of this state was more widely or favorably known than Albert J. Russell; few are they who have not been enraptured with his eloquence. As an orator he was ever in demand, until in every city and hamlet his name had become a household word.

"He was earnest and zealous in every cause espoused by him. The Grand Lodge has lost one of its ablest members, and a faithful official; Masonry an earnest advocate; humanity a warm sympathizer, and the church an expounder of that truest religion which feeds the hungry, soothes the afflicted and extends a helping hand to the unfortunate. His bride of a few weeks is bereft of a kind, loving and devoted husband, and our hearts go out to her with the tenderest sympathies."

BRO. RUSSELL died only four days before the meeting of the Grand Lodge. He was Grand Master in 1873, 1874 and 1875; and since then he has been an active and a very efficient member of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master (JAMES W. BOVD) devotes the most of his address to local matters, but concerning the "Wisconsin proposition" says:

"I do not fully concur in the proposition. I do not agree to the principle that one lodge may have the power to create a debt and compel another to pay it, without previous assent thereto, and in this age of telegraphs and quick communication I cannot see the potency of the excuse for it, even though it be strictly confined to actual necessities. A body of masons which will not contribute to the necessities of a worthy sojourner in distress until they can communicate with his lodge, it seems to me is not worthy to hold a masonic charter."

A lodge tried an unaffiliated mason residing within its jurisdiction for an offence there committed: for some defect in the proceedings, the Grand Lodge set aside the judgment and ordered a new trial: before the trial could be had the accused applied for membership in another lodge, apparently for the purpose of ousting the first lodge of jurisdiction; but the Grand Master

decided that that lodge still had jurisdiction and suspended the charter of the other lodge for its action in the premises. He thus states his rulings:

“ ‘When charges have been preferred in a lodge against a dimitted mason residing within the territory of such lodge, and the case upon appeal has been reversed by the Grand Lodge and the accused granted a new trial, such lodge has jurisdiction to re-try the accused under the original charges, notwithstanding the accused in the meantime, may have been admitted to membership in another lodge.’ ”

“ ‘It is the duty of a lodge before admitting to membership a dimitted mason residing outside of her territorial limits, or one whose dimit antedates his residence within her territory, to make due inquiry as to his masonic standing of the lodge nearest his residence, or of the lodge granting his dimit, as the case may be.’ I, therefore, declared the action of the Grand Lodge, of which all particular lodges must take notice, continued the jurisdiction of Withlacooche Lodge to re-try the accused under the charges thus pending, with the same power to abate, dismiss, or prosecute, as on the original trial, the trial, however, to be *de novo*. I also ruled that ‘No lodge can lawfully affiliate a dimitted mason while under charges in another lodge, and any attempt to do so is void.’ ”

These decisions were approved by the Grand Lodge and were manifestly correct. The charter was restored, the committee saying:

“ ‘It appears that Orient Lodge has disclaimed all intention of wrongful doing, has readily complied with the mandates of the Grand Master, has abated its action admitting the accused person to membership, and urges that the members acted under the supposition that the reversal of the judgment during the last session of the Grand Lodge terminated the case, and left the accused free of all charges and in the same masonic standing as he was before the proceedings were instituted.’ ”

So far as we know, this case, in nearly all its features, is an entirely new one.

It will be remembered that Past Grand Master ENOS WASGATE visited our Grand Lodge last year: we find the following in these Proceedings:

P. G. M. Enos Wasgate tendered fraternal greetings from the State of Maine, as follows:

“ *Most Worshipful Grand Master:*

“ ‘It was my privilege to meet the Grand Lodge of Maine at their seventy-fifth anniversary on the 8th day of May, last, and witness the ceremonies of that occasion, which were of a very interesting character. As it was necessary for me to leave the Grand Lodge at the close of the anniversary ceremonies, the Most Worshipful Grand Master requested me to convey to the masons of Florida, through the Grand Lodge, the friendship, brotherly-love and esteem of the Grand Lodge of Maine, in language genial, eloquent and kind, and I take this occasion to communicate the same.’ ”

The Grand Secretary says:

“ ‘The reports from the various lodges show that, though the membership has not increased as we might have wished, and some of the lodges are more or less afflicted by the extreme financial depression from which the entire state is suffering, yet peace and harmony prevail throughout the entire jurisdiction, and all seem hopeful that better times are in store for us.’ ”

A petition was presented to the Grand Lodge alleging that the Spanish

Government, through its Captain General of Cuba, had issued a decree declaring Masonry unlawful and closing all the lodges in the Island.

The masonic doctrine in relation to this was most admirably stated by the Grand Orator, Bro. R. H. WELLER:

"The latest fulmination against it since the utterance of Pope Leo XIII, a year ago, has come to us during this convocation, in the uplifting of the sword by the Captain-General of the Island of Cuba, closing, by arbitrary power, all lodges of Free Masons on that Island. It is simply a stroke of absolutism against human freedom, and can only result, like other persecutions, in utter impotence. Masonry is opposed only because it favors liberty in thought and life. In the quiet and firm confidence of its inherent strength to abide its time, Masonry has hurled back no denunciations against its foes; it has broken no bonds of unity; it has always been true to lawful authority; going steadily on its beneficent errand of peace and harmony; deriving its strength from its unshaken faith in one true and living God, and planning its life upon the foundation of His revealed word. As an organized body, it has never swerved from these principles, and whenever it has failed in its work, the failure has not been in the uncertain sound of its bugle call to duty, but in the shambling gait and unfaithfulness of the weaker brethren."

The Committee on Jurisprudence considered the petition and their report was adopted:

"The communication of Brother Figueredo to the Grand Secretary calls attention to the condition of masons who belong to lodges in Cuba, which have been closed by the arbitrary act of the Spanish Government, and declared unlawful, and who desire fraternal recognition while absent from their country during the continuance of the revolution, now going on in the Island. The committee recommend that such brethren, whenever it is practicable, obtain certificates of their masonic standing from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Cuba, with which this Grand Lodge holds fraternal correspondence, and if they cannot be verified by the usual seal, some other means of verification can be found with the aid of well-known brethren of Cuban birth who are members of lodges within our jurisdiction. Such a certificate of good standing, when its authenticity is satisfactorily established, should be received as evidence in behalf of the brother lawfully in possession of it, who possesses within himself the means of masonic recognition, when he comes into our communities, and desires to enjoy friendly and fraternal intercourse with his masonic brethren; but no authority exists to give such a certificate the force of a dimit, while the lodges in Cuba are temporarily suppressed. Should the present unhapp. condition of things continue in Cuba, it may be necessary to consider whether any further action, in accordance with masonic usage, can be properly taken in behalf of our brethren whose masonic privileges have been taken away, and whose lodges have been closed by an arbitrary and despotic act. At present, we can do little more than offer our sympathy, and express the hope that our brethren in Cuba may soon see their masonic homes again opened, and their lodges re-established."

We are not sure that there were any lodges in Cuba not under the obedience of the Grand Lodge, and not recognized by it: if not, we hold that one, who "possesses within himself the means of masonic recognition," should not be required to furnish any certificate as a pre-requisite to being hailed as a brother. It seems to us, too, that the suggestion that he should

obtain a certificate from the Grand Secretary is erroneous, because to give one would be a violation of law by that officer.

This case suggests the question whether our present doctrine in relation to membership ought not to be somewhat modified. A member of a dormant lodge, or a lodge suppressed for an indefinite time, is now excluded practically from nearly all lodge privileges. In the olden time, a mason could be a member of more than one lodge, and such is the case now in many jurisdictions. Why cannot provision be made for temporary membership of another lodge while one's membership in his own lodge is practically extinct for the time being.

No Report on Correspondence.

GEORGIA, 1895.

The Grand Master (JOHN P. SHANNON) delivered a very able and finely written address, showing that the mantle of his distinguished predecessors has fallen on worthy shoulders.

Of the condition of the craft, he says:

"Numerically, we may not have increased, but the personnel of the membership was never better. The dead branches have been lopped off, and the body of the masonic tree is living, growing, and bearing only healthy moral fruit. Good men and true have been added to our ranks, and to-day the eighteen thousand masons of Georgia stand a band of law-observing, God-fearing men, honored even by those who are ignorant of the mysteries of our Order, but who approve the practical workings of our ancient craft."

He had performed many public ceremonies, and of them he says:

"More than usual attention has been paid to public processions and the performance of the ceremonies of Masonry in the presence of those not members of our Order. I have been invited to all portions of the state to lay corner stones, dedicate halls, and celebrate the festivals of our Patron Saints. So far as possible, I have accepted, and in person, in every section of this jurisdiction, have sought to uphold the standard of Masonry and to show to the outside world what Masonry really teaches. Most fraternally have I been received at every appointment, and most courteously have those not masons treated your representative. My heart has throbbed with pride when noble men and gentle women would say, 'I love the Order more than ever, for it is the patron of morality and the defender of woman's honor.'"

Among them was the laying of the corner stone of an "Orphan's Home," which the "Improved Order of Red Men" are building at Austell.

He says:

"Thus you see, I have traveled in every part of the state. Many invitations could not be accepted, which I regret. My profession claimed much of my time, sickness in my family detained me when I was anxious to be with the craft, but when I could, I always did respond to every summons, coming from whatever lodge or whatever mason it might."

In view of the death of the Governor of Massachusetts, hastened, if not

caused, by overwork in answering the calls upon him to attend celebrations and other public gatherings, where his presence was necessary only to give *eclat* to the occasion, it behooves our brethren to consider whether they, too, are not making too heavy demands upon the time and strength of our Grand Masters for the same purpose. There is no doubt that these demands have very largely increased with the growth of Masonry. We believe in masonic gatherings, and in having addresses by those who can interest and instruct the craft; but do not believe in expecting it all, or most of it, to be done by the Grand Master, whose purely official duties make such inroads upon his time.

He had granted *sixty-seven* dispensations; it would seem that the necessity for granting many of them might be avoided by general laws.

We find that some of the new lodges complained that the allowance to their representatives, should be limited to the amount of their dues, while those of older and stronger lodges have full mileage and *per diem*. The Grand Master well says, that they have no just ground of complaint, because they knew what the law was when they took their charter. But we regard the policy as a bad one; it really reverses the policy upon which a part of the expenses of the representatives are paid by the Grand Lodge. The idea was that representation of lodges is for the *benefit of the whole craft*, and is a duty, the burden of which should be borne by the craft; but this more recent doctrine really assumes that it is for the *benefit of the lodge* that it should be represented; moreover, it encourages weaker lodges to avoid being represented, while they need it most. Representation and visitation are both matters in which all the craft are interested, and the stronger lodges should aid the weaker ones.

The Grand Master rendered a large number of decisions, but he says that the number of requests had decreased since the distribution of Akin's Manual and Digest.

As he says, his decisions reported are (generally) a repetition of former decisions: he reports them for the sake of emphasizing them; to this may be added the placing of them before brethren who do not have the means of referring to the older Proceedings.

We are rather surprised to find that a member, suspended *for one year* for non-payment of dues, cannot re-instate himself during the year by the payment of the arrears. While technically the non-payment of dues is an offence for which the party may be *punished*, yet the almost universal policy is either to re-instate the party or make him eligible for re-instatement the moment he pays his dues.

The following is new to us, but is not law in Maine:

"A petition for membership was read at a regular meeting. It was properly recommended and vouched for. At the next meeting one of the vouchers asked permission to withdraw his name as such. What is the proper

course to pursue? Held, that such a petition is an irregular one, and should be withdrawn. It can be renewed, if the candidate so desires, and it comes before the lodge again with the proper and regular voucher and recommender. Without both, the petition is not in a shape to be entertained by the lodge, and must be withdrawn or regarded as no petition at all."

In Maine, after a petition has been received and referred, the lodge cannot be ousted of its jurisdiction by the withdrawal of one of the vouchers. The voucher relates only to the *reception* of the petition: after it has been received, masonic law determines the course to be taken with it, and the office of the vouchers has terminated.

The following are quoted, as reminders:

"Masonry is not intended nor can it be used to promote the business interests of any man, company or corporation, and any such endorsement, as Master of a Masonic Lodge, or by the lodge, is improper.

"A lodge has no right to levy assessments on its membership for the purpose of responding to an appeal for aid, and make the assessments compulsory. Especially is this true where there is nothing in the by-laws authorizing the levying of such assessments. The members of a lodge can agree to assess themselves in any amount, but the payment thereof is a voluntary act and cannot be made compulsory.

"A brother mason is in good standing, he becomes demented, is sent to a lunatic asylum, is afterwards unable to attend to his masonic obligations. How shall he be reported to the Grand Lodge? Held, he should be reported as in good standing, and his dues remitted. He is neither dead, suspended nor expelled, but is in such mental condition as that no dues could be legally collected from him, therefore, he should be borne on our rolls as in good standing and without any dues chargeable therefor.

"A brother is elected Master of his lodge, served one year, is re-elected. Is he at the time of his election or the commencement of the second year a Past Master. Held, that he is. A Past Master is one who has been elected and installed Master of a masonic lodge, and as such entitled to the honors of a Past Master, whether re-elected or not."

If payment of dues were a *mere condition* of membership, a lunatic might technically be held to forfeit it: but as non-payment of dues is made a masonic offence, and as a lunatic cannot be tried for an offence, it is manifest that he does not lose his membership, even if a lodge should be so unmasonic as to be willing to deprive him of it.

A South Carolina lodge tried, for an offence committed within its jurisdiction, and convicted, a member of a Georgia lodge. The latter lodge brought the case to the attention of the Grand Lodge, and by its instruction, Grand Master SHANNON submitted to Grand Master DENDY the action of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, to the effect that its lodge had jurisdiction in the case and that the Grand Lodge of South Carolina direct its lodge to request the Georgia lodge to try the case. The Grand Lodge of South Carolina reviewed the proceedings and held that the action of its lodge was in conformity to masonic law, and, in its name, disclaimed all discourtesy toward the Georgia lodge, but declined to grant the latter's request. Grand Master SHAN-

now thereupon accepted the situation, and, through the Grand Secretary, notified all the Georgia lodges of the suspension of the accused. As we have already stated, we hold that the position of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina was correct: but we desire to commend the action of both Grand Lodges as a model of the manner in which masonic differences should be discussed and decided.

The Grand Lodge purchased one thousand copies of Akin's Digest for \$1,000 and distributed the most of them among the lodges, and the Grand Master says that it has "proven of incalculable benefit." In this connection he says:

"No masonic ceremony is more impressive than funeral services, and those contained in Akin's Manual are the best I ever saw, and to render them correctly each mason attending a burial service should have a copy.

"The ceremonies in this Manual for Lodge of Sorrow are extremely beautiful. Considering these facts, I respectfully recommend that if Bro. Akin can have the Funeral Services, Lodge of Sorrow Ceremonies and the Opening, Closing and Burial Odes, all printed in pamphlet form with paper backs, at a cost of five cents each, that the Grand Lodge purchase from him ten thousand copies, and furnish the same to subordinate lodges at actual cost."

He urges the rebinding of the volumes of the Grand Lodge Proceedings for the previous years.

He strongly argues in favor of inaugurating measures looking to the establishment of a Masonic Home.

Under the head of "Necrology," he thus refers to Bro. Fox among others:

"From the Grand Lodge of Maine comes the sad news of the death of Grand Treasurer Frederick Fox, which occurred June 5, 1895. He was stricken while performing the sacred duty of dedicating a memorial building. His brethren declare him to have been 'a public spirited citizen, a sincere believer in religion, and a friend to the friendless.' Such men never die. They live in the hearts of those who come after them. Georgia joins Maine in honoring such a mason and cherishing his memory. And in this connection we note with the keenest appreciation the reference made by the Committee on Foreign Correspondence of the same Grand Lodge, to the death of our brother, Charles R. Armstrong, referring to the fact that Bro. Armstrong in replying to a letter received from the brother in Maine, written immediately after the close of the civil war, says: that Brother Armstrong's letter shows 'not only that he was a true mason, but that there is in Masonry something beyond human attributes.'"

A tablet had been erected in the East of the Hall to the memory of Grand Master DAVIDSON; it was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies.

Past Grand Master SAMUEL D. IRVIN was unable to be present, and a letter from him was spread upon the record; he had been a mason fifty years, and had attended the Grand Lodge in 1847—forty-eight years previously.

This Grand Lodge does not allow its lodges to expel from Masonry: they can only try the case, and send the proceedings to the Grand Lodge for its

action: at this session *forty-three* were expelled for unmasonic conduct, and *thirty-eight* for non-payment of dues after having been suspended for a year. Duplicate charters were issued in six instances to replace burned charters.

The work of the Third degree was exemplified by the conferring of the same upon an actual candidate by the District Deputies: a lodge furnished the candidate and requested that he "be raised for them."

The question of building a Masonic Home was submitted to the lodges, and each one was requested to determine and state how much it would contribute for the purpose.

In this connection we note that the amount received for dues during the year was \$16,908.35, and the pay-roll amounted to \$14,431.52.

The addresses delivered at the unveiling of the tablet are given in the appendix. They are of an unusually high degree of excellence.

The Report on Correspondence (129 pp.), as heretofore, was prepared in three parts; one by Bro. A. Q. MOODY, one by Bro. W. E. MUMFORD, and the other by Bro. W. S. RAMSAY.

Bro. MOODY confines himself literally to a narrative of sayings and doings which are sure of interesting the masons of his state.

In his opening Bro. MUMFORD says:

"I am not playing the role of *ensor morum*, and indeed I hope I never shall. I am somewhat fond of criticism of the right sort, but my nature is utterly abhorrent to hyper-criticism. In the pen-paintings of this poor hand I would not besmear the canvas of life, but endeavor to produce transparency that the sun may unobstructedly shine through.

"In this journey through the proceedings of my lodge territory I shall, therefore, look for the good and not the bad, and in my wooing shall seek the sunshine and not the shadow, and in my calling shall clip the roses and not the thorns! How oft 'tis true that a man has to die to have good things said of him. Were half the good things said of the dead, whispered in their ears while living, there would be fewer heartaches and premature goings to yonder world of deep night and hidden scenes of mystery."

He so rarely departs from the rule thus announced, that reading his report must put one in good humor, unless his nature is *very* pessimistic. We quote:

"Prayer having been solemnly uttered in short and pointed way—a real virtue found in few of the public addresses to the Heavenly throne of Grace—the Grand Master addressed the assembled brethren."

* * * * *

"Now, is this not good to the use of edification. How easy it is to growl and complain. Surely, if there is any one thing that has always impressed me about a masonic gathering it is the spirit of good cheer that always prevails."

* * * * *

"Let noble speakings of the virtues of the dead continue for the benefit of the living. Such utterances as to the worth of a true man fail not in stirring other human hearts to noble action. It is this vein of speaking of the virtues of the dead that cause the wayworn pilgrims of earth to cry out

singly and in multitudes: 'Let me die the death of the righteous and let my last end be like his.' "

* * * * *

"The prerogative of 'Making a Mason at Sight' is as old as the craft, and given to a Grand Master, has rarely been exercised, but the Grand Master of Mississippi, for the first time in the history of the craft of that state, exercised this high prerogative and made a noble captain of the sea a mason at sight on his vessel in the port of Biloxi. On June 1st, at sea, a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons was organized and opened by this Grand Master, composed of seven members, and Captain George Maddrell, master of the British Steamship Company of York, had conferred upon him at one time all the degrees of the Blue Lodge."

We are not sure that the line between the dashes in our first extract comes clearly within his rule; but if not, its truth will excuse his departure.

Of "Saloon keeping" he says:

"No saloon keeper can get the degrees of Masonry in Mississippi. This is right and should be the universal law of the masonic world. The Grand Master had some trouble with one lodge in enforcing the law during the year, and was requested to visit the lodge in person. The law was upheld and several saloon-keeping masons were expelled and appealed to the Grand Lodge, but it was no use, the action of the lodge in expelling was sustained, and Mississippi Masonry stands pledged to a higher moral tone in Ancient Craft Masonry. The orphan makers should not be allowed to use Masonry to furnish further cloak of respectability to a horridly bad business. A man who 'makes merchandise of the temptability of his neighbor' should not be allowed masonic rights, even if the state does give him license."

In his review of Maine:

"On the threshold of the Grand Lodge I met the open, frank countenance of Most Worshipful Horace H. Burbank, Grand Master, whose features adorn the printed page of the present volume of Proceedings. Alongside, on the opposite page, the face of Henry R. Taylor, Past Grand Master, appears. This is the seventy-sixth annual communication of the Grand Lodge, and the attendance of officers and members is quite large.

"The Grand Master's address is, of course, the feature of the first day's proceedings, and his opening words are full of cordial greeting. I love its gratitude to God and our Father."

* * * * *

"This Grand Master finishes his admirable address in exhortation against the sins of drunkenness, slander, profanity and neglect of civil duty among masons. I wish I had space for all he says on these subjects, but I gladly reproduce here his remarks on slander and profanity, and I do hope they will have wider reading by virtue of my copying them. They who love truth and seek righteousness will do well to read."

BRO. RAMSAY more nearly adopts and most successfully carries out the plan of BRO. MOODY.

But he cannot pass BRO. VAUX without a just tribute to his memory:

"Though in his seventy-ninth year, his mind was as vigorous as when, thirty years ago, he cheered the craft by his splendid utterances, and spoke words of hope to the despondent hearts. A more unique or original character than Bro. Vaux does not adorn the history of Pennsylvania in all of her illustrious dead. Whether as statesman, philanthropist or mason, he

was born to be a leader, and as such has been recognized since his early manhood. His last report abundantly proves that he stood in the front rank of the corps of correspondents. He was ever fearless and outspoken, having in view always the best interests of Masonry and the good of his fellow-men. The loss of such a Master in Israel is a calamity to the masonic fraternity.

"He possessed in an extreme degree that wealth of brotherly affection that tempered even his criticisms with kindness and made the heart glad upon whom he bestowed his kindly words of praise. His last report comes to us as a loving message from the far-off shore. Being dead he yet speaketh to us, reminding us that 'in an hour ye think not the Son of Man cometh.'"

Of Bros. CONNOR and FRIZZELL, he says:

"Geo. C. Connor, the peerless Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, whose reports were models of all that could be asked for, in research, brave utterances, and faithful defence of all that pertains to the interest of Masonry, at home and abroad, and John Frizzell, who did more to place Tennessee in the front rank of Masonry, as Grand Master and faithful Grand Secretary for twenty-six years, than any living mason."

And in his conclusion:

"A careful inspection of the year's masonic work reveals many things of interest to the reader. A remarkable degree of harmony exists among the craft. Unity prevails to an unusual extent. Masonry has passed through a year of scarcity and financial depression; a year of stagnation in every business in every department, and a year of great political upheavals, but amid it all, she sits serenely and witnesses her finances in a healthy condition, peace and prosperity within her walls, and a spirit of contentment amid her thousands of votaries."

* * * * *

"We now close the work of the year with the fond hope that the future of Masonry may be as prosperous as the past, and that its benign influence may increase, teaching to mankind everywhere its sublime truths of Faith, Hope and Charity, with its sweet lessons of Brotherly Love, Morality and Friendship."

IDAHO, 1895.

The Grand Lodge held two Emergent Communications—one to bury Past Grand Secretary JAMES H. WICKERSHAM, and the other to bury Past Grand Master EDWARD A. STEVENSON.

The portrait of the retiring Grand Master (ADELBERT B. CLARK) is given as a frontispiece.

He says that peace and harmony prevail throughout the jurisdiction; he deprecates the too free use of intoxicating liquors, and denounces gambling as "the most vicious and demoralizing practice known to mankind." In his visitations of lodges he had found many who expect others to do the work. He well says, "Every man, who has been made a mason, owes the craft a debt, and there are too many, who are not even paying the interest on that debt." This is too true, although we hold that the amount of masonic work which each mason is bound to do, depends upon the circum-

stances in which he is placed: he is told in the charge at his initiation that "Although your frequent appearance at our regular meetings is earnestly solicited, yet it is not meant that Masonry should interfere with your necessary vocations, for these are on no account to be neglected." This is in sharp contrast to what has preceded it: the duties we owe to God, our neighbor and ourselves are set forth with no qualifying words, and those duties every mason is bound to perform for himself: but the performance of these superior duties will make a man a true mason, even if he is unable to do masonic work in the lodge.

The Grand Lodge accepted an invitation to attend, informally, a lecture on free silver; and immediately afterwards accepted an invitation to visit the penitentiary.

The new Grand Secretary, JONAS W. BROWN, is evidently a first class business officer, but his report seem to us unnecessarily harsh towards his predecessor's Deputy.

The Grand Master endorsed the Wisconsin proposition, and the Grand Lodge adopted it. We greatly regret that this Grand Lodge should subvert the landmarks by substituting the modern doctrine of *purchased relief* for the old doctrine of masonic charity.

BRO. CHARLES C. STEVENSON delivered a beautiful address, made more so by the "decoration of the lodge room with beautiful flowers," for which a vote of thanks was unanimously tendered "the ladies of Ada Chapter, No. 8, O. E. S."

A Senior Warden, acting as Master, allowed a candidate to be balloted for without a report of the Investigating Committee, and initiated him. He was severely censured, and a recommendation that the "Grand Lodge legalize the action of the lodge by healing" the candidate was adopted. We regard the latter as unnecessary: the candidate was made a mason: there was no irregularity in the *making*, and it is only such an irregularity that needs healing.

The Grand Lodge had recently adopted a ritual; in spite of many obstacles, the Grand Lecturer (FRED. G. MOCK), by his perseverance, efficiency and courteous treatment, had succeeded admirably in getting it used: of course there were some brethren whose "old work" was the *only* work, but he seems to have succeeded even with them. He says uniformity of work will come at an early date, but not so soon, perhaps, as some might wish.

In 1883, this Grand Lodge adopted resolutions prohibiting the admission of members of the Mormon Church: in 1894, a resolution was offered to repeal the resolutions of 1883; action was postponed until this communication, and the lodges directed to consider it and instruct their representatives how

to vote upon it; in 1895, the repealing resolution was taken up, and, after discussion, was adopted.

As we proceed in our examination, we conclude that the Grand Secretary is justified in the apparent harshness of his report, for we find that the former Deputy Grand Secretary was tried for gross unmasonic conduct by his lodge, and suspended for one year; but the Grand Lodge, on reviewing the case, changed the sentence to expulsion, the committee saying that the penalty inflicted by the lodge was totally inadequate, considering the enormity of the offence committed.

Upon the recommendation of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master was made elective instead of appointive as heretofore. The *per capita* dues were also reduced from one dollar to fifty cents.

Electrotype portraits of Bros. STEVENSON and WICKERSHAM are inserted in the Proceedings, with a biographical sketch of each.

The Report on Correspondence (72 pp.) was presented by Bro. CHARLES C. STEVENSON, now Grand Secretary. It is his eighth, and though brief there is very much in it. He evidently believes that reading, studying and thinking are necessary in order to produce a good report.

In his opening, he says:

"For the eighth time it has become my province to submit to you a report of the transactions of our sister Grand Lodges of America. While the task of reviewing is attended with much labor, still the pleasure of mingling with the great writers of Masonry more than compensates for all the toil. There are some of the grandest men, some of the most polished and learned authors of the world within the masonic corps reportorial. If all of our brethren could have the privilege of listening to the words of wisdom that fall from these men's mouths or read those that flow from their pens, the condition of the craft would be much benefited, but impossible as this may be, the defect is, in a measure, supplied by the correspondents who annually lay before their respective Grand Lodges *résumés* of the transactions of the masonic world. This we have done this year, I hope honorably, and that the report will be productive of some profit and pleasure to the dear brethren of Idaho."

He thus endorses Bro. PILLANS and his views:

"He is outspoken in his opposition to the cypher system, and we honestly believe if the thinking, learned masons of influence and standing throughout the United States would take a like stand, the use of these disturbers of good work would soon be lessened and the fraternity generally be greatly benefited."

He is grand nephew of the veteran JONATHAN D. STEVENSON, of California, recently deceased, who had been a mason over seventy-two years, and we believe son of Past Grand Master STEVENSON. "Blood tells."

We endorse the following—*all of it*—and commend it to the consideration of many of our Grand Masters and Grand Lodges, whose zeal is in danger of overriding their judgment and involving them in difficulty:

"We agree with Bro. Clark that 'courteous disagreement is beneficial to the craft.' We have a perfect right to disagree, and disagreeing, we are certainly at liberty to express our views for so doing. We know nothing about the brother's lack of knowledge of gold or silver mining and care little about it for the reason that it does not enter into the subject at issue. We do not believe in the infallibility of any person on earth and cannot bring ourselves to the opinion that any one man may know it all about any one subject. Bro. Staton may be possessed of almost supernatural knowledge of Kentucky Homes, but we cannot accept that as a reason why the Idaho Reporter or any other brother may not express his opinion regarding Masonic Homes or the care and disposition of funds for charitable purposes. The writer believes that at best many Masonic Homes are expensive luxuries. Idaho may some day establish a Home, but when she does she will have on hand ample means to satisfactorily and successfully equip and maintain the institution. We don't inveigh against Masonic Homes because there can be no good in such establishments, but we do believe that many a Grand Lodge goes enthusiastically yet thoughtlessly into the Home business only to find itself involved in debt and its usefulness thereby impaired. We have thus expressed our opinion once more, and we cannot imagine that Bro. Staton will be disturbed in any manner thereby. If he is we will surely feel much concerned, for we entertain the highest regard for the distinguished Kentuckian."

In his review of Maine (1894) he says:

"Under Alabama, Bro. Drummond considers the two systems practiced now in this country concerning the progress of candidates through the degrees. One, the newer system, requires the candidate to lay over a lunar month between degrees. The other makes the lodges judges of the time and through their Masters of determining when a candidate has made suitable proficiency. 'Tis true, under the latter, the degrees are conferred more rapidly, for it is a poor candidate that cannot learn the lectures in less than a month, but we believe with our Maine brother, that greater proficiency is acquired under the old system than under the more modern one. Idaho practices the old system. Her candidates must pass an examination in open lodge and the lectures must be learned and recited *in toto*. The result is we have bright ritualistic masons, and many more would be brighter if we could prevail on them to drink from that living well of masonic literature and learn the reason why."

He says further:

"We disagree with our learned brother on one point, and that is that in our opinion it is perfectly proper for a lodge to use its funds in paying the premium upon a life insurance policy of a sick and needy brother. The lodge can lose nothing. In the event of death, the amount paid in premiums can be returned out of the proceeds of the policy. This is the hard, practical way of looking at it, but the broad, charitable view commends the carrying out of the intention of the needy brother, formed probably under more affluent circumstances."

Oh no, he does not disagree with us: a policy of insurance is good security for a *loan*; the proposition to which we object was to pay the premiums *as a matter of charity* and not as a loan.

He says:

"Idaho, Bro. Drummond, does not favor the election of a new Master by dispensation, in case of the non-installation of the Master elect. Here the

old Master holds over, and in case of his death or non-attendance, the Senior Warden becomes acting Master. We were Master of Boise Lodge when this decision was made by Grand Master Ainslie, who refused to grant a dispensation, and we had to hold over. We think Missouri adheres to the same doctrine."

Of course, it is competent for a Grand Lodge to make such a law: but we regard it as altogether more business-like to provide in some way for a new election, when one already had amounts to nothing: in almost all cases it is better for the lodge.

We do not know but that we had better go back and cross out what we have written about the invitation to visit the penitentiary, lest Bro. STEVENSON ask us if chestnuts do not grow *on trees* in Maine. However, it seems that others have had scruples about such an invitation, for he says:

"One member of the Grand Lodge begged to be excused from visiting the prison, and facetiously remarked that if they got him there, he might be kept, because he was a Missourian, and hence a suspicion that he might be an unreconstructed left wing, etc. The brother was accordingly excused."

He hits the nail squarely on the head in the following:

"Now, come, Bro. Robbins and a few other writers, and condemn the action taken, ridicule the so called 'Treaty of Monterey' and charge that the Gran Dieta is not a symbolic Grand Body; that it derives its existence from the Scottish rite and that it permits women to become members of its subordinate lodges. It matters little by what name the settlement of the differences between Texas and Mexico may be known, as long as harmony is restored and brotherly love permitted to exercise its benignant sway. Freemasonry is not wholly confined to the York rite, and we believe that a lodge established under the Scottish rite in a country where the prevailing masonic law permits it to be done is just as lawful and its masons as regular as any lodge under the York rite, provided said lodge assumes control of no other than the three symbolic degrees. As to the third objection it is stated 'that while there are lodges of women similar to the Eastern Star, no lodge under the jurisdiction of the Gran Dieta admitted women.' We think that the Gran Dieta should authoritatively deny this charge, which, if true, would necessarily debar that body from masonic recognition. Otherwise we believe the Gran Dieta to be regular, and sincerely hope that it will be instrumental in restoring peace to that troubled country where the beneficial influences of Freemasonry are sorely needed."

He dissents from the proposition of Bro. VAUX that a one-armed mason cannot be Master of a lodge. We have discussed this heretofore, and will only repeat that a masonic office is of such a character that we agree with Bro. VAUX, that one not physically competent to perform its duties is ineligible.

ILLINOIS, 1895.

The portrait of the retiring Grand Master (LEROY A. GODDARD), to eyes which wear spectacles, seems that of a younger man than one would expect to be Grand Master of Illinois: but his account of his official action shows that he had ably and effectively administered the affairs of the craft.

His address is a compact and concise statement of his official acts, nearly all of which are of only local interest.

He suspended one charter, because the lodge held a meeting on Sunday for work, in violation of Grand Lodge law, and upon his recommendation the Grand Lodge revoked it.

He urged the recognition of the Grand Lodge of the Island of Cuba: this portion of his address was referred to the Committee on Correspondence: but at a later time in the session, Bro. WALTER A. STEVENS offered in Grand Lodge a resolution of recognition, which was discussed fully and then referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence. We shall look next year with much interest for its report, as Illinois is one of the very few jurisdictions which have not recognized that Grand Lodge. Whether the closing of its subordinates and of itself by governmental order, as stated in our review of Florida, should have any bearing, is a very nice question: however, the *status* may be entirely changed by the time the committee are called upon to report.

The Grand Master seems to have imbibed some of the ideas of a few, who have concluded that Masonry can be improved by making it conform to their views; he says:

“A number of requests have been received for more light in regard to conducting funeral ceremonies; whether or not the lodge should be regularly opened, and if so, should it be called off before the brethren in procession leave the lodge hall for the public ceremony.

“A lodge is either at labor or refreshment when not closed. When at labor it is supposed to be tiled from the public. The only form we are taught of calling off is from labor to refreshment; hence it does not appear consistent for a lodge to perform a funeral ceremony in either condition. The question, from correspondence received, seems to be engaging the attention of other jurisdictions. I believe some form of instruction should be approved by the Grand Lodge, directing that, for masonic funeral services, and for all other public masonic ceremonies, the Grand Master, or the Worshipful Master, with the assistance of the other officers and brethren, should proceed to conduct such service without opening the lodge, permitting none to assist except those duly qualified. His action should be reported at the next stated meeting and a record made.”

If he had taken masonic usage—the original source of all masonic law—into consideration he would have perceived his error. However, the committee say that the Burial service adopted by the Grand Lodge is plain, and there is no necessity for any change.

He argued against the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction, but the committee say:

“Your committee has given the views of the Grand Master submitted in his annual address upon this subject due consideration. The question is one that has frequently received the attention of this Grand Lodge. The matter was under consideration at the last session (pp. 84-5-6-7, Proc. 1894). In all cases, however, this Grand Lodge has decided to adhere to the uniform and well settled policy of its present governing code in regard to this sub-

ject, as set forth in Section 2, Article XI, Part Second, which, among other things, prescribes 'that every lodge possesses exclusive jurisdiction over its unfinished work and rejected material, wheresoever they may be dispersed.' Exacting a strict compliance with this law on the part of every lodge of its obedience, and guaranteeing like rights under the same statute to the lodges of sister jurisdictions, in so far as their rights may be infringed by a lodge in Illinois. Your committee is of the opinion that the observance of this system of inter-jurisdictional comity tends to protect the rights of individual brethren, promote harmony, and conserve the principles of a *common* brotherhood.

"Your committee is also of the opinion that a change in so important and long established feature of the general masonic law, would be in the nature of an 'innovation,' and not warranted by the best interests of the craft at large, therefore unwise and not desirable."

Of the Wisconsin circular he says:

"To undertake by legislation to adopt a compulsory system of relief or to establish on a contract or business basis a plan for dispensing masonic charity, impresses me as a new departure. There are other benevolent institutions organized on the mutual or co-operative plan, whose fixed charges are based on this principle, but it will not be claimed that such was ever embodied in the plan of Masonry."

The committee endorse his position:

"The views expressed by the Grand Master upon this subject are, in the opinion of your committee, in accord with the principles and tenets of Masonry, and commend themselves to the favorable consideration of the Grand Lodge. As the Grand Master intimates, to undertake by legislation to adopt a compulsory system of relief or to dispense masonic charity on a contract or business basis 'is a new departure and is contrary to the principles of the Institution.'"

These three reports were adopted by the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge, during its session, laid the corner stone of the "Northwestern Illinois State Normal School Building." Constituent lodges and commanderies were in attendance, in all about five thousand masons. The corn, wine and oil were brought from Jerusalem, by M. W. Bro. JOHN C. SMITH. Other Orders joined in the procession. The Governor of the state was present and made a brief address.

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand was recognized.

Various amendments to the Grand Lodge by-laws were proposed, one of which abolished all jurisdiction over a candidate in consequence of a rejection, in this respect going to the extreme of leaving a rejected candidate precisely as if he had never been rejected: we may be in error as to its scope, but we have given it as we understand it: it will not come up for action till next year.

The following amendment to the by-laws was adopted:

"Section 2. When a controversy shall arise between lodges, or between a lodge and its Master, or charges be preferred, or an informal complaint be made, the same may be filed with the Grand Lodge, if in session, or during recess be lodged with the Grand Master; if the matter be deemed by

him of a sufficiently grave character to warrant investigation, he may proceed in person, or appoint a commission of not more than seven, nor less than three Masters, or Past Masters, with, if consistent, the District Deputy Grand Master as Chairman, to investigate such charges or complaints; such commission shall have authority to summon witnesses, and shall have such other power as may be specially delegated to them by the Grand Master; and said commission shall make such report, and give such opinion to the Grand Master as will enable him to make a final decision.

"Nothing in this article shall be construed to authorize the Grand Master to deprive a brother disciplined under its provisions, of the rights and privileges of Masonry for a longer period than during the recess of the Grand Lodge."

We may not understand this, but if we do, we do not like so much of it as makes the decision of the Grand Master final in case of discipline of individuals, and still limits his power to suspension for so brief a time. We much prefer the provisions in our constitution, which authorize the Grand Master to bring such cases before the Grand Lodge, and to suspend the accused till the Grand Lodge meets. Of course, this is not done without investigation similar to the one expressly provided for in this Illinois by-law. This course has been assailed on the ground that it is punishing a mason twice for the same offence; the absurdity of this contention is shown by the fact that it is constantly done under the civil law, which expressly prohibits a second punishment for the same offence, and the other fact that these very objectors see no impropriety in suspending a Master from office pending an investigation, and then removing him from office as a result of the investigation.

The Grand Orator, JOHN C. BLACK, delivered a very eloquent oration on the past growth of civilization, and the prospect of its future growth—seeing a practical millennium in the near future, in which universal peace would be a prominent feature. He closes as follows:

"Brethren, am I optimistic? Is this thing possible? Do all men dwell in harmony in the lodges? Why should not all men, knowing each other, loving each other, speaking a common speech, dwell in a mighty lodge whose pillars are set upon the borders of the world?

"Is this but a dream! Better to have dreamed it than never to have felt its thrill! Better to have believed in fancies that render such a future possible than to have lived and died in a dull despair that never anticipates the end of strife! Better the fancies of the masonic brotherhood than the stagnation of a rayless, hopeless future!"

At this writing, the signs of the times do not indicate the near approach of the day which our brother in his prophetic vision saw; but let us hope that they are merely clouds, which will utterly disappear before the lustre of the sun which sooner or later will surely rise!

A pleasing incident was the installation of BRO. ADLAI E. STEVENSON, Vice President of the United States, as Grand Orator. As he was obliged to leave before the hour fixed for the installation of the Grand Officers, he

was installed by Grand Master GODDARD in advance; he made a brief speech in acknowledgment of the honor of the appointment and installation.

The Report on Correspondence (310 pp.) was presented by Bro. JOSEPH ROBBINS.

* We copy his conclusions in relation to three matters as a statement of our own views, in Bro. ROBBINS's forcible style:

"The question of jurisdiction over rejected material is still a burning one and is threatening to some extent the friendly relations of Grand Lodges. The generally adverse action on the uniform rules tentatively proposed by Mississippi, for a variety of reasons well set forth by Past Grand Master Speed, their author, to be found in our review of that jurisdiction, indicates that as yet the craft is far from being sufficiently impressed with the gravity of the situation to even approach a consensus of opinion. It is already beginning to be more clearly seen that the main question involved—apart from the foundation which the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction, or perpetual 'masonic objection,' as the lamented Vaux preferred to call it, may have in the landmarks—is not whether a wrongdoer may repent or an unfit candidate outgrow his unworthiness, but that it is one in which Masonry, not the candidate, is the chief factor; the question whether the masonic acts of a lawfully constituted lodge working in conformity to the regulations of the Grand Lodge which is conceded to be for it the lawful interpreter of masonic law, are entitled to full faith and credit. When this comes to be generally realized on both sides a peaceful *modus vivendi* will not be far off.

"The Wisconsin proposition relative to masonic relief which marks, we trust, the high water marks of a tendency to convert Masonry into a mutual benefit or insurance society, has already engaged the attention of many Grand Lodges. Wholly bad in itself, as we regard it, because it subverts one of the fundamental principles of the fraternity, we think its being put forth in good faith for the subscription of Grand Lodges has been beneficial, and that the result is reassuring. It is true that several Grand Lodges have given more or less countenance to the proposition, but in the great majority the expression has not only been adverse, but couched in terms as to leave no doubt of their being safely grounded in the charitable faith as set forth in the primary engagements of the craft. It has done good by startling masons into a realization of the extent to which the environment of Masonry has influenced its charitable methods, dangerously strengthening the insidious departure from the masonic plan which comes out of the convenience of compounding for personal service with money and the distribution of alms by proxy.

"Quite separate from this, yet allied to it in this, that they both have a commercial root, is the wide departure of the craft from the landmarks in its legislation against non-affiliates. It is but a poor satisfaction to say 'I told you so,' but as we pointed out the dangerous tendency of the legislation of many Grand Lodges, not alone of those on the frontier, but of old and conservative bodies like the Grand Lodge of New York, twenty-five years ago, it is gratifying to see, as we think we can, a growing recognition of the unmasonic, as well as futile, character of the increasingly severe legislation against this class of our brethren which has marked the last three decades. As yet that legislation is only too strongly intrenched, but more voices are being raised against it, and it is rarer to find in the addresses of Grand Masters a demand for another turn of the fraternal thumb-screw to cure the evil that has increased with every twist. A recognition of the futility of such legislation is a mighty help towards a dispassionate reconsideration of the status of non-affiliates."

We trust that brethren will read this extract very carefully, as it bears upon questions coming before our own Grand Lodge.

He expresses his views in relation to the recognition of the Gran Dieta of Mexico, in which we do not concur. We intend to discuss that question under the head of Mexico.

It is impossible to go through this magnificent report and discuss *seriatim* the various matters considered. We, therefore, turn to Maine (1894), and after finishing, we will give such attention to other parts as time and space shall allow.

He quotes the following decision:

"The Grand Master has no power to give consent that a lodge may vote to donate a part of its funds to a new lodge whose territory was formerly within the jurisdiction of the old lodge."

And he inquires for information as to whether the consent "of any outside party" is required in such case.

Yes: the question related to the Charity Fund; that cannot be disposed of by the lodge except in accordance with the terms of the trust under which it was created; and cannot be transferred to another lodge without the consent of the Grand Lodge, and even then only to be held as a Charity Fund: the civil law protects it. In Vermont, in Morgan times, a lodge voted to surrender its charter and divide its funds among the members: the aid of the Courts was invoked and the distribution of the fund was prevented, the Court holding that if the lodge went out of existence, the Court, if necessary, would appoint a Trustee to administer the trust: but as in case of the surrender of the charter of a lodge, the Grand Lodge succeeds as Trustee under the masonic law, there was no occasion for the appointment of any other. We, in Maine, have held, however, that by the consent of the Grand Lodge, the supreme masonic power, a lodge may transfer to a new lodge composed in part at least of the former members of the old lodge, a part of its funds to be held in trust according to the original design. When the Grand Lodge of Maine was organized, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts gave it \$1,000 *for a Charity Fund* and it has always been held as such. Masonic funds are not *owned* by the lodge, but are *held in trust by it* to pay the legitimate running expenses of the lodge, as sanctioned by masonic usage, and the balance for charity; and after funds have been formally set apart as a Charity Fund, they cannot lawfully be used to pay even the running expenses. On the ground of their being trust funds, held for charitable purposes, the laws of very many of the states exempt them from taxation, though for special reasons, in many states, all trust funds *invested in real estate*, for the production of income, are taxed: those reasons are, that otherwise the burden of the exemption is thrown upon the town in which the real estate is situated instead of upon the people of the whole state. We have answered

BRO. ROBBINS'S question thus at length, because we find that this matter is not generally understood, and the impression prevails that lodges *own* their funds and often ask, "Can I not do as I will with mine own?" Real estate owned by a lodge for *its own purposes* is not usually taxed, however, on the ground that it is not income-producing property.

His lack of acquaintance with the provision of our law requiring the *personal presence* as well as *legal residence* of a candidate within the jurisdiction of the lodge, for the six months before his application is received, made him unable to see any reason for the granting of one of Grand Master BURBANK'S dispensations. The provision was adopted to prevent complications in cases of young men, who claim their old home as their legal residences, though they live elsewhere, as well as to make sure that the members of the lodge have had some opportunity to observe whether the candidate is a fit one or not.

The reply to his observation upon another is, that our constitution, following the old usage and law, expressly requires the presence of the charter at a meeting of the lodge, or a lawful substitute, if there is no charter. A warrant must be present.

We find an explanation of the purpose of the amendment to the by-laws, which we have already noticed. Under the law, as previously existing, the Grand Master actually expelled a mason. It was claimed that he had no power to do so, but there was a precedent that justified the Grand Master's action, and—

"The question was not raised when the Grand Master reported his action, for the double reason that on account of other hearts that would ache it was not desirable that the heinousness of the offence should be fully discussed, and because it was certain that the storm of righteous indignation which would follow such disclosure would utterly unfit the Grand Lodge for the dispassionate consideration of the points of law involved."

We agree with BRO. ROBBINS, that the power of expulsion is too great to be vested in any one man: we also hold, (and we may go further than Bro. ROBBINS) that an expulsion or indefinite suspension (which has come to mean about the same thing) should never be inflicted without the action of the Grand Lodge. But we do think that the Grand Master should have the power to suspend pending a trial, as we have already stated.

We took exception to the fairness of his statement that we had borne unconscious evidence to the mischief-making capacity of what he is pleased to call "High Riteism." He now quotes what we said of the consequences of the action of bogus organizations claiming to be regular as evidence of his assertion: on the same principle he could charge to Masonry all the trouble ever made by clandestine bodies and masons, and by those who violate masonic law. His explanation does not explain.

He says:

"If we are wrong as to the promise and potency residing in each Inspector General we may have misinterpreted him in supposing that he alluded to such a sprouting—under the stimulus of human ambition and human self-interest—after the peace of 1867, which we presumed had united *all* the rival factions. In this case Bro. Drummond will set us right. If, on the other hand, we are correctly informed as to the possibilities latent in every Inspector General, then we could not as truly have argued that the existence of one Grand Chapter in a jurisdiction threatened equally with one Supreme Council the continued peace of the bailiwick."

We meant no more nor less than the same "human ambition and human self-interest" that has been the moving cause in all revolts against regular Masonry, that have ever disturbed the peace of the Fraternity in this country, or the world, for that matter. He may just as properly say, for instance, that the recent disturbance in Connecticut was due to the mischief-making capacity of the Grand Lodge as to charge the consequences of an attempt by spurious masons to disturb the peace of the Scottish Rite. Every word, which he has written upon this point, would be as true if he had said York Rite, instead of his term for the Scottish Rite. For years in New York, there was a bitter contest, which kept the whole craft in a state of turmoil and excitement: would Bro. Robbins charge this to the "mischief-making capacity" of Ancient Craft Masonry?

In discussing our proposition that the Grand Lodge has the power to prescribe to the members of its obedience, he asked in substance if the Grand Lodge can prescribe a definition different from the one which the fundamental principles of Masonry compel it to prescribe; that is, we so understood his question. Taken in connection with the matter under discussion, he was assuming that the definition in question *is* different from the one which the fundamental law of Masonry requires, which is an evident "begging of the question." We are not sure that we understood him, for he says:

"Touching our reiterated question whether the Grand Lodge could make any definition of Masonry for the individual masons of its obedience different from that which the fundamental law compels it to adopt for its constituent lodges, he makes merry as follows:"

However, our answer covers this question:

"Whatever definition of Masonry a Grand Lodge prescribes, it prescribes for individual masons and lodges, and all other persons and bodies (if any) over which it exercises masonic jurisdiction."

But he says:

"Inasmuch as he had said that in passing laws to settle the quarrels of the contending faction of Scotch Rites, 'Grand Lodges are prescribing a rule of action for the members of their obedience, and are defining what such members should practice as *Masonry*,' and our question was predicated upon that statement, we submit that it was entirely relevant to the discussion. We understand 'begging the question' to be taking for granted what ought to be proved. It is not begging the question in our interrogatory to

so frame that interrogatory that he finds it difficult to reply without disclosing that he has proved too much. Nor does it at all divest the question of its point, to say that we assume that the Grand Lodge must adopt *our* exposition of fundamental principles. The terms of the interrogatory neither require nor involve any other assumption, than that Masonry as the Grand Lodge conceives it to be defined by the ancient law, and so expounds it, prevails in the lodges with binding force. If by saying that the Grand Lodge in passing laws to settle the quarrels of the contending factions of Scotch Ritors the Grand Lodge is defining what such members shall practice as *Masonry*, he discloses the fact that the Grand Lodge is making two definitions of Masonry—one for its lodges and a totally different one for such members thereof as are also Scotch Ritors—he must not expect to be permitted to ignore the substance of the interrogatory by which we seek to show that either in one direction or the other the Grand Lodge is repudiating the constraints of the ancient law, by complaining about the *form* of it."

His proposition that the law in question prescribes one definition of Masonry for lodges and another for individual members, it is almost impossible to treat seriously. How does a *lodge* practice Masonry, save by the acts of its "individual members"? But he goes further and insists that the definition makes a different law for the "Scottish Ritors." *The law is for all*, in whatever capacity they may act: of course, its penalties are denounced only against those who violate it: the bogus "Scottish Ritors" can no more complain that the law for them is different from the law for other masons, than thieves can complain that the law against larceny is for them different from the law for other persons.

He says further:

"He says of the proposition which he and others at one time entertained of interdicting by Grand Lodge legislation all the rival Scottish Rite bodies had no more reference to the question of such exclusive jurisdiction by the Grand Lodge over its secret work as to prevent its adoption by other bodies of masons than those of its own creation, than it had to the Egyptian Mysteries. Unless these bodies were held to be guilty of immoral practices, it is difficult to conceive upon what grounds the Grand Lodge, whose jurisdiction is confessedly limited to the domain of Masonry, could assume to interfere with these bodies except upon the alternative that they were either using its Masonry or fraudulently claiming that they were."

He should have read what we wrote in the light of *our* views, instead of his *own*. We, and those acting with us held, that while we had not the rightful power to prevent a mason's joining any body which he saw fit to join, we did have the rightful power to say to him, "you shall not join a body, the existence of which, whether by intention, misfortune, wicked attacks upon it, or for any other cause, will destroy that harmony which is the strength and support of Masonry, and remain a mason." We so held then; we so hold now. We may be an extremist, but we hold that no mason has a right, save in obedience to the law of God or of his country, to do any act that shall bring disgrace or disaster to Masonry or dissensions among the craft. "*Salus reipublice suprema lex*" applies with special force to our

institution. We feel that there is scarcely cause for this discussion, for "the stern logic of events" is rapidly settling this matter through the instrumentality of these laws that have occasioned it.

He says further:

"Bro. Drummond still insists that by avouchment a Master Mason may have knowledge of the higher degrees."

He quotes from us and adds:

"It is enough to say of this that in the lodge Bro. Drummond would not accept the voucher of an Entered Apprentice that another brother was a Master Mason, and he would decline to admit thereon an alleged Master Mason to a lodge of Masters for the reason that the voucher could have no actual knowledge of the status of the person vouched for."

Of course not: but an Entered Apprentice would readily accept the voucher of a brother, who he knew was an Entered Apprentice, that he was a Master Mason, and that it is a masonic degree.

He asks another question which we will answer under Mexico.

We can give little attention to the remainder of his report. We think his printer, in his review of Indiana, invents a kind of portraits new to us—"prototype portraits."

He well says, from *our* standpoint:

"Our regulations forbid the use of masonic emblems and devices on business cards or signs, or by way of advertisement, except for legitimate masonic purposes, and the same prohibition ought long ago to have been extended to the use of the masonic name."

Does it not follow necessarily, if the Grand Lodge has the power to prohibit the use of the name in this manner, that, all the more, it has the power to prohibit the use of that name by masons for an association that it does not recognize as a masonic body?

We recommend this to Bro. SWAIN, of Wisconsin:

"Granting that all so-called charity is more or less compulsory does not do away with the fact that in Masonry the lines of compulsion are clearly laid down beyond the power of any man or body of men to lawfully change, and these make every man his own and not his neighbor's assessor, responsible only to his conscience under his oath of office."

And we commend the whole report to our brethren in Maine.

INDIANA, 1895.

Portraits of Bros. FRANK E. GAVIN, the retiring Grand Master, and WILLIAM H. SMYTHE, the Grand Secretary, are given.

Four hundred and sixty-seven of the four hundred and seventy-five lodges were represented.

Grand Master GAVIN says:

"As I stand before you, my thoughts recur to the first Grand Lodge which I attended, eighteen years ago. Then our numbers were being depleted. We were overwhelmed with debt; our property was mortgaged to the utmost limit, and we were pressed by a large floating debt beside. Discouragement and dissatisfaction appeared on every hand. A few undimayed and determined souls bore aloft the standard, and the great body of the craft followed, although oftentimes with doubtings and misgivings, until at last the burden was lifted, and for several years the way has been easy before us. All honor to those brave leaders, to the faithful craftsmen, to whose patient toil and labor we are so largely indebted for our present condition.

"As to the general welfare of the craft, I bring you good tidings. Prosperity has been the rule with both lodges and Grand Lodge. The light of Masonry has dawned upon many hearts. Our numbers have been increased. Our spirit of devotion to the right has not been diminished.

"The Grand Lodge revenues have been ample. We own a magnificent property. We have a surplus in the treasury. We owe no man anything. I congratulate you upon this happy state of affairs."

We add our congratulations in behalf of the craft in Maine. We well remember the troublous times of which he speaks: we used to take up the Proceedings with a feeling of anxiety and dread, as year after year the prospect of emerging from the gathering darkness seemed less and less: but heroic measures were taken and we had the pleasure of rejoicing at their success.

A candidate, twice rejected in Pennsylvania as late as 1892, had been accepted by an Indiana lodge: the fact was the occasion of correspondence between the respective Grand Masters.

We are constrained to say that the reply of Grand Master GAVIN is a very weak one, when he gets beyond the statement that the Grand Lodge of Indiana is supreme within her own territory and that the act of her lodge was in accordance with her laws.

He says:

"The doctrine that a rejection by one lodge operates *ipso facto* as a rejection by all, meets with no favor in Indiana. I am by no means satisfied that the rejection of an applicant necessarily signifies, as you would seem to regard it, that the applicant is unworthy to become a mason. On the contrary, I feel quite sure that many men, honest, upright and honorable, are rejected simply because they are, for some satisfactory reason, *persona non grata* to some member of the lodge. Be that, however, as it may, and conceding that the rejection implies personal unfitness, we have not in this jurisdiction been taught to consider the doctrine of eternal damnation as holding good in Masonry.

"On the contrary, we early learned that there might be both repentance and reformation. Whether there has been such a change in a man's character as will entitle him to admission into a masonic lodge may, as it seems to me, as a general rule be best determined by those among whom he has lived during the period of his reformation, rather than by those who only knew him in the former days of his unworthiness."

His doubt that a rejection necessarily implies unworthiness to become a mason is contrary to the fundamental principles upon which the ballot is founded: it also assumes that so many masons violate the law, that it is justifiable to evade that law whenever evasion is practicable.

The point that there may be repentance and reformation is well taken, and that the masons among whom he has lived during the period of reformation, are best qualified to judge of its reality and prospect of permanency: but the law, that an "unworthy man can come a stranger among those masons," and they can tell in *twelve months* whether he has become qualified, is a terrible satire upon the "repentance and reformation" which it is necessary to undergo in order to be a mason in Indiana!

Again, the comity, which the Grand Master is willing to allow, is no comity at all. Comity is giving effect in one's own jurisdiction to the law of another jurisdiction.

The Grand Master had had a multitude of official acts of varied kinds to perform, and his statement of these, shows that he had been an exceedingly active and energetic officer, and had made a wise disposition of the matters before him.

He notes the preparation and publication of a historical pamphlet, and earnestly urges the preparation of others.

He had made the usual rulings in relation to lodges appearing in public, but he makes an eloquent allusion to Memorial Day. We do not quite agree with the generally received rule in relation to this. In this section of the country the masonic usage has been for lodges to appear in public to do honor to the Chief Magistrate of the Nation or State, and on the fourth of July. The objection to its appearing in public on Memorial Day was because it was not a *National* day of celebration. Masonry teaches expressly, obedience to government and respect for rules, and we see no impropriety, but rather a propriety, in the old usage, and we hope that it will be perpetuated. When LAFAYETTE visited this country, the masons in all our states joined in the civic processions in his honor. One of the first times that we ever saw a lodge, was when several appeared in the civic procession at the reception of the President of the United States, when he made a visit to Maine. In spite of the different constructions given in recent years, we hold that, according to masonic principles and usage, the celebration of a National Day, or the reception of the Chief Magistrate, is a "Masonic occasion."

The same reason justifies the decision of the Grand Master that a lodge may properly accept a United States flag presented to it.

He announced thirty decisions, nearly all of them dependent on local law, or universally well settled: we therefore quote but one, looking to the right of the Grand Lodge to control the use of the name "Masonry" by the members of its obedience:

"I was asked if the name 'The Masonic Investment Company' might be used in a business venture with my consent. I answered that I could not consent thereto. On further consideration of this question, I am more and more thoroughly convinced that the name 'Masonic' or 'Masons' should not be applied to any company or corporation organized for any business

purpose, whether it be ordinary investment, life or accident insurance, or what you will.

"We do not, or at least should not, assume our masonic character for business purposes, and the name should be by us kept sacredly devoted to the high and noble cause to which we as Free and Accepted Masons apply it.

"I do not believe that the fact that those who conduct the business may all be masons is a sufficient cause for carrying our fraternity name and their fraternity standing into it.

"By such a course the fraternity has everything to lose and nothing to gain. Men associate it with the business, and many do not know that there is no connection between the two. So long as these institutions prosper, all is well; but whenever they may, from accident, unforeseen misfortune or other cause, meet with disaster, then the fraternity must be more or less discredited.

"I am strongly of the opinion that some legislation should be directed against this custom."

The Grand Secretary makes some very valuable suggestions, especially to officers of lodges, and supports them by sound reasons. They may be briefly summed up: Masters ought to read oftener the constitutions and laws and the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge, especially the addresses and reports. He says:

"To know the work and lectures of Masonry is important, but to know and understand its laws, customs and history is of vastly greater importance.

"No one can intelligently preside over his lodge unless he is conversant with the laws and polite usage of the fraternity. It is humiliating to an humble member, one who has never aspired to leadership in the lodge, but one who has let no opportunity slip to improve his masonic education; one who reads the laws, Proceedings, masonic periodicals, magazines and history of the fraternity, and knows what ought to be done—and what ought not to be done—knows the customs and little courtesies due on all occasions, and yet is compelled to see them ignored and neglected simply because the acting Worshipful Master has allowed his ambition to be a Past Master step between him and his proper qualification for that high office."

BRO. SMYTHE speaks from long and full acquaintance with the lodges in his jurisdiction.

The Committee on By-Laws of Lodges reported:

"Article V, Section 4, provides that in the absence of the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, a Past Master may preside. We find this in conflict with the laws and usages of Masonry. There is no provision for any one assembling the craft save the Worshipful Master, Senior or Junior Wardens. We therefore recommend that this section be stricken out."

We have no objection to the Grand Lodge's enacting such law as it pleases in this respect, but we suggest that the truth of history ought not to be reversed to get a reason for it. We do not see that the by-law contemplated the "assembling" of the lodge, but only the opening and presiding over it, after it had "assembled," and the Master and Wardens were absent.

The law of this Grand Lodge provides that an objection after acceptance and before an initiation is equivalent to a rejection by ballot. In a case in

which an objection was made, announced to the lodge and recorded, the objector afterwards desired to withdraw the objection: but the Committee on Jurisprudence reported:

“Your committee decide that the withdrawal of the objection by a brother making it, does not change the status of the applicant, and he is rejected the same as if a black ball had been cast against him in the first instance.”

And the report was adopted—a correct decision and equally applicable in Maine.

A lodge adopted a by-law providing for Life-Membership: a few availed themselves of the provision; afterwards it was repealed: the first by-law was not submitted to, and approved by, the Grand Lodge: the committee say:

“If the by-law has not been approved as prescribed, the members who have paid dues under it are entitled to have them credited to their account as payment on yearly dues.

“There is no authority in the general regulations of this Grand Lodge for a system of life membership; and experience shows that the payment of twenty years’ dues is not an equitable amount for a life membership.”

The law of the Grand Lodge provides that all penalties must be fixed by the lodge by ballot; and that the penalty for non-payment of dues must be indefinite suspension; on the conviction of a member for non-payment of dues, the Master, without any vote of the lodge, declared him suspended; a majority of the committee held that this was irregular, but one member held otherwise and the Grand Lodge adopted his report. We think the majority were right; a penalty, though absolutely fixed by law, must be judicially declared as well as determined, and the law requires the declaration to be made by the lodge.

A case happened in Indiana, like one before our Grand Chapter at its last session; only the reverse. A man received two degrees in a Kansas lodge and then waived jurisdiction over him in favor of the Indiana lodge, but the latter, taking it as a request to confer the degree for the Kansas lodge, conferred it; but neither would recognize him as a member! The Grand Lodge decided that as there had been a misapprehension, and he had received the degree in a regular lodge [although irregularly,] he was a non-affiliate in good standing. We do not see how any other conclusion could have been reached.

A recognition of the principle which we have stated in relation to “masonic occasions,” was made in arranging for the proper observance of the centennial of the death of Washington.

The following report of the committee on the Wisconsin proposition was concurred in by the Grand Lodge:

“That this ‘basic principle’ is not in accordance with masonic law founded upon ancient charges, which is to care for a ‘true and tried brother,’ no matter in what jurisdiction he was ‘taught to use the trowel,’ or where

his membership may be. This, if not expressed in our Book of Constitutions, is our unwritten masonic rule, which has existed in this jurisdiction ever since the formation of the Grand Lodge of Indiana.

"Masonic charity is not measured by the amount a brother has contributed to a lodge. Ancient charges emphatically declare:

"If *you* discover a true and genuine *brother* in want, you must relieve him if *you* can, or else direct him how he may be relieved."

"Substituting the lodge for the individual brother would destroy one of the ancient landmarks of Masonry. We therefore recommend that the Wisconsin plan for general masonic relief be not concurred in."

The committee on the Pennsylvania case regard the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction as erroneous and pernicious; and while conceding to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania the right to make laws for its own jurisdiction, they claim the same right for their own Grand Lodge in its jurisdiction. They say:

"We hold it to be a fundamental principle of masonic equity that every lodge of Free and Accepted Masons is the conservator of Masonry within its specific jurisdiction, subject only to the rules of the Grand Lodge under which it holds."

* * * * *

"Regarding the status of the brother over whose making the difference has arisen, we declare that he, having been made in a just and lawfully constituted lodge of masons, is a regular mason; and that his making, being lawfully done where done, is lawful everywhere; and that he, being a regular mason, is entitled to the recognition and fellowship of the craft wheresoever he may go."

The grim humor of this is, that the committee utterly failed to see that the principles, which they lay down so positively, equally concede to Pennsylvania and all other jurisdictions, which hold that a rejection gives the candidate a *status* precisely as initiation or suspension does, the right to forbid the recognition in their respective jurisdictions of a mason so made: in Pennsylvania, the law is that the making of a rejected candidate or a suspended mason is unlawful and void, wherever done. The committee ignore the fact that there are certain masonic laws binding upon all Grand Lodges and in relation to which a Grand Lodge is not supreme in its own jurisdiction, and did not consider, whether or not the case came, or did not come, within the scope of these superior laws. Under their statement of the law, a mason legally suspended in Pennsylvania might go to Indiana, and after residing there six months could be made a mason, and, in their view, "be entitled to the recognition and fellowship of the craft wheresoever he may go." If such a case had been before the committee, we doubt if they would have found such efficacy in the laws of Indiana, or else would have recognized an implied exception, which might cover a rejected candidate as well as one who was a suspended mason. The only recourse which other Grand Lodges have, when one Grand Lodge, in the plenitude of its actual power, authorizes its lodge to violate the fundamental law, is to refuse to recognize the validity of the acts so done.

The Report on Correspondence (272 pp.) was submitted by Bro. WILLIAM COMMONS. [If he would have his printer use *figures* instead of *letters* in the paging, he would save time for his associates.]

His plan is to give an analysis of the proceedings of the Grand Lodges, and a compendium of Masonry for the year.

He says:

“As heretofore we have refrained from criticising the work of other reviewers, or engaging in controversy over disputed questions. Our effort has been to review the proceedings of Grand Lodges, and not the reviews of reviewers.”

We find, however, that he has criticised the proceedings of Grand Lodges, which will be likely to call out a reply: these criticisms are of such a character that makes us glad that he has so far extended the scope of his report, especially as we think, that when he comes to read the replies to his criticisms, he will be likely to enlarge the scope still more.

His declaration rather embarrasses us, for we find that we have criticised the report of a committee of which he was chairman. We did it “in the usual course of business,” not then knowing that he does not propose to “talk back.” We must let it stand: and we do not believe that he will think that we knowingly attacked a non-combatant—especially as we know that if he *should* follow an old precedent, and say, “Lie there, Quaker,” or a different one, and “*should* fall from grace,” we might find out what “Woe be unto you” means!

In his review of the Indian Territory, he advances sound views in relation to the Grand Lodge of Spain, but as he gives them subject to the approval of Bro. ROBBINS, of Illinois, and as we know that Bro. R. will sit down on them *very* severely, we omit them.

He protests very earnestly against the *public exercises*, preceding the opening of the Grand Lodge of Iowa in 1894, in the same hall, and condemns them severely. We have always objected to these performances, on the ground of the consumption of the time of the Grand Lodge and the interference with its business: but we see no other reasons to object to a public reception and welcome of the members of the Grand Lodge by the masons and citizens of the place where the Grand Lodge meets. We do not understand that this reception was anything else, except that it took place in the hall in which the Grand Lodge was to meet.

He allows his views on other than masonic questions to crop out occasionally; while we are with him every time, we doubt if it does not give just cause of complaint to those whose views are, “on the contrary, quite the reverse”!

We *must* quote what he says in relation to the discussion of the decision that an unnaturalized alien is not eligible to admission in Indiana: noting the opposite decision of the Grand Master of Kentucky, he adds:

"Our Grand Master Noyes, in passing upon the same question, decided that in Indiana, such a candidate was not eligible. Our Committee on Jurisprudence divided upon the question; the majority supported the Grand Master, while the minority dissented. Those who were present will not soon forget how the matter was debated; how the Grand Master was supported by a Governor from among the Past Grand Masters, and how the opposition was led by an ex-judge from the same company, ably seconded by an actual judge upon the floor, nor will they forget the latter's eloquent tribute to the universality of Masonry. Spreadingeagleism and Fourth of July oratory abounded for a few minutes, and our Grand Secretary's big flag fairly cracked with enthusiasm. The minority report prevailed, and Indiana and Kentucky stand together upon this question, and such will be the position in every other Grand Lodge where the spirit of Masonry, and not of 'Jingoism' rules."

He asks what "registered brethren" are. In Maine, we have a provision of law, that a mason rejected for membership in a lodge may "register" with the Grand Lodge, and as long as he pays a fixed sum annually in lieu of dues, he is relieved from the disabilities of a non-affiliate.

There are many other matters in this splendid report that we would like to notice, but his rule not to engage in discussion with other reviewers makes it unprofitable.

INDIAN TERRITORY, 1895.

After the opening of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Secretary, in behalf of the local lodge, welcomed the Grand Lodge, and Bro. ROBERT W. HILL responded. Brief as these addresses were, they are an exceedingly valuable contribution to the early history of Masonry in that jurisdiction. And we earnestly hope that when the quarter-centennial of the Grand Lodge comes in 1898, Bros. MURROW and HILL will be there and gives us the history of the beginning and growth of Masonry in that jurisdiction: they could scarcely bequeath to those who shall succeed them a more valuable legacy.

The Grand Master (JOHN COYLE) delivered a concise but comprehensive address.

He had visited twenty-three lodges during the year and says:

"My brethren, allow me to congratulate you on having arrived at the twenty-first milestone in our history. I may say we have attained the years of manhood. Although we have prospered in the past, it is to be sincerely hoped that we may continue to improve and become better men and masons, and let us see to it that these happy expectations are realized."

He rendered nineteen decisions, admirable for their positiveness, terseness and clearness, and all of them correct under the laws of his Grand Lodge. The only one new to us is that an Indian, who cannot speak or understand the English language, may be initiated with the aid of a good interpreter.

A case of alleged infringement of jurisdiction by a Missouri lodge had occurred. It was the old, old story—personal presence in one jurisdiction

and residence, actual or claimed in another: the facts indicate that residence in either jurisdiction could be proved by what he has said and done. The case illustrates the wisdom of our law: as its general adoption would go far to prevent these cases which cause so much trouble we quote it.

"No lodge, without the permission of the Grand Master, shall receive the petition of a candidate until he has resided in this state one year, nor (except sea-faring men absent only on a voyage to sea) unless he has had his dwelling place, and personally been within the jurisdiction of the lodge at least six months during the year next preceding."

In this case, we think the Grand Master of Missouri lays too great stress upon the intentions and declarations of the party; these avail in doubtful cases, but cannot control the actual facts: a mere intention to make a certain place one's residence does not make it so, unless his acts correspond.

We regret to find that Grand Secretary MURROW—the father of Masonry in that jurisdiction—had had a severe attack of illness, but rejoice to learn that though very feeble he was recovering, and we trust that ere this he is himself again.

He says that, with few exceptions, the lodges were in a prosperous condition: one had been obliged to surrender its charter, and one charter had been suspended; but nine were working *U. D.*, to eight of which charters were granted, and the dispensation of the other continued. He reports the addition of eighty-seven bound volumes to the Library, which now has 403 volumes.

We deem the following a proper act of fraternal courtesy, but the Grand Lodge must not be surprised if Bro. ROBBINS pours out vials upon it. It illustrates the doctrine of voucher:

"Bro. R. W. Hill informed the Grand Lodge of the organization in Indian Territory of a Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters.

"The information was received with pleasure, and the greetings of this Grand Lodge were most cordially extended to the new body.

"WHEREAS, This Grand Lodge has been informed masonically of the organization of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the Indian Territory:

"Resolved, That this Grand Lodge extends its fraternal greetings to the said Grand Council and wishes its growth and prosperity within its jurisdiction."

Bro. MURROW submitted what we hold was the proper action in the Missouri case, but we greatly regret that the Grand Lodge adopted the following in lieu of it:

"Resolved, That the Grand Secretary is instructed to bring this case again to the attention of the Grand Lodge of Missouri through its Grand Officers and our own Grand Representative, with a copy of the report of our committee on the case, and with the intention that if our rights be disregarded at the next communication of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, our Grand Master may take such steps as are necessary to terminate our present relations with the Grand Lodge of Missouri."

We hold it wrong, because the parties do not agree upon the facts; one Grand Lodge finds them one way and the other Grand Lodge the other way, each denying the correctness of the conclusion of the other. The Grand Lodges of New York and New Jersey had a similar case, and they submitted it to a referee to settle the facts; the result was that harmony was restored and the whole masonic world applauded the course taken, and we confidently hoped that it would be a precedent for all similar cases. However, it is but just to say, that the evidence now presented by Bro. BENNETT in his report makes an overwhelming case in favor of his contention, which, when presented to the Grand Lodge of Missouri, will probably lead it to reverse its action. It places the candidate, however, in a very awkward position—apparently of having made under oath conflicting statements as to his residence. The case illustrates the danger of deciding, as the Grand Master did, such a case upon an *ex parte* statement: we firmly believe that if inquiry had been made of the lodge in whose jurisdiction he was known to be doing business and spending most of his time, the Missouri lodge would never have been allowed to take jurisdiction over him.

The following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, That Subordinate Lodges holding charters antedating the organization of the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory have permission to receive new charters when they so desire, upon the condition that they surrender the old charter to have proper recital made thereon before it be placed in the archives as a relic."

We should think they would prefer to keep their old charters, and have them endorsed by their Grand Lodge if anything should be done.

The Mississippi and Wisconsin propositions were both non-concurred in.

The Report on Correspondence (90 pp.) was presented by Bro. JOSEPH S. MURROW, but the review of the Missouri case was prepared by Bro. LEO E. BENNETT.

He says:

"We deeply regret that the reference to churches and family circles, in the above paragraph, is so frequently true. We believe that the binding character of the family circle, and especially the church, should be the strongest on this earth. Strong mason as we are, we should prefer to acknowledge that the ties of the home and of the church of Christ are more binding, more peaceful, more holy than are those of any other institution on earth."

* * * * *

"We beg to say to our brethren in Indian Territory, do not let masonic offences get cold. Take up every brother guilty of violating our laws, especially moral laws, and try them swift and sharp, and punish them kindly, firmly, and positively. Such action in all our lodges will be the greatest blessing you can confer on your members and it will elevate and maintain the good character of Freemasonry in our Territory."

* * * * *

"Instead of an oration, it is the custom of this Grand Body to repair to a convenient house of worship and listen to a sermon from some brother per-

socially appointed for this service. We should like to see the custom introduced, at least occasionally, in the Indian Territory."

In his review of Maine, he says:

"Indian Territory, 1893, is kindly reviewed. The reviewer differs with our view as to the right and effect of an objection after initiation, and, like too many polemics, he states our position unfairly. He says: 'But when a candidate has become a mason, it is unjust to him to stop his advancement upon a doubt of one member as to his worthiness.' Not one in ten objectors would base his objection upon 'a doubt of unworthiness.'"

"It is generally, if not universally, 'I know he is not worthy and I have the best of reasons for objecting. I know it is for the good of Masonry that he should not be advanced.' Should he be forced to give his reasons? Not necessarily. Frequently, should he do so, though ever so honest and sincere and though his reasons may be ever so good, should he state them, he will bring down the wrath and opposition, and perhaps persecution, of all the friends of the candidate upon himself."

"I am aware there are two sides to this question. I am such an 'old fogey,' that I would prefer to see the door to my lodge too strictly than too loosely guarded."

"My conviction is many more unworthy men get into our lodges than are kept out. I regret that the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory ever changed from the three ballot to the one ballot system."

The test of a law is in what it allows; if a mason has a reasonable doubt as to the worthiness of a profane, he ought to vote against his admission; we have assumed that the same rule prevails in the three ballot system: for that reason, we in Maine require the objection to advancement to be laid before the lodge, in order that the members may consider the objection and determine whether it is sufficient to require the rejection of the candidate.

We concur with him in the last two paragraphs, except the last sentence: but they do not apply to the case under consideration: the party *is already in*.

We regret the trouble with Missouri, and we especially regret the passage of the resolution which we have quoted, although the provocation was a great one, especially as the Grand Lodge of Missouri reversed the conclusion of its committee made after a full investigation. But the history of the past shows that that Grand Lodge has, in an eminent degree, "the courage of its convictions," and, when satisfied that it has made a mistake, is prompt to correct it: and now that the "evidence is all in," we confidently predict that it will be satisfied that it was wrong, and will do all that can be asked of it, to repair the error.

IOWA, 1895.

This volume is so much smaller than usual, that we scarcely recognize it. We find the cause to be the omission of Bro. PARVIN'S Biographical Sketches and other historical and statistical matter, which have made the Iowa Proceedings of such interest to everybody everywhere.

We do have, as a frontispiece, the portrait of Bro. LIBERTY EATON FELLOWS, the retiring Grand Master.

It having been arranged to have public ceremonies in the evening, the Grand Lodge was opened at once. We presume that this will more nearly satisfy Bro. COMMONS.

Of the semi-centennial, he says:

"The question of publishing the proceedings, addresses, and such other matter as should properly be included therein was by the Grand Lodge referred to the Committee on Printing, and an appropriation therefor was included in the appropriation for publication of the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge. Your Committee on Printing very carefully canvassed the matter of such publication, and greatly desired to present a souvenir that would be worthy of the occasion. They found, however, that after the expense of the publication of the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge had been defrayed the amount of the appropriation remaining was entirely inadequate for the purpose. It was therefore deemed better to defer the publication entirely than to publish an abbreviated and cheap edition that would reflect no credit upon the Grand Lodge. All the material for such souvenir is in the office of the Grand Secretary."

We regard the celebration of such occasions as of little importance if they do not result in permanent value to Masonry by the publication of something that will be of value to those who read, now and hereafter, as well as to those who heard.

Referring to "Schools of Instruction," the Visiting Custodian, Bro. GEO. B. VAN SAUN, says:

"Some one should have authority to require the attendance of the *Worshipful Master* and *Senior Deacon* of each lodge convenient of access to the localities selected for those schools. They should be under the direct supervision of the Grand Master and one or more members of the Board of Custodians, and whatever actual expense is incurred should be allowed by the Grand Lodge upon proper vouchers being rendered. The visitation to the particular lodges as heretofore, should not by any means be interfered with, for there the membership must be aroused to renewed life and activity, and thereby through their efforts obtain material for the upbuilding of our masonic temple. Lectures by competent brethren at these schools would be of great interest, and good results would necessarily follow."

Grand Secretary PARVIN says:

"During the past year there has been more than an ordinary interest manifested on the part of intelligent and reading masons of the state to complete their files of the Proceedings, whereof we are glad, and only regret that more cannot be supplied with missing years. Years ago, when the Proceedings could have been had for the asking, they were not preserved, now that they are becoming very scarce and many out of print, the demand for them is active."

We believe that this is true of almost, if not quite all, of the Grand Jurisdictions.

During the winter he had visited Mexico, and spent some weeks in its capital city. Of Masonry in Mexico, he says:

"It had been the purpose of the Grand Secretary, to present to the Grand Lodge a report containing the results of his investigation into the past history and the present status of Mexican Masonry, but for good and sufficient reasons he has not been able to do this.

"The '*Gran Dieta Symbolica*,' being the Grand Lodge of Masons of Mexico, which is a national organization like that of our own General Grand Chapter and General Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, has been recognized by some three or more of the American Grand Lodges, notably Texas and New York, and is seeking recognition from others. The members of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, as also of other American Grand Lodges, are, we are well convinced, quite ignorant of the whole subject of Mexican Masonry, and the brother who shall enlighten them upon this subject from actual observation and knowledge will do a good work and confer a blessing upon Masonry. There were many things that we saw, much to be commended, others very censurable and cannot meet the approval of American masons, but we are not disposed, at this time, to enter upon the discussion of this subject."

We greatly regret that he did not prepare such a report. It would have been invaluable.

He exhibits a laudable pride in the extent to which he has placed the Proceedings of his Grand Lodge in public libraries and the high estimation in which they are universally held.

The wife of his son, NEWTON R. PARVIN, the Deputy Grand Secretary, had died during the year: she made a supreme effort to attend the semi-centennial exercises, and it was the last time she left her home. We tender our sympathies to our brother, in thus losing the one who was almost literally the light of his life.

He gives brief sketches of the three Grand Secretaries who had died during the year—BROS. WHEELER, CHADWICK and FRIZZELL.

His report as Librarian is of great value, especially to those engaged in similar work. We are most heartily glad to notice its growth in all departments.

At the previous session a Board of Trustees of the Grand Lodge Charity Fund was created. It consists of only three members and meets at pleasure during the recess, but does most of its business by mail. A full report was made, with various suggestions. It seems to have been conceded on all hands that the plan had proved to be a grand success.

The committee overhauled the returns of the lodges and "went behind the returns" to discover the reason of some discrepancies, and found that it was because lodges are required to pay Grand Lodge dues for ministers and honorary members, who had been exempted by the lodge from paying lodge dues.

The same committee made a report upon the replies to the circular issued to the lodges by the Grand Secretary in 1893. We wish every Master in the state could read the whole of it. We make the following extracts:

"In the matter of representatives reporting on their return from Grand Lodge, it should be considered the Master's imperative duty to cause his representative to make as complete a report as possible of the doings of the Grand Lodge at the first meeting after same was held."

* * * * *

"We wish to emphasize the fact that a portion of the proceedings should be read in open lodge, and at least so much thereof as refers to legislation, at the first meeting after the reception of the printed report. We believe that it is to the best interests of Masonry for lodges to hold what might be termed 'open sessions,' to which the families of Master Masons, together with a few citizens that would make good material for our 'time-honored institution,' be invited. The general character of these sessions might consist of masonic poems, music, and addresses upon the symbolisms and teachings of Masonry, or anything of like nature that the brethren might deem of greatest interest to their particular locality. The reports referred to us show that more than two thirds of the lodges have never invited any of the public inside their lodge-rooms, or given them any means of ascertaining anything regarding the character of the institution of which some are seeking to become members. A visit to a neighboring lodge often 'sets the craft to work' with a renewed energy, and imbues them with a desire to press forward for further light. Even the fossils that never show themselves inside the lodge-rooms except at masonic festivals usually add their presence on an occasion of this kind, and pass their criticisms on the demerits of the work."

The special committee to which was referred the petition of GEO. W. BAILEY, presented in 1894, accusing BRO. NEWTON R. PARVIN of procuring from him fraudulently the conveyance of a very valuable collection to the Grand Lodge, made a report not only completely exonerating BRO. PARVIN in every particular, but commending his course as, in the highest degree, honorable and laudable. Subsequently it appears that his accuser had been convicted of a felony by the United States Court, and thereupon his lodge expelled him, and the Grand Lodge approved, almost unanimously, the expulsion, in spite of a discussion at length of the report by Past Grand Master JOHN SCOTT. What there could have been in this case, on which to hang an argument against the approval of the proceedings of the lodge, we cannot see.

The following decision was made:

"The following question has been submitted to us:

"When the Grand Lodge or subordinate lodge is called to bury a brother or lay a corner stone, should the lodge be at labor or called to refreshment during such ceremony?"

"Answer. In our opinion the lodge should be at labor."

Past Grand Master SCOTT presented a memorial from one J. G. GRAVES, alleging that he had been unlawfully expelled from Masonry by the Grand Lodge. BRO. ROBBINS makes it the text in his report for some severe animadversions upon the Grand Lodge of Iowa. The alleged irregularity was one of the most technical character, and moreover, in the memorial is, by leaving out a part of the charge and one word in the part *pretended to be quoted*, to all intents and purposes, *falsely stated*. The committee reported that the memorialist had been legally expelled by the Grand Lodge and the

report was adopted with but a dissenting vote. We are surprised that Bro. SCOTT should have presented such a memorial and that Bro. ROBBINS should have commented upon the proceedings of the Grand Lodge as he did.

The Committee on Obituaries reported a most beautiful "In Memoriam" tribute to Mrs. NEWTON R. PARVIN, which the Grand Lodge adopted and ordered a Memorial Page in the Proceedings—the first instance within our knowledge in which a woman's memory has been thus honored; the tribute to her memory shows that she was greatly beloved by the masons and was worthy of the honor paid to her.

We quote the resolutions adopted:

"*Be it resolved* by the Grand Lodge of Iowa, that in the death of Emma M. Parvin this Grand Lodge has lost a personal friend, a warm-hearted supporter, and zealous helper.

"*That* we tender our beloved brother and his family our heartfelt sympathy, and assure them that their loss is ours.

"*That* a copy of the memorial and resolutions be engrossed and presented to our brother, with an earnest expression of our sorrow. And—

"*That* a memorial page be entered upon the printed proceedings of this Grand Lodge for the year 1895."

The trustees of the charity fund reported that the annual dues of many lodges are too small, and it was proposed to establish a minimum rate of dues, but a substitute was adopted, providing that no lodge should have any aid from the Charity Fund whose dues are less than \$2.50, unless it should be made to appear that the members had contributed during the year for lodge purposes (including charity) an aggregate sum equal to \$2.50 per member.

The Report on Correspondence (134 pp.) was presented by Bro. J. C. W. COXE, to which he has added a capital index by subjects. In this connection, he quotes from our report in 1894 and adds:

"This statement as to the value of an index is none too strong, and we naturally turn to the close of this report to see how faithfully precept is enforced by example; but only to experience a disappointment; *no index is given*. It may be that it will be given at the close of the volume; this issue is 'part 1, vol. xv,' but meantime much valuable matter is not readily accessible to the busy worker. We beg to call attention to the fact that our report of last year was carefully indexed as to all the most important matters therein discussed or referred. If any other has precedence of us in this respect, we are not at present aware of it."

He will have found from our 1895 Proceedings that his surmise is correct. That report closed a volume, and Bro. BERRY prepared and printed an Index to the volume. As two years' Proceedings make a volume now, we concluded that such an Index answers the purpose better than a yearly Index, unless, when the volume is complete, a new one for the whole volume is prepared. We shall, however, watch the result of the experiment which he is the first to try.

We quote the following as giving the correct mode of procedure when ac-

tion of the lodge is reversed on appeal, concurring, however, in the whole extract:

"Here is a decision from which we must in part dissent, with the utmost respect to the Committee on Jurisprudence, which approved. Charges were preferred against a member, and the lodge called for trial. No quorum appearing, another day was set for trial, at which time there was a quorum; but the charges had been mislaid, or lost. The defendant offered to go to trial on the copy of the charges furnished to him, but the Master held that the copy could not be used, and declared the charges dismissed.' The Grand Master overruled this decision (rightly, we think, since no mere technicality should suffice to defeat justice), holding that a confessedly true copy of the original charges was a competent basis for procedure without the seal of the lodge attached thereto. But this further record appears:

"'I ordered that the part of the minutes relating to the dismissal of the charges should be expunged, and the trial regularly had upon the copy.'

"Here we are compelled to part company from the Grand Master. We question his right to order the expunging of the record. The record was right, as a matter of fact; the error in law should have been corrected by an additional record embodying the decision of the Grand Master, in which case the minutes would have shown the whole truth, as the expunged record does not."

Noting a remark on physical qualification, we desire to submit to him a question, after quoting from the ancient charges:

"No Master should take an apprentice" * * "unless he be a perfect youth, having no maim or defect in his body, that may render him incapable of learning the art of serving his Master's Lord, and of being made a brother and then a Fellow Craft in due time" * * "that so, when otherwise qualified, he may arrive at the honor of being the Warden, and then the Master of the lodge, the Grand Warden, and at length the Grand Master of all the lodges, according to his merit."

Do the words following "perfect youth," modify the term "perfect"? Do they not mean that he must have no such defect as will render him incapable, &c., and do they not imply that though he may have some defect, yet if it does not render him incapable, &c., he is eligible? If so, does it not follow that if now he has no such defect, &c., as will prevent his doing all masonic work from Entered Apprentice to Grand Master, he is eligible?

We have often suggested this to the "perfectionists," and though we have called, yet "they answered not again"! We have been so tired of seeing these words "perfect youth" used, that only masonic courtesy has prevented our expressing our belief that the users of them never read the charge in question. While we put these questions to Bro. COXE, (because we have just read something that made us think of them) we should be very glad to have the views of all our co-reviewers. The doctrine depends upon the meaning of these words, and it would seem as if a consensus of opinion might be obtained by a discussion.

The following might be supposed to come from Maine:

"A resolution to prohibit the election or appointment to any office in the Grand Lodge or any subordinate lodge of one engaged, either as principal or employe, in the liquor traffic was pronounced 'unconstitutional,' and met its Waterloo. We hope that 'up and at 'em guards,' will be the motto of Bro. Edwards and those who sympathize with him until the constitution contains the prohibition which his resolution failed to secure. Moral and social virtues promoted in a lodge over which a liquor seller presides! What a grim sarcasm on virtue!"

We agree with him in the following, except the middle part of it; as to that, history is against him:

"The question curiously jumbles things which are essentially different, having really nothing in common except a name. A Master who has served a term is a Past Master beyond doubt; he is no more truly a Past Master by virtue of a degree in a Past Master's lodge—which is to us an unmeaning absurdity, being no part of ancient craft Masonry, and having neither a warrant of ancient usage nor common sense; while the degree so called in Capitular Masonry has nothing whatever to do with Symbolic Masonry, and should properly be styled the degree of 'Passed Master' instead of 'Past Master.'"

His mention of "Cypher Keys" reminds us that we have omitted to copy one item in the body of the Proceedings, so we will do it now:

"Bro. Oadham (10) presented to the Grand Lodge Library an old ritual of Symbolic Masonry which he had received during his recent visit to England, giving a very interesting account of his holding a lodge on ship-board, on the high seas, and extending relief to a poor mariner, a member of the fraternity.

"On motion of Past Grand Master Granger, the Grand Lodge accepted the same with a rising vote."

He courteously reprehends Bro. ROBBINS, of Illinois, for discourtesy in his remarks in relation to the Chairman of the New York Committee which reported in favor of the recognition of the Gran Dieta. We started to do so last year, but refrained, on account of the high esteem in which we have held Bro. ROBBINS for many years. That the reproof of Bro. COXE is just, is beyond question; and the worst of it all is that such expressions as the one he used, lower Bro. R. in the estimation of all who read.

In his review of Maine (1894) he announces the death of Bro. Fox, in mourning lines.

He says further:

"Referring to Bro. Parvin's words concerning the value of the correspondence reports, he cordially approves, and says of Bro. Parvin:

"In all he has prepared *nineteen* reports, and unless we mistake the Masonry of the future, his fame as a mason will find in them its most enduring basis."

"To this Bro. Parvin demurs in the following note:

"Where is the 'Iowa Masonry' in which I have been a leading factor since its introduction into Iowa, November, 1840? Where is the Grand Lodge of Iowa, of whose organizers I alone remain, and in the building of which I have ever been the foremost leader? Where is the Iowa masonic library which I founded and have built? Where is the building, the only

one of the kind ever erected and built upon my suggestion and through my influence? It is these, and not my reports on *correspondence*, upon which what fame I may have will rest. My reports are conceded of the first-class, and among the best, but other reporters, I can name a dozen, of ten, twenty, and thirty years ago, equal to any of to-day, are forgotten, and their names not known to Bro. Drummond or to my successor.'

"The afternoon of the twentieth century may decide the issue, but will not fail to do Bro. Parvin full justice, and accord him high and deserved honor as a wise and accomplished Freemason."

In our opinion, his "What is's" fifty years hence will have passed from memory, especially of the masons outside of Iowa, while expositions of masonic law, usage, polity, symbolism, &c., will be studied (as we study the "old Masters" now) and his opinions will be cited as authority throughout the masonic world. When he says that he can name a dozen of ten, twenty, and thirty years ago whose names are not known to us, he shows that he "is not acquainted with our family!"

We are glad to find that Bro. Cox holds that the legislation of his Grand Lodge in relation to non-affiliates involves an invasion of masonic rights.

Referring to similar legislation in Montana, he says:

"We confess to no sympathy with this kind of legislation. It harmonizes with a general trend to-day, from which there will, we believe, soon set in a reaction. We are not an apologist for non-affiliation; but the denial of all rights to non-affiliates goes much further than we are prepared to recognize as just and right. The current legislation fails to recognize the distinction between lodge membership and masonic life. The two are not identical. The loss of lodge privileges may properly follow the severing of lodge membership, but the loss of masonic life can only properly follow as a penalty upon trial and conviction for masonic crime. To declare non-affiliation to be a masonic crime is 'to confound the reason and dumbfound the judgment.' It is titling mint, anise, and cummin to the neglect of the weightier matters of the law. When trifles are called crimes, crimes are likely to be considered as trifles. Justice may be blindfolded, but she should not be drugged. When a close corporation makes itself the guardian of any man's conscience righteousness is not likely to be exalted. The tendency of these severe measures will be found to be repellant rather than attractive; disintegrating rather than conservative. The remedy for non-affiliation must be sought elsewhere; two wrongs never yet made one right, nor can an injustice be counted on to rectify a mistake. Non-affiliation is frequently—ordinarily, if you please—a mistake; it is an outrage to call it a crime."

We hope that the masons of his jurisdiction will read this carefully.

We have noted other portions of this report for discussion, but must now leave it—yet very reluctantly.

KANSAS, 1896.

The address of the Grand Master (JAMES H. McCall) is a business-like document, giving a clear statement of his official acts and decisions, with recommendations forcibly supported with his reasons.

He notes with regret the absence of Past Grand Masters OWEN A. BASSETT, who had been obliged to have one of his legs amputated, and JOHN M. PRICE on account of failing health.

He had granted quite a number of dispensations, but had declined to issue one:

“To appear as a lodge to clear up ruins of a hall after a fire.

“To parade on Decoration Day.

“To attend a picnic and sporting carnival.

“To permit a candidate for the mysteries of Masonry to withdraw his petition after it had been referred to a committee.”

This action was correct in all four cases, though it seems that Decoration Day is coming to be a day of observance of a National character and extent: if it comes to that, it is proper, in our judgment, for masons to observe it as such.

We wish that the following decision made by him was law everywhere, as we think it ought to be:

“The Committee on Investigation, on all petitions received by a lodge, shall make an oral report, and no record shall be made, either on the petition or with the proceedings, indicating the nature of such report.”

He had visited twenty-five lodges, all of which, with one exception, were rendering the work in conformity to the Grand Lodge standard, except one, which had added features to make it more dramatic and more beautiful: and the Grand Master well says:

“This Grand Lodge has spent much time and money in attempting to secure uniformity of work in the lodges throughout the jurisdiction, and if each lodge should be permitted to incorporate its own peculiar ideas as to work, all this time and money would have been spent in vain. Free-masonry has existed from time immemorial because no innovations upon its usages, customs and landmarks have been permitted, and strict compliance with the constitution, laws, rules and edicts of the Grand Lodge should be required from all its constituents.”

Referring to the Masonic Home project he says:

“I have given the subject a great deal of thought and careful investigation since my induction into office, and in the month of December last sent to the Master of each lodge a list of questions as to the number of masons and widows or orphans who were in need of better care and protection than could be afforded them by the lodge; the amount of annual dues paid by each member; the financial condition of the lodge. Reports received from 245 lodges show 172 in good financial condition; forty-seven without either money or debt; twenty-six financially crippled or in debt. Seventy-one masons' widows and orphans have received relief, twenty-one of whom are now in absolute need of such care and attention as could only be given them in a Home. Most of them are in advanced years, and having no immediate friends or relatives able to help them, and the lodges financially unable to provide for their proper care. In considering the above statistics it must be remembered that 106 lodges have as yet made no reply to my request.”

Whether it is good business to build a Masonic Home for thirty widows

and orphans, rather than take care of them elsewhere, we doubt: this question, however, is one to be decided by the masons of each jurisdiction, for they alone can have knowledge of the elements which, in their locality, enter into the determination of this question.

He urges as the next matter of importance the creation of a Masonic Library.

The Grand Secretary (ALBERT K. WILSON) had been a busy man—*how* busy few can fully appreciate. In addition to getting rid of a superabundance of chaos which he found on hand, he had reprinted Volume II of the Proceedings, covering four years, 1866 to 1869. The following is of interest:

"A summary of the abstract from the organization of the Grand Lodge to January 1, 1895, shows the following:

Initiated.....	25,273
Passed.....	22,669
Raised.....	22,439
Admitted.....	15,654
Restored.....	1,929
Dimitted.....	16,319
Deaths.....	3,174
Suspended.....	6,794
Expelled.....	347 "

He urges the preparation of a Grand Lodge Register. We have not been of the opinion that such a work is worth its cost, but he says:

"The mutations of time make it highly desirable that this information be gathered before the inevitable transitions of life shall have forever silenced the tongues that may now speak to the pages that shall become our history. In correspondence with the Grand Secretaries of other jurisdictions, I find that in many states such a registry has been prepared, and that its great value and its usefulness have not alone been confined to the purposes of the craft, but have been of incalculable service to the descendants of prominent masons in the older states in matters of biographies and estates."

Returns were delayed, because, under the by-laws of the lodges, the treasurers held that they cannot pay Grand Lodge dues without a vote of the lodge; but he suggests that the law of the Grand Lodge is superior to the by-laws: so we say, and the Treasurer expressly recognizes that fact when he is installed.

He makes a report on the library: his making it will have the effect of adding to the library: he reports a full set of Maine Proceedings, except Vol. II of our reprint: we predict that the publication of this fact will have the effect of filling *that* gap if no more. We suggest to him to arrange with the other Grand Bodies to pool their Proceedings in the Grand Lodge Library, allowing their members the same use of it: we do this in Maine and it works admirably.

The Grand Orator, HORACE W. GLEASON, delivered a brief but very excellent address.

* It appearing that Bro. BASSETT had incurred a bill for surgical and medical

treatment and nursing to the amount of \$562.75, and that the Grand Chapter had appropriated \$200 towards it, the Grand Lodge, by a unanimous vote, made an appropriation to pay the balance.

Ivy Leaf Chapter, No. 75, O. E. S., tendered a reception to the members of the Grand Lodge, which was accepted and due acknowledgment directed to be made. In Maine, we cannot indulge in such luxuries: all our Grand Bodies meet the same week, and from Tuesday A. M. at seven, till Thursday night at twelve, the time is continuously taken up.

This Grand Lodge has a Council of Administration, which can meet to transact business during the recess, or agree to it by correspondence. We have not examined the details of the plan, and therefore cannot speak of its merits.

The Wisconsin Relief Proposition was rejected, the committee saying:

"We cannot help but conclude that the adoption of the proposition would open the way for an innovation, if it would not primarily be such. The plan of masonic charity, that is, the manner of its dissemination and the obligation of brother to brother, may be termed a landmark, and anything tending toward its removal or material change should be considered very critically. While it is true that Masonry is a charitable institution, its charity is not given like that of any other fraternity. It is not a question of the dollars and cents of return for the dollars and cents invested. The only thing that gauges masonic charity is worthiness coupled with need, and this considered with the ability of the donor. It is not an institution in which by the payment of a stipulated sum in dues the member knows just how much he will receive in 'benefits' when disabled. If such a thing should be allowed to enter the masonic institution Masonry would cease to be Masonry, and sink to the level of modern charitable associations, in which for a specified investment there is a stipulated monetary return."

BRO. MATTHEW M. MILLER submitted a special report for the Committee on Correspondence, recommending the recognition of the GRAN DIETA of Mexico, and the recommendation was adopted. It is a very able and exhaustive report, and we shall make free use of it when we come to discuss the same question, and, therefore, will not notice it further at this time.

The question of the dues of an insane member was before the Grand Lodge: we do not understand the action taken: we have already, however, expressed our views.

The report on Correspondence (200 pp.) was presented by Bro. MATTHEW M. MILLER. It maintains the high character of his former reports and places him in the front rank. When such men as VAUX and WHEELER and CONNOR, and others drop out, it is reassuring to find younger men taking their places, who evince the same love for the work, the same ability, the same disposition to study and the same care in the preparation of these reports, that made those brethren *primos inter pares*.

BRO. PILLANS having inquired if the singing of "America" by the Grand Lodge of Iowa, was not "a little Frenchy," Bro. MILLER replies:

"Now, Bro. Pillans, that is too bad. Here we are right on the verge of a war with our ancient foe. We have been trying to get our courage up to the sticking point of waiving age and going as — sutler — or in some other position where former disabilities will not count, and to get such a suggestion from Alabama dampens our ardor. Why, Bro. P., the echo of H. Clay Armstrong's patriotic speech at Topeka last year is ringing in our Kansas ears yet. Stand up, Bro. P., and let us join our voices in the prayer of that grand ode to—

"Our Father's God, to Thee,
Author of Liberty."

"It is good enough to sing *anywhere*, and the masonic body, whatever be its name or rite, never derogates from its dignity one iota in singing such a patriotic and reverential song as the 'American National Hymn.'"

It may be that hearing it sung at a Fourth of July Sunday School celebration when a boy, or our almost reverence for the author, who has so recently died, unduly affects us, but we are enthusiastically with Bro. MILLER.

The fact that the Grand Lodge of British Columbia went to church and listened to a sermon by V. W. Bro. JOHN A. LOGAN, leads him to say:

"The latter reminds us of—we came near saying—an 'epistle to the Corinthians,' but it was not an epistle. It was, however, an address at Corinth (or within shooting distance,) and by Bro. John A. Logan. Very Worshipful was not then prefixed to his name, nor were his remarks very worshipful either, for that matter. He addressed his auditors in broad Anglo-Saxon, eloquently, pungently, and effectively. We trust our V. W. Bro. John A. Logan's sermon will be stamped upon the minds of his hearers as effectively as the address of the brother of the same name is, upon those of his brigade who listened to it thirty-three years ago."

We extract this item in relation to Cuba:

"Under date of March 28, 1895, Bro. Francisco de P. Rodriguez, chairman Committee on Correspondence, wrote us a personal letter in reference to our review of Cuba, in which he announced that their 'annual session had just taken place,' and that his report, when published, although submitted without, would contain a later written review of the Kansas Proceedings for 1895."

He says:

"We have no copy of the constitution of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, but presume there must be a provision authorizing such membership, as otherwise we know of no masonic basis from which such rule would follow. How is it, Bro. S.?"

There is a provision that a Past Master, member of a subordinate lodge, is a member of the Grand Lodge. It is held that this means a *Past Master*, without regard to where he acquired the rank. Don't you concur in this, Bro. MILLER?

He calls attention to the fact that a visitor to an English lodge cannot be admitted unless he is vouched for as a regular mason by some brother to whom he is personally known, or after due examination, and the production of the certificate of his Grand Lodge, or other proper vouchers, that he was made in a regular lodge. Some years ago these vouchers were decried in

some quarters, but only because their office, was not understood, viz; to show that a man who has proved himself to be a mason was made in a regular lodge.

In his review of Illinois, he prods some of Bro. ROBBINS's pet ideas with a pretty sharp stick, and we shall look with much interest for the next reports of these two brethren.

His printer has made him invent a fourth degree of comparison—the "speculative"!

We are not sure that the term is not an apt one in these days, but we are a little puzzled as to its place in the series.

In relation to Grand Representatives, he says:

"We have in former reports expressed our views fully. Honors will never be so easy with the writer that he will not have a personal gratification in the fact that he represents the jurisdiction in which he first made his appearance, and where he was 'made' masonically. This may be 'sentiment,' but connected with sentiment of like character are some of the noblest emotions to which the human heart is subject. It may not demonstrate the utility of the system—there are lots of things in our every day life that could be dispensed with on the same ground of utility, that we cling to with the adhesiveness of young lovers. Because some of our brethren wear frills on their shirts, or collars of immense amplitude or altitude, we would not have them lay them aside as 'useless' or a 'detriment,' in fact our brethren would not look natural to us if they did lay them aside. Because some of the Grand Lodges, having once acknowledged with due solemnity and importance the sovereignty of a Grand Body, continue to do so whenever a re-appointment is made, is no reason why objection should be made to the custom, on the score that it subserves no useful purpose. The original 'recognition' served a purpose—the representative standing for the 'entity' represented, and was of value as defining the status of the body recognized: does it follow that the courtesy of the later ones fulfills no useful purpose?"

In his review of Maine (1895) he commends the reading of Grand Master BURBANK's address to all who can get access to the Maine Proceedings.

He gives from Bro. BURNHAM's Historical Address a concise abstract of the history of our Grand Lodge. He adds:

"We note in the historial sketches of the Grand Masters that the first on the list, William King, was Governor of the State at time he so acted. Of the second Grand Master, Simon Greenleaf by name, after citing a number of *honors*, we find these words: 'Author of a work upon evidence.' We submit our impression that the fact that he was a 'Royal Professor of the Dane Law School,' 'Reporter of Decisions of the Supreme Court,' 'Member of Constitutional Convention,' or even 'Representative in the Legislature,' will never add any fame to the author of 'Greenleaf's Evidence.'"

* * * * *

"M. W. Bro. Hiram Chase, the senior Past Grand Master of Maine, then delivered an interesting account, containing reminiscences of early members. He gives the names of the officers of the Grand Lodge of 1851—the first he attended—of whom he sadly says: 'I find myself again standing in the Grand Lodge of Maine, with not one of those early companions by my side. They have all gone. Of that long list, not one now lives.'"

Referring to the "oration," he says:

"Under the title, 'The Ritual,' is contained some very excellent thoughts and suggestions. One of the approved decisions of the Grand Lodge of Maine, at its 1895 session, was this: 'It is not permissible for officers of a lodge to wear robes,' which we mention to show the pertinency of later remarks. Of course, these things are mainly a matter of taste. We have seen King Solomon arrayed in all his glory with royal robes, jewels, crown and sceptre; we have also seen his regal breast covered with a tin square, his majesty arrayed in his shirtsleeves—the latter unlaundered—without a collar on, and bearing several days' evidences that the 'barber of his majesty's household' had a felon on the forefinger of his right hand, or was otherwise incapacitated for duty; we have likewise seen his majesty arrayed in faultless linen, in the full dress of Nineteenth Century refinement, his manly bosom covered with flowers and jewels. Personally, we like to see a kingly character, represented in kingly apparel, and the accustomed surroundings indicating the reality of the character assumed, but we heartily agree with Bro. D. in the gist of the quotations which follow this, that the manner must be subordinate to the precepts or principles to be inculcated, and in his calling back the 'high' ritualists to the first principles of masonic instruction."

Does not this lead to the conclusion that the "golden mean," sanctioned and prescribed by masonic usage, is just about right? If Bro. ROBBINS should indict the "higher degrees" for being the cause of this tendency in the lodge we should not wish to be counsel in the defence!

He says that "classes of candidates" are not known in Kansas.

He says:

"The Grand Lodge, by its action, demonstrated that though its speed is not rapid enough to cause dizziness, still it does move. A candidate was rejected seven years before in Maine. Five years later he was made a mason in Canada, 'in accordance with the law and regulation of that jurisdiction, where he then was residing.' Upon motion the Grand Master was empowered and instructed, if satisfied the candidate was guiltless of deceit or fraud, 'to allow the said brother' masonic recognition. Tighten the belt of fraternal courtesy a little more, Bro. D., and the machinery will run smoother yet."

Unless something very unexpected prevents, he will find our answer in a report from another committee.

We commend the following to the careful consideration of all masons:

"Generally speaking, 'the supremacy of a Grand Lodge within its own jurisdiction is conceded,' but we think the expression capable of one limitation on the line of the thought under consideration. 'The universelle longage of masonnes' (as the Leland manuscript characterizes it) was before Grand Lodges. It is one of the secrets that cannot be divulged, which form the basis of the twenty-third landmark. It belongs to the body of Masonry, and the power does not exist by which it can be disclosed except through the instrumentality of the instructive tongue, the attentive ear and the faithful breast. Each mason, ere he is taught this language, enters into engagements which are sacred and inviolable, never (by any method save in like manner as he was taught) to disclose the same. These engagements are not to a Master, a lodge, or to a Grand Lodge, but they are taken to the General Body of Masonry, under God, a supreme power that never delegated to any Grand Lodge, Lodge or Mason the right to change, vary or

modify them to any extent. Furthermore, this 'language' is not the exclusive possession of the Grand Lodge of Ohio; it belongs to the craft universal, and the Grand Lodge of Ohio or Kansas, or any other Grand Lodge, has no right, moral, legal or masonic, by print or other interdicted method, to possibly impair the right of every member of the craft to make the use thereof as against profanes exclusive."

We may not agree with him in his application of it, because after a careful examination of the usages as far back as we can trace them, we incline to the opinion that the language of qualification or limitation, which follows the absolute proposition, were intended to cover the very question under discussion.

We would like to notice other matters in this report, but our time is exhausted, and our manuscript must go to the printer.

KENTUCKY, 1895.

Very concise and yet clear is the statement of his official acts by Grand Master HENRY H. HOLEMAN.

Peace and harmony had prevailed at home and with other Grand Lodges. He speaks eloquently in behalf of the "Home."

His decisions are based upon local law, but the concluding part of the following depends upon fundamental law, and it is quoted because in a few jurisdictions the opposite is held:

"The law requires the ballot spread the second time when only one black ball is cast. It also allows the member casting the black ball to withdraw the same publicly by the second stated meeting thereafter. A black ball was so withdrawn, but later than the second stated meeting after it was cast, and the candidate was initiated. Held—The candidate is not supposed to know the law, and having acted in good faith and having been initiated in a regular lodge, he is a regular mason."

The question of trying a Master for unmasonic conduct was before the Grand Lodge. Bro. GRANT, for the committee, made a report in which he says:

"The prevailing opinion appears to be in harmony with our Kentucky laws, namely, that the subordinate lodge has no power to try its Master for any offence, however heinous, during his term of office, because he should be tried by his peers! Not much 'meet upon the level' in that."

Omit "because" and all after it and the statement is correct. The "peers" business is simply nonsense. The reason is because he is the ruler and governor of the lodge, "at his will and pleasure," subject only to answer to the Grand Lodge for an abuse of his power. The attempt to provide for his trial failed, perhaps because the proposed law gave to the Grand Master the power of expulsion, but subject to appeal. The constant agitation of this matter literally makes us tired. The law in Maine and Massa-

chusetts has worked admirably; let the Grand Master investigate any complaint, and if he finds cause suspend the Master from his masonic rights till the meeting of the Grand Lodge and then try him finally. See our remarks in a previous part of this report.

The Grand Lodge last year determined to celebrate its centennial by the erection of a Home and Infirmary "for aged, infirm and penniless brother masons" and appointed a committee to obtain subscriptions, and \$12,636.75 had been subscribed.

The committee was continued and authorized to canvass the state.

The following was adopted:

"WHEREAS, The retailing of spirituous liquors has been so abused as to become a great evil in the social life of our country, so that the prosecution of that business by a Master Mason is inconsistent with his profession of moral character and conduct and calculated to bring the order into public disrepute; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That this Grand Lodge disapprove the conducting of such business by a Master Mason."

The Report on Correspondence, (105 pp.) was presented by Bro. WILLIAM W. CLARKE.

We do not agree in the following:

"It is the duty of a lodge to bury, with masonic honors, its deceased members, if so requested by them before they die, or if the request is made after death by a member of the family. A mason is always in good standing against whom no charges are pending. If, therefore, he dies in good standing, we question the right of a lodge by any act to question his status after death."

We do not agree to his definition of "good standing" so far as it relates to burial or charity. We believe that the lodge has the right as well as the power to determine whether a deceased brother was, when he died, worthy of the honors of Masonry.

But we heartily endorse the following:

"This committee agrees with the committee in its dissent as to that decision wherein the Grand Master held that 'the funds of the lodge could not be used to pay the burial expenses of a suspended mason whose family, by his death, were left in destitute circumstances.' It is true, as held by the Grand Master, that 'the fund of the lodge is a sacred fund,' and we may be willing to go with him to the extent of also saying that it 'should be used only for purely masonic purposes,' but we cannot admit that 'the very nature of the Institution would naturally prohibit going outside the fraternity to dispense its charity.' On the other hand we believe that wherever suffering and want is found there is found an opportunity for the exercise of masonic charity."

And this:

"We have never understood that the Past Master's degree was necessary to the validity of a degree. We hold that a Master has the right to ask any Master Mason to confer a degree; and we further hold that, in the absence of the Master, the Senior Warden, and, in the absence of both, the Junior

Warden, succeeds to all the duties of the Master, except that of installing the officers of a lodge.”

He claims to be the author of the doctrine held by a *very* few others, that a rejection does not imply unfitness, “but nothing more than that he was obnoxious to some member of the objecting lodge.” We think that he must have forgotten the charge to an Entered Apprentice. We are glad, however, to have his admission that he is the author of this doctrine, thereby admitting by implication (as is the fact) that the previous doctrine and usage of Masonry were the other way.

We believe the following may be true of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, which, as we remember, is not a Sovereign Grand Lodge, according to the original plan of a Grand Lodge and as almost all other Grand Lodges are: that is, as we infer from Bro. CLARKE’S remarks, and as we remember, it cannot alter and amend its constitution at its pleasure, but only by submitting the proposed amendment to the lodges for their decision; so that, as he says, the power resides in the lodges. But it is otherwise in New Hampshire, the report of whose Grand Lodge committee he was criticising, and in most of the other Grand Lodges:

“We are not prepared to subscribe to this doctrine; indeed, we seriously doubt whether, in the nature of things, such a principle can be predicated of any body composed of delegates or representatives. If it be so constituted, then its members are responsible to the bodies whose representatives they are and which has delegated them to act in their place and for them, and which has the right to prescribe their actions and dictate their course. The representative, himself, has no authority except that derived from the body which he represents. His agency being a general one, he may use his discretion except in those matters in which he has been specially instructed, but in such matters he must obey instructions. In other words, the representative of a *constituent* lodge is simply the agent of that lodge through which it acts and speaks. A lodge might exist, certainly have existed, without a Grand Lodge, but a Grand Lodge can have no existence without constituents—subordinate lodges. The constitution of a Grand Lodge is not a grant of power to the subordinate lodge; *ex vi termini* it could not be, else it would cease to be a constitution and would become a grant or gift. The limitations upon the power of Grand Lodges are not voluntary surrenders of authority but are restrictions placed upon it by its constituents. The authority of Grand Lodges are not inherent, but are such as are granted to it by the lodges composing it.”

The representative of a lodge should obey its instructions, but if he should not, he could be tried for it in most jurisdictions by the Grand Lodge. The representative gets his powers from the Grand Lodge constitution and the general masonic law, a part of which is that he ought to obey the instructions given him, on any particular subject, by his lodge, provided they are not in conflict with the law of the Grand Lodge. His position that a Grand Lodge cannot exist without subordinate lodges is correct only in those jurisdictions in which the constitution so provides, either expressly or by necessary implication. In Ohio, they will tell him that a lodge cannot exist

without the existence of a Grand Lodge from which it holds a charter: we agree that it can *exist*, but cannot work till it goes under the government of a Grand Lodge.

The following would indicate that he has not carefully studied the early history of Grand Lodges, when it was assumed that the "Old Constitutions" were in force in every Grand Lodge until they were changed:

"We can hardly imagine a Grand Lodge without a constitution. We know of no common law by which they could act or be governed or enact laws without such authority was *granted* in its constitution. It is true that a provision of the constitution may be changed or a new constitution be adopted, but it can only be done by the lodges acting through their agents, and none others would have authority to act in such a manner. It is also true, as stated, that 'constitutions are of modern date,' but this committee might have gone further, and, in support of what is here being urged, have also stated that Grand Lodges are also of modern date."

However, if we are correct in relation to the Constitution of his Grand Lodge, we are at cross purposes in this discussion, as he is speaking about one kind of a Grand Lodge, and we of one of precisely an opposite character.

He holds that "the rejection of a candidate does not render him unworthy." So far as we have read, no one has ever claimed the contrary. The suspension or expulsion of a brother does not "render him unworthy"; it is the decision of the proper tribunal that he is unworthy to *remain* a mason, precisely as a rejection is a decision of the proper tribunal that the candidate is unworthy to become a mason.

In his review of Maine (1895) he says:

"The address of the Grand Master is in every respect admirable. We sincerely regret that the wise and manly words of his conclusion will not be read by *all* masons."

He says further:

"We beg to courteously differ from our learned brother. The Grand Lodge of Kentucky has never claimed the right to admit to membership in Kentucky lodges the suspended masons of other jurisdictions who become residents in that state.' The lodge which suspends a mason has jurisdiction of him because he has a masonic *status*, and was therein disciplined, and the difference between a rejected candidate and a mason who has been suspended is *toto cælo*."

We did not say that Kentucky had claimed such right: we said that the declaration of its committee covers that claim fully, and it does. His attempted distinction between the two cases, on the ground that one gives him a *status*, and the other does not, is merely begging the question. He says:

"Our good brother seems to lose his temper when an argument is turned against him. Quoting a statement from our last report, he adds: 'Then he would tell the brother what is not true.' This is not becoming language for one brother to use towards another, and we will not believe that Bro. Drummond meant it in an offensive sense until he so avows, and that, we believe, he will not do."

If we do lose our temper in such a case, this one is not an illustration of it. We did not perceive that any argument of ours had been turned against us, and moreover did not lose our temper in the least. Nor do we see any occasion for our brother's construing our words in an offensive sense; to make them offensive, they require an addition; perhaps, as Tony Weller said, "correct" instead of "true" would have been "a more tenderer word," but we are obtuse enough not to be able to see wherein one word is more "becoming" than the other.

He says further:

"But let us look one moment at the other side of this matter. By what right does a Grand Lodge prescribe that a mason, regularly made in a regular lodge of another jurisdiction, shall be denied the right to visit its lodges, if, at any time in the past, that mason had been rejected by one of its lodges? If legally made a mason—or if the brother prefers the term lawfully—if lawfully made a mason, is he not a mason? And if made a mason according to the laws of the jurisdiction when initiated in a regular lodge, will he not be lawfully or legally made?"

If Kentucky has the right, as Bro. CLARKE claims for her, to make masons of any resident of her jurisdiction, whether of rejected candidates or of expelled or suspended masons, (for the principle as stated covers the latter as well as the former, and if correct must cover them) Maine has the right to say who shall visit *her* lodges or be recognized as masons in *her* jurisdiction: the Kentucky declaration in principle concedes this. But Bro. CLARKE says in effect, that the declaration is too broad, and there are limitations to it: well, this is one step taken in the right direction: whether rejected candidates do not properly make another step will be discussed in another report, to which we refer him.

MANITOBA, 1895.

Two special communications were held, each to lay the corner stone of a church; the Grand Lodge was opened in ample form, performed the ceremonies in the usual manner and closed in ample form.

Of the condition of the craft, the Grand Master (THOMAS TWEED) says:

"A reference to the several reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters shows an increase of membership during the year. The prevailing financial depression, however, has doubtless had the effect of preventing many worthy men from seeking admission to our beloved institution. This is to be regretted, yet we have the knowledge that our membership is united, and that the greatest harmony exists all over our wide jurisdiction. I am hopeful that with the now returning tide of prosperity, our prospects will be materially brightened. I would urge upon subordinate lodges the necessity of sufficiently insuring their property, and of collecting the dues more promptly, and would suggest the advisability, in the general interests of Masonry in this jurisdiction, of the abolition or reduction of affiliation fees."

Of public installations, he said:

"In December last I received an application from Alberta Lodge, No. 37, for a dispensation to install its officers in public. While quite aware that this practice prevails in some of the less conservative jurisdictions of the United States, I was at a loss to see how the provisions of our constitution, governing the ceremony of installation, could be properly carried out in the presence of the public; I therefore refused to grant the dispensation."

Our M. W. Brother is unfortunate in his statement: for "some," accuracy would have compelled him to write "all save two or possibly three": having corrected that error we scarcely think he would claim all the conservatism is centered in those three!

But he says further:

"I cannot do better than to quote here what the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey has since said on this subject:—

"It will be observed that applications continue to be made every year for dispensations for public installations of officers; seldom if at all, is any real or abiding good accomplished by these demonstrations—the ritual for which, by reason of the circumstances, is both abbreviated and modified, and, at the same time, is not improved, as we know, but on the contrary *decidedly marred* by the unnecessary changes. A long line of precedents both venerable and honorable, is, to my mind, almost the only justification for granting dispensations of this character. I am pleased to note, however, that the number of applications does not increase, and I trust that the day is coming when the brethren will realize that the best interests of the masonic fraternity will be promoted and served by the invariable performance of its installation ceremonies, which are, in a sense, when fully and properly rendered, some of the most important of all our realistic observances within the tyled lodge, and will, therefore, voluntarily cease to seek for dispensations to authorize their disclosure, or partial disclosure to the uninitiated."

As against the testimony of the Grand Master of New Jersey we set the unanimous statement to the contrary of every other witness, who has had knowledge by actual observation and experience.

We are also utterly at a loss to know what our New Jersey brother means by changes in the ritual. They must have one in New Jersey peculiar to themselves. We are familiar with the ritual in a large number of jurisdictions, and we desire to assure our Manitoba brethren that there is not the slightest change in the rituals used at public installations from that used at installations in the lodge. All is printed, (even in Pennsylvania) except what cannot be performed in a lodge of Master Masons; and that part, whether the installation is in a lodge or out of it, is always performed elsewhere.

Our New Jersey brother may feel complimented at being thus quoted, but we can see the look of amazement and disgust on his face when he reads that the brother quoting him granted dispensations to lodges to attend divine worship and even "to wear regalia at a conversazione"!

These reports of the District Deputies show a very faithful and energetic performance of duties by these officers.

We greatly regret to learn of the burning of the Masonic Temple at Win-

Winnipeg, with the library and nearly all the other property of the Grand Lodge, including the Proceedings of 1895, which had just come from the printer:

The Grand Master says:

"On the 16th of November, 1894, this jurisdiction in general, and the Winnipeg brethren in particular, sustained a severe loss by the disastrous fire which destroyed the building occupied by them. Many of the losses are irreparable, especially the records and library. With characteristic energy the brethren of the various city lodges, and of the other branches of Masonry, set to work to raise funds for the new Masonic Temple, and I am informed have met with most gratifying success. Our Grand Secretary will doubtless be prepared to go more particularly into the details of the project. Suffice at this time for me to say that ere long a fitting edifice will be erected and dedicated to Masonry, which will be alike a credit to the city and a monument to the zeal of the brethren of Winnipeg."

The Librarian says:

"A few days after the fire of November 16, 1894, which destroyed the library and nearly all the other property of the Grand Lodge, I addressed a letter to the Grand Secretary of each of our sister Grand Lodges, and to other brethren at home and abroad, advising them of our loss, and invoking their assistance, in as far as possible, repairing it. The responses were most prompt and gratifying, each mail and express bringing donations until at the present time our vault is filled with a valuable collection of masonic and other books. A catalogue containing a list of these donations will be published at the earliest date possible, and the names of the donors will appear therein."

And the Board of General Purposes adds:

"Your Board very much regret to report that owing to the fire at the Western Canada Block, in the city of Winnipeg, on November 16th, 1894, the Library, the Minute Books of Grand Lodge and of the Board of General Purposes, and the various committees, together with all the property of the Grand Lodge, except the Membership Registers, were destroyed. Immediate steps were taken by the Grand Secretary, by communicating with brethren at home and abroad, to lay the foundation of a new library, and your Board is pleased to learn that his efforts in that direction have met with great success."

A practice, prevailing in some jurisdictions, for which we have never been able to find any warrant in the ancient usages of the craft, and which has always seemed to us inconsistent with first principles also, was thus repudiated by the Grand Lodge:

"In reference to decision number one, of M. W. Bro. D. J. Goggin, Grand Master, as contained in his address to Grand Lodge, this committee, without consideration of the question of prerogative, is of the opinion that there is no power under the constitution for one lodge to confer the degree of Entered Apprentice at the request of another lodge, and it is further the opinion of this committee that such degree can only be conferred by the lodge to which the petition for initiation was presented, and by which the petitioner was accepted."

There was no Report on Correspondence in consequence of the loss of the Proceedings by the fire and the resulting confusion.

The Committee on the Grand Master's address say:

"Your committee strongly concurs with the Grand Master in refusing to grant dispensations for public installations, and is pleased to note that the decision of the Grand Master has lessened the number of applications for such privileges."

The mistake of the committee in taking what was said by the Grand Master of New Jersey for a statement by their own Grand Master would indicate that no very great attention was given to the matter by them.

Four charters were granted to lodges *U. D.*—an evidence of growth which we are glad to see.

The library was insured for \$510, which will be expended in binding pamphlets and in the purchase of new books.

A revised Constitution was adopted.

MARYLAND, 1895.

The Proceedings of the May and November sessions are again published in one pamphlet.

On May 7, 1895—

"The M. W. Grand Master assembled the Grand Officers in his office and informed them he was about to exercise his prerogative of making a mason at sight.

"The Grand Secretary read a petition from Hugh K. Walker, Minister of the Gospel, aged 33 years, recommended by the Grand Master.

"The Grand Master and Grand Officers repaired to Fidelity Lodge, No. 136, which was in session.

"The M. W. Grand Master assumed the chair, and the Grand Officers the other stations, when Bro. Walker was introduced and initiated, and afterwards passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in regular order.

"The Grand Master and Grand Officers retired, and the W. Master and officers of Fidelity Lodge resumed their stations.

"Bro. Walker's petition for membership was presented to the lodge, upon which a ballot was had and he declared elected."

We give the record complete in order to show the manner in which a mason is made "at sight" in that jurisdiction. We, however, do not understand the significance of repairing to the lodge to do the work. Will Bro. SCHULTZ explain?

The following resolution had been referred to a special committee:

"*Resolved*, That the laying of corner stones, unveiling of statues, burial of the dead, etc., are true masonic work, and should be performed while the lodge is open in the Third degree."

The majority of the committee reported against it, but Bro. SCHULTZ submitted a minority report in its favor.

The majority say that the resolution "is a violation of the very nature and constitution of a tyled lodge." It may seem so to them, but if they had examined the question in the light of ancient masonic usage, they would

not have so reported: ancient masonic usage would have taught them that a tyled lodge does secret work, and a tyled lodge does public work. It may seem inconsistent to some, but it is too late to limit masonic work to *private* work in view of the usage.

Correspondence had been had with the different Grand Secretaries, and *thirty-one* Grand Lodges do the work *while open as such*, and *fourteen* are reported as "calling off" on such occasions: among the latter are Canada and Manitoba; concerning these two, we think there must be some mistake, for the records of such ceremonies and of funerals do not so state; in the Proceedings of Manitoba, just reviewed, are accounts of the laying of two corner stones, and according to the record in both cases, the Grand Lodge performed the ceremonies *while open as such*.

They base their argument on the use of the word "adjourned" and insist that it means the same as "called off"; in the first place it does not mean the same; an adjournment is a very different thing from "calling off"; in the second place, it is the usage of Masonry to have its own name for certain acts and to use *always* the appropriate name for the act; synonyms are not favored in our masonic nomenclature.

Another thing; the word is not used at all in relation to funerals.

Nor do they explain why, if the lodge is not open on the Third degree, Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts are as rigorously excluded from the procession as they are from the lodge.

They refer to the Baltimore Convention of 1843: but that is unfortunate for them: in the funeral service adopted by it, on motion of Bro. DOVE, of Virginia, there is no suggestion of adjournment or calling off: the lodge is opened on the Third degree and proceeds continuously until the services are completed and the lodge is closed.

Again: it is well known that the ruling spirits in that convention were CHARLES W. MOORE, of Massachusetts, JOHN DOVE, of Virginia, and S. W. B. CARNEGIE, of Missouri, and in all three of those jurisdictions the rule stated in the resolution then was, ever since has been, and now is the law. We have many times walked in procession with CHARLES W. MOORE in the Grand Lodge, or lodge open as such, in the performance of these ceremonies.

The minority report of Bro. SCHULTZ is very able and conclusive. We need copy but a few extracts from it, but refer our brethren to it. Of the meaning of the word "adjourn," he says:

"I understand this to mean, the Grand Lodge *adjourns* in *procession* from the place where it was *opened* to the place where the ceremony takes place; that it is *open* during the entire performance of the ceremony, otherwise it could *not be closed* at the conclusion of them."

We copy the following as being the correct view, and as conclusively settling the whole question:

"Nor am I able to concur in the conclusions of the majority committee, that 'an open lodge cannot appear in public; that when it goes forth even to perform masonic labor it must be called off.' I not only believe that an *open lodge* can appear in public, but it is *improper* for a lodge to appear in public otherwise than *open*.

"I can conceive of but three states or conditions in which it is possible for a lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons to be—either open and at labor, called off from labor to refreshment, or closed.

"If the lodge is closed, the brethren are dispersed; they are no longer permitted to wear masonic clothing, nor are they subject to the orders of the Master or Wardens. They are simply citizens, and are permitted to follow their own pleasures or to pursue their usual avocations.

"If the lodge is called off from labor to refreshment, the craft is in charge of the Junior Warden. Refreshment does not mean simply eating and drinking, but rest and recreation also. Masonic labor ceases for the time being; as our laboring men and mechanics would say, they have 'knocked off work.' Surely no one can believe that it would be proper to bury a brother or to lay a corner stone with masonic honors when the craft is in either of these conditions. It then follows that the labors referred to must be performed when the lodge is in that condition when alone it can do masonic work, that is, when *open*.

"There are two kinds of masonic labor—*esoteric* and *exoteric*. The first can only be performed in an open lodge, by and in the presence of the initiated. The latter may be performed by masons in public, in a lodge which has been *previously opened esoterically*.

"We publish our transactions, and there is no particular care taken that the profane do not read them; as a matter of fact, we send copies of them to our public libraries. Now, if the profane may *read* what has been transacted in a closely-tyled Master Mason's lodge, why may they not *witness* such of our ceremonies as are permitted to be performed in public by masons, in a lodge that has been previously and *privately opened*? How that lodge was *opened*, and how it will be *closed* again, they may not know.

"If it be not an open lodge, why must the Tyler, with the drawn sword in his hand, head the procession? Why are the brethren clothed as masons, the Master and all his officers invested with their jewels of office? the Master also with the gavel, the emblem of his authority, in his hand? the Wardens carrying their columns, the Deacons and Stewards their wands? Why must the Three Great Lights, as well as the Three Lesser Lights, be borne in the procession? (Some jurisdictions requiring the presence of the charter also.) And why, if the Grand Master be present, although it be only a subordinate lodge, must the Book of Constitutions be borne before him, and the Sword Bearer follow him? Why, I repeat, must all this formality be observed if it be not an *open lodge of masons going forth to perform masonic labor*?"

He then goes on to show that the resolution is in accordance with ancient usage.

The Grand Lodge adopted the minority report upon a vote by lodges.

The Grand Master (THOMAS J. SHRYOCK) thus commences his address:

"BRETHREN: To-night I greet you for the tenth consecutive time as your Grand Master—a decade of years since you first entrusted to my care the responsibilities of the important position. During this period many events have passed into history; many trials and difficulties have been met and surmounted. Our patience and perseverance have been put to the severest test, and we have been tried by Nature's fiercest element—fire. We have passed through and emerged from it better and stronger, more vigorous and hopeful for the future of Masonry within our jurisdiction."

He might truthfully have added, "*Et quorum magna pars fui.*" His ability, energy and wisdom, assisted by the confidence the brethren had in him, were a very large element in achieving this result.

The year had been marked by harmony and progress, and he had but one case in which his intervention was required:

"I have always considered that the first duty of the Grand Master was, at all hazards, to protect the interests of the craft, so far as it lay in his power so to do. During my administration there has been but few occasions when it was necessary for me to exercise a prerogative invested in the Grand Master from time immemorial, and I regret to be compelled to report that such an occasion did arise during the past year. I learned that one of our lodges had elected to receive the Entered Apprentice degree, a man of notorious character, one who had been expelled from a legislative body of our state for malfeasance in office. I immediately notified this lodge not to confer the degrees of Masonry upon this candidate, but to return to him the funds in their possession; and I further admonished them, that should they continue to receive and act favorably upon material which would be a discredit to the fraternity, I should consider it my duty to arrest their charter and lay the matter before the Grand Lodge. My instructions in the matter were complied with. I cannot understand how this lodge could have acted favorably upon this applicant when his disgrace was a matter of public record, and, in fact, of public notoriety."

We suppose that this will be denounced by some of the anti-prerogative brethren, but the exercise of the Grand Master's power for the evident good of the craft, in such cases as this, takes all the force out of their arguments.

Of this the committee say:

"His course in arresting a lodge from conferring the degree on an unworthy person, must commend itself to every member of the jurisdiction; and we indulge the hope that the representatives of the lodges will see to it that that part at least of the address shall be read in open lodge for the instruction of the brethren. The size of the volume of the report of our proceedings deters many from reading it through, but we hope some means may be adopted by which special attention of the craft may be called to it."

This Grand Lodge publishes a "Roll of Honor," containing the names of sixty-two brethren who have been "Active Members of the Grand Lodge for twenty-five years or more."

The Report on Correspondence (120 pp) was presented by Bro. EDWARD T. SCHULTZ.

He dissents from the decision of the Grand Lodge of California, that a Master is not bound to obey, in Grand Lodge, the instructions of his lodge:

"What do *instructions* amount to if the party instructed is not required to carry them out? In the opinion of your committee, the Master *must* vote on a measure pending in Grand Lodge as his lodge may formally instruct him to do. The old regulations expressly say: 'The majority of every particular lodge, when congregated, shall have the privilege of giving instructions to their Master and Wardens, before the assembling of the Grand etc., because their Masters and Wardens are *their representatives* and are supposed to speak their mind.'"

He says further:

"It was the invariable custom of the brethren, in the early days, to assemble on St. John's Day, *open* on the Entered Apprentice's degree, and march in procession to a church to hear 'Divine Service'; after which the brethren dined together, then returned to the lodge room and *closed* the lodge. Indeed, it was one of the expressed conditions laid down in the deputations given to Grand Masters Coxé and Price by the Grand Lodge of England, that they should 'require the brethren to keep the Feast of St. John the Evangelist, and dine together on that day.' And we know of no more appropriate occasion for the craft to appear in public, in *open* lodge, unless it be to bury a brother mason, than that on St. John's Day. And the custom was generally followed in our country until the period of our Civil War, during the continuance of which, unfortunately, innovations were made upon this as well as other ancient usages and customs of the craft."

We do not think that in this section of the country, the celebration of St. John's Day has ever been fully revived since the anti-masonic days.

In answer to the "go-as-we-please" doctrine of Indiana, Kentucky, &c., he well says:

"The lawful masonic acts of a duly warranted and regularly constituted lodge of Master Masons are those of the *entire fraternity* wheresoever dispersed. Hence, when it makes a mason, that mason at once becomes a member of the *universal craft* and is so held and regarded. Likewise, when a lawful lodge has, after due trial, pronounced one of its members no longer worthy of membership in this *universal fraternity*, that sentence is everywhere respected. No one has ever heard of a true mason or lawful lodge that would knowingly affiliate with or hold converse upon the subject of Masonry with a brother upon whom a sentence of expulsion from the rights of the fraternity has been passed by a regular lodge of masons.

"This being admitted, we wish to know why, when a party has applied to the *same legally constituted lodge* for admission into the *craft universal*, and it, as the duly accredited agent of said universal craft has, after due investigation, pronounced said petitioner *unworthy* to be received as a member thereof, why, we repeat, is not its *utterance* in this regard to be equally respected by the *craft* everywhere?"

"For whether there be one black ball or a dozen, when the Master declares the petitioner *duly rejected*, the act becomes that of the lodge; indeed, it is the act of the *entire craft*, through its duly accredited agent, the lodge; and, in the opinion of your committee, no lodge or Grand Lodge can rightfully confer the degrees upon said petitioner without first obtaining the consent of this, the accredited agent of the *craft*."

As he presented his report in November instead of May, as heretofore, he has Maine for both 1894 and 1895. He does not quite agree with our committee in relation to Grand Honors:

"The honors adopted by the Grand Lodge of Maine may with great propriety be used at the public or private installation of a Master or Grand Master to express '*obedience, deference and reverence*,' but we are unable to see any appropriateness whatever in their use at the laying of a corner stone or burial of a brother. We have good authority for the belief that the system of giving the Public Grand Honors as adopted by our Grand Lodge at the 1894 annual communication were those agreed upon by the masonic convention of 1843 as the 'Grand Honors' to be used upon all public occasions. And it was not until about thirty-five years ago that the idea arose in some parts of our country that these were the *funeral* Grand Honors and something else was invented to be used on other than funeral occasions."

He is still struggling to show that "congregating a lodge" means "opening a lodge": his struggles recall to our mind very forcibly those of his associates on another committee, to show that "adjourning" a lodge means "calling off" a lodge! He and they can sympathize with each other.

He says:

"And furthermore, the Grand Lodges generally of this country must understand its meaning as we do; for, with the exception of some four or five, all prohibit their lodges from being opened in the absence of the Master and both Wardens."

Not so: they have changed the "old regulation," as they had the power to do: he must also multiply his "four or five" several times in order to be accurate.

The Grand Lodge of England adopted this regulation: it then construed it, by its practice, ever since has construed it and now construes it, contrary to the views of Bro. SCHULTZ, and the law that a Past Master opens the lodge in the absence of the Master and Wardens prevails in that Grand Lodge and in all the Grand Lodges of the Dependencies of the British Crown except Nova Scotia, which has within a few years remodeled its laws and abandoned its former imitations of the polity of its mother Grand Lodge, and changed its old regulation. So we have Canada, Quebec, New Brunswick, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island and Manitoba to begin with, and there are double that number in the United States in which the old regulation prevails, in whole or in part.

When one of the Provincial Grand Masters of Massachusetts died, his predecessor immediately assumed the duties of the office, and acted until another was appointed, and all conceded that under the masonic law the authority so reverted.

But the following is almost "too good for anything":

"We add this suggestion for Bro. Drummond's *thoughtful* consideration—admitting, as he contends, that 'congregate' means the call or notice issued by the Warden for a meeting of the lodge; now, is it not natural to suppose that it sometimes happened in the days when the regulations were adopted, as it sometimes happens in our day, that the Master, fully expecting to be present at a meeting of his lodge, is at the *last* moment prevented from attending? The Past Master in such a case, according to Bro. Drummond, certainly *cannot* preside, for the Warden would not have time to *congregate* the lodge; that is, to issue a call for the meeting."

Laws are made for general cases, and not for possible exceptions; the purpose of the law was to provide for the absence of the Master; if he had congregated the lodge, well and good; if he had not done so, the Warden must do it: the law was that the Past Master could not act until the lodge had once been congregated. The law can have no such sharp, literal construction as Bro. SCHULTZ suggests; that hair-splitting is altogether too fine. If it were not, the answer is, that the meeting called by the Master cannot

be held, and the Warden must congregate the lodge again. So that if the literal construction of the regulation contended for by Bro. SCHULTZ is correct, (which we deem absurdly incorrect, however,) the result would be precisely the same as it would be under his law, if the Master should call a meeting, and he and the Wardens should be absent—a new meeting would have to be called.

In his "Conclusion," he discusses the "cipher question" to quite an extent. He gives a brief history of the "Mnemonics": but that is not a fair illustration, for an examination of them showed (as we know from actual experience) that they were intelligible to any person of ordinary intelligence, and some experience in deciphering enigmas, &c. But the "cipher" is a different thing: and we would like to know Bro. SCHULTZ's views upon the question whether Webb and his contemporaries, *who certainly used them*, did not understand that they came within the limitation upon the prohibition in the law. It occurs to us, that in the discussions of this question the *limitation* has been entirely lost sight of, and only the *prohibition*, without the limitation, has been considered. In fact, no one has seemed to consider whether the qualifying words are a limitation on the prohibition or not.

MASSACHUSETTS, 1895.

A very large number of special communications were held during the year, for dedicating halls, assisting in the celebration of the centennials of lodges, constituting new lodges, laying corner stones and other similar masonic work.

With the discussion of the Maryland Committee fresh in our mind, we take extracts from this record, showing the practice of this Grand Lodge, *whose usages ante-date those of every other Grand Lodge on this continent*, and whose continuous record extends back to within less than twenty years of the organization of the first Grand Lodge in 1717. We have been taunted with giving more weight to masonic usage in Massachusetts than to that of other jurisdictions. We regard the taunt as a compliment: for her usages are more ancient and can be traced so far back that it is quite certain that they are the ancient usages of the craft in the times before recorded Masonry began. They, therefore, are entitled to the greatest weight.

The record of the first session of the year, in relation to the points involved in the discussion, runs thus:

"The Grand Lodge was opened in ample form in one of the ante-rooms of the new hall at 7 o'clock P. M. A procession of the Grand Officers was formed by the Grand Marshal, and escorted to the lodge-room by a committee of past and present Masters, where a large company of ladies and brethren were assembled."

* * * * *

"The report being satisfactory, the M. W. Grand Master solemnly dedicated the hall to Freemasonry, to virtue, and to universal benevolence, in accordance with ancient form and usage, and the ritual of this Grand Lodge, and the Grand Marshal made proclamation accordingly.

"The Grand Officers then withdrew to the place of opening and the Grand Lodge was closed in ample form at fifteen minutes after 8 o'clock P. M."

The following from the address of Grand Master HOLMES on this occasion touches another matter now much discussed:

"I am profoundly impressed with a sense of the far-reaching responsibility that devolves to-day upon our fraternity to take into the Order none but the best men,—men of character and ability, who will uphold the principles taught by our symbols."

At the celebration of the centennial of Republican Lodge, the following is from the the record of the opening and closing:

"The Grand Lodge was opened in ample form, at half-past three o'clock P. M., in one of the parlors of the Mansion House. A procession of the Grand Officers was formed by the Grand Marshal, and escorted by a committee of Past Masters to the lodge-room, where the M. W. Grand Master was appropriately welcomed by the W. Master of Republican Lodge, Bro. Charles A. Wheeler. Shortly after, the lines were again formed, and the lodge conducted their visitors to the Second Congregational Church, which was soon filled to its utmost capacity."

* * * * *

"At half-past eleven o'clock P. M. the Grand Officers returned to the place of opening, and the Grand Lodge was closed in ample form at 11:40 P. M."

The address of Grand Master HOLMES was of a historic character and was exceedingly interesting. He held the original charter granted one hundred years before and signed by Paul Revere as Grand Master. In 1795, six lodges received charters or dispensations from Paul Revere, and every one of the six is still in existence—grand evidences of the stability of Masonry in our mother Commonwealth and weighty reasons for confidence in her usages.

Grand Master HOLMES attended all these special communications and delivered addresses, and yet he did not "repeat himself," but those, who attended them all, had equal cause for continuous interest as those who had the benefit of only a part. We regret that we have not space to reproduce them, but these Proceedings may be found in several of our masonic and public libraries, and we earnestly hope that our brethren will read them. The historical addresses are also of very great value and interest: indeed, these four pamphlets are of very great value to the general historical student. We are reviewing them in order, however, and shall of course mix matters purely masonic with matters of history.

In passing, we note the vote of the Grand Lodge in 1779, granting a charter of a military lodge, especially important as showing the recognition at that early date of the existence, as a matter of course, of the doctrine of exclusive territorial jurisdiction.

The record of the public constitution of Sheffield Lodge and the installation of its officers is worth copying for the especial benefit of the *very few* brethren who have doubts as to the propriety and good effect of public installations:

"The brethren of Sheffield Lodge being assembled at the place aforesaid, after the usual ceremonies, formed a procession and moved to the meeting-house, preceded by a band of music. The exercises were publicly performed. A sermon well adapted to the occasion was preached by the Rev. Ephraim Judson. There was occasional solemn and cheerful music during the performance, both vocal and instrumental. Consecration took place in masonic order and regular installation of the officers of Sheffield Lodge. They returned in masonic arrangement and partook of a generous entertainment at the expense of Sheffield Lodge. The Grand Lodge then retired and closed in due form. Pleasure and innocence closed the day."

Important amendments to the constitution were adopted: as the question of jewels is before our Grand Lodge, we quote the provision adopted:

"That of the Master, the Square; Senior Warden, the Level; Junior Warden, the Plumb; Treasurer, the crossed Keys; Secretary, the crossed Pens; Chaplain, the Bible, within a circle; Marshal, a Baton, within a square; Deacons, the Square and Compasses united, within a circle; Stewards, a Cornucopia, within a circle; Organist, a Lyre, within a circle; Inside Sentinel, crossed Swords, within a circle; Tyler, a Sword, within a circle.

"The Jewel of a Past Master shall be the blazing Sun, within the Square and Compasses extended on a quadrant. This Jewel may be of gold or silver, and may be worn over the left breast, pendant to a blue ribbon or metal chain."

It will be noted that the wearing of gold jewels by Past Masters is thus legalized. It was, however, provided "that those old lodges which have the sun represented in the jewel of the Senior Deacon and the moon in the jewel of the Junior Deacon may retain the same."

In Massachusetts, it has been the law that the Master and Wardens, with three members, could recommend a rejected candidate to another lodge, which might then take jurisdiction: the same law formerly prevailed in this state; but abuses crept in and the law was changed: the same result has happened in Massachusetts, and the law was amended; the committee say:

"The further object of this amendment is to make it more difficult for an unworthy man, who has been rejected for cause, to gain admission to the fraternity.

"By having the request read in the lodge, and requiring it to lie over for one month, an opportunity is given to the members to object if they have cause.

"Under the present regulation, a release is often given without the knowledge of any members beyond the six whose signatures are required. No record is made of it by the lodge which gives the release, and the members of that lodge are often surprised to see their rejected candidate enter their own lodge as a visitor some months later.

"It is also possible, under the amendment, for a deserving man, whose rejection has been influenced by personal malice or other insufficient cause, to have justice done him by receiving a recommendation to another lodge."

A brother receiving the Third degree in a lodge becomes a member,

"Provided, however, that he shall sign the by-laws within six months from the date of raising; and reserving the right of objection by any member to such signing, for cause, the sufficiency of which shall be determined by the vote of a majority of the members present at a regular monthly communication."

BRO. JOHN H. COLLAMORE sent in his check for five thousand dollars as "the first contribution towards a Charity Fund which I propose to create, to be placed in charge of the Trustees of the Masonic Education and Charity Trust."

This "munificent gift" was accepted by a unanimous vote and the thanks of the Grand Lodge tendered to Bro. COLLAMORE.

At the centennial of Middlesex Lodge, Grand Secretary NICKERSON delivered the Historical Address, and it goes without saying, that it is exceedingly interesting and valuable. We learn from it that during three years of PAUL REVERE'S Grand Mastership, he signed charters of twenty-three lodges, only *two* of which are now extinct; two others ceased to exist, and have been revived, but not under the original charters. Our own Kennebec Lodge, at Hallowell, is one of the *twenty-three*, and this is her centennial year.

Of PAUL REVERE, he says:

"Paul Revere was a man of great energy, of inflexible will and determination, or, as we sometimes say of each other nowadays, 'as set as fate, as obstinate as a mule.' In the politics of the day these qualities enabled him to render most valuable services to the cause. They are not exactly the qualities which are to-day regarded as characteristic of a good mason."

And yet, we often read in the Proceedings of the various Grand Lodges, what makes us wish for "one hour of PAUL REVERE"! However, we do not remember to have had that wish in relation to Massachusetts, for quite a number of years at any rate!

We copy the full record of one special communication, omitting only the list of names of those present:

"A special communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was held in the city of Boston, on Tuesday, the twenty-seventh day of August, A. L. 5895, A. D. 1895, for the purpose of reviewing the Knights Templar Parade and Escort to the Grand Encampment of the United States on its Twenty-sixth Triennial Conclave."

* * * * *

"The lodges were represented by their Masters and Wardens to the number of about five hundred.

"The Grand Lodge was opened in the Masonic Temple, in ample form, at 9.45 o'clock A. M. The M. W. Grand Master announced that an invitation to review the Knights Templar Parade had been tendered him by the Grand Commander of our Grand Commandery, who had provided a Grand Stand in Columbus Square for the accommodation of the Grand Lodge, and a collation at the Temple for their refreshment upon their return from the review.

"His Worship stated that, inasmuch as the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery included Massachusetts and Rhode Island, he had deemed it proper to invite the M. W. Grand Master and Grand Lodge of the State of Rhode Island to participate in the honors and pleasures of the occasion. The invitation, he was happy to say, had been accepted, and the M. W. Grand Master was now present with his Grand Officers, the other members having repaired directly to the Grand Stand from which the parade was to be reviewed. To that location he requested all present to proceed without form, the crowded state of the streets rendering it impossible to move in procession or to provide transportation for any considerable number.

"The brethren accordingly assembled at the place designated, where convenient and comfortable accommodations had been provided for about seven hundred persons, and nearly every seat was occupied.

"The head of the column reached Columbus Square at about eleven o'clock A. M., and from that hour until four o'clock P. M. the M. W. Grand Masters of Massachusetts and Rhode Island were almost incessantly occupied in receiving and returning the salutes of the various commanderies which passed in review before them. The officers and members of the two Grand Lodges found abundant amusement and gratification in admiring the splendid paraphernalia, the elegant banners and the knightly bearing of the various delegations comprising this host of picked men representing the fraternity in all parts of our country. It was hard to determine whether the observed or the observers felt the more pride in this unprecedented display.

"Although the pageant had been greatly enjoyed, the end proved scarcely less welcome than the beginning, and it was with alacrity that the brethren descended from their towering seats and sought the Temple. Upon arrival there the Grand Officers assembled in Corinthian Hall, and the Grand Lodge was closed in ample form, at half-past four o'clock P. M. The next half-hour was devoted to the satisfying of as hungry appetites as were ever gathered in our banquet hall, and then the brethren dispersed, with many expressions of gratitude to Grand Master and Grand Commander."

The purpose, and the manner of procedure, are in strict accord with the ancient masonic usage in this old jurisdiction, and indicate the relations which ought to exist between the parties, but which have been of late ignored or completely set aside by innovations in some, and especially the younger, jurisdictions.

But this great occasion, which was accompanied with so much pleasure, had scarcely closed before the masons of the country were appalled to read from the telegraphic bulletins, that the Masonic Temple was on fire! But the loss was so almost infinitely smaller than it might have been, that the words of the Grand Master express our feelings:

"It is a great pleasure to add, in a spirit of profound gratitude, that the library, portraits, records, etc., belonging to this Grand Lodge, escaped the conflagration and suffered but slight damage by water."

The whole matter of rebuilding, there or elsewhere, was left to the Directors. At this writing, no definite conclusion has been reached. The Directors are confronted by a law of the state or an ordinance of the city, (that seems to us of very questionable validity in its application to this case and operates very harshly) under which they are not allowed to repair, as they might do at comparatively small expense, but are compelled practically to take the whole building down and rebuild.

A revised constitution was adopted. One of the amendments makes it clear that, in case of the death of the Grand Master, the Deputy does not become Grand Master, but *ex-officio* acts as Grand Master. The following was also adopted:

“A brother who has been suspended for non-payment of dues, may be re-instated by a majority vote, provided his dues have been paid or remitted. A brother who has been discharged for non-payment of dues may, by a unanimous vote, be admitted to membership in the same or any other lodge, provided his dues have been paid or remitted; subject, however, to all the formalities usually attending admission to membership.”

We have always thought that there should be some action of the lodge in such cases, even when payment of arrearages restores a member; that fact ought to be officially ascertained and recorded; we have known cases in which a brother was an officer of a lodge whose official record showed that he was then suspended from membership! We do not think that the credit of his dues on the Secretary's ledger is a sufficiently safe record of the restoration.

The following definitions were adopted:

“4. Suspension from membership deprives a brother, temporarily, of his rights as a member of his lodge.

“5. Discharge from membership terminates absolutely the brother's connection with his lodge.”

BRO. JOHN H. COLLAMORE sent in another \$5,000 check for the “Collamore Charity Fund.”

An examination of these Proceedings prevents surprise at learning that Grand Master HOLMES had been obliged to take a rest, still “very reluctantly yielding to the advice of many friends.” He betook himself to the Rocky Mountains: we trust he returned not only rested and refreshed, but also conscious that there are limits to the endurance of even Grand Masters! We have doubts as to the correctness of the last clause, for we find that he attended three more special communications after his return and before the close of the year, and delivered a carefully prepared address at each.

The Directors made a detailed report as to the result of the fire: the insurance received was a little over \$110,000. Authority was given to them to sell the lot, but the question of purchasing elsewhere was reserved for the future action of the Grand Lodge. Apparently there was a difference of opinion in relation to the course to be adopted, but it may be that no definite opinion had been formed by many and further time for investigation was desired.

The annual address of the Grand Master (EDWIN B. HOLMES) still further shows the ability, wisdom and enthusiasm with which he has discharged

the duties of his high office in a year in which extraordinary demands had been made upon him.

Four centennial celebrations of the formation of lodges, the centennial of the erection of the first monument to Gen. WARREN, and the celebration of the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of a lodge, during one year, have no parallel in the past; they suggest, however, the commencement of an era of centennials in a manner quite startling to the residents of a "new country" !

He announces the publication of the first volume of the Grand Lodge records, covering from 1733 to 1792, inclusive: as the work was expensive, the Directors concluded that a nominal price of two dollars should be charged for the volume: the edition is limited, and is invaluable; it should be secured at once by all masonic libraries, and indeed by all libraries with a historical department.

In his visitations, the Grand Master had found that innovations had been made in the work: of them, he says:

"I refer, first, to the use of the stereopticon. It mars the simplicity and grandeur of our work and adds nothing to its impressiveness. It introduces a new, unwarranted practice, which, if allowed to continue, might be used as a precedent for numerous other innovations. Where I have known the stereopticon to be used, I have on my own responsibility ordered its discontinuance. The brethren seem to have cheerfully conformed to my desire.

I refer, secondly, to the practice of dressing the Fellow-Crafts in an ancient and unusual garb, and the introduction of fancy evolutions and paraphernalia unknown until our day. These are innovations and have no warrant in our Grand Constitutions. The costuming might serve as a precedent for the clothing of all the officers of a lodge in distinctive and expensive regalia. Where my attention has been called to these matters I have requested their discontinuance.

"Thirdly, I believe that music adds greatly to the impressiveness of the work and is much to be desired, but that it is being introduced at some points where it detracts rather than adds to the ritual. We do not want the music to be so pronounced that it is made the chief feature.

"I recommend that the Grand Lodge order the discontinuance in this jurisdiction of the use of the stereopticon, of the costuming of the Fellow-Crafts, that the subject of the introduction of music into our ritual be considered by a committee, and that exemplifications of the work be made obligatory in each district, annually or at least once in two years."

BRO. JOHN H. COLLAMORE sent in another check of \$5,000 for the "John H. Collamore Charity Fund."

We are glad to see that the services of the Grand Master were recognized, and their appreciation shown by his re-election with but three dissenting votes. In announcing to him his re-election, the Deputy Grand Master (S. LOTHROP THORNDIKE) well said:

"I do not so much congratulate you personally,—though any man may well be proud to be thought worthy of this exalted place,—as I congratulate the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and all its subordinate lodges that they are again to have the benefit of your services. What these services have

been in the past year they know better than I can tell them. How fully these services are appreciated is shown by the unanimity of your re-election."

The "Grand Feast" was held as usual, but in an unaccustomed place. However, this would never have been suspected from the character of the speeches. Wit and wisdom, history and philosophy, Masonry and theology were mingled in due proportion. We contemplated making extracts, but one picture is so framed in with another, that literally we must take the whole or none, and as our space will not allow the former, we must take the latter!

MICHIGAN, 1896.

We have a portrait of Bro. EDWIN L. BOWRING, the retiring Grand Master.

Seventeen Past Grand Masters were present and 373 lodges out of 377 lodges represented.

Grand Master BOWRING says:

"The steady growth in our membership, the zeal and generous rivalry displayed by the officers and brethren of the constituent lodges, in striving to promote the best interests of our institution, the increased proficiency of the officers of lodges in rendering the work of Masonry, the building of new temples, and the decided improvement made in the preparation and adornment of lodge rooms, and, above all, that so few of our members have been removed from earth and earthly scenes during the past year; these are all causes for mutual congratulation and thanksgiving as we meet once more in our annual communication."

Among his decisions are the following:

"3. Masonic lodges render themselves amenable to masonic discipline by incorporating under acts of the Legislature authorizing them to do so. It is a direct violation of the edict of this Grand Lodge proclaimed in 1868. The reasons are that by incorporating, the lodges subject themselves and their internal government to the jurisdiction of the civil courts, to whom the ill-affected may resort, and a production of the books and papers and proceedings may be compelled and submitted to public inspection. The courts would also have jurisdiction over the election of officers and the discipline administered by such lodges. Masonic rights and duties might, under certain circumstances, become corporate rights and duties, and thus become the subject of investigation and determination in the courts, and the lodge and Grand Lodge be deprived of their lawful jurisdiction over masonic affairs. To incorporate is to make an innovation in the body of Masonry."

This statement of the civil law is not in accord with the law in Maine, nor with recent decisions of courts in other states in relation to the same question.

"5. It is residence, and not citizenship, that confers jurisdiction over the applicant for admission. Therefore, a resident, although citizen of a foreign country, if otherwise qualified, is proper material for the degrees of Masonry. Whether he prefers allegiance to another government in preference to this, makes no difference. His allegiance to Masonry may be as loyal in the one case as in the other."

This is undoubtedly correct: but cases have recently arisen suggesting that our law needs amendment. We question very gravely whether the same rule should be applied to foreigners coming from a foreign country, as is applied to our own citizens coming from another state. The frequency with which these cases have arisen during the past year, shows that the same doubt has arisen in the minds of others. A year's residence is short enough under the more favorable circumstances: but ordinarily inquiry can be made at the candidate's former abode: but in the class of cases under consideration, this cannot be done, and the knowledge which can be acquired, in relation to their character, is limited to *one year of their lives*; and no man ought to be admitted to Masonry upon such slender evidence of his worthiness.

"12. A lodge cannot admit a visitor by an examination in the council degrees. The examination must be confined to the first three degrees of Masonry. As Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, we know nothing of any other body or order. Some of us may have actual knowledge that there are Royal Arch Masons, Knights Templar, Royal and Select Masters, etc., etc., but there are many in the lodge that have no knowledge of such institutions. A visitor who cannot make himself known to any Master Mason who has taken no other degrees than the first three degrees of Masonry, by due examination or lawful information, cannot be admitted to visit the lodge. Lawful information does not extend to the visitor's being a member of another or higher (as it is sometimes called) degree in Masonry, but refers to information which is acquired from some one who has sat in the lodge with the visitor and can avouch for him, or who can avouch for him through a due examination as to his masonic qualifications."

That this is the accepted law in these later days, in many jurisdictions, is undoubtedly true, although there are exceptions: but that it is a reversal of the old usage and law, and has become the law within the past forty years, is equally true. It has become so by decisions based upon what appeared to be the "reason of the thing" rather than upon masonic usage. It is lamentable, that those called upon to render decisions forget so often that the original source of all masonic law is *masonic usage*, which ought to be the standard of law not made by express enactment.

We regret to find that our M. W. Brother holds that a lodge "has a right to the masonic material in its territorial jurisdiction, unless it has duly surrendered such right." He goes to the extent of doubting whether, while the constitution authorizes him to grant a dispensation with the consent of three nearest lodges, he could grant one for a new lodge in Detroit, because, while eight of the lodges consent, the other (all having concurrent jurisdiction) refused, and so declined to grant the dispensation. The question was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, which reported that declining to grant a dispensation was within the discretion of the Grand Master and his decision could not be reviewed by the Grand Lodge. Thereupon a motion was made to amend the constitution so that the consent of the

majority of the lodges having concurrent jurisdiction would be sufficient; but it did not receive the necessary two-thirds vote. The petition for the lodge was referred to the Committee on Lodges. It was reported back without recommendation, and referred to the Grand Master with power to grant a dispensation if he should deem it wise to do so.

While we favor the utmost caution in the creation of new lodges, we cannot assent to the doctrine announced by the Grand Master. The law in relation to the territorial jurisdiction of lodges was originally a limitation on candidates, requiring them to apply to the nearest lodge, *where presumably they are best known*: the law was not made for the benefit of the lodge, but of the craft, by preventing the admission of unworthy material.

The Grand Master recommended that the mileage of representatives be limited to the amount of dues received from their respective lodges; but the Grand Lodge adopted the following report by Bro. McCURDY, for the Committee on Jurisprudence:

"We would regard such a change as unjust, and not dealing on the square with the representatives of the younger and small lodges who are constituent members of this Grand Body, who meet all here on the level of equality, whether the lodge has 40 or 400 members. Every member of our masonic family, every constituent lodge should be equally near and equally dear to this Grand Lodge, and among whom no inequality should exist; who meet in the level of equality on the checkered floor, and with equal representation. All are in the judgment of your committee entitled to this penny a day from the youngest to the oldest, from the first to the last."

We are delighted to learn that the Grand Secretary is preparing a History of Masonry in Michigan.

Bro. CONOVER submitted his report in "rhyme"; one would scarcely think that in rehearsing the details of the business of his office, there would be much room for the exercise of imagination or fancy! We venture the assertion, however, that this report will be read through by more than ever read one of his previous ones.

The Grand Lecturer says:

"For many years we have labored assiduously to conform the work of the lodges in this jurisdiction to the work as adopted by this Grand Lodge more than fifty years ago, and to-day the work of the three hundred and eighty-two lodges in this state is more perfect and uniform than ever before. The craft approve and love our ritualistic work, as clearly evidenced by the attendance at fifty-two lodges of instruction held in the state the past year, of *ten thousand Master Masons*, a number never before known in attendance during any one year in the history of this Grand Lodge."

The Masonic Home was the subject of the most interest, and apparently has caused considerable feeling and some rather unfraternal language. As we understand the matter, it was erected by an Association composed of brethren, who were perhaps impatient at the non-action of the Grand Lodge in the matter. It was built and paid for, but the expense of running it was

not provided for, and was borne by contribution. The year before, it was represented that if aid was not furnished, it must soon close its doors and turn out the thirty inmates. The Grand Lodge appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions and funds from the lodges; with the aid of a special appeal by the Grand Master to the Detroit brethren, the necessary funds to maintain it were secured. Those interested were of the opinion that the same method could not be relied upon for the next year. The expenses of the year had been \$5,368.21, of which the Grand Chapter had contributed \$1,000, the Grand Commandery and "Saladin Temple" \$500 each, and the Eastern Star \$345.55. So the Association offered to convey the property to the Grand Lodge upon the sole condition that it should be maintained as a Masonic Home. It was proposed to support it by a tax upon each lodge equivalent to one dollar for every degree conferred, and an amendment to the constitution to that effect was offered and earnestly debated. Also a proposition was offered to lay a *twenty cent per capita* tax for its support. However, the question came first upon a resolution to accept the deed of the Home, and it was defeated by a vote of 510 yeas to 573 nays, 146 lodges voting in the affirmative, and 191 in the negative. The proposed amendments failed to receive the necessary vote. No measures were taken looking to the support of the Home. Since the session, there has been a good deal of discussion of a very earnest, not to say acrimonious character; and we presume that "the end is not yet."

CALVIN C. BURT petitioned for re-instatement, but it was determined that the matter had been finally passed upon by the Grand Lodge at a previous session.

It was decided that a lodge can confer the degrees for a foreign lodge, only according to the law of the Grand Lodge.

The year before a committee was appointed to revise the Webb Monitor; they found it necessary to make but few changes in the monitorial part, but the ceremonies had been revised: the committee recommended that the ceremonies be printed and distributed and final action deferred: the Grand Secretary states that the revised monitor would be printed and a copy furnished to each lodge.

The Report on Correspondence (99 pp.) was presented by Bro. JEFFERSON S. CONOVER. He heads it "Correspondence, Boiled Down and Run Through Conover's Condenser." That exactly describes it. We have heard newspaper reporters speak of "boiling down" items: but boiling them down and then running them through a condenser must be Bro. CONOVER's own invention! His machine got out of order only once or twice: in one case he thus replies to Bro. ARNOLD, of Pennsylvania:

"He raises his voice in indignant protest against what he calls 'women in Masonry,' alluding to the Order of Eastern Star, and would entirely exclude

women from lodge rooms, even for installations or other public exercises. Verily, Bro. Arnold's education in this respect has been sadly neglected. It is to be hoped that he may see the day when his radical opinions upon this subject will undergo a change, and when he will not think he is disgracing a Masonic Hall by allowing his wife, or his daughter, (if he has either,) to see the walls, carpets, chairs and other furniture of a Masonic Hall. No, Bro. Arnold, the world moves, and those who would oppose its progress must get out of the way or the car of human progress will roll over them and go on fulfilling its inevitable destiny."

We only hope that he will not submit his forthcoming history to either process.

MINNESOTA, 1896.

As usual the Grand Officers opened a Master Masons' lodge, and finding that there were 189 lodges out of 200 represented, then opened the Grand Lodge in ample form: what became of the "Master Masons' lodge" does not appear.

The Grand Master (CALVIN L. BROWN) says that harmony had prevailed and the year had been a prosperous one.

We find the following resolution and the purpose of it stated by the Grand Master:

"*Resolved*, That every petitioner for the degree of Masonry * * * shall state in his petition whether he has ever been rejected by another lodge, and if so, he shall give the name, number, and location of the lodge so rejecting him. In case of former rejection, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the lodge receiving such petition to notify the lodge rejecting him." * * *

"*Answer*.—The evident purpose of this resolution is to give the rejecting lodge, or the member casting the black ball, an opportunity to make known the reasons for the rejection, if deemed proper to be made known, or to show why the petitioner should not be received into the fraternity. All that can be expected or required of the lodge receiving the second petition is to give the necessary notice and then wait a reasonable time before acting thereon. The lodge notified should act promptly, but should have a reasonable time within which to make known any reasons it may wish to make known why the petitioner should be rejected. The petition should not be balloted on until at least one regular communication is held by the rejecting lodge after the proper notice is given it. It should then be disposed of in the usual way."

Whether this applies to rejections in other jurisdictions or only to Minnesota lodges, we cannot tell.

The Grand Secretary reports the completion of the Grand Lodge Register, and that the Index, containing 30,000 names, will soon be finished.

The following resolution was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to index the constitution, regulations, and proceedings of the Grand Lodge up to and including the present session, and report their work to the Grand Master for his approval at as early a date as possible, that the same may be printed and distributed to the lodges and Grand Officers."

This will be a valuable document, but we suspect that it will be found a greater work and book than was expected.

The business of the Grand Lodge was of a routine character: everything indicates that the craft are harmonious and enjoying a steadily increasing prosperity.

A fine oration on "The Spirit of Masonry" was delivered by Rev. Bro. ROBERT FOBES, Grand Orator.

The Report on Correspondence (88 pp.) was presented by Bro. IRVING TODD.

As heretofore, he gives a carefully prepared extract of the sayings and doings of other Grand Bodies.

He calls the following a sensible criticism:

"We demur, and, while thinking that circumstances might warrant the public installation of the officers of a subordinate lodge, we would under no circumstances consent to the surrender of its dignity and reputation by a Grand Lodge for a like indulgence."

He must excuse us for not conceding the wisdom of his opinion, as we remember that when the Grand Lodge of Maine was organized, the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire came here by invitation and *performed the ceremonies in public*, with SIMON GREENLEAF and other giants of those days participating. Nor can we admit that the "dignity" of a Grand Lodge can be affected by performing in public the ceremonies that it performs before the craft.

The Proceedings of the Masonic Veteran Association at its fourth reunion are published with those of the Grand Lodge. It contains very able addresses of a historical, literary and philosophical character of a high order of excellence.

MISSOURI, 1895.

They must be a hustling set on the other side of the great river, for scarcely half of them give us more than a mere abstract of their names; and yet our good brother, the Grand Secretary, gives us his "front name" every time, and they cannot, many of them, excel him in push and energy.

The Grand Master (J. B. THOMAS) delivered a brief address, giving a very concise, but clear, summary of his official acts.

The case of invasion of jurisdiction which we mentioned in our review of the Indian Territory is mentioned in the Grand Master's address, who says:

"This case was passed upon at the last session of this Grand Body, but so many facts coming to my knowledge, which I feel assured were not before the Grand Lodge at that time, and knowing that this Grand Body is anxious to do justice in all matters, I venture to bring the case to your attention again."

* * * * *

"Taking all the facts into consideration, I ordered Decatur Lodge, No.

400, not to confer the third degree on B. F. Lafayette until further orders, he having received the first and second degrees before the matter was brought to my attention.

"I herewith submit all the papers, and hope you will carefully consider the matter, because I feel that if B. F. Lafayette is not Indian Territory material, they have none."

The committee agree with him, saying that the previous Grand Master had been imposed upon in the representation of facts, and confirm the Grand Master's order that the third degree shall not be conferred on the candidate, but hold that he has regularly received the other degrees, and direct the fees to be paid to Chicotah, "which has jurisdiction over him as to the conferring of the third degree."

We felt sure that this Grand Lodge would do all it could to repair the error into which it had been led by gross misrepresentation.

Missouri allows only residents of the state to petition for membership in a lodge.

While the following decision is in accordance with the enacted law of this Grand Lodge, we regard it as an outrageous violation of superior law and obligation, which the Grand Lodge of Missouri has no rightful power to sanction:

"The following was submitted: 'When the charters of the old lodges of Clinton were arrested we had a brother holding a dimit, who has remained non-affiliated ever since, and is, therefore, a non-affiliate under Section 204 of the Constitution. We have certain brethren who have attempted to go over the lectures with him, and to have him lecture candidates. I hold under Section 205 they should not do so. Will you, therefore, please give me your, and the true construction of the section?'

"*Decision*—Non-affiliate masons, becoming so under Section 204, by dimitting, or under Section 206, by the lodge becoming extinct, have no masonic privileges whatever, except the right to petition for membership; the law prohibits them from visiting any lodge after one year. Then why should the workings of the lodge, or the secrets of the degrees, be communicated to them, as they cannot visit a lodge or receive masonic burial?"

Another brother had dimitted from a lodge and immediately after petitioned for membership in another and was rejected: he had renewed his petition every year and been rejected every time, and of him the Grand Master says:

"He is not in good masonic standing, according to Section 174, which recognizes a brother holding a dimitas in good standing for one year, and no longer. Again, Section 205: No non-affiliating mason, who has continued as such for twelve months, shall be allowed to visit any lodge, etc. He is not in good masonic standing, and cannot visit a lodge, appear in a masonic procession, or receive masonic burial."

These decisions were approved. What magnificent Masonry! The Grand Orator delivered a fine address on "Masonry in the United States." We suggest for the next theme "Masonry in Missouri."

The following decision was also approved:

"A brother asks: 'Will I be sustained if I refuse to obligate a candidate who refuses to swear, but persists in affirming?'"

"*Decision*—Let him affirm. An affirmation is as binding as an oath; all civilized countries that I know of recognize an affirmation in all courts. And an individual would be guilty of perjury at common law for falsely testifying when affirming the same as if he had sworn. The London *Freemason's Quarterly* (1828, p. 286) says that 'A Quaker's affirmation is binding.' Brother Chase (*Masonic Digest*, p. 448) says that 'Conferring the degrees on affirmation is no violation of the spirit of Freemasonry, and neither overthrows or affects a landmark.' And in this he is sustained by the Grand Lodge of Maine."

It was so decided in Maine in the early days of the Grand Lodge; but the decision was very sharply criticised by many of the other Grand Lodges; one or two went so far as to consider the propriety of withdrawing masonic recognition from our Grand Lodge on the ground that this action was a palpable breach of the landmarks; but the decision has been followed in our jurisdiction.

The Grand Secretary's report shows that he had had a busy year, and the Grand Lodge had an immense amount of business—chiefly of only local interest—before it.

A Memorial Service was held to pay a tribute to the memory of Past Grand Master JAMES PERRY WOOD, who was fatally injured in a railroad accident on May 14, 1895, but lived, though unconscious, nearly the whole time, till the eighteenth of the next month:

"His life was gentle, and the elements
So mixed in him, that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world, this was a man."

The by-laws were amended by the adoption of the following:

"Should a non-affiliated Master Mason, who is in good standing, apply for membership in the lodge and be rejected, his good standing shall continue for twelve months after such rejection."

But if he allows "twelve months and a day" to intervene, his good standing has gone forever, unless some lodge will elect him to membership in spite of previous rejections.

The Report on Correspondence (176 pp.) was presented as usual by Bro. JOHN D. VINCEL. It is a *written* report with no extracts, and must have required an immense amount of time, study and labor; he goes through the Proceedings briefly, noting the important matters, and often with brief comments, putting a large number of different matters into a single paragraph, which not unfrequently exceeds a page in length. His views are generally, from our standpoint, sound, and always tersely and vigorously expressed. He gives sub-titles, and usually only one paragraph under each title.

In the following, he makes the same point that we have often made, and which our physical perfection brethren have never noticed:

APP. 8 G. L.

"For one, I am tired of the application to our speculative system of Freemasonry, the old and obsolete doctrine of physical perfection required when the institution was purely operative. Then a candidate had to 'be a perfect youth, having no maim or defect in his body that might render him incapable of learning the art.' In the case passed upon, the candidate had one good eye, and was as capable of learning the art of *speculative* Masonry as if his two eyes were perfect. Will the physical perfectionists please tell me wherein a man with one eye is 'rendered incapable of learning the art' who has a 'desire of knowledge, and a sincere wish of being serviceable to his fellow creatures'? Can not such see well enough to 'help, aid and assist' Brothers Master Masons, their widows and orphans? Can not such see well enough to detect the sign of distress, and go the relief of those giving it? Can not such see the tear of a widow, or the outstretched hand of an orphan? Are men with a defect in one eye disqualified for performing 'acts of charity and deeds of pure beneficence'? I undertake to say that the advocates of physical perfection will not pass by the citizen with one eye when they want a donation for any benevolent purpose. He can see well enough then to read their subscription paper, and such advocates will not ask the privilege of writing his name to their paper, but very willingly admit that he can write his own name sufficiently intelligible, provided it represents a good round sum of money. Why then disqualify him as to deeds of charity through masonic channels? Pshaw! It is not necessary to argue against an indefensible question. The California law, as quoted by my good Brother Belcher, condemns this obsolete view of physical perfection. It says the candidate must be 'ABLE TO CONFORM LITERALLY to what the several degrees require of him.' Wherein is the man with only one eye disqualified from conforming 'LITERALLY' to 'what the several degrees respectively require of him'? I fail to see it with both of my eyes wide open."

There have been many gross violations of the old law by decisions in which the qualifying words were so utterly disregarded, that we have been forced to the conclusion that the brother making the decision never read the charge but took his law second hand from another.

In his review of Delaware, he says:

"To the following question he answered 'No.' 'Would it be proper for a lodge to pass resolutions of respect upon the death of a member's wife?' If not, why not? Perhaps the questioner wished to know if it would be proper to pass resolutions of sympathy. Such resolutions are not uncommon. I can see no reason for saying 'No' in the case mentioned. The tender of sympathy and condolence to a bereaved brother mason in a case of personal sorrow would come to the heart, from the brethren, as a fraternal balm, and heal the wound as much as utterances of others. And in such grief, who should feel for a brother's loss more than the members of the fraternity? I have passed through that ordeal and know whereof I speak. The offer of sympathy in the case need not be made a matter of record, if objections exist, but let your brother know that you entertain a genuine sorrow for him and his, amid a gloomy hour in which darkness shrouds the life, and hope goes out into the night."

Resolutions of sympathy and condolence have been so frequent and the usage has prevailed so long, that there can now be no question of their masonic propriety: and that an expression of respect may be included in such resolutions, follows as a matter of course. As we have already noted, the Grand Lodge of Iowa added to resolutions of condolence a memorial

tribute and a memorial page to the memory of the wife of Deputy Grand Secretary PARVIN.

We do not agree with our brother that a lodge should have the power of expelling a mason; his reasons are not sound as it appears to us; his first is, that as a lodge can give a man masonic life, it has or should have the power of taking it away; but in giving a man masonic life the lodge acts under the law as an agent, in a qualified sense, of the fraternity, and when a man or a body so acts, the conclusion of Bro. VINCE does not follow, any more than it does in the case of marriage; a man authorized to solemnize a marriage has no power to grant a divorce: his second reason is that it delays punishment too long; but in all the jurisdictions that require expulsions and indefinite suspension to be confirmed by the Grand Lodge, the action of the lodge operates as suspension until the final action of the Grand Lodge.

He joins with Bro. ROBBINS in holding that the decision of his Grand Lodge, that a brother who has been tried for an offence and acquitted is not entitled to a dimit until after the time for taking an appeal has expired, was erroneous. But that decision will generally be sustained, as it ought to be: it is universal masonic law that a mason under charges cannot properly have a dimit; under the masonic law, (as well as the civil law) a judgment is not a finality *until the time for taking an appeal has expired*, and in the mean time the party is as much "under charges" as he was before the trial.

In his review of Iowa, he endorses the action of that Grand Lodge in relation to Mrs. PARVIN.

He will find from another report, that while we do not believe in the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction, we do not assent to his views as to the effect of a rejection: and we will add here, that while only a minority of our Grand Lodges maintain that doctrine, very many of the others do hold to the effect of a rejection in opposition to his views; and also against him in his views as to the right of a Grand Lodge to forbid the recognition of masons, though made in a regular lodge. He devotes considerable space to this matter, but the arguments which he advances completely overturn his arguments as to the effect of a rejection.

Anent another matter he says:

"I have seen brethren vouched for as Master Masons who had been met in a commandery, where a simple Templar examination had taken place. In Missouri the rule is to examine a Templar who applies to visit a commandery in all the degrees from Entered Apprentice up to and including the degree of Royal Arch. If, according to this kind of examination, a visitor be found in possession of the proper knowledge of the Symbolic and Capitular degrees, and then passes an examination in a commandery, he could be vouched for as a Master Mason in good standing."

We never knew that any other than the Missouri practice prevails anywhere, as to examination for admission to a commandery. We hold that

an examining committee, which does not examine in the previous degrees, fails to perform its duty.

We looked with some interest for his review of the Indian Territory, but find to our regret that he had not received the Proceedings of that Grand Lodge, nor of British Columbia or Maine.

MONTANA, 1895.

A special communication was held to perform the funeral rites over the remains of Past Grand Master RICHARD O. HICKMAN, one of the pioneers of the State and Grand Master in 1891-'92. Past Grand Master WILBUR F. SANDERS pronounced a eulogy.

At the annual communication, the Grand Secretary reported to the Grand Master and assembled brethren, that a majority of the lodges were represented, and that they had made their returns and paid their dues, and thereupon the Grand Master (JAMES H. MONTEATH) opened the Grand Lodge on the third degree.

In his annual address he says:

"The year just closed has been a comparatively uneventful one in the history of this jurisdiction, and as far as my observation has gone we have enjoyed our full average measure of peace, harmony and prosperity.

"Rumors of discord there have been, but, officially, nothing has been brought to the attention of your executive officer necessitating either censure or reproach."

The business before the Grand Lodge was almost wholly of a routine character.

The Grand Lodge has no permanent place of meeting, and while the question of establishing one was considered, yet no action was taken. It came out by the report of a committee that the expense of holding the Grand Lodge at one place was nearly double that at either one of three other places.

The *per capita* tax was reduced from \$2.00 to \$1.50.

The following was adopted:

"And if any Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft mason shall, before being raised to the Master Mason's degree, leave this jurisdiction, or shall permanently remove within the jurisdiction of another subordinate lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction, and, with a view to advancement elsewhere, shall apply to the lodge in which he was entered or passed for a certificate of that fact, it shall be the duty of such lodge to grant such certificate under the seal of the lodge, in the nature of a dimit, attesting the fact that the recipient is an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft, he being free from all dues, charges and assessments."

While this is not in accord with the more general usage, it is a much less cumbrous method than the present mode of waiving jurisdiction. It is safe in all jurisdictions in which the one ballot system prevails, for of course such

a certificate would not be granted if objections to advancement had been made and disposed of in favor of the candidate.

An E. A. of three years' standing had been allowed to visit a lodge; but the committee deemed it of "dangerous and doubtful policy." That would seem to depend on circumstances, which would control the Master in allowing or refusing it. If such E. A. contemplates applying for advancement, such visits would be of importance to himself and the lodge, in order to promote mutual acquaintance and assist in determining whether the E. A. would desire to seek advancement in that lodge, and whether the lodge would desire to have him.

The following correct decision was made:

"The question was asked if the W. M. should announce a candidate rejected on an unfavorable report of Investigating Committee. Answered, No! only on result of unfavorable ballot."

We are glad to see that the following was adopted:

"That it is the sense of this body that banquets in connection with the sessions of the Grand Lodge do not materially add to the good of Masonry; that they interfere with the work of Grand Lodge, and place an unnecessary burden upon the craft in the cities in which our sessions are held; and that hereafter the craft of such cities be respectfully requested to dispense with such forms of entertainment."

We do not object to banquets *per se*, nor to the "Annual Feasts" by the Grand Lodges whose usage it is to have them; but the Grand Lodge meets *to transact important business*, and it is the universal experience that "entertainments" always interfere seriously with the proper performance of the duty of any legislative masonic body.

The "one ballot law" was adopted, but we regret to find it coupled with a provision that an objection holds good until withdrawn. As the name of the objector is not recorded, the practical result is that the candidate is perpetually rejected without any possible chance of ever being accepted.

The Report on Correspondence (136 pp.) was presented, as usual, by Bro. CORNELIUS HEDGES. He began early, worked at odd moments and reviewed on the first reading.

He says, and we fully agree with him:

"Alabama has one of those constitutions that can only be amended by reference to the lodges. It is a slow, conservative process, that looks well in theory, but we never admired the way it works in practice. There are too many lodges neglectful or indifferent about voting and making returns.

"There were several cases before the Grievance Committee on appeal, to which much time and space were given. In some cases, we think, there was too much attention given to technicalities, and substantial justice lost sight of. Too many cases are sent back for new trials, to the serious injury of the peace and harmony of the lodges. This observation applies not more to Alabama than many other jurisdictions."

In some jurisdictions suspension from Masonry at once *terminates* mem-

bership; of course, if such is the express law, it is valid, but we wish some other name be given to it, as the term is misleading: Comp. Hedges well says:

"We are not impressed with the reasoning of the Jurisprudence Committee on the effect of indefinite suspension. Unless language has lost its significance, suspension is not a termination of membership, whether definite or indefinite. If suspension from membership and suspension from the rights and privileges of Masonry are two different things, it would be well to have them separately defined, to determine which is the greater, and whether the greater contains the less, or is independent, as the committee seem to assume. As they hold, a mason may be restored to all the rights and benefits of Masonry and still be a suspended member of a lodge. We take it that the loss of rights and benefits of Masonry is an incident and consequence of the loss of membership, when the one on trial is a member. Can you remove a consequence and leave the cause standing? The loss of civil rights is an incident to sentence to the penitentiary. Under such a law could civil rights be restored and the convict still live in prison to serve out his sentence? But it may be urged that our masonic organization is so solicitous for peace and harmony within that none can enter except by unanimous ballot. But in answer, we say it is not a question of admission at all, for one, only under suspension, is still a member, and when the offence that was the ground of suspension is condoned, the suspension should cease. A vote that would suspend ought to be sufficient to restore."

As has already been stated, he has succeeded in securing "the one ballot law," for which he gives these reasons:

"Our law requires a separate ballot for each degree and the right of ballot is unquestioned. Until we legislated on the subject, the candidate for advancement might renew his petition at every meeting, with increased ill-feeling constantly engendered, some aggrieved friend causing every other petition to be rejected till that one was favorably acted on. Some Grand Lodges have required that charges should be made in such cases or the objections disregarded. We have limited the right to petition for advancement to twice, at intervals of two months, and then not again for three years. It may not be the wisest of regulations, but was a compromise of different plans. For our part, we favor one ballot for all the degrees. It seems a fraud on a candidate to give him a single degree that can do him no good and then hang him up so that he can neither go back nor forward. Either give him all or none, and if elected to take all the degrees, give them to him unless for good cause shown. When our brother asks us where we were when such a ruling passed unchallenged, we answer that the Grand Master could hold no otherwise so long as the law remains, and the trouble lies still further back on the law requiring a ballot for each degree, which we have tried hard and often to have changed, thus far without success."

He does not believe in perpetual jurisdiction, but his Grand Lodge practises it:

"As to the Perpetual Jurisdiction over rejected material as between the lodges of Montana, it is held only in a modified form, for our lodges are allowed to waive jurisdiction in such cases by a three-fourths vote, so that no personal spite can become a bar in such cases."

The vote by which the release is given is no part of the law. This law concedes the *jurisdiction* to the rejecting lodge *until it releases it*. With

what appears to us an unfraternal and unmasonic inconsistency, it denies to lodges out of its jurisdiction what it accords to its own. And Brother HEDGES's language applies, if at all, to his own Grand Lodge:

"When a candidate has been recommended by two brothers and the application investigated and favorably reported by three other members, the presumptions are five to one that the black ball was cast from unworthy motives. Even if cast for some sufficient reason, there should be allowance and encouragement for reform, and when in this moving, changing world, a person once rejected has gained a legal residence and a reputation as a good citizen in a new locality, those living there can better judge of his fitness for Masonry than those who only remember him as he was years before. It is an iniquitous principle in every respect, but we do not care to discuss it further. It is dying, and we are willing to let it die in peace, if it won't make too much fuss and noise about it."

The first sentence logically demands the repeal of the secret unanimous ballot law; his whole argument is a mere denunciation of this law; it is not so intended, but that is what it is, "all the same." However, it is not correct.

We concur in the second sentence, provided the law compels him to wait a sufficient time to make it reasonably sure that he has reformed. The "iniquitous" part of his argument will not avail much as long as Montana refutes it by maintaining the iniquity among her own lodges.

In his conclusion, he says:

"We have naught to say disparaging of the Home movement, but the greater work, in our estimation, is to be accomplished by the lodges. Each of them should have its board of relief, or in places where there are several lodges united effort in this line will prove most economical and effective. And every lodge should have its charity fund. The Grand Lodge charity funds can do no more than act as a balance-wheel or distributing reservoir, where the demands of relief are beyond the resources of particular lodges.

"In this great work of practical relief we have been glad to welcome the powerful aid not only promised but afforded by the organization of the Eastern Star. There is a field of work that belongs to Masonry that can best be attended to by the women to whom we are all obligated by many and most sacred ties. We are sure that in the end every objection and prejudice against this organization will disappear and give place to wonder that it was not actively sought earlier, and that any could have been found so blind as not to see its vast importance."

NEBRASKA, 1895.

The Grand Master (JOHN EHRHARDT) gives the history of a case which is a beautiful (?) illustration of the workings of the modern system of dues and relief.

A brother became a member of a lodge: three years thereafter, the lodge remitted his dues, \$8.20: six years thereafter he was suspended for non-payment of dues amounting to \$15.00; over three years thereafter he fell into distress, and thereupon the brethren of the lodge within whose jurisdiction he was then living, and had lived the preceding ten or more years,

made haste to contribute the \$15.00 to pay the amount of his arrears, and sent it to the Secretary, who returned the usual receipt. When the facts came to the knowledge of the lodge, it directed the Secretary to return the money, and refused to re-instate the brother, because the dues were paid by others without his knowledge, and for the express purpose of making that brother a charge upon the lodge [and thus, in accordance with modern notions, relieve the brethren, among whom he lived, from their obligations] Thereupon the lodge, in whose jurisdiction he was living, and whose members paid his dues, expended \$117.35 in his care and burial, and promptly sent in the bill to the other lodge, which it declined to pay. The matter was presented to the Grand Master, who sustained the lodge in its refusal, and the other lodge appealed to the Grand Lodge. But the committee held, contrary to the civil law and business rules, that when arrears of dues are tendered by any one, no matter whom, the lodge is obliged to receive the money and thus re-instate the delinquent, and ordered the bill to be paid. It censured the lodge for suspending him when it did, and yet that was the natural result of the law under which the lodge was acting.

We make no further comment than to express the regret that, for the fair fame of Masonry, the Grand Lodge had not forbidden the publication of the case; and, it having done so, to enter our protest against this action's being considered as in accordance with masonic principles, and our claim that it is an attempt to foist upon Masonry the methods of modern *relief* societies, and thus destroy the duty of masonic *charity*.

The Grand Master had before him the case of an Entered Apprentice, who had moved to Maryland, and upon whom his lodge had requested a Maryland lodge to confer the other degrees. That lodge refused on account of objections being made to the candidate's fitness, and another lodge was requested to do the work, when the lodge first applied to objected. While not so stated in the account of the matter by the Grand Master, the case came before the Grand Master of Maryland, who, after investigation, prohibited the conferring of the degrees by the Maryland lodge. Thereupon the party returned to Nebraska to receive the degrees, and the Grand Master of Maryland presented the objections to Grand Master EHRHARDT. The latter appointed Past Grand Master LININGER to investigate the case, who recommended that the degrees be conferred.

The Grand Master says:

"I myself devoted considerable time in making a thorough investigation of the case. I wanted to be satisfied as to the moral qualifications of the applicant, for on the question of jurisdiction I entertained no doubt. After reading all the correspondence, and, I think, fully understanding the case, I withdrew the prohibition, and allowed our Falls City Lodge to confer the degrees."

The Grand Lodge approved his action. We shall look with some interest

to see what *status* the candidate practically receives in Maryland. The case illustrates the wisdom of our law, which does not allow one lodge to confer degrees at the request of another, but requires it to waive jurisdiction over the candidate and let the lodge, to which he applies for advancement, have the whole power and responsibility of acting in the premises.

On account of the failure of crops in some parts of the state, the Grand Master deemed it necessary to aid the distressed by the Grand Lodge and borrow the necessary amount from the Masonic Home Fund. He sent out a circular to the lodges; twenty needed help, one hundred and forty-eight did not, and forty made no reply. The following circular was sent to the lodges asking aid:

"In regard to our relief work, would say: After mature deliberation it has been decided that relief for destitute brethren be granted through the several lodges, and as the money for such relief much be provided by loans, we have concluded to grant assistance to lodges by loaning them a reasonable sum and let the lodges grant the relief to its individual members, and they can do that by either loaning the amount to the individual brother or by donating the sum to him outright. Many brethren prefer a loan to a donation, and there are some that will perhaps be unable to repay the amount.

"No security should be required except the note of the individual brother, and the sum should be kept down to the lowest sum; but no brother or his family should be permitted to suffer for the necessaries of life.

"Bear in mind, brethren, that calls for relief are very numerous; but the Grand Officers will do all in their power to assist the needy.

"The enclosed note and circular will explain itself, which please fill out and return to me. If approved, an order for the amount will be sent you. When the Grand Lodge meets next June the matter of repayment will be fully determined."

The Grand Master adds:

"When a special case was reported and the lodge entirely unable to assume the payment, orders were drawn on the relief fund in favor of the lodge, to be expended for the particular individual."

* * * * *

"Up to the 15th day of March, 1895, every application received was duly considered, and all granted reasonable relief. On that date the funds available were about exhausted, and no further relief was granted; and while some applications that were received after that time appealed strongly to our sympathy, yet the winter had passed, and all our membership had been cared for.

"The plan adopted by the committee on relief was that all worthy brethren and the widows and orphans depending upon us for assistance could be best provided for by the chartered lodges through their duly-elected officers."

* * * * *

"Tenders of assistance were made from many of the other jurisdictions. While thanking all for their active masonic benevolence, all offers were fraternally declined; it was our ambition to care for our own membership."

We gather from the Treasurer's report that the disbursements for this purpose amounted to nearly \$8,000, and the notes given therefor by the lodges amount to \$7,680.

The action of the Grand Master was approved by the Grand Lodge and the following recommendation of the committee adopted:

"We recommend that the time of payment of the notes given by the subordinate lodges to the Grand Lodge be extended to a time not later than October 1, 1896, (whenever the proper representations and requests be made to the Grand Master.) We recommend that the Grand Secretary be instructed to accept and credit upon the note any payment whenever made in amount not less than five dollars."

Grand Secretary BOWEN says:

"Volume I of the second edition of Nebraska Proceedings, 1857 to 1868, has been issued from the electrotype plates and distributed as ordered. I hope the issue of the second volume, 1869 to 1874, will be at once ordered, that our lodges may have the benefit of the forethought and labor that has been bestowed upon our printed records. I know of no other organization in Freemasonry whose annals are in stereotype plates as are those of the Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery of Nebraska, nor of but very few who have as complete a fireproof archive and archive room. Instructions are asked whether copies of Volume I shall be sold at one dollar each, the cost being \$1.05 $\frac{1}{2}$."

The committee reported that the price should be one dollar, *as the volume ought to be in the hands of every mason in the jurisdiction*; and the Grand Lodge so voted. The issue of Volume II in same style was also authorized.

Nebraska is ahead of all other jurisdictions in the provision it has made for the distribution of her Proceedings—now and in the future.

The Grand Orator, Bro. BENJAMIN F. THOMAS, delivered a splendid oration, the concluding paragraph of which we give:

"Freemasonry is fitted to every possible development of the world; to every possible improvement in the conditions of life. Its voice will ever be on the side of such development and its efforts will contribute to such improvement. Secure in its past; watchful of its present; hopeful of its future, it will continue its victorious march, clad in the mystic armor of truth down through the long stretch of centuries."

We commend this to the thoughtful consideration of those who claim that Freemasonry must be changed in order to be "abreast of the times."

The Grand Lodge decided that the failure or refusal of an E. A. to qualify himself for advancement, is not a masonic offence for which he can be disciplined.

The Grand Lodge adopted the "Wisconsin proposition," after amending it by striking from it so much as relates to the duty of the Grand Lodge in case of the inability of the lodge! This failure to carry the doctrine to its necessarily logical result, shows that the doctrine is erroneous, or that the Grand Lodge deliberately declares in advance that it will not perform its duty!

It was decided that the waiver of jurisdiction over an accepted candidate at any stage of his progress, or over a rejected candidate, can be granted only by a unanimous vote taken by the secret ballot. This accords with our law.

Also that an objection to an elected candidate or to advancement is precisely equivalent to a rejection and should be recorded as such, and if the Master, to whom the objection is made, should go out of office before the rejection is recorded, he must communicate the fact to his successor and he must order it to be recorded. The last is new, but is correct beyond question.

Telegraphic messages of congratulations and fraternal wishes were exchanged with several other Grand Lodges then in session.

The Grand Lodge authorized the publication of the record of the Nebraska Veterans in its own Proceedings.

The "Review of the Proceedings of Fellow Grand Lodges," (72 pp.) was submitted by Bro. WILLIAM R. BOWEN, who, finding that he was "over-running the space we allotted to it," abruptly closes with Utah. It relieves us to find that others besides ourselves are liable to shoot beyond the mark.

We have not looked to see if he makes two classes of Grand Lodges—and leaves the *sisters* out: if such is the fact we do not want to know it, much less to chronicle it.

After giving his reasons for writing a report this year, he says:

"The work will occupy all the evenings of the winter and spring except when we attend the regular meetings of our home masonic bodies; our readers should understand that our reviews aren't written as one writes a social letter (one 'handy with the pen' doesn't condense), nor made up of extracts clipped with scissors and grouped with paste; but (for want of better brains) are laboriously compiled, boiled down, 'blue penciled,' compressed and rewritten—all of which takes time, 'simply this and nothing more.' It's true that once in a while toward midnight we weary in well doing and (elated by communion with some seductive fellow) our pencil goes off at a tangent and we wander aimlessly in inanity for a season."

The report shows that he carries out strictly his plan and very rarely gets "elated."

While we appreciate the courtesy of the custom mentioned in the following, we fully concur with him, and give as an additional reason that shelf-room is becoming a matter of serious consequence.

"Grand Secretary Hempstead records the receipt of a *bound* copy of the current proceedings of fifteen Grand Lodges; this sending of bound proceedings to fellow Grand Lodges is becoming a custom with nearly half our American jurisdictions, but we do not enthuse over same because we prefer to do our own binding, especially when the proceedings are but three-eighths of an inch thick, as some are; we'd rather bind several years together and would rejoice if we could get the pamphlets with wide margins or untrimmed."

Let the Proceedings be paged consecutively for a fair sized volume and indexed.

He thinks that Bro. WOLFE uses the term "*sister lodges*," "because the apron is the tie that binds." But he will find, if he examines, that long and

very general usage requires the use of the feminine gender whenever associations are spoken of and given one of the two genders. Indeed, we believe he is the pioneer in using the masculine gender.

He doubts the antiquity of "demit," claiming that it was copied from Odd Fellowship, and says in reply to our suggestion that the system prevailed before Odd Fellowship was ever heard of, that from a report made in Virginia in 1855, demission was originally the laying down of official authority; that proves nothing, for demission from *office* is one thing and demission from *membership* is another thing; however, the fact still remains that demission from membership prevailed long before Odd Fellowship was born; hundreds of instances might be cited, but we will cite only one, for that is sufficient in Maine, viz: SIMON GREENLEAF resigned his membership in his lodge before 1820, while his lodge was still under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

He evidently wrote his review of Maine hurriedly, for he undertakes to justify the California law, which claims to deprive masons of their masonic character without trial, by quoting our remarks in support of the enactment of laws prohibiting evil practices by masons, even though such practices were not known in former days.

Again, he sustains those laws by saying that the non-affiliate *ostracizes himself* just as a citizen *debars himself* from voting if he does not register; passing over the fact that the citizen has the *legal right* to register, while the non-affiliate can become a member of a lodge only as a matter of favor on its part, we would ask Bro. BOWEN if he really thinks a law would stand for a moment in Court, which should provide that a citizen who does not register should lose *all* his rights as a citizen, and become an outlaw? Does not he see that his illustration proves the case against him? Does he not see that as failing to register debars one from voting *and that only*, failure to affiliate, on the same principle, debars one from acting in the lodge, and that only? In many jurisdictions, a man must pay a tax in order to vote: but who would be so foolhardy as to claim that failure to pay the tax deprives the party of the protection of the laws and takes away from him *the right to exist*, and that, too, without trial, as the California law treats the mason who fails to affiliate?

In a former report, we discussed the difference between Sovereign Grand Lodges (such as Maine), which are the source of all masonic power in their jurisdictions, and such Grand Lodges as Nebraska, which are not sovereign, but pattern their system after that of the United States government, and hold that the craft is the source of masonic power, and the Grand Lodge has only the powers granted to it by the craft. In reply, he is unfortunate enough to attempt to run the "deadly parallel" upon us—unfortunate, because the parallel completely demolishes his position and sustains us. Let it

be remembered that our contention is that the Grand Lodge is the source of power, and his is that the masons of the jurisdiction are the source of power. He quotes from the Preambles of the Constitutions of the United States, and of the Grand Lodge of Maine, thus: "*We, the people of the United States,*" and "*We, the Grand Lodge of Maine:*" in the former case the people of the United States ordain, in the latter, *the Grand Lodge of Maine*, and not "*the masons of Maine,*" ordain, &c. He finds in the constitution of Nebraska various phrases in which full sovereignty is claimed, but he omits the most important clause, the one which denies to the Grand Lodge the power to change its constitution—the clause which determines whether the Grand Lodge is the source of power, or whether it has such powers only as are granted to it by a higher authority.

But we must stop, though we have not even reached Utah!

NEVADA, 1895.

We are sorry to find from the address of the Grand Master (PHILIP A. DOYLE) that the total membership is growing less yearly. There had been only twenty-three initiates during the year and eight affiliations, while the losses were enough to reduce the membership sixty-six.

He said that the expenses of the Grand Lodge are out of all proportion to the membership. This is true of every small Grand Lodge, when compared with a large Grand Lodge. He recommended a material reduction in expense, part of which could be effected by dispensing with the Report on Correspondence. Another reduction could have been effected by dispensing with the publication of the returns, to which twenty-two pages of this pamphlet are devoted.

He recommended the abolition of the Grand Representative system, but the Grand Lodge decided otherwise.

A jurisdictional complaint against a New York lodge had been satisfactorily adjusted and the edict forbidding masonic recognition of the party was rescinded.

We hope that this Grand Lodge has reached its limit of declension and that her next report will show certain evidence of returning prosperity.

NEW BRUNSWICK, 1895.

The Grand Lodge met at its usual time, but on account of the absence of many members, who had gone to Boston to attend the Templar gathering, and in accordance with a tacit understanding among the craft, a recess was taken to the twenty-sixth of September.

The Grand Master (THOMAS WALKER) announced the death of Past Grand Master BENJAMIN LESTER PETERS. BRO. PETERS was born in St. John, August 13, 1827: he was made a mason in 1856, and immediately thereafter commenced service as Junior Deacon: he was then Senior Deacon and Warden, and became Master of his lodge in 1859. He was a member and chairman of the convention in 1867 which organized the Grand Lodge, and became its first Grand Master: he was twice re-elected: he never lost his interest in Masonry, and although his judicial duties were onerous, he was an active mason to the day of his death. A Lodge of Sorrow in his memory was held Dec. 18, 1894, the exercises at which (given in these Proceedings) are of much interest.

M. W. RODERICK McNEILL, Grand Master of Prince Edward Island, was present as a visitor and was received with the usual Grand Honors.

Of the Wisconsin proposition, the Grand Master well says:

"I am asked to submit this proposition to you for your action, and I do so with this single remark, that charity which seeks for a return and confines itself to those of our own house is not to me the charity taught us in the lodge, but would seem to reduce our craft to the level of a modern assessment association."

Of which the committee say:

"With the views of the Grand Master in regard to the principle underlying the system of masonic charity your committee are heartily in accord, but an examination of the circular issued by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin seems to indicate that a necessity exists in that jurisdiction and in jurisdictions contiguous to it for an organized system of administering relief, so that the worthy recipient and the charitable giver shall be justly dealt with. The conditions in this province do not require such a system here at the present time, but circumstances may make it desirable to observe with interest the operations of the plan suggested by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin."

The Grand Master of Prince Edward Island made an eloquent appeal in behalf of a Masonic Home for the Maritime Provinces, and the Grand Lodge adopted the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to confer with committees from the Grand Lodges of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and endeavor to formulate a general scheme for the relief of distressed brethren in the territory occupied by the Grand Lodges of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, the Grand Secretary to notify these Grand Lodges of this action of this Grand Lodge."

This Grand Lodge still has a heavy debt, and it will hesitate to embark in another enterprise until that debt is paid. The taxation is so high that its aggregate membership has fallen off three hundred within a few years; it has reduced the tax this year and we hope to see the effect in an increase in its membership; if by heroic treatment the debt could be paid, we have no doubt that the losses of members would be greatly diminished.

NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1895.

"The semi-annual" was held as usual, and the work exemplified by three different lodges. The Manchester brethren furnished a collation. The usual exercises were varied by the presentation of a jewel to Bro. JOSEPH KIDDER, Grand Treasurer for over twenty years, and one to Bro. GEORGE P. CLEAVES, Grand Secretary since 1877—tokens of appreciation most worthily bestowed.

The Grand Master (CHARLES C. HAYES) says:

"Brethren, I congratulate you that masonry has been so prosperous in our state, notwithstanding the great financial depression which has swept over this entire country, affecting as it has the noble order to which we are proud to belong. So far as I am aware, the relations existing between this and other Grand Jurisdictions are harmonious, and with one or two slight exceptions, which we hope will soon disappear, nothing of importance has occurred to seriously disturb the peace which usually reigns throughout our own borders."

The course of affairs had been so smooth that the Grand Master had little to say that is of interest outside of that jurisdiction. He invoked the aid of the brethren in aid of the Masonic Home expected to be erected at Manchester.

He had publicly installed the officers of four lodges; had dedicated the monument to Governor JOHN SULLIVAN, the first Grand Master of Masons in that state, and had laid the corner stone of a new Masonic Temple at Laconia, the dedication of which at an early day has now been announced.

Among his decisions approved by the Grand Lodge is the following:

"That it is not illegal or irregular for a Past Master, at the request of the Master, to preside at a funeral and conduct the service, in the absence of the Master and both Wardens."

The District Deputies, in their reports, make concise mention of each lodge visited, and show that as a whole the lodges are in a prosperous condition, and their affairs carefully administered.

The following resolution was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That this Grand Lodge grants permission for any lodge under its jurisdiction to permit the Chapters of the Eastern Star to meet in their rooms, should such lodge deem it for the best good of Masonry."

The Grand Master called the attention of the Grand Lodge to the necessity of determining "what is legitimate Masonry in this jurisdiction and what is not." The matter was referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, which submitted a very able report, which was accepted and adopted by the Grand Lodge. We should like to copy it all, but cannot do so. The following is one of the most forcible, clear and correct statements of the general principles that we have ever seen, and we fraternally refer Bro. BOWEN to it as giving a reply to some of the questions which he has asked:

"It is a doctrine as old as Grand Lodges, and which has never been questioned throughout their long and varied history, that they have absolute and supreme authority in the matter of the government of their subordinates in all things masonic—limited only by the landmarks and the written law embodied in their respective constitutions.

"The common law, or unwritten law of the craft touching this subject, is more absolute and complete than the written law or law embodied in constitutions. So far as we are aware, it has never been questioned, and it is a remarkable fact that in all of the controversies which have arisen between rival Grand Lodges in the same jurisdiction, there is no case on record where the absolute and supreme authority of the Grand Lodge itself to govern subordinates according to its own will has not been taken for granted. Contentions have arisen often between different organizations, each one claiming that it was the legitimate and authorized Grand Lodge for the jurisdiction, and these rivalries and differences have occasioned the craft great trouble and often served to injure its influence and retard its progress. But it is a singular fact that in all the many controversies of this character no one has ever suggested any limitation upon the authority or power of a Grand Lodge over its subordinates. This power has been exercised in a great variety of instances; discipline has been visited for every kind of insubordination conceivable, and the Grand Lodge has asserted its authority and exercised its government fully and unquestioned in all cases, and so far as we are aware it is so held in all the works upon masonic law and jurisprudence.

"Constitutions are of a modern origin. The idea is prevalent to some extent that Grand Lodges are founded upon constitutions; that is a mistaken view. Grand Lodges, after they are established, adopt constitutions and limit their authority by such provisions and regulations as they voluntarily see fit to make.

"The powers of the Grand Lodge are legislative, judicial and executive. These powers are *defined* in constitutions and general regulations, which every Grand Lodge may adopt and repeal at its convenience and pleasure. They are conclusive and binding, of course, until changed or repealed. It is fundamental that nothing can be adopted in derogation of the Ancient Landmarks, but, subject to that rule, the Grand Lodge can establish for its government and the government of the craft any constitution and regulations which in its judgment will conduce to the common good.

"The legislative powers of a Grand Lodge extend to every subject not delegated to the subordinate lodges. The judicial powers of the Grand Lodge are both original and appellate. The original power relates to all matters of discipline upon its own members, its subordinates and individual masons, and arises from its inherent and inalienable rights. Its appellate powers relate to controversies in subordinate lodges, and such matters as arise from the written law and regulations established by the Grand Lodge. Its executive powers relate to the enforcement of all masonic law, and when the Grand Lodge is not in session that power is reposed in the Grand Master.

"All governmental powers, whether executive, legislative or judicial, not expressly delegated by the Grand Lodge, are inherent in and reserved to it as the supreme governing body."

After showing that the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire has acted upon these principles from the time of its organization, the committee say:

"The experience of the fraternity, both within our own jurisdiction and elsewhere, confirms the wisdom of the law and renders more apparent the necessity of its observance.

"The tendency in modern times is to multiply secret organizations. Every conceivable style of society is to be seen; almost without exception

they have some material or financial gain in view. They trench upon the ground of this fraternity in a variety of ways, and to a considerable extent members of the craft are also members of other societies.

"While we have no concern with such organizations, still it is important that we keep prominently in the masonic mind the right to control this fraternity in all matters whereby its safety and integrity are put in jeopardy.

"The Grand Lodge has the power to decide and declare what masonic bodies are regular, wherein masonic symbols are used, shown, or made known as a part of its ceremonies.

"Much has been said upon the question whether or not the Grand Lodge can have any knowledge of any degrees or orders which are higher in grade than the symbolic degrees.

"The discussion arises upon a mistaken view of the question; Grand Lodges do not claim to know the esoteric character of the higher grades; they only claim the right to decide what bodies whose masonic foundation rests upon the symbolic degrees are lawful and regular. But after much contention—causing great injury to the craft and at times threatening its safety—it has become a well-settled doctrine, which is generally conceded to be founded in the common law of masonry, that Grand Lodges have such power and authority. Indeed, any other doctrine would endanger the whole system of Masonry and would make a breach in the walls of the temple to which for centuries the craft have come to worship, and permit inroads upon our peaceful dominion to be made by the enemies of the fraternity, who, joining hands with the selfish and treacherous members within, work disaster and ruin to our beloved institution.

"The Grand Lodge has not only the *power* but the *duty* to the craft under its obedience to declare what bodies and organizations are regular and lawful in a masonic sense. This becomes important in view of the fact that members of its obedience are constantly desiring to obtain the higher grades of both the York and the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rites, existing within this jurisdiction; and that there are unlawful, clandestine and spurious bodies claiming to be legal, which are improperly inducing members of the fraternity to join their organizations."

* * * * *

"The question has been raised by persons engaged in making use of spurious and clandestine bodies and selling 'counterfeit degrees' whether any organization in one rite has aught to do with any other rite. It is hardly necessary to discuss the question here, but the *power* of the Grand Lodge to deal with it rests upon the fact that both systems or rites are founded upon the symbolic degrees, while its *duty* and the propriety of its action in this behalf are fully sustained and apparent from the principles of masonic comity, and the importance of harmony among the brethren of both rites who meet within the symbolic lodge.

"No higher duty of the Grand Lodge exists than to so govern the members of its obedience as to *prevent dissensions and prohibit all causes of disturbance and contention among the craft.*

"The principle of masonic comity between the grand bodies of different jurisdictions has long been regarded as binding, and no rule of conduct has been attended with happier results.

"The Grand Lodges of different states have frequent occasion to observe towards their sister Grand Lodges this well settled rule and it is invariably practiced.

"The same principle obtains throughout the entire system of the York Rite and between the different Grand Jurisdictions of other nations so far as we are informed.

"If the principle is sound and masonic as between the Grand Bodies of the same rite in different jurisdictions, still greater the reason for its observance between the different Rites founded upon the symbolic degrees, having

the same jurisdictional laws; the same moral and ethical principles; occupying the same territory, and to a certain extent composed of the same membership."

Their conclusion is:

"For the purpose of preserving the integrity of our organization and making known to the members of the fraternity its position in relation to the bodies which it regards as rightful and legitimate, the Grand Lodge hereby declares and recognizes as lawful, regular and masonic, the following designated bodies and their subordinates, established within its jurisdiction, namely:

"The General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States.

"The Grand Royal Arch Chapters of the several States and Territories of the United States.

"The Royal Arch Chapters and other bodies under their jurisdiction.

"The General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the United States.

"The Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters of the several States and Territories of the United States.

"The Councils of Royal and Select Masters under their jurisdiction.

"The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States.

"The Grand Commanderies of Knights Templar of the several States and Territories of the United States.

"The Commanderies of Knights Templar under their jurisdiction.

"The Supreme Council of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, of which Henry L. Palmer is Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander.

"The various bodies under the jurisdiction of said Supreme Council, with all the powers, privileges and prerogatives belonging to them, and incident to the enjoyment thereof by them respectively."

The question of the proper course to be taken when an E. A. of several years standing applies for advancement was before the Grand Lodge, and it was held that the application should be referred to a committee to inquire and report whether the candidate stands in the same position as when the ballot was taken, or whether there had been such changes in his character and standing as should prevent his receiving the degrees. In some other jurisdictions, the usage is for the Master to give notice of the application at a stated meeting, and that if no objection is made he proposes to confer the degrees at the next stated meeting; if objections are made, they take the usual course of objections to advancement. The New Hampshire rule is the safer one, and, therefore, the better one.

The Report on Correspondence (152 pp.) was presented by Bro. ALBERT S. WAIT.

He dissents from the Alabama decision that the petition of a candidate, who receives a disqualifying injury after the reception of the petition and before the ballot, must still proceed to the ballot. We concur in dissenting; we hold that the lodge had no masonic right to proceed to ballot, for want of jurisdiction; the committee ought to have reported the facts and the petition be returned, as we stated last year. But Bro. WAIT gives another reason, in which we do not concur:

"We are aware that there have been decisions in several Grand Lodge jurisdictions, that a petition once presented and referred cannot be allowed by the lodge to be withdrawn, but must go to a ballot; but on what ground, either of law or reason, we have never been informed and are not able to comprehend."

We can answer for Maine; our law was born of experience: it was found that the petitions of unworthy candidates, were withdrawn to avoid the effect of a rejection: but the law is limited by the other law, that the petition of a candidate, over whom the lodge has no jurisdiction, must be returned as soon as that fact is discovered.

Replying to us in relation to another matter, he says:

"The trouble with this reasoning, to our minds, is with the premises assumed. Lodges do not derive their authority to confer the degrees of Masonry from their Grand Lodges. That authority is inherent in the lodges. They have, it is true, consented to its limitation to some extent, by the legislative power which they have conferred upon their Grand Lodges, but that is far from making the latter the *original source* of the authority."

We refer him to the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence, which we have quoted in this report, for a conclusive reply to this argument and others in past reports, based upon the doctrine which he asserts in what we have just quoted.

He quotes from our reply to Bro. CLARKE, of Kentucky, our remarks in relation to the *status* of a rejected candidate, and fully endorses them.

He devotes considerable space in contesting our proposition that a Grand Lodge can exist without constituent lodges, and especially the proposition that a Grand Lodge may hold a communication without the representation of a single lodge, unless there is some provision of its Constitution to the contrary. The report of the Committee on Jurisprudence is against him. But if he will examine the volume of the records of Massachusetts recently published, he will find that that supports us: he will also find the precedent of the Grand Lodge of Maine in Morgan times; the record of the Grand Lodge of Vermont for 1836 does not show that a single lodge was represented, as in fact there was not, as has always been stated: moreover, the Grand Lodge at that session unanimously adopted the following:

"With a view of relieving the several lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge from the inconvenience of attending the communication of January, A. L. 5837,

Resolved, That the Grand Master, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, with such of the Grand Lodge as may make it convenient, be and they hereby are authorized to attend at the hall of said lodge on the second Wednesday of January, A. L. 5837, and adjourn said lodge to the second Wednesday of January, A. L. 5838, and thereafter biennially."

The "Brethren present" were the Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Grand Chaplain, with four others who acted as *pro tem* officers, not enough to fill all the Grand Offices. The

Grand Lodge was opened in due form, important business transacted and the Grand Lodge closed in due form. It will be noted that the vote for future meetings *required* the presence of the number necessary to open a lodge of Master Masons, and no more. Accordingly the three Grand Officers met in 1837, 1838, 1840, 1842 and 1844, *and adjourned the Grand Lodge* in accordance with that vote. In December, 1845, the Grand Master sent out invitations to various masons to meet at the time to which the Grand Lodge has been adjourned. They did meet, opened the Grand Lodge, and formally declared that the Grand Lodge had been kept alive by the action in 1836 (when no lodge was represented) and by the adjournments, and proceeded to transact the usual business.

He refers to a record of Massachusetts Grand Lodge, in which action upon an important matter was deferred at one session, and the Grand Master was requested to summons the Masters and Wardens of all the lodges to attend the next meeting to consider the matter and determine what should be done; and this he claims is an authority against our position! The postponement of business in order to secure a fuller attendance proves that the Grand Lodge had no power to act without that fuller attendance!

We could find no such record as Bro. WAIT mentions. Since the foregoing was written, we find that he has made an error of ten years, and the meeting was held in 1777 instead of 1787. In view of what Bro. WAIT has written, it is almost funny to find that at this very meeting *not a single lodge was represented!* The Grand Master had been killed, and while the meeting was called to consider the petition for a new lodge that was deferred to the seventh of March, and the Masters and Wardens were ordered to be summoned to consider upon and *elect a Grand Master*; good reason for *summoning* them. The Grand Lodge met March seventh and was "held," but *no lodge was represented.* It adjourned till the next evening, when eight Grand Officers were present, one Past Master, and the representative of *one lodge* only, but the Grand Lodge proceeded to elect a Grand Master and other Grand Officers.

Usage concurs with principle in establishing the proposition that when a Grand Lodge consists of certain members, all equal in rights therein, and no provision is made for the number necessary to open it, it may be opened by the number necessary to open a Master's lodge, without regard to whether those present are members in their own right or are representatives of lodges; no warrant for any discrimination is found in the Constitution or ancient usage.

NEW JERSEY, 1896.

As a frontispiece, we have a fine portrait of the retiring Grand Master, CHARLES BELCHER.

The Grand Lodge was honored with the presence of the Grand Masters of Pennsylvania and New York, with quite a number of their respective associate Grand Officers.

Grand Master BELCHER says:

"The passing of time is accompanied with the usual changes. Our numerical growth has been a healthy one. A higher conception of our symbolisms and teachings shows that the elevating influences that have been continuously and freely disseminated for the benefit of the craft have had a refining effect upon the minds and lives of those who are admitted among us to such an extent that one can safely say our membership is not only increasing, but improving socially, morally and intellectually."

* * * * *

"I have received a circular letter from a committee appointed by or representing the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, and approved by the M.W. Grand Master of that jurisdiction, of a similar nature to that sent to the various Grand Lodges during the administration of my predecessor, M.W. Brother Durand, who, in an exhaustive manner, expressed his opinions in his address to the Grand Lodge at our last annual communication. The report of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence so clearly and carefully expressed the opinions of this Grand Lodge on the subject that I did not deem it advisable to take any action in the matter, and simply refer to it as a communication, the receipt of which deserves public acknowledgment, but the subject-matter cannot consistently be endorsed or complied with."

We quote the following to show how readily complications may arise in relation to candidates who live in one jurisdiction and do business in another, especially situated as New Jersey is in respect to New York and Pennsylvania:

"During the year, in addition to the three cases of Hanower, Alexander and Robinson, above mentioned, 49 requests for waiver of jurisdiction have been granted by lodges in this state in favor of lodges located in other states, 15 requests have been denied, and 9 are still pending; and on application of lodges in this state for waiver of jurisdiction, 16 requests have been granted by lodges located in other states, 2 have been denied, and 3 are still pending."

M.W. Bro. BELCHER conferred the degrees at sight upon one candidate; of this he says:

"In view of assurances made by my predecessor, M.W. Bro. Durand, which, owing to physical cares and press of official duties, he was unable to fulfill, I was requested to perform a ceremony seldom witnessed in this jurisdiction, but thoroughly within the province of the Grand Master—that of conferring the degrees of Masonry at sight."

He must have been a busy officer, for, with the aid of his Private Secretary, as one item of his official acts, he examined *one hundred and fifty-eight* codes of By-Laws, of which only *twenty* were in conformity to Grand Lodge law.

Without reflecting upon the competency of our Masters in Maine, we trust that they will read and appreciate what he says in relation to the duty of such officers:

"The lack of knowledge displayed by the officers of some of the lodges, as regards the requirements of their position, shows a condition of affairs that, to say the least, is reprehensible, and should be a fruitful subject for thought on the part of those who now hold, as well as those who aspire to, official connection with their lodges. No Worshipful Master is competent to properly and faithfully discharge the duties incumbent upon him who is not possessed of an accurate knowledge of what those duties are. The rules, regulations and laws for the government of the craft have been placed in the possession of the lodges for their guidance and instruction, and there can be no excuse for disregarding them, either through carelessness, thoughtlessness or ignorance; neither should violations of these laws be passed by without due consideration. Respect for the law is the strength and support of civil society, and of equal, perhaps far greater importance to the craft."

He gives several cases in which he severely punished the negligent, but not willful, violation of law by Masters. He followed the Pennsylvania rule in declaring initiations void, in cases in which we hold that he found no warrant in masonic law for such action.

He has imbibed another Pennsylvania notion:

"A number of requests have been made by various lodges for dispensations for the public installation of officers. Believing that the impressiveness of these beautiful and interesting ceremonies is necessarily curtailed by the presence of outsiders, and that the ritual should be regarded as a portion of our lodge business, intended only for those upon whom masonic light has been shed, I have invariably refused to grant such requests. These requests are based upon a desire to entertain the friends or families of the members, but underlying such desire is the hope that what is seen will incite or create a desire to see still more of our forms and ceremonies, and thus, in an innocent way, attract material to their lodges. I am aware that the custom has been handed down and in practice for so many years that it can almost be looked upon as a landmark, but its antiquity does not, to my mind, offer any good reason for its continuance. I cannot believe that the original patrons of Freemasonry countenanced any such practice. The progressive ideas of the present generation have a tendency towards the introduction of many things in connection with our forms and ceremonies that so closely approach to innovations that it is wisdom on our part to call a halt. Our endeavor should be to maintain and retain the simplicity for which our rites have been notable, and to disclaim and disregard any encroachments upon that simplicity. The opening wedge is where the danger lies and one false step is sure to be succeeded by another. Let us avoid the danger and adhere to the same secrecy in our installation ceremonies, which is a distinctive feature of our ritual, or, if there is no danger attached, let public installations take place without dispensations. Either let them be within the discretion of the lodges or prohibited."

Those best acquainted with them believe that the impressiveness is *increased* by the presence of the wives, sisters and daughters of the brethren; as the ritual is published and may be seen by any one, we regard that objection a very weak one. The object is not to attract new material; the delivery of the charges in the presence of those, who have so great a stake in the performance of their masonic duty by the brethren, renders those charges almost infinitely more impressive and places the brethren under strong bonds to act in accordance with them. We agree, however, with the Grand Master that the matter should be left to the discretion of the

lodge and its Master. The Grand Lodge did nothing, except to declare that the action of the Grand Master was clearly within his official prerogative, and, therefore, called for no action on the part of the Grand Lodge.

He announces the unveiling of the monument to Bro. VEHS�AGE:

"The monument is a credit to the donors and in accordance with that simplicity which dominated the life of our brother, whose last resting-place it marks as a graceful tribute of the love, esteem and affection of those with whom he was for so many years and so intimately associated. The inscription is as follows:

"M. W. HENRY VEHS�AGE, D. D.,
GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN NEW JERSEY,
1883-1884.

"This monument has been erected by the Grand Lodge of F. and A. M. of New Jersey as a testimonial to a Good Man, an Honored Brother and a Faithful Mason."

It is refreshing to read his forcible statement of old-fashioned masonic doctrine:

"We are living in a progressive age; our associations with the outer world necessarily influence, to a greater or less extent, our surroundings in the lodge, and silence and secrecy should be deeply imbedded in the tyled recesses of our hearts, ever present to protect us from innovation of any character. If you would stimulate Masonry, have in high regard the mental and moral attributes with which those in official position should be richly endowed. Guard carefully the outer door with an eye that never sleeps; live creditably; act honorably; always preserve the dignity of manhood, and remember in whose image you are created."

In some parts of the country, the motto seems to be, "throw open the outer door and admit all comers; and denounce any brother who obstructs the entrance of any one, as a malicious enemy of the Institution and as 'probably less fit to be a mason than the one to whom he objects.'"

We find that the Grand Lodge did take action in relation to public installations, although the committee did not report in favor of doing so. The following resolution was presented and adopted, apparently without any discussion or consideration:

"*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Grand Lodge that the public installations of officers of lodges is contrary to the spirit and teachings of the fraternity and is hereby prohibited."

Inasmuch as WEBB and all other authors of Monitors, Guides and Text Books, from his day down, have taught that public installations are proper and in accordance with the ancient usages of the craft, it would seem that the author of the resolution had little knowledge of the "teachings of Masonry," and very little acquaintance with the generally approved Text Books. Of course we have no objection to any Grand Lodge's prohibiting public installations; but when, by violating the truth of history, masonic law and usage, by asserting such arrant nonsense as is contained in this resolution, one Grand Lodge charges all the Grand Lodges in the United States, save two or three, with unmasonic practices, it should not pass unnoticed.

The Report on Correspondence (235 pp.) was presented by Bro. GEORGE B. EDWARDS. He touches upon the more important matters, and gives full extracts with comments.

In his review of Maine, he says:

"Brother Burbank's best effort was kept for the conclusion, in which the four cardinals of life and duty were made prominent points of consideration, and of urgent adoption. 'Temperance,' the excessive use of intoxicants by masons was deplored, and congratulations were offered to those lodges and communities where the excess was inapplicable. The tongue of slander, the 'baneful words, they say,' to be checked by the duties of fellowship. Profanation, 'The disgusting habit of seasoning the speech with profanity,' deserving the contempt and condemnation of masons in all times and places. 'The mason's duty of citizenship,' that because of being a mason there is a special obligation to adhere to those fundamental principles of justice, equal rights and integrity, that are the glory and safety of society and the nation."

He quotes without comment our remarks in relation to the practice in New Jersey to declare work null and void when some provision of law in the *method* has been violated. Many hold that if any person is initiated in a regular lodge, he is a mason, although he was absolutely ineligible, all questions of eligibility being foreclosed by his initiation; and every where, save in Pennsylvania and recently in New Jersey, it is held that, though the proceedings are irregular and the lodge may be punished for violation of law, the initiate has passed the test which makes him a mason, and no power whatever can unmake him.

NEW MEXICO, 1895.

We have portraits of Past Grand Masters A. H. MOREHEAD and F. H. KENT, (the present Grand Master has a "front name") and a cut of the new Masonic Temple at East Las Vegas, which was dedicated by the Grand Lodge, with full ceremonies given in these Proceedings.

The Grand Master (JOHN J. KELLY) delivered a brief business address: of the condition of the craft he says:

"Notwithstanding the fact that our Territory has suffered from the great business depression of the past three years, I take pleasure in reporting to you that Masonry in this jurisdiction is in a flourishing condition, with every promise of a brighter future."

He had had a pretty busy year, but all the business done was of routine character. He had visited seven lodges, all of which he found in a prosperous financial condition and fairly well posted in the work.

The Grand Lodge dedicated a new hall during the session, which was held at Albuquerque.

The Committee on Grand Master's address recommended the adoption of the Wisconsin proposition, but the Grand Lodge declined to do so. There-

upon two members of the committee presented it in form of a resolution, but its consideration was postponed till next year.

The Report on Correspondence (78 pp.) was presented by Bro. MAX FROST. As heretofore, he limits himself to a very concise analysis, brief extracts, and few comments.

In his review of California he says:

"I disagree with him. A mason becomes a non-affiliate either because he has a fancied grievance against the institution or some members thereof, or because he has lost general interest. In either case, as far as I am concerned, I prefer him a non-affiliate, than, for instance, a member of the lodge I belong to. He cannot in the nature of things do any good. I think the question of non-affiliates is best settled by being left alone."

We are inclined to agree with him: as we come into the order without solicitation, we are much inclined to believe that non-affiliates, if left alone, would come back quicker, than if we keep badgering them all the while. That was the treatment in former times, and the attempts to improve it have not been very successful.

He sustains a decision that a Master has the right to call the lodge to order at an hour earlier than that prescribed in the by-laws, dissenting from the views of Bro. ROBBINS:

"I cannot agree with Bro. Robbins. While in the one case, there is a good deal in his position, that the Master should be the first to scrupulously carry out and obey the by-laws, still there are certain inherent powers vested in the Master, and amongst these is certainly the power to call communications at such times as he deems right and proper."

If the hour for the stated communication is fixed by the by-laws approved by the Grand Lodge, the Master cannot lawfully open the lodge for such a communication previous to that hour. All other communications are *special* communications: the Master can call them at pleasure, but he must give "timely notice," and specify the business to be performed. If a Master goes into the lodge room and finds a few members there and he calls them to order, he can scarcely be said to give "timely notice." We, therefore, agree with Bro. ROBBINS.

He believes in a ballot for each degree, saying:

"The right of objection and black ball, if he applies for the second degree, exists absolutely and without question, and in my own limited experience, this right has been found of benefit and good to the craft. There is nothing in our obligations demanding or prescribing that we are bound by any ties whatsoever to an Entered Apprentice, or he to us. He is a probationer only, and the only obligation he assumes is the one of secrecy, and no Fellow Craft or Master Mason assumes any obligation towards an Entered Apprentice."

That is not the kind of Masonry which was taught to us, when we entered the fraternity. We were taught that we were a mason, and while we were taught later that as we advanced in Masonry our duties and obligations

were more and more binding on us, we were then told that we were a mason and a brother, with all which those words imply. Bro. Frost's position logically requires him to hold that a Fellow Craft has no rights which a Master Mason is bound to respect: because he has to submit to a ballot precisely as an E. A., and with the same liability to be rejected. His method puts them and a profane upon precisely the same level. To us this shows beyond question that his position is erroneous.

NEW YORK, 1895.

We have splendid portraits of the retiring Grand Master, JOHN HODGE; and of JOHN HOOLE, Grand Tyler for twenty-five years, who had died during the year. As Bro. HODGE has died since, his portrait has unusual interest. In his death, the masons, not only of New York but "wheresoever dispersed," have met with an immense loss. His appreciation by the brethren of his jurisdiction is shown by their calling him to the unprecedented service of six years as Junior Grand Warden, two years as Senior Grand Warden, one year as Deputy Grand Master, one year as Grand Master, and by his re-election as Grand Master by acclamation, an honor, however, which he felt compelled to decline. In his own words:

"These years have all been filled with important events in the history of this Grand Body.

"The great debt which rested like an incubus upon the craft, paralyzing its efforts and crippling its usefulness, has been paid.

"The Asylum, which for near half a century was only a hope, has been built, and to-day its sheltering roof is the realization of the labors of other days.

"I have, in all this work of the past decade, the greatest and grandest in all our past glorious history, tried to perform my humble part.

"But this was a labor of love. The most ambitious man could not desire greater distinction than to thus enjoy through a succession of so many years, in a time of such stupendous labors, the confidence and good-will of so noble a body of men as compose this Grand Lodge.

"I feel it, and I hope properly appreciate it.

"As long as life shall last, I shall recall with pride and satisfaction the years of official service I have enjoyed among you.

"But, my brethren, my engagements in other avenues of life, the demands of business, and the requirements of other duties forbid my further service as your Grand Master, no matter how pleasant the duties may be, lightened by your unanimous support.

"I must, therefore, decline the high honor conferred by this re-election."

Two months and two days after he uttered these words, he died "while sitting at his dining table."

In his annual address, he says:

"The faithful and intelligent efforts of our brethren in their lodge work have resulted in abundant prosperity, and throughout this great jurisdiction harmony has been the universal sentiment of the craft.

"While in some localities the increase in membership has not met the sanguine expectations and desires of many brethren, the aggregate result has been satisfactory, and nearly as many new names have been added to our rolls as in any preceding year."

Among the deaths noticed by him and the Committee on Obituaries is that of Bro. **FREDERIC FOX**.

During the year, he had performed public masonic ceremonies in several instances, and had delivered addresses on those occasions: these are published in the Proceedings, and are well worthy of preservation.

In relation to the system of Grand Representatives, he well says:

"Controversies have arisen between Grand Masters as to the method of the appointment of Grand Representatives, but these controversies were the outcome of a difference of opinion and in no way affected the harmony of the general craft. Because a Grand Master expresses his 'contempt' for the whole system, it does not follow that it should be at once abolished by all Grand Lodges, as it is just possible that some personal reason or controversy may have given birth to that contempt. Measured by the standard of authority it can be claimed that the system is of doubtful utility, because the representative is simply the guarantor of friendship of the Grand Lodge appointing him. Without power, without authority, he nevertheless is the visible evidence of the friendship entertained by the Grand Lodge he represents for the Grand Lodge by which he is accredited. I am in full accord with the sentiment that underlies the system.

"The fact that at this moment I am in the presence of brethren who, with a very few exceptions, represent the Grand Lodges of the world, brings me in touch at once with all Free and Accepted Masons on the face of the earth."

His experience confirms our frequently expressed views as to the best preventative of non-affiliation:

"In all fraternal organizations, unless pecuniary benefits depend upon good standing, it is natural that many will, through carelessness or lack of interest, permit their membership to lapse. Experience has taught me that this condition can, to a very large extent, be remedied if the Secretary of the lodge is faithful in the performance of his duty. It is reasonable to suppose that the great number annually unaffiliated would be materially reduced, if the Secretary of the lodge is not himself careless in the discharge of the duties incumbent upon him. An effort on his part to collect the dues of members would greatly reduce the number of unaffiliates.

"An example in the recent past, where a Secretary for two consecutive years succeeded in obtaining from all the members of his lodge the amount of their dues, is the best evidence of what can be accomplished by a wide-awake, active officer. If an effort were made in the same direction by all the Secretaries of lodges in which there are delinquent members the number of unaffiliations for non-payment of dues would be exceedingly small."

Will our Maine Secretaries please note?

"The Home" takes up a large portion of the Proceedings, and the details are exceedingly interesting, but are too voluminous to be copied. In addition to \$30,000 given by the citizens of Utica, the cost now stands at \$260,869.97. The average number of inmates was 192. To accommodate more an extension of the building is required, the estimated cost of which

will be \$57,500. To meet this the Trustees have on hand \$68,000, besides the Reserve invested fund of \$131,000. The "Maintenance" account, outside of "Additions and Betterments," "Repairs" and "Farm and Barn," is \$25,220.30, and, including those accounts, \$35,415.39. The Superintendent gives the *per capita* expense *per annum* as \$276.32, and adds:

"While the expenditures appear to be large, yet, when gauged by the capacity of the Home, we are prepared to say that due economy has been exercised in all departments, and, carried out on the same generous plan, cannot be much less. In some lines it is inevitable that the expenditures will grow with the years."

If we add four per cent. interest on "the plant," the annual *per capita* expense closely approximates \$400.00.

A revised Constitution was submitted by the Committee on Revision and the following action taken thereon:

"The commission recommends that in all matters affecting the present Constitution, wherein changes are made by the Constitution now submitted, the same be adopted so far as it is possible at one session of the Grand Lodge; that all matters of the proposed Constitution relating to changes in the Statutes be regarded as notice of proposed amendments to the same; that the proposed Constitution be printed in the Proceedings; and that a copy of same be mailed to each lodge."

We quote a few of its provisions:

"Sec. 3. This Grand Lodge shall be composed of all its Grand Officers, the Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Grand Wardens, Past Grand Treasurers, Past Grand Secretaries, and one representative from each lodge, who shall be the Master, one of the Wardens in the order of seniority, or a proxy duly elected by the lodge, the members of the Commission of Appeals, the Trustees of the Hall and Asylum Fund, and all Past Masters of lodges under this jurisdiction who were elected and installed and served one year in the chair of Master prior to the 31st day of December, 1849; but no one can be a member of this Grand Lodge unless he be a member of some lodge within its jurisdiction."

The clause in relation to Past Masters grew out of the schism in 1849, which arose from an attempt to disfranchise all Past Masters; the compromise was that the provision should be prospective and not retroactive.

"Sec. 10. When the Grand Master shall be chosen from the City of New York or the City of Brooklyn, the Deputy Grand Master shall be chosen from some other portion of the state; and when the Grand Master shall be chosen from any portion of the state other than the City of New York or the City of Brooklyn, the Deputy Grand Master must be chosen from the said cities. The Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall be chosen from said cities. The Senior Grand Warden and Junior Grand Warden shall be chosen from some part of the state other than the said cities. A residence of four months immediately previous to such election shall be required to comply with this section."

This is the compromise which brought about a union of the "City Grand Lodge," and the "Country Grand Lodge," into which the Grand Lodge divided some seventy years ago. Since that no resident of the cities of New

York or Brooklyn has ever been elected Grand Warden of this Grand Lodge.

The old rule in relation to the number necessary to open the Grand Lodge is thus modified:

“SEC. 12. The representatives of ten lodges, conveyed on due notice to all the lodges, shall be indispensably necessary to open the Grand Lodge or transact business therein, except on occasions of ceremony, when the Grand Master or his representative, with a sufficient number of brethren, may open the Grand Lodge and transact the business for which it is called.”

The following contains a very serious and, in our view, unmaasonic, departure from the old law and ancient usage of the craft:

“SEC. 13. Each duly accredited representative of a lodge shall be entitled to three votes, and one vote additional for each fifty members over the first fifty; and each of the other members of the Grand Lodge, except the Grand Tyler, shall be entitled to one vote.”

The Grand Lodge retains its sovereignty by retaining the power to amend its constitution (save in one particular) by the adoption of any amendment at two consecutive annual communications of the Grand Lodge.

Its provision for the restoration of expelled and suspended masons is remarkably liberal. A suspended member (and indefinite suspension is not allowed) may be restored at any meeting of the lodge by a majority vote, and, by the same vote, an expelled member may be restored at a stated meeting upon a proposition presented at a previous stated meeting, unless the Grand Lodge has affirmed the decision on appeal. The Grand Lodge may restore an expelled mason to the rights of Masonry at the expiration of one year after the date of sentence. However, in either case, an expelled mason does not become a member of the lodge by restoration, and can become a member only by petition and proceedings thereon in the usual manner.

The practice of nominating Grand Officers prevails in this Grand Lodge, but by an amendment adopted at this communication, nominating and seconding speeches are limited to three minutes.

The Grand Lodge of Norway was recognized, upon the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence, from whose report we also take the following:

“Your committee report that during the past year they are advised that steps have been taken by the lodges of Master Masons under the obedience of the Supreme Council of France, with the concurrence of said Supreme Council, for the formation of an Independent Symbolic Grand Lodge, to have entire control of the first three Symbolic degrees, and a convention of the lodges under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Council of France called for the consideration of the subject; but as we are without information of the results attained, we ask a further continuance of the matter in the hands of this committee, in the hope and expectation that we may be able to report the formation of an independent Grand Lodge of Symbolic Masonry in France, and then recommend recognition by the Grand Lodge of New York, with an exchange of representatives.”

The same committee reported the following, which was adopted, and we hope that such a law will become universal:

"The committee further report on the resolution offered by Bro. Prime, as to the publication of the proceedings of lodges of F. and A. M. by the public newspapers, and notices of action had by the lodges in their work, especially in the publication of the names of brethren on whom or on whose application work was to be done.

"That your committee has considered the various matters specified in the resolution, and report to this body recommending that the disapproval of the Grand Lodge be and is hereby expressed at the publication in the newspapers of the proceedings of lodges, and that hereafter all such publications be refrained from and forbidden.

"We also recommend that all written or printed notices or communications from the Master or Secretary to the members of a lodge, or any members of the fraternity, giving names of candidates for degrees, or names of those on whom masonic degrees have been or will be worked, be forbidden, unless such notices are sent in *sealed* envelopes, properly addressed, and marked '*Strictly Personal*.' And that the use of unsealed envelopes or postal cards in transmitting such communications or summons be positively forbidden."

The unwisdom of departing from ancient law and usage and the adoption of procedure suggested by methods in civil affairs or founded upon ideas of civil government, was forcibly illustrated by a case which was considered by the Committee on Jurisprudence. The Master and Wardens of a lodge all moved away and could not attend its communications: they cannot resign under the Constitution and their removal did not create a vacancy. What could be done to continue the meetings and work of the lodge! By the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of New York, adopted in 1789; by that *printed* in 1801; and by those *published* in 1815 and 1820, in conformity to the old law, provided for such an emergency by recognizing the power of a Past Master, in the absence of the Master and Wardens, to open the lodge and preside: but modern usages have succeeded in getting into the Constitution the provision that, "In the absence of the Master and Wardens a lodge cannot be opened." Under such a provision, an anti-prerogative, strict-constructionist brother gravely argued that the lodge could not be opened at all! The New York committee, however, unanimously held that, apart from the inherent power of the Grand Master, the Constitution provides that he has power to convene any lodge and preside therein; and the committee held that he may delegate that power, by dispensation, to any Past Master, and advised that that course be taken to continue the meetings and work of the lodge, and the Grand Lodge so ordered. That the Grand Master has the power inherent in his office to convene, open and preside in any lodge, in person or by deputy, we most fully admit; but we hold that if the power rests upon the provision of the New York Constitution quoted by the committee, the power cannot be delegated.

The following from the remarks of the new Grand Master, JOHN STEWART,

are of special importance in these days, as shown by the discussions of the question of jurisdiction over rejected candidates.

"Our present position is indeed without parallel in our history. Prosperity such as ours has never before been vouchsafed to any people. Hence, my brethren, the importance of sleepless vigilance, lest our prosperity prove a source of danger. There must be no undue haste in the admission of new members. Better, infinitely better, to advance with steady step and slow, than build with improper material. With close inspection scan every candidate for masonic light, and see to it that each applicant is of the measure and station of the perfect man."

The Report on Correspondence (157 pp.) was prepared by Bro. JESSE B. ANTHONY, assisted by Bro. CHARLES SACKREUTER, so far as other than English speaking Grand Lodges are concerned.

Of the "Home," he says (and as he is its Superintendent, he speaks as one having knowledge) :

"There are, it is true, many things to be considered before any jurisdiction takes up that method of doing good, and while we have a very decided opinion thereon, gained by experience, we are willing each Grand Jurisdiction should weigh the matter thoroughly, consider all its financial responsibilities, and decide accordingly. The *best* method of helping those who are needy is a problem not to be solved by the efforts of any one jurisdiction. Nor is the plan of any jurisdiction, however meritorious it may appear, to be accepted as a model for others."

And in his review of Kansas, he adds:

"Not much progress had been made in the Masonic Home project, and while we have faith that the desire of our brethren will yet be realized, we trust they will carefully consider the magnitude of the proposed work."

As in other parts of his reports, he rather takes issue with those who give the cost of maintenance, we desire to say that we have given figures in no spirit of adverse criticism, but with a view of giving such information as will lead brethren to "carefully consider the magnitude of the undertaking."

We surrender most of our space to his statement of his views upon the Wisconsin proposition:

"We believe it to be a duty resting upon a lodge to care for its own members, their widows and orphans. It may also, with equal force, be said that the lodge is the party to decide to what extent relief shall be granted. There are no fixed benefits in Masonry, and hence no claim for a specific sum can be made. The appropriation is wholly discretionary with the lodge, controlled by its financial ability and the nature of other claims of a similar character bearing upon them. They cannot be compelled to go beyond their ability.

"We have ever regarded the disbursements for charity and the response to calls of that nature as a subject belonging directly to the lodge, and not to be controlled by the Grand Lodge, except to the extent of regulating any injustice or a willful disregard of legitimate calls, where there is an ability to respond. While a lodge should be allowed to manage its own internal affairs, they certainly must do so agreeably to the spirit of our Institution and the laws of the Grand Lodge. Certainly when a lodge neglects or re-

fuses to relieve the necessities of those having claims upon them, when absolutely able to do so, it has outlived its usefulness, and its charter should be called in.

"When a member of a lodge is without the jurisdiction of his own lodge, and in necessitous circumstances, temporary relief is extended by another lodge upon due application; it does not appear to us as assuming a character warranting a call for re-imbursement. It is but the fulfillment of an obligation resting upon the entire Craft.

"When, however, the necessities of the case demand more than what might be termed temporary relief, and a lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction is called upon to relieve the necessities of the case, then it would seem reasonable to us that, before any considerable expenditure is incurred, the lodge in which the membership is held should be notified by letter or wire, and their authority obtained. The lodge is certainly entitled to the same privilege which would obtain were the member within the limits of the Home Jurisdiction, and the application taking the ordinary course. We hardly think there are many instances (and there should be none) in which a lodge will refuse to accede to all proper calls of this nature.

"The authority being obtained, and the relieving lodge carrying out the same in the line of the authority, and governed by its spirit, then, in the event of the failure of the lodge to fulfill its pledge, it should be compelled to discharge its obligation. It is at this point that the authority of the Grand Lodge should be exercised. The delinquent lodge should be compelled to refund the authorized expenditure, or be subject to whatever penalty might be inflicted by the Supreme Body.

"It does not appear to us that it would be wise to make the Grand Lodge, as a body, responsible financially for the neglect of any of its subordinates to discharge a financial obligation. To our mind, a Grand Lodge cannot justly place itself in that position, thereby subjecting itself to an uncertain and unlimited liability. A Grand Lodge might assist a lodge in its inability, or for the good name of the craft of the state, but such would be a voluntary act, and of a specified amount.

"In many of the complaints for failure to obtain re-imbursement there has apparently been some misconception between the parties in regard to the scope of the authority. If a lodge, however, gives unlimited authority, even though the expenditure may have exceeded the anticipation, the fault is its own, and it cannot take exception to the acts of the lodge acting as its agent. That which may be regarded as a reasonable expenditure in one locality might be considered excessive in another, and still be in all things reasonable when gauged at the point of the expenditure. This is noticeable in funeral expenses. In all cases of unlimited authority there is ever the difficulty of a true conception on each side of what may be regarded as 'necessary expenses.' In this, possibly the lodge acting for another lodge, and having the circumstances directly before it, should be the best judge. On the other hand, it is equally true that the lodge wherein the membership lies is entitled to the consideration that it is not required to grant relief beyond its ability; and while the obligation is recognized, nevertheless the response is of a voluntary character, and not the assent to a demand.

"We do not favorably regard the general principle of re-imbursement as a part of Masonry. We believe in the fulfillment of all bounden obligations, whether as an individual mason or as a lodge—the complete discharge of a known and assumed liability—and we have confidence to believe that there are very few exceptions to the full exercise of the duty of a lodge towards its own members or to a lodge which fraternally acts for them.

"We fail to apprehend the necessity of the enactment of any general regulation of this nature between the several Grand Bodies. All claims of this character—especially of a subject of difference—should be susceptible of amicable adjustment.

"We should be decidedly opposed to any Grand Lodge assuming the position of a Guarantee Company."

BRO. ROBBINS having criticised the action of the Grand Lodge of New York in recognizing the Gran Dieta, and having said:

"It is inevitable that the composition of the committee should attract attention, and in view of the widespread feeling that an active propaganda exists which loses no opportunity to further the pretensions of some of the imperialists that Scottish Rite Masonry has, under certain conditions, the same right to establish symbolic lodges as the Masonry from whose original plan it is a dissenter, and that the lodges so established can form Grand Lodges recognizable as Governing Bodies of Free and Accepted Masonry."

BRO. ANTHONY thus replies:

"While not a material point, let us see about the composition of the Committee on Jurisprudence. Of the seven members, but two (we think) are members of the Scottish Rite, and hence the charge of bias in that direction falls to the ground. We ask pardon for even using the word bias in connection with the committee. We have too much respect for their ability, standing, and reputation, to intimate such a thing. We do not believe for a moment they would recommend any action which did not express their honest convictions of what is in harmony with the honor of the Grand Lodge of New York, in accordance with the fundamental principles of Ancient Craft Masonry, and conformable to the rights and dignity of any Grand Lodge. The stricture of our brother with reference to the chairman and his associates is an unwarranted statement, unworthy of his character, and out of place in a report on Correspondence."

We fully agree in relation to the inspection of the charter by a visitor:

"When we said that we considered a mason had no right to *demand* to see the charter, we used the word in its strict definition. We object to the form of the proposition. We are perfectly willing that a visiting brother should *request* to see the charter, if, in his judgment, a necessity, thereby satisfying himself that he is about to visit a regular lodge. We think on this point he should have satisfied himself before attempting to visit, but as he has to furnish evidence by due examination of his regularity, it is not unreasonable that the privilege be granted if desired, of an examination of the lodge charter. The pleasure of visiting and receiving a visitor is reciprocal, and masonic courtesy will permit all laudable and reasonable efforts for the establishment of full confidence on both sides. While we object to the right to *demand*, we do not to a proper *request* for such an examination. Continuing our reading of the report before us, we note our brother's comment upon the tenth declaration of the Masonic Congress, and it appears to us we are not very far apart. 'If the tenth means that it is wrong for a visitor to ask, under any circumstances, to see the charter, we utterly dissent, while conceding that he has no right to "demand" an inspection of it.'"

We do not agree upon one matter: we hold that if a candidate is rejected by a lodge not having jurisdiction, he ought to be deemed a rejected candidate, *because*, if he is accepted and receives the degrees, *he is a mason*: and we hold that if he illegitimately takes the chance of success he shall also take the consequence of failure: the lodge itself has no *masonic* interest in the matter; it is the mere agent of the *fraternity*, and if the authority is good for acceptance it ought to be good for rejection. BRO. ANTHONY's argument proves that an

acceptance and the conferring of the degrees are void, as much as it proves that a rejection is void: but we do not think that he means that.

We find that his views in relation to a common doctrine concerning rejected candidates, is in substantial accord with the report of our Committee on Jurisprudence.

NORTH CAROLINA, 1896.

This pamphlet contains portraits of Past Grand Masters JOHN W. COTTEN, GEORGE W. BLOUNT and ALONZO T. JERKINS, the two latter of whom had died during the year.

The Grand Master (FRANCIS M. MOYE) says:

"After a careful survey and study of the masonic field, which I have been able to make from extensive correspondence with the lodges, and information received from intelligent masons in different sections of the state, who have had excellent opportunities to judge correctly of the situation, it affords me much pleasure to say that the Order has enjoyed a reasonable degree of prosperity, and made substantial progress the past year."

* * * * *

"In a few localities the work of Masonry has been retarded for the want of a proper knowledge of our beautiful and sublime ceremonies, yet as a whole, our labors have been rewarded, and we have good cause to feel encouraged.

"Six new lodges have been established, and seven of the old ones, which by a provision of law had forfeited all right to hold meetings or do any masonic work, have had their charters restored and again enlisted under our banner.

"I have felt compelled in my opinion, for the good of Masonry, to discourage the organization of certain new lodges. My strongest efforts have been in the direction of the revival of such of the old lodges as give promise of satisfactory work, believing that from this course, rather than the other, would accrue the best results to the Order."

He granted a dispensation to bury an unaffiliated mason who had taken his dimit from one lodge and immediately petitioned another lodge for membership, but before it could be acted upon, he was taken sick and died. The Grand Master rather apologizes for his action, but we think he should have apologized for the existence of a law requiring a dispensation in such a case.

He congratulates the Grand Lodge upon the prosperous condition of the affairs at the Asylum. A special meeting of the Grand Lodge had been held and the Asylum incorporated, the Grand Lodge, however, retaining control of it to the fullest extent.

The Grand Secretary reports the appointments of Bros. WILLIAM R. G. ESTES and DAVID BELL, respectively, as Grand Representatives to and from our Grand Lodge.

He also gives some very interesting correspondence with Bro. NICKERSON,

Grand Secretary of Massachusetts, in relation to the establishment of one of the earliest lodges in North Carolina. The Grand Master having said:

"It is believed by some intelligent members of the Order that it would be wise to encourage and aid the ladies of our masonic families in organizing Eastern Star Chapters, not only for the pleasure and protection it would afford them, but because of the valuable assistance they could render us, from the increased interest they would naturally feel in our orphan work."

The committee report:

"While we are not inimical to Eastern Star degrees, as such, we do not think it wise for the Grand Lodge to adopt this as a side issue of Masonry, but believe that each should work out its own destiny in its own way, untrammelled by the other."

An effort was made to limit the eligibility of officers of a lodge (except Treasurer and Secretary) to two years, and of the first four Grand Officers to a single term, but it failed in both cases, except that the same rule as to Grand Wardens, as prevails in Maine, was adopted.

The By-Laws were amended by providing that in the absence of the Master and Wardens, the lodge may be opened by "a Past Master who is then a member of the lodge." The year before Mr. B. N. DUKE offered to give \$5,000 to the Orphan Asylum if the masons would raise an equal amount during the year: they had not been able to raise the whole amount, and he extended the time another year, and offered another \$5,000 in addition if the masons would raise an equal amount. Measures were taken to secure the acceptance of this munificent offer.

BRO. W. H. SUMMERBELL delivered a fine address in the hall of the House of Representatives, which the Governor of the state allowed the Grand Lodge to use.

The committee on the reprint of the early Proceedings reported progress, and the matter was continued for further report.

In consequence of the death of the Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, Past Grand Master GEORGE W. BLOUNT, there was no report.

NORTH DAKOTA, 1895.

The frontispiece is a portrait of the retiring Grand Master, GEORGE L. MCGREGOR. We have also a profile portrait of Bro. FRANK J. THOMPSON, Past Grand Master, and the exceedingly efficient Grand Secretary and Committee on Correspondence. Of him the Grand Master well says:

"If the office of Grand Master is charged with great responsibilities, how much more so is that of the Grand Secretary! It is a regular fountain overflowing with information. It has been, during my term of office, my strongest staff, and I desire, at this time, to say that I shall ever be under obligations for the many little helps received from Bro. Thompson, Grand Secretary, and I must add, that the brethren of this Grand Jurisdiction and

the members of the Grand Lodge are under deep and lasting obligations to him, who, after the fire and from year to year, has brought system and order out of the mass of chaotic material that must necessarily pass through his hands during the year."

"And of the condition of the craft:

"The condition of the craft throughout this Grand Jurisdiction is good. The growth during the past year, while small, has been taken from among the best specimens of material to be found in the quarries, such as in time will materially help to beautify and adorn our vast fabric. The brethren generally are zealous in the work, and when I consider the times, as they have been, not only throughout the length and breadth of our own, but of foreign lands, I cannot refrain from again congratulating you on your present condition."

The Grand Master also raises his voice against the use of ciphers, but the sentiment of the craft has been so assiduously cultivated in favor of literally correct work, that his objections will not avail much.

The Grand Secretary had prepared a new style of blanks for returns, which should contain only the changes during the year. He had in view a Grand Lodge Registry, and after extensive correspondence and examination, he had come to the conclusion that the card system is the best.

He had adopted the electrotyping system for the Grand Lodge Proceedings, and in that manner reduces the edition from twelve hundred to eight hundred.

He had catalogued the library, completed sets, and had one hundred and ninety volumes bound. He says:

"Every proceedings, pamphlet and magazine owned by this Grand Lodge, amounting to many thousands, are catalogued in books which I obtained for that purpose, and so arranged that I can tell in a moment whether we have the proceedings of any year of any Grand Body in the United States and Canada."

The library is insured for \$3,000 and the committee recommend that the amount be increased.

He makes a special report upon Masonic Homes, giving a cut of the Masonic Homes of Michigan, Missouri, Virginia and New York, as well as of the Masonic Grand Lodge Library of Iowa. He also gives interesting particulars concerning the cost of these Homes and the expense of their maintenance.

In a special Report on Correspondence, he gives these views in relation to the Grand Representative system:

"We believe that the system to-day has a stronger hold upon the masonic fraternity than it had prior to the action of the Grand Lodge of Iowa; for the reason that the matter had never been discussed before to any extent, and the discussions or arguments in favor of the Grand Representative system have brought out so many strong points that the craft better understand the merits of the system than ever before."

The Grand Master had expressed similar views, and the committee recommend that the system be continued and the recommendation was adopted.

We noticed last year the report of a committee upon the *status* of a person made a mason under the authority of the spurious Grand Lodge of Ontario. The Grand Master gives the sequel:

"In accordance with the adopted report of the Committee on Jurisprudence at our last annual communication, I performed, on the 4th day of October, 1894, in Tuscan Lodge, No. 44, the ceremony of healing Bro. Joseph H. Pinkerton, an irregularly made mason (having been made under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Ontario), and in conformity to the custom adopted by the Grand Lodge of Canada, and I do recommend the said Bro. Joseph H. Pinkerton to the craft as a just and upright mason."

The mistake of allowing business associations to call themselves masonic was strongly illustrated by a case before the Grand Lodge. A mason was insured in a "Masons' Fraternal Accident Association": he received an injury for which he claimed indemnity: the company refused to pay it: he commenced a suit, which was defended by the company, but the claimant recovered final judgment, which the Association, the petitioner alleged, refused to pay and took no notice of letters in relation thereto. Thereupon the petitioner presented the matter to the Grand Lodge: it was referred to a special committee, which made the following report:

"That while we do not approve of this Grand Lodge becoming a collecting agency for its members, still we believe there are times when it should look into matters pertaining to its welfare. In this case we are satisfied from the evidence presented that Bro. R. A. Bill is entitled to the benefits as claimed by him. That the finding of the district court of Stutsman county so determined on February 19, 1895, by entering a judgment therefor, since which time the association has not made an appeal in the case nor made any effort to pay the same, but absolutely refuses to do so. We disapprove of said association's method of settling this claim. We believe that all institutions doing business under the name of Masonry should be above suspicion and pay their just debts, so that the dignity and reputation of our Order may be upheld."

Of course, this gives the brother no particular relief; we presume that the mischief has been done, but we would have been glad to have had the Grand Lodge do now what experience shows should have been done originally—prohibit the use of the name by masons in any business matters, though claimed to be charitable. As long as relief associations were truly such they served a *good* purpose, but when business methods, with forfeitures and technical defences, were adopted, they became failures, and in many instances failures which disgraced Masonry.

The Report on Correspondence (170 pp.) was presented by Bro. FRANK J. THOMPSON.

He gives a very full abstract of the sayings and doings of importance, with well considered comments.

He concludes that affiliation should be allowed by a two thirds' vote,

believing that one great cause of non-affiliation is the use of the black ball. But if a mason is so objectionable to a member of a lodge as to cause a rejection, isn't it better to have the petitioner stay out rather than run the risk of destroying the harmony of the lodge?

According to our observation, however, the number of rejections for affiliation, compared with the number of affiliates, is so small as to be almost unappreciable; it may be different, however, in the West.

We are beginning to be obliged to sympathize with him in his criticism of the California Proceedings; we are obliged to make *day* work with some Proceedings when it would be very convenient to examine them in the evening:

"The type used in the composition of the report is too small, and, while one with young and vigorous eyes can read it without inconvenience, yet the majority of reading masons have arrived at the age where spectacles are a necessity. Larger type would, of course, necessitate a larger volume and greater expense. To obviate expense: We think the printing of the names of all the masons in the state annually is of no particular benefit, at least not a benefit commensurate with the expense thereof and the inconvenience resulting from the necessity of printing the report in small type in order to get it within a reasonable sized book. The proceedings are printed for the purpose of diffusing knowledge to the craft, and it seems to us inconsistent to make it practically a sealed book for the purpose of gratifying, perhaps, a dozen fellows, one half of whom are insurance agents, to ascertain who are members of some particular lodge."

Of the use of ciphers he says:

"Our law is silent upon this matter, and ciphers are used. The whole matter was a tempest in a tea pot, and undoubtedly, there was so many guilty of the offence that they voted to exonerate themselves. Our opinion is that the day has gone by when good work will be done without the use of ciphers, keys, etc. We are living in too busy a time to try to carry the ritualistic ceremonies in our heads. That was feasible in days of stage coaches and canal boats, but is not now. Whether the principle be right or wrong, it is not the question. It is a fact which confronts us, a condition which exists; and facts and conditions cannot be ignored, nor can we restore or create them to suit idealic notions. I presume to say there is not a Grand Jurisdiction in the United States but hundreds and thousands of these ciphers and keys are among the brethren, and, were the offence to be punished with death, they would still exist and be used, so we believe that the most proper way to do is for the Grand Lodge to issue the cipher or key, at least one to each particular lodge, and make the recipient of the same responsible for its proper transmission. In this way the promiscuous use of the same could be largely curtailed, and whatever danger there might arise, from exposure by means of these keys, would be minimized."

We are beginning to come to the conclusion that he is correct as to the impossibility of preventing their use: but experience shows that his suggestion that their use can be curtailed by their issue by the Grand Lodge is not well founded. The learners and workers *will* have them if they can get them; the demand for them creates a supply; every brother has as much right to use them as any other brother: if it is lawful for the Grand Lecturer

to use one, it is lawful for every other brother to use one; so it is either free use or none at all. The experience of our Grand Lodge has been such, that we are satisfied that Grand Lodge legislation is of no avail, and that the whole matter must be left to each individual mason, under the general law of Masonry. By no means should the Grand Lodge sanction their use by issuing them. If they must be used, let individual masons take the responsibility, at their peril, of disclosing to the profane the secrets of Masonry; if they pass that line they are amenable to discipline without any special Grand Lodge legislation.

While the following will not meet with general approval, we hold it to be correct:

“We believe in the theory that a candidate, as soon as he has become proficient in the degrees, should be advanced. There would be no more danger of a candidate not becoming proficient, if that were the only prerequisite for advancement, than to require a fixed time before the advancement can be made. If careless Masters exist, the proficiency at the expiration of the fixed time would be no greater than at a less time. The hue and cry against Grand Masters for issuing dispensations to confer degrees in less than the regular time, to us, is absolute nonsense. In our opinion, time should have nothing to do with it. Proficiency alone should merit advancement.”

He discusses briefly the question of perpetual jurisdiction, to which he is opposed, although his Grand Lodge maintains it as between her own lodges. We refer him to the report upon that question presented to our Grand Lodge, and we bespeak for it a careful study and consideration by him, in spite of the pronounced views which he holds. We have a good deal of faith that he will give it his assent, save possibly the length of time during which a rejection shall hold its force.

Concerning the prerogatives of Grand Masters, he thus discourses:

“What is the use of a Grand Master if he has no prerogatives, and where are the masons of South Dakota any better than of Pennsylvania and Montana, where they encourage the Grand Master in making masons at sight? One of the unique, the interesting features of Masonry, is the prerogatives which should belong to the Grand Master, and which flow from tradition as the common law of England. It is one of the romantic, as well as peculiar, phases of our institution and raises the Grand Master above the level of the stereotyped hum-drum by-law creatures who preside over other similar institutions. The prerogatives of the Grand Master always have a peculiar fascination to the writer, and to strip him of them would make the Grand Master as prosaic as the modern man is in his habiliments of the present civilization.”

The teachings in this country, on the subject of civil government, have caused a vast deal of nonsense to be written concerning the prerogatives of Grand Masters, and yet they are the logical result of the original plan of Masonry. That taught that progress in Masonry is progress in knowledge and wisdom; it was held out to the neophyte that he might “arrive to the honor of being the Warden, and then the Master of the lodge, the Grand

Warden, and at length the Grand Master of all the lodges," &c. The government in Masonry was to be a government of *wisdom*; the Master was presumed to be so much advanced in wisdom beyond the members of the lodge, that the government of it was vested in him "according to his will and pleasure." The Grand Master was presumed to be advanced in wisdom beyond all the rest of the craft. So, when it was found that laws were necessary to limit the powers of the craft in their methods of procedure, it was naturally left to him to dispense with the law in cases in which, in his wisdom, he should deem it for the interests of the craft to do so. But in all the hue and cry about the danger of the "one-man power" no one has ever been able to point to a single instance in which this power has been abused, or used to the injury of the craft! Experience has shown that arguments based upon the assumption that the men, whom we choose to be Grand Masters, are not to be trusted, have no basis of fact to rest upon; and, moreover, has time and again demonstrated the wisdom of entrusting prerogatives to Grand Masters.

NOVA SCOTIA, 1895.

Immediately after opening, the Grand Lodge formed in procession and marched to the church and listened to an excellent sermon by Rev. Bro. DONALD McMILLAN, from the text "Love the Brotherhood."

The Grand Master (WILLIAM F. MACCORY) delivered a brief address, but he had been a busy officer; he had visited the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick and witnessed the conferring of the Third degree by the Grand Master; and he gives the following account of another visit:

"On making an official visit to one of the lodges in Yarmouth, and there being considerable discussion among the brethren with respect to the work in the Third degree, I visited Boston with a view of seeing how the same work was performed there, and in conjunction with Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Sircom, visited John Adams Lodge, Somerville, Mass., where I met the Junior Grand Warden of Massachusetts, and had the pleasure of seeing the Master of that lodge confer the Third degree. The work done is very similar to ours, but done with greater precision and accuracy, and with a great deal more form and courtesy. I was very much pleased to be present and see this degree conferred, and had the honor of being called upon as a Grand Master to address the lodge on that occasion, and my remarks were kindly received by the brethren."

In addition he had visited twenty-four lodges in his own jurisdiction.

His official acts were of a routine character, indicating that the affairs of the craft were in good condition, and that harmony and a good degree of prosperity were prevailing. This conclusion is confirmed by the reports of the District Deputies, which are concise, but comprehensive, and touch the points in which instruction was needed and improvement desirable, but with-

out withholding deserved commendation. There is a natural tendency in making these official reports to observe the maxim concerning speaking of the dead—to say nothing unless it is praise. This may do for the *reports*, but should not be the rule at the visitations; errors in administration as well as in the work should be noticed in a fraternal, not arbitrary, manner by the Deputies and if necessary, mentioned in the report. The Deputy, who glosses over faults and errors when he visits the lodge, fails in his duty, as the one who takes the role of a harsh and captious critic, fails in his comprehension of the object of the office which he holds.

Of the Grand Representative system the Grand Master says:

"Some of those opposed to the system speak of it as cumbersome, destroying harmony, of doubtful utility, and of no material benefit. This has not been the experience of this Grand Lodge, and we were never disturbed by want of cordial kind feeling, and the representatives, when mindful of attending Grand Lodge meetings, have generally added to the dignity of our deliberations. Apparently we are more practically disposed than the Grand Lodges who may from some trivial troubles about state rights and jurisdictions have created slight differences on the other side of the line. The brethren holding commissions from the lodges named will please return them to the Grand Secretary, so that he may be in a position to ask that our commissions to said Grand Lodges be returned also to him; assuring the Grand Lodges named that we do not consider from anything that has ever come under our notice the abolition of the honorable position of Grand Lodge Representatives as essentially necessary."

Upon his recommendation, the Grand Lodge adopted a "Traveling Certificate," similar to that issued by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

As we understand it, no reduction had been made in the Grand Lodge debt during the year; two schemes were presented, and discussed, and finally the matter was referred to a committee to consider and report to the Grand Lodge their conclusion.

The following preamble and resolution was adopted:

"Whereas, Peebles Kilwinning Lodge, No. 24, under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, has conferred upon a candidate rejected by Canso Lodge, No. 79, R. N. S., the three degrees of Masonry without apparently making proper enquiry:

"And Whereas, said candidate was not and is not now under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Scotland;

"Therefore Resolved, That this Grand Lodge call the attention of the Grand Lodge of Scotland to this act of apparent discourtesy on the part of their subordinate lodge."

If any reply is given, it will undoubtedly be that the lodge did precisely what it was authorized to do, and, in substance, that the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia is interfering in a matter in which it has no concern.

A motion to restore the law that in the absence of the Master and Wardens, the Senior Past Master present may open the lodge, failed of adoption, although one lodge sent in a resolution, unanimously adopted, in favor of it. We are rather surprised, as in this jurisdiction a Warden cannot confer the

degrees, so that when a Warden is presiding no work can be done unless there is a Past Master present to do the work, which he is authorized to do upon the invitation of the Warden.

The Report on Correspondence embraces a review of the Proceedings of sixty-two Grand Lodges—twenty-eight by Bro. THOMAS B. FLINT, twenty-five by Bro. C. E. WILLET, two by Bro. THOMAS MOWBRAY, and seven by the Grand Secretary, Bro. WILLIAM ROSS.

They all adhere very closely to giving an account of the more important things said and done in other jurisdictions.

Bro. ROSS thus expresses correct views concerning a matter in which efforts are being made in some quarters to change the old law—efforts caused by the Masonry-for-revenue ideas recently conceived:

“We must take the liberty of dissenting from the decision that ‘a non-affiliated mason must apply for membership to the lodge in whose limits he resides.’ We contend that there is no limit as to his choice of the lodge to which he should apply for affiliation. Mackey, an authority we might say universally acknowledged, is clear on this point; he says: ‘A Master Mason applying for membership is not confined in the exercise of this privilege within any geographical limits, no matter how distant the lodge of his choice may be from his residence; to that he has as much right to apply as to the lodge which is situated at the very threshold of his home.’ This is the rule that has always governed our decisions when the question is asked.”

Bro. FLINT is opposed to the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction; but we trust that he does not maintain the logical result of some arguments which he endorses, apparently without having carefully considered them. We do not believe that he *intended* to endorse the proposition that the rejection of a candidate does not imply that the candidate is considered unfit to be made a mason.

His views anent the Wisconsin proposition are sound and very forcibly expressed:

“The proposition is altogether too broad to begin with, and we doubt if it is sanctioned by sound masonic authority. The masonic theory is that all masons are brethren, and as such should assist each other in distress as far as they can do so without injury to themselves or those dependent upon them. It is not a legal or moral obligation of a lodge or of a Grand Lodge to do this, but simply a masonic obligation of each brother individually. Lodges may, if in prosperous circumstances, assist in carrying out this obligation, but it is no part of the duty of a lodge. Such a law, if fastened upon the craft, would change one of its chief characteristics from that of *voluntary individual moral obligation* on the part of such compliance to *charity* towards his distressed brother to that of an organized legal association bound by a compact to certain definite contributions. Not only is the sovereignty of each Grand Lodge limited and its financial obligations indefinitely increased, but the relation of the members of lodges to each other are completely changed. In many cases it would work inequitably, and would, we fear, lead to complications, contentions and disagreements, which under the purely voluntary and, we believe, truly masonic system are avoided.”

Bro. Ross gives a very interesting review of New Zealand; and takes laudable pride in the fact that his son is one of the officers of that Grand Lodge.

OHIO, 1895.

The frontispiece is a portrait of Bro. CARROLL F. CLAPP, the retiring Grand Master.

The Grand Master's address takes up fifty pages in the Proceedings, but we do not find any reason for curtailing it. He had many matters before him and had made many visitations.

He had prepared a blank for District Lecturers, to be filled at the visitation of a lodge, containing a series of questions. It was made the duty of the Lecturer to read it (except his remarks) to the lodge and forward it to the Grand Master the next day, preserving a duplicate for himself, to be used in making his annual report, which was to be a summary of these reports. The expenses of visitation are paid by the lodge visited. Of visitation the Grand Master says:

"I am pleased to be privileged to announce to this Grand Body that each and every lodge subordinate to this Grand Lodge has been officially visited during the past year, and that a written report of the true condition of each lodge is now on file with the Grand Master.

"The system of lodge visitations, established several years ago, has steadily improved year by year, until it has reached out and accomplished what was claimed and expected of it by its most sanguine promoters. This has not been accomplished, however, without an unceasing and determined effort upon the part of the District Lecturers as well as the Grand Lodge Officers."

But he says further:

"I recommend that in the future the actual expenses incurred in making lodge inspections be paid by the Grand Lodge. In view of the increased per capita dues asked by this Grand Lodge, I feel that it should pay the expense referred to. While a vast amount of good has been accomplished every year, even under the present arrangement, a much better result can and will be shown should the lodges be released from the payment of this expense. Each lodge, knowing that it was entitled to a visitation from a member of the Grand Lodge, would more readily avail itself of the opportunity and advantages offered. I trust that the suggestion will receive favorable action at your hands."

His recommendation was adopted; we believe that this perfects the system in that jurisdiction and that experience will show the wisdom of this action.

The first part of the following is so pertinent to our own jurisdiction, and the last of it deals with a subject that is so much under discussion, that we quote it in full:

"I instructed the District Lecturers that it would not be expected or imperative upon them to arrange lodge visitations with the view of witnessing degree work, nor would they be required to devote their entire time to

instruction in the ritual, believing that there was a broader and more useful field to operate in.

"I advised that the Lecturer spend more of his time in teaching the symbolism of Freemasonry. Blue Lodge, or Symbolic Masonry, is builded of symbols. Its beauty and its grandeur can only be appreciated or comprehended by a complete analysis and full understanding of its component parts. The true sentiment and purpose of Ancient Freemasonry can only be unfolded and properly interpreted in symbols; and without this interpretation and explanation given and taught in its purity, the young initiate is deprived of those valuable lessons that enthuse him with desire for a better life—that emotion which leads him to a higher plane of action, and reveals to him new and better thoughts. We can only become successful teachers of Masonry as we become proficient in symbolism.

"While proficiency in the ritual is expected and desired, it should be acquired by the Master without taking the time of the Lecturer, each Master being furnished with a cipher copy of the authorized work in this Grand Jurisdiction.

"If the Master has not energy and pride sufficient to post himself and instruct his subordinate officers, his lodge must bear its burden until the end of the year; but I would not advise his re-election. Under the present arrangement and advantages given, the Master of a lodge has no excuse for not becoming proficient in the degree work. I am pleased to be able to say that the reports of visitations show that at least ninety per cent of the lodges are highly proficient in the esoteric work, and the day is not far distant when the cipher ritual will have fulfilled its mission, and a uniform work will prevail throughout the state.

"I am clearly of the opinion that, when the proper time comes, the rituals should be taken up, and this Grand Jurisdiction relieved of the criticisms that are being made upon this subject by other Grand Jurisdictions. Although favoring its publication at the time, because it seemed to be a necessity in order to secure uniformity of work, still I must admit that it has caused some regrets since that such an innovation to the original plans of Masonry should have been tolerated; for it opened wide the gates to the admission of almost any of the so-called modern improvements. The sooner we retrace our steps, and then follow the footprints of our forefathers, the better it will be for Freemasonry in this Grand Jurisdiction."

Ignoring the original cause of controversy and letting "the dead past bury its dead," the respective Grand Masters of Tennessee and Ohio took such measures as to secure the resumption of fraternal relations between their Grand Lodges, an event at which all masons will rejoice.

Of the Masonic Home, he says:

"The masons of Ohio are to dedicate to-day, for the use of our indigent brethren, their wives, children, widows, and orphans, the finest structure that has ever been erected in any Grand Jurisdiction by the craft for a similar purpose."

We would be glad to give a full report of the dedication but space will not allow. The citizens of Springfield, in which it is located (within about a mile of the street railway, which is expected to be extended to it) gave one hundred and fifty acres of land for the site; the cost of construction, including incidental expenses, was about \$125,000, and—

"The total amount of subscriptions received up to the present time from various sources, is as follows:

"Receipts from Lodges,.....	\$38,537.63
" " Chapters,.....	29,546.75
" " Councils,.....	1,972.21
" " Commanderies,.....	9,814.99
" " A. and A. Rite Bodies,.....	630.00
" " Individuals,.....	40,003.04
" " Miscellaneous,.....	4,597.33
	<hr/> \$125,101.95"

In addition subscriptions to the amount of over \$10,000 had not become due when the report was made.

There had been talk of turning the Home over to the Grand Lodge, but the Grand Master advised earnestly against that course, preferring to continue the arrangements under which it had been built. The Temple was dedicated exactly six years from the day on which the Grand Lodge first endorsed the movement.

The Grand Master had received a request from the Head of the Order of the Eastern Star, that the Grand Lodge would modify its law in relation to the occupancy of masonic halls by that organization; the law then required a *unanimous* vote of the lodge; in her communication the "Grand Matron" says:

"While we have not been called upon officially for aid or assistance in the construction of the Ohio Masonic Home, we are ready to respond to the extent of our ability in helping to furnish and maintain this magnificent structure, the crowning glory of Masonry in our beloved state. We will not only regard it a pleasure, but a duty, to do all in our power to aid the brotherhood in its benevolent undertaking. We are ready now to give aid and assistance, and will respond with cheerful hearts and willing hands, if permitted to do so. Some of our chapters are able, and would prefer to completely furnish a room; others can and will, if permitted, make useful things to adorn and beautify; and in coming years we will be able and willing to bear our share in supporting the Home, and do all we can to aid the brotherhood in making it the ideal institution of the kind, not only in the state, but in this entire country."

The Grand Master adds:

"While I am accused of, and admit of being, somewhat Puritanical in my views regarding innovations to the original plans of Masonry, and am almost an extremist regarding a strict adherence to our ancient customs and landmarks, yet, when I see the good results that are already apparent where the Order of the Eastern Star has been established, the purity of their intentions and purposes, it seems to me, can not be questioned. I am not a member of the Order, and have always entertained doubts as to the advisability of giving the Order recognition; but its good works have removed, to a certain extent, former prejudices; and I am thoroughly convinced that no harm will ever come to Freemasonry from this source; and I believe that we should extend to this Order a more liberal recognition, by modifying the present rule regarding the occupancy of lodge rooms, and that all that should be required is a majority vote of the lodge and the consent of the Grand Master."

The matter was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, on whose report, his recommendation was "unanimously adopted."

A revised code was adopted and in the distribution one copy was directed to be sent to each Grand Lodge. We wish this would be always done in such cases. The means of comparing the laws of different jurisdictions would tend to produce uniformity and aid in perfecting codes by giving the results of the experience of all.

The following incidents are recorded:

"Bro. Harvey Vinal, a resident of Springfield, eighty-eight years of age, and the oldest living Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Ohio, being present, was invited to a seat in the East, and Bro. J. H. Bromwell, the M. E. Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Ohio, took the opportunity to present to Bro. Vinal an elegant Past Grand High Priest's jewel, which had been ordered to be prepared and given to him by the Grand Chapter of Ohio. The venerable brother made suitable response in eloquent and touching terms."

* * * * *

"Bro. Emil Baurittel, W. M. of Cincinnati Lodge, No. 133, arose in his place and stated that this day was the fiftieth anniversary of the constitution of his lodge under its charter; and that, for the purpose of properly celebrating this auspicious event, and to advance the great masonic charity which the Grand Lodge had dedicated on the day previous, he was instructed by Cincinnati Lodge, No. 133, to announce its donation of \$1,000 to the Ohio Masonic Home, not to exceed \$250 of which was to be used in properly furnishing a suitable room, to be selected by the representatives of said lodge. This generous gift met with hearty applause on the part of the members of the Grand Lodge.

"Bro. Edward E. Townley, referring to the compensation of \$50 which had been recommended in the report of the Committee on Accounts, and ordered paid to him for his services as Assistant Grand Treasurer, announced that he donated the amount appropriated to the Ohio Masonic Home, which statement provoked renewed applause."

The Grand Lodge appropriated \$10,000 for the Home.

The Report on Correspondence (305 pp.) was presented Bro. WILLIAM M. CUNNINGHAM, and well deserves the encomium which the Grand Master gave to it. Much of it is printed in large type, so that it is not really so long as the number of pages indicates.

A portion of our own report has come from the printer, and we find that what we have written takes up many more pages than we had expected and we feel compelled to forbear noticing many things in these Proceedings and in this report which we would be glad to give.

Of Grand Honors, he says:

"Of the Past Master's degree Bro. Greenleaf believes 'that its ceremonial is ancient, and that, if rightly conferred, belongs to the lodge;' and, under the head of Maine, he says in relation to the Public Grand Honors, that the 'battery,' or striking the palms of the hands together by 'three times three,' or, as termed by the Maine committee, the 'Macoy Method,' 'prevails in Colorado, and we believe it is the correct one for Public Grand Honors.' This should more properly be termed the English Method, instead of the Macoy Method, as it was in use, with the addition of 'huzzas,' as early as 1754 in the Grand Lodge ceremonials of England, as noted in the reports of your committee for 1893 and 1894. In giving the Funeral Grand

Honors as the Public Honors for other occasions, Dr. Mackey evidently overlooked the symbolism of the hands crossed upon the breast, and then raised pointing to the heavens—a symbol of resignation, worship, and adoration, out of place and out of character in ordinary public masonic ceremonies.

“The masonic ‘devotional position’ of bowed heads and hands crossed upon the breast, is equally out of place for the plaudits and joyous acclamations appropriate for public occasions.

“It is probable that the custom of using the Funeral Grand Honors (without the accompanying words) prevailed largely throughout the lodges of the United States. It was generally used in this state until the writer, then District Lecturer, was called upon by M.W. Bro. George Rex, then Grand Master, to temporarily act as Grand Marshal, and, upon the call for the Grand Honors, the ‘battery’ was given as such under the direction of the Grand Marshal, and since that time has remained in use in the Grand Lodge of Ohio.”

Referring to one proposition of Bro. CLARKE, of Kentucky, in his discussion of the question of perpetual jurisdiction, he says:

“In this connection, we regret to be obliged to dissent from the conclusion of Bro. Clarke, that *‘that which is legally done, where done, is legal everywhere.’*

“As in some foreign Grand Lodges, sojourners are made masons, in accordance with their regulations, regardless of their previous rejection or non-residence, and as the now very general custom within the Grand Lodges of the United States is to regard all such as irregular (*not clandestine*) masons, and that subsequent healing is therefore *necessary* to their good standing.”

Yes, and some Grand Lodges, which pay no attention to rejections in other jurisdictions, have this provision in relation to residents who go abroad to obtain the degrees!

He copies largely from our Proceedings, usually without comments. He fully concurs in our opinion that many lodges are too large to carry out the original objects of such an organization. Yet in some jurisdictions they cannot increase their numbers fast enough by following the old ways, but use “classes of candidates.” He also concurs in our views in relation to public masonic ceremonies, and he copies our remarks in relation to inspecting the charter when visiting the lodge and adds this significant remark:

“The fact, too, that in at least three states there are clandestine lodges—in Ohio there are said to be several—the necessity of the inspection of the charter by the visiting brother is apparent, without further discussion.”

He “takes no stock” in the recently promulgated doctrine that a Master Mason can have no knowledge of any other than the three Symbolic degrees:

“The illogical theory or rather pretense that a Grand Lodge of Master Masons can have no knowledge whatever of any masonic degrees other than the first three, when it is a well-known historical fact that the Capitular and Templar degrees were *controlled* by and *conferred* under the auspices of Grand Lodges prior to about the commencement of the second quarter of the present century—with at least but few, if any, exceptions—is in itself, without other considerations in that connection, so absurd that it is a mat-

ter of surprise that it should be advocated by any one not a defender of modern so-called Cerneauism."

Referring to the Montana Regulation concerning members who take their dimits, he says:

"In the opinion of your committee it is yet to be discovered if such stringent regulations are ever productive of any diminution in the number of non-affiliates. It is also sad to consider that such an enactment is literally providing *without trial* for the suspension of a brother in good standing from the rights, benefits, and privileges of Freemasonry guaranteed when he was made a mason without any such reservation. Your committee are therefore more than ever impressed with the feeling that compulsory membership, with its additional pecuniary receipts, is no compensation for such, as seems to the writer, at least, apparent injustice to a brother, who, from causes best known to himself, deems it proper to discontinue his membership with some particular lodge. The unmasonic features of compulsory membership for the sake of additional receipts to its treasury would seem to be on a par with the reprehensible act of the brother who, from penuriousness alone, permits himself to remain a non-affiliate."

The whole theory of Masonry is against compulsion; "might makes right," has never, till within these very few years, found and place in its teachings: masons have been taught to look for, and work for, and pray for, what the poet has already seen in celestial allegory:

"Then, through the silence overhead,
An angel, with a trumpet said,
'Forevermore, forevermore
The reign of violence is o'er.
Then, like an instrument which flings
Its music upon another's strings,
The trumpet of the angel cast
Upon the heavenly lyre its blast,
And on, from sphere to sphere, the words
Re-echoed down the burning chords,
'Forevermore, forevermore,
The reign of violence is o'er!'"

OKLAHOMA, 1895.

The "1894" on the cover and title page of these Proceedings came near causing us to omit this Grand Lodge in our review. But the vigilance of our Grand Secretary discovered that while by "outward sign" these Proceedings claim to be those of 1894, they really are those of 1895.

But once inside, we find nothing misleading. The business is transacted by this three-year-old Grand Lodge with the intelligence and ability of mature years.

The Grand Master (SELWYN DOUGLAS) says:

"The primary design of the institution known as the 'Grand Lodge' was not only to provide a central governing body for the fraternity, but also to afford and furnish to the brethren a representative tribunal to hear the com-

plaints of the aggrieved and to redress their wrongs, to deliberate upon the laws which should govern the lodges and the brethren within its jurisdiction, and to strengthen the fraternal bonds of good fellowship and of loyalty to the Royal Craft."

He had constituted the eight lodges chartered the year before, carrying the total number up to nineteen, eighteen of which were represented: and he had issued dispensations for three new lodges.

He announced the death of the Grand Lecturer, murdered in presence of his family, while attempting to defend his store against the attack of three robbers. Of this he says:

"When the tidings of this brutal crime reached the ears of the brethren, I received letters from many of the subordinate lodges in the territory, urging me to offer a reward in the name of the Grand Lodge for the apprehension of the assassins, and assuring me that an assessment upon the subordinate lodges, according to membership, sufficient to raise a thousand dollars or more, for that purpose, would meet with a hearty response and prompt payment.

"The temptation to comply with these requests was very strong, and I hesitated for a time as to the proper course to be pursued.

"I finally determined, however, that it would not be proper for me to do so.

"The mission of Masonry is not that of the avenger of blood. To relieve the distressed, to comfort the down-trodden and to bind up the wounds of the afflicted, these are our aims and this is the end we have in view.

"Learning, however, that the widow and children of Bro. Townsend were in straitened circumstances, I sent a circular letter to all the subordinate lodges requesting an immediate assessment of fifty cents per capita of the members, to be made, collected and transmitted through the proper channels to Mrs. Townsend. I am not informed fully as to the result of this request. Judging from the prompt action of my lodge, Oklahoma, No. 3, which sent fifty dollars without a day's delay, after its first regular meeting, I have no doubt that the required assessment was promptly made and paid.

"I am impelled by the circumstances of this case to urgently recommend to the Grand Lodge to make immediate provision for the raising of an additional amount, either by assessment of the subordinate lodges or by an appropriation of Grand Lodge funds, to be paid to Mrs. Townsend for the further relief of herself and her helpless children. Two of the infamous murderers of Bro. Townsend are still at large, and if Mrs. Townsend sees fit to use any portion of the money so to be paid to secure their arrest and punishment, she will have my hearty approval in advance."

Of course, he was correct in his decision, for Masonry, as such, can never interfere with the civil law: his righteous wrath, as shown in the closing sentence, will readily be forgiven.

The Grand Orator, WILLIAM R. BROWN, made an address peculiarly appropriate to the circumstances in which this young Grand Lodge is placed.

One section of the constitution was adopted so as to read as follows:

"Sec. 3. Eligibility.—No one shall be eligible to any elective office in this Grand Lodge who is not a present or Past Master of this jurisdiction or a Past Master of some sister Grand Jurisdiction, who is an affiliated member of some lodge in this jurisdiction and a member of this Grand Lodge, or past officer of this Grand Lodge, and who has been in attendance upon the annual communication at which he is elected."

We believe that this limitation is unwise, especially in so young and small a Grand Lodge. It is a departure from the old usage, which gave the Grand Lodge the whole range of its constituency from which to select the best men for its offices. Of course, the Grand Master and the officers who will possibly be called to perform his duties should be Past Masters as provided in this section. As we remember it, no one of the Grand Secretaries of our Grand Lodge was a member of it at the time of his first election.

A proposition was made and laid over to the next annual communication, in respect to unaffiliated masons: it proposes that they shall be members of the lodge in which their residence is situated, "*by virtue of said residence.*" This is not in accordance with the original plan of a lodge, but we regard it as altogether a less departure from masonic usage and principles than the course adopted by California and the other Grand Lodges which have followed her example.

The Report on Correspondence (76 pp.) was presented by Bro. JAMES M. HUNT, the very efficient Grand Secretary.

In his Introduction, he says:

"The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma has met with a very courteous and fraternal reception from the several Grand Lodges, and the comments upon her youthful errors are made generally in a kindly and fraternal spirit. Our public installation of Grand Officers was almost universally condemned, as was also our incorporation under the laws of Oklahoma."

We believe that he is decidedly in error in his remark about the public installation. In fact, we think that he will find but *three* such expressions. As to the incorporation question, there may be more difference, but we can assure him that Oklahoma has company in that particular, which may lessen the weight of all the expressions of condemnation. In fact, we think that he will find that a majority of the older Grand Lodges are subject to the same condemnation.

Of non-affiliates he says, among other things:

"To the writer, it seems that many of the correspondents, and nearly or quite all of the Grand Lodges, in writing and legislating upon the matter of non-affiliation, are very one sided in their views. We cannot conceive how an affiliated mason has the inherent masonic right and power to make his brother a masonic outlaw."

* * * * *

"That the non-affiliate has any rights seems never to have entered the head of some correspondents, and seems not to have been considered by many of the Grand Lodges. We hold that no mason has a right to deprive a brother of any of the lights, rights or benefits of Masonry. And no congregation of masons, Grand or Subordinate Lodge, has a right, except for masonic misdemeanor or crime, and then after due trial and conviction."

We agree with him (save that we think that he overestimates the number who hold opposite views), but at the same time do not think that his extreme views in the opposite direction are in accordance with correct principles.

We think that he errs in thinking that the great cause of non-affiliation is the requirement of a unanimous ballot. Of course, we know nothing of the facts in his jurisdiction, but as we said to Bro. THOMPSON, in this section of the country the rejections for affiliation are so extremely few that they cut no figure whatever in the decision of this question. The vastly preponderating cause everywhere, so far as our observation and reading have shown it, is that many masons are too poor, or think they are too poor, or are indisposed, to pay the dues. This is the class that California has adopted such drastic measures to reach. Others fail to pay their dues, simply because they are not called upon for them, having no time to attend the lodge. Some lose their interest in Masonry and drop out of the lodge and practically out of the institution at the same time.

We have gone through Bro. HUNT's report with much interest, and in almost all his other views we concur with him. There is one exception: Bro. VINCEIL expressed the opinion that Bro. HUNT had in him "the making of a good reporter": Bro. HUNT dissents vigorously: but we are with Bro. VINCEIL, and as a reason for the faith that is in us, we point to the report now under review.

OREGON, 1895.

Under a regulation providing for the publication of phototype portraits of all the Past Grand Masters, we have those of DAVID P. MASON (1884), THOMAS GIVINGS REAMES (1885), and JAMES CORWIN FULLERTON (1896). A brief sketch of each of them is given.

The Grand Master (PHILIP S. MALCOLM) had the sorrowful duty of announcing the death of M. W. Bro. STEPHEN FOWLER CHADWICK:

"Our dearly loved, and universally respected brother, Stephen Fowler Chadwick, Grand Secretary and Past Grand Master, received the final summons on the evening of January 15th last. His sun went down, not as it goes in our northern clime, slowly, majestically, bathing the mountains in the splendor of its rays, but as in the tropics, suddenly, without twilight, leaving all in darkness. Sitting at his dinner table, in his home at Salem, he was stricken with apoplexy, his spirit instantly passing away.

"Brother Chadwick was born at Middletown, Conn., December 25, 1825. Came to Oregon in 1851."

He had held many civil offices, among them Secretary of State and Governor.

He was made a mason in 1856, in Laurel Lodge, v. d., and in June, 1857, became its first Master under its charter and served eight terms subsequently; was Junior Grand Warden in 1858 and '60; Senior Grand Warden in 1861 and 1862; Deputy Grand Master in 1863, and Grand Master in 1865; was Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence in 1867 and every year afterwards till his death: and was Grand Secretary from 1889 also till his death. He had received the thirty-third degree of the A. & A. Rite.

Coming to the same field of labor so soon after we did, we had occasion to know him as thoroughly as one man can know another through his writings, and the Grand Master sums up our opinion of him in few words:

"In every station he performed his duty with fidelity and extraordinary ability."

* * * * *

"Our jurisdiction has lost its brightest jewel, the order everywhere a member who was a credit to it, who was respected for his ability, and loved for his virtues."

To us his loss is as of one who had stood by our side for a quarter of a century.

The Grand Master had visited *thirty-three* lodges, among them those in the most distant parts of the state.

He thus speaks of the cipher question:

"In my judgment, the evil of hasty legislation is well shown in the resolution passed by the last Grand Lodge, in the closing hours of its session, having for its object the printing of the unwritten work in what is termed cipher, erroneously supposed to be intelligible to members of the order only. I believe that it has been demonstrated that there is no code constructed from the letters of the alphabet, but what can be deciphered by one familiar with such work. Leaving that out of consideration, the fact that the resolution referred to was passed by a vote of forty-three to thirty-eight, out of the 350 or more votes that should have been cast on this, one of the most important questions that can come before a Grand Lodge of masons, I have deemed it my duty to take no action in this matter, because the printing of any part of the unwritten work, in any manner that may become legible, or intelligible, even to ourselves, is, I am firmly convinced, a violation of our obligation."

The Grand Lodge approved his action.

A Master asked for instructions concerning the request of a Catholic to be excluded from the Order, because, under the law of his church, he could not remain a mason, and the Grand Master instructed him as follows:

"A man who has been regularly made a mason, remains a mason forever, unless expelled from the Order by proper authority, after due trial and conviction. I believe the proper course in this case is to treat his application as asking for a dimit, and as he has removed from our jurisdiction and is clear of the books of your lodge, there is no reason why it should not be granted. If he fails to affiliate elsewhere, he will lose all masonic rights and privileges. I would suggest, in replying to him, you do no more than to state that his dimit has been granted, and enclose it therewith. You will see the propriety of this, as your letter will probably be shown to the representative of the Order to which he prefers to owe his allegiance."

He held that the rule of physical qualification relates only to the first degree, and himself crafted and raised a brother who had lost his right arm after he became an E. A. The Committee on Jurisprudence dissented: they admitted the power of the Grand Master to dispense with the rule, but were not in favor of his action being taken as a precedent.

He made several recommendations which were adopted; the most important was a change of the law, so that now an objection has the same force as a black ball, and no more.

A large amount of routine business was transacted, but none of general interest.

The Grand Orator, JOHN B. CLELAND, delivered a very fine address.

The Report on Correspondence (190 pp.) was presented by Past Grand Master ROBERT CLOW.

In his Introduction, he says:

"The preparation of this report was undertaken by the writer under circumstances mournfully familiar to every mason in Oregon, and was approached with the diffidence born of a consciousness that he was unworthy to wear the mantle of the gifted brother who, for so many years, by the exercise of his rare gifts in the field of correspondence, upheld the dignity of the Grand Lodge of Oregon, and contributed through the medium of his annual reports to the instruction and edification of the brethren.

"Conscious also of our inability to take up and continue the work so faithfully performed by one whose long experience, mature judgment and accumulated stores of masonic learning, coupled with that grace and versatility which rendered his annual reports so attractive, and placed him easily 'first among his equals,' we submit our 'work for inspection,' relying upon the indulgence of our brethren of this jurisdiction, and the charity of the 'corps reportorial' to forgive its shortcomings and pardon its many imperfections."

What he says of his predecessor is true; but his report shows that he needs no indulgence for the reasons stated.

In his review of California, he says:

"On the subject of non-affiliation the Grand Master suggests that the dread of undergoing the ordeal of the ballot on application for membership, and the exaction of an affiliation fee, are prime factors in causing the great evil of non-affiliation, and is of the opinion that both should be abolished. We agree with him as to the latter, and Oregon years ago very properly abolished affiliation fees, but adheres, and we trust ever will, to the regulation which provides that 'no man can be admitted a member of any particular lodge without the unanimous consent of all the members of that lodge then present when the candidate is proposed.'"

In reply to Bro. CLARKE, of Kentucky, he thus exposes the fallacy of Bro. C.'s argument:

"The Kentucky lodge, in rejecting the candidate, said he was unfit to become a member of the 'great masonic family.' Does the mere fact of his having crossed the state line improve the quality of the material, or endow the applicant with a peculiar fitness, or have the brethren of Missouri, in the short space of six or twelve months, discovered that he possessed qualifying traits of character that escaped the observation of the brethren of the Kentucky lodge who had known him, perhaps, from childhood?

"Now, Bro. Clarke, if you were making masons for Kentucky only, your law might work admirably, provided your disciplinary regulations were sufficiently stringent to enforce unconditional obedience. But, inasmuch as you are confessedly making members of the great masonic family, Oregon included, the exercise of the right to trust your work within the limits of

this and other jurisdictions implies the co-relative right to disown and reject it."

He cannot reconcile two decisions of our Grand Lodge: when he is informed that in Maine the effect of a rejection *ceases in five years*, he will see that there was no conflict between them. As our views are so fully set out in another report, we will not here enter upon any discussion of the subject.

His reply to Bro. VINCE is eminently sound:

"And you may rest assured, my good brother, that no material rejected in Missouri will be placed in the Temple in Oregon without your consent, nor be received as 'beloved brothers' notwithstanding your position on the question. Oregon has plenty of good material within her own borders, and has no desire to, nor will she accept the discarded material of other jurisdictions *just for what there is in it*.

"The exalted conception she entertains of her duties to the great masonic family will not permit her to engage in a work of such a questionable character. She recognizes no obligation to the profane. Her duties are first to the brethren of her own particular household, and secondly to the brotherhood wheresoever dispersed."

Of the "Eastern Star," he says:

"This is in striking contrast with the action of some other Grand Lodges we have noticed. We are not a member of the Order of Eastern Star, and have only a superficial knowledge of its aims and objects, but venture the assertion that the membership, composed as it is of Master Masons, their wives, daughters and sisters, are engaged in laudable undertakings, and that their meeting in lodge rooms would have a much greater influence for good upon the morals of the craft, and no more tendency to desecrate lodge rooms or make them 'common or unclean' than public installations."

* * * * *

"We are not a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, but we do know that its membership is composed of Master Masons and their female blood relations. Hence, we cannot suffer the above to pass without entering our protest against the assumptions of the Grand Master, when he compares them to 'strolling players of the mimic stage.'"

"We can't conceive how, or in what way the wife or daughter of a Master Mason can affect injuriously a lodge room by meeting therein as members of a chapter of the Eastern Star, or attending an installation of the officers of a lodge."

* * * * *

"While we would condemn as an unwarranted deception any attempt to palm off these degrees as masonic degrees, yet we think the policy of denying the use of the lodge rooms to the organization is unwise, and that it is eminently proper that the wives and daughters of Master Masons should be permitted to occupy them for the enjoyment of those social relations which follow membership in the Order."

He replies to the personal criticisms upon him by the Grand Lodge of Washington, which we noticed last year. The laugh is on Washington more decidedly than we then knew; for it criticised Bro. CLOW for his action as their Grand Representative, and abolished the system on account of his action, and now it turns out that he was not the representative, and had not been for over three years!

PENNSYLVANIA, 1895.

We have excellent portraits of M. W. BROS. MATTHIAS H. HENDERSON, Grand Master, and JOHN THOMPSON, Grand Master in 1860 and 1861, and for many years Grand Secretary.

Grand Master HENDERSON had the sad duty of announcing the death of Past Grand Master RICHARD VAUX; at the request of the Grand Master, Past Grand Master MICHAEL ARNOLD had prepared a eulogy, which he presented. We make selections from it:

"Brother the Honorable Richard Vaux was born in the city of Philadelphia on December 19, 1816, and died on March 22, 1895, being at the time of his death more than seventy-eight years of age. He adopted the law as his vocation, and was prominent in legal matters, in public politics, in philanthropic works and services, in the government of his native city as its mayor, in the councils of the nation as a representative in Congress, and, what is of most importance to us, in this Grand Lodge in the station of Right Worshipful Grand Master. He was a man of original genius, fertile in the conception of plans for improving and continuing the works in which he was engaged. All the bodies of which he was a member felt the impress of his individuality. He did not content himself with simply following others, but he led them; holding fast to that which was good wherever it was found, while he was quick to discover that which was bad, and to suggest plans for correcting evils and substituting good forms in their place."

He was made a mason at sight, in December, 1842, by Bro. JOSEPH R. CHANDLER, then Grand Master. He had petitioned lodge No. 3, November 15, 1842: but the Committee of Inquiry reported December 20, 1842, that the Grand Master had already conferred the first degree upon him, and the committee recommended him as worthy of membership. He was elected and in due time was crafted and raised in that lodge. He soon after resigned membership therein and was elected a member of No. 121, February 23, 1844. He was elected Senior Warden the same day and the next year was Master. He was elected Junior Grand Warden in 1862, and served two years: then two years as Senior Grand Warden; in December, 1866, he was elected Deputy Grand Master, and by the death of the Grand Master in 1867, he became Acting Grand Master, and was Grand Master by elections in December, 1867, and 1868.

BRO. ARNOLD says:

"The most important position he occupied in this Grand Lodge, and the one which has given him the most reputation and done more for the craft throughout the entire masonic world, is that of Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence. This gave him the world of Freemasonry for a field, and enabled him, by his superior knowledge, wisdom, and strong will, to bring about a harmony in thought and action which is so necessary in an institution composed of many sovereign Grand Lodges. Having no superior to command them, the only way to bring about the harmonious relations which now exist, is by the free use of the vigorous pens of the Chairmen of the Committees on Correspondence of the several Grand Lodges. Among all these chairmen, I may say, without derogating from any, that no one of them has

been the superior of Bro. Vaux, or had more influence in the craft, or had his just claims to high and honorable position among them admitted by all. He was first appointed Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence on St. John's Day, December, 1857, and continued until St. John's Day, December 27, 1862, on which day he took his station as Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden. On December 27, 1875, he was again appointed Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, and continued to hold that appointment until the time of his death, so that he served in that important position nearly twenty-five years."

BRO. GUTHRIE said of him:

"Every member of the fraternity, not only in Pennsylvania, but throughout the world, owes a debt of gratitude to Bro. Vaux. He loved the fraternity with a sincere love, and gave to its service a learning and ability which was certainly not excelled, if equalled, by any. Wise in judgment, sincere in purpose, and fearless in the assertion and defence of his convictions, he had acquired and deserved the trust and confidence of all."

With his intense convictions and firm will, Bro. VAUX naturally exercised a potent influence upon all with whom he came in contact: he at times seemed intolerant, but his intolerance grew out of his supreme confidence that the usages which had come down from the past in his own jurisdiction were absolutely correct, and, therefore, that all other usages were unmasonic and should not be followed.

His death brings a great loss to Masonry—not because he was always right, but because he was one of the ablest, bravest and most conscientious of the champions of the fundamental principles of the institution and the ancient usages of the craft, as it was given to him to see them.

The vote authorizing the distribution of the revised Ahiman Rezon was rescinded: a further revision was made and accepted and ordered to be distributed. We are very glad to note that the Committee on Library, with the concurrence of the Grand Lodge, are printing the original records of the Grand Lodge from its organization.

Grand Master HENDERSON held a Grand Lodge of Emergency for the purpose of conferring the degrees at sight upon SAMUEL B. HUEY. The Grand Master of New Jersey was present. All the degrees were conferred at the same communication and in about two hours.

His address at the annual communication is able and exceedingly interesting.

While the law in relation to physical qualifications is settled in Maine, still we copy what he says in relation thereto:

"One of the questions the Grand Master is often obliged to decide is that of the physical qualifications of candidates for initiation. It is not a difficult one, for the law is plain; if it were not so plain it would not be so troublesome as it is. Though the landmark is so well established and the usage of this Grand Lodge so well known, the lame and the halt, and those suffering with various slight mutilations, have come before me to ascertain if they could receive the degrees. To refuse some of them seemed like a great hardship and was a most unpleasant duty, and I do not doubt that they

and their friends left me feeling that I was unsympathetic and unreasonable, while in truth I was neither, and would have been glad to decide otherwise. The only place to draw the line is where perfection would be on one side, and imperfection, however slight, on the other. Once across the line but a hair's breadth and the landmark falls. This fundamental law of our craft has been so often enunciated from this station that it should not be necessary to say more in regard to it, and I only refer to it now to show the great pressure that continues to be brought to set it aside, and the necessity for firmness against the least semblance of relaxation."

We copy it largely for the purpose of saying that we do not understand it, after reading it again and again. We cannot understand it, because we cannot believe that our distinguished brother intended to say that a candidate possessing a physical "imperfection, however slight," is ineligible. It is common knowledge, that not one man in a thousand can pass such a test: indeed, we doubt if there is a man living whose body comes up to the mark of absolute physical perfection.

Such doctrine is not found in the Ancient Charges or Landmarks of the craft. But it may be asked, if we do not require absolute physical perfection where shall the line be drawn? This question evidently led M. W. Bro. HENDERSON into the position which he has apparently, but we do not believe, really taken. The answer is found in the Ancient Charges, as we have already stated in a former part of this report, to which we refer.

We substantially concur in the following:

"During the year my permission was asked to organize a side degree or society to be called 'The Masonic Sons and Daughters of the Revolution,' the membership to be composed of masons and their families whose ancestors had fought in the Revolutionary War. It is needless to say that permission was refused. I had supposed that the attitude of this Grand Lodge in regard to such matters was so well understood that it did not need reassertion, but it seems otherwise. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania recognizes nothing but ancient Freemasonry. It does not countenance side degrees, nor will it permit organizations not masonic to use titles having a masonic reference. Ancient Craft Masonry is our property, and we cannot allow attachments to be made to it which destroy its symmetry and pervert it from its original purpose."

We congratulate him upon being able to announce that the Temple debt is reduced to \$500,000 and in consequence that the Grand Lodge dues return to what they were in 1875. We have had occasion in several former reports to mention the admirable manner in which the finances of this Grand Lodge have been managed by its Finance Committee. The Grand Master pays a just tribute to its members, eight of whom have not lived to see this result of their faithful and able services.

He issued a dispensation to elect a Master to fill a vacancy caused by death. After he had done so, he questioned the correctness of his action, and when a second case arose, he investigated the matter fully, and came to the conclusion that the Senior Warden in such case succeeds to the office,

and that it is not in accordance with masonic law and usage to issue a dispensation to fill a vacancy in the office of Master while there is a Warden: but that it is proper to authorize the filling of a vacancy in the office of Junior Warden, or any inferior office. This accords with the law in Maine and with our understanding of ancient usage.

In passing he shows that down to 1825 and afterwards, in the absence of the Master and Wardens, it was the law that a Past Master should preside. While the Ahiman Rezon now in force gives the Grand Master the authority to issue such a dispensation, he found that the edition of 1877 provided for it in case of the death of the "Master and Wardens," but that the section had been changed so as to read "Master or a Warden," a remarkable instance of the change in fundamental law by the change of a single word. As the provision of the present Ahiman Rezon is permissive only and not mandatory, he (and wisely in our estimation) concluded to follow the old law.

Of conferring the degrees at sight, he says:

"September 7th, I exercised the prerogative of a Grand Master by conferring the degrees at sight on Samuel B. Huey, a resident of Philadelphia. While some jurisdictions deny this right to the Grand Master, Pennsylvania has adhered tenaciously to the Ancient Landmark, and there have been but few of our Grand Masters who have not observed it at least once. We do it for the purpose of keeping the custom green in the minds of the brethren, and lest it became forgotten and fall into decay by reason of disuse. The Grand Master always endeavors to select a candidate worthy of the honor conferred,—one who conforms physically, mentally, and morally to the requirements of the craft."

The following is too good to omit:

"I refused to lay two corner-stones. One was that of a private school which could not be considered in any sense a public building. The other was that of a church, the authorities of which stated they wished the Grand Officers to perform the ceremony, because if it were known they would do so a large assemblage would be attracted, in which they desired to circulate a subscription paper, hoping to secure enough pledges to pay the church debt. If they had thought any other society would have attracted a larger crowd than the masons they would have extended the invitation to them, as it was the crowd they wanted and they did not care how they obtained it. I refused to have anything to do with it, as we do not knowingly allow ourselves to be used as advertising agents. They talked too much and spoiled their case, as men have often done before them."

We enjoy this all the more, because we now have reason to believe that we have unwittingly aided in doing what he escaped, by laying a corner stone when the real object of giving the invitation was to draw a crowd.

He had been several times requested to grant a dispensation to bury a non-affiliate. If the party was a non-affiliate for unmasonic reasons, he refused it: if by accident or necessity, he granted it: in one case, in which a member had been suspended for non-payment of dues and had paid them, but had died while his petition for affiliation was pending, he granted it.

The following decision is in accord with views already expressed in this report:

"Having been informed that a lodge, whose by-laws specified that the regular meetings should be held at seven o'clock, had opened the lodge, on a regular night of meeting, at half past five o'clock, I notified the Worshipful Master that all business transacted before seven o'clock must be considered as having been transacted at a special meeting. As candidates can only be balloted for at a regular meeting, the approval of two prior to seven o'clock was irregular, and the subsequent action of the lodge in initiating them was unlawful and void."

Under the head of "Using Masonry for base purposes," he says:

"I received a printed circular letter issued by a Master Mason. It had been sent to masons in his county, and stated that he was a candidate for office and solicited their votes on the ground that he was a mason, and by voting for him they would be aiding a brother. Receiving it on the day of the election, it was too late to take steps to counteract any benefit which might accrue to the sender, but I wrote him a letter which I do not think he will show to his friends or leave where his executors will find it. That it might have some degree of publicity among the fraternity I sent it through the District Deputy Grand Master, and that the rebuke may not be entirely lost to posterity a copy is preserved in the Grand Master's office. I gave him my best wishes for his defeat, which I am happy to say was his fate, and am informed that his circular did not a little work his discomfiture, as it excited feelings of indignation and revulsion even among his political friends. He should consider himself fortunate in escaping with a reprimand, for a clearer case for charges was never presented, and expulsion was never more richly deserved."

"At the threshold of Freemasonry we state that we do not seek it through mercenary motives, but the frailty of human nature is so strong in some of us that we belie that assertion. In a fraternity as large as ours we cannot wonder at this fact; we can only deplore it."

"The use of masonic signs or emblems for business purposes, or trading upon Freemasonry in any way, is not only a violation of our masonic law, but is generally condemned by masonic sentiment. I am glad to say it is an offence which is not prevalent in Pennsylvania, and no case as flagrant as the foregoing ever came under my notice."

One of the first lessons, that a mason should learn and never forget or disregard, is that he must not carry his politics into Masonry nor his Masonry into politics.

The Report on Correspondence (188 pp.) was prepared by Bro. MICHAEL ARNOLD, with the exception of the review of three jurisdictions.

Of Bro. VAUX, the committee justly say:

"From the many expressions of sympathy that have come to us from all over the masonic world, accompanied by many beautiful tributes to his talents and his worth, we feel that the loss is not all our own, that others miss him as well as we. Differences of opinion which existed between him and his contemporaries, if not forgotten, are credited to his honesty of purpose, and from every hand come sincere manifestations of sorrow at his loss. For these kind words we return our thanks."

"The best tribute which we of Pennsylvania can pay to the memory of Richard Vaux is to practice the Masonry he taught and so firmly believed in and upheld; the Masonry which has come down to us from 'the aforetime,'

which resists all attempt at modern improvement, and which does not seek to adapt itself to nineteenth century ideas of what Masonry should be."

An examination of this report shows that Bro. ARNOLD will well sustain the reputation which this Grand Lodge has acquired by the labors of his illustrious predecessor.

Will he allow us to suggest that he have his printer, by a difference in type, by "leading," or some other method which printers understand, make a distinction between extracts and original matter. From experience, we are able to say, that the change will contribute to the ease of reading them.

He copies the decisions of Grand Master BURBANK: the first (that the use of robes is not permissible) he approves, but adds, "but tell it not in New York, New Jersey or some other places."

He says further:

"We concur with decision No. 2. In short phrase it means deliver us from evil; but No. 3 would lead us into temptation."

Of No. 4, he says:

"This decision approves itself. It leads us to consider what is meant by consent, or waiver of jurisdiction, as it is sometimes called. With us the inquiry is not whether consent shall be given or jurisdiction waived, but whether there is any masonic objection to the petitioner; that is, whether his character and standing in the community in which he resides is such as to make him fit to be made a mason. In short, would the lodge at his place of residence approve him? As to consent or waiver, we hold that a lodge cannot refuse it if the petitioner is worthy."

Our law requires a candidate to apply to the lodge nearest his residence, but allows him, with the consent of that lodge, to apply to another lodge. The reason is that in almost all cases the nearest lodge has the best means of knowing whether the candidate is fit to be made a mason or not, and as the final test of that fitness is the ballot after due inquiry, when he petitions that lodge, it is held that that lodge can inform another lodge as to his fitness only in the same manner. This is what is meant by waiving jurisdiction, and the only question properly involved is, "Is the petitioner worthy?"

We quote further:

"The Grand Master of Rhode Island sent to the Grand Master of Maine the complaint of St. Johns's Lodge, of Rhode Island, against Crescent Lodge, of Maine, for refusing to refund to the former the expenses incurred in caring for a member of the latter lodge. This is a new obligation in Freemasonry. Crescent Lodge denied its liability, and properly too, as it seems to us.

"The Most Worshipful Grand Master suggests four thoughts for the consideration of the brethren, all of them so good that we repeat them. They are temperance, avoiding quarrels and slander, profanity, and the cardinal duties of citizenship without disloyalty to society, the state and the nation."

In his remarks on the last paragraph, he says:

"As to profanity, or, in legal phrase, blasphemy, it is a crime. Taking the name of the Deity or the persons of the Holy Trinity in vain is made a

penal offence in all civilized countries. But an occasional invective, tending to show the earnestness of the speaker, but without taking the name of his Creator in vain, is difficult to repress, and, as our dear Bro. Vaux used to say, is not swearing at all, but emphasizing. We presume the Grand Master does not use a great big D,—that is, hardly ever. As for slanderers, Paul Prys, and Peeping Toms, they are abominable."

Stop with the "big D" and you have it right, Bro. ARNOLD.

He quotes from our anniversary proceedings, and among other things says:

"Grand Master Hiram Chase was the son of Timothy Chase, who was also a Grand Master of Maine. Thus honors descend upon worthy sons. In this jurisdiction we have had two Grand Masters, father and son, by the name of Michael Nisbet, and two others named Samuel H. Perkins, and Samuel C. Perkins."

"He protests against and vigorously denounces the practice of conferring the degrees upon 'classes of candidates,' and calls it an innovation and violation of the spirit of the ritual. This does our heart good. We hope he may live to stamp out this practice."

"This is Freemasonry. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Perhaps if, when Masonry was originated, the word club had been in use, lodges, instead of being called a name which signifies an arbor or bower, where the masons met, might have been called clubs. The selection of members was required to be unanimous, so as to avoid unpleasant associates. The obligation was to seal the vows. This was the work or labor of the lodge. Then followed refreshments, avoiding intemperance and excess."

Referring to our remarks in relation to the claim recently made that the Grand Lodge dates its existence to 1732, he says:

"This is a new description of our action. All we claim, and the claim is just, is that there was a Grand Lodge in Pennsylvania in 1732 (and perhaps earlier), and that Chief Justice Allen and Benjamin Franklin were Grand Masters of it. That is all. Succession rather than descent is the proper way to state our claim."

Yes; but succession *in point of time*, but in no other manner. And we submit that the expression "this Grand Lodge * * in the one hundred and sixty-five years of its existence" is so incorrect as to be misleading.

Replying to us in relation to business qualifications, he says:

"To the question implicitly put, we answer, emphatically, No! But to 'carry on a house of prostitution' is not a business. It is a crime. Was it a breach of the moral law to keep the inn at which the Good Samaritan left the wounded wayfarer? Perhaps we agree in our contempt for obnoxious persons, no matter what their business may be. The statistics show that all professions and businesses furnish occupants of our prisons."

Yes, it is a crime, but nevertheless a "business"—a business made a crime by statute law, but equally disqualifying for Masonry *before* it was made so, as since. Whether being engaged in a particular business is a disqualification for Masonry, depends primarily upon its character, and not

upon the statute law, although a mason cannot properly engage in a business forbidden by the statute, even if it be not immoral. Keeping an inn is not necessarily keeping a liquor shop.

He says that we agree in relation to perpetual jurisdiction: not fully: he holds the doctrine to be a landmark, while we hold it to be a regulation which the Grand Lodge can "alter for the real good of the ancient fraternity."

From the following we find that the law of physical qualification in Pennsylvania is limited to the first degree:

"Concerning the question raised by the decision of Grand Master Pettus, of Alabama, that a one-armed man may be elected and installed Master of a lodge, there seems to be a mistake in the premises. The difference between them is the difference between making a mason and advancing him. He is made a mason when he is initiated as an Entered Apprentice. If by an accident he is maimed he may still be advanced."



We are greatly shocked to learn of the sudden death on May seventh, (the last day of the session of our Grand Lodge) of Grand Secretary MICHAEL NISBET. Born in 1829, made a mason in 1851, a member of the Grand Lodge in 1856; on Committee on Finance from 1858 to 1877; in each of the chairs in the Grand Lodge two years, and one year Deputy Grand Master; going from the Grand East in 1880 to the office of Grand Secretary, and serving there till his death, he gave over forty years of active service to the craft, honoring every position that he was called upon to fill.

We again join in the sorrow of our brethren of Pennsylvania, with a keen sense of personal loss by the death of this beloved brother.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, 1895.

An emergent communication was held March 21, 1895, to dedicate the hall of St. John and Victoria Lodges. The ceremonies seem to have been public. An excellent address was delivered by Rev. Bro. G. M. CAMPBELL.

The Grand Master (THOMAS A. McLEAN,) gives a detailed account of his visitations of the lodges, and adds:

"This concludes the visitation of every lodge in the jurisdiction. I can truly say that Masonry throughout the Island has taken an additional step in the march of progress, and that the official and fraternal visitation of the officers tends to awaken an additional interest in the order; and I feel that my time in traveling from one end of the jurisdiction to the other has been well spent if, by so doing, light has been given to any of the brethren. I must here remark that some of the lodge members in our jurisdiction require more constitutional light in *re* lodge funds. They hold the opinion that these funds are theirs to do with them what they will. This is erroneous! A lodge fund is held sacred, except for legitimate expenses."

The Grand Lecturer (DUNCAN McLEAN) had visited every lodge, and he says:

"The work in the different lodges, in which degree work was seen, shows an improvement over that of a few years ago, and the officers generally are anxious that the degrees be given in an intelligent manner."

The work was exemplified: the Grand Lodge of New Zealand recognized; and the usual routine business transacted.

The following was presented and referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence:

"Whereas, In cases where a candidate for Masonry applies to a lodge other than the one having jurisdiction, and is rejected:

"Be it therefore Resolved, That any such candidate may again apply *de novo* to the lodge having jurisdiction as if such rejection has never taken place, and without waiting the prescribed twelve months.

"Second. That lodges receiving petitions should make diligent enquiries and should consult the neighboring lodges in all cases of possible doubt."

The committee reported that the resolution was in conflict with the by-laws of the Grand Lodge, but on motion to that effect, this section was struck out of the report by the Grand Lodge.

The following, from the report of the Committee on the Grand Master's address, was also "ordered to be struck out":

"We endorse the sentiments of the Grand Master in reference to the use of lodge funds, that they should not be used for other than masonic purposes."

Whether this action is understood to affirm the contrary, or to be limited to a mere refusal to approve the proposition struck out, we do not know.

No Report on Correspondence.

QUEBEC, 1896.

The Grand Lodge, open as such, laid the corner stone of a church, Past Grand Master JOHN P. NOYES presiding. He delivered an appropriate address. The "Public Grand Honors" were given. The occasion was one of much interest.

In his able address, the Grand Master (FREDERICK MASSEY) says:

"The most superficial observer of Freemasonry cannot be otherwise than forcibly impressed with the great advances our Order is making throughout the dominion, and especially in this, our Province of Quebec.

"At no time in our history have we been so progressive, and so adhesive, both as individual masons and as subordinate lodges, composing our Grand Lodge of Quebec."

"I deem it my duty to the craft to again refer, as Grand Master, to the oft repeated statement, that we are in no sense a political organization. We have no sympathy with resistance to recognized authority, either of

church or state. No true mason can ever join with others in conspiring against, or in opposition to, either the laws of God or man, and while we insist on belief in the existence of a Supreme Being, and of loyalty, either to our adopted country, or to our beloved Sovereign, we hold in utter contempt, any one transgressing, in any sense, the principles just referred to, and no words of mind can possibly be strong enough to characterize in sufficiently scathing terms, such a publication as was recently published in this province, referred to so fully by the press of this city, and which I am glad to say has been withdrawn, as far as government recognition is concerned."

We have no knowledge of the publication referred to, but the views of the Grand Master are manifestly correct, and he expresses them in vigorous words.

Of the matter, which has disturbed the peace of the masonic world for twenty-five years, he says:

"As far as our foreign relations are concerned they remain very much as heretofore, the lodges having jurisdiction under the Grand Lodge of England, being still in existence in this City of Montreal. There are not wanting, in my opinion, signs that these lodges will possibly in the near future consider seriously benefits which would accrue to them from being in much closer contact to their Grand Body than they are at present.

"Without going closely into this question, which has been so fully discussed heretofore, I dismiss the subject with the remark that it is to be hoped that ere long lodges referred to will recognize it as their duty to relieve the Grand Lodge of England from the somewhat, no doubt to them, embarrassing position of still allowing lodges to work under English charters in this Province of Quebec; a position which, undoubtedly, no Grand Lodge cares to maintain, and one which has now become so solitary as to be marked among the Grand Lodges of the Masonic World."

Some lodges in this jurisdiction, under the constitution of this Grand Lodge, have a by-law which requires two black balls to reject, and two decisions of the Grand Master grew out of it:

1. That the continued objection of one member does not prevent the initiation of elected candidates.
2. That the Wardens have the right to count the number of balls thrown and the members present, and, if the former exceeds the latter, to call the Master's attention to the fact. Of course, that would make the ballot void. These are necessary consequences of such a by-law.

Of the library, Grand Secretary ISAACSON says:

"Our Grand Lodge Library continues to make but slow progress. I am now, however, in the hope that as it is provided with fitting locality and appliances, more lively interest will be taken in its prosperity, and I believe that desirable object will be attained if Grand Lodge sets the example by annually voting an amount to be expended in the purchase of masonic literature under prudent judgment and careful supervision.

"It will be remembered that at the last annual communication of Grand Lodge, M. W. Bro. J. P. Noyes advised that a reprint of the Proceedings of Grand Lodge for certain years should be made, from time to time, as circumstances would permit. I find on looking over the stock on hand that the supplies for the years 1869, 1870, 1871, 1875, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880,

1882, 1883 and 1884 are nearly altogether exhausted. I would advise therefore, that acting on the suggestion, the Proceedings of the three first named years be reprinted, say 250 copies.

No action was taken upon his proposition for reprinting the Proceedings.

A revised Constitution was presented and adopted, with but one amendment—to establish the office of Grand Registrar.

An excellent discourse on "Masonry and Religion" was delivered by the Grand Chaplain, Bro. R. W. HEWTON.

The "Committee on State of Masonry" says:

"We congratulate Grand Lodge on the satisfactory condition of its affairs generally, the solid progress made numerically and financially, and on the harmony that exists throughout its borders. We have had during the year a large augmentation of new material added to our ranks, which has been offset to an unusual extent by withdrawals and suspensions; the latter, no doubt, may be accounted for by the stringency of the times, and we have no doubt that with the dawn of an era of prosperity, many of the wanderers of both classes will return to the fold. Under these circumstances it is still more pleasing to note that a fair increase in membership is recorded."

The Grand Lodge took important action in a case that has caused much discussion and disturbance. An E. A. was suspended for unmasonic conduct; the year before the matter was presented to the Grand Lodge, which came to the conclusion that the brother had been sufficiently punished and requested the lodge to restore him: this the lodge declined to do, and it was evident that it was not likely to do so. In the meantime, the party had removed from the jurisdiction of the lodge. The Grand Lodge adopted the report of a committee, concluding as follows:

"Your committee, therefore, recommend that Grand Lodge do grant the prayer of Bro. Kerr's petition, with the proviso that his restoration shall not return him into membership with Browne Lodge; that Bro. Kerr be declared to be restored to his privileges as an Entered Apprentice Mason unaffiliated; and that the Grand Secretary be instructed to grant him a certificate thereof, and that such certificate shall take the place of a regular dimit for the purpose of allowing him to apply for affiliation with any lodge within this jurisdiction, without, however, relieving any lodge to which he shall so apply from the necessity of complying strictly with the requirements of the constitution and making full enquiry as to his general character and reputation before passing upon any such application for affiliation; and if such enquiry be satisfactory and the brother be then admitted into membership in any lodge in this jurisdiction, such lodge shall have the right to advance him under the requirements of the Order to the further degrees."

The Report on Correspondence (128 pp.) was again presented by Bro. E. T. D. CHAMBERS.

We are greatly grieved to read the following, and tender him our sympathy:

"During the last year, a long and severe illness, and the sickness and death of a beloved son, have interfered somewhat with the system heretofore pursued by the writer in the preparation and selection of material for the present review. Every report of a Sister Grand Lodge that has reached him has, however, received careful examination, and such notice as the con-

tents appeared to demand, except when it became necessary to limit it by the space at his disposal."

In his introduction, he very ably discusses several matters.

Referring to the invitation of Italian masons to those of other countries to join with them in celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of "the deliverance of her Capital" from the temporal power of the Pope, he well says that Masonry can legitimately have no part in such a matter. But he says:

"Successive Popes have banned Freemasonry, attempting to punish the Masonry of Britain and America that they know nothing of, and that never did them or thought of doing them any harm, for the misguided actions of Grand Orients and Symbolic Grand Lodges that it repudiates, which having departed from the spirit and teachings of Freemasonry, have embroiled themselves in political and religious feuds, diametrically opposed to the teachings of the Order."

We do not understand that the ban was put on for that cause. We understand that it is based upon our *obligations of secrecy*, the position being that a Catholic can have no secrets, which he is not allowed to disclose to his spiritual teacher.

From his report we learn that the Grand Master undoubtedly referred to an anti-masonic novel published in Canada, of which Bro. CHAMBERS, says:

"Little surprise as may be occasioned by these representations, amongst those acquainted with the methods and tenets of anti-masonic ignorance and fanaticism, it will not be without some wonderment, we believe, that the facts will go forth, that the government of the Province of Quebec has purchased some hundreds of copies of this book for distribution as prizes to the children of the public schools"!

As a rule we do not notice such things, because we hold that contemptuous silence is the last thing their authors want, and that they exult over notoriety, which advertises them to the world. We depart from that rule in this case in consequence of the action of the government of the province, which, however, as we understand from the Grand Master's address, has since been rescinded.

He quotes with words of approbation the closing portion of Grand Master BURBANK's address last year.

Having discussed the more important questions in his Introduction, his review of the Proceedings is closely confined to an abstract. We congratulate him upon his election as Deputy Grand Master—an honor fittingly bestowed.

RHODE ISLAND, 1895.

The Grand Lodge laid the corner stone of a church in Providence, October 9, 1894. The Governor was present, and assisted the Grand Master as Pro. Grand Master. The brief addresses on the occasion were of a high

order of excellence, that of Gov. BROWN being of an eminently practical character. A pleasing incident was the presentation to the Grand Master and to the Governor, by the Trustees, of trowels, each suitably inscribed.

The Grand Master (ELISHA H. RHODES) delivered a concise, business-like address, containing little of general interest. He had made twenty-nine visits to lodges, making eighty-two in all, during the two years of his administration.

The District Deputies make general reports, which indicate the continued prevalence of the usual sound prosperity in this jurisdiction.

The Grand Lecturer highly commends a practice prevailing in some lodges, of dividing the lectures into parts, and officers, other than the Master, and members, each delivering a specified part. We can speak of the beneficial results of this method from experience. In our lodge, in our working days, it was the custom for the Master to call upon one member after another to assist in giving the lecture, frequently designating two members to "pass" a part of a lecture and then two others to pass another part. Of course, he limited his designations to those who had prepared themselves.

BRO. HENRY W. RUGG delivered an excellent eulogy upon BRO. SAMUEL G. STINESS, who had died during the year, deservedly honored in life and sincerely mourned in death.

BRO. RUGG, also, for the Committee on Correspondence, presented a report upon the Mississippi proposition, from which we take the following:

"As regards the rules enacted by the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, and now brought under review, much difference of opinion prevails upon the questions interwoven therewith. The first of the proposed rules pertains to jurisdiction over rejected petitioners who shall have taken up their residence within the territory of another Grand Lodge. How long shall a rejection within the Grand Lodge jurisdiction be regarded as a disqualification in another jurisdiction where the petitioner has taken up his residence? How shall the disqualification be removed? Under a strict construction of the rule of perpetual jurisdiction a rejection of a petitioner operates as a bar against any other lodge, at any time, receiving and acting upon the application of such a petitioner, unless the petition of the rejecting lodge be first obtained. The old masonic rule was rigid in this respect. The equities involved seem to favor a less permanent disqualification. Many Grand Lodges in recent years have legislated upon this subject, and have fixed a limit of jurisdiction, giving an absolute release over rejected applicants, residing in other Grand Lodge territory, after a term of one, two, three, five or seven years. The first named period, as named in the Mississippi plan, seems too brief, inviting as it might the removal of candidates from one jurisdiction to another for the purpose of obtaining the degrees; the last named limit appears rather long. Perhaps three or five years would be an ample time."

We take the following from the report of the "Commissioners on Trials."

"That upon learning of his detection, said Joseph N. Griffin withdrew from the state; and that, after all means required by the Constitution and General Regulations of this M. W. Grand Lodge had been exhausted, to notify him of the time and place assigned for his trial, and he failing to

appear, counsel was assigned for his defence, and in his absence he was tried and sentenced to expulsion as above; and that no appeal was taken therefrom."

The Grand Lodge confirmed the action of the lodge. This case is another illustration of the fact that Masonry cannot adopt the doctrine of the civil law, that no one can be put on trial for an offence without previous notice; cases arise in which the giving of notice is impossible, and while in such case the civil law allows the guilty party to escape, Masonry cannot do so.

We are glad to note that the committee are making progress in the reprint of the Proceedings. The first volume is an exceedingly valuable contribution to masonic literature, and the second can be hardly less so.

The committee announced the completion of the "Memorial Volume," and of it well say:

"They believe it to be the most complete work of its kind ever produced, and that it will compare favorably with any similar production issued by any Grand Lodge in the United States."

A copy has been sent to our Grand Lodge, and we regard it as one of the most valuable books in the library.

A special communication was held to constitute St. Andrew's Lodge. Bro RUGG delivered a very valuable historical and doctrinal address.

No Report on Correspondence.

SOUTH CAROLINA, 1895.

These Proceedings give us abundant evidence of the growing prosperity of Masonry in this jurisdiction. The Mayor of Charleston, a Past District Deputy Grand Master, welcomed the Grand Lodge, and the Grand Master responded. The resident masons tendered an invitation for a steamboat ride, and the ladies tendered one to a concert in aid of the Jefferson Davis monument at Richmond, Va.; both invitations were accepted.

The Grand Master (CLAUDE E. SAWYER, who is our representative), in his address, made some very vigorous and forcible talk, that gave the dry bones quite a shaking up, which evidently had a very healthy influence, although the Grand Lodge voted down quite a number of his recommendations.

Of the condition of the craft, he says:

"Masonry is improving in South Carolina. It is not growing very rapidly in numbers, but taken as a whole the character and tone is tending upward, and I am sure this much will gratify you."

He says that the District Deputy system has proved an utter failure in that state; undoubtedly, and for the reason that only an incomplete and imperfect part of the system has been adopted. However, the Grand Lodge held on to it, and we hope that the Grand Lodge will soon reach such a financial condition, as to enable it to require each Deputy to visit every

lodge in his district and pay his expenses. If it does not then become a grand success, it will be because competent men for the office cannot be found.

He thinks that one reason for the falling off in the number of masons in that state is shown in the following:

"It is a sad commentary on our ancient and honorable institution, founded upon friendship, morality and brotherly love, whose purpose is to encourage the search for truth through the medium of the first and deepest of all sciences, that it should have for its principal officers, men who have pushed themselves forward till they have reached the highest places in their lodges, and yet, do not understand the simplest rudiments of the science which they undertake to teach."

* * * * *

"Most of our brethren have learned that more importance is placed on fingers and toes than heart and brains; they are learning that a whole-hearted man, with the first joint of his little toe of the left foot wanting, cannot be made a mason, while a half-hearted man with five toes can be welcomed into our ranks, even though he have an unpolished brain also."

He thinks that another reason is the disregard of the qualification which MACKAY deemed so important, that he printed it in Italics:

"He must likewise have an estate, office, trade, occupation, or some visible way of acquiring an honest livelihood and working in his craft, as becomes the members of this ancient and honorable fraternity. Freemasons must not only earn what is sufficient for themselves and families, but likewise something to spare for works of charity, and for supporting the ancient grandeur and dignity of the mystic craft."

He gives as a third reason:

"I also find a tendency in many lodges to rush as many through the East as possible. This is wrong again. I know of many lodges that were built up and kept flourishing by the efforts of one intelligent, energetic true mason, possessed of that rare qualification of a presiding officer—executive ability coupled with a judicial mind. When a lodge is flourishing under a Master he should not be removed till a man is found who is, at least, as good an officer as himself. The office of Worshipful Master was never intended to confer honors upon men, but to benefit the craft. He who benefits the craft is honored by the title of P. M., but he who has passed through the chair and left the lodge in a worse condition than he found it, is dishonored by having made himself ridiculous from incapacity, or undeserving for lack of qualifying himself when competent."

He discusses the question of physical qualifications, and we would like to copy all he says, but must be content with the following:

"It is my duty to enforce the law as I find it, and our Grand Lodge has gone so far on this question of physical qualification that I think it is time we should amend our constitution. I have had to rule out men with one eye, the loss of the first joint of the little finger of the left hand, a little toe of the left foot, the first joint of two or three toes of the left foot. Brethren, 'we learn to subdue the passions, act upon the square, keep a tongue of good report, maintain secrecy, and practice charity.' Can we not do all these things with one eye? What has fingers and toes of the left hand and

feet to do with 'subduing our passions, acting upon the square, keeping a tongue of good report, and practicing charity.'

"Article III says, the candidate 'must be upright in body, not deformed or 'dismembered at the time of making, but of hale and entire limbs, organs 'and members, as a man ought to be.' Up to the time I assumed the obligation of Grand Master, I felt a kind of pride in our rigid rule, but after the experience of one year, and having received the many inquiries as to the chances of men who were slightly maimed, who in every case were men of good moral standing, above the average in intelligence, and endowed with a competency, I have changed my mind. We are wrong. We have carried the construction of this Landmark too far."

* * * * *

"Brethren, let us amend this article and let good, moral men, who can conform to all our ceremonies, and are otherwise qualified, come in. In 1891 one of our sister Grand Lodges elected as their Grand Master a man who was born with both feet badly deformed. I had the pleasure of meeting him in 1889, and a better mason I have never seen. Had he lived in South Carolina he could never have been a mason."

The committee reported upon this part of his address as follows:

"In the matter of physical qualification the committee is of the opinion that physical perfection is based upon Landmarks of the Order. Our ancient constitutions required that a candidate should be hale and sound, not deformed or dismembered at the time of his making. The action of the Grand Lodge has been so uniform and decided on this question that we regard it unsafe to make any changes, and we recommend that the custom of the Grand Lodge be rigidly adhere to."

The report was adopted.

We fraternally call the attention of the committee to the fact, that Article III of the law of the Grand Lodge, as quoted by the Grand Master, is not only not in accord, but *is actually in conflict, with* the landmark as contained in the Ancient Charges. To be satisfied of this, they have only to read the latter. They will not find in them any warrant for physical perfection.

Of perpetual jurisdiction, he says:

"A man was rejected in Georgia, moved to South Carolina and desired to apply to a lodge here; according to our construction of the law he could not. I advised the lodge to communicate with the Georgia Lodge and urge them to receive his application. They refused, but in a very warm, fraternal resolution, waived all claim of jurisdiction over this material, and I advised the lodge to receive his application. I could see no other way out of the dilemma; we have our views, but we cannot force them upon Georgia. I trust that some amicable arrangements can be made that will be acceptable alike to all Grand Jurisdictions."

This construction of the general law is certainly in accord with the construction of it in almost every jurisdiction in which the doctrine prevails. The Grand Lodge, however, adopted the following:

"The masonic law of this jurisdiction, that a profane becomes the perpetual material of the lodge to which he applies, rests on an unbroken line of decisions, supported by Mackey's Jurisprudence, and the committee recommend should be adhered to."

True enough; but does that law prevent the waiver of jurisdiction in

favor of another lodge? Does not the law allow a lodge to waive jurisdiction over an accepted candidate, or an E. A. or an F. C.? In case the lodge ceases to exist, is the candidate perpetually barred?

He suggested that every lodge have its history written, and expressed the hope that Mackey's History would soon be reprinted and brought out. This was heartily endorsed by the committee, as it will be by masons everywhere.

The following is good tidings to all the craft, and we are prophet enough to predict confidently that growth and prosperity will follow the removal of the incubus of that debt:

"The R. W. Grand Treasurer will lay his report before you, and show that the debt is rapidly growing smaller, and will, in a few years, be a thing of the past.

"We will probably begin the next year with a bonded debt of only \$8,000. Brethren, let us rejoice."

The following was adopted:

"Articles 104 and 156 of the constitution provide that members who are twelve months in arrears shall be erased from the roll of the lodge, and shall not be eligible to office, or vote for officers. The committee recommend that the Masters of subordinate lodges enforce these provisions literally."

We understand that notice must be previously given to the member, that he is in arrears, and then, if he does not respond, his name is erased from the roll without further ceremony. We have understood that erasure from the roll terminates his membership, and therefore do not understand why the addition in regard to eligibility to office, or to voting is made.

He advised the appointment of one member of the more important committees, at the close of each session; he says:

"Many questions of vital importance are referred to the Grand Master during the year. He takes time to read and study the question thoroughly, and after long and calm deliberation, decides the question. His decision is referred to a committee that does not have time to refer to all his authorities, far less study them; they decide in a hurried manner, and, in almost every instance in which he is overruled he is right and the committee wrong."

He might have added that more frequently an erroneous decision or action of the Grand Master is approved.

We have found by experience in Maine that the proper dispatch of business requires the appointment of Standing Committees at the close of each session, to hold their places until the close of the next annual communication, even though before that they cease to be members of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master submitted a supplementary address in relation to the work. A majority and a minority report in reference to it were presented. So much of the majority report as conflicted with the minority report was rejected and the remainder adopted: then part of the minority report was rejected and the remainder adopted.

An amendment, increasing the number of Deputies, and one abolishing

the system, were presented and lie over one year. One great trouble with the present arrangement is that the districts are too large—so large, in fact, that the labor of visiting all the lodges in them is too much to require of one man. The objection to increasing the number seems to be that it increases the expense: but the time and travel necessary to visit a given number of lodges in large districts is much greater than is necessary to visit the same number of lodges in small districts.

The Report on Correspondence (110 pp.) was presented by Bro. CHARLES INGLESBY. It was referred to the committee, who speak of it in deservedly high terms. Of two important matters, the committee say:

“We note with pleasure the very general consensus of adverse opinion, and also of action, of most, if not all, the Grand Lodges that have taken up the proposition submitted by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin to impose lodge liability to re-imburse masonic relief bestowed on its members, which corresponds with action already taken by this Grand Body.

“We regret to find a difference of opinion, and also a want of uniformity, in the action of many Grand Lodges on the question submitted by the Grand Lodge of Mississippi touching the jurisdiction of material which has been once presented and rejected—our Grand Lodge regarding it as a fundamental principle, and imbedded in one of the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry, has always adhered, and still adheres, to the doctrine of *perpetual jurisdiction*.”

This report is nearly all written and contains but few extracts. There is much in it which we desire to notice, but there must be a limit, as we are making our report longer than we had intended.

In his review of Maine (1895) he thus speaks of Grand Master BURBANK'S address:

“We would be delighted, if time and space permitted, to insert here the ‘Conclusion’ of this admirable address, reminding the craft as it eloquently does of some of the chief ends and aims of our grand, old moral institution, which the brethren are besought to take into their ‘own inner chamber of reflection, into the forum of individual conscience, and there answer, each for himself, how far they concern his relation to the craft and the community.’”

Of decisions Nos. 1, 2 and 6, he says:

“We are unable to agree entirely with these decisions. First, why is it not permissible, in conferring degrees, for the officers to wear robes? The ritual represents high dignitaries and officials who certainly wore robes, and very gorgeous robes. Our dissent from decisions two and six is because we think that these matters are properly lodge matters which Grand Lodge should not interfere with. The proper and temperate encouragement of the social features of Masonry is not done as an advertisement, and the lodge has the right, so far as its funds are concerned, to expend them as it pleases for any masonic purpose, without interference from Grand Lodge. As to decision number six, of course the balloting must be in the proper lodge room at a regular communication, etc., so as to secure the unanimous consent of all its members, but that having been done, it is everywhere considered that the lodge can have the degrees conferred in some other lodge, even in another Grand Lodge jurisdiction. The work will be the work of the orig-

inal lodge. If this is so, then surely, if for any reason the lodge chooses to take the candidate to another lodge room in another town, no harm is done."

1. The reason for the decision in relation to the use of robes is, that it would be contrary to the uniform and immemorial usage of the craft.

2. Lodge funds are trust funds held for specific purposes, and if lodges undertake to squander them it is not only the right but the duty of the Grand Lodge to interfere to prevent it. The facts in the particular case brought it within this rule.

3. In consequence of some abuses, our Grand Lodge enacted a law upon which the decision was based. The permission of the *Grand Master* was necessary.

He does not think well of the practice in our Grand Lodge of not reporting upon the decisions till the next year. One of his reasons fails: in this jurisdiction the decision of the case by the Grand Master is final; the disapproval of the rule upon which he acts does not affect the case decided; the decision of the Grand Lodge is only a rule for the future. It is true that the committee does not meet in the recess, but each member examines the decisions for himself after the Proceedings are published, and when the committee meet on the morning of the next session they are ready to compare views and act. It would be practically impossible to make any examination of authorities, and report at the same communication. Practically they are not "stale," because we have never known the same question to be asked two years in succession. We agree with Grand Master SAWYER, that it is far the best method to have time enough to make such examination as will secure correct results.

One of his points, however, is well taken: when a decision is modified, or in any way discussed, it *is* better to give the decision instead of merely referring to it.

In his review of our report, he says:

"In reviewing South Carolina, Bro. Drummond notes that an emergent communication for laying a corner stone was opened in ample form on the first degree, the ceremonies performed and the Grand Lodge closed. He says: 'As the distinction between the so-called "Ancients" and the old Grand Lodge masons was kept up in South Carolina longer than anywhere else, the fact that its Grand Lodge has performed these public ceremonies shows very conclusively that the "Ancients" practiced them, and supports our conclusion that the *present* usage in Pennsylvania is an innovation, and a departure from the old usage in that state.'"

And he adds: "In this Bro. DRUMMOND is not right." But we were: the term "Ancient" is, and has been, the term universally used to designate those who called themselves "Ancient York Masons": he simply misunderstood us, or rather he uses the term "Ancient" in a different sense from that in which it is used when we speak of the rival English Grand Lodges which united in 1813. He sustains most fully our position that the

present method of performing public masonic ceremonies is the same as used by the Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons, (or as usually termed the "Ancients") in that jurisdiction.

We refer Bro. INGLESBY to the History of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, in the Appendix to Yorston's edition of Gould's History.

In response to our request for the reason of opening the lodge on the first degree for the installation of officers, he says:

"The reason is, first, that our Ahiman Rezon so requires. The Ahiman, which as we have above explained, was written by Bro. Dalcho in 1807, and which we believe correctly preserves the customs, usages, forms and ceremonies as handed down in the York Rite. *Ita lex scripta est* is the best answer we can give. We presume, that the reason of the law is that, we are taught that Grand Masters existed long before Grand Lodges were ever heard of, and when the craft mainly consisted of Entered Apprentice masons. The first Grand Lodge was the Grand Lodge of England, organized in 1717, and up to that time lodges did all their work and transacted all their business in the E. A. degree. Our Ahiman preserves this ancient tradition. Practically, it permits every brother mason to be present at and participate in the installation of his Grand Master. Of course the E. A. and F. C.'s, are brother masons."

Since the Baltimore Convention of 1843 most Grand Lodges require all business to be done in a Master's lodge, and this rule is generally applied to installations.

We congratulated the craft in his state upon the election of our representative as Grand Master, and now he congratulates us in Maine that we have such a representative; we appreciate this even more than we did last year.

SOUTH DAKOTA, 1895.

The Grand Master (WILLIAM C. ALLEN) takes the correct view:

"In the past wise counsels have prevailed, conservatism has been the rule; let us see to it, my brethren, that the well-trodden paths of those gone before be not abandoned for new and untried ways.

"Upon our past we can look with pride; let our future be as glorious in its fulfillments.

"We are among those who believe that Freemasonry has a past; that it is not an institution in embryo which needs our constant efforts to improve it. Therefore, in the matters which shall come before us let us act with that intelligence and consistency which has ever characterized our predecessors."

And of the state of the craft, he says:

"With few exceptions, the particular lodges are in a prosperous condition. Although our grand state has suffered severe reverses during the year, from an almost total failure of crops which caused very general business depressions, our lodges, by reason of the wise course of economy always followed, have not been materially injured thereby, and I am pleased to be able to report what is under such circumstances a flattering increase in membership."

As long as his Grand Lodge proceeds upon the principles he enunciated, it keeps itself in a condition which will secure the continuance of growth and prosperity.

Difficulties had previously arisen in the oldest lodge, and resulted, as has sometimes happened elsewhere, in the rejection of all candidates proposed. As a remedy, the Grand Master granted a dispensation for a new lodge. It worked harmoniously, conferring the first degree on nine candidates, and the second degree on seven. The majority of the committee reported in favor of continuing the dispensation and refusing a charter; the minority favored granting the charter as the best means of restoring harmony, and believing that as the two lodges had a population of over 15,000 to draw from, they could be well supported: their views were adopted by the Grand Lodge. In cases somewhat similar in other jurisdictions, in which the discordant element was small, the charter has been withdrawn and re-issued to the part of the members who seemed to be endeavoring to act in accordance with masonic principles.

He recommended the abolition of affiliation fees, on the ground that it is not right to require brethren to pay for the privilege of becoming contributing members. There is no doubt that modern legislation has given ground for the prevailing idea that lodge membership is a burden which it is the *duty* of masons to sustain, instead of the old doctrine, that it is a benefit which it is the *privilege* of masons to share. His recommendation was adopted.

Grand Master ALLEN had evidently been an active and efficient Grand Master. His portrait, as well as that of Past Grand Master THOMAS H. BROWN, are given in the Proceedings.

We are greatly pleased to note the rapid growth and fine condition of the Grand Lodge Library.

An amendment to the constitution was adopted, which changes the composition of the Grand Lodge, but it is understood that it does not affect the membership of any one now a permanent member. But hereafter Deputy Grand Masters and Grand Wardens do not become permanent members. We greatly regret this change; first, because it is an innovation upon the system that has existed ever since Grand Lodges were created, and which prevails still almost universally: and second, because it is a decided change for worse, as a comparison with the Grand Bodies of other Orders, from which the promoters of the change evidently got the idea, abundantly shows. It is also based upon another idea—that the functions of a Grand Lodge are legislative only, and, therefore, should be solely a popular body corresponding to the House of Representatives of a State. It is true that it is a legislative body, but one which combines both the Senate and the House of our civil form of government, and experience has shown that the blending of these

two bodies in one gives us the safest and wisest legislative machine; but the Grand Lodge is the highest judicial tribunal of the Order, and to make it up wholly or almost wholly of those who are just beginning to learn to administer masonic affairs, is, to say the least, exceedingly unwise, and contrary to what would be done in any other matters of important business.

The Master and Wardens of lodges are chosen with the view of administering the affairs of the lodge, and as a rule, hold office but a short time; so short indeed that it is a very general complaint that the frequent changes in these offices are one great cause of the lack of growth and prosperity of the craft. To set aside brethren of experience and the wisdom gained thereby, and make the very beginners not only our legislators, but also our judges of masonic law, would be simply laughable, were it not so serious a matter. A permanent membership according to the Old Regulations, and the representatives of lodges make up a Grand Lodge with such mutual checks and balances as to make it, in our judgment, the safest possible body for administering the affairs of our great Institution. We are very earnest, because, since the advent of other Orders, we have noticed a tendency to imitate them in "popularizing" Masonry at the expense of weakening the ability of the Grand Bodies for the proper performance of the important duties entrusted to them.

The Grand Master had the Grand Representatives presented and addressed them in fraternal and appreciative words, to which Bro. WILLIAM BLATT for himself and his associates, fittingly replied.

Measures were taken looking to the combination of the Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery Libraries with that of the Grand Lodge. We have in Maine a joint Library of all the Grand Bodies, and the result is, that it receives all the masonic Proceedings as they are published.

A fugitive from justice was tried by his lodge: notices to him were sent by mail to several Post Office addresses, but were all returned "not taken"; the Master directed the of plea of "not guilty" to be entered and appointed an Attorney to conduct the trial on the part of the accused, who was found guilty and expelled. The Grand Lodge confirmed the action of the lodge. In this case, the evidence was at hand, but if the taking of depositions had been required, it might have been difficult to have conformed to the law in taking them; at any rate, the constitution of our Grand Lodge makes no provision for taking them when notice of their taking cannot be given to the accused.

The Report on Correspondence (100 pp.) was presented by Bro. WILLIAM BLATT.

We had not read the following when we wrote our remarks in relation to the composition of the Grand Lodge; if we had, we would have quoted

it in that connection; it is sound doctrine and timely warning in any latitude:

“Isolated cases of departure from what we believe immutable principles of Freemasonry have and are being attempted. Fortunately, however, for the Institution there is so unanimous a protest against such changes, so firm and clear a declaration of principles upon these subjects that we shall be able to transmit to the future as received from the past, pure, unsullied and unchanged, the fundamental principles of the Institution. Those of you who will read this report, need not look between the lines for a thorough comprehension of the matters which prompt the foregoing remarks. Let me adjure you, brethren, to continue in the path your predecessors have followed, steadfast in affirming, faithful in practicing the Heaven born principles upon which rests the masonic structure. Even in changing local and minor regulations be ever conservative, never permitting our needs, or regulations of government to be measured by the standard of any other association. Our Institution is peculiarly distinct in organization and government. Our safety lies in applying the experiences of our own past history as the sole guide of our future.”

He thinks “Fraternal Correspondence” is the proper designation: we do not: that would include internal as well as external correspondence, and the former does not come within the purview; therefore the term is inaccurate. The name Foreign Correspondence has been used for nearly a century and everybody understands that it refers to correspondence from outside the jurisdiction: there is nothing unfraternal, or suggestive of anything unfraternal, in the name. There is no more reason for changing the name than there is for designating the Grand Master’s address as the “fraternal” address. In fact it is difficult to perceive how *any* masonic correspondence can be other than “fraternal.”

BRO. BLATT ornaments his report with a cut as a headpiece to each Grand Lodge: they all are good, and many of them very fine: Maine has water and the sun rising out of or beyond it: in the foreground is a cliff on the left and on the right a group of pine trees, and the name Maine extending between them. The most prominent feature is the sun, whose benignant expression carries with it a most fraternal greeting.

In his review of Maine, he quotes what we said of expulsion for N. T. D., and adds:

“This is true masonic sentiment; the reverse is the sentiment of those who measure our institution from the financial tables governing, and upon which are founded all the mushroom associations of the day.”

Of the doctrine of the Wisconsin proposition, he says:

“While our Coteau Lodge claimed to have made certain, if not all the expenditures in question, at the request of the Nebraska lodge, we maintained in our Grand Lodge, and will ever maintain out of it, that re-imbursement is entirely abhorrent to the spirit of the masonic institution and a subversion of its chief glory, charity. Out upon it!”

* * * * *

“We are, however, heart and hand in unison with him in his conclusion against the adoption of the resolutions of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin to

barter off the grandest tenet of our institution, Charity, for a mess of potage, benefits."

BRO. BLATT'S report would be easier for the reader if he would make shorter paragraphs and more of them. A page of solid reading in a single paragraph, comprising a number of different subjects, is hard for the eyes, and causes one to "lose his place." BRO. BLATT will excuse us for saying this, for really we deem it too bad that so good a report should be made difficult of reading and comprehension by the manner in which it is printed.

TENNESSEE, 1896.

We have fine portraits of BROS. GEORGE H. MORGAN, the retiring Grand Master, and PHILIP N. MATLOCK, the new Grand Master.

Grand Master MORGAN paid an eloquent tribute to the illustrious brethren who had been his predecessors, thirty-six of whom had "crossed over the river to the great Beyond."

His account of his official acts, decisions, visitations, &c., is full, but concise, showing that he had been an able, effective and conscientious officer.

He decided that when a charter has been revoked, it cannot be restored: its former members can only form a new lodge or join others. We prefer the law of our own Grand Lodge which came down to us from our Mother Grand Lodge; a revoked charter may be restored to not less than seven of the old members.

A non-affiliate, residing within the territorial jurisdiction of one lodge, joined another lodge, but, under the suspension-without-trial law, the first lodge returned him as an unaffiliate and he was published as a suspended mason. The Grand Master, however, decided that he was in good standing. This probably led to the adoption of the following:

"*Resolved*, That all of Edict No. 50, after the first clause, be and is hereby repealed, and that all Master Masons in this jurisdiction who now stand suspended by the action of this Grand Lodge in the enforcement of said Edict, if not otherwise disqualified, be and are hereby restored to good standing."

We congratulate our brethren of Tennessee upon the promptness with which they have retraced a false step.

He decided that a mason may be disciplined for pleading the Statute of Limitations; but the decision was not approved by the Grand Lodge, on the ground that Masonry does not make a crime of what the civil law expressly permits in proceedings in court: such has been the universal decision: the same rule is applied in cases of discharges in bankruptcy and insolvency.

He decided that in a case for assault upon a brother mason, the fact that the assailant did not know the other party was a mason, is no defence: when

one violates the law intentionally, he takes the chances of whatever result follows: the fact can only be shown in mitigation of punishment.

While the questions asked in the following are the natural result of the modern teaching that the chiefest duty of a mason is to pay dues, and the failure to pay them the greatest of masonic offences, we do not wonder at the Grand Master's indignation:

"One Worshipful Master wrote to this effect: 'We have in our lodge an old brother who was always a very zealous mason, but he has become totally deaf. He was a regular attendant upon the lodge meetings until he lost his hearing, since which he does not come so often. Has become so poor that he is unable to pay his dues. He wants to be in good standing when he dies, so he can have a masonic burial. What shall we do with him?' I do not desire to report all that I said in reply. I wrote, however, in substance, the following, after looking to see the number of members in said lodge: 'It will cost your members about one and a quarter cents a year each to pay the good old brother's dues. Carry him on till he reaches the brink of the river and God will carry him safely over, and you will all feel better by even having given the good old brother a cent and a quarter apiece, for a short time. Bury his remains with masonic honors when he dies, and in the sweet bye and bye, when his hearing is restored to him in the celestial lodge above, where he can hear the voices of the angelic hosts, may he never hear that you asked the Grand Master the question, "What shall we do with him?"' Go learn again the early taught lessons in Masonry, of brotherly love and relief.' Akin to this, was a question from another lodge, 'What shall we do with a brother who was in good standing and became deranged and is now in the insane asylum, and left no one to pay his dues?' I answered: 'In the name of charity, remit his lodge dues, and carry him on the Grand Lodge roll, and you will never die poorer for having done so.' I try to think that it was thoughtlessness in the brethren of these lodges to raise the question as to this poor old brother's dues, as well as that of the insane brother, and in charity withhold the names of the lodges asking the questions, trusting that such little-hearted stinginess will never enter another masonic lodge, nor either of these again."

The following (from the Grand Master's address) is printed in "bold faced type":

"In 1875 the Grand Lodge of Tennessee declared by solemn resolution 'that the offices of the Grand Lodge should be the free, voluntary gifts of members, uninfluenced by ulterior considerations; and it is unmasonic for any brother to declare himself a candidate, or to use, or cause to be used, any influences to advance his own election.' I have thought it proper to call your attention to this law of the Grand Lodge, that the purity of our elections may be preserved. A brother who so far forgets himself as to declare his candidacy and electioneer for office in the Grand Lodge is unworthy of your confidence and support."

This is forcibly endorsed by the Committee on Jurisprudence being "confident that the practice of office-seeking contributes more than all other reasons combined, to generate animosity and discord in the Grand Bodies of Tennessee"; that is the case everywhere, but we fear that the evil is a growing one: it can be checked only by the "public opinion" of the craft and following the most excellent advice of Grand Master MORGAN.

The Wisconsin proposition was not endorsed, but in its stead the "Conclusion" of the Masonic Congress was adopted.

The following resolution was adopted:

"No person shall be initiated, passed and raised in any subordinate lodge in this jurisdiction who is engaged in the manufacture for sale or in the sale of intoxicating liquor as a beverage."

The Report on Correspondence (104 pp.) was prepared by Bros. HENRY H. INGERSOLL and ROBERT WALTON.

The former, noticing the recent decision in Alabama, that indefinite suspension terminates membership, advocates the abolition of indefinite suspension. The decision in Alabama we deem to be contrary to reason as it certainly is to masonic usage. There are many cases in which expulsion is too severe, and yet in which it is difficult to determine in advance how long the suspension should be. In all these cases the subsequent behavior of the party is a very important element in determining the propriety of restoration. We believe in definite suspension, in which restoration comes without action; indefinite suspension with restoration by a two-thirds vote; and expulsion with restoration by a unanimous vote. If the offence is not of a character to require expulsion, membership should not be lost, but only suspended. There is no more warrant, in law or usage, for deciding that indefinite suspension terminates membership, than there is for deciding that definite suspension terminates it.

The Committee had two years' Proceedings to review, and of course the space devoted to each is brief; the report is largely of the abstract character.

BRO. INGERSOLL, in reviewing certain cases of discipline, very forcibly deprecates the spirit of irreverence and lawlessness that, in his view, threaten to be the undoing of our country. He holds that masons should make a stand in their communities for law and order, and above all enforce masonic law against all offenders who may be members of the craft.

BRO. WALTON is very severe upon associations calling themselves masonic which are not masonic. We know of no such associations, and think that he has been misled, and in consequence has been threshing a man of straw. He ridicules in an unanswerable manner the "physical perfection" doctrine.

In relation to Perpetual Jurisdiction, he says:

"While in our humble opinion, Bro. Chapman is a little too broad and general in the sentiment expressed, still, we believe the idea of 'perpetual jurisdiction' is sought to be carried to the extreme, and we can readily conceive of many combinations of circumstances which might arise, and, doubtless do frequently arise, wherein this theory would work and does work great hardship and injustice to the person and injury to the craft. If we must choose between the two extremes, however, we will join hands with Bro. Chapman, trusting that the committee reporting on the new petition will do their whole masonic duty, and that the individual brothers of the craft will be sufficiently alert to reject any unsuitable material."

He gives his views of the Wisconsin proposition in the language of another:

"This measure is one that will make the re-imbursement system a strict rule. . . . The original plan of masonic charity does not harmonize with the system. Upon the very threshold of our Temple the candidate is taught to relieve a brother in distress, and no good mason ought to expect re-imbursement when he performs an act of charity. He simply does his duty as a mason."

He is surprised at a decision holding that, when a lodge re-instates a mason suspended for unmasonic conduct, he is not a member of the lodge, that is, if he was a member of that lodge when suspended: we fully concur with him.

The committee discuss several matters in their "conclusion." They recognize the danger of the present diverse practices in relation to "perpetual jurisdiction." They suggest a Congress as the best method of reaching a solution: but the nature of the question is such that it requires more consideration than can be given to it at such a meeting, to say nothing of the impossibility of securing a full representation at one. If the matter is taken up and discussed by the different Grand Lodges in a spirit of concession for the sake of harmony, we believe that a safe and generally acceptable conclusion can be reached.

TEXAS, 1895.

This Grand Lodge sends us a volume of nearly six hundred pages, nearly one-half of which is given to the publication of the returns of lodges. The usual immense amount of business incident to so extensive a jurisdiction with its great number of lodges was before the Grand Lodge. The total membership is scarcely twenty per cent. greater than in Maine, but Texas has more than three times as many lodges.

The Grand Master (Gus GARRISON) was called upon to announce the deaths of two Past Grand Masters, CHARLES STEWART and Z. E. COOMBS, both distinguished as masons and in civil life.

He devotes four pages to the Mexican question, giving the following statistics:

"On the 3d day of July, 1894, there were under the jurisdiction of the Gran Dieta Simbolica seventeen (17) Grand Lodges, state lodges with 225 Blue Lodges, having a total membership of 21,992. There were, also, in the Republic at that time, two so-called Grand Lodges, which did not acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Gran Dieta, viz: Vera Cruz and in the City of Mexico, the Federal District, these two latter having subordinate to them twenty lodges with about 500 members."

BRO. SAMUEL R. HAMILTON, D. D. G. M., had been in Mexico and visited two of the lodges, one a Mexican lodge and the other Toltec Lodge. According to his observation, there was nothing irregular or objectionable in either lodge.

Of the District Deputies, he says:

APP. 13 G. L.

"From the fifty-six brethren, scattered all over our great state, we gather information obtainable from no other source. With untiring zeal these faithful craftsmen have gone out and into the lodges that dot Texas all over, and have carried with them lessons of morality and good, have encouraged and aided by their presence, kindly advice and moral suasion, those about to become careless or despondent, have infused new life and energy into those whom no other power could reach. Wherever they have gone, energy and enthusiasm have followed and they have become an indispensable arm of Masonry in our Grand Jurisdiction."

The Grand Secretary gives some interesting statistics derived from answers to questions in circulars sent out for the purpose.

The statistics as to the property of the lodges are of much interest:

"Number of lodges report owning their buildings.	405
Number of lodges who do not own them	95
Value of real estate and buildings	\$428,430.00
Amount of insurance on same	191,036.00
Value of lodge furniture	73,687.00
Amount of insurance on same	30,975.00
Money in treasury of lodges	33,787.00
Money loaned out by lodges	20,108.00
Indebtedness on real estate	61,119.00
Other indebtedness	17,731.00 "

The Committee on Correspondence, to which the "Mississippi Proposition" was referred, report that it is a move in the right direction, because—

"The question of jurisdiction over candidates, both of applicants for the benefits of Masonry and also those who have been rejected, has caused and is causing more friction between Grand Lodges than all other questions combined, and it would be the best thing possible for the general peace of the craft if some solution of the subject could be reached which would be satisfactory to all concerned."

But, as that proposition had been so generally rejected, and as there were objections to it, it is necessary that some other solution should be devised.

The committee say:

"Your committee is of the opinion that the best solution of the matter and the one upon which there is the greatest probability of a general agreement among the Grand Lodges, would be the fixing of a certain time, after the lapse of which jurisdiction over rejected applicants should cease by limitation. Your committee believes that it is possible for a man to reform and mend his ways. That a man may at one time be unfit for admittance into the portals of the Temple, but that afterwards he may repent and so change as to become good material. But your committee also believes that after such profession of change is made there should be a probationary period of a length sufficient to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that such reform is sincere and real.

"Many of the Grand Lodges of the United States and Canada have already adopted such a rule as is here indicated, the length of time during which the jurisdiction obtains varying in the several Grand Jurisdictions, though five or seven years seem to be the period most generally adopted.

"Holding these views and believing that it will be for the best interests and inure to the peace and harmony of the general craft, your committee respectfully recommends the adoption of the following:

“*Resolved*, (1) That, after the period of five years shall have elapsed since the rejection of an applicant for the degrees in Masonry, he having moved into the jurisdiction of another lodge either in this or any other Grand Jurisdiction, and having applied for the degrees, then the lodge applied to shall correspond with the rejecting lodge as to the former standing and character of the applicant, and if upon the information so obtained he be deemed worthy, the lodge may proceed in the case without further reference to the action of the rejecting lodge.

“*Resolved*, (2) That a lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction may give at its option, by unanimous vote, a certificate to one of its Entered Apprentices or Fellow Crafts about to move into the jurisdiction of another lodge, dismissing and recommending him for advancement, and that upon the issuance of such certificate his name shall be dropped from the roll of the lodge thus dismissing him, the lodge thereby losing further jurisdiction over him.”

The report was accepted and the resolutions adopted. It is proper to say that this action did not come to our knowledge till after the session of our Grand Lodge; if it had we should have specially reported it. However, the first resolution is, in the main point involved, the same as that adopted by our Grand Lodge. The second has always been law in this jurisdiction; so that, so far as Texas and Maine are concerned, no trouble between them can ever arise in relation to this matter.

There is no other Grand Lodge, whose Proceedings come to us, whose committees have so much work to do, as those of this Grand Lodge. The committees are in the habit of making detailed reports. This year is no exception; but while we have gone through them all we find nothing of special interest, except that the Grand Lodge is having a law suit *with one of its subordinates!* The matter is an important one, being no less than the title to the ground upon which the Temple stands, and, as we infer, the ownership of the Temple itself. The Grand Lodge claims that it has made every effort to compromise the matter, but without avail. The disposition shown by the lodge is such that a member of the Grand Lodge introduced resolutions revoking the charter of the lodge. But the Committee on Jurisprudence reported that, while recognizing that the conduct of those controlling the lodge, “merits the criticism of contumacious insubordination,” they deem it unwise to administer discipline at the present time, and the report was adopted. The case is a very singular one, and it is difficult to determine just what course should be adopted. It certainly will be a curious spectacle to witness a Grand Lodge contesting a case in court with one of its subordinates, but the difficulty in revoking the charter, we presume is, that in such an event its property reverts to the Grand Lodge. It seems to us that there ought to be in the Grand Lodge, brethren who could examine the case and determine the rights of the parties. If this were done, and the lodge should refuse to yield to the decision, we should hold that the Grand Lodge ought to enforce that decision, even if it was necessary to revoke the charter. We are very strongly of opinion, that those, who are controlling the lodge in its contumacious proceedings, ought to be summarily put in a

position in which their control should be among the things *that have been*. The more we think of it, the more we are of opinion that the Grand Lodge should never go into court with one of its subordinates, but should carefully examine and decide the case, and if necessary, in order to enforce its judgment in the case, it should revoke the charter and expel every contumacious member of the lodge. We shall look with much interest for the outcome.

The Report on Correspondence (131 pp.) was presented by Bro. THOMAS M. MATTHEWS. It maintains the high character of his previous reports.

In his "Conclusion," he discusses at considerable length the Gran Dieta of Mexico. We shall refer to this part of his report in our review of Mexico.

In his review of Georgia he says:

"There is published in the volume a list of eighty-three names of members expelled for non-payment of lodge dues. This, we think, is all wrong. Texas, too, has a similar law authorizing expulsion for this offence, but in our opinion this does not make the matter any better. We cannot agree that it is right. It is enough to suspend the delinquent, thus cutting him off from all masonic rights and privileges, until such time as he shall pay the dues which may have already accrued, together with those which have accrued after suspension up to the time of re-instatement. Expulsion—masonic death—we believe entirely too harsh under such circumstances. In fact we much doubt if it is really masonic. We confess we have not always thought thus, but time and more mature reflection have changed our views."

This is not the only evidence, which we have noticed, of the reaction in relation to this matter, which is surely coming. It is a peculiarity of Masonry, that while portions of the craft may drift away from fundamental principles, it is only a question of time as to their return.

On one subject he is "a little off"; he assumes that the granting of dispensations is overriding the law; whereas it is the exercise of a power given by masonic law, to except cases from another law, which in the particular case operates harshly, as all *human* laws are liable to do. Most cases also arise under regulations of the Grand Lodge as to matters formerly left to the lodges, but in which experience shows that they sometimes acted unwisely. For instance, the fundamental law requires due inquiry into the character and fitness of candidates; but what was due inquiry and the time necessary to make it were left to the lodge. Experience showed that lodges sometimes were careless about this and injury to the craft resulted. Then came the time limit; of course that must be arbitrary; but the absurdity of holding that it takes precisely the same time to make due inquiry concerning every candidate was recognized, and to meet cases that were liable to the words "except by dispensation from the Grand Master," thus making the dispensing power in these cases a part of the prohibiting law, saying nothing of the powers of the Grand Master under the fundamental law. We have said that "this time law" is of recent origin: we were a voter in our Grand Lodge when the law taking away this discretionary power was adopted. The

"time law" between degrees is still more recent than the other, and prevails only in a part of the jurisdictions; the absurdity of assuming that it takes the same time for different men to make suitable proficiency is manifestly greater than in the other case. Our experience has been that in cases of dispensation better knowledge of the candidate is obtained, and better proficiency is made than in the average of cases. We have also often called upon the opponents of dispensations to point out a single case in which the granting of a dispensation worked injury to the craft, but it has never been done. So, Bro. MATTHEWS, when you accuse Grand Masters of "overriding the law" or of disobeying the law, when they grant dispensations, be sure to make an exception of Maine—and if you want to be precisely correct, except almost all the others, for the number which base these dispensations upon the prerogative of Grand Masters is very few, if indeed there is one.

In reply to Bro. CLARKE, of Kentucky, he says:

"It is true that the mere fact of 'the rejection of a candidate does not *make* him unworthy,' yet nevertheless it places him exactly in a similar position to one who is unworthy and so pronounced. It interposes a bar to his admission. When a candidate is rejected the presumption is, and it ought always to be, that he is unworthy, and whether so or not the effect is in that direction, and is so necessarily accepted. It is unfortunate and much to be regretted, that from personal spite or spleen good and true men are sometimes rejected. It has been thus always and will always so remain, as there is no known remedy for it. And yet, at the same time it must be admitted, that while the candidate may seem to be, in the opinion of nearly every one, good material, the brother casting the black ball may have the very best reason, known possibly to himself alone, for doing so—in which case he but honestly discharged a sacred duty. We, ourselves, have known of more than one such case. We cannot see wherein the argument of unworthiness which came from Bro. Vaux has been in the least degree shaken or even met."

We rather think that Bro. CLARKE, when he wrote that report, was not aware that he was arguing against the law and usage in his own jurisdiction from the time when Masonry was planted there down to within forty years certainly, and probably much less. So strongly did his Grand Lodge sustain the views of Bro. MATTHEWS, that she even published the names of rejected candidates!

In his review of Maine, Bro. MATTHEWS quotes the closing portion of Grand Master BURBANK's address, saying:

"The following suggestions are so timely, so well made, and of such general applicability, that we take the liberty to copy them, although long. Brethren of Texas, take them home with you—read, ponder on, and profit by them. If the cap fits you, throw it away and get a new one."

Of the Eastern Star, he says:

"They seem to think that the Eastern Star claims to be a Masonic Order. According to our information this is a mistake. It makes no pretention to

anything of the kind. It is an entirely separate and distinct affair, and the only possible thing which could give rise to such an idea is, that its membership consists only of masons, their wives, widows and daughters. Neither do we feel the alarm which our brother exhibits, since we do not believe as he does."

And of Bro. VAUX:

"Bro. Vaux was one of the Nestors of the Reportorial Guild. Of fine ability, thoroughly informed upon all masonic questions, earnest, yet always so courteous that it seemed as if he feared lest he might wound the feelings of his brother, we who have worn the harness for a much shorter time, were wont to look up to him for instruction and guidance in things masonic. He was a conservative among conservatives. A great stickler for what he conceived to be the landmarks, and planting himself upon what he believed the 'Eternal Foundations of Freemasonry' he stood like the Rock of Gibraltar, unmoved and unmovable. 'Stand by the rules, regulations and customs of the fathers' was his motto, and he was ever watchful and ready to resent, with all the ability and knowledge he possessed, the least departure therefrom, or infringement thereof. While his criticisms appeared to have rather a patronizing air, and with some of them we could not agree, they, yet, always demanded the utmost respect and careful consideration. The honesty and sincerity of his intentions no one could doubt, or even question."

UTAH, 1896.

The Grand Lodge met at ten; the roll of Grand Officers and permanent members was called; vacancies filled; the roll of lodges called, and the whole eight responded; the Grand Master extended "a cordial and fraternal welcome" to the Grand Officers and members present, and invited all qualified Master Masons to visit the Grand Lodge during the sessions; appointed the Committee on Credentials and called off till two in the afternoon. We give this in order that our brethren in Maine may see how much time our present method saves.

The Grand Master (ALVIN CHARLES EMERSON) delivered an able and finely written address. He boasts a little of the recuperative qualities of "the men of the Great West," which is all very well: but it is not quite as well to make a sarcastic comparison with those of other sections, especially when his basis of comparison rests on mere assumption and nothing else.

Of the condition of the craft, he says:

"Thus Masonry in Utah, upheld by this class of men, despite the fact that conditions have not materially changed during the past three years at least, has grown steadily and healthfully the past year, and the gain in numbers and kind of material has been great in comparison.

"I am pleased to report that peace and harmony prevail among all our brethren and among the lodges. The zeal evinced by the members of the craft is beyond praise, and they are entitled to our highest commendation for the manner in which they have accomplished this work. The officers of the constituent lodges have studiously endeavored to perfect themselves in a uniformity of work, thus meeting the requirements of this Grand Lodge. It is a pleasure to report their faithful work and the splendid results achieved.

The social features have been given a prominence truly commendable, and it has been a veritable pleasure to attend on such occasions. I desire to especially commend the promptness and ability which the brethren display at these times of festivity in their speeches and remarks which have done so much to make these meetings enjoyable and instructive. This should be encouraged by all means."

The net increase in membership in the nine lodges (one U. D.) was fifty-one, including forty-eight affiliations, from two-thirds to three-quarters of which were evidently by new comers into the state! We are glad to see the growth of the craft anywhere, but when those immediately concerned make it a cause for disparaging remarks in relation to others, it becomes them to be *very sure* of their statistics before they begin!

We concur with him in relation to the benefits of the social feature, and we join most earnestly with him in commending the lodges which "keep away from their banquets all intoxicating beverages," and agree with him that that should be the "inflexible and invariable rule."

He had visited all the lodges save two, and his visits undoubtedly aided the activity and zeal of the brethren.

He was requested to set aside a rejection because one member did not vote; but he correctly decided that, as the other vote could not have changed the result, a new ballot could not be ordered, but that the member who admitted that he did not vote for a certain reason, ought to be disciplined.

A difference had arisen between a Utah lodge and a California lodge in relation to a bill for the expense of burying a member of the former. There was communication between the lodges as to the brother's standing. Strictly speaking, in our judgment, the position of the Utah lodge was correct, although the California lodge may have been misled, and understood that the Utah lodge desired the other lodge to bury the brother. The Grand Lodge of Utah so held, and ordered its lodge to pay the bill in full.

Being asked if a brother had the right to demand to see the charter of a lodge he desired to visit, he correctly said, "No"; but he added:

"A brother takes no more chances than does a lodge; but if there is any doubt in either or both cases it should be resolved in favor of the lodge rather than the individual. If a brother is satisfied that the lodge is legally constituted, then a demand for the charter is discourteous and indelicate, and subjects the lodge to the humiliation of having its charter and actions questioned, and the brother constitutes himself a judge against the present evidence of all the surroundings and the *prima facie* evidence of the charter itself (should he be permitted to inspect that instrument), and in his judgment or opinion then expressed would not alter or change anything. If he is not satisfied, before he applies for admission he will, rather than do violence to his own feelings and his obligations, remain away until he can obtain satisfactory information one way or the other."

We do not agree: sometimes it is the duty of a brother visiting a lodge to *request* to see the charter: and sometimes such a request is an insult: if a

brother in good faith, and giving a good reason, asks to see the charter, and his request should be refused arbitrarily, the charter ought to be revoked.

We trust that the "aspirations" of the brother mentioned in the following met the same fate as those of one whom we have already mentioned. Whether the pool of politics be "dirty" or clear, it is no place for Masonry:

"Following the raising of a brother in one of the lodges in this jurisdiction, appeared an article in a certain newspaper, giving in detail all the social features of the occasion; stating also the fact that the brother had been raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in such a lodge, and following this up by a reference to the political aspirations of the brother and singing his praises. The article could only have been written or inspired by a mason and one also who was present at the time. This brother should have been ferreted out and most severely dealt with. The dragging of Masonry down through the dirty pool of politics can never be countenanced for one moment, and any brother who attempts such a thing, or who seeks to use it for his own or the advancement of another to that end, is unworthy of recognition and his name should be execrated by all masons. As the teachings of Masonry make men better and nobler, so does she expect that all things in which they engage will be made higher and purer. To that extent only can Masonry be used. The individual, after receiving the benefit of her teachings, must govern himself, and if he be a man, the results sought by Masonry will have been attained. Further than this Masonry must not be used to the accomplishment of personal aims."

BRO. DIEHL submits his usual report as Grand Secretary, and that is all that it is necessary to say. His report as Librarian shows a splendid increase of the Library. He has on the shelves 221 volumes of Masonic Magazines—some of them very rare. We concur in his advice to young masons to read them. We wish that he had a set of Charles W. Moore's Magazine, a very mine of Masonic Jurisprudence and information as to the ancient usages of the craft.

The Committee on the Grand Master's address say:

"We especially commend that portion of the address wherein the Grand Master expresses his condemnation of the use of intoxicating liquors at lodge banquets, and trust the advice given will yield abundant fruit and so correct what appears to be a growing evil.

"We cannot too strongly commend the firm and decisive stand taken by the Grand Master in his denunciation of the attempt to introduce politics and political methods in our lodge proceedings, and here the invariable rule should be to sit down effectually on all such unmasonic conduct."

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand was recognized: one charter was granted and a programme for the celebration of the quarter centennial anniversary of Grand Lodge in 1897, adopted.

The decision of the Grand Master in relation to a demand to inspect the charter was referred to the Committee on Revision of the Work, to report at the next annual communication.

The signet ring, originally presented by the lamented Bro. EMERY, was transmitted by the Grand Master to his successor with affecting ceremonies, beneficial to all who witnessed them.

The work was exemplified by the Grand Lecturer in a School of Instruction, lasting from 7.30 to low twelve: every lodge in the jurisdiction was represented, and most of the Grand Officers and many visiting brethren were present.

The Report on Correspondence (94 pp.) was presented by Bro. CHRISTOPHER DIEHL, as usual, and as usual it is an exceedingly interesting and instructive report. It is all the more interesting because he gives his own views, in all of which scarcely any reader will concur; but those in which he does not concur are food for thought.

He says:

"License or no license, saloon men should not be permitted to enter the sanctum sanctorum of the Masonic Temple.

"In Gould's History of Freemasonry, Vol. IV, Page 107, we find that it was a regulation as far back as 1725, in Ancient York Masonry, that 'no more persons shall be admitted as brothers that keep a public house.'"

This is, by far, the earliest legislation upon this subject that we have seen: we wish that the reason for adopting this law at that time could be known.

He quotes the following decision:

"28. Under the present regulations the reports of the Committee on Character should not be entered upon the record."

And adds:

"No. 28 is not the law in Utah, but it ought to be. There are cases on record where reports of this kind have created trouble in and out of the lodge. We are in favor of oral reports."

We agree; and at any rate, the character of the report ought not to be recorded. We have not the least doubt that when a brother has got to stand up in the lodge and make an oral report, he will make a more careful inquiry than when he signs a printed blank and hands it in to the Secretary to be read.

He maintains that there are exceptions to the rule that a man is best known in the vicinity of his legal residence, and he gives a case to prove it, but it comes near proving that in that case the man's *legal* residence was not his *actual* residence. We think, however, that it is so difficult to formulate a rule that would work better than the present one does, that we had not better attempt to change it, but in the exceptional cases, get the consent of the other lodge. We fear that the rule suggested by our brother would cause no end of dispute and dissension. However, Bro. DIEHL will have no trouble with our making masons in Maine of those who spend their time in Utah, because here a candidate must *have his dwelling place and be personally present* in the jurisdiction of the lodge at least six months of the year previous to his application. This provision was adopted to meet just the class of cases which he mentions.

In regard to the Grand Orient of France, he does not discriminate between a withdrawal of *correspondence* and a withdrawal of *recognition*. Tennessee and Ohio have just resumed masonic correspondence which had been suspended, but neither withdrew recognition. The Foulhouze matter caused our Grand Lodges to cease all masonic correspondence with the Grand Orient, but it was not until she struck out the qualification of belief in God that our Grand Lodges withdrew masonic *recognition* and declared that she was no longer a *masonic body*, as up to that time she had been universally recognized to be.

In his review of Washington, he says:

"The Committee on Jurisprudence reported adversely to decision No. 27, holding that three members compose a Master's, five a Fellow Craft's and seven an Entered Apprentice Lodge. The Grand Lodge voted with the committee. Our vote would have been with the Grand Master, although our Jurisprudence Committee has the same opinion as the Washington committee. We do not think that it is right that three members of a lodge should have the power to control all important lodge affairs. A lodge that cannot muster seven members at a regular meeting had better give up its charter."

In Maine we agree with both! In the absence of legislation, three, five and seven make a lodge; so we adopted a constitutional provision, that seven must be present in order to do business.

In his review of Montana, he says:

"We are in favor of sociability in our lodges, but we are opposed to big banquets at Grand Lodge meetings. A Grand Lodge meets for work. It assembles annually to review the work of the past year and to legislate for the good of the craft for future years, but not for banquets and jollifications. Banquets take up too much time, and when the Grand Lodge is on wheels it may so happen that its session is held in a town where the local lodge and brethren can ill afford to pay the expenses of a feast. The sooner banquets at Grand Lodge sessions are done away with the better. We trust our Grand Lodge will pass a resolution to that effect."

As already stated, we agree with him as a rule, and entirely as to banquets furnished by the local lodge. But when the meetings of the Grand Lodge are arranged as those of Massachusetts are, a banquet, *paid for by those who attend*, is a grand feature. The "annual feast" in Massachusetts is one of the most valuable aids possible, in cultivating the true spirit of Masonry, and its omission would be a most serious loss to the craft.

We have noted other matters in this report, but the time and space to mention them are both lacking.

VERMONT, 1895.

The frontispiece is a fine portrait of the retiring Grand Master, M. W. Bro. JOHN H. WHIPPLE.

Of the condition of the craft, the Grand Master says:

"The statistics for the year show a gratifying increase in membership, a sound and conservative policy in accepting propositions, and a salutary observance of discipline, rules and regulations, while peace and harmony prevail throughout the jurisdiction."

Among his decisions are the following :

"1. A lodge may be opened on the Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft degrees for work providing a constitutional number are present, but no business can be done in either except the work of the degree on which it is opened, and either may close without opening a lodge of Master Masons.

"6. A lodge may receive and act upon the application of a petitioner for the degrees if he has lived in the state one full year, although he may have resided within the jurisdiction of said lodge but a few weeks, provided his removal is genuine, and is to be permanent, and the constitutional requirements are fulfilled.

"7. A by-law which provides that 'a member in arrears for dues cannot vote upon petitions for initiation or affiliation,' is in direct conflict with the Grand Lodge regulations which make it the duty of every member present to vote, and should therefore be rescinded."

While No. 6 is good law, in the absence of legislation to the contrary, the provision of our Constitution, requiring a residence of six months within the jurisdiction of the lodge, is, in our opinion, not only wise but absolutely necessary to secure the "due inquiry" into the character of the candidate which the landmarks require.

Of a similar question, he says:

"A large number of applications have been received during the year for a waiver of jurisdiction over candidates from other states, who, living near our borders, can be better accommodated in some of our lodges than in those in whose jurisdiction they reside, and in most cases the requests have been granted. Several similar requests from other states have received favorable action from our lodges. A number of requests have been received, however, for a waiver of jurisdiction over candidates who had removed here from other states, but had not waited the necessary time provided by our regulations before applying for the degrees, and upon application for such waiver, I have received the reply, that 'as the candidates had removed from their states, they had no territorial jurisdiction over them, and therefore could not release that which they did not possess.'

"As our regulations require the candidate to live here one full year before becoming eligible to the degrees, unless consent is obtained from the lodge in whose jurisdiction he last resided, the position taken by our sister jurisdiction would suggest, except in cases of rejection, such a modification of our rule as would allow the lodges to assume jurisdiction where no claim is made."

In two respects we do not agree. When a candidate removes from the jurisdiction of a lodge, that lodge loses all jurisdiction over him; when he removes into the jurisdiction of a lodge, that lodge has jurisdiction over him, and no other lodge can receive him without its consent, even if it cannot itself receive him because it has not had jurisdiction over him long enough. The fallacy in the Grand Master's position is that a man is eligible to apply to a lodge at all times, and that one lodge has jurisdiction over him till another acquires the right to receive his petition. This qualification of resi-

dence is very similar to that for voting under the civil law; and that is universal that a man who changes his residence loses his right to vote anywhere, until he has lived long enough in his new residence to be entitled to vote there.

Of this matter, the committee say:

"As to the jurisdictional matter referred to us, we do not deem it wise to recommend any change in the rule requiring a residence of one year before becoming eligible to receive the degrees, nor to suggest any modification of the present rule as we believe this matter can be safely left to the discretion and good judgment of the Grand Master."

Of course, if the Grand Lodge law expressly provides that a candidate is eligible before he has lived in the state one year, with the consent of the lodge within whose jurisdictions he had resided, the Vermont lodge can act if it gets such consent: but we apprehend few lodges would assume to give consent in a matter in which they have no concern: if the word "recommendation" were substituted for "consent," the action of the other lodge would have *practical* value.

The Grand Master, in his closing remarks, eloquently urges upon his brethren the performance of practical masonic duties. While the whole must be read to be appreciated, the following is so eminently the true duty of the mason that we quote it:

"Freemasonry is a practical religion. We need more of the courage that dares and the courage that does, that recognizes right and pursues it, that owns a duty and discharges it, that sees a wrong and rights it, a right and aids it. There are many of us who would do great acts, but because we wait for great opportunities, life passes and the acts of duty and brotherly love are not done at all. Life is made up of infinitesimals.

"Small attentions, kind looks, and helpful words. Come what may, my brethren, in the moil and toilsome way of life, hold fast to this love.

"We win by tenderness, we conquer by forgiveness. Be kindly toward all. Let each parting from a brother be as pleasant as you can make it.

"Don't leave your flowers on your brother's grave, but sprinkle a few now in his darkened, saddened path, stained, it may be, by the blood of his struggling, mangled feet. Gladden the sore heart here and now by the word of cheer, the hand of help. The unforgiving, unloving, unfraternal spirit may be the source of unending regret. Whatever you are to do for your brethren, for your friends, do it now. Speak the forgiveness, whisper the love, do the act of kindness, NOW. The opportunity may pass, never to return. In the gleaming light of the blazing letter in the East, let us all learn anew that 'GOD is Love,' and in the power of this new Commandment, we will carry everything before us, and win victories before which the greatest of martial successes will pale into insignificance."

Past Grand Master DAVIS, now of Minnesota, sends a letter from which we take the following:

"I have continued my lodge affiliation in your state for the purpose of maintaining my membership in the Grand Lodge. My masonic membership is the only remaining tie, of a substantial nature, which binds me to my native state. It is the bond of brotherhood in an institution which

affords the highest possibilities for moral, intellectual and social culture and unites its members, however much they may be scattered, by the Mystic Tie of Brotherly Love.”

We regret to find that Past Grand Master ALFRED A. HALL was obliged to write:

“Only once before in a quarter of a century have I been compelled to forego the pleasures and privileges of the annual meeting, and it was with keen regret that I do now, but since my injury of nearly a year ago, my health has been somewhat impaired, and rest and a sea voyage are recommended; business engagements are such that I have been compelled to make arrangements for sailing early in June.”

The Grand Lodge took measures for the erection of a Masonic Temple at Burlington, at an estimated cost of \$50,000 over and above the cost of the site, and \$3,000 given and contributed by the citizens of Burlington; for the purpose of raising the funds, a *per capita* tax of thirty cents was laid, to continue until otherwise ordered.

The Committee on the Past Master's degree reported that they had prepared a ritual, but as it could not be submitted to the Grand Lodge, it had been examined by the Grand Master and Past Grand Masters, who recommended its adoption. The Grand Lodge so did, and ordered it to be promulgated at the expense of the Grand Lodge.

The Committee on Obituaries notice fraternally the dead of other jurisdictions as well as their own—among them Bro. FREDERICK FOX.

In relation to the proposition of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, the Grand Lodge, upon the recommendation of its Committee on Jurisprudence, adopted the language of the Finance Committee of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky:

“Your committee are of the opinion that the obligation to afford relief is only limited by the masonic standing of the brother applying for aid, and is not a matter of lodge membership. It is obligatory upon all masons everywhere to supply the wants of a needy brother without regard to the lodge to which he may be specially allied as a member. He is first and above all a member of the fraternity, and entitled to be recognized and hospitably treated as a member of the great masonic family. Modern inventions have brought the organized membership into close and familiar converse, and it is an easy matter to communicate with the lodge of which the brother is a member, and ascertain its ability and readiness to contribute.

“Your committee coincide with the opinion expressed by the Masonic Congress, held in Chicago, ‘that the brethren of lodges granting such aid are not entitled to demand re-imbursement from the lodges in which the beneficiaries hold membership, but that when a member of one lodge is relieved by another, and the financial situation of his lodge is such as to permit, common courtesy and duty alike demand that it should re-imburse a poorer lodge relieving its members.’”

We note that this Grand Lodge has adopted a cipher ritual and a hand book, which are on sale within certain limits, by the Grand Secretary.

The Report on Correspondence (161 pp.) was presented by Bro. MARSH O. PERKINS.

He thus states the effect of suspension, so far as it affects membership:

"In Vermont, if the restoration is the act of the lodge it includes membership, as well as good standing. In her eyes, the masonic character of a brother is not destroyed, but held in abeyance, during the period of suspension. His re-instatement, therefore, places him at once in the possession of all rights to which he was entitled before suspension."

This is certainly the logical result, and the same rule prevails in nearly all the jurisdictions.

Concerning a question much discussed on account of the practice prevailing in three or four jurisdictions, he says:

"From the report of the committee, we find that by a regulation of the Grand Lodge the reversal of the action of a subordinate lodge in cases of appeal to the Grand Body does not restore suspended brethren to membership. Again Vermont differs, and we believe her position is more in accord with reason and justice. The act of the Grand Lodge, in reversing the action of the subordinate, is substantially a declaration, that the lodge is in the wrong, and that the appellant has been wronged. If the lodge has wronged him, why should it be permitted to continue to injure him. If its action was unlawful, as may be assumed by the reversal, why should the punishment of the brother continue, and how can its unlawful, or wrong action make lawful, or right, the deprivation of any of the rights of the brother, are questions that puzzle us. We admit that an answer may be found in 'Grand Lodge has so decreed,' but then the question arises as to the reason and justice of the law."

We have given up trying to determine how any *mason* can hold to the opposite. That the "Grand Lodge has so decreed" is an answer for the past and present in a particular case, but it is no answer to the question why such a law is not repealed.

He notes a case in California, in which a resident of that state went to England and received two of the degrees and then to Nevada and received the other, and the Grand Lodge of California decided that he was a regular mason, but should not be recognized in California as such, until he should sever his connection with the Nevada lodge, become a member of a California lodge and pay it the full amount of the fees for the three degrees. As California is one of the jurisdictions which pays no attention to rejections in others, we commend this to the attention of the anti-perpetual-jurisdiction brethren, especially those of Kentucky! Of this Bro. PERKINS says:

"California thus places the *onus* of the infringement of jurisdiction upon the individual rather than upon the lodge, or Grand Lodge, ever recognizing the principle that what is regularly done in and by sister jurisdictions should be accepted as regular everywhere, but that such regularity may attach an irregularity to the individual, which he alone can take the initiative in removing. It strikes us, that if this principle universally prevailed in its application to the infringement of territorial jurisdiction the vexed question would at once and forever disappear from sight."

If Bro. PERKINS will read the deliverances of Kentucky in relation to this matter, he will perceive that this is a settlement which does not settle.

And wouldn't it be rather mean for a Grand Lodge to authorize its lodges to confer the degrees on a candidate elsewhere rejected, and when he informs it that he has been refused recognition in his old home, to tell him, "Oh, you took that risk"! While such is the case now, we do not think that it will always be the case, that a Grand Lodge will be so utterly indifferent to the denial of the regularity of its work by the Grand Lodge of another jurisdiction.

Remembering this action of California, in a case in which *her* jurisdiction was invaded, the following from the report of the same committee at the same communication, is "almost too funny for anything":

"This judgment declares that the brother Curran who had thus been rejected by the lodge in Troy, and had been, after a sufficient residence, received by the Montpelier lodge, 'was lawfully made a mason' by the law of the jurisdiction in which he was so made, and that '*the legality of this act must be recognized elsewhere.*'"

"The Grand Lodge of New York accepted that judgment as a correct exposition of the law, and we trust that our brethren everywhere will give it consideration and arrive at the same conclusion."

Replying to Bro. COXE, of Iowa, Bro. PERKINS well says:

"Well, Bro. C., because the chapter has a degree known as the Past Master's, and the Grand Lodge speaks of a certain portion of the installation ceremony as the Past Master's degree, does it follow that they must necessarily be the same in form and ritual? We saw an item in a paper, the other day, to the effect that Grover Cleveland had been arrested because of surreptitious visits to neighboring hen-roosts. Are we to assume that it was the respected President of the United States, who was thus brought into the clutches of the law? Make your own application of your answer to the so-called Past Master's degrees, and see if by any process of reasoning you find the Grand Lodge assuming or claiming to assume any authority over any capitular degree.

"But has Grand Lodge invented or devised a degree not recognized in the constitution? Is the esoteric portion of the installation ceremony a degree? According to our understanding, a masonic degree is a measure of masonic work. The installation of a W. M. is the ceremonial form of induction into office. It marks in no way a measure of masonic work, consequently is in no sense of the word a degree. But the greater includes the less, hence the ceremony includes no degree. Will Bro. C. deny that Grand Lodge has full power to prescribe its ritualistic ceremonies, whether esoteric or exoteric, installation, burial or otherwise? We admit that the esoteric portion of the installation ceremony is frequently called the 'Past Master's degree,' but submit that such an application of the term is a misnomer in the true masonic sense of the word 'degree.'"

He quotes our Somerset Lodge case, in which its refusal to recognize as a mason, one of its rejected candidates made a mason in another jurisdiction within less than five years, was sustained and adds:

"The decision was evidently correct, because in conformity with the law of the jurisdiction over rejected material, which governs in Maine, viz: for the term of five years. But it would not have held in Vermont, where the law is similar to that of Canada. The constantly increasing number of these cases but emphasizes the fact that there is something radically wrong in the

government of the craft. 'Once a mason, a mason always' is too frequently answered by 'Yes, but not everywhere.' The necessity for a uniformity in regulations bearing upon the subject can but impress itself upon every reading and thinking member of the craft."

Referring to the report of our Committee on History, he says:

"Why can not Vermont take a hint from this most commendable course of Maine? Who knows what historical golden mine might be opened to the craft, by imitating in this respect our down-east brethren."

We hope that the universal commendation which our plan in this respect everywhere meets, will stimulate the brethren to do all that in them lies to respond to the appeals of the committee.

Of Grand Honors, he says:

"Grand Lodge adopted the report of the committee, and the honors, as described above, are to be given on all public masonic occasions, which do not by their nature require 'Funeral Grand Honors.' That there are three methods of these public honors, will be a surprise to many. Both the 'Mackey' and 'Macoy' methods are practiced in Vermont, none having been formally adopted by Grand Lodge, so far as we can ascertain. We like the new Maine method, and cordially commend it to the favorable consideration of Vermont."

In his review of New Jersey, he very sensibly says:

"He thinks the action of Grand Lodge, in directing lodge Secretaries to notify other masonic bodies, of which they may be members, of the suspension or expulsion of brethren, is to be deeply regretted, and says that it is equivalent to placing subordinate lodges under a legal obligation to make known the private transactions of their lodge rooms. Of course he bases his argument upon the catch phrase, 'There are no higher orders in Masonry than the Symbolic Lodge,' something none but the 'officially ignorant' claim. Vermont masons know of Chapters, Councils, Commanderies and the Scottish Rite, and all have a grand reunion, each year, during masonic week in June. Those associations and relations, bringing the different co-ordinate branches of the masonic institution into harmonious relations, give rise to the belief that it is not only perfectly proper but right for the lodge to exercise the courtesy of notifying other masonic bodies, recognized as such, of the fall from grace of members in which there is a mutual fraternal interest. We regret that Bro. Haines is not in accord with us, but believe we are right, and that no imposition has been placed upon lodges."

The fact is that bald technicalities have no place in Masonry. Bro. HAINES's position savors of the doctrine of the man who made no effort to save a drowning man, on the plea that he had never been introduced to him! Every mason knows, as much as he knows many other things which he has no hesitation in saying he knows, that Chapters, Councils, Commanderies and Bodies of the Scottish Rite are masonic bodies; and when he is told that he *cannot* know that they are masonic and therefore must not fraternize with them, he truly says, "I *do* know it as fully as I know anything," and mere technicalities are not going to prevent his cultivating masonic and fraternal relations with them.

VIRGINIA, 1895.

An excellent portrait of Bro. WILLIAM B. ISAACS, the universally lamented Grand Secretary, is given as a frontispiece. The Grand Master (J. P. FITZGERALD) pays a brief but just tribute to his memory.

Shortly after the death of Bro. ISAACS, the Grand Master was also called upon to announce the death of the Senior Grand Warden, FRANCIS A. REED.

He says:

"Upon the demise of our Grand Secretary, (his son and Deputy, Bro. Wm. B. Isaacs, Jr., who had satisfactorily and efficiently discharged the duties of the office during the protracted illness of his father, being, by law, ineligible to the succession), from my many worthy and capable brethren, I selected R. W. Bro. Joseph V. Bidgood, then the Grand Treasurer, to fill the unexpired term, and as his successor in the office of Grand Treasurer, I selected his Deputy, Wor. Bro. Frederick Pleasants, a Past Master of Richmond Lodge, No. 10."

Why he was ineligible, we do not understand, but presume it was in consequence of some express provision of the Virginia code.

The question of perpetual jurisdiction had been before him; he thus states his reply to the Grand Master of Illinois:

"I gave him succinctly the provisions of the Methodical Digest regarding qualifications of candidates for initiation, and what the petition for initiation must state, and informed him that if it should appear that a petitioner to one of the lodges in Virginia had been rejected by a lodge in another jurisdiction, and the case was referred to me for instruction, I should order that action be deferred until by correspondence through the office of the Grand Secretary, information could be obtained from the lodge which had rejected, *of the cause thereof*, and the moral qualifications of the petitioner when he resided within its jurisdiction, and that when such information was obtained I would determine whether I would permit the lodge in Virginia to entertain the petition. I further informed him, that I do not and cannot approve the doctrine that a profane rejected by a lodge in one jurisdiction is *ipso facto* deprived of the privilege of obtaining the rights and benefits of Masonry in another, except and until the consent of the subordinate lodge which rejected him has been obtained. To sanction any other view and to act thereon, might, in my opinion, without just cause, deprive some worthy men who have cast their lots in with us, of the great and important privilege of being a mason. I also maintain that each subordinate lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction is the sole judge of the qualification of profanes residing within its territory, to receive the rights and benefits of Masonry, and that masonic comity does not require that a veto upon the exercise of that right shall be lodged in another subordinate lodge outside of this jurisdiction."

The italics are ours: we are simply overwhelmed with amazement. The Mississippi proposition involved a similar inquiry; we had supposed that it was hastily written as the equivalent of "If any reason was known why the party should not be made a mason"; but others did not so understand it, and very generally the proposed asking of this question was given as a reason which compelled the rejection of the whole proposition, because the question is a gross violation of fundamental masonic law.

But he had an actual case from Pennsylvania: a Virginia lodge made a mason of a candidate rejected by a Pennsylvania lodge, without its consent. He caused an investigation to be made, and it was found that the lodge knew of his rejection, and had a correspondence with the Secretary of the Pennsylvania lodge, *who gave what he believed to be the cause of the rejection.* The Virginia lodge accepted the candidate and conferred the degrees upon him. The Grand Master sustained the action of the lodge, and so notified the Grand Master of Pennsylvania. The party had applied to visit the lodge in the latter state, but we can safely predict that the amount of visitation that will be accorded will scarcely pay for the time spent in asking it.

The italics in this paragraph state a fact which, in almost all jurisdictions, would cause the expulsion of the one (if within the jurisdiction) asking the question, and of the one answering it. We wonder if it is actually allowable in Virginia to undertake to obtain the cause of a rejection, and to give information and opinions tending to show what that cause was?

The Grand Lodge concurred in the view of the law taken by the Grand Master.

In this connection, the following is of interest:

"I have in two instances suspended the operation of section 233, and permitted a rejected candidate to be recommended again for initiation before the expiration of twelve months from the date of his rejection. I did so because in each case the brother who had cast the rejecting ballot had requested the Master to prefer the request, stating that he had done so under a misapprehension, and desired as soon as possible to correct his mistake."

It would seem from this, that in Virginia, a rejection by one of its own lodges is a bar for a year; while a rejection by a lodge out of the state is no bar at all.

It will be seen by the following, that the law in relation to laying corner stones in this jurisdiction varies from that in most others in which the ceremony is always performed by the Grand Lodge:

"And just here permit me to say that there seems to be some misapprehension in the minds of the brethren, occasioned, it may be, by some confusion in the form of the ceremony given in the Digest, on the subject of the laying of corner stones, and by whom they are laid. I apprehend, that the Grand Lodge is convened in special communication to lay the corner stones of National or State buildings, or of monuments commemorative of historical events, or as memorials of historic personages. The corner stones of other buildings, such as churches, courthouses, schools and colleges, are laid by some subordinate lodge invited by the proper authorities to do so; if on such occasions the Grand Master or other officer of the Grand Lodge be present by invitation of the subordinate lodge, he conducts the ceremony as the Master of such lodge."

Of Public Installations, he says:

"Notwithstanding at the last Grand Annual Communication a committee recommended 'that the public installation of officers should not be permitted,' inasmuch as such recommendation was not then adopted, but laid

over for consideration at this communication, at the earnest solicitation of the Masters of several of the lodges, accompanied by the recommendation of the District Deputy Grand Masters, I granted them permission to publicly install their officers on the 24th of June. I had the pleasure of being with Amelia Lodge, No. 101, on that day, and by request, publicly installed its officers. I did not observe that Masonry suffered detriment thereby, and I have been informed that the zeal of some of the members of the lodge was quickened, and interest in Masonry awakened in the minds of some observers, who hitherto had been indifferent to its claims. I beg, however, that my grant of this permission and what I have said, may not be taken as an attempt to forestall your action on the question when it is presented for consideration, for I shall listen with pleasure to what may be assigned as reasons for the proposed legislation, and my mind is open to conviction that it is best to adopt the recommendation, if such shall be the conclusion of the committee now having it under advisement."

The committee, however, reported to strike out the words "installation of officers," so as to leave the law as follows:

"Sec. 138. The constitution of new lodges, the dedication of masonic buildings or lodge-rooms may be public with the permission of the Grand Master."

The Grand Lodge adopted the report. Wherein the "public installation of officers" is "against the spirit of the institution," more than the constitution of lodges, or the dedication of halls, the committee do not say, and it will puzzle the craft to determine; especially as the installation of its officers is a necessary component part of the constitution of a lodge. It is a legitimate criticism of the report that the committee base their conclusion upon what *they* "believe" is "against the spirit of the institution" rather than upon the ancient usages of the craft—the only correct test.

He made several decisions, from some of which we dissent:

1. A brother was ordered to be cited to show cause why he should not be suspended for non-payment of dues; at the time fixed, the Secretary stated that he had obeyed the order; the brother not appearing and no motion being made to the contrary, the Master put the question of suspension to vote and declared it carried. Subsequently it appeared that the citation had not been legally served, and a motion was made to rescind the action, but the Master refused to entertain it, and applied to the Grand Master for instruction. He sustained the Master, and instructed him that the remedy was by appeal (to which we would add, "by memorial," if the time for appeal had expired); correct so far; but he added that the Master could declare the whole proceedings void; while we have been inclined to hold that the Master should have this power, subject to appeal, the law is universal, so far as we have been able to discover, that when the proceedings have been actually closed, the power of the Master, as well as of the lodge, is exhausted, and recourse must be had to the Grand Master or Grand Lodge.

He further decided:

"2. That a member cited to appear at a stated communication, to show cause why he shall not be suspended for non-payment of dues, can do so at any time during that communication, notwithstanding, that before his appearance the Master had submitted the question of his suspension to a vote, and the vote had been in favor of suspension, there being no prescribed order in which the business of a lodge shall be dispatched, and the citation being, to appear at that communication, and not at any particular period thereof."

We regard this as utterly erroneous; the hour of holding the stated communication is fixed in the by-laws, and a citation to appear at the stated communication is, *ex vi termini*, to appear at its opening and to be in readiness at any time during its continuance, unless it is otherwise ordered by the Master or the lodge.

Also:

"I further decided that whether the cause so shown is good and sufficient to cause the Master to discharge the citation is a question of law, to be decided by him without action of the lodge, from which decision an appeal can be taken to the Grand Master, either by the member cited, if adverse to him, or by any other member, if favorable to the delinquent."

This is correct, the facts upon which the cause rests being admitted, or previously determined by the lodge.

The Grand Lodge endorsed, as we do most heartily, the following:

"The only other decision I deem of sufficient importance as to merit mention in this report, was that an electric power-house about to be erected by a corporation for the purpose of furnishing light to a city does not, nor does a county prison, belong to that class of public buildings, the corner stones of which masonic lodges have been accustomed to lay."

He had had an enormous task in the examination of the by-laws of the different lodges, and the fact led to the appointment of a committee to report a code to be "enjoined" on lodges.

He had found the almost universal error which the makers of by-laws fall into—the neglect of the rule which has no exception, viz: "No provision of the superior law, nor anything in conflict with the superior law, should ever be inserted in a code of by-laws." While it is wise to publish *with* the by-laws so much of the superior law as affects the lodge, it should *never* be included in them. By-laws are not *masonic law*, but only the regulations of the lodge, adopted by it to enable it to administer its affairs according to that law.

The lodges had not acted upon this principle, and he had to return some of the codes with his disapproval of nearly everything in them. Of the cause of this tendency to over-legislate, he says:

"The cause of this would be legislation is not far to seek. It arises because we have been born and reared under a democratic government, and believe that the people governed are the source from which comes authority to govern; and many of us are members of societies which do derive their powers from the consent of those composing them. But it is not so in Masonry. It had its origin before democratic government was even in the

mind of the wildest dreamer, and has maintained its unity—its uniqueness, amid the successive changes of governments from despotism to aristocracies, and from aristocracies to democracies.”

The committee well say:

“We cordially concur with him in the opinion that it is a too prevalent practice to embody in these by-laws useless and unnecessary repetition of the laws of the Grand Lodge, and that the practice should be condemned and discontinued. While these enactments as by-laws are entirely superfluous, and no additional force is thereby given to the mandates of the Grand Lodge, the practice is misleading to the less informed brethren in an apparent suggestion of the power of the subordinate lodge in the amendments of its code of by-laws to change for its own government the paramount statutes of the Grand Lodge.”

The Grand Master made a most eloquent appeal in behalf of the Masonic Home.

His address, as a whole, merits the compliment paid to it by the Grand Lodge in ordering a thousand copies printed for immediate distribution.

Upon the recommendation of the committee, the following resolution was adopted:

“*Resolved*, That the Grand Secretary donate to the Masonic Library of the lodge of Norway, Maine, copies of the Proceedings for the years 1859, 1861, 2, 3, 4, 7, 1872, 74, 1880, 81, 83, 84, 86, 1890, 91, 92, 93 and 94, if in his discretion such copies can be spared.”

We congratulate the brethren of Oxford County upon having access to a full file of the Proceedings of this venerable Grand Lodge, and we know that they highly appreciate the privilege.

There was no Report on Correspondence, but the Grand Secretary (Bro. GEORGE W. CARRINGTON) promises us one next year.

Instead of the report, we have an abstract of the History of Roman Eagle Lodge. The venerable Bro. GEORGE W. DAME prepared a history of the lodge, requiring some five or six times as much space as was allowed to the committee. They regretted the necessity of condensing it, and we all unite with them, especially as since its publication, its venerable author has gone out from among us.

In this connection we notice that about one hundred and eighty pages of this volume are devoted to the publication of the returns of the lodges: we wish Bro. CARRINGTON would inform us what the reason for this is: it has seemed to us that the expense of doing this could be more usefully employed for the benefit of the craft.

WASHINGTON, 1895.

A portrait of the retiring Grand Master, JOSEPH MARION TAYLOR, graces the Proceedings.

It seems that for twenty-four years after its organization, the Grand Lodge

held its sessions at Olympia; but that since then it has been "on wheels." Coming to Olympia to hold its session in 1895, it was welcomed by P. G. Master NATHAN S. PORTER on behalf of the masons and of the city in eloquent words, to which Bro. WILLIAM H. UPTON, Grand Orator, as eloquently replied.

The Grand Master (JOSEPH MARION TAYLOR) refers with evident pleasure to the growth of the Grand Lodge since 1858 with its four lodges, to 1895 with its over one hundred lodges.

He proceeds to give a concise account of his very numerous official acts and decisions—so numerous that one wonders how occasion could arise for so much work.

The larger proportion of his forty decisions are based on local law.

That law allows that a petition may be withdrawn before the committee reports. In two cases, it was stated that petitions were withdrawn by the candidates upon the advice of members of the lodge. The giving of this advice was held by the Grand Master to be a masonic offence; but we believe that our law in Maine (adopted on account of a similar abuse), that a petition, of which the lodge has jurisdiction, must go to a ballot, and can be withdrawn only after a favorable ballot thereon, is correct and wise. However, as we read the report of the committee, it was decided that no offence was committed: so much more reason for a change in the law.

The Grand Master was of the opinion that a general waiver of jurisdiction over candidates residing near the state line is unwise and dangerous, and the Grand Lodge concurred. He also wisely advised lodges not to seek for material for Masonry in another Grand jurisdiction.

In another case, a Master overruled the objection of a member to conferring the degrees on an elected candidate; the Grand Master reversed the ruling of the Master, and correctly, upon the case as presented: but it subsequently appeared that the objection was made in open lodge, and was expressly stated by the objector not to be against the candidate, but against conferring any degree in the lodge "while the present Master is in the chair." The Grand Lodge decided that the Master correctly overruled the objection, and added that he ought to have ordered charges to be preferred against the objector: "so say we all of us."

A member of a lodge may recommend a candidate unknown to him, upon the information deemed by him reliable, which he obtains from masons not members of the lodge: this is good sense, but our printed form would have to be modified in such a case: a recommendation could not properly be made in such a case if the by-laws of the lodge require it to be by a member "personally acquainted with the candidate."

The Grand Master, in several decisions, held firmly that the legal residence of a candidate determines the jurisdiction in which he must apply. One

case was of a man claiming his residence in Washington while his family had been in Maine for twenty months: the Grand Master properly applied this principle; in such cases, however, careful inquiry should be made.

After writing the above, we looked at the report of the committee—but we shall let what we have written stand.

The committee divided: the majority favored overruling the Grand Master's decision. They base their opinion upon the constitution of their Grand Lodge, which provides that a candidate shall not be accepted "who has not been an *actual* resident of Washington at least twelve months." They hold that "actual" is used in contradistinction to "legal." We think that they are partly right and partly wrong. The common law of Masonry, which is now held to be binding on all Grand Lodges, is that candidates must apply in the Grand Jurisdiction in which they have their legal residence. No Grand Lodge can properly adopt a policy contrary to this rule, but may adopt additional requirements. We hold that under the provision quoted, a candidate must have had both his *legal* and *actual* residence (if there is any difference) in Washington for twelve months. But we hold that a man's *actual* residence is his *legal* residence; to allow a lodge to make a distinction between what they may call a man's "legal residence" and his "actual residence" will produce no end of confusion and cases of conflict of jurisdiction, already altogether too numerous. The reason given by the committee is, beyond question, correct:

"There can be but one reason for requiring that a person shall have resided a certain time, or any time, in the jurisdiction, in order to become a qualified petitioner, and that reason is, that the members of the lodge shall have had an opportunity to know whether or not he is fit material. Any residence other than the *habitat*—the place where he actually is—does not answer this purpose. Any other construction of this statute will defeat the object of the law. A man may not be at the place of his legal residence once in three years; in that case, the brethren in that locality have no personal knowledge of the daily acts of the applicant, which alone constitute that character which determines whether or not he is fit material for Masonry. We believe that our by-laws require a candidate to petition the lodge at the place where he lives, acts, transacts business,—the place of his *habitat*,—whenever that place happens to be different from the place of his legal residence."

We commend to our Washington brethren the consideration of the provision of our own constitution, that he must have been a resident of the state a year, and during six months of that time had his dwelling-place, and been personally present, within the jurisdiction of the lodge. Since the adoption of this provision, we have not had a case of complaint against one of our lodges, either from within or without our state.

We hold that, while the decision of the Grand Master was correct under the general masonic law, it was incorrect under that law, and the law of his Grand Lodge, taken together.

We concur in the report of the minority of the committee as far as it goes,

but think it does not go far enough under the Constitution of that Grand Lodge:

"The Grand Master has decided that a man's legal residence is his masonic residence. I can see no fault with this. There may be technical objections to it, upon the grounds that a man's legal residence is not always his *actual* residence; but cases are so rare where his legal residence is *not* his actual residence, they are mere exceptions. And in some cases where a man would claim an actual residence different from his legal residence for any length of time, he might be considered questionable material. I do not believe that Masonry should *hunt* for applicants for the degrees, and that everybody, except, perhaps, seafaring men, should have a fixed and legal residence, and that should be his masonic residence. Such a fixed rule can injure no one, and therefore, I think the decision of the Grand Master should be concurred in."

After quite a discussion the Grand Lodge adopted the majority report, overruling the decisions of the Grand Master.

Of the Wisconsin proposition, the Grand Master says:

"Masonry is a charitable institution, but is not beneficiary. Charity is a moral duty, but can never be made a legal duty. The Great Light teaches us that in bestowing alms 'not to let our left hand know what our right hand doeth.'

"Almost the first lesson taught us by Masonry, is that should we find any one in need or distress, we shall not hesitate to relieve him so far as his necessities require and our ability permits. We are not taught to ask him for a return. No. What we give we give freely, without thought of reimbursement. *This is charity. This is the love* for our brethren and for mankind which our beautiful masonic ritual so forcibly teaches us. To ask for a return for distress relieved is so repugnant to our idea of pure charity that we must say, with all due deference for the distinguished brethren constituting the committee that formulated the plan as presented in this letter, that it is not in accordance with the pure principles of masonic charity and that its adoption would prostitute the grand principles of the masonic fraternity into the narrow, selfish ways of a mere beneficiary Order."

BRO. WILLIAM H. UPTON, Grand Orator, delivered a very interesting oration on "Some phases of Freemasonry."

After an earnest discussion, the Grand Lodge located the library at Olympia and its Grand East at Seattle.

The Report on Correspondence (with Index, 222 pp.) was presented by BRO. WILLIAM H. UPTON. The style in which it is printed gives from fifteen to twenty per cent. more matter to a page than any page of our report contains.

He is not on the committee for next year, and we, therefore, shall omit notice of very many of his deliverances, as we are not willing to attack the positions of one who cannot reply. We do this all the more willingly, because his notions will find little support, but very many of them will fall as if still born.

He has read some old books and manuscripts and undertakes to decide all questions by them, *regardless of the usages of the craft* from the time

they were written till now. He speaks sneeringly of old men who talk of "what was taught when *I* was made a mason." He plumes himself on having commenced the study of masonic history and law immediately after his initiation, before he had preconceived theories, and vaunts his superiority over those who (he assumes) base their opinions upon what they were taught when they made masons, or were "biased by long familiarity with the doctrines or usages of societies of masons with which masonic lodges have no connection!" It does not seem to occur to him that others may have commenced studying immediately after their initiation (and that, too, probably before he was born) and have kept studying ever since, and that, too, with the power of appreciating what they study. The irresistible conclusion from his claims is that CHARLES W. MOORE, ALBERT G. MACKEY, SAMUEL LAWRENCE, WILLIAM P. MELLEN, CHARLES A. FULLER, JOHN L. LEWIS, and many others of that class of men and masons in the past generation held utterly erroneous views in relation to the fundamental principles of Masonry, and especially as to masonic law and polity.

While we think that these facts are sufficient reason for not taking up his report in detail and exposing its errors, we give one sample of his knowledge of masonic polity and principles and of his logic. He is discussing the effect of a rejection, and says:

"The decision of the lodge is *not* a judgment at all; and in no way resembles a judgment. (If some of the following reasons be doubted, enough of them will be accepted to settle that question): 'The lodge is not acting in a judicial capacity; it has no judicial jurisdiction over profanes; no trial is had; the 'accused' is not heard, or permitted to offer evidence; no issues are framed; no court ever existed in which a verdict of guilty followed if a vast majority of the triers considered the 'accused' innocent.'"

The decision of the lodge *is* a judgment and so "resembles a judgment": the lodge *is* acting in a judicial capacity in the method provided by ancient usage and law, for determining whether a man who is claimed to be fit to be made a mason is fit, or is not: it *has* judicial jurisdiction over a profane *the moment he presents his petition to it*: a trial *is* had, "after the manner of masons," primarily by the committee, and then, upon their report, by the lodge; the candidate *is* heard through the friends to whom he refers or by whom he is recommended; an issue *is* framed, the moment he presents his petition—that he is fit to be made a mason; the burden is on him to prove that he *is* fit, and if he fails to satisfy the lodge that he is, judgment goes against him. That the candidate is not *personally* heard, does him no injustice, for he knows that in advance, and accepts the situation by filing his petition.

WEST VIRGINIA, 1895.

We have portraits of JOHN M. COLLINS, Grand Master, and CYRUS S. MCKENZIE, Grand Lecturer, with a brief biographical sketch of each; and a cut of the new Masonic Temple at Charleston, the corner stone of which was laid August 10, 1895, by the Grand Lodge. Five other communications were held for laying corner stones—of a Masonic Temple, a church, a city building, a public library building and a soldiers' monument.

The Grand Master (GEORGE W. FEIDT) says that "peace and harmony have brought to the craft in West Virginia renewed prosperity and the means of a more extended benevolence for the alleviation of human suffering."

He had established masonic correspondence with "the Grand Lodges of South Australia, New Zealand and New South Wales."

He had issued dispensations for public installations and for various other purposes. Four of his decisions relate to physical qualifications; the same rule prevails as in our jurisdiction.

Among his others, are the following:

"It is unmasonic for a brother mason to prefer charges against another brother elected Master of the lodge for the purpose of delaying or preventing his installation when more than six months had elapsed after the commission of the offence, he knowing the offence had been committed and had failed to prefer the charges during all that time.

"Statements made by a brother mason on his death-bed in the presence of two Master Masons is not admissible as evidence on the trial of a brother Master Mason, without due notice is given the accused of the time and place of taking the statement, and it is made upon his masonic honor or under the sanctity of a legal oath."

We do not assent to the first. If the charges are made in bad faith, it is unmasonic to make them at all; if they are made in good faith, the neglect to make them sooner is no reason at all why a mason, guilty of unmasonic conduct, should be installed into office.

The second presents a more difficult question; it does not come within the rule of the civil law in relation to "*ante mortem* declarations," but we are inclined to hold that the declarations of a deceased brother, made in prospect of death, should be received in a masonic trial, with such weight as the brethren, after being duly cautioned, may give to them.

An E. A. moved into Kentucky: with the consent of his lodge, he petitioned the Kentucky lodge in whose jurisdiction he resided, for the other degrees and was rejected: he returned to his former home, and the Grand Master decided that the other lodge could receive his petition without the consent of the Kentucky lodge.

This is not good law in most of the jurisdictions—but Kentucky has gone so jurisdiction-mad that we have no idea what view will be taken of the case.

The Grand Master made an eloquent appeal in behalf of a Masonic Home. The Grand Lodge appointed a committee to consider the matter, who wisely sent out a circular to obtain information as to the extent of the need of such an Institution.

The Grand Secretary says:

"There was seemingly an extra demand for copies of our published proceedings for the current year. Long ago every spare copy was disposed of, and I could have gotten rid of perhaps forty additional copies, if I had had them. Proceedings are wanted by libraries, and by brothers who keep files of the Proceedings of the Grand Lodges of the country, and also by masonic supply establishments."

We do not believe in the expediency of parting with all the Proceedings: copies should be kept to supply new lodges, new Grand Lodges and to replace sets destroyed by fire. Our Grand Lodge has none of quite a number of years, and for nearly all of the others only so many as ought to be kept for the purposes stated; and yet brethren, who have concluded to form a masonic library for themselves or their lodge, think it strange that they cannot be fully supplied.

He says there has been a growing demand for the Monitor, which he regards as an encouraging sign of growth and prosperity; but he regrets that the demand for the Digest had been limited, because a larger use of it would save discussion and appeals.

The Deputy Grand Lecturers and District Deputy Grand Masters made reports. There seems to be one of each of these officers for each district. An examination of their reports fails to disclose to us any reason why the two offices cannot be consolidated and much time and expense saved.

"How to wear the apron" was discussed, a rule adopted, and the Grand Lecturer directed to teach accordingly.

A Secretary, not a Past Master, inquired how he was to know who are Past Masters, in making his returns, and he was directed to return only those whom the records of his lodge show to be such. This is understood to apply only to making returns, in which the Secretary gives only the Past Masters of his own lodge. We do not understand, however, that other Past Masters are not to be recognized on proper occasions.

"*Resolved*, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of each subordinate lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, upon the expulsion, suspension for non-payment of dues or suspension for unmasonic conduct therefrom, of any member thereof, to immediately notify such member by a written notice under seal of the lodge, that he has been so dealt with, and if said member is a non-resident of this state, to notify the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge in whose jurisdiction he is living or sojourning, with the request that said Grand Secretary notify the lodge where such member is living or sojourning (should there be one) of such action. And if the brother disciplined be sojourning in the jurisdiction of another Grand Lodge, the Secretary shall inform the Grand Secretary of such other Grand Lodge

of the penalty imposed upon the sojourning brother, and of such brother's re-instatement should that occur."

BRO. ODELL S. LONG delivered a brief address, very highly appreciated, in which he described how Masters can make their meetings attractive by explaining the symbols of Masonry, and in illustration he explained the symbolism of the "47th Problem of Euclid." The Grand Lodge adopted a vote of thanks, with an invitation to deliver a similar address next year.

The Grand Lodge ordered that a new edition of the text book be published, with "the ancient charges and landmarks" as given in Dove's Virginia Text Book.

The Report on Correspondence (274 pp.) was presented by Bro. GEORGE W. ATKINSON, the Grand Secretary.

He gives the most complete abstract of the important matters in the Proceedings reviewed, with comments, brief or otherwise, as they seem to require.

He questions the correctness of the decision that when the Master is the accuser, he cannot preside, and must leave the hall when the vote is taken. We do not; for while he is "the Supreme ruler of the lodge" in one sense, he is amenable to Grand Lodge law, and when that provides that the accuser can take no part in the proceedings of the lodge, the Master comes both within the language of the rule and in the reason for it.

Nor does he approve the California decision that a person claiming to be a mason, and probably a mason, but who could not prove himself to be such, had better be treated as a profane, and be required to be initiated before being recognized.

But he assumes that that which was *probably* true was *certainly* true. We cannot see that there is any wrong or harm in treating a man, who cannot prove himself to be a mason, as a profane and dealing with him as such. Should we refuse to keep him out perpetually because we *suspect* but do not *know* that he is a mason? He has no more light in Masonry than if he has never received any, if indeed he ever had.

He gives a full account of matters of interest in our Proceedings of 1895, especially commending the concluding remarks of Grand Master BURBANK.

Of "Schools of Instruction," he says:

"In West Virginia, we tried a two days' school which convened immediately after the Grand Lodge adjourned, and kept it up for three years, and at our last session it was abandoned. For a while we thought we had struck just the thing at last; but it failed to prove satisfactory. In Maine, the conventions may prove satisfactory, but I am forced to the conclusion, based upon much observation, that no plan is equal to a personal call on each lodge by the Grand Lecturer or one of his deputies, and there remain with a few of the bright brethren until they thoroughly commit the work. This is slower, and more expensive, but when done, it counts for something."

He quotes "one paragraph, every line of which is full of history," from Bro. BURNHAM's address, having previously said:

"The second day of the session was devoted to a celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the organization of the Grand Lodge. The historical address was delivered by Past Grand Master Edward P. Burnham. It is nothing short of an encyclopedia of detailed events of history. He begins with the chartering of the province of Maine April 3, 1639, by Charles I, King of England, and ends, of course, with the second reign of Grover Cleveland."

He does not quite agree with us as to the threatening aspect of the questions of non-affiliation and jurisdiction, saying:

"I quote his concluding paragraph, but I do not agree with my learned brother that the questions he mentions are by any means as 'threatening' as he would have us believe they are. Masonry will continue to live and flourish unless its secret work is published to the world."

While we earnestly wish that the use of "ciphers" could be avoided, yet inasmuch as it is certain that they were used in the days of Webb and ever since (and probably to as great an extent in proportion to the number of masons,) we have no great fears from the sources which he suggests.

WISCONSIN, 1895.

The Grand Master HIRAM W. SAWYER, says:

"It is with satisfaction that I report that, notwithstanding the depression which for a season has characterized business and business interests, the fraternity in this jurisdiction is prosperous, and, generally speaking, in a satisfactory condition. In this connection, however, I desire to say that I have been, and am forcibly impressed of the fact, that three most essential requisites to the high character and best interest of the fraternity are, in a measure, overlooked by not only many of the members, but by the Masters of some of the subordinate lodges."

* * * * *

"*First.* That the examination as to the character and qualifications of candidates for the degrees should be most careful and critical; and should any intimation against one's character, whether before or after ballot, come to the knowledge of the Master, from a mason or otherwise, he should cause it to be fully investigated, and, if in his judgment, the interest of the craft at large demand it, stay proceedings. The desire of a lodge to increase its membership or revenues, and the friendship and wishes of individual members are subordinate to the interest of the craft. Nor should it be sufficient that the candidate be a 'good fellow' as the world goes; that he has never done anything very bad; that in these days of rush and money making, he is about as good as the average, and is able to look out for No. 1. This is not Masonry. We have use neither for sharpers, nobodies nor moral wrecks. The candidate to be admitted to the lodge should be able to comprehend, appreciate and, in his daily walk, teach Masonry. Let it be remembered that, although valuable lessons are taught, yet the reputation of the craft is not made in the lodge room. The important duties of Masonry are not performed by the lodge. Masonic duties are personal to every mason and admonish him to walk uprightly before God and man. Would he be a

mason, he must be a man in all that the term implies. So it is that the character and daily walk of every candidate admitted to the lodge redounds to the honor or dishonor of the craft.

"*Second.* The right of any member to cast the black ball, or by objection, to prevent the initiation of any candidate, without question, and without having his motives impugned, should be carefully guarded. Any member and any number of members, however friendly to the candidate, or however much they desire his admission to the lodge, who in any manner try to circumvent or defeat this right, commit a serious offence against Masonry.

"*Third.* That he loves Masonry most who knows it best. That 'a little learning is a dangerous thing' is a truism in Masonry. The inclination is quite too common to hurry candidates through the degrees. Pressure of work, anxiety of candidates to 'get through' and other reasons are urged for rushing to and through the M. M. degree. The result is, that although each degree contains valuable lessons which every mason should learn and appreciate, the lessons are not thoroughly taught, no deep and lasting impressions are made, and the candidate, though a Master Mason, is left in the best possible condition to overlook his duties and obligations as such."

We welcome these deliverances with hearty and grateful thanks. They are most opportune. We hope they may be read by those real enemies of Masonry, who are practically teaching that it is a crime to shut the door to any applicant. Or, if this language is deemed a little too strong, we hope it will be read by those who practically teach that every candidate should be admitted, unless it is proved that he is unworthy. This doctrine of M. W. Bro. SAWYER is not new. He has only repeated in forcible terms the doctrine of the fathers. But we have heard so much about the wickedness of rejecting candidates and so much condemnation of those who dare to say "no" to any, that these utterances come "like a trumpet blast" to reanimate the heart and revive the courage to stand by the old ways.

Of the "Wisconsin proposition" he says:

"The objection has been urged that 'to relieve the distressed' is an individual obligation incumbent upon every mason, and that the tendency of this movement is to shift this obligation from the individual to the lodges. I can see no reason to fear any such result, and I am sure such was not the purpose of this Grand Lodge. I believe that no Grand Lodge goes further in asserting, and that no individual masons go further in assuming and discharging their duty to contribute to the relief of the distressed to the best of their ability than those of Wisconsin. But, in the nature of things, such relief must be principally local. Ability to contribute is frequently exhausted before necessity ceases. The needy brother may be a member of a lodge in some other Grand Jurisdiction, or he may be a non-affiliated mason, nevertheless, and in either case, a mason in good standing, in these cases, where and to whom may he or his family look for relief? An unaffiliated mason is entitled to the same recognition and relief as members of lodges, except 'lodge' privileges. It is, therefore, the equal duty of all masons wherever *he* may be, to contribute to his relief according to their ability.

"With an affiliated mason it is somewhat different. Membership in a lodge carries with it a more direct obligation on the part of the lodge and its members, to take the initiative and furnish relief. I take it that, in a great majority of cases, such relief to members is contributed from lodge funds, and a material question is, therefore, raised, to wit: Should a mem-

ber of a lodge require immediate relief, when abroad, has he any of these lodge advantages; if so, should his own lodge or some other stand the burden?"

As this committee has submitted a special report upon this question, we forbear further comment than to suggest that he assumes that every mason is entitled to receive from the craft relief to the amount of his needs, without regard to their ability, and that the committee's plan makes it the *duty* of the lodge to give relief to that extent and of the Grand Lodge to guarantee the performance of this duty by the lodge.

Among his numerous decisions was one in a case in which, after a lodge had held a meeting, it was discovered that the charter was not present, and he decided that the work done was not invalid; he says:

"I am not unmindful of the fact that some writers of Masonic Jurisprudence maintain that the literal presence of the *Charter* is indispensable to a valid communication. While I would not knowingly depart from either a landmark or any of the principles of Ancient Craft Masonry, I am unable to see why, under our system, such a rule should be adhered to when the fact that the lodge is a *chartered* lodge is well known. In this case the lodge was regularly chartered and the charter was in its possession and under its control. Though not within the room when the work was done it could and would have been produced if called for. Such being the case, it would be extremely technical to hold that the proceedings were invalid because the charter was not present. I therefore held that while the proper place for the charter is in the lodge room, its literal presence is not indispensable to a valid communication."

We agree in his conclusion, but not in the reasons given for it. If the absence of the charter had been discovered *while the lodge was in session*, it would have been his duty to suspend proceedings until the charter should be procured; but when the lodge has been closed, and the record made, *it is too late to raise the question*. The record shows a lawful communication of the lodge, and the principle, that the record shall prevail over all other evidence, should be applied.

The presence of the charter should be insisted upon, (even though we can see no reason for the rule,) because such is the old usage and the old law.

He decided further:

Although any member may object to the initiation of a candidate without giving any reason for so doing, yet should the member voluntarily state his reasons, and they be such as Freemasonry can under no circumstances recognize, as for instance that the candidate belongs to a particular political party or to any particular church, if based upon a belief in God, the W. M. should disregard the objection and confer the degree—otherwise Masonry might be forced into the unmasonic attitude of recognizing party politics and sectarianism in religion. It is an established and unalterable law of Masonry that political and religious controversy must be excluded from the lodge."

Of this the committee say:

“Disapprove of decision 12. It is the absolute right to object to initiation. If he gives his reasons therefor, it makes no difference whether objection good or bad, objection stands. The only remedy is to discipline the objector.”

The report was adopted by the Grand Lodge: but it is contrary to the law and decision of every other Grand Lodge, so far as we have observed. The objector is not obliged to give his reasons; but it is universally held, until this decision was made, that if he does give his reasons, he submits their validity to the judgment of the Master or the lodge, subject, of course, to an appeal to the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master held that a candidate, physically ineligible, having been initiated, was a mason in good standing and entitled to advancement. The decision of the lodge is conclusive, although erroneous.

The following is in accord with ancient masonic usage, but some jurisdictions are attempting to change it:

“A petition for affiliation may be received and acted upon by any lodge regardless of the residence of the petitioner.”

Other decisions, not based on local law are in accord with those in our jurisdiction.

The committee which sent out the proposition in relation to charity submit a report, quoting from the report of the California committee which we have already noticed. The committee, however, say:

“The objectors to the proposition seem to be divided into two classes, one of which is of opinion that masonic relief is an individual and not a lodge duty, and that organized charity is an innovation. It hardly seems necessary to make any answer to this class. They would probably argue that because our fathers lighted their lodge rooms with tallow candles, therefore we should not use electric lights. The other class admit the duty of lodge relief, but claim that the relieving lodge has no right to ask or expect reimbursement. Your committee have been unable to find any reason advanced for this claim and nothing in support of it. It seems to us that admission of the duty of lodge relief carries with it the admission that such relief must be the duty of some particular lodge, and necessarily that lodge must be the one of which the brother is a member.”

It will be seen that they have utterly failed to apprehend the objections: nor have we seen the admission of any one that relief is the “duty of the lodge” in the broad sense in which they use the term.

The Master of a lodge set aside a re-instatement by a precisely two-thirds vote, on the ground that a member present did not vote; but upon appeal, the Grand Lodge reversed his decision and held the action of the lodge legal: another illustration of the rule that the record of the lodge is conclusive and cannot be contradicted by other evidence.

The Grand Lodge censured a lodge for acting upon the petition of a candidate rejected by a lodge not having jurisdiction, without its consent: this is in accord with our views, but contrary to almost all the decisions.

A new edict as to physical qualification was adopted, but it was amended while pending, so that its meaning is not clear; the relative "that" is used without any certain antecedent.

An Edict was adopted that a candidate for membership shall be elected if he receives four-fifths of the votes cast.

The Report on Correspondence (81 pp.) was presented by Bro. DUNCAN MCGREGOR.

A very brief (but very comprehensive) abstract is all that his space allows.

In his review of Georgia, he says:

"A long list of names of persons expelled for non-payment of dues is given. Can the word 'expelled' be a misprint? We should look for 'suspended' for that offence. Georgia seems to make non-payment of dues an offence equally heinous with the grossest immorality."

We believe that he must also add Ohio.

And in his review of Maine:

"Manuscript histories of two extinct lodges were presented to Grand Lodge and ordered printed. It seems that Maine is setting a good example in the matter of printing histories as well as in several other matters. Sixty-five of the lodges have already printed their histories and these can be found in the office of the Grand Secretary or in the Grand Library."

He quotes our reply to his remarks upon what Grand Master TAYLOR said of "Androgynous degrees," and adds:

"And we interpret the remarks anent the Androgynous degrees just as we did last year. We believe the language clearly bears the interpretation then made."

The fact remains, however, that Bro. TAYLOR had no idea of charging that the promoters of the Eastern Star are using the "esoterics" of Masonry. If what he wrote admits of any other interpretation, it makes him say what he did not mean.

He commences his review of Pennsylvania as follows:

"I cannot write a review of Pennsylvania. He who has long occupied the most important place, in my conception of Pennsylvania Masonry, is no more. That eminent masonic jurist, that versatile writer, that profound masonic student, that great and good man, Chairman of Foreign Correspondence for many years, Bro. Richard Vaux, has written his last report. On March 22d, of the current year, he obeyed the summons to submit the report of his life work to the Grand Master of the Universe. All I can do is to submit, for the benefit of the craft at home, the last review of Wisconsin, written by our lamented brother. I am confident it will be read with interest."

He then quotes the whole of Bro. VAUX's review of Wisconsin.

We regard this as one of the best tributes to the memory of that honored brother.

WYOMING, 1895.

We have the portraits of Past Grand Masters NATHANIEL R. DAVIS, JAMES H. HAYFORD, JOHN C. DAVIS and JETHRO T. HOLLIDAY.

Grand Master HOLLIDAY says :

"Although during the first part of the year past our country was still suffering from the great financial panic and business depression, our lodges have generally been growing in numbers and are in a satisfactory financial condition."

It appears that there had been some discussion with the Grand Lodge of Montana in relation to candidates from Yellowstone Park, or the U. S. Government reservation therein: but we think the facts are not given. The Grand Master claimed jurisdiction for his Grand Lodge and objected to surrendering it to Montana. The Grand Lodge approved his action.

The by-laws of the Grand Lodge follow the old law authorizing a lodge to be opened by a Past Master in the absence of the Master and Wardens.

A brother, whose reading must have been exceedingly limited, especially as to what "has been universally acknowledged by all Grand Lodges," offered the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That that part of Section 49 of the by-laws, relating to Past Masters having power to open and conduct the business of the lodge in the absence of the Master and Wardens, be stricken out, as it is contrary to all masonic usages. According to Anderson's Ancient Constitution, a lodge cannot be opened unless one of the principal officers is present, and it has been universally acknowledged by all Grand Lodges."

It was referred to a special committee, a majority of which recommended its passage; but it was lost by a vote of almost three to one.

The following was also adopted:

"After careful examination of masonic law, we are of the further opinion that the Grand Lodge has authority to approve, reverse or modify the finding or sentence, or both finding and sentence, of the lodge, or it may refer the case back to the lodge for a new trial, or the Grand Lodge may assume original jurisdiction and proceed with the trial *de novo*."

We regret that the Constitution limits eligibility to office to members of the Grand Lodge, except the Grand Tyler. As that officer is a member of the Grand Lodge, this provision is one of policy, and is not based upon the erroneous idea that an officer of a Grand Lodge can be taken only from its members. However, as all the Past Masters of the jurisdiction are members of the Grand Lodge, it is not a matter of so much consequence: but still we dislike to see any provision in the constitution of a Grand Lodge, which ties its hands from taking any mason in the jurisdiction for any office, except those which in their nature must be filled by a Past Master.

The Wisconsin proposition was adopted, and embodied in the constitution.

While we are not able to understand the application of the following resolution, the principle of it is undoubtedly correct:

“Resolved, That it is contrary to masonic principles that laws should be enacted retroactive in their application, and, therefore, that Article 5, of the Constitution, as amended this day, does not apply to any member or officer of the present Grand Lodge, but all present officers and members of the present Grand Lodge shall continue to be members of this Grand Lodge, and are eligible to election or appointment as officers of this Grand Lodge, notwithstanding such amendment.”

The Constitution and By-Laws are published with these Proceedings. As there is an impression that the younger Grand Lodges are discarding the old law, and adopting the “progressive ideas” of a few masons in relation to the powers and functions of a Grand Lodge, we quote from the preamble to show how sound this young Grand Lodge is upon that question :

“WHEREAS, Every Grand Lodge is sovereign within its prescribed jurisdiction, and possesses the inherent power to form a constitution, as the law of its masonic action; to amend or alter the same; to enact by-laws from time to time, and to make such rules and prescribe such regulations for the administration of its subordinate lodges as will ensure the prosperity thereof, and promote the general good of Masonry; and

“WHEREAS, Every Grand Lodge is the representative of all the fraternity in communication therewith, and in that behalf is an absolute independent body, with supreme legislative, executive and judicial authority; Provided, always, that the ancient landmarks of the Institution be held inviolate. Therefore, upon these principles, which are indisputable, the Grand Lodge of Wyoming does hereby ORDAIN, ESTABLISH and PROMULGATE the following Constitution and By-Laws for its future government, and does make and prescribe the following rules and regulations for the government of the lodges under its jurisdiction.”

And also:

“This Grand Lodge is the only source of authority, and exercises exclusive jurisdiction in all matters pertaining to Ancient Craft Masonry in the State of Wyoming.”

We find the following in the by-laws:

“Perpetual jurisdiction over rejected material except as between lodges in this jurisdiction is hereby abolished.”

While as a whole the Code is a good one, we think there is one serious defect in it; both the constitution and by-laws may be amended on motion, without notice, by a two-thirds vote. The *consensus* of opinion is that the fundamental law of a Grand Lodge is a matter of so much importance that any proposed change in it should receive the most careful consideration; hence it is, that in nearly all the Grand Lodges an amendment must lie over from one annual communication to another, and be considered by a committee, before it can be adopted.

The Report on Correspondence (96 pp.) was presented by Bro. WILLIAM L. KUYKENDALL.

In his review of Alabama, he says:

“Upon a reversal, as above, we hold no restoration should be necessary, as the verdict of the lodge was rendered null and void and left the member exactly where he was before trial.”

He doubts if the rule prevails in any other jurisdiction: we regret to say that Mississippi and North Carolina must be added.

He asks where is the law which allows a mason to become a member of a lodge out of his Grand Lodge jurisdiction; it is found in the universal usage of the craft down to within about ten years.

He has advocated and succeeded in persuading his Grand Lodge to strike out a portion of the ceremony of the installation of a Master, because it has been called the "Past Master's degree."

The following ought to be law everywhere, but it does not prevail in a few jurisdictions:

"In our opinion, no lodge should elect a brother to any office whose residence will prevent his attendance on lodge at all meetings, or who it is known is about to remove to a distance, and, above all, one who will not serve, attend or be installed, should in no case be elected. Should the latter occur, however, in the case of the W. M., we believe in re-electing the then Master or some qualified brother and installing him in due form."

In his review of Maine, he says:

"If space permitted, we would quote what the Grand Master had to say regarding slander and 'they say,' as it is about the best paper on that subject we have ever read, because every word of it is true. We long ago placed our value upon the 'they sayers,' especially if a story affected the reputation of anyone, for of such as retail harmful gossip is made up the kingdom of liars and enemies of humanity, but the meanest of all this class is the person who willfully wrecks the happiness of another by starting or repeating a damaging report with full and direct knowledge that it is a lie. Every mason should think twice before becoming a slanderer."

While we refer him to the special report upon jurisdiction over rejected candidates, we desire to say a few words in reply to the following:

"Our brother will not deny that the Grand Lodge of Wyoming is supreme within the boundaries of our state, and that no other Grand Lodge has the right to make any law and attempt to enforce it within our borders. So long as a rejected candidate remains a citizen and resident of our state, he is our material and subject to our laws, and to prevent friction and strife between our lodges and masons, and for no other reason, do we prohibit our lodges from initiating a candidate who has been rejected by any Wyoming lodge, unless a waiver is secured. Personally we have held to our lodges retaining jurisdiction over rejected candidates as long as they resided in the state. We may be compelled to fall on the California side of the fence upon this question, where we believe a majority of our Grand Lodges now abide."

The first sentence does not touch the question. Our brother will not deny that his Grand Lodge has not the rightful power to authorize its lodges to make masons of citizens of Wyoming, who have been expelled legally in another jurisdiction, not because the laws of that Grand Lodge have force in Wyoming, but because, under the higher law of Masonry, the party has ceased to be an eligible candidate anywhere: the same principle applies in the case of rejected candidates.

We regret almost that he gives the reason why perpetual jurisdiction

among Wyoming lodges is maintained, and are quite inclined to believe he is in error. They retain it as between their lodges "to prevent friction and strife between our lodges and masons": but they "don't care a continental" how much friction and strife it causes among outsiders! This does not come quite as near to doing by our neighbors as by ourselves as we have been accustomed to hold that Masonry teaches! If this is the correct reason, our brother had better get on the California side of the fence as speedily as possible!

We entirely agree with him that when one lodge requests another to aid one of its members, the latter is the judge of what aid is necessary, and of the reasonableness of the amounts *actually* paid: at the same time, we hold that if there is an alleged abuse (we knew a case once in which a charge was made for a brass band as a part of the necessary expenses of a masonic funeral), the lodge upon which the claim is made, should have the right to appeal to the Grand Master or Grand Lodge of the other jurisdiction for a final decision.

Our brother says that a majority of the Grand Lodges have abolished the "perpetual jurisdiction idea": this may be true, but it is not the point in controversy; that is, whether the effect of a rejection does not continue as long as the law of the jurisdiction, where it is made, provides; and upon that question the majority is against our brother.

On another point, he does not agree with his Kentucky brethren:

"If Massachusetts insists upon perpetual jurisdiction, or that doctrine in a limited form in cases where a rejected candidate becomes a citizen of another state, it can interdict his visiting any of its lodges or being recognized by any of its masons in case he puts in an appearance as a mason, and nobody can rightfully object, because the Grand Lodge is supreme within its boundaries, but not without."

There are other matters which we would like to notice; but our report is already longer than we had intended, and, while we have gone through the alphabet, we have not reached our "Conclusion." We take the following from his, fully agreeing with it:

"As in former reports, we have endeavored throughout this to maintain our position in the advocacy of what we believe is and would be for the best interests and lasting benefit of our great masonic institution. If in doing so we have written anything that may be construed as without the bounds of that true masonic spirit which should at all times exist, our excuse lies in the fact that it was not intentional. He of the guild who is tender footed, to our mind is out of place; he should believe, if he does not know, that the raps he encounters are not given by an enemy, but are the admonishing touches of a friend and brother, to remind him that others have opinions as well as he, and that they are entitled to due respect and consideration."

He will pardon us for saying that we have from year to year carefully examined his reports (ten in all), and accord to him sincerity as well as great earnestness in his views; but are glad to find in them evidence of a modification of what we regarded as extreme views as to progressiveness in Masonry.

ADDITIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

ARIZONA, 1895.

The Grand Master (RICKMER NICKLES FREDERICKS) says that the past year had been one of prosperity for all sections of Arizona, and the prosperity of the lodges had kept pace with the growth of the Territory. He had visited them all, and spoke from personal observation.

A lodge having claimed that an unaffiliated mason, residing within its jurisdiction, could apply for membership to no other lodge without its consent, he correctly decided that the claim was not valid, and that the party could apply to any lodge without any consent.

He gives a detailed account of his visitations, which bears out his statement as to the real prosperity of the lodges. It is true that the amount of work done was small, so that there was a falling off of nine in the total membership; but the lodges were in such condition that they can be prosperous without doing work.

In relation to the Wisconsin proposition, the following report was accepted and the resolution adopted:

"In the matter submitted by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin as to 'the duty of each lodge to care for its own members,' your committee recognizes that this, which to our Eastern brethren is apparently a new idea, is an established custom with this Grand Lodge and its constituent lodges.

"We believe that every mason of this jurisdiction is ready to expend every cent of lodge or Grand Lodge funds to aid and assist our members when sickness or misfortune overtakes them, and in doing this we do not lose sight of nor repudiate the paramount duty imposed on us as individuals to our obligations, but stand ready to extend a helping hand to all who may apply and whom we may find worthy. That our position, however, may be unequivocally understood, we recommend the adoption by this Grand Lodge of the following:

Resolved, That the Grand Lodge of Arizona, for itself and its constituent lodges, believes that it is the duty of each lodge of masons to take care of its own members and their widows and orphans in distress wherever they may be; *provided*, that the lodge furnishing relief shall in no case go beyond the actual necessities without first being authorized to do so by the lodge from which repayment is expected."

It will be noted that the committee add to the proposition an important limitation: they pledge every cent of lodge and Grand Lodge funds and stop there, while the proposition is, that the lodge guarantees *unlimited relief*, and the Grand Lodge guarantees that the lodge shall furnish that, or if they fail, that it will furnish relief itself without regard to the amount of its funds. The limitation of the committee introduces the element of *ability*, which the original proposition completely ignores.

The Representatives present were formally presented and fraternally addressed by the Grand Master: Bro. ZUCK appropriately replied in their behalf. The ceremony was certainly useful in bringing forcibly to the minds of those

present that Masonry is not bounded by jurisdictional lines, but that its members in one jurisdiction are a part of a great fraternity, to every member of which they are under equal obligation, a fact which in these days seems liable to be overlooked, if not forgotten.

No Report on Correspondence.

LOUISIANA, 1896.

The address of the Grand Master (GEORGE H. PACKWOOD) shows that he had ably, and with a vigilant eye, administered the affairs of the craft during the year. Most of his address was devoted to local matters. He reports, however, an increase in the total membership, and assures us that the accessions are "from the best material, who will reflect credit upon our Order."

He had visited a large number of the lodges: he says:

"In lodges I have visited I am able to report considerable zeal is manifested among the brethren, and generally harmony and good fellowship prevails. In only a few have I found dissatisfaction to exist; but good counsel and a fervent desire among the brothers to dwell together in amity made it easy to allay all discord and heal all dissensions."

Referring to the work of the Grand Lecturer, he adds:

"The increased interest and zeal now prevailing throughout the country lodges is mainly due to the fact that we have such an officer, and that he faithfully discharges his whole duty. I have traveled with him this year at times, as I did last, and have had a full opportunity to bear witness to the value of the work performed and the good results following his labors."

* * * * *

"I was informed that unauthorized lecturers had visited lodges in some parts of the country and assumed to give instruction in the work; and realizing the danger that must certainly ensue in having any of the lodges instructed in a form of work at variance with that adopted by the Committee on Work, I issued circular letter No. 4, prohibiting lodges from receiving instruction in the work in this informal manner."

He gives a brief history of "Louisiana Relief Lodge, No. 1," which he calls "The pioneer organization for masonic charity in this country." It was organized in 1851: but reference to our special report on the "Wisconsin Proposition" shows that it was ante-dated by a similar organization in Boston. The funds of the lodge were almost depleted the year before, but an appeal to the lodges brought quick responses, and among them a donation from "Louise McGuire Chapter, No. 4, of the Eastern Star"; of this he says:

"When it is remembered these ladies are the wives, sisters and daughters of masons, we surely will be encouraged by their kindly aid, and cheering words coming to us on the wings of love—like angel voices and inspire us with the importance of the duty we owe 'to relieve the distressed,' succor the needy and make lighter the burden of sorrow—such is true masonic charity.

"When the treasury of the Relief Lodge was almost depleted last year, an appeal was made to subordinate lodges, and you will rejoice with me to know how many responded to the call of Louisiana Relief Lodge, and the

donation of the members of the Louise McGuire Chapter, No. 4, Order of the Eastern Star came like a new ray of sunshine to aid in this cause of charity."

The debt had been reduced \$10,400 during the year, making it about \$56,000: but there was danger of a necessary increase; taxes had been levied to the amount, with interest, of some \$14,000: their validity was in litigation, and a decision was expected during the spring from the Supreme Court of the United States; if this should be adverse, this amount, together with \$6,000 for necessary improvements, would have to be met by a new issue of bonds, in order not to interfere with the reduction of the original debt in accordance with previous agreement.

At the time when he delivered his address there was a war cloud apparently rising: he refers eloquently to the magnitude of the crime which a rupture between the United States and Great Britain would be; as the cloud harmlessly dissolved, we do not quote what he said. But we do not agree that masons, *as masons*, either through our organizations or as individual members of the craft, should interpose. As *citizens*, we are bound to carry out the teachings of Masonry, but to interfere as masons is in direct violation of the principles and landmarks of the Institution.

He had issued a circular in which he thus defines the *status* of a rejected candidate who has changed his residence:

"If the candidate has changed his residence, and more than three years have elapsed since the date of his rejection, he is entitled to present his petition for initiation to the lodge of his (new) residence as though he had not previously applied for the degree, provided that his petition shall be accompanied by a *certificate* from the lodge of his first application, stating that it has no record or knowledge of charges against his mental or moral standing."

Grand Secretary LAMBERT said that he had received returns from all the chartered lodges, as well as from five lodges U. D.: he had added to the Library about 100 bound volumes of Proceedings, as well as volumes of Masonic Periodicals.

Five charters and two dispensations were granted. The Grand Lecturer, having visited fifty-six lodges, reports:

"It affords me much pleasure to report progress in Masonry for our state. Notwithstanding the financial depression, there has been an increase of work, greater than the preceding year, also a greater manifestation of interest by the officers and members of the various lodges throughout the state in the discharge of their duties as officers, as members and as masons."

The Committee on Work reported as follows, but their report was laid over till the next annual communication:

"Your Committee on Work have had under consideration the resolutions referred to them at the last Annual Grand Communication relative to adoption by this Grand Lodge of Sickles' Monitor, as the standard work to be used in the lodges. They are of the opinion that the work in question is

not altogether according to the work of this state, and would recommend that the Grand Lodge order a compilation of a Monitor to be submitted at the next Annual Grand Communication."

We find the following:

"The Special Committee, to whom was referred that portion of the Grand Master's address relating to the differences between the United States and England, submitted their report, which, after considerable debate and a call of roll by lodges, was not adopted."

We do not know what the report was, but the result is the correct one.

A proposition, undoubtedly suggested by the practice, in other Orders, to change the usage prevailing ever since 1717, and base representation in the Grand Lodge, upon the size of the lodge was presented and laid over to next year, when we earnestly hope it will be unanimously rejected.

It was provided, however, and wisely too, we think, that when no representative of a lodge is present it may be represented by one of its Past Masters, preference being given to the junior Past Master.

A committee was appointed to draft a charter for a Masonic Home, to report next year. We apprehend that the Grand Lodge will see itself free from debt before it undertakes a new enterprise. It may be, however, that the funds to create and support a Home are expected from other sources.

The Report on Correspondence (155 pp.) was presented by Bro. JOHN Q. A. FELLOWS.

Of it he says:

"This completes the tenth consecutive Report on Foreign Correspondence to the Grand Lodge of Louisiana which the chairman has written. When the report of last year was presented to the Grand Lodge he little thought of attempting to write another. The night after the last page of proof was corrected, January 25th, he was attacked with an alarming illness, and for many days each was expected to be the last upon earth, and it was not till the 1st of June that there was much assurance of eventual recovery; nor was it until November 14th that he was able to begin the work of preparing that report, which is now January 3d, put into the hands of the printer. During his long and painful illness, the anxiety of his brethren and their manifestations of brotherly love, cheered him on to a restoration to comparative health, and has enabled him to read in the various proceedings the many kind expressions of sympathy and prayers for his recovery. This alone is worth living for, and words cannot express the thoughtfulness felt in every thought. (God bless you all.)"

We had the inexpressibly great pleasure of meeting him at Boston last August. It adds to that pleasure that the hopes, then entertained, of his improvement have been realized. Working together with him in the very shadow of the danger from which he had escaped, we appreciated, with startling force, how great would have been the personal loss by the death of one with whom we have been associated in masonic work throughout the whole of our public masonic life. We found that although he was physically weak, his mind had lost none of its power—a fact abundantly shown by this report.

Like his more recent reports, this one discusses subjects, and does not review the Proceedings seriatim.

We quote the remainder of his conclusion, and most earnestly bespeak for it the attention and thought of all our readers:

"The Proceedings of every Grand Lodge in the United States and the Dominion of Canada have been received and examined.

"There seems to be a general state of prosperity for the fraternity in most of the jurisdictions reviewed. There are some exceptions, as will be seen on examination of the statistical tables, an actual loss of membership in some and a very slight increase in others, indicating something wrong in conduct of affairs in such Grand Lodge Jurisdictions. The mind of the writer, for the last ten years, has been impressed with the causes of this depression. To be sure, mere members is not the sole criterion of prosperity, nor the lack of increase, that of depression. A gradual increase of members and a *permanency of membership* are the sure indices of prosperity, while the contrary is sure wherever we find a diminishing or stationary membership.

"We have, from year to year, been more and more impressed that there are certain features attending every manifestation of the want of prosperity in the Order.

"1. Wherever we find prosperity, the social feature has been prominent. Of this we have had much to say and select in our former reports. Sociality used to be the rule and the want of it the exception in all *our* lodge meetings.

"2. All local matters of government was left freely to the lodges, but, recently, the tendency is more and more for Grand Lodges to absorb all power, and the fraternity cease to have freedom in the transaction of their own business. Everything is to be done by rules enacted by the Grand Lodge.

"3. Formerly there were only such dues exacted as would pay the current expenses of the lodge and dues to the Grand Lodge, and still earlier, no dues at all were exacted, but the fees for the degrees sufficed for the lodge expenses and charity, or, rather, relief was an individual affair, the carrying out to the letter, the emphatic teaching of a certain portion of the ceremony of the first degree.

"4. All *business* was done with the lodge opened in the degree of Entered Apprentice, and these and Fellow Crafts were spectators and learned how the Masters did, and not, as now, entering into the active participation of the affairs of the lodge, and introducing methods and rules of other bodies, not masonic, of which these new brothers were members. We once heard a Master say, 'All who are in favor of the motion will give the usual sign of an Odd Fellow.' Still earlier, Apprentices were members of the lodge, and took an active part in its proceedings and business, while now some seem to question whether they are masons at all.

"5. Formerly, and it is still so in the most prosperous of Grand Lodges, masons are made such, and are not necessarily members of the lodges in which they are made, but are afterwards elected to membership on petition and ballot, or at least have to signify their desire of membership by signing the by-laws of the lodge. Non-affiliation then and there was not looked upon as a crime as it is now in some jurisdictions. The loss to the non-affiliate from whatever cause he was such, *was the loss of lodge privileges*, which privileges were deemed ample compensation for the annual dues required of members.

"We have noticed that a departure from the original plan of Masonry, as in part detailed above, in one or more of the particulars, is always accompanied by indications of feebleness, want of prosperity, a going back-

ward, and the gravity of the case is increased by the departure from more than one, and if from all, the Order is found in this jurisdictions in a state of inanition. When a return to first principles is inaugurated by the adoption of one or more, a corresponding increase of life is manifested, as, for instance, in California, when the social feature was restored; in Louisiana, when that was restored in a measure, and the non-affiliate came to be regarded not as a criminal, and some other changes back to old customs were had, as shown by the reduction of members from 7800 in 1873, to 3400 in 1887, and the increase to 5500 since.

"Our object in all these reports has been to point out the old way, and under different heads to present to the reader the evils, the departures of the present hour, and the evil consequences of going wrong, and which could not be well done by the ordinary form of these reports. We once said we wrote these reports for the masons of Louisiana, trying to show them the evils of a departure from the original plan of Masonry, teaching by example, and we are satisfied with the result of our labors here, and are ready to lay down the pen when permitted, or when called for by a higher power, with the hope of the response of 'Well done.' At any rate, such errors as there may have been in these reports are of the head and not the heart, and are such that time will readily correct."

The first is undoubtedly true; we realize its truth and importance more and more with each passing year.

The second is comparatively true, but, so far as our experience goes, somewhat exaggerated. The cause of this legislation has been the abuse of the privilege, through want of information, by the lodges. The blunder of a lodge, whereby the law of Masonry has been violated, has led to the enactment of a law to prevent its repetition. It is difficult and generally unwise to discipline severely a lodge for a mere blunder; and when it is found that there is a proneness to the same blunder in other lodges, it has been deemed wise to prescribe a rule, which would be easily understood. For example, in Maine till within our memory, a lodge could receive a petition from a candidate *residing in any town in the state*, in which there was no lodge; the result was that unworthy men gained admission to distant lodges; this brought to the attention of the Grand Lodge, the fact that in such cases the lodge did not make, and was not likely to make, the *necessary* "due inquiry" and the law was changed. And we are able to say that every change in our Grand Lodge law, for the last forty years, restricting the former powers of lodges, was caused by violation of masonic law by lodges or their officers, or were enacted to protect the rights of the member against the arbitrary acts of the lodge. It may be that this has been done, when it was not likely that the abuse would be repeated, and, therefore, when it was unnecessary. But it was a choice of evils, and in our judgment the restraining legislation was by far the least of the two evils.

The third is also correct: and it illustrates how an instrumentality adopted for convenience in carrying out a system may soon come to be regarded as the system itself and tend to overthrow the very system which it was invented to aid. The accumulation of funds for charitable purposes, by lodges, is

masonic only as an aid to the performance of individual duty, and when it usurps the place of that duty it is an "innovation in the body of Masonry" of the most dangerous character.

While the fourth is so true that the change did not become universal in season to prevent our once balloting as an Entered Apprentice upon a petition for initiation, yet considering how few Entered Apprentices there are and how brief a time they remain such, we do not regard this change as producing any practically injurious result.

The first part of the fifth is true now only in a very few cases, as almost all the Grand Lodges, including Massachusetts, now make membership a result of receiving the third degree. That much of modern legislation against unaffiliates is in violation of our fundamental principles, is true, and, for Masonry's sake, "pity 'tis, 'tis true."

We have devoted so much space to his "Conclusion" that we can give but little to his discussions scattered through the report. In stating his views in relation to the effect of a rejection, he loses sight of the fact that the application is for admission into the fraternity, and not merely admission into the lodge as he practically assumes.

His views in relation to non-payment of dues are so forcibly expressed, and so just and practical that we copy them:

"We admit, as before stated, that every mason should belong to some lodge, and, as a necessary consequence, *should contribute to the lodge expenses*, which is exacted in the form of annual (or quarterly or monthly) dues to the lodge in default of payment should be excluded from the lodge privileges and benefits. If able and unwilling to pay, he should not be allowed to take part in the affairs of the lodge, and if unable the lodge should remit these dues, or suffer him to dimit, *and this without any other penalty* than that of being deprived of these privileges.

"Provisions should also be made that when that unwillingness should cease, or the financial affairs of the brother should warrant, the door of admission should be left open for his taking an active part again in the affairs of the lodge. But he should not be deprived of any of his rights and privileges as a mason, for such cause, any more than he can be absolved from the performance of his duties and obligations as a mason, taken upon him at the time of his initiation. In fact, he cannot legally thus be deprived. The lodge (or, for that matter, the Grand Lodge by its regulations) has not the *right* to thus, and for this reason—that of non-membership, or non-payment of dues—to deprive him, though we find that the *power* to do so has been often exercised.

"The whole difficulty has arisen, and gradually so, from the departure from the original plan of Masonry, by making the lodge the dispenser of charity and ignoring the principle as taught in every step of the ceremonies, that charity, or rather relief, is an *individual duty*, which no mason can of right shift from his own shoulders to the lodge, by the payment of increased sums into its treasury in the shape of dues. This has led the mason to acquire the habit of neglecting his duties in this regard, for it is only by constant practice in the discharge of any duty, that the discharge of that duty becomes a habit. Let us return to the old way, the practice, *individually*, of the tenets of our profession, of brotherly love, relief and truth, and limit the amount of dues to the actual needs of the lodge for current expenses,

and not require the lodge to be the administrator of charity, or relief, or to procure the means by a poll tax, in which the poor mason is compelled to contribute as much as the rich—the millionaire. This heavy *poll tax*, equal to the rich and poor, is what drives masons from the lodge either by taking a dimit, or being suspended for non-payment of dues. It will not do to impute to such brethren, this neglect of duty on their part as a masonic offence, while the lodge itself is guilty of a greater offence of exacting from the poor brother an amount equal to that exacted from the brother of ample means. A consciousness of individual duty in the matter of charity or rather relief, frequently leads the brother, it may be unconsciously at times, to consider the methods of relief as doled out by the officers of the lodge, not such as they in their inner consciousness could approve, that leads them to the neglect of paying dues, thus expended or distributed."

We do not think that this objection to the lodge relief system has been sufficiently considered. The fundamental law of Masonry is that a brother must contribute according to his ability, thus recognizing the truth that brethren are of different abilities; but the Wisconsin plan ignores this law and requires each brother to contribute equally, without regard to his ability. Bro. FELLOWS's illustration of the poll-tax is precisely in point: the Wisconsin proposition is precisely the equivalent in Masonry, of a scheme in civil law to pay all public burdens by a poll-tax.

In this connection, we cannot refrain from copying his account of his personal experience:

"Much that is contained in the preceding subject is applicable to this, and will not to any great extent be repeated. Charity or masonic relief is individual not corporate. When on a bed of pain and near the verge of dissolution for many months during the past year, this writer was called back to life by the relief given him by his brethren, not merely pecuniary assistance, but by their frequent presence with encouraging words and manner, urging upon me, when willing if not anxious to depart, that I must not disappoint my friends, that I had much to live for and much yet to do in the world. Though often when in paroxysms of pain the prayer of the Saviour in the Garden of Gethsemane was on my lips, I could not resist the entreaties of my brothers. Often I felt there could be nothing to compensate the suffering I endured, yet the knowledge which I before had not appreciated, of the care of physicians, the loving, tearful anxiety of wife, the prompt and free acts of kindness of my nurses, who all acted as though they all loved me, the manifest solicitude of friends, and not least of any, the love of my brethren, reconciled me to accept a prolongation of life, and it all seems to be a full compensation. 'Till tested, I did not know this and how my brethren felt, but in the end I knew that the principles of Freemasonry, in their most sublime features, had taken full possession of them, and that to all who administered and felt for me that the tenets of Freemasonry, brotherly love, relief and truth, were as precious to them as their lives."

We regret to find that he gives in his adhesion to the fallacy that because Grand Lodges are organized, *under the general masonic law*, by lodges, the former are the "creatures" of the latter! He might as well say that *the marriage relation* is the "creature" of the clergyman, who, *by authority of the law*, enables the parties to contract that relation.

Under "Mexico," we probably shall have occasion to refer to his views in relation to the different "Rites" in Masonry.

MISSISSIPPI, 1896.

These Proceedings are received just in season to enable us to say that our report includes a review of the Proceedings of all the North American Grand Lodges.

The frontispiece gives us a portrait of the retiring Grand Master, JAMES T. HARRISON.

In his address, he says:

"It gives me pleasure to announce that Freemasonry in this Grand Jurisdiction is prospering, and it goes without saying, that our increase is only from the best element of the commonwealth.

"When, as is known, the unwritten rule of our Order is neither to praise it to an outsider nor solicit membership, the fact of said increase can only be considered from the standpoint of its beneficence."

He had submitted questions of masonic law to the Standing Committee, and had adopted its conclusions, although in one case he differed from the majority of that committee.

We note that the Proxy of a Master must be a Past Master. In consequence, several lodges, which had sent proxies, were not represented.

Quite a number of amendments to the by-laws were made. The following in relation to Committees of Inquiry is of interest:

"Said committee shall not make known what the character of their report is to be, until it is read to the lodge, and every such report after being acted upon by the lodge shall be at once effectually destroyed, the only record made in the minutes being whether it was favorable or unfavorable, as the case may be, but nothing more."

In our judgment the *character* of the report should never be recorded; the only record should be the committee, &c, "reported, and a ballot was ordered."

It will be remembered that we have expressed doubts as to the wisdom of having a Law Committee to *decide* questions of masonic law. The office of a committee is ordinarily to investigate matters referred to them and report thereon, in order to enable the body by which it is appointed to act intelligently. Committees have been described as "the eyes and ears" of the body appointing them; this, however, describes only a part of their functions; they must not only "look to see and listen to hear" but often they must find what there is to see and hear in relation to the matters referred to them. The Law Committee of this Grand Lodge fully appreciate the situation, and we commend the following from them to the thoughtful consideration and study of Masters of lodges and all others who expect to take

part in the official administration of the affairs of the craft; we dislike to omit part of it, but our lack of space compels:

"While it is gratifying to the pride of the brethren who compose the committee to know that their opinions are accepted almost if not quite without questioning their correctness, there is danger lest the committee should in time, develop into a tribunal which would stand between the lodges and the Grand Lodge, an evil which we would regard as far greater than any temporary confusion which could possibly arise from breaches of law growing out of mere ignorance, either on the part of the lodges or individual masons. It seems to be a needful precaution that from time to time the brethren should be reminded of the true functions of the committee, lest 'use should breed the habit' and it should in course of time come to be regarded as a permanent body, possessing some real powers."

After stating the growth of the action of the committee, so that now any mason, who chooses, is accustomed to submit questions, the committee add:

"Undoubtedly the custom, for it is mere custom having no foundation in the laws of the Grand Lodge, has resulted it giving great stability to our jurisprudence, and in this respect it has proved eminently useful. So long as its opinions are regarded as merely advisory, perhaps no great harm can result from the practice of permitting every mason who chooses, to invoke the views of the committee, unless it be to the individuals who are burdened with the deluge of correspondence which it involves. But as we have said, there is reason to fear that the system may develop into something more than a purely advisory body, whose opinions are worth no more than those of any similar number of intelligent masons, who would devote the same labor to the investigation of the questions arising.

"The two great dangers which threaten the masonic institution to-day are the introduction of candidates who are not fit material for the building of the temple and the adoption of the laws, usages and customs of the numerous modern societies by which it is surrounded. Of the first we need not speak, for it must be apparent to every thinking mason, but the latter is not so apparent, and therefore the more insidious and dangerous. It is useless to take refuge behind a shield emblazoned with the legend that masonic principles are unchangeable, if we do not guard the approaches to that shield so that it may not be pierced by the poisoned arrows of modern ideas. Already there is being advocated in certain masonic journals of wide circulation and influence, that there should be a *per capita* representation in Grand Lodge, proportioned to the number of members in each lodge, and it is proposed to deprive Past Masters and Past Grand Officers of a vote in the Grand Lodge, and there is no telling where the work of innovating and improving Masonry is to end. A 'Supreme Tribunal' has been created by one of the largest and most flourishing of the modern societies, and the suggestion may quickly follow that we too should have our Supreme Court of last resort. The nucleus of the idea is all that is necessary for some enterprising brother to grasp, and the assault upon the 'old and obsolete' ways of Masonry will be begun. Is there not then a danger more real than imaginary, that some day not far distant, the Law and Jurisprudence Committee may develop into the Masonic High Court of Errors and Appeals?"

* * * * *

"As the shadows of the little day in which we are sojourning are lengthening out towards the more perfect day to which we are approaching, and the eventide of life's brief journey is gathering its grey mists around us, we may be pardoned the expression of the thought which prompts this introduc-

tion to our report and these words of warning. Undoubtedly the tendency in Masonry is to elevate individual rights at the expense of the public welfare—the good of the entire body of the craft, and so the danger that those rights which are necessarily more regarded in societies which exist mainly for the purpose of promoting individual interests rather than the attainment of a lofty purpose such as lies at the very bottom of Freemasonry, may be the means of engrafting upon the parent stock the fungus growth which these imitators of Masonry have found useful and expedient in the administration of organizations which exist solely for the end of securing the largest possible return from the capital invested.

“To adopt the words of the greatest living masonic jurisprudent, ‘while in other relations one may lawfully do what is not prohibited, to the mason whatever does not find a warrant in the landmarks, laws or usages is absolutely forbidden.’ We desire to impress the fundamental truth upon the minds of every member of this Grand Lodge, that the real and only true arbiter of masonic rights is the lodge, to whose awards we have promised obedience and that the tendency to look beyond it for something on which to rest an appeal from its judgment, is to be reprobated, being unwarranted by anything to be found in primitive Freemasonry, and therefore forbidden. In this respect the Grand Lodge itself should set the example by refraining from unnecessary interference with the prerogatives of the lodges, by adopting needless restrictive laws and by encouraging the brethren to trust to each other, rather than to look for the adjustment of individual rights to a body which of necessity must administer the law with the iron hand of impartial and implacable justice, untempered by the mercy begotten of the warm, sympathetic friendship which ought to cement the brotherhood of each lodge into a community of kindred spirits.”

Brethren, read this and then go back and read again what we have just quoted from the report of Bro. FELLOWS; then read *this* again and then think, think, think; and then resolve, that come what may, in spite of all specious pleas for “progress in Masonry,” you will do what in you lies to hand down to those who shall come after you, our glorious institution as it came to us from the fathers!

The committee report upon a very large number of questions and submitted a printed report, in order to enable the Grand Lodge to act intelligently. It was considered section by section and adopted, although a substitute for one answer was proposed, debated and decided by a yea and nay vote.

The following is now the settled law of that jurisdiction:

“QUESTION NO. 9.—Would the promise of one who is under indictment for a violation of the liquor laws of the state, to refrain from a repetition of the offence, render him eligible for initiation.

“ANSWER.—A lodge which initiated such a person would render itself liable to have its charter arrested. It is quite time that it should be understood by all concerned, that this Grand Lodge condemns the traffic in intoxicating liquors, commonly known as saloon-keeping, as one which is not compatible with Masonry, and it will not tolerate it amongst masons, within its jurisdiction. It has set the seal of condemnation upon it, and after pursuing lenient measures, for a number of years, towards the class who engage in that occupation, it has firmly resolved that no one shall either be made a mason or remain one, if made, who pursues it, and if there is any one who imagines that there is to be any relaxation of the law, they have greatly mistaken the temper of the entire body of the craft of Mississippi.

"While we do not say that there is no forgiveness for one who has once been engaged in the saloon business, we are emphatic in saying that until the indictment is disposed of and the 'tiger's' teeth and claws drawn, it is premature to consider his petition for initiation into a society which has none but words of condemnation for the business of making paupers and criminals, to say nothing of the violation of the law of the land. When this man has repented in sack cloth and ashes, and had time in which to develop a good moral character, it will be soon enough to consider whether he has the other claims necessary for masonic affiliation."

Reasoning from the analogy of civil corporations, the committee, while doubting, but not denying the power of a Grand Lodge to restore a surrendered charter, say:

"And therefore our conclusion is, while we do not say that the Grand Lodge cannot restore a surrendered charter, we are emphatic in the opinion that it ought not to do so, and there should be no distinction made between forfeited and surrendered charters."

As the law is different in both cases in Maine, we will briefly state the grounds of it. Of course it will not be denied that when the law in relation to the surrender or revocation of charters, provides in advance for their restoration, there is no question of the *power* of the Grand Lodge; that law is in fact a part of, or condition of the surrender or revocation. There is [in Maine and our Mother Grand Lodge jurisdiction] one important, and, touching this question, a vital distinction between a civil and a masonic charter. In the former, as a general rule, a majority may compel the winding up of a corporation; but in the latter, as long as there are seven members who object to the surrender of the charter, it cannot be surrendered; all the others may go out but the lodge remains; so our law provides for a restoration of the charter to not less than seven of the old members who shall petition therefor: the restoration affects only the parties to whom it is restored upon their petition; others can come in only by affiliation. Both in Maine and Massachusetts this law has always existed, and after the "Morgan times" many lodges were revived by the restoration of their charters under this provision. In many cases, in fact, the surrender was made with the expectation of restoration, when in accordance with the advice of SIMON GREENLEAF the brethren determined to "bend before the blast until it shall blow over."

We cannot concur in the decision that one under arrest, by the civil authorities, or under indictment, cannot be tried by the lodge until after the decision of the civil court of final resort. In an actual case our Grand Lodge decided the other way. The committee say that "We have nothing to do with the action of the civil authorities," except (in substance) to see that our brethren have a fair trial. The first part of this is true, while the latter must be limited to rendering pecuniary aid, if that is necessary, to secure a proper defence. The question, whether the masonic trial should

proceed, or await the action of the courts, rests in the decision of the lodge; that is, if the lodge deem sufficient reasons are given for it, it may postpone the trial. The rule, the committee adopt, would work badly in Maine, where frequently a year intervenes between the indictment and final judgment.

As to condoning offences, the decision is:

"All these decisions, taken together and read as one, we construe to mean that the lodge is to judge of all the circumstances, and inflict such a sentence as the welfare of the craft and the individual demands; if the offence has been flagitious or such as to bring discredit upon the craft, then the confession cuts no figure except to dispense with proof of guilt, but the enormity of the offence must be inquired into, to see that the plea is full and covers the entire case. If the matter is of slight importance the lodge may condone the offence, without a trial, but where the accusation is of a serious nature a trial must be had."

The following, also, is good law and good Masonry:

"We do not doubt that it is the duty of every mason to associate with the members of his lodge, in a gentlemanly and courteous manner, and that a declaration, publicly made, by a mason, that he would not 'fellowship' with certain other members of his lodge, constitutes such a disregard of his masonic duty and relations as to render him amenable to discipline."

The Master can exclude any officer or other member of the lodge from any communication for unruly conduct, and repeat it at each communication as long as such conduct is repeated; but cannot exclude a member for a specified time for such misconduct. This is correct; while the Master cannot *punish* a member for insubordinate conduct, he may secure the orderly working of the lodge, by excluding, for the time being, any disorderly obstruction to the work of the lodge.

This Grand Lodge has adopted one system which is worthy of consideration by our Committee on *Mileage and Per Diem*; lodges are authorized to deduct from their dues, the established mileage and *per diem*. Grand Secretary POWER strongly favors it: it is true that twenty-nine lodges deducted it, and were not represented, and he was obliged to collect the money; all but five of them promptly responded. He says that the system saves serious interruption of the business of the Grand Lodge, and the stampede of many members in the busiest part of the session.

Upon the report of the Law Committee, the following resolution was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That it is the sense of this Grand Lodge that the prerogative of making a mason at sight does not exist by virtue of any landmark or ancient regulation, and is not conferred by the constitution or laws of this Grand Lodge."

We cannot agree with the views of the committee: we have not time nor space for more than a brief statement of our reasons.

It is a rule established by the wisdom of the experience of centuries, that

the exercise of a privilege or power, *under claim of right*, from time immemorial, is conclusive evidence of the validity of the claim.

This is especially true of masonic law: the long established usage of the craft (and that includes all usages relating to the craft) is law, or so conclusive evidence of the law, that it cannot be gainsaid.

Now, so far back as we can trace, Grand Masters have been accustomed to "make masons at sight" under the claim of prerogative right to do so. This right has never been challenged till within the present generation of masons, and then (as the rule) only by those who do not believe in the sovereignty of Grand Lodges, but hold to a masonic system of government on the plan of that of the United States. To this may be added the general concurrence of masonic writers and masonic officers down to within a very recent period. This of itself is quite conclusive evidence of the existence of the prerogative.

There are numerous other matters of interest in these proceedings, but we must pass over them and come to the Report on Correspondence (100 pp.) presented by Bro. ANDREW H. BARKLEY.

And here, again, we want to devote four pages to copying the whole of his introduction, but we must be content with a single paragraph.

"Freemasonry differs from any other institution. It has its own laws, customs, usages, symbols, signs, secrets, and modes of recognition, and these are the same the world over, and they cannot be improved on, nor will its teachings admit of their being tampered with. How much better, then, to study these, and learn their meaning and uses; how much better, then, to try to find the objects and ends of Freemasonry, and live for some noble purpose, than to abandon what we have begun, and try to improve on that which is a perfect system of morals within itself."

In his review of Indiana, he says:

"Our brethren of Indiana have a right to their own opinion in regard to questions which pertain to the general welfare of the institution of Freemasonry, as well as matters within their own bounds and touching their own candidates and members, and when they differ from us we shall not complain; but to claim that they have a right to work up the material of another jurisdiction after the rejected one has resided within their bounds six months, whilst the ground of objection still exists where the candidate first petitioned for the degrees, is just a little more than we are willing to grant to any Grand Jurisdiction, and Mississippi never will consent to fraternize with one rejected by one of its lodges, no matter whether he be *made a mason at sight* by the Grand Master or a subordinate lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction."

The only addition that can be made to this, is to make it apply to persons rejected by a lodge in any jurisdiction and made a mason while the disability, imposed by the rejection, continues to exist.

We are glad to find that he remembers our "taking him to task quite severely" for sustaining his Grand Lodge in *continuing* the law that though the Grand Lodge decides that a lodge deprives a member of membership

illegally, the action of the lodge stands against the decision of the Grand Lodge and the brother loses his membership! We are glad that he re-members it, for that shows that the "leaven is working," although the Grand Lodge *has* kept on "in the even tenor of the way." When the next case comes before it, it *may* get a little jostled nevertheless. When the next S—but hold; we have an impression that we have promised, or were *asked* to promise (very much the same thing in this matter) not to discuss again one little episode in the history of this Grand Lodge! Bro. BARKLEY thinks that a mason "made at sight" is out in the cold so far as lodge membership; no more so than masons made, until recently, in many of our lodges. We were made, crafted and raised, and *after that* elected a member of the lodge which did the work, as was then its usage.

FOREIGN GRAND LODGES.

We have received intelligence, directly or indirectly, from Grand Lodges other than the North American Grand Lodges, which will be of interest to the craft.

CUBA.

We have heard nothing directly from this unhappy jurisdiction—a fact which surprises no one. Masonic work of an organized character has been undoubtedly fully suspended. It is said that the Spanish authorities have formally prohibited the meeting of all the masonic bodies: whether this is so or not, it is probable that not even the Grand Lodge has met for more than a year.

ENGLAND.

Our Grand Secretary is to be highly congratulated upon his successful efforts in obtaining a full set of the published Proceedings of this Grand Lodge for so many years.

As the Grand Lodge of England is a result of the union in 1813 of the two Grand Lodges from which sprung nearly all the United States Grand Lodges, and may, therefore, be presumed to have retained more nearly than other Grand Lodges, the old laws and usages of the craft, a few extracts from its Constitution will be of interest, especially in view of recent discussions. The volume of Constitutions contains the charges to a Master at his installation, the "Charges of a Freemason," and the "General Laws and Regulations for the Government of the Craft."

The former are the same as used in Maine, except that there is an addition to each of two of them.

(1.) "That no public processions of masons, clothed with the Badges of the Order, can take place without the special license of the Grand Master or his Deputy.

(2.) "That no brother can be advanced to a higher degree except in strict conformity with the laws of the Grand Lodge."

The "Charges of a Freemason" do not conform precisely to the version of 1723 or that of 1738, as given in the Maine Text Book: the general doctrine, however, is the same.

We quote the first portion of the part relating to "physical qualification":

"Candidates may, nevertheless, know that no Master should take an apprentice, unless he has sufficient employment for him; and, unless he be a perfect youth, having no maim or defect in his body that may render him incapable of learning the art, of serving his Master's lord, and of being made a brother, and then a Fellow Craft in due time, after he has served such a term of years as the custom of the country directs: and that," &c., (as in the Text Book.)

To this charge, this note is added:

"N. B. In antient times no brother, however skilled in the craft, was called a Master Mason, until he had been elected into the chair of a lodge."

It is thus seen that the absolute physical perfectionists find no warrant for their doctrine in the Ancient Charges, which are in exact agreement with the law of our Grand Lodge that candidates must have no such defect as prevents their learning the art, of doing masonic work, &c.

The Grand Lodge is made up of the Grand Officers, all Past Grand Officers, the Grand Stewards, and the Master, Past Masters and Wardens of the Grand Steward's Lodge, and of every other private lodge. The Grand Master, or the Grand Lodge, by vote duly confirmed, may appoint "Brethren of eminence and ability who have rendered service to the craft" members of the Grand Lodge, with such rank and distinction as may be deemed proper.

The powers of the Grand Lodge are, "in part," as follows:

"4. The Grand Lodge possesses the supreme superintending authority, and alone has the inherent power of enacting laws and regulations for the government of the craft, and of altering, repealing and abrogating them, always taking care that the antient landmarks of the Order be preserved.

"5. The Grand Lodge has also the power of investigating, regulating and deciding all matters relative to the craft, or to particular lodges, or to individual brothers, which it may exercise either of itself or by such delegated authority as, in its wisdom and discretion, it may appoint; but the Grand Lodge alone has the power of erasing lodges and expelling brethren from the craft, a power which it does not delegate to any subordinate authority in England."

The idea of some of our brethren, that Grand Lodges possess on "delegated

authority" finds no support in this constitution. "Inherent" power is not "delegated" power.

Those, who hold that Grand Lodges have no original jurisdiction to try individual members of the craft, find little comfort in the section last quoted.

The Maine doctrine in relation to expulsion agrees with the English law. The words "in England" are used, because the Grand Lodge has delegated to District Lodges "in Colonies and foreign parts" the power of expulsion, subject to appeal to the Grand Lodge.

When the Grand Master is a Prince of the Blood Royal, he may appoint a Peer of the Realm, Pro Grand Master, who acts for him save in his presence; and the Deputy can act only in the absence of both. In case of death or resignation of the Grand Master, a meeting of the Grand Lodge is called to record the fact; the Pro Grand Master, if there is one, acts until the next election; if there is none, the Junior Past Grand Master, who can and will accept, acts for the balance of the term.

The following "Old Regulation" is still retained:

"17. If the Grand Master should abuse his power, and render himself unworthy of the obedience of the lodges, he shall be subjected to some new regulation, to be dictated by the occasion; because, hitherto the Antient Fraternity have had no reason to provide for an event which they have presumed would never happen."

The Grand Master appoints all the Grand Officers except the Grand Treasurer and Grand Stewards, who are elected annually.

The Grand Secretary, though appointed by the Grand Master, holds office during the pleasure of the Grand Lodge.

A Grand Registrar is appointed and acts as the Masonic legal adviser of the Grand Lodge.

Grand Officers may be removed by the Grand Master, but only with "the approbation of the Grand Lodge."

Of course it is impossible for the Grand Lodge, in such an immense territory, to govern the lodges and craft directly. In England, Provincial Grand Lodges with a Provincial Grand Master are created with such powers as are delegated to them by the Grand Lodge. Outside of England, District Grand Lodges with District Grand and Deputy Grand Masters have the immediate government, with larger powers than are entrusted to Provincial Grand Lodges. But as we understand it, an appeal lies to the Grand Lodge from all these intermediate instrumentalities.

But the principal body for the administration of masonic affairs is the "Board of General Purposes," consisting of the Grand Master, the Pro Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Wardens, a President and twenty-four other members: the President and fourteen of the other members are appointed by the Grand Master annually, and the other four-

teen elected by the Grand Lodge, but at least one-third must go out of office annually. It has substantially the executive and judicial powers of our Grand Lodges, subject to confirmation by the Grand Lodge, and recommends measures of legislation to that body. All appeals from Provincial and District Grand Masters and Grand Lodges come before it in the first instance.

In December, 1895, however, the regulation was amended, so as to read as follows:

"The Board shall consist of the Grand Master, Pro Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Wardens of the year, the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Registrar, the Deputy Grand Registrar, a President, Past Presidents, the President of the Board of Benevolence, the Grand Director of Ceremonies and twenty-four other members."

In addition to this, there is a "General Committee," consisting of the President of the Board of Benevolence as Chairman, and the present and past Grand Officers and the Masters of all the regular lodges, who meet on the fourteenth day preceding each quarterly communication.

"51. At this meeting all reports and representations from the Grand Master, or the Board of General Purposes, or any Board or Committee appointed by the Grand Lodge, shall be read; and any member of the Grand Lodge intending to make a motion therein, or to submit any matter to its consideration, shall, at such General Committee, or by notice previously given or sent to the Grand Secretary, state, in writing, the nature of such intended motion or matter, that notice thereof may be printed on the paper of business."

No motion, of which notice has not thus been given can be made in Grand Lodge, except the adoption or otherwise of any report, or recommendation in such report, of any Board or Committee previously appointed.

We give these particulars, because as our Grand Lodge increases in size and its business increases, it is likely to become necessary to adopt some further measures to facilitate the transaction of its business.

Among the provisions relating to lodges, we find these: the warrant, except in case of two lodges, "which act under immemorial constitutions," must be present at every meeting: if the warrant is lost, the lodge must suspend its meetings until a warrant of confirmation shall be obtained; if the warrant be sold, it is forfeited; a Master must have served as Master or Warden "*under the English Constitution*": is not eligible for more than two years *in succession* save by dispensation: the Master appoints all the other officers, except Treasurer and Tyler, who are elected: the Tyler may be removed at any time by a majority vote: other officers may be removed by the Master with the assent of the brethren after a hearing upon the complaint: Masters and Wardens are enjoined to visit other lodges as often as they conveniently can, "in order that the same usages and customs may be observed throughout the craft, and a good understanding cultivated among Free-Masons": the Master has the power to exclude any visitor, whose presence, he has reason to believe, will disturb the harmony of the lodge.

Brethren proposing to visit lodges, English lodges, must remember the following:

"150. No visitor shall be admitted into a lodge unless he be personally known to, or well vouched for, after due examination, by one of the Brethren present, or until he has produced the certificate of the Grand Lodge to which he claims to belong, and has given satisfactory proof that he is the brother named in the certificate, or other proper vouchers of his having been initiated in a regular lodge. Every visitor during his presence in the lodge, is subject to its by-laws."

An attempt has recently been made to discredit "written vouchers," but English lodges have always required written vouchers that the party *was made in a regular lodge*, as well as to pass a satisfactory examination.

From the following, it will be seen that the "Old Regulation" in relation to Past Masters' presiding under certain circumstances is still the law:

"141. If the Master shall die, be removed, or be rendered incapable of discharging the duties of his office, the Senior Warden, and in the absence of the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden, and in the absence of both Wardens, the Immediate Past Master shall act as Master in summoning the lodge, until the next installation of Master. In the Master's absence, the Immediate Past Master, or, if he be absent, the Senior Past Master of the lodge present, or if no Past Master of the lodge be present, then the Senior Past Master who is a subscribing member of the lodge shall take the chair. And if no Past Master who is a member of the lodge be present, then the Senior Warden, or in his absence the Junior Warden, shall rule the lodge. When a Warden rules a lodge, he shall not occupy the Master's chair, nor can initiations take place or degrees be conferred unless the chair be occupied by a brother who is a Master or Past Master in the craft."

A brief description of the ceremony for laying Foundation Stones is given. The ceremony is performed by the Grand Lodge, *open as such*.

There are many other matters of interest in this volume that we would notice if our space would permit.

The Grand Lodge holds quarterly communications in March, June, September and December, and an "Annual Grand Festival" in April, and issues a pamphlet (without covers) for each one of them: these are paged consecutively for the year: these are more like a newspaper account of such a meeting than like the transcript of the record usually published in this country: an account of the remarks of each speaker is given.

At the December Quarterly, the Grand Master is nominated, and at the March Quarterly, if there is but one nominee he is declared elected. The nominating and proposing speeches are reported. The Prince of Wales has held the office twenty-one consecutive years.

In March, 1895, quite a number of appeals, some of them coming from the East Indies, were decided. One question was whether a resignation of membership takes effect when filed with the Secretary, or when communicated to the lodge: it was considerably discussed, and it was decided that a resignation may be withdrawn at any time before it is communicated to the lodge.

A very large part of these pamphlets are taken up with the statements of receipts and disbursements in detail.

At the Annual Festival the Grand Officers are proclaimed and installed.

At the June session, the Board of General Purposes is elected and other committees appointed.

It was decided that when a visitor is vouched for by a member, on personal knowledge, he may be admitted without written vouchers, but when admitted upon examination he must produce written vouchers that he was made in a regular lodge.

For a number of years the Board of General Purposes has been divided: that is, a Colonial Board was created to take charge of matters coming from the Colonies; but in 1895, after a full discussion, the latter was abolished and the functions vested in the Board of General Purposes.

It seems that the habit of electioneering has prevailed in England and is there looked upon with the same disfavor as in this country: in March, 1896, the following resolution was discussed and adopted:

"That the Grand Lodge of England in quarterly communication assembled, hereby expresses its strong disapproval of the system of canvassing and touting carried on at the annual elections, and earnestly appeals to its members to discountenance and prevent the continuance of a practice which is contrary to the principles and tenets of English Freemasonry."

A motion was made to strike out the word "English": but it was opposed and defeated. We think the objection to the use of the word was well taken and are surprised that it was not stricken out. The retention of it implies that the tenets of English Freemasonry differ from those of the Universal Institution.

The word "touting" in the resolution is exceedingly expressive, and we wonder that a word, so frequently used for so long a time in England, should be so utterly unknown in this country as this word is.

IRELAND, 1895.

We have the usual eight-page pamphlet, giving statistical information and the accounts.

THE PRINCE OF WALES is Grand Patron; the DUKE OF ABERCORN, Grand Master, and LORD CASTLETOWN, Grand Secretary.

There are fifteen Provincial Grand Lodges, one of which is in New Zealand and one in Queensland, each with a Prov. Grand Master and a Prov. Grand Secretary.

The receipts for the year were about \$20,000 and the disbursements nearly \$17,000, of which nearly \$5,000 was for purposes of charity or education.

Five warrants were issued (two of them for lodges in Queensland), two surrendered and one suspended.

One brother was expelled, two suspended, one hundred and eighty-three struck from the roll and fourteen re-instated. No statement of the work done or of the total membership is given.

The amount of dues received and the amount still due from each lodge is given. The highest number given to a lodge is 1009, but only 376 lodges are given in the list, and over 300 of these are below No. 500; why there are so many and extensive gaps in the higher numbers we do not understand: there are only twenty-seven numbered above 700. There are apparently six regimental lodges, one of them quite old, as it is No. 26; two of the six, however, are probably stationary; one lodge is in Mauritius, two in South Africa, three in Ceylon, seven in New Zealand, and eighteen in Queensland.

Among the Grand Lodges with which it exchanges representatives, are England, Scotland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, three in Prussia, Greece, Switzerland, Sweden, Egypt, Brazil, Colon and Cuba, Peru, the Canadian Grand Lodges and very many in the United States, not, however, including our own.

MEXICO.

Within the year, the recognition of the Gran Dieta has been more fully discussed than ever before, and more *reliable* information has been obtained.

A preliminary question has been somewhat discussed, first suggested about twenty-five years ago, by Bro. THEODORE T. GURNEY, of Illinois; after his death it was taken up in earnest by Bro. JOSEPH ROBBINS, his successor: his views, however, met with little favor, save that they were endorsed by Bro. RICHARD VAUX, and recently, to a very limited extent, by Bro. JOHN Q. A. FELLOWS. The claim is that lodges, established by Grand Orients or Supreme Councils in those countries in which Grand Orients or Supreme Councils are the only governing bodies, masonic or claiming to be masonic, are not legal lodges and the masons made therein are clandestine masons. The overwhelming *consensus* of masonic opinion and the masonic usage have been, and are, adverse to this doctrine.

At this point, we should say that while the masons, made in such lodges, were everywhere recognized as masons, Grand Lodges declined to recognize *us Grand Lodges*, any governing masonic body, which was itself under the obedience of a higher body, as was the case in the Grand Orient system; they recognized and exchanged Representatives with the Grand Orients themselves, but not with the body subordinate to the Grand Orient, but (subject to such subordination) having the government of the symbolic lodges. In consequence of this, quite a number of Grand Lodges were or-

ganized by lodges which had been under the Grand Orient system, or of the obedience of Supreme Councils, to which Grand Lodges was conceded the exclusive jurisdiction over symbolic Masonry in their several jurisdictions.

This new doctrine seems to be that no masons or lodges can be recognized, unless they hold under Grand Lodges, which can trace their descent directly to the original Grand Lodge of England, or at least to one of the three British Grand Lodges. It is deduced by its supporters from what they claim to be the application of fundamental principles of masonic government. They forget that, if their application of these principles conflicts with masonic usage from early times, this fact is conclusive evidence that they are wrong in their conclusions.

The fact, that the three Grand Lodges, (those of England, Ireland and Scotland) which, they claim, are the only sources of legitimate Masonry, have always from the beginning, and do now, recognize these bodies as legitimate, and exchange Representatives with them, and admit masons of their obedience as visitors, settles the whole question, beyond cavil even.

The usage in this country has been the same, and masons from various European countries have been admitted as visitors in our lodges, who would have been excluded under this doctrine. A notable instance is that of *LA-FAYETTE*, who, though hailing under the Grand Orient of France, when he visited this country in 1827, was everywhere hailed as a mason, and was received distinctively as a mason, and visited numerous lodges and Grand Lodges. He was so received in Pennsylvania.

BRO. VAUX first applied his new doctrine to the Grand Lodge of Cuba, in 1876, but as we have always contended and believed, without full information in the premises. A brief history of that Grand Lodge seems of sufficient importance to be given in this connection.

In the early part of the present century, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania chartered several lodges in Cuba, but they became extinct. On December 5, 1859, the representatives of two lodges chartered by the Grand Orient of Spain, and of one chartered by the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, met and regularly organized the Grand Lodge of Colon. The same month, a Supreme Council was formed in Cuba by the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction, U. S. A., with authority over the degrees from the fourth to the thirty-second. But the authority to form a Supreme Council was upon the condition that a Grand Lodge should first be formed with exclusive authority over the symbolic degrees. Unfortunately the Deputy gave them a Grand Orient constitution, which was adopted. It provided for a Grand Orient, which, however was never organized, and of course never met.

In 1867, the Grand Lodge adopted a new constitution, in which it declared itself to be the Supreme power of Symbolic Masonry: the Supreme Council denied its power to do so and "annulled" this constitu-

tion and claimed to control all the bodies, including the lodges, until the Grand Orient should meet at a time fixed, about three months afterwards. The Grand Lodge declared itself "in recess" until the same time, expecting that that body would accede to its request for sole authority over the symbolic degrees. But a revolution broke out and the Grand Orient never met. The Supreme Council continued to rule all the degrees and went so far as to authorize a Consistory, 32°, to form a Provincial (*Mother*) Grand Lodge with power to issue warrants for new lodges. The Grand Lodge protested and could do little more: but it held its election in 1870: finally, on March 4, 1872, the power granted to the Consistory were revoked and the Grand Lodge reorganized. In 1873, it held an election and had gradually resumed its original functions: in 1874, the Provincial Grand Lodge established by the consistory was dissolved and in 1875, one was created by the Grand Lodge, but dissolved in 1876, for contumacious conduct in advising its lodges to withdraw from the Grand Lodge of Colon.

In consequence of the action of the Congress of Lausanne, (at which we remark, in passing, the representatives of Grand Lodges, Grand Orients, and Supreme Councils from all over Europe, met as masons) the Supreme Council of Colon adopted a resolution, April 30, 1876, authorizing the Grand Lodge to promulgate its constitution and govern the symbolic lodges, which the Grand Lodge proceeded to do at sessions held on the sixth, tenth, twelfth and sixteenth of August following: but in the constitution was an article declaring that the Grand Lodge would become a section of a Grand Orient and submit to a general constitution thereof; the Grand Lodge adjourned to the twenty-sixth of August for final action on the constitution: it met according to adjournment, and having learned of events presently to be narrated, it amended the draft of the constitution by striking out all allusion to the Grand Orient, and by declaring itself sovereign; the draft, as thus amended, was unanimously adopted.

But in the meantime (on Aug. 1, 1896) the representatives of nine chartered lodges, and four v. d., met and organized the Grand Lodge of Cuba, claiming that the Grand Lodge of Colon had ceased to exist. As bearing upon the Mexican question, the composition of this new Grand Lodge becomes a matter of paramount importance. Six of the chartered lodges were chartered by the Grand Lodge of Colon, *three by the Provincial Grand Lodge CREATED BY THE SUPREME COUNCIL*, and the four v. d. by the Provincial Grand Lodge created by the Grand Lodge of Colon. Probably local feelings had something to do with the matter, for the Grand Lodge of Colon was located at Santiago, and that of Cuba at Havana.

The new Grand Lodge was really the Provincial Grand Lodge at Havana. A messenger was sent to consult Bro. SIMONS, who, *upon the statement made to him*, approved the plan of forming a new Grand Lodge free from all en-

tangling alliances, and sent him to Bro. VAUX, who is said to have concurred *upon the same statement*. We have always contended and believed that neither of these brethren would have taken this course had they known all the facts.

Both Grand Lodges applied for recognition: the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, upon a report by Bro. VAUX, recognized the Grand Lodge of Cuba, thus endorsing the lawful character of the lodges which formed it. This endorsement has all the more weight, because, though all the facts came later to the knowledge of Bro. VAUX and his Grand Lodge, that action has never been rescinded, but on the contrary practically reaffirmed.

The Grand Lodge of Maine declined to recognize the new Grand Lodge, but upon grounds not pertinent to the present discussion, but urged a union of the two Grand Lodges; and other Grand Lodges took the same ground.

This union was urged all the more strongly because there were lodges in the Island holding under the Grand Orient of Spain. We have reason to believe that Bro. SIMONS, by personal communications to members of the Grand Lodge of Cuba, urged union as the only solution of the question. At any rate the Grand Lodge of Cuba took the initiative and appointed a committee to present a plan of union on the basis of organizing a Grand Lodge, independent, sovereign, and holding exclusive jurisdiction over the symbolic degrees in Cuba. The representatives of the Grand Orient lodges declined to unite with them; but the committees of the two Grand Lodges agreed to the articles of union, after modifying the rule as to Grand Orients *so far as to allow mutual visitation*. Thereupon the representatives of twenty-eight lodges of the obedience of the Grand Lodge of Colon, and of eighteen under the Grand Lodge of Cuba, met January 25, 1880, and organized the Grand Lodge of "Colon and Cuba." In 1881, the Grand Secretary reported that *thirty-four* Grand Lodges had recognized the United Grand Lodge, and we find that *Pennsylvania was among them*. The same year, the Grand Master announced the dissolution of a lodge held under the Supreme Council, *whose members had affiliated with one of the constituents of the Grand Lodge*. Later, the Grand Lodge changed its name from "Colon and Cuba" to "Cuba"; this change led to a mistake of Bro. VAUX, in consequence of his having failed to receive notice of it, and he doubted the legality of the Grand Lodge; having learned the facts, however, he made the "*amende honorable*."

It will be seen that it does not lie in the mouth of any Grand Lodge, which now maintains masonic relations with the Grand Lodge of Cuba, to deny recognition to the Gran Dieta of Mexico, because it was organized by lodges created under the Grand Orient system, especially as the Grand Lodge of Colon was actually organized by the procurement of the Special Deputy of the Southern Supreme Council. In fact, the charter of the third lodge

"A resolution will also be presented by the same committee, recommending like action with reference to the Grand Lodge of Spain. As the time has apparently arrived when such recognition can with prudence be awarded in each of these instances, I join the committee in their recommendations. The *status* of each of these Grand Bodies is clearly established, as lawfully organized and independent, holding exclusive jurisdiction of, and authority over the three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry. When such bodies of masons exist, they and their membership are entitled to the right hand of fellowship. May the time not be far distant when other organizations composed of our brethren of the Latin race, may be placed in like attitude. And here, I desire to correct a misapprehension existing among some of the brethren. It is my opinion that brethren proving their masonic standing by the usual method, and hailing from jurisdictions not under interdict, are entitled to fraternal intercourse with Louisiana masons."

In 1881, there were in Peru lodges chartered by the Supreme Council and by Grand Lodges. The Supreme Council determined to abandoned all control over the symbolic degrees and freed its lodges from their allegiance to it. Thereupon, early in 1882, the representatives of five lodges, all, or all save one, chartered by the Supreme Council, after due notice, met and organized a Grand Lodge of the York Rite. Immediately four Scottish lodges gave in their adhesion and the Scottish Provincial Grand Lodge was dissolved. This Grand Lodge was, and still is, recognized by nearly all the Grand Lodges in the world.

We might cite other cases, but we have given enough to show that the new doctrine is in conflict with the law and practice of the masonic world. We should deem an apology necessary for thus going over again the same ground as in former reports, but error and false doctrine have the merit of persistency, and unless noticed and refuted with equal diligence, they soon acquire the audacity to claim the support, or at least the acquiescence, of every lodge. Their supporters assume that "silence gives consent," without realizing that silence is often the strongest possible expression of contempt!

We had intended to discuss somewhat at length other questions involved in this same subject, but for reasons arising since the close of the communication of our Grand Lodge, we conclude not to do so.

BRO. MATTHEW M. MILLER, as we have already stated, submitted to the Grand Lodge of Kansas a very able report upon this question, concurred in by his associates, upon the strength of which his Grand Lodge recognized the Gran Dieta. Much of his report consists of correspondence with BRO. PARVIN of Iowa, who, however, has since published a special report of his own, to which we shall refer directly. BRO. MILLER, however, had the advantage of the testimony of a Brother, a Kansas Past Master, who had been in Mexico, and visited many of the lodges, and who stated that the objectionable features heretofore existing have been entirely removed. BRO. MILLER concludes that the Gran Dieta was legally organized: that it has now recalled

was procured from the Grand Lodge of South Carolina for the very object, as the Grand Master said, of uniting with the two lodges already existing under foreign jurisdictions, in forming a Grand Lodge.

In spite of the fact that two rival Grand Lodges existed in Cuba, *twenty* of our North American Grand Lodges recognized the new Grand Lodge; *seven* refused; *twenty-three* postponed action, and four did not consider the question. The united Grand Lodge was very soon recognized by all the North American Grand Lodges with, as we believe, a single exception.

In 1881, a Grand Lodge had been formed in Spain, and application made for recognition. This same objection was made, and in discussing it we gave some further items of masonic history in this country which are pertinent to this discussion; we copy the following:

“We hold, further, that the question is no longer an open one. For over a century the masonic world has recognized the masons of the Grand Orient system as regular masons, and their lodges as lawful lodges. Lodges of this origin have been created in this country and are in existence to-day, and their regularity has never been questioned. Polar Star Lodge, in New Orleans, was organized in 1794, under the Grand Orient system, and was reorganized in 1804, under a charter direct from the Grand Orient of France. Another was organized by the same power in 1807, in the same city. At the same time, for several years afterwards, there existed in New Orleans lodges chartered by the Grand Lodges of South Carolina and Pennsylvania. The fraternal relations between these and the French lodges were of the most harmonious character. In consequence, however, of the war between England and France, trouble arose which caused the extinction of one of these lodges, and the substantial consolidation of the other with another chartered by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

“Between 1800 and 1812, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania granted five or six charters to petitioners, who, in some cases, were *all* masons made in lodges created by Grand Orients, and in other cases were in part such masons and in part masons of the York Rite. The lodges which formed the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, all or nearly all, had members who were masons of the Grand Orient system. At that time many such masons came to this country to reside, and formed lodges, or affiliated with lodges already formed, and the legality and genuineness of their Masonry was never questioned. Hundreds of them became members of lodges in New York, Philadelphia, Charleston and New Orleans. In Philadelphia and New Orleans, some lodges had so many of them that the proceedings were all conducted in French. In fact, no one of the lodges which formed the Grand Lodge of Louisiana was an English-speaking lodge. In 1818, a resolution was adopted, forbidding intercourse with lodges not created by a Grand Lodge, probably in consequence of the formation of a lodge by the Grand Orient of France in New Orleans. In 1819, this resolution was modified by the adoption of a constitutional provision, prohibiting any number of masons from meeting as such or forming a lodge, without a charter from that Grand Lodge. About this time, the downfall of Napoleon caused a steady stream of emigration from France, and the lodges received large accessions of masons who ‘received their masonic education under the Grand Orient of France.’ Without going further into detail, we will add that the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, on November 16, 1821, adopted resolutions recognizing the regularity of the three rites, and authorizing its lodges to receive as visitors, or as candidates for affiliation, members of the French and Scotch lodges; there were three of these holding charters from the Grand Orient of France.

Ten years afterwards, the Grand Lodge, by express resolution, recognized as regular three French lodges and three Scotch lodges, none of them holding charters from it. A new Constitution was then adopted, in which certain powers were delegated to three 'Chambers,' one for each rite, which had the power of granting charters for that rite. Thereupon, the French and Scotch lodges gave in their adhesion to the Grand Lodge, some taking new charters, and some retaining their Grand Orient charters. In 1844, the 'Chamber' system was changed to a 'Council of Rites in the bosom of the Grand Lodge.'

"In January, 1845, Mississippi masons, resident in New Orleans, recognizing as genuine only the York Rite as taught in their state, succeeded in inducing their mother Grand Lodge to appoint a committee to investigate the condition of Masonry in Louisiana. The committee went to New Orleans, visited the lodges of the several Rites, and were received in the Grand Lodge, in which they stated that they should deny the absurd reports which had been circulated in their state against the masons and lodges of the different Rites in Louisiana. The project of forming lodges in Louisiana was defeated for the time, but in 1847 it was carried, and the Grand Lodge of Mississippi chartered lodges there: the alleged reason was that the masons of the French and Scotch Rites were not regular. Thereupon the Grand Lodge of New York recognized the Grand Lodge of Louisiana as the sole authority in that state, requested the Grand Lodge of Mississippi to revoke the charters and dispensations granted by it: declared the lodges thus created irregular, and prohibited all intercourse with them. The lodges issued a circular charging that clandestine masons were admitted to the lodges and to the Grand Lodge itself—but the signers of the circular had for years sat with them without objection.

"The Grand Lodge of Mississippi sustained its lodges, and in 1848 they formed a Grand Lodge, which existed two years, *but failed to procure recognition from a single Grand Lodge*, except Mississippi. At least six other Grand Lodges followed the example of New York. A union was effected in 1850; the new Grand Lodge, in their proposition, stated that they had no objection to the Scotch and French Rites 'under a distinct jurisdiction,' and made it a condition that these Rites should be separated from 'Ancient Free and Accepted Masonry': the old Grand Lodge refused, holding that the term 'Ancient Free and Accepted Masons' *comprised the masons of the first three degrees of the Scotch and French Rites, as well as those of the York Rite*: the new Grand Lodge yielded, and the union was the result. A Convention was held to frame a Constitution, and of the *fifty-six* lodges represented *six* worked in the French and Scotch Rites. Some of these are still in existence: in 1874, the writer visited one of them and witnessed their work, *performed in English for the first time in their history* in honor of their visitors.

"If this 'New Departure' of our Illinois Brethren is sustained, the Grand Lodges of Pennsylvania and South Carolina must be held to have issued charters to clandestine masons,—the Grand Lodge of New York, and those who acted with her in 1848, must be deemed to have recognized clandestine masons as against regular masons,—and the Grand Lodge of Louisiana must be declared to be clandestine from its origin. Your committee believe that our Grand Lodge should not enter a path which leads to such an end."

This statement has never been questioned by our Louisiana brethren, but on the contrary, a resolution, almost a *verbatim* copy of the one adopted by our Grand Lodge recognizing the Grand Lodge of Spain, was reported by the committee, with our report, before its members, and adopted by the Grand Lodge, with the approval of the Grand Master, who said in his address:

"A resolution will also be presented by the same committee, recommending like action with reference to the Grand Lodge of Spain. As the time has apparently arrived when such recognition can with prudence be awarded in each of these instances, I join the committee in their recommendations. The *status* of each of these Grand Bodies is clearly established, as lawfully organized and independent, holding exclusive jurisdiction of, and authority over the three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry. When such bodies of masons exist, they and their membership are entitled to the right hand of fellowship. May the time not be far distant when other organizations composed of our brethren of the Latin race, may be placed in like attitude. And here, I desire to correct a misapprehension existing among some of the brethren. It is my opinion that brethren proving their masonic standing by the usual method, and hailing from jurisdictions not under interdict, are entitled to fraternal intercourse with Louisiana masons."

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all charters for lodges of women and decreed that no recognition of women as masons shall ever be made; and that it has ordered that the Bible, Square and Compasses shall be used on the masonic altar in every lodge.

BRO. PARVIN has recently published a pamphlet of eighteen pages (which has been incorporated by Bro. COXE in his report for 1896), giving an account of his personal observations in Mexico and his views in relation to this subject.

He gives a very interesting account of the establishment of masonry in Mexico, but it is too long for this report. It is sufficient to say that the lodges which organized the Gran Dieta were in part chartered by the Supreme Council, which was established by the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction, U. S. A., and in part had been of the obedience of the Grand Orient organized at first by lodges chartered by York Rite Grand Lodges, and called the "Supreme Grand Orient of the Mexican National Rite." The facts place the Gran Dieta in the class of Grand Lodges organized by lodges chartered by a Supreme Council, a Grand Orient and Grand Lodges, but having supreme authority over the Symbolic degrees. We note that there are, among its subordinates, lodges composed almost entirely of American citizens.

BRO. PARVIN confirms the statement that women are no longer admitted to lodges or recognized as masons.

But we are surprised and regret to find that Bro. PARVIN does not confirm Bro. MILLER's statement that the use of the Bible on the altar is *required*: he *does* say that it is *permitted*, and is quite generally used, at any rate in many of the lodges. We obtain this information too recently to test its correctness by further inquiry, and can only hold the matter in abeyance till we obtain satisfactory information. We do not require the presence of our Bible; but we *do* hold that there can be no lawful lodge, unless there is upon the altar a Book, recognized as the Book of God's law, upon which candidates are obligated, and we do not believe that the Gran Dieta should be recognized unless it does require, either in its constitution or in its obligatory ritual, that a Great Light in masonry shall be a necessary part of the furniture of the lodge. We still hope to find that Bro. MILLER's information is correct, and that this will be made certain before the next annual meeting of our Grand Lodge.

NEW SOUTH WALES, 1895.

This Grand Lodge holds quarterly communications in September, December, March and June, and last year held several special communications. The business is chiefly transacted by the Board of General Purposes, which reports at each quarterly communication its action for confirmation or

otherwise by the Grand Lodge. The Board made a special report recommending the appointment of a Committee on Correspondence: among the reasons given are the following:

"(1) The reports of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence will bring home to masons in New South Wales and make them appreciate the universality and oneness of Freemasonry, and thus tend to strengthen the mystic tie of sympathy which should exist between all masons throughout the world.

"(2) These reports will call attention to differences between our own and other Constitutions, and by discussion, lead to the correction of errors, and these reports will, without interfering with the sovereignty of independent Grand Lodges, tend to promote uniformity in masonic usage and policy throughout the world.

"(3) The reports of the various Grand Lodges in the United States, and in the Dominion of Canada, are replete with a vast amount of useful, practical, instructive and valuable matter, the perusal of which, even in the condensed form in which it must necessarily be presented to the members of our own Grand Lodge, cannot fail to benefit the reader."

* * * * *

"The reviewers and writers on Foreign Correspondence are nearly all men of great culture and ability, and if any mason will take the trouble to carefully study and digest their valuable reports he cannot but rise from their perusal with a wealth of masonic learning and knowledge, which he could not in any other or better way hope to obtain. It has been truly said, that for clear, forcible and logical writing, for depth of thought and for literary skill, the American writers of the craft, take foremost place amongst the literary men of the time."

The report was accepted, and the constitution was amended accordingly. Their duties are thus defined:

"This committee shall review the Proceedings of sister Grand Lodges, and the reports of their respective Committees on Foreign Correspondence. At every annual communication, and at such other times as they may deem it advisable, this committee shall bring up a report on all matters connected with such sister Grand Lodges as may in their opinion be of interest to Grand Lodge."

The Grand Lodge held a special session March 21, 1895, to record officially the death of the Grand Master, Sir ROBERT DUFF. An address of condolence to his family was adopted. His public duties had been such that he had been obliged to leave to the Pro Grand Master, the performance of most of the duties of Grand Master.

A large amount of business was transacted during the year: many appeals were decided: and quite a number of charters were granted.

The Deputy Grand Master delivered an address, which we understand is, in one sense, a "new departure," but, as we think, a very good one, as it gives information which we have been heretofore unable to obtain. Of the state of the craft, he says:

"Although the past year has been one of financial depression, and this had no doubt had its effect upon the craft, we appear to have held our own in N. S. W. The total membership in this Colony at the commencement

of the year was 8,112. Owing to the absence of the necessary returns, we are unable to give yet the exact total membership at the present time, but during the year there have been 700 members initiated and 140 affiliated to the various lodges. Our losses can only be ascertained when the returns are to hand and tabulated, but as the dues paid to our Grand Lodge Fund and Benevolent Fund each show a slight increase for the year, we can reasonably anticipate that when the returns are complete, it will be demonstrated that we have at least maintained our position."

The Grand Lodge dues received amounted to about \$4,000, and the dues to the "Benevolent Fund" about \$8,000; receipts from other sources about \$7,000, making a total of about \$19,000; and the gross assets approximate \$50,000. During the year, five warrants had been issued and three returned; two lodges had been consolidated.

He had granted many dispensations, but had adopted the rule that no dispensation would be granted to set aside the law as laid down in the Book of Constitutions. The adoption of this rule shows that the doctrine exists in that jurisdiction (as is the fact in other British jurisdictions) that the power to great dispensations is inherent in the office of Grand Master.

As the practice mentioned in the following is beginning to be adopted to some extent in this country, we commend it to the careful consideration of the craft, as we hold his position to be correct:

"Several dispensations have been applied for and granted, for the brethren to attend church service clothed in regalia. These services have invariably been a marked success, and several eloquent masonic sermons have been preached. I have not, however, lost sight of the fact that our Institution has been able in the past to survive the convulsions that have destroyed nations and dethroned kings, mainly because we have avoided political and religious controversy in our lodges. With regard to the religious services already held by our brethren, no such controversy has arisen, but it is easy to see that in a society, such as ours, composed of men representing every shade of religious opinion, such a controversy might at any time arise. I have therefore instructed the Grand Secretary that no dispensation will be granted by me, for the wearing of regalia at any religious ceremony, unless an assurance is received that the brethren of the lodge applying for such dispensation are unanimous in their desire that it should be granted."

He cautions the craft against some irregular bodies in Sydney calling themselves masonic lodges.

He well says that the figures which he has given proves that his Grand Lodge and the craft generally are in a sound, healthy condition. We hope that giving such information as is contained in this address, will be continued in the future.

The New Grand Master (JOSEPH PALMER ABBOTT) in his inaugural address, said:

"He found that the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales was formed in June, 1888, by the union of the Grand Lodge of New South Wales and the District Grand Lodges of England and Scotland. The United Grand Lodge thus formed had 185 lodges on its roll, but as many of the country districts had lodges working under two or three of the former Constitutions,

the union gave an opportunity for the amalgamation of lodges which was largely taken advantage of, and although this actually increased the strength of the lodges it reduced the number of lodges considerably. Since then there had been opened 42 new lodges, and the total number of lodges now on the roll of this Grand Lodge was 197. The benevolent fund has been increased since the first audit of accounts in 1889 from £2,535 to £6,167, and the income of Grand Lodge has increased from £1,200 to £1,800 a year. The Freemason's Benevolent Institute, for old and infirm brethren, their wives or widows, has been re-organized since the union, and is doing a great work, which is only in its infancy, and deserves the support of the brethren—there is £3,000 to the credit of this fund. There is a masonic scholarship in connection with the Sydney University, which entitles the holder to £50 a year for three years. The Australian Freemasons' Orphan Society, which was formed by the lodges under the District Grand Lodge of England, and which had £15,000 to its credit at the formation of this Grand Lodge, has continued its onward and upward course, and has now upwards of £20,000 to the credit of its funds, and supports 18 orphans who receive £26 a year each. The number of members on the roll of lodges in New South Wales is over 8,000."

From the recapitulation of the returns we find that the total membership was 7,698, a falling off of 414; the "Initiated," 603; "Joined," 465; "Called off," 1,150; Died, 95; and "Struck off," 237.

The Report on Correspondence (64 pp.) is signed by the whole committee: a general report of two pages was also made. It is largely an abstract of important matters, but with occasional comments.

Of jurisdiction over candidates the committee say:

"We regret to say that there is nothing in our Constitution that requires a petitioner to have resided in the Colony for any specified period before petitioning a lodge for initiation, much less do our Constitutions require that a petitioner must have resided for any definite time within the jurisdiction of any subordinate lodge before petitioning for initiation. All that our Constitutions provide is that, except in cases of emergency, no person shall be made a mason without having been proposed and seconded at one regular monthly meeting, and balloted for at the next regular monthly meeting, which ballot shall not take place unless his name, age, profession or occupation, and place of abode, with the names of his proposer and seconder, have been sent in the summons to all the members of the lodge; and that a lodge shall not ballot for or initiate into Freemasonry any person who is not a resident in the neighborhood of the lodge into which he seeks to be admitted until due enquiry shall have been made of such lodge or lodges as may exist in the neighborhood of his residence respecting the character of the applicant for admission, and a satisfactory reply shall have been received and read in open lodge. But where a candidate resides within an area comprised within a radius of ten miles from the Masonic Hall, Sydney, no such enquiry is required.

"Under our Constitutions, therefore, so long as a candidate has a permanent place of abode, it is immaterial how short his term of residence may have been within the Colony before he applies to be admitted to initiation; and provided due enquiries are made of the lodge or lodges in the neighbourhood of his then residence, he may be balloted for and initiated by a lodge five hundred miles away from his permanent place of abode. This is a matter which is worthy of consideration by our Grand Lodge, and we hope that at some future though not distant time our Grand Lodge may think fit to amend its Constitutions by providing that a candidate, other than a sea-

faring man, before applying to any lodge for initiation, must have resided at least six months in the Colony of New South Wales. Any shorter term of residence would not suffice for the brethren of the lodge applied to, or for the brethren of the lodge in the neighbourhood of his residence, to satisfy themselves from personal observations as to his moral qualifications."

We understand from this that the doctrine of territorial jurisdiction prevails to this extent that a candidate must have a permanent residence in the Colony.

The committee dissent from the "physical perfection" idea, saying:

"We prefer the ruling of our own Grand Lodge—'That so long as a candidate's deformity is such as not to prevent him from giving all the masonic steps and signs, he is qualified to be made a mason'—as we believe that it is the internal and not the external qualifications of a man which fit him to become a mason."

Of methods of Grand Lodge administration, they say:

"For Brother Conover's information, we may mention that this Board of General Purposes not only has charge of all funds and other property of Grand Lodge, but, subject to an appeal to Grand Lodge, it decides all differences and complaints between lodges and members that cannot be accommodated privately or in a regular lodge, and all appeals against the decisions of any masonic authority other than the Board of Benevolence or of any other Board or Committee of Grand Lodge. All petitions for new lodges, and all business for Grand Lodge must be submitted to and approved of by it. The Board has likewise the care and regulation of all the concerns of Grand Lodge, and conducts the correspondence between the Grand Lodge and Sister Grand Lodges, and all other correspondence necessary for the good government of the craft; it also performs other duties too numerous to mention.

"Whether the English system, or the American system, is the best adapted for the conditions at present existing in New South Wales, is well open to discussion; possibly it may be found that a judicious blending of the English and American systems will, in the end, be best for our Colony."

We believe that the craft in New South Wales will pronounce the experiment of having a Report on Correspondence, a decided success, a conclusion in which the craft elsewhere will heartily join.

Included in this pamphlet is another, which gives the fourth annual report of the "Freemasons' Benevolent Institution," with the proceedings of the annual meeting. It pays annuities to "aged, distressed or infirm Freemasons and their wives or widows." In smaller jurisdictions, this plan is vastly wiser than the "Home" plan now so popular. The Institution now has twelve annuitants of ages varying from sixty to eighty-five, to whom is paid a total of \$1,075. We commend this plan to the attention of the craft.

NEW ZEALAND.

This Grand Lodge meets semi-annually in October and April, instead of quarterly as heretofore, and we have the official Proceedings for October,

1895, and official circulars concerning the meeting in April, of this year—the annual communication, and also an abstract of its proceedings.

The Grand Lodge is evidently gaining in strength and prosperity: one old lodge had given in its adhesion, one new one had been chartered and measures had been taken looking to the organization of others.

It seems that the Mother Grand Lodges hold that the charters of the lodges, which organized the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, should be returned. This is contrary to the early precedents. *Not one of the lodges, chartered by the British Grand Lodges, which participated in organizing Grand Lodges in the United States, ever returned its charter, and some of them are working to-day under those very charters.* However, the Board of General Purposes report:

“Actuated by an earnest desire to, if possible, bring about a restoration of complete fraternal amity between the different constitutions working in this colony, the Board has heartily concurred in the proposal made by the M. W. Grand Master that he should be authorized to remove the last semblance of excuse for grievance on the part of the Mother Constitutions against Grand Lodge, by returning the original charters unconditionally. The Board feels that in making this concession in regard to what is considered are its legal and masonic rights, no loss of dignity is involved, and no danger incurred. Grand Lodge is now sufficiently strong to be under no apprehension of its interests or those of any of its lodges suffering by the return of the charters, even if any attempt should be made to use any of them in an injurious manner. The Board hopes, however, that no such attempt will be made, but that the return of the charters will be accepted by the Mother Grand Lodges and their officers in the same spirit as it is made. In each case a request has been preferred that the original charter may, after cancellation, be returned to the lodge as a memento of the source from which it sprang. As several lodges have retained their own charters in preference to leaving them in the custody of Grand Lodge, the Board would earnestly request each such lodge to now return its original charter to the Grand Lodge which issued it, either directly to the representative of such Grand Lodge or through the M. W. the Grand Master.”

The most of the local Deputy Grand Officers representing the Mother Grand Lodges received this concession in the same spirit in which it was made, as is shown by the following extract from one letter of acknowledgment:

“I only express the sentiments of Bro. Louisson, myself, and the brethren hailing under our constitution, when I say I trust the day is not far distant when we shall all be able to meet again in the fraternal spirit of true Masonry, and can assure you nothing will be wanting on our part to bring about that most desirable result.”

We regret to notice two exceptions: in one case a Prov. Grand Secretary undertook to criticise the request for a return of the charter, when his whole power and duty lay in the transmission of the charter and request to the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

In another case, the letter of acknowledgment shows that in other jurisdictions, as well as in ours, men unfit to be made masons succeed in gaining admission.

We regret also to find that the Grand Lodge of England has chartered another lodge in that jurisdiction: this led to the adoption of the following resolution:

"That, to avoid any future misapprehension, this Grand Lodge asserts its sovereign rights as the Supreme Masonic Governing Body in and for the Colony of New Zealand, and protests against any attempt to invade the Territory of New Zealand as being contrary to well established masonic law."

The recognition by our Grand Lodge and the exchange of Representatives—Bro. HERBERT HARRIS and Bro. JOHN JOYCE—is noted.

The following amendment to the Constitution was adopted:

"That any conviction in the Law Courts of the Colony be considered as *prima facie* evidence, and shall remove the necessity for summoning the accused person to appear."

The first clause is in accordance, but the last is not, and we deem it erroneous. We hold that the Brother should be summoned and heard to rebut, if he can, the *prima facie* case against him. In fact the last clause contradicts the first, in that it makes the conviction *conclusive* evidence, instead of merely *prima facie* as stated in the first clause. Note the following:

"The Grand Secretary, on behalf of Wor. Bro. John E. Provis, Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Kansas, moved—'That this Grand Lodge desires to acknowledge the warm and fraternal character of the Review of this Grand Lodge in so many of the Proceedings of Sister Grand Lodges in the American Continent, and would especially acknowledge the able and effective criticism by the Grand Lodge of Kansas, as printed in the Proceedings of that Grand Lodge, 1895. The best thanks of this Grand Lodge are hereby tendered to such Grand Lodges as have thus shown so great an interest in their youngest sister.' This was seconded by Rt. Wor. Bro. G. H. Powley, and carried unanimously with acclamation. It was also ordered that a copy of this resolution be sent to all Grand Lodges."

Among the Proceedings acknowledged, are three copies of those of our Grand Lodge.

The Grand Secretary has forwarded copies of papers to be submitted to the Grand Lodge. The first is a statement of the business to come before the Grand Lodge: then the Annual Balance Sheet: the nominations: the Reports of the Boards of Benevolence and of General Purposes, both in one sheet: he also sends a list of the Grand Officers elected. Business, not noted in the "Agenda Paper" as it is called, cannot be presented. This method certainly conduces to the intelligent transaction of the business.

The Fund of Benevolence had steadily increased "and had been administered irrespective of Constitution or Nationality, and with the universal beneficence which should at all times characterize Freemasonry."

Two new masonic halls had been dedicated and two new lodges had been

chartered; other Grand Lodges had recognized the Grand Lodge, and Representatives been exchanged.

The death of Past Grand Master E. T. GILLON was announced, and as a token of appreciation of his services the Grand Lodge appropriated \$200 for a head stone and railing to his grave. It was stated as a singular coincidence that Past Grand Master GILLON was initiated into Masonry by M. W. Bro. WILLIAM BARRON, Grand Master elect.

The installation of the Grand Officers was unusually impressive and magnificent. A full account of it is given in the "Abstract of Proceedings." An examination of it leads us to inquire why it may not as well have been witnessed by profanes as to have been published in such manner as to be read by them.

This Grand Lodge is moving forward prosperously, and doing a grand work for Masonry and humanity. Its greatest impediment is the maintenance and chartering of lodges in its jurisdiction, by other masonic powers without right, and in violation of masonic law. The Grand lodge of Maine did not acknowledge it, until satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that a majority of the old lodges in the colony had given in their adhesion to it, so that it was the rightful supreme masonic power in that jurisdiction. This recognition (and we presume that of other Grand Lodges) meant all that it implies, and was made with a full understanding of the possible consequences. It is scarcely necessary to add, therefore, that our Grand Lodge will support the far-away Grand Lodge of New Zealand in its measures to protect its jurisdiction from unlawful invasion as earnestly and heartily as it would its next neighbors, the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, or the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick.

SCOTLAND.

We have the Proceedings of the Quarterly Communications in May and August, 1895, with the accompanying minutes of the General Committee and other documents.

Circulars have been sent out to ascertain what lodges have "their funds mixed with those of friendly societies," or as also termed "benefit societies." Returns not having been received from all the lodges, the Grand Secretary was directed to send out additional circulars.

The following communication from a lodge in Natal was read:

"The Lodge St. Andrew, No. 701, begs respectfully to call the attention of Grand Lodge to the fact of the number of young masons who come out to the Colonies with little or no knowledge of Masonry, and more than one brother has utterly failed to pass a simple examination, even though holding a diploma from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. The fault seems to rest with a great number of the lodges in Scotland allowing candidates to take the three degrees in one evening. This is a great injustice to Masonry, and it is felt nowhere so much as in the Colonies. We trust the Grand Lodge

will see its way to inquire into the matter, for if the present state of affairs is allowed to continue, the honour and credit of Masonry will be greatly imperilled."

And thereupon:

"It was resolved to refer the letter from Natal to the Committee on the Revision of the Constitution, with the recommendation to consider the propriety of having an alteration made on the rule giving permission to confer more than one degree in one night. Further—Grand Secretary to endeavour to discover the particular lodges to which the Natal communication refers, and to correspond with them on the subject of complaint."

The West Perthshire Prov. Grand Master made a report covering twelve lodges with an average membership of fifty-one; six of the twelve work the Mark degree.

The question of honorary membership was before the Grand Lodge, but no conclusion had been reached. A distinction was made between honorary *membership* and honorary *affiliation*: the latter is similar to the honorary membership conferred in this country upon an actual member of the lodge. The committee reported that honorary *affiliation* is not recognized by the Grand Lodge. We shall look with much interest for the final decision.

A brief but very interesting account is given of the celebration by St. John's Lodge, at Dunblane of its *bi-centenary*. It was stated by the Master when he handed the gavel to the Grand Master, that the lodge had complete records for two hundred years. We extract the following:

"Mr. Murray Stewart read a short history of the lodge, which it had been arranged to put in a jar and place in a cavity in the lodge-room floor along with the list of the masters of the lodge since 1695, Provincial Grand Officers, By-Laws of Provincial Grand Lodge and of Lodge Dunblane, and copies of the Dundee Advertiser and order of service that day. The Grand Master placed the jar in the cavity, the brethren meanwhile singing 'Oh, God, our help in ages past.' Mr. Murray Stewart, on behalf of the office-bearers and members of the lodge, presented Sir Charles Dalrymple with the silver trowel with which he had performed the ceremony, and thanked him and the members of Grand Lodge for their presence and assistance at the celebration of their 200th birthday. He trusted that it would be a memorial to him of the service that day, and a token to future generations of the interest which Sir Charles took in Masonry. The trowel bore the following inscription:—'Presented to the Most Worshipful the Grand Master Mason of Scotland, Brother Sir Charles Dalrymple, Bart., M. P., of New Hailes, by the Right Worshipful Master, Office-Bearers, and members of lodge No. 9, Dunblane, on the occasion of the bi-centenary celebration of the written records of their lodge,—6th June, 1895.'"

The following resolution was adopted:

"That the lodges in the South African Republic be erected into a District Grand Lodge, under the title of the District Grand Lodge of the Transvaal, and that Bro. F. Douglas M'Millan be appointed District Grand Master."

We are sorry to find that the Grand Lodge still maintains a District Grand Lodge in New Zealand.

There had been a controversy about "The Burns Picture": the nature of it does not appear: there was a voluminous report about it: and thereupon:

"After consideration of the report, which had been printed and circulated among the members of Grand Committee, the following resolution, moved by Bro. James Drummond and seconded by Bro. James Caldwell, was unanimously adopted: 'Grand Committee having considered the report of the sub-committee *re* the Picture in the Board Room of Grand Lodge, inscribed "The Inauguration of Robert Burns as Poet Laureate of the Lodge Canongate Kilwinning, Edinburgh, 1st March, 1787, presented by James Burns, K. H., F. R. S., etc., to the Grand Lodge of Scotland, 1862," and "Facts" brought before them anent the same, refuse to recommend any alteration on said inscription.'"

It seems that the report was inserted in the minutes of the committee, but when they came up for confirmation the report was "deleted."

The following resolution was adopted by the committee:

"That Grand Secretary be instructed to call upon daughter lodges for a return showing the names of those of their members who have been admitted to the degree of Installed Master, with the dates and places at which they were so admitted."

Our brethren who are making so much fuss about the Past Master's degree will please note.

In Scotland, the Grand Master is styled "the M. W. Grand Master Mason."

The committee prepared a Revision of the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge.

The financial transactions of the Grand Lodge in its various departments, are published in detail. The "Heritable" property of the Grand Lodge is valued at \$115,000, and its "movable" property at \$9,000. In this connection we note a statement in an address, that the amount of masonic charity granted in Great Britain amounts to from \$300,000 to \$400,000 a year.

We regret that we have not received the Proceedings of the two other Quarterly Communications.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

We have the Proceedings for the year ending April 17, 1895—four quarterlies and one special communication.

During the year 1894, there was a slight falling off in the membership. The thirty-nine lodges return 2,351 members as against 2,385 in the thirty-eight lodges the year before: there were 135 initiations, 77 affiliations, and 24 re-instatements, but these were more than offset by 156 resignations, 46 suspensions, 50 erasures and 18 deaths. The regular sessions of the Grand Lodge were brief, as the business is acted upon in the first instance by the

Board of General Purposes, and generally its report is adopted without much discussion.

A newspaper, "Masonry," having charged the Board with extravagance in expenditures, it publishes a long statement completely refuting the allegations.

The special communication was held to present a Farewell Address to the Grand Master, the EARL OF KINTORE upon his leaving the Colony. He had been Grand Master since 1889, and it was very largely due to him that the recognition of Australian Grand Lodges by the Mother Grand Lodges was secured. In the addresses at this meeting many pleasant things were said of him, not as a matter of formality, but in genuine earnestness, and deservedly.

In his reply, among other things, the Grand Master said:

"It will also be in your recollection that at the most splendid public masonic ceremonial we have had in South Australia—I mean the occasion when I laid the foundation-stone of the nave of St. Peter's Cathedral—I was supported not only by the members of this Grand Lodge, but also by the representatives of the Grand Lodges of New South Wales and Victoria, and that we were also honoured by the presence of the Grand Master of Victoria, Sir William Clarke. These great ceremonials were but the external signs of the Brotherhood which unites the members of the craft all over Australia with one another, and with their brethren throughout the world. And in this connection I may mention, from my own personal observation, that the accomplishment of masonic independence has in no way lessened the affection of the Blue Lodges of the colony for the Grand Lodges from which their warrants originally issued."

* * * * *

"I shall not detain you to-night with any lengthened review of my Grand Mastership. There are, however, one or two circumstances which cannot be passed by without mention. My Grand Mastership has been marked by a conservative and statesmanlike amendment and consolidation of the Constitutions, and by a careful, a reverent, and a scholarly revision of the ritual. Without introducing innovations into Masonry, the revised ritual, based chiefly upon the English ritual, incorporates some of the more valuable and impressive features of the rituals of Scotland and of Ireland. I feel that we are under substantial obligation to those brethren who were primarily charged with this revision, and I am glad to pay my tribute to their fraternal zeal. Another most satisfactory feature of my tenure of office has been the complete freeing from debt of the handsome and commodious premises of which this hall forms part."

The Pro. Grand Master, SAMUEL J. WAY, LL. Governor of the Colony, was unanimously elected as his successor, just eleven years after he had been installed as the first Grand Master. He served several years, and really has been the "pillar of strength" of the Grand Lodge ever since its organization,

SWEDEN.

In April, the Grand Secretary and the Chairman of this Committee received letters from J. WILLIAM WENNERBERG, of Grand Rapids, Michigan,

stating that while he is now a Michigan mason, he had previously been for twenty-five years a member of the obedience of the Grand Lodge of Sweden, and suggesting the taking of the necessary measures to secure masonic correspondence with that Grand Lodge.

In accordance with this suggestion, a copy of the Proceedings of our Grand Lodge was sent to the address of the Grand Secretary.

There is no doubt of the regularity of this Grand Lodge, as it has already established masonic correspondence with the Grand Lodge of New York and others of the United States Grand Lodges. Bro. WENNERBERG says that Swedish masons have been refused admission as visitors in this country, but we do not think that that has happened in Maine. We have here quite a number of Swedes, but we have never heard that any of them have claimed to be masons.

However, we must await the result of sending our Proceedings to the Grand Secretary, and if there is a desire for masonic correspondence in spite of the difficulties growing out of the difference in the languages, we know that our Grand Lodge will most cordially accede to it.

VICTORIA.

This Grand Lodge holds a "Grand Anniversary Festival Meeting," and four Quarterly Communications. The first held this year, on the sixth of May, is for the installation of the Grand Officers.

It was decided that when a lodge has not paid its fees to the Grand Lodge, its Past Masters cannot be admitted to the Grand Lodge, and the fact, that they have paid their own dues to the lodge, makes no difference.

Lord BRASSEY having been appointed Governor of the Colony, the Grand Secretary was directed to inquire of the Grand Secretary of England in relation to his masonic status; the reply was evidently satisfactory, for at the next election he was unanimously elected Grand Master.

The position of representative of our Grand Lodge having become vacant, Bro. B. D. SMITH, President of the Board of General Purposes, was nominated: and afterwards the receipt of his patent was acknowledged.

The Board issued the following notice:

"WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BROTHER:

"It having been brought under the notice of the Board of General Purposes that some few lodges have introduced innovations in the ceremony of opening and closing the Board of Installed Masters, the Board desires to draw the special attention of Worshipful Masters of lodges to the fact that such practice is opposed to the ancient usage and established custom of Freemasonry, and was ruled to be irregular by the Grand Lodge of England some years ago. The Board therefore strongly deprecates such practice by any lodges in its jurisdiction.

"The same remarks apply to the wearing of unauthorized jewels in

lodges; and the Board would point out that no decorations other than those allowed by Rule 251 are permissible."

The consolidation or amalgamation of two lodges was reported and approved.

We find the following item in the report of the Board, which was approved by the Grand Lodge:

"A letter was received from the W. M. of a country lodge, enquiring whether a person with an artificial foot could be received into the Order, to which the Board replied in the affirmative."

Quite an animated discussion arose in relation to an amendment proposing to increase the number of the members of the Board of General Purposes, giving fifteen to the Metropolitan lodges, and nine to the country lodges; and it seems to have been a question between the former and the latter; the matter was referred to the lodges, and subsequently reports from them were made, showing a decisive majority against the amendment: the Grand Master ruled that the decision of the lodges was not binding on the Grand Lodge, but the proposer asked leave to withdraw the proposition, and leave was granted. Another amendment was submitted to the lodges at the same time, and a majority voted in favor of it; but "after a long and very interesting discussion," the motion was put and declared lost.

The Grand Registrar (who is the Law Officer of the Grand Lodge) moved that a vote at a previous session expelling a brother be rescinded, on the ground that legal notice had not been given to the accused, because when the notice was given, he was in jail and could not appear to answer: but the Grand Lodge, and as we think correctly, negatived motion. If the accused had applied for a postponement, because he could not be present, it might have been the duty of the Grand Lodge to grant the application: but it cannot be properly said that the proceedings would have been illegal, if it declined to do so: still less properly can that be said when there was no such application, and the Grand Lodge proceeded with the business.

The following was adopted as the method of proceeding in relation to objection after ballot:

"A country lodge wrote, stating that a candidate had been balloted for and elected for initiation, but circumstances had since arisen which the W. M. considered would justify him in refusing to proceed further in the matter, and enquiring whether the person in question could make a claim to be initiated; to which the Board replied, 'Applicant has no claim.' Further, whether the lodge should return his deposit forthwith, or after the next meeting. Reply: 'After next meeting.' Also, 'Could the lodge rescind the decision arrived at by ballot, before the confirmation of the minutes, or subsequently by special motion.' The Board replied, 'That the decision arrived at must be rescinded by notice of motion, stating the reason.'

In this Grand Lodge, a practice prevails of closing the discussion upon a matter pending, and defeating by a motion to "proceed to the next business." We regret that the statistics of this Grand Lodge are not given.

We believe it is the largest of the Australian Grand Lodges: at one session seventy-five lodges were represented, and on the constitutional amendments one hundred and eleven lodges: the total membership must be from 10,000 to 15,000.

We have also received a special edition of the "Australian Keystone (published by authority"), containing an account of the installation of Grand Master BRASSEY on the fourth of May: with it is a portrait of the Grand Master in full official clothing.

The ceremonies took place in the Town Hall of Melbourne, transformed for the time "into a vast Grand Lodge Room." The brilliancy and splendor of the ceremonial were something never known in the United States, if indeed in America. The account of it in this paper takes up eleven folio double column pages in small type. The following is a sample item:

"Prayer having been offered by the Grand Chaplain (Bro. Rev. E. Toomath), Bro. Lord Brassey took the obligation. As the words of the solemn pledge floated upon the stillness of the hushed assemblage and the low and impressive chanting by the choir of the words, 'Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts,' accompanied it, so profoundly still were the vast concourse of brethren that one could verily and of a truth believe that the Most High God *was* in the midst and that His Supreme presence at that moment overshadowed the altar. The Obligation ended the choir sang the chant, 'Help Thy servant, O Lord, to perform these solemn covenants.'"

Chief Justice WAY, Grand Master of South Australia, was the installing officer: he was accompanied and assisted by many of his own Grand Officers, the Grand Secretary and other members of the Grand Lodge of New South Wales, the Grand Master of Tasmania and many of his Grand Officers, and the English District Grand Master of Queensland. The closing sentence in the account given in this *official* paper is as follows:

"Cheers were given for Her Majesty the Queen and the M. W. G. M. The proceedings ended and the vast assemblage dispersed, there remained in the minds of all who had witnessed the splendid ceremonial and participated in the brilliant pageant now melted and dissolved like Prospero's air-built towers and battlements, but one thought, viz., that Freemasonry in Victoria had been raised upon a sure foundation—a superstructure whose magnificent proportions shall endure and shine resplendent with the light of Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty until Time shall be no more.

Our modest public installations in this country have been objected to on the ground that the only result of them is to advertise Masonry. We think we have seen this objection made by our Australian Brethren, but we don't believe that they, considering their practice of installing their Grand Officers with so much pomp and splendor, and *publishing full accounts of the Ceremonies*, will be likely to insist upon the objection. We note too that, save the opening of the Grand Lodge (which is done here in another hall as when it is opened to lay a corner stone) all the ceremonies are in print, and so far as secrecy is concerned, may as well be *seen as read* so these installations are practically public.

STATISTICS.

We append our usual Table.

GRAND LODGES.	Members.	Raised.	Admitted and Restored.	Withdrawn.	Expelled.	Suspended.	Susp'd for non-payment of dues.	Died.
Alabama,.....	10,225	445	730	470	12	28	600	197
Arizona,.....	503	29	22	9	1	1	39	10
Arkansas,.....	13,421	481	503	497	21	23	536	226
British Columbia,.....	1,260	135	84	60	4	.....	*30	19
California,.....	17,431	795	672	369	3	.....	391	292
Canada,.....	22,805	1,294	510	630	1	6	654	248
Colorado,.....	7,023	378	260	168	3	.....	*180	81
Connecticut,.....	16,632	664	152	76	1	0	158	178
Delaware,.....	2,039	84	13	17	1	.....	*4	36
Dist. of Columbia,.....	4,948	253	125	86	0	0	91	65
Florida,.....	4,349	265	200	240	7	.....	259	93
Georgia,.....	16,838	820	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Idaho,.....	1,084	69	39	25	5	.....	48*	14
Illinois,.....	50,727	2,970	1,330	1,148	17	.....	*938	706
Indiana,.....	27,507	1,423	920	645	30	15	492	435
Indian Territory,.....	2,568	326	212	216	4	5	45	36
Iowa,.....	26,103	1,606	1,067	760	24	12	562	264
Kansas,.....	18,916	1,090	663	855	10	.....	430	259
Kentucky,.....	17,399	1,231	786	604	25	.....	*1,164	299
Louisiana,.....	5,346	317	161	139	4	.....	*134	130
Maine,.....	21,953	837	187	209	3	0	305	366
Manitoba,.....	2,334	166	125	143	0	2	66	13
Maryland,.....	6,657	227	49	51	2	0	45	53
Massachusetts,.....	35,913	1,948	438	462	5	0	330	481
Michigan,.....	37,706	1,997	754	795	14	.....	538	494
Minnesota,.....	15,065	867	378	398	.....	†16	178	166
Mississippi,.....	8,891	402	463	314	8	7	289	193
Missouri,.....	30,728	1,286	1,132	871	53	30	823	413
Montana,.....	2,491	156	97	72	1	3	62	27
Nebraska,.....	11,770	593	471	378	10	.....	*275	117
Nevada,.....	847	23	30	36	0	.....	*51	22
New Brunswick,.....	1,764	82	35	55	0	.....	*49	36
New Hampshire,.....	8,838	.....	372	80	0	2	22	174
New Jersey,.....	15,686	844	250	185	2	0	216	250
New Mexico,.....	883	63	33	28	0	.....	*14	20
New York,.....	88,573	5,552	2,150	1,098	19	0	2,844	1,382
North Carolina,.....	10,958	471	268	281	16	62	272	171
North Dakota,.....	2,312	229	68	108	1	0	36	13
Nova Scotia,.....	3,267	202	79	80	0	0	71	80
Ohio,.....	39,906	2,373	1,555	742	17	15	1,538	569
Oklahoma,.....	923	97	105	34	0	.....	*20	9
Oregon,.....	4,803	224	159	128	2	5	100	73
Pennsylvania,.....	48,472	2,433	469	371	.....	.....	*706	748
P. E. Island,.....	509	30	3	13	0	0	10	7
Quebec,.....	3,530	216	58	99	0	3	72	42
Rhode Island,.....	4,661	213	249	17	2	1	40	85
South Carolina,.....	5,902	255	.....	169	.....	.....	352	90
South Dakota,.....	4,254	262	102	183	1	3	70	41
Tennessee,.....	17,766	732	514	603	22	31	364	391

GRAND LODGES.	M.	R.	A. & R.	W.	E.	S.	S. for n p. d.	D.
Texas,	26,841	1,341	1,772	1,205	48	39	523	408
Utah,	738	52	55	21	7	2	16	10
Vermont,	9,521	322	93	130	2	...	*60	133
Virginia,	12,572	...	91	473	10	14	307	208
Washington,	4,959	269	242	191	1	4	155	62
West Virginia,	5,567	454	152	138	8	19	115	70
Wisconsin,	16,001	876	404	349	4	14	244	173
Wyoming,	976	76	30	20	0	2	10	7
Total,	781,670	40,755	21,881	17,544	431	364	18,381	11,185

* Including suspensions for unmasonic conduct.

† Including expulsions.

COMPARISON OF STATISTICS.

	G. Lodges.	Totals.	G. Lodges.	Totals.	G. Lodges.	Totals.
	1896.	1896.	1895.	1895.	1894.	1894.
Members,	57	781,670	57	765,293	57	746,292
Raised,	55	40,755	54	39,537	56	44,144
Admissions, &c.,	55	21,881	54	21,029	*55	22,886
Dimissions,	56	17,544	56	17,346	56	18,422
Expulsions,	53	431	54	476	53	449
Suspensions,	37	364	34	335	35	360
“ npt. dues,	56	18,381	56	15,905	56	14,848
Deaths,	56	11,185	56	11,077	56	10,621

PROCEEDINGS REVIEWED.

The following Table gives the Proceedings reviewed, the date and length of the annual communication, and the page of these Proceedings upon which the review of each commences.

Grand Lodge.	Date and Length of Annual Communication.	Page.
Alabama,	December 3 and 4, 1895.	1
Arizona,	November 12 to 14, 1895.	230
Arkansas,	November 19 and 20, 1895.	6
British Columbia,	June 20 to 22, 1895.	11
California,	October 8 to 12, 1895.	12
Canada,	July 17 and 18, 1895.	20
Colorado,	September 17 and 18, 1895.	24
Connecticut,	January 15 and 16, 1896.	27
Delaware,	October 2 and 3, 1895.	32
Dist. of Columbia,	November 13, 1895.	34
Florida,	January 21 to 23, 1896.	40

Georgia,	October 29 to 31, 1895.	43
Idaho,	September 10 to 12, 1895.	49
Illinois,	October 1 to 3, 1895.	53
Indiana,	May 28 and 29, 1895.	62
Indian Territory,	August 13 and 14, 1895.	69
Iowa,	June 4 to 6, 1895.	72
Kansas,	February 19 and 20, 1896.	79
Kentucky,	October 15 to 17, 1895.	86
Louisiana,	February 10 to 12, 1896.	231
Manitoba,	June 12 and 13, 1895.	90
Maryland,	November 19 and 20, 1895.	93
Massachusetts,	December 27, 1895.	99
Michigan,	January 28 and 29, 1896.	106
Minnesota,	January 15 and 16, 1896.	110
Mississippi,	February 20 and 21, 1896.	238
Missouri,	October 15 to 17, 1895.	111
Montana,	October 9 and 10, 1895.	116
Nebraska,	June 12 and 13, 1895.	119
Nevada,	June 11 and 12, 1895.	125
New Brunswick,	August 27 and September 26 and 27, 1895.	125
New Hampshire,	May 15, 1895.	127
New Jersey,	January 29 and 30, 1896.	132
New Mexico,	October 7 and 8, 1895.	136
New York,	June 4 to 6, 1895.	138
North Carolina,	January 14 to 16, 1896.	146
North Dakota,	June 18 and 19, 1895.	147
Nova Scotia,	June 12 and 13, 1895.	152
Ohio,	October 23 and 24, 1895.	155
Oklahoma,	February 11 and 12, 1895.	160
Oregon,	June 12 to 14, 1895.	163
Pennsylvania,	December 27, 1895.	167
Prince Edward Island,	June 24, 1895.	174
Quebec,	January 29 and 30, 1896.	175
Rhode Island,	May 20, 1895.	178
South Carolina,	December 10 and 11, 1895.	180
South Dakota,	June 11 and 12, 1895.	186
Tennessee,	January 29 to 31, 1896.	190
Texas,	December 3 to 5, 1895.	193
Utah,	January 21 and 22, 1896.	198
Vermont,	June 11 and 12, 1895.	202
Virginia,	December 3 to 5, 1895.	209
Washington,	June 11 and 12, 1895.	213

West Virginia,	November 12 and 13, 1895.	218
Wisconsin,	June 12 and 13, 1895.	221
Wyoming,	September 10, 1895.	226
Cuba,		244
England,		244
Ireland,		249
Mexico,		250
New South Wales,		257
* New Zealand,		261
Scotland,		264
South Australia,		266
Sweden,		268
Victoria,		268

CONCLUSION.

We have been able to include in our review the Proceedings of all the North American Grand Lodges. We have given unusual space to other Grand Lodges for reasons which will be apparent in the review of each.

We submit our Report with the earnest hope that it will be read by every mason in Maine, who loves Masonry, and shall, as an officer of the craft, receive the Proceedings. We so hope, *not because we have written it*, but for the reasons *which have led to our writing it*.

Fraternally submitted,

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,	} <i>Committee.</i>
EDWARD P. BURNHAM,	
ALBRO E. CHASE,	

② Appendix ②

REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE.

~ 1897 ~

*To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of
Maine:*

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence fraternally submit their annual report for 1897.

We continue our usual alphabetical arrangement, giving a list of the Grand Lodges reviewed at the close of the report, and deferring the discussion of general questions in like manner, if we find occasion to discuss any.

We write this report in the shadow of the sorest affliction of our life. For the first time death has invaded our family circle, and taken away our youngest daughter, who for thirty years has veritably been a "light in our household." We had always taken it for granted that our last look upon earthly things would have rested upon her sweet face. We cannot yet realize that we shall never again look upon it with mortal eye; but *how we miss it*, we *now* know that only those, who have had a similar experience, can appreciate. If length of life is to be measured by what one does for others, hers was indeed a long life.

It may be deemed a weakness to thus obtrude our private grief upon the craft; but so be it: the words of sympathy, condolence, and encouragement that have come to us from all over the country, especially from the brotherhood, have greatly aided us in this terrible trial, and we take this method of acknowledging our appreciation of them.

ALABAMA, 1896.

The Grand Master (GEORGE P. HARRISON) in his address says:

"We have many reasons to be thankful to the Supreme Architect of the Universe; our order has grown and prospered during the past masonic year; our membership has increased, and new lodges have been formed. Upon the whole, the past year in this jurisdiction has been a prosperous one."

From one of his decisions it appears that a rejected applicant can apply to another lodge, only with the consent of a majority of the rejecting lodge. He decides, however, that the word majority does not mean a majority of the entire membership of the lodge, but a majority of those present when the question is taken. He also decides that a member of a lodge committing an offence may be tried either by his own lodge or by the lodge within whose jurisdiction the offence was committed. He decides further that any violation of the law of the land is a masonic offence.

We copy these, not because they are new, but because the question involved in them is occasionally raised. The remainder of his address is largely taken up with a detailed statement of his official acts. He had evidently been an active, zealous and able officer.

He brought before the Grand Lodge a request for an appropriation for the support of the Ladies' Mt. Vernon Association for preserving the home and tomb of Washington, in reference to which the committee say:

"With reference to that portion of the address of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, which recommends an appropriation for the support of the Ladies' Mt. Vernon Association for preserving the home and tomb of Washington, your committee would beg leave to say that, while all citizens of the United States must revere the name and memory of the immortal Washington, the Father of his Country, we are constrained to say that we do not think the funds of this Grand Lodge can be properly applied, under our constitution, to any such purpose. Ours is a charitable institution and order, and possibly its primary object is the extension of relief to the needy and destitute of our Order. Not for show or display, nor even for the erection of monuments or the perpetuation of the memories of deceased members of our Order or illustrious citizens, endeared to us by their virtues and attainments."

The committee recommended that a committee be appointed to bring the matter before the subordinate lodges of the jurisdiction, requesting personal contributions from the brotherhood.

While the committee based their report upon the constitution of the Grand Lodge, yet undoubtedly the correct rule is stated. At the same time we believe that instances do arise in which the Grand Lodge may properly contribute from its funds to mark the resting place of its illustrious dead. The Wisconsin circular in relation to relief was submitted and referred to a special committee, to report at the next annual communication. The resolutions of our Grand Lodge were presented, referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, which requested further time for an examination

of the matter and the preparation of a report. The Committee on Work reported, and the report was adopted. We assume, however, that it was in the nature of a recital of the work.

The Grand Master had decided that a member cannot vouch for a visiting brother, unless he has sat in the lodge with such brother, but the Grand Lodge reversed the decision. The committee further say, in relation to a decision of the Grand Master:

“We do not agree with the decision of the Grand Master, No. 20, for the reason that no one has a right to know anything whatsoever with reference to a ballot in a masonic lodge, how it was cast, or the motives which may or may not have actuated the member casting the ballot.”

and their report was adopted.

We have an impression that in the particular case to which this refers, the man who cast a black ballot himself revealed his action and stated his motive for it. Whether such was the case or not, we believe that the broad statement of the committee should be limited, so that such a case shall be exempted from the rule.

The Report on Correspondence (176 pp.) was presented by our veteran brother PALMER J. PILLANS. As usual, it is pretty closely devoted to an abstract of the proceedings, with quotations from addresses, etc. In his review of Maine he gives a full account of the Hart case. He expresses no opinion, but he reproduces what we said about a decision in Alabama, in such manner, that we have no doubt he concurs in the action of our Grand Lodge.

He refers to the report in relation to rejected candidates and expresses the wish that every brother should read it, although on account of its length he is obliged to content himself with extracts. He says further:

“The Grand Lodge of Maine is by no means averse to lodges having occasionally a little spread, even at the expense of lodge funds, if it can be done ‘without infringing upon the savings of former years, or its ability to relieve distressed worthy brethren,’ with which we agree.”

Of ciphers, he says:

“On cipher we have said and seen nothing to induce us to change our views, though if they are to be tolerated, then ‘the law’ should be changed. It matters not to us how easily others may quiet their conscience, we are only governed by our own, nor do we care how soon after the establishment of ‘the law’ others may have transgressed, for this is no excuse to us. We yet believe that the attentive ear alone should receive the sound from the instructive tongue that the mysteries of Freemasonry might find safe lodgment in faithful hearts.”

We have one regret in reading this report, and it is that while he gives and commends to the attention of his brethren important action and deliverances of other Grand Lodges, that he so rarely informs his readers what his own views are.

ARIZONA, 1896.

The Grand Master (A. L. Grow) says that nothing of great importance had called for any exercise of his authority during the year. He had issued three dispensations for new lodges, and there had been a fair addition to the roll of members. They had held their own financially, and there had been no grievances or annoyances reported. He had visited quite a number of the lodges, and found that his visits were of great benefit, and he specifies one lodge that would be greatly benefited by the visit of some one who has authority to give instructions, and the time to devote to it.

He said that his visits made it plain to him that there is a great want of uniformity in the ritual in the jurisdiction, and he recommends earnestly that arrangements should be made for paying the expenses of the Grand Lecturer to visit all the lodges and instruct them in the work.

The brief report of the Grand Secretary contains nothing of general interest. His financial report says that about \$300 had been added to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, increasing it to over \$3,000.

The proceedings were of a routine character; charters were granted to two lodges, and the dispensation of the other continued.

The Grand Lodge came to the conclusion that they were not financially able, considering the great distance between the lodges, to provide for a Grand Lecturer, and the committee suggested a division of labor. It would seem that our District Deputy system would be admirably adapted to effect the desired purpose, only the districts would have to contain a very small number of lodges.

The Grand Master granted a dispensation for a lodge to convene and transact business without a constitutional quorum. The committee held that this was not authorized, but as it was done in good faith, recommended that the work be confirmed, and the Grand Lodge so ordered.

The Committee on Correspondence expressed their belief that the Grand Representative system is beneficial, and approved the appointments each Grand Master had made.

The Grand Representatives were formally presented, and welcomed by the Grand Master in brief and appropriate addresses.

The Committee on Jurisprudence reported against exempting masons from payment of dues after having paid them for the term of twenty-five years, for the following reasons:

"In the first place the question of finance is a very material one in this jurisdiction, where there are so few contributing masons; secondly, all masons are supposed to contribute to some lodge, and should any mason be unable to pay dues from any reason or any age, he can be relieved from such payment by making his wishes known to his lodge: and we do not know of any mason who has been suspended for non-payment of dues when he has been honestly unable to pay them."

The third degree was exemplified by the Grand Lecturer, and the thanks of the Grand Lodge were tendered to him for the satisfactory manner in which he did the work.

No Report on Correspondence.

ARKANSAS, 1896.

Of the condition of the craft in this jurisdiction, the Grand Master (A. G. WASHBURN) says:

"Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction, in consequence of the many unfavorable conditions that have confronted us, has not enjoyed the prosperity and progress that many of you doubtless expected, or that has come to us in former years; yet, while we have not been blessed with a realization of our fondest hopes, I am pleased, indeed, to be able to report that the craft has held well their ground; our noble principles have lost none of their attractions; have stood us well in hand; and that peace and harmony prevail throughout our borders. For this auspicious condition of things, my brethren, we should lift up our hearts and voices in humble thanks to the Supreme Architect of the Universe for His preserving care over us in the past, and craving His kind benedictions, take new courage, and press forward to lay hold upon the possibilities of the future."

He announces the death of the Grand Treasurer, FREDERICK KRAMER, and pays a tribute to his memory, which, from what is said of him in these Proceedings, was richly deserved.

We very greatly regret to find that for about one-third of a year he had been afflicted with serious trouble with his eyes, suffering almost total blindness and the most excruciating physical pain. We judge, however, that he had recovered, for he says:

"But, brethren, I did the very best I could under the circumstances. So, feeling grateful indeed to God for that I have been blessed to see your faces again, and present, in my own proper person, an account of my work, imperfect though it may be, I sincerely crave your indulgence."

His account of his official acts and decisions shows that, in spite of his affliction, he had faithfully and energetically performed the duties of his office. He had issued dispensations for five new lodges and had restored one charter—an indication that, in spite of the hard times, Masonry was continuing the growth which it has had for the last few years. Having been asked by a District Deputy as to his duty when requested to install as a Master of a lodge a brother "who is an habitual drinker of intoxicants and who is frequently drunk," he replies:

"Refuse absolutely to install him, and direct the lodge to prefer charges against him for drunkenness. Such a man should not be installed into any office in a masonic lodge, and if he refuses to desist from drunk he should be expelled."

The committee, while approving the sentiment of the decision, modify the language by substituting "advise" instead of "direct," adding:

"A District Deputy Grand Master may refuse to install one whom he knows to be wholly unfit, and should give the lodge any information or knowledge he has of the character of such officer elect, and advise the lodge to disapprove of his election. When the District Deputy Grand Master has done this, he has discharged his duty and gone to the extent of his authority.

"If the lodge still insists, it may install the officer elect. But a lodge that would do so in the face of such facts should be reported by the District Deputy Grand Master and severely disciplined by the Grand Lodge."

We cannot agree with the last statement of the committee. We hold that when the installing officer decides that a brother is not fit to be installed into office, that decision is final unless reversed on appeal to the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge. While we have no great charity for a lodge that would elect such a man for Master and insist upon his being installed as such, and therefore should not mourn greatly if it should lose its charter, still we believe that the welfare of the craft demands that the power to prevent such an installation should reside somewhere. We had occasion some years ago to consider this very carefully, in a question arising in our Grand Chapter, in which the law is precisely the same as in the Grand Lodge, and in that case the installation was refused and the election set aside by the proper Grand Officer and a new one ordered.

In regard to another matter the Grand Master decided:

"If a mason *publicly* charge a brother with any act that under masonic law would amount to unmasonic conduct, it is a slander, and a violation of his obligation, for which he ought to be disciplined. If he would speak of such offences at all, he should make it known to his lodge in a proper way. I can think of but few offences more grossly contemptible in the estimation of all good masons than the 'speaking evil of a brother.'"

We believe very few will dissent from this decision, and the only regret is that such offences are so frequently allowed to pass by without the notice which they should receive.

The Grand Master decided that a lodge in that jurisdiction could not confer the degrees for and in behalf of a lodge in another grand jurisdiction, but the committee held the reverse, in accordance with the adopted edict of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master's abstract of the reports of the District Deputies shows a fairly good performance of their duties by these officers, especially by some of them, but others had failed to visit even half of the lodges, a matter to be very greatly regretted.

The report of the Grand Secretary (FAY HEMPSTEAD) shows the usual energetic performance of the duties of that office by our brother. His report as librarian shows quite an increase to the library, which we trust will be continued yearly.

Owing to repairs, the Temple had not paid its running expenses and the interest on the bonded debt, and the Board of Control report that there would be a probable deficiency of about \$500 for the coming year.

The Grand Orator (Jons T. Hicks) delivered an address, taking for his subject a cipher ritual. He says:

"The most insidious enemies of our Order are those self-styled 'up-to-date' masons who advocate the adoption of the cipher ritual. However sincere their motives, however good their faith, however strong their following, their baneful influence remains as a menace and a threat to masonic stability and perpetuity. They would deprive those who may hereafter seek its mystic fold of that most fruitful source of friendship and brotherly love, the private masonic lecture, and substitute in lieu thereof the pulseless page, over which the newly-made mason must pore, and which he will seldom learn. Mindful only of the cold culture which they have derived from the study of books, and forgetful of the genial warmth and fellowship that is always the result of personal contact and communion, they would destroy the most beautiful, the most impressive feature of masonic initiation. They would permit the Master to read from the printed cipher while he confers a degree, and thus say, in effect, to the candidate, 'this ceremony, once so beautiful, so impressive; once instinct with life and soul and spirit; once fraught with warmth and fervor and inspiration, is now a mockery, an empty form.' Instead of administering to him the lecture with all its beauties, at a time when his mind is best prepared for favorable impressions, they would put a book into his hand and send him to his closet to learn his lesson like a school-boy performs his reluctant task, there to work out his disgust and disappointment with Masonry and all things masonic."

If his opinion is based upon what he says in the latter part of this quotation, it is not entitled to consideration, for it is well known that where these cipher rituals are used, they are not used by the Master as indicated, nor by the initiate as assumed, but on the contrary to aid the Master to do the very things which the orator claims should be done. The assertion that the work is not so well and so impressively done where the use of cipher rituals is allowed, is utterly without foundation, and the reverse of this proposition is really made by the advocates of cipher rituals and made, practically, the strongest argument in favor of their use. There are the other usual arguments in this address, and in saying what we have said we are not advocating the use of cipher rituals but merely calling attention to the fact, that in this particular instance, at any rate, the opponents of their use are not meeting the real reason for their use.

Brother OLIVER C. GRAY, the Representative of our Grand Lodge, presented the resolutions in regard to rejected candidates, and they were referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence. Later during the session that committee reported as follows:

"The Grand Lodge of Maine passed the following resolution and requested other Grand Lodges to do the same:

"*Resolved*, That the effect of a rejection should be limited to five years, and during that time the candidate should be allowed to petition only to the lodge which rejected him, or to another lodge with the consent of that lodge.

"We believe that the resolution is a good one and recommend that the Grand Lodge adopt it."

and the report was adopted.

The Wisconsin proposition was referred to the same committee, which reported that in their opinion the proposition is not a wise one, and recommended that the Grand Lodge do not approve it, and their recommendation was adopted.

We must be allowed to express our regrets that Bro. SAM W. WILLIAMS was detained from the meeting by ill health. We are pleased to note, however, the presence of our old friends, Bros. DANNELLY and HOOSE, who with others were appointed a committee to bear to Bro. WILLIAMS a message of sympathy and regard from the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge decided that when a deceased brother is buried temporarily away from home without masonic honors and is thereafter removed to the family graveyard, the lodge may turn out and bury him.

The method of wearing the apron was discussed, and a rule adopted in relation to it, and a cut of how the apron should be worn, in the different degrees, is given in the Proceedings, page 91, to which we will refer those interested in it. We believe that it accords with our present practice, but differs from a practice, which we think erroneous, that prevailed for quite a while in this state.

The Report on Correspondence (120 pp.) was presented by Bro. SAM H. DAVIDSON. It is almost wholly written, although he had been interrupted by sickness and death in his household. His review is pretty closely confined to an abstract, with few quotations, except that he prefixes to the review of each Grand Lodge, a verse usually of four lines.

He criticizes a decision in Indiana as follows:

"Indiana has a law excluding dealers in intoxicating liquors from membership, yet the Grand Master decided that one who had received the first and second degrees, and afterwards traded for a drug store, and as a part of his business sold intoxicating liquors, under a government license by the quart, not as a beverage, may legally have the third degree conferred on him.

"For a long time we were unable to discern the distinction made by the Grand Master, between a regular dealer in intoxicants and a druggist who sells whiskey by the quart under a government license, but we think we see it clearly now. Whiskey is bought from a dealer in intoxicating liquors to be used as a beverage, while it is bought from a druggist by the quart to drink."

It may be that Indiana masonic law is based on the civil law, on the ground that a violation of the civil law is a masonic offence.

Of the Wisconsin plan of relief, he says:

"The Committee on Jurisprudence considered the Wisconsin plan of masonic relief, and through Bro. Thomas B. Long reported, declaring the Indiana doctrine to be that a mason in distress is entitled to aid and assist-

ance from the fraternity wherever he may be at the time of his need, and that as a matter of law, his lodge is not bound to make any restitution, though it may always do so at its own option. This sounds to us very much like the true, original masonic doctrine, as taught in the several degrees, and which to our view cannot be changed without changing a very material part of the esotery."

In his review of Kansas, he says:

"And he is also all right on the social side of Masonry, and quotes from Bro. Drummond, of Maine: 'In former times refreshments were practically as necessary to holding a lodge as the presence of the charter. Excesses unworthy of masons resulted, and we went to the other extreme.' As I now see it, this departure from ancient usages was a perilous mistake. There is no doubt whatever that the relaxation from labor given by assembling around the table and breaking bread together adds a charm to our meetings which they cannot otherwise gain."

In his review of Maine, he quotes in substance from the address of Grand Master Farnham, and thinks that his advice in relation to temperance is not a uniform sentiment up this way. Referring to accounts of the celebration of the feast of St. John, "in a seat of culture, refinement, morality, and education in the northeastern section of our beloved country," he says he does not seek any controversy in relation to the matter, and has no desire to interfere with the supremacy of the Grand Lodge, but "merely lifts the finger of caution, as it were."

He gives an abstract of the committee on the Wisconsin proposition, apparently with favor. He quotes from our report, also, an abstract of our position in relation to regularity of lodges formed by Grand Orients, etc.

We fully concur in the following, with the addition that, in our judgment, such discussions are injurious rather than beneficial:

"We discover from Bro. Doyle's conclusion that the Roman Pontiff has given him a fresh scare by placing under the Papal ban three additional American benevolent orders, and that he is afraid the Pontiff aforesaid has sufficient control of this government to dictate the conduct of the people. There is a good deal of poppycock about this periodical scare at the Pope of Rome. We are not afraid of him in Arkansas. He has his hands full at his present job of popping for his church, and from our acquaintance with him we do not think it likely that he would undertake to overmonkey with the brave and warlike people of Nevada, 5,000 miles away, and during the popping season at that. Suppose we let the Pope of Rome rest awhile and watch 'Auld Clootie' closer."

Replying to Bro. Bouck, of Wisconsin, who took ground against the criticism of the action of other Grand Lodges, he says:

"Grand Masters are human and liable to err. Their acts should not be considered so sacred as to be placed without the pale of fraternal criticism. In fact, we are one of a class of citizens who believe that even that great tribunal, the Supreme Court of the United States, may sometimes err; though not often. And, we think that the decisions of Grand Masters and regulations and edicts of Grand Lodges, should be discussed freely, and if our brethren have fallen into error it should in a courteous and fraternal

manner be brought to their notice, and we know of no 'tribunal' better qualified to do this part of Masonic duty than the Committee on Correspondence."

BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1896.

This Grand Lodge held several special communications for doing masonic work; in one instance, laying the corner stone of a church. We note that, in accordance with the usage of the Grand Lodge of England, as well as the Grand Lodges of the Dependencies of the British Crown, when this public work is done, they open the Grand Lodge, form a procession, march to the place, perform the ceremonies, and then return to the hall and close in ample form. As some question has been raised whether, when the Grand Lodge "adjourns," it does remain open as such, we quote the following:

"The M. W. Grand Master then ordered the Grand Marshal to form a procession, and Grand Lodge, headed by the Wellington Cornet Band, then marched to the site of the structure."

The Grand Master (LACEY R. JOHNSON) delivered an eloquent address, in which he alluded to the duties of masons, well worthy of the following commendation by the committee:

"The M. W. Grand Master is to be highly commended for his excellent address, more especially for the masterly and eloquent manner in which the tenets of our Order are set forth, and we trust the lessons and objects he desires to impress upon the craft in this Grand Jurisdiction, will be taken to heart, and a determined effort made to live up to and on a line with the teachings of our noble Order."

He reminds the brethren that this communication of the Grand Lodge was its twenty-fifth anniversary, and he gives a brief account of the organization of the Grand Lodge. Previously to 1871 there had been two Provincial Grand Lodges; one under the Grand Lodge of England, and the other under the Grand Lodge of Scotland. The former had three lodges, the latter had five. All these lodges joined in a movement to form a Grand Lodge for British Columbia, and the District Grand Master of England and the Provincial Grand Master of Scotland co-operated in its formation. We believe that the unusual harmony attending the organization of this Grand Lodge has had much to do with its prosperity since. We well remember that at the time we held that the proceedings were a model for all similar cases.

The Grand Master had visited a very large number of the lodges, and while he does not say so, we have no doubt at all that his visits had a very favorable effect. He had granted dispensations for two new lodges, and performed the usual amount of routine work. The Deputy Grand Master and the District Deputy Grand Masters make reports, showing that they had ably aided their chief during the year, and we are able to congratulate

our brethren of that jurisdiction upon their good fortune in having the affairs of the Grand Lodge and the craft so ably and faithfully administered.

The committee to which, at the previous session, the matter of erecting a masonic home was referred, reported that the project would require a very much larger amount of money than the Grand Lodge is likely to have at its disposal for a considerable time, and they did not feel warranted in recommending entering upon the project; but they did recommend that \$500 a year should be set aside for placing the children of deceased masons in destitute circumstances, in some one of the orphanages already established. Their report was adopted, very wisely, as we think.

The committee endorsed the Wisconsin proposition, but the Grand Lodge voted that the proposition be printed in special circulars and sent out to each member of the Grand Lodge and of subordinate lodges for consideration, and action thereon at the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge voted that the premium for the Treasurer's bond, in a reputable guaranty company, should be paid by the Grand Lodge.

An exceedingly interesting sermon was delivered before the Grand Lodge by V. W. J. A. Logan, Grand Chaplain. We cannot copy the whole of it, but commend it to the attention of the brethren.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 166) was presented by Bro. MARCUS WOLFE. He confines himself very closely to an abstract, accompanied with exceedingly well selected extracts, with very few comments. Among the latter is the following:

"True, delegated charity may, in some cases, have become a necessity, but the exercise of individual charity makes pregnant the heart with deeds of goodness, in the very image of the Great Creator."

In relation to another matter, he says:

"Bro. Murrow says under British Columbia, 'We notice several dispensations were granted "to wear regalia at public divine service." "There is a time and place for everything; the place and time to wear masonic regalia is *not* at public divine service."'

"Where, Bro. Murrow, is the difference between wearing regalia to attend divine service, which is (in my opinion) masonic labor, and wearing regalia to a masonic funeral, or laying a corner stone, both of which are done in 'Public'? Please."

The wearing of masonic clothing on any occasion can be justified only by masonic usage, and the question in each case is, what has been the usage of the craft? In the nature of things, we can see no difference between wearing masonic clothing to a church and wearing it on St. John's day to a church or hall, where a sermon is to be preached. The latter is justified by masonic usage, and the only question about the former is, is that also justified. We confess that we are not familiar with the origin of the latter prac-

tice, and have been inclined to hold that it is a recent invention. If Bro. WOLFE can give us the facts in the matter, we, in common with others, would be very greatly obliged to him.

His review of Maine is fraternal, closing as follows:

"As Representative of Maine, I hereby extend the warmest fraternal greeting from British Columbia Grand Lodge, to which I add my personal admiration for your grand old jurisdiction."

We run no risk in giving him assurance that his fraternal feelings are fully reciprocated.

Referring to the Maryland reports, in relation to public services, he says:

"In British Columbia lodges are *not* 'called off' on the occasion of funerals, laying of corner stones or dedications before the brethren leave the hall to perform the public ceremonies."

In reference to another matter that has been somewhat discussed, he says:

"Finding an Entered Apprentice of one of the lodges, that had lost his right arm since his receiving that degree, in the largeness of his heart, and in sympathy for the afflicted, the Grand Master conferred upon him the degrees of Fellow Craft and Master Mason. How?"

We have thus found several matters, concerning which Bro. WOLFE has expressed his opinion, and it only emphasizes our opinion that further progress in the same direction on the part of Bro. WOLFE will increase the value of his reports.

CALIFORNIA, 1896.

Of the condition of the craft, the Grand Master (EDWARD MEYERS PRESTON) says:

"Our relations with neighboring and foreign jurisdictions are of the most cordial and friendly nature. Our returns show, for the present year, a net increase of over seven hundred in the membership of the subordinate lodges. Our financial condition, notwithstanding our large expenditures, is better than it was at the time of our last annual communication. Three new lodges have received charters, two others have been organized and have received dispensations, and no lodge has been called upon to surrender its charter. The financial condition of the subordinate lodges is, as a general rule, favorable, although some are suffering from causes incident to the commercial and industrial depression which is now so generally prevalent. It is gratifying to see, among those who are assembled here to day, so many whose faces have become familiar because of their frequent attendance upon our annual communications; many of whom have grown gray in the service of our Order—some of whom have passed their vigor and are now venerable in years."

He very properly deprecates hasty legislation; but our Grand Lodges are wonderfully free from this evil; almost every proposition is referred to a committee which carefully examines it and reports upon it; of course once

in a while there will be a slip; but as a whole, as we have said, our Grand Lodges are wonderfully free from this evil, more so, according to our observation, than any other legislative bodies in the country.

In this connection, too, we will notice the complaint, frequently expressed, that there is a tendency to too much legislation: but according to an observation of over forty years, the evil is not so much in the legislation as in the causes for it. Almost all new masonic legislation is caused by an abuse of privileges or an evasion of the existing law. Grand Master PRESTON found occasion to say—

“That there is too great a tendency among some of our brethren to strive to evade the mandates of the constitution, when such mandates conflict with the special purposes which they wish to accomplish.”

We doubt if a single law, restricting the powers or privileges of lodges or individual masons, can be found, that was not suggested by some act that was deemed injurious to the Institution or to the craft. Undoubtedly laws have been enacted in consequence of such an act, when in all probability it would never have been repeated, but as a whole, experience shows that legislation has not been enacted for the mere sake of legislating, but to prevent the continuance of evils growing out of the tendency of which Grand Master PRESTON speaks. This is forcibly illustrated by some of his decisions, which often are what we may call *judicial* legislation.

“Lodge funds cannot be used either to purchase jewels for retiring officers or to purchase portraits of such officers to ornament the walls of a lodge-room.

“A retiring Master has no right to demand or receive from the funds of his lodge any sum whatever in return for his services as installing officer of his successor in office.

“A lodge cannot lawfully expend any portion of its funds to pay for the experting of the books of a private corporation, even although such corporation owns the cemetery in which the lodge buries the bodies of its deceased members.

“Neither a masonic lodge nor a masonic board of relief can lawfully donate twenty dollars, nor any other sum, to the Salvation Army for charitable distribution.

“For a lodge to pass a resolution remitting the dues of all its members for one year, or for any other stated period, or to adopt a resolution or general regulation whereby it appropriates a stated sum for funeral expenses for each and every member that dies, is a misappropriation of its funds. The remission of dues and funeral benefits are charities which should be bestowed on the needy and destitute only.”

* * * * *

“In the construction of a Masonic Temple, or Hall, the lodge room should not be built upon the ground floor.

“It is contrary to masonic teachings and masonic usage to serve beer, wine, or any other intoxicant at a masonic banquet given in a masonic hall.”

He announced that the clandestine French lodge had returned its charter to the parties who issued it, and had ceased to exist.

The ritual was before the Grand Lodge, and a committee appointed to examine the one used and determine whether it corresponded with the one adopted in 1894, and

“In addition to said corrections said committee will further, in accordance with the recommendation of the Grand Master in his address and affirmed by the Grand Lodge, proceed to make the necessary changes in the ceremonial of the second section of the Third degree, to harmonize said ceremonial and make it more ‘in conformity with the work of the principal Grand Jurisdictions east of the Rocky Mountains,’ and to suggest such changes in phraseology as shall make the revised ritual ‘consistent with the traditions upon which the scenes exemplified are founded.’”

The work is to be exemplified by the committee at the next annual communication, and when it is, it is to be placed in the hands of three custodians. As we understand the action, the committee is also to propose some plan for promulgating the work.

The Chairman of the San Francisco Board of Relief presented the following question:

“The question of granting relief to masons out of standing is one that has been exhaustively discussed by this board without reaching a conclusion, and we would respectfully ask a ruling by this Grand Lodge. Of course we understand that where the applicant has wilfully or carelessly allowed himself to lapse from standing and makes application only when his necessities impel him to do so, that such a case should meet with no consideration; but the latest instance coming under our notice is one that has caused a division of sentiment among the members of this board. It is that of a man who came to California from an Eastern city, bringing with him considerable money, which he invested and lost in business here. He was unable to keep up his dues in his home lodge and too proud to acknowledge his condition, hoping some time later to retrieve his fortunes and again place himself in standing. Long continued sickness in the family exhausted his remaining means. Knowing himself to be out of standing he would not apply to those who had been his brethren, preferring, as he himself said, to starve. But his wife, threatened with eviction from their home and driven to desperation by the straits in which they found themselves, and by the hunger of five little children, and believing her husband to be a mason, without his knowledge has applied to this board for assistance. By a telegram we learn that the husband has not been in standing in his lodge for two years. For the guidance of this and succeeding boards, we respectfully ask a ruling by the Grand Lodge on this case.”

It was referred to the Finance Committee, but we do not find any report in relation to it.

The second day of the session was devoted to laying the corner stone of the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home. The ceremonies are given. The work was done by the Grand Lodge. The Grand Honors were given. In a word the old usage was followed.

The Grand Lecturer presented a very full report with a summary of the reports of such of the Inspectors as had made them. We do not think the system is as efficient as ours in Maine.

In one case of discipline, the Grand Lodge reversed a judgment of expul-

sion by a lodge, on account of irregularity in the proceedings, but upon the evidence taken and submitted to it, the Grand Lodge expelled him. We are glad to see that this Grand Lodge does not allow technicalities to stand in the way of meting out justice. We commend this case to the consideration of Bro. MILLER, of Kansas.

It was decided that a trowel or other masonic working tool presented to the Grand Master at the laying of a corner stone is given to him as a *personal souvenir*, and cannot be rightfully claimed by the Grand Lodge after his death.

The Grand Lodges of New Zealand and Victoria were recognized.

The resolutions of our Grand Lodge in relation to jurisdiction over rejected candidates were presented by our Representative, referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, whose report was accepted by the Grand Lodge:

"We have given the foregoing communication careful and fraternal consideration. We have also read the able report of Bro. J. H. Drummond, Chairman of the Committee of Jurisprudence of Maine, with great pleasure and satisfaction. It is an able and forcible statement of masonic law upon the question involved. We earnestly recommend the perusal of the said report to every member of the fraternity in this jurisdiction, as it contains information upon the masonic law to be found nowhere else within the knowledge of your committee. The Grand Lodge of California, in 1883, made a rejection a bar for one year only, after which the lodge which has territorial jurisdiction can receive him. We believe that this regulation is well adapted to our local condition and has proved satisfactory, therefore we see no reason why it should be changed."

We very greatly regret that the committee did not view the matter from a higher masonic standpoint than the one indicated in the concluding sentence. There is a vast diversity in the law of the different jurisdictions, which has already produced discord and threatens serious difficulty in the future. A party regularly made a mason in a regular lodge in California, goes to Maine, Massachusetts or Pennsylvania, and is told he cannot be recognized as a mason, because he was rejected by a lodge and went to California; ineligible to be made a mason, but was there made in violation of masonic law. He goes back to California, and is told that he *is* a mason, and the refusal to recognize him is wrong, but is also told, "We cannot do anything to help you." "Why, then, didn't you tell me that I would be under the ban of non-recognition in over one-third of the states?" What answer could be made? Wouldn't California feel just a little ashamed or indignant? The danger of discord is imminent. To avert this attempts have been made to secure uniformity of law, very general, if not universal. Each jurisdiction is asked to yield something. While Maine had found that perpetual jurisdiction was "well adapted to our local position and had proved satisfactory," she modified her law, and is ready to modify it still further, to secure uni-

formity. It is true that she will not go so far as to endanger Masonry by opening the doors too readily, but she has gone a great way: and is not California willing to sacrifice, if need be, something for the good of the Institution at large, or must she decide the question according to her own interests, without caring how it may affect others? The latter course is not like California masons, and we are constrained to believe that the committee overlooked the reason for the proposed legislation. However, *we* do not believe that one year's observation of a stranger is sufficient to determine whether he is fit material for Masonry, especially when he comes under the ban of a rejection by those who knew him. There is no doubt at all that the modern carelessness in the admission of members—a notable departure from the old doctrine and the old usage—has seriously injured the *morals* of the Institution. It is admitted that profanity, intemperance and evil-speaking prevail among the craft to an alarming extent, and vastly disproportionate to their prevalence in former times, and what is worse—are very rarely punished. We hope our California brethren will reconsider this matter and view from the standpoint of the common good rather than from that of their particular interest.

The Report on Correspondence (152 pp.) was presented by Bro. WILLIAM A. DAVIES. He pursues his former plan of making it a carefully prepared summary of the sayings and doings of general interest in the other jurisdictions: occasionally he expresses his views, briefly, it may be, but forcibly.

Of the "Eastern Star," he says:

"Doubtless the providing of these modes of recognition are beyond and outside of the purview of Freemasonry. It does not require that they shall be made masons, which of course would be an impossibility. It surely would be wise in providing these proofs of relationship to the craft to surround them with the inculcation and enforcement by precept and example of those virtues which ought especially to characterize women, in addition to the virtues which ought to distinguish Freemasons. Such a system would conflict with no landmark, and would be in accordance with the spirit and genius of Freemasonry. This can be, and indeed it has been already, accomplished by those ladies themselves. Neither is this any new thing, for 'from the time the memory of man runneth not to the contrary' there have been adrogyne degrees, called side degrees, of Masonry, to which they were admitted.

"But this was not efficient or general, and there was an entire absence of organization. Within the last quarter of a century such an order of these ladies has been organized and made effective for great good."

We fully concur in the following:

"Bro. Stevenson thinks the amendment to our law providing for restoration from suspension for non-payment of dues, subjecting the brother to a further ballot after payment, to be a '*rather vigorous law*.' We think so too. What we have always considered our justification for suspension for non-payment of dues was the fact that a brother could at any time, upon payment of what he owed, restore himself. He was suspended for a wilful violation of the law he had obligated himself to stand to and abide by, and he

could at any moment purge himself by payment of amount due without humiliation or confession. We look upon the amendment as a premium for non-affiliation."

We are glad to find him taking this stand against what we have always considered as unmasonic legislation in relation to non-affiliation and non-payment of dues.

In his review of Maine, he gives the report of our Committee on Jurisprudence in relation to rejected candidates in full, but without comment.

He quotes, with full approval, the decision in relation to refreshments at meetings of lodges.

He objects very strenuously to the action of the Grand Master of New Jersey in making a mason "at sight," saying:

"We acknowledge that this prerogative was exemplified with perhaps a trifle more regard for the proprieties than the Ship Island example, but in all seriousness we ask, Why this trifling with the symbols of Freemasonry? We apprehend M.W. Bro. Belcher is very much the same kind of a man as our representative of King Solomon, the Grand Master of California; a good average sort of an American citizen can't make the deaf hear nor the blind see, nor perform the miracle of catching the swallow without the necessary quantum of salt; and when it comes to making a mason at sight, we think there is something wrong, either in the authority or the making, and if the initiate survives the ordeal he is to be congratulated."

We can remember when lodges possessed the power of making masons "at sight": and the law taking away this power was deemed an invasion of the powers of lodges under the old usages of the craft; and it really was, but was made necessary by abuse of those powers. When lodges were small, and every member knew each other, and the candidates were men whom all had known for years, the "due inquiry" into character was the work of a few moments, and was made by each member's telling what he knew of the candidate. What was "due inquiry" was left to the Master, and often candidates were proposed and voted for at once, and immediately initiated. When the law requiring a time to elapse between the presentation of a petition and action thereon, was enacted, "cases of emergency" were excepted, and the lodge was allowed to determine whether a particular case was one of emergency or not: reason, however, arose, and the consent (called dispensation) of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, a Grand Warden, or the District Deputy Grand Master was required: later this provision was narrowed step by step, until the time can be shortened only by the consent ("dispensation") of the Grand Master. The making of a mason substantially "at sight" is an old usage, that has been abolished, so far as lodges are concerned, only within a recent period.

In relation to another important matter, he says:

"We have instances of dissatisfaction here in the matter of affiliation, but it is not from arbitrary requirements or offensive restrictions in the law; it is friction that will always occur; where there is an unusually large lodge and

financially very healthy, it will be the ardent desire of about two-thirds of the brethren desiring to affiliate to join that lodge. It's a matter of the family's deciding whether they will take another boarder or not, and you can't deny them the right to decide that proposition. No, Bro. Reed, there's no unusual friction here, and we don't think we infringe upon masonic equity or the rights of a Freemason. We do hope to see the affiliation fee wiped out—in fact we are in favor of any legislation that will lessen non-affiliation or transform non-affiliates into 'live links' in the fraternal chain by which masons are bound together. We think our Grand Lodge has made a serious mistake in placing the least obstruction in the restoration of any mason suspended for non-payment of dues, be the lapse two years or twenty.

"Several eminent brethren—writers of masonic correspondence—seem to see nothing but arbitrary trespass upon masonic rights in our non-affiliate legislation. Take the section referred to by Bro. Reed, Sec. 8 of Art. 5, Part 6 of the Constitution, which provides that a member suspended for non-payment of dues may restore himself by accompanying his petition with an amount equal to six months dues of the lodge to which he petitions. The provision was adopted more than thirty years ago and was for the benefit of the army of non-affiliates with which California was overrun. The section was an idea of Bro. Alex. G. Abell, providing, as he thought, a way for the non-affiliates of California to return to lodge duties and privileges. Many a brother, from the vicissitudes incident to mining life in a new country, allowed his dues to accumulate, and in consequence our records were overloaded with members stricken from the rolls for non-payment of dues, and Bro. Abell's idea was to provide a way for their return to duty by the payment of a sum not so large as to be burdensome, by which indebtedness in sums of from \$10 to \$100 was wiped out and they were given the chance to again become useful members of the Fraternity. In some particulars it was a general bankrupt law for the benefit of non-affiliates who had been dropped from the roll for non-payment of dues, and afforded the needed relief to the great majority, and was of decided benefit to our Grand Lodge. We have never wished to see it rescinded.

"We have been a close observer of lodge and Grand Lodge legislation during forty-five years residence and affiliation with the masons of California and know the truth of what we assert when we write that the rights of individual masons have ever been zealously guarded, and we therefore protest that 'Masonry for revenue only' is not a California production, and is neither approved nor tolerated by the Fraternity, in theory or practice."

We fully agree. But this is not our indictment against the California law. When a member is suspended or dropped for non-payment of dues, he is not in such good standing as will enable him to apply for membership: but the law we object to is the one which suspends, without trial, from all the rights and benefits of Masonry, a non-affiliate who holds a regular dimit from a lawful lodge, especially when we read the paragraph first quoted above, that lodges are at perfect liberty to reject a candidate for affiliation, because they do not wish to "take another boarder"! To put such a disability on a mason and *continue it by the vote of one member of a lodge*, seems to us not only grossly unmasonic but absolutely monstrous. There is a grim irony in the anxiety to be able to accept the rejected material of another lodge, and yet to hold that the completed work of the same lodge is not to have any masonic recognition! A rejected candidate actually stands better than a good mason holding a dimit!

CANADA, 1896.

The Grand Lodge met at Belleville: before the Grand Lodge was opened, the Mayor and City Council were introduced and presented an address of welcome, to which the M. W. Grand Master responded; the Grand Lodge was then opened, and a deputation of Masters of the Belleville lodges were introduced and presented an address in behalf of the masons of the "City of the Bay."

The address of the Grand Master (W. R. WHITE) was very brief and confined largely to matters of local interest. The notable exception is the following:

"THE SO-CALLED GRAND LODGE OF ONTARIO."

"I am very much pleased to be able to report to this Grand Lodge, that during the past year (pursuant to the authority granted at our last meeting) such arrangements have been made with the members of this organization as effectually to sweep this body out of existence for I trust all time to come. Their charter (granted by the Provincial Government) has been transferred to myself and the Grand Secretary, as trustees for this Grand Lodge, all warrants issued to subordinate lodges, the seal and all other books and property of this so-called body, have been, or are being, delivered up and are now in possession of this Grand Lodge. All members of this so-called grand body who have applied, have been healed and declared their allegiance to this Grand Lodge. Many of them have applied for affiliation to our lodges, and are now active and useful members of this Grand Body. The surrender is voluntary and complete—the only concession granted being that members of the extinct body holding the rank of Past Master therein are conceded that rank in any of our lodges with which they may affiliate or to which they may be admitted."

This certainly is gratifying intelligence: there is one thing lacking, however; a list of those made in the lodges of this organization *who have not been healed* ought to be furnished. One of them applied for recognition or to be put in good standing, to a lodge of another grand jurisdiction: the question was a difficult one, but it was decided that the Grand Lodge of Canada had by its recent action, given such a status to these parties as to allow the healing of them in another jurisdiction: we think that the decision was correct, but a declaration on the part of the Grand Lodge of Canada, in the matter, is highly desirable, to avoid possible complications.

As heretofore, the reports of the District Deputies make quite a feature, taking up over one hundred and fifty pages in the body of the volume. They are full, but as a rule condensed, and give an apparently correct view of the condition of the lodges.

The committee well say:

"We are again enabled to congratulate Grand Lodge on the fidelity and zeal of the D. D. G. M.'s in the discharge of their duty. The great prosperity which we enjoy is no doubt attributable to the painstaking and intelligent band of brethren who, having the interest of the craft at heart, make great sacrifices in order to honestly perform their allotted tasks."

We find that only five lodges out of the three hundred and fifty-six were not visited, and three of these were in a district over one thousand miles in extent and which it would require several weeks' time to visit.

Of the "Condition of the Craft," the committee says:

"The Grand Master and Grand Lodge are to be congratulated on the continued prosperity of the craft. Notwithstanding the hard times through which we are passing and the excitement created through alarming rumors of war between the Mother Country and other nations, the steady growth of our membership still continues, the majority of the lodges are financially sound and peace and harmony exist within our borders. The several visits made by the M. W. the Grand Master throughout the jurisdiction have been of incalculable benefit, and, with the assistance of his various D. D. G. M.'s, he has been enabled to promote good fellowship and to induce leading and intelligent men in the community to knock at our doors for admission. We predict that the name of M. W. Bro. White will always be referred to by the members of the jurisdiction with love and respect. The reports of the various D. D. G. M.'s teem with information and advice, and we strongly recommend same to the careful perusal of the brethren."

They add that a very decided improvement is apparent in lodges "heretofore reported against," for which the Deputies are entitled to credit.

The following was adopted:

"The place where a candidate is constantly employed and is in receipt of his wages or salary, though not strictly speaking his place of residence, may be treated by him as such for the purposes of this and the next preceding clause."

This seems objectionable, because it gives some candidates an option of applying in either of two different places; and unless the provision is limited to cases in which both the residence and the place where he is employed are *both* within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, serious complications are likely to arise, involving difficulty with the Grand Lodge within whose jurisdiction the candidate's real residence is located.

The Report on Correspondence (116 pp.) was presented by Bro. HENRY ROBERTSON. He adheres very strictly to his former practice of giving a brief abstract with extracts relating to important matters.

In his Introduction, however, he gives a very interesting summary in relation to Grand Representatives:

"**GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.**—The practice of the appointment of Representatives to and from Grand Lodges has been abolished in the jurisdictions of Iowa, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Washington and Wyoming. This practice dates back over one hundred years. In 1779 the Grand Lodge of Germany having applied for leave to send a Representative to the Grand Lodge of England, in order more effectually to cement the union and friendship of the brethren of both countries, brother John Leonard was appointed to that office. The request being complied with, a resolution passed, that in compliment to the Grand Lodge of Germany brother Leonard should wear the clothing of a Grand Officer and rank next to Past Grand Officers in all the public meetings of the Society."

"In 1799, the Baron de Silverhjelm was received by the Grand Lodge of

England as the Representative of the Grand Lodge of Sweden, and accorded a seat with the Grand Officers at all meetings of the Grand Lodge.

“At the Grand Lodge in February, 1802, the Earl of Moira stated to the brethren that the lodges in Berlin, under the auspices of the King of Prussia, had solicited the influence of the Duke of Sussex to carry on a friendly communication with the Grand Lodge of England, and had expressed a readiness on their part as far as it was consistent with the duty they owed to their own masonic jurisdiction, to act in unison with their brethren in England, in promoting all the general principles of the institution, and in extending relief to distressed masons; on which it was immediately resolved, that a friendly communication should be kept up with our brethren in Prussia and every attention paid to their future recommendations.

“At the Grand Lodge in May following, another application was made through the same channel, from four lodges in Portugal, which had empowered M. Hypolite da Costa to act as their Representative in the Grand Lodge of England, and in their name to solicit a regular authority to practice the rites of the order under the English banner and protection. After mature deliberation it was determined that every encouragement should be given to the brethren in Portugal, and a treaty was immediately entered into and signed by brothers Da Costa and Heseltine, then Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge, and approved by the Grand Master, whereby it was agreed that as long as the Portuguese lodges should conform to the ancient constitutions of the order, they should be empowered to have a Representative in the Grand Lodge of England, and that the Grand Lodge of England should have a Representative in the Grand Lodge of Portugal, and that the brethren belonging to each Grand Lodge should be equally entitled to the privileges of the other.”

He might have added truly that in a majority of the Grand Lodges which have abandoned the system, the fault was plainly in indiscreet and over-zealous brethren, rather than in the system, changed for the worse, however, from the original system.

In his review of Maine, he says:

“He decided that a lodge has no right to pay out of its treasury the expenses of its annual receptions, the principal feature of which is dancing. ‘Nor is it masonic to advertise Masonry in that manner, or any other.’ In the face of this very strong condemnation of advertising Masonry, we are surprised to find on the next page of the Grand Master’s address, that he publicly installed the officers of two lodges, delivering an address on each occasion. ‘The customary banquet was a feature of each entertainment.’ Some people have very queer ideas as to what advertising means. The addresses of the Grand Master on these occasions doubtless contained some eulogistic remarks on the Masonic Fraternity, and they were addressed to those who were not masons. For what purpose? Of course not to induce them to become masons, for that would certainly be advertising Masonry. What then could have been the object we are at a loss to conjecture. The solemn vows and promises made by each officer as he was installed must have been intended to impress the outside public with some ideas of the excellence of Masonry else why do it in public? Then if the public are impressed with the excellence of our institution, they will doubtless desire to join. Then what is the whole business any way but ‘advertising Masonry’? They may shelter themselves behind their hundred years of custom and usage but neither one hundred or one thousand years of such a custom will nullify the fact that these public appearances are more or less ‘advertising Masonry.’”

Yes. "Some people do have very queer ideas as to what advertising means," and we are constrained to class our brother among the "some people"! From time immemorial, it has been the custom of Free and Accepted Masons to appear in public and bury their dead with their own forms and ceremonies. Has this been done to "advertise Masonry"? It has also been the custom for the Grand Lodge to lay corner stones with great pomp and ceremony; has this been done to "advertise Masonry"? The old books are full of accounts of cases in which Grand Lodges, with large escorts of subordinates, appeared in public and performed public services peculiar to the craft: was this done, to advertise Masonry? No more are public installations; so unless masonic funerals are "advertising Masonry" according to our brother's ideas of the meaning of the expression, public installations are not.

COLORADO, 1896

At the opening of the session the Representatives of other Grand Lodges were called to the East, and fraternally welcomed by the Grand Master, to whom Past Grand Master HENRY P. H. BROMWELL eloquently responded.

The Grand Master (WILLIAM D. PIERCE), in his address, announced the death of Past Grand Master WENSTER D. ANTHONY, who died June 22, 1896, in the fifty-ninth year of his age. For thirty-two years he had been a mason, and has been a very prominent figure in the Masonry of Colorado during the whole time.

Of the condition of the craft, the Grand Master says:

"I am pleased to report to you, judging from my correspondence, visitations and observations, that the craft in our jurisdiction is in a fair state of prosperity, notwithstanding the continued financial depression. While there has been but little work, as compared with former years, the material presented, I am advised, has been of excellent character. The reports of lodges show the membership to be about the same as last year.

"It is pleasant to report that no grievance of any moment has been brought to my notice, that has not been amicably adjusted; and no internal dissensions exist to disturb the peace and harmony of our lodges.

"The general financial condition of a majority of our subordinate lodges is not as good as we would like. The constant drain upon them for charitable purposes during the past few years, and the fraternal courtesies extended to many of the members, have left depleted treasuries. However, we cannot but feel encouraged at the prospect of a bright future, and as the dark clouds lift, we catch glimpses of the silver lining."

Of the Wisconsin proposition, he says:

"I find that some Grand Jurisdictions have adopted it as presented; others adopted it with a slight modification; a few have the matter under advisement, and some reject it promptly. At first thought, my feelings led me to look favorably upon the proposition, but after much research and consideration, I can find no masonic law or precedent, either ancient or modern, which can justify placing charity, the key-stone of our moral arch, on the

same level with health insurance. And no one can reasonably expect a Grand Master or a Grand Lodge, in cases bordering on innovation, to act affirmatively on any proposition, as long as it appears unsupported by usage, precedent, or the fundamental principles of the craft. The committee, I am informed, will present a report at this session."

Among his decisions is the following:

"In the absence of the Worshipful Master and Wardens, a Past Master cannot open the lodge. Past Masters possess no greater authority in this respect than any other member."

As this is contrary to the old law and the old usage, and the present usage of the Grand Lodge of England, the Mother Grand Lodge, we presume it is based upon some special provision of the constitution of this Grand Lodge.

He also decided as follows:

"It is a masonic offence for the Master or Wardens of a lodge to make known to any one the number of black balls cast in the rejection of an applicant. A brother seeking such information is subject to discipline."

We are quite aware that this is held to be the law pretty generally, but for all that, we don't believe in it. It is contrary to the old custom in this part of the masonic world, and, moreover, we hold that every member has a right to know what takes place in the lodge, and we have never been able to find any authority for holding that the Master and Wardens have any right to suppress knowledge of what takes place in open lodge from the members, unless, as in some instances is the fact, the express law of the jurisdiction so provides, but we hold such a law to be contrary to the principles which govern the relation of members of lodges to each other.

He made the following decision:

"To be in good masonic standing as required by the Constitution and By-Laws of our Grand Lodge, a brother must have received the degrees of E. A., F. C. and M. M., in a just and regularly constituted lodge of A. F. & A. M., and be a member of and in good standing, in a regular lodge."

But the Grand Lodge changed it, so that it stands as follows:

"The masonic standing of any brother, be he E. A., F. C. or M. M., is only impaired by a sentence of a lodge, after due trial."

And this is the correct proposition.

We quote the following decision, approved by the Grand Lodge, as bearing upon a question that has arisen in our own jurisdiction:

"If a deceased brother is to be sent to some distant point for burial, the brethren may, out of respect for his memory, open the lodge, form procession and escort the remains to the railway depot, or other convenient place of transit; and then return to the lodge room, closing in due form."

The Burial Service, prepared by Past Grand Master BROMWELL, had been printed and circulated and was in use in most of the lodges.

Among the masonic publications, the receipt of which is acknowledged, are the Masonic Token and Masonic Journal of Portland.

The Secretary expresses the hope that, at no distant day, the history of Masonry in Colorado will be compiled, and recommends that all the prominent members of the Grand Lodge be asked to prepare brief biographical sketches of themselves and present the same, with their cabinet photographs, to the Grand Secretary for preservation. He recommended further, that a historical register of the members of the jurisdiction be prepared.

BRO. PARMELEE presented the communication from our Grand Lodge in relation to rejected candidates, and it was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, whose report, as follows, was adopted:

"We have examined the circular issued by the Grand Lodge of Maine, regarding jurisdiction over rejected candidates, as carefully as the limited time will permit, and we believe this or similar legislation should be adopted. We recommend that it be recommitted to the Committee on Jurisprudence, with instructions to report at our next annual communication such legislation as they think should be adopted."

The Committee on the Washington Memorial presented a report, favoring memorial services on the one-hundredth anniversary of the death of Washington, and adding:

"This committee is now further of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of Virginia should be formally requested to take the leadership, adopt such plans as to it may seem best, and the committee from this Grand Lodge co-operate with the Grand Lodge of Virginia in carrying out those plans. As a matter of fact, the memorial exercises originally proposed would necessarily be under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, if a national gathering of Grand Lodges, or their Representatives, should be undertaken, for such a gathering and the memorial addresses should be held only at Mount Vernon."

This action in giving the leadership of this matter to the Grand Lodge of Virginia is highly proper, and we are very glad to find that while the Grand Lodge of Colorado inaugurated the movement, it has such a sense of the fitness of things as to defer to the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

A very eloquent tribute to the dead of the year was presented by Bro. GREENLEAF, the whole of which we would like to copy, did space allow.

The following in relation to non-affiliates was adopted:

"Non-affiliation is cause for discipline, and all non-affiliates, who have not made application for membership in some lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, within one year, shall not be entitled to visit any lodge more than twice during the year, or join any masonic procession, nor be entitled, as a matter of right, to masonic relief or burial."

We presume that the corresponding provision that a non affiliate shall have the absolute right to join any lodge in the jurisdiction at his discretion, is also law. It cannot be that the Grand Lodge of Colorado sanctions the discipline of a mason for what he is utterly powerless to prevent.

The committee to which was referred the Wisconsin proposition, submitted a report, in which they say:

"The experience of this jurisdiction in the matter of re-imbursement has been in direct line with that of our Wisconsin brethren, and we therefore the more readily comprehend the motives and incentives which led to the formulation of the proposition submitted.

"The movement in the direction of 'organized charity' has been steadily growing for many years past, with the result that the sense of individual obligation has been weakened in like proportion. We have come to regard applicants for relief in too many instances as 'suspects,' to be turned over to Relief Boards or to the dispensers of 'charity funds,' and have thus grown callous and indifferent to distress, just in proportion as charity has been administered upon 'business principles.' Every brother, in his inner consciousness, must admit his own sin of omission in this respect and the truth of this statement.

"Our Wisconsin brethren claim that the adoption of the proposition will not do away with the duty of individual charity, as many contend, but that the aim is 'to put lodge charity on a systematic basis, instead of the present chaotic condition.'

"While such, no doubt, is the intention of the proposed plan, its practical effect is to pattern Masonry after the multitude of benefit societies, which meet us on every hand. There is but one mason's lodge, symbolically speaking, and that extends in length, from east to west; in breadth, from north to south; in height, from the earth to the highest heavens; in depth, from the surface to the center. And a lodge is said to be of these vast dimensions, why? To denote the universality of Masonry, and to teach us that a mason's charity should be equally as extensive.

"Though the lodge universal is an aggregation of distinct lodges, yet, wherever a mason's footsteps may wander, he is still beneath its broad canopy, and as it has been often said: 'He finds in every clime a brother and in every land a home.'

"While pages might be covered in the elucidation of this principle of masonic charity, the above contains the very pith and substance of all the masonic teachings. We therefore recommend the adoption of the following:

"*Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge of Colorado declines to endorse the proposition of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, for the reason that it is opposed to the introduction into the system of Freemasonry of any feature that tends in the direction of compulsory relief."

We quote the whole of this, as in fact "containing the very pith and substance of masonic teaching upon the subject." The report was accepted and the resolution adopted.

The Report on Correspondence (220 pp.) was presented by Bro. LAWRENCE N. GREENLEAF. It is one of those wonderful abstracts, with explanatory extracts, which he has been in the habit of making; but occasionally he comments somewhat fully.

Noticing the expulsion of members evading payment of dues, he says:

"Whatever may have influenced the action of the several lodges in expelling their members for such neglect, we do not believe so severe a penalty should be inflicted. Suspension or dropping from the roll has generally been regarded as sufficient penalty for this offence. In how many lodges is it asserted that brother Blank is well able to pay his dues and that he should be compelled to do so or be expelled from the fraternity. Subsequently it is learned that although seemingly well off, his affairs were in such a condition that it was utterly impossible for him to do so. It will be said by some, why did he not appear and show cause why he should not be

disciplined and ask an extension of time or a remission of his dues? For the reason that nothing is so sensitive as a man's credit. If brother Blank had done anything of the kind, in twenty-four hours the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker would have been apprised of the fact that Bro. B. was 'hard up,' and through that very plea for clemency from his masonic brethren, the harpies of the outside world would have pounced upon him and made things decidedly unpleasant in the way of compassing his ruin. Bro. B. therefore decides wisely or unwisely to let the lodge punish him for being guilty of not having sufficient 'filthy lucre' to pay his dues. The cases like the above may be numbered by thousands. But it may be said that his revelation of his pecuniary circumstances would be held sacred within the tiled recesses of the lodge. It ought to be, but is it? In twenty-four hours or less, as stated above, the bad news would have traveled in seven league boots and brother B. would be coveting a pair of the same that he might put a goodly distance between himself and the swarm of creditors with which he was suddenly confronted."

We have heretofore expressed similar views, especially that it is the rule rather than the exception, that parties really unable to pay their dues prefer to submit to adverse fate than to state the matter in the lodge, and really we believe, that before charges are preferred, there ought to be a friendly investigation of the circumstances, and very likely a personal interview with the party, in order to see whether the non-payment of dues is careless or willful neglect, or really inability. Our observation fully supports these views expressed by Bro. GREENLEAF.

In another place he adds:

"Such being his experience, can you wonder that thousands of deserving brethren are suspended rather than ask for clemency in open lodge? It should be so that a brother could go to the Worshipful Master and state his circumstances and have an extension of time or remission granted him without publicity. It is doubtful if a solution of the problem will be very speedily reached. The statistics last year of Grand Lodges in the United States show that some 17,000 were suspended for non-payment of dues. While it is doubtless true in a majority of instances that 'their page on the records will be filled with better material,' there are thousands of whom this cannot be truthfully said."

In relation to the making of masons at sight by the Grand Master, he says:

"From 1862 to 1875, the constitution of this Grand Lodge, among other powers of the Grand Master enumerated in article IX, contained the following:

"It is his prerogative to make masons at sight, and for this purpose may summon to his assistance such brethren as he may deem necessary."

"In 1875 the revised constitution was adopted and the above paragraph no longer appeared. Under 'Grand Master,' section 12 reads as follows: 'The Most Worshipful Grand Master shall have and enjoy all the powers and prerogatives conferred by the ancient constitutions and usages and landmarks of Freemasonry.'

"While the prerogative has never been exercised in this district, it has nevertheless been deemed to exist.

"The report of the above committee is a valuable contribution in support of the negative side of the question, but we are not wholly convinced of its correctness.

"If it shall be shown that the prerogative referred to is an inherent right of the Grand Master, neither the Grand Lodge of Mississippi nor any other Grand Lodge can dispossess him of that right. 'Usage,' whether for 120 or 200 years, certainly must enter largely into the determination of the question."

In relation to Pennsylvania, he says:

"Pennsylvania is isolated from her sister jurisdiction, not only in the view taken by her on this question, but as regards ritual, public installations, etc. Discussion is useless. Let us agree to disagree, since Pennsylvania follows the Dermott traditions and knows no shadow of turning."

We do not think there has been any disposition by the masons outside of Pennsylvania to criticize her peculiarities, except in reply to adverse criticism of the other jurisdictions. The aggressive discussion was commenced by Pennsylvania, and has been constantly repeated by her Grand Masters in their addresses to the craft in that State, and by other speakers and writers in speaking and writing to Pennsylvania masons. If she had claimed that usage in that jurisdiction justified her course, and allowed other jurisdictions to be governed by the same rule, there would have been no particular cause for the discussions which have taken place; but when the officials of one Grand Jurisdiction in their official utterances accuse substantially all of the other jurisdictions of violating the landmarks of Masonry, etc., it cannot be passed over in silence.

BRO. GREENLEAF, in his review of Maine, notices our inquiry in relation to the 1738 Constitutions, as published in 1746. He questions the accuracy of Dr. MACKAY'S statement, which we embodied in our report last year. He has a copy of those Constitutions, purporting to be published in 1738, and produces internal evidence that the statement that the Grand Lodge withheld its sanction to this edition, is utterly erroneous. We are beginning to be of the opinion that the same course was taken with these Constitutions as was taken in the case of some of the earlier editions of Webb's Monitor. The sheets of that book were kept, and additional sheets inserted, so that some copies contain an account of events which took place some years after the original publication of the book. We are inclined to think, therefore, that *in order to make a better sale*, perhaps this edition in 1746 was published in the manner which has been described, viz: substituting a new title page for the old one.

CONNECTICUT, 1896.

An excellent engraved portrait of the retiring Grand Master, JAMES H. WELSH, is given as a frontispiece.

Several emergent communications were held, one to lay a corner stone: the ceremonies were performed by the Grand Lodge *at labor*.

Among the deaths announced by Grand Master WELSH is that of Past

Grand Master EDWARD B. ROWE, who will be pleasantly remembered by Maine masons on account of his visit to our Grand Lodge a few years ago and the very favorable impression that he made.

The Grand Master decided that in the absence of the Master and Wardens, the District Deputy, *as the representative of the Grand Master*, may open the lodge. This illustrates the impolicy of departing from the ancient usages: under them a Past Master could have opened the lodge, without resorting to a method that seems to have been questionable in Connecticut and is not justified in jurisdictions in which the Deputy is the representative of the Grand Lodge.

Another decision of the Grand Master approved by the Grand Lodge is of interest to us in Maine. In Connecticut as in Maine, a member of a lodge may apply for affiliation in another lodge and be elected; but his new membership does not begin until he files his dimit with the Secretary. A member applied to another lodge and was accepted: at the next meeting, a new ballot was called for and he was rejected, and the question was as to his *status* and as to the legality of the second ballot. The decision was that if he had not taken his dimit, he was a member of the original lodge, but if he had taken his dimit the subsequent action of the lodge was void.

The general principle is, that when a transaction of this character depends upon the will of both the parties, either party has a right to withdraw, as long as the consummation of the transaction rests in the will of either party, so that the first branch of the decision is beyond question correct; that is to say, that if the action of the second lodge is rescinded before he took his dimit from the other lodge, the rescision is valid, and the matter is in the same condition as if nothing had ever been done. But there are modifications of the principle just stated, and one of them is, that if the party, who has something to do, has already taken steps in that direction *which he cannot undo*, the other party cannot withdraw, so that we hold that the second branch of the decision is valid, and it was too late for the lodge to call for a new ballot, after the applicant had taken his dimit from the other lodge, with a view of joining the second.

From the statement of the Grand Master and the reports of the District Deputies, and the accounts of the visitations, we judge that the craft are in a reasonably flourishing condition. One evil had been found to exist. Members leave the jurisdiction of their lodge for parts unknown, and nothing is heard from them afterwards, until perhaps the lodge is called upon to relieve them. To remedy this evil, the Grand Lodge adopted a regulation that lodges might drop from the roll members who have been absent and have not been heard from for the seven preceding years.

The Grand Secretary reports the printing of five thousand copies of the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Lodge, which had been

very freely distributed to the lodges; in fact, as many copies were sent to a lodge as were called for by it. We deem this a wise course.

Of the condition of the craft, the Grand Secretary says:

"I am pleased to again report the lodges in this jurisdiction, with but few exceptions, in a prosperous condition, and the returns show that more than the usual amount of work has been done, but the increase in this direction is largely counterbalanced by the increased number which have been dropped from the rolls for non-payment of dues."

The Grand Lodge adopted the following resolutions:

"*Resolved*, That there be required to be paid to the Grand Lodge from each lodge in the jurisdiction, the sum of one dollar for each member upon its roll of membership.

"*Resolved*, That in estimating their membership all members may be deducted who have been masons thirty years, also those whose whereabouts are not known for five years previous.

"*Resolved*, That twenty-five per cent. of the amount received be appropriated for defraying the expenses of the Grand Lodge and seventy-five per cent. be appropriated for the purpose of the Masonic Charity Foundation Fund of Connecticut."

Our Connecticut brethren are sustaining the Masonic Charity Foundation Fund with great enthusiasm.

In addition to the portrait of the Grand Master, we have a portrait of EPHRAIM KIRBY, copied from a miniature. He was the moving spirit in the formation of the Grand Lodge, and was its first Grand Secretary. He was a soldier of the Revolution from the breaking out of the war until the surrender at Yorktown, and bore upon his person thirteen scars of wounds received in the service, and at Germantown was left for dead on the field of battle.

The Report on Correspondence (187 pp.) was submitted by Bro. JOHN H. BARLOW. He adheres very closely to his former practice of preparing an abstract, with very generous extracts from the Proceedings reviewed.

In his review of Indiana, he copies from the report of the committee in relation to the initiation of a candidate in Indiana who had been rejected by a lodge in Pennsylvania, and adds:

"This doctrine is held by at least a large minority of American Grand Lodges, among them our own, and to say that it is 'unmasonic, unconstitutional, wrong in theory, and pernicious in action,' is, to say the least, uncharitable and unjust."

In his review of Maine, referring to the Hart case, he says:

"An interesting case of original jurisdiction, which we copy for the benefit of those who deny that right to Grand Bodies, a right which Connecticut has many times, and lawfully, we believe, exercised."

In relation to physical qualifications, he says:

"Our views are the same as expressed by Brother Drummond, that there are some modifications provided that they do not render him incapable, etc."

Of jurisdiction over rejected candidates, he says:

"This can and should be done by each jurisdiction recognizing the laws of other jurisdictions on the subject, and requiring a waiver in each case. We have on our table several applications awaiting such action, for applicants who have been rejected in sister jurisdictions, who must procure such release before their petition can be received."

And in summing up this matter, in his conclusion, he says:

"No new subject of discussion has been presented, though some of the old ones have been brought to notice, prominent among them being that of Perpetual Jurisdiction; some claim the holding of which is confined to a few of the older jurisdictions. We have endeavored to look the subject up, and we find it held in the following jurisdictions, though in some of them modified so as to apply only in its grand jurisdiction or for a limited time, in case of removal, viz: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Indian Territory, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, South Carolina and Wyoming—thirty-one. Those who reject the doctrine are: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin and Washington—eighteen. If we have placed any on the wrong side, it has been unintentional, as we have taken our information from the proceedings and not by correspondence."

This shows the absolute necessity of a uniform rule throughout the country: for if we cannot get all the Grand Lodges to agree we must get as many as we can. Of course, mutual concessions will be necessary, and we greatly misjudge the craft, if, when the danger is fully understood, they do not demand that the problem shall be solved without disturbing the harmony of the craft.

DELAWARE, 1896.

The Committee on Credentials reported the names of all *entitled to be present* in Grand Lodge, including the Past Masters, but the Grand Secretary, with the approval of the Grand Master, omits the list from the Proceedings, saying it would only be a repetition of what is printed elsewhere. This was wise. But we desire to inquire if it would not be wiser still to go a step further. Is not the object of a Committee on Credentials, by general usage and the reason of having one, to ascertain who are entitled to be present *and are present*? If this is not the office of such a committee of what possible good can it be? Every assembly, in order to do business properly, ought to know what duly qualified members of it are present. Such has been the uniform usage in this section of the country in all assemblies in which such a committee is appointed: in cases in which a given number must be present to make a quorum, it is absolutely necessary.

Of the condition of the craft the Grand Master (JOSEPH L. CARALL) says:

" Prosperity and success have attended the efforts of the several lodges within this jurisdiction to a most marked degree when the conditions of the temporal world be considered. The reports from the several subordinate lodges will reveal that there have been raised, admitted, and re-instated in the aggregate, 111; as against dismissions, deaths, suspensions, and expulsions, 54; showing a net gain for the past year of 57. Every lodge has had a fair number of candidates.

" In view of the crisis in the business world, the panic in the financial marts, the general upheaval of affairs, the continued unsettled condition in every phase of life, during the most remarkable years of 1895-96, I am constrained to say and believe that the progress made by our craft is most gratifying and highly satisfactory."

He knows whereof he speaks, because he had visited every lodge in the state and some of them twice.

The Grand Master of Pennsylvania asked for release of jurisdiction in two cases, in each of which a candidate had been rejected by a Delaware Lodge: in one case, the release was granted and the necessary consent given by the lodge: in the other they were refused: it is safe to say that the lodges in Pennsylvania accepted the situation, and in the latter case the petition was not entertained.

One curious case was before the Grand Lodge. It has the following regulation:

" All subordinate lodges are prohibited from receiving and acting upon a petition for initiation or membership from any person engaged in the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and all masons are fraternally advised and requested to refrain from engaging in the liquor traffic."

A mason applied for membership. His wife was proprietor of a hotel and had a liquor license in her own name. He, as her agent, helped "run the hotel," but had nothing to do with dispensing the liquor. It was held that he did not come within the prohibition. But the committee further said:

" But believing that the enactment of said resolution was a mistake, unwise, uncalled for, and unmasonic, in that it erected a new disqualification of the applicants of Masonry, other than those provided by the ancient landmarks, which your committee deny the right and authority of any masonic body to add to,

" The moral qualifications should be decided by the members of the subordinate lodges in each and every case.

" Your committee would recommend the rescinding of Section 3 as passed October, 1895, page 325, Grand Lodge Report."

But their recommendation was *not* adopted.

We commend the following to the attention of those who claim that there is no special significance in the ballot:

" Suffer me, my brethren, in calling your attention to a danger which confronts us, to enjoin upon you with emphasis that this poison be not injected into our system. Injury to our royal craft can come only through its component elements. It is no secret, indeed it is an open fact, that Masonry has become too popular. This condition has induced many to seek, through the suffrages of the members, to obtain our secrets, to acquire a mere smat-

tering of our ritual, to comprehend practically nought of the sweep of our noble principles, to gratify a sinister personal desire to be classed amongst our brotherhood for reasons and objects foreign to their avowed purposes and antagonistic to the principles of our institution.

"We have a sovereign remedy for this disease, full and complete so far as the future is concerned. The investigation committee and the ballot box—that palladium of the integrity of Masonry—offer this remedy.

"Let none hesitate to perform his duty without fear or favor, when doubtful material seeks the privileges and benefits of our fraternity. Let not captious doubts or misgivings or personal piques or prejudice or past quarrels alone govern your action. Let rather the 'square of virtue and morality' be applied, as true masons so well know how to apply it, to the past and present character of the material brought up to our temples for inspection, and let it be accepted and passed on, or rejected in accordance with its proved fitness or unfitness for adornment or use in our Temples. It is a privilege we confer. It is a right none can demand."

The following is of interest to us:

"A re-statement of a proposition in relation to masonic relief was received from the M. W. Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, and asking that this Grand Lodge take favorable action thereon. P. G. M., V. V. Harrison, moved that the communication from Wisconsin be accepted and noted on the minutes, and the M. W. Grand Lodge of Wisconsin be informed that the Grand Lodge of Delaware do not deem it expedient to take favorable action thereon: which motion was concurred in.

"A series of resolutions which have been adopted by the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine in reference to the necessity of uniform legislation in relation to the admission of rejected candidates and requesting the fraternal consideration thereof by this Grand Lodge, were presented by Bro. Jacob H. Emerson, the Representative of the Grand Lodge of Maine. On motion of Bro. L. H. Jackson, the resolutions were referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence."

The practice described in the following resolution prevails in but a very few jurisdictions:

"*Resolved*, And it is hereby declared to be the law and custom of this jurisdiction, that in the absence of the Worshipful Master of a lodge, the Senior Warden, and in his absence the Junior Warden, shall preside over and transact all the business of the lodge, except conferring the degrees, unless he be an actual Past Master, provided, however, that the Senior or Junior Warden, as the case may be, after the transaction of the regular business of the lodge, may call a Past Master to preside for the purpose of conferring the degrees only."

We wonder what is done when the Master dies. It would seem that there must be a new election, or if the Senior Warden succeeds to the office, he must be installed and receive the Past Master's degree.

The Report on Correspondence (87 pp.) was presented by Bro. LEWIS H. JACKSON.

We are glad to find the following:

"Concerning the above, we have always held that a visiting brother had a right to see the charter of a lodge if he so desired, and if he had any doubt of the legitimacy of a lodge or the source of its authority, it would be his duty to examine the charter. He is entitled to receive lawful masonic in-

formation as well as give it, and it should not be considered 'bad taste' to ask for it. 'There is too much mistaken sensitiveness on this subject.'

* * * * *

"Concerning the above, we have always maintained that a mason in a strange community wishing to visit what purports to be a lawful lodge of masons, has the right if he is so disposed, to ask to see the charter, and more than that it is his *duty* to do so, if he has any reason to doubt the regularity of the lodge. He has the right to know, a lodge is 'lawfully entitled' to receive the information demanded of him as to his profession, character, and standing. We do not see any reason for sensitiveness on the part of a lodge when asked in the proper spirit to display their charter, and do not think it ought to resent such a request by putting an applicant through too severe an examination. Few masons will *captiously* demand to see the charter of a lodge just to display what may be regarded as some fancied '*brightness*,' and a courteous request should be fraternally complied with."

* Of public ceremonies, he says:

"In Delaware the practice is to perform these public ceremonies under the authority of an open lodge, the procession returning to the hall after the ceremonies, when the lodge is closed, and we can see no objection or impropriety in the lodge thus going out in public to perform a ceremony which in the nature of things cannot be done in private."

And of "perpetual jurisdiction":

"The Committee on Jurisprudence did not agree with the Grand Master, believing that any change in what Illinois regards as the general masonic law would be in the nature of an 'innovation,' not warranted by the best interests of the craft at large. We believe Delaware adheres to the 'perpetual,' but our own personal predilection is in favor of a 'limit,' in cases of removal."

In his review of Maine, he says:

"He says his Grand Lodge (like Delaware) once adopted the rule of 'no affiliation fee,' but repealed it on the ground that members of smaller and weaker lodges left them to join those who had large funds, and he would like to know whether this evil has been noticed in Delaware. This committee has not noticed such a result."

And in his review of Maryland:

"We can also affirm that more than thirty years ago as Master of a Maryland lodge, for several years we conducted many masonic funerals under the authority of open lodge, the procession being duly tiled, and returning to lodge room after ceremonies, where the lodge was properly closed and the brethren dismissed. We never dreamed of performing masonic labor with the lodge unopened, called off, or closed."

We believe Pennsylvania stands alone in holding the opposite doctrine.

He himself gives the answer to the following:

"Bro. K. says: 'Public installations are permitted in Wyoming, and no bad effects have appeared to the naked eye.' Possibly not, but what about consistency with the proper regulations of the craft. How are they performed, in open, called off, or closed, or no lodge at all? If open, how can the public participate? If otherwise how can masonic labor of installation be lawfully done?"

Precisely as he used to perform funeral ceremonies: see above.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1896.

Several special communications were held: one to attend the funeral of Bro. ABNER T. LONGLEY, Past J. G. Warden; one for the exemplification of the work; and others to perform public ceremonies by the Grand Lodge.

The decision of a lodge in a case of discipline was set aside because quite a number of members left the hall, "some with and some without the permission of the Master," after the trial commenced and before it concluded.

The committee say:

"Members attending a trial should not retire without consent of the lodge and the accused.

* * * * *

"Leaving all other points aside, your committee is of opinion that, because of the failure to hold the lodge intact as a jury during the trial, and to oblige every member present to vote, the case should be sent back to Naval Lodge for re-trial or such other disposition as said lodge may see fit to make of it."

We do not fully agree. We believe the power of allowing a member to retire rests solely with the Master. Nor do we think that if a member leaves the hall without the knowledge and consent of the Master, it renders further proceedings void. Such member should be disciplined. There has been a tendency of late to go too far in introducing the technical rules of the civil law. Under that an accused has the right to a trial by twelve impartial men, without whose unanimous assent he cannot be convicted: if one of them has formed an opinion, he cannot sit; but in a masonic trial no such rule prevails; if the accused finds members present who have formed and expressed positive opinions, he cannot be heard in objecting to their acting in the case, but they are obliged to act. The fact is that a masonic trial cannot be judged by the rules of the civil law, but proceeds upon the assumption that the accused is in the hands of his brethren, who will do justice to him and to the Institution.

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand was recognized.

The Grand Master submitted to the Grand Lodge the question whether a candidate who has lost the third finger of his right hand is eligible. In his communication, he says:

"There is no question of the ability of the petitioner to impart instruction, having once obtained it, nor of his thorough competency to comprehend the instruction as we teach it.

"The ancient charges requiring 'a perfect youth' or a perfect man, referred, I believe, to the prohibition of eunuchs and men who had lost a limb. I am informed by Freemasons in the East, where eunuchs are still found, that the latter are rejected even when free born. The purpose of rejecting maimed men, by the ancient operative masons, was to prevent the craft being burdened. These reasons no longer exist, though the landmarks are unchanged. Our constitution does not require a perfect man, but inferentially admits that he may have physical defects, but to a limited extent."

The Grand Lodge decided that the petition could be received.

A resolution was adopted allowing a chapter of the Eastern Star to meet in a lodge room, and subsequently the following resolution was adopted:

“Resolved, That the Most Worshipful Grand Master be authorized to grant any lodge in this jurisdiction permission to allow its lodge room to be occupied by any chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star when, in his judgment, the same may be advisable.”

A committee was appointed to take into consideration the procurement of a site for a new Masonic Temple.

We very greatly regret to find that the venerable Grand Secretary, WILLIAM R. SINGLETON, was unable to be present on account of illness, and still more to learn by subsequent advices that his illness still continues.

The Grand Master (GEORGE W. BAIRD) says:

“Numerically, we have gained fairly, and in about the same ratio as the increase in population. The uniform efforts of the Masters to do better, more impressive work, is an evidence of their better conception of our beautiful symbolism, its elevating influences, its impression upon the hearts and the memories of the candidates.

“The greatly increased number of rejections of candidates for the degrees this year points to the vigilance of the lodges and lends distinction to those who have been accepted. The social improvement of our craft is quite noticeable. It is yearly occupying a plane more elevated, more refined. The humblest brother in the lodge is as attentive a listener to our special lectures as is the most learned, and is quite as eager to improve both mind and taste. The occasions of our grand visitations have been made by the several lodges very pleasurable entertainments, wherein they vie with each other for supremacy.”

He evidently does not hold to the doctrine recently promulgated by a few masons, that a rejection has no significance.

He stated that the Grand Secretary had codified the proceedings of the Grand Lodge from 1811 to 1845 (those from 1828 to 1845 having never been printed), and recommended that five hundred copies be printed, and the Grand Lodge adopted the recommendation.

He directed a lodge to return the petition of a candidate, who had been rejected in a Baltimore Lodge in 1887, because the petition was “without the essential waiver of jurisdiction.”

He says further:

“I have visited all the lodges in the jurisdiction and have witnessed conferring of degrees and routine work there. It affords me pleasure to say that the ‘work’ has been without fault.”

The lodges in the District are so accessible to the Grand Officers, including the Grand Lecturer, the system of visitation is carried out more fully than in any other jurisdiction, and the result shows the wisdom of the system.

The Grand Lodge determined to take measures to procure a site for a new Temple and the money to pay for it; the plan was to ask the lodges centrally

located to pledge themselves to pay fifty cents a month for each member for a term of three years, which would amount in three years to about \$75,000; the matter was submitted to the lodges—their action to be reported at a special meeting of the Grand Lodge.

The resolutions of our Grand Lodge in relation to jurisdiction over candidates were presented by Bro. GEORGE WALLACE, Representative of our Grand Lodge, and on his motion were referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence.

The Report on Correspondence (102 pp.) was prepared by Bro. WILLIAM R. SINGLETON, but was cut short by his continued illness.

In relation to physical qualifications, he says:

“In this *dictum* we heartily concur. When Masonry was only *operative*, the law of physical ability to perform all necessary labor was essential and is so implicitly expressed, that we never could concur in the modern interpretation put upon it in the United States Grand Lodges *alone*, and not in all of *them* either; hence, if a candidate can receive the proper instructions of our rituals he is eligible. He may not be able to *impart* all of the ritual physically, yet he can *talk*, he can describe what he may be unable to thus give and, if he have the mental qualifications to preside, may be as competent as Master as an Adonis in physical perfections but with an empty head, as many presiding officers seem to have sometimes.”

He discusses the system of Grand Representation, but falls into error, as we think, by assuming that the object of the system is the same as the object of Ambassadors, &c., under civil and international law. But “Masonry is a law unto itself,” and we are to seek in the usages of the craft and not in the practice of profanes for the object of any system which Masonry has adopted. Going back to the origin of this system, we find that it was not intended to interfere in any manner with the Grand Master and Grand Secretary in conducting the relations with other Grand Lodges, but to have a Representative to perform such fraternal acts in behalf of those whom he represented as occasion should suggest.

He comments upon a Grand Master's consenting to the waiver of jurisdiction over a candidate, by a lodge in whose jurisdiction he resided, holding that the lodge has full and inherent power in the matter, and no one else can legally have anything to say in the matter, and claims that it is a right inherent in the lodges, and not surrendered by the lodges to the Grand Lodge, when charters were made necessary by the regulations of 1721. The trouble with his theory is that territorial jurisdiction of a lodge never existed until more than half a century after 1721, and was never heard of, or suggested. In this section of the country, it did not exist when we became a member of the Grand Lodge, and we assisted in the Grand Lodge of Maine in establishing the law. Its object was not to make candidates the “property” of lodges (to use his term) *but to prevent the admission of unworthy members*, by compelling candidates to apply to the nearest lodge, where presumably they are best known. In all this section the law establishing the territorial

jurisdiction of lodges is a creation of the Grand Lodge, by which the privilege of a lodge to receive a candidate from anywhere in the state was curtailed: the law is a limitation of the former powers of lodges, instead of an inherent right in them. We have reference of course to lodges in the same Grand Lodge Jurisdiction. It follows that the Grand Lodge may prescribe such rules as it pleases in relation to the waiver of jurisdiction in favor of another lodge, and if the waiver is in favor of a lodge in another jurisdiction, we hold that the requirement of having the papers pass through the hands of the Grand Master and have his approval, is a wise one.

In this connection, he repeats his views, in substance, that masonic government is of the same pattern as that of the United States, oblivious of the fact that when our present masonic system was formed, his system existed nowhere, and had never been suggested or thought of, save possibly by a few philosophers; and that our system was formed by men who held that the source of power is in the government.

We fully concur in the following:

"He refers to his having made very few decisions, but he had, however, given a great many opinions on various questions submitted to him by the Worshipful Masters. Now, in our view of the position of a Grand Master, whenever he gives an opinion on any masonic question which is to govern the action of a Worshipful Master or a lodge, that opinion is in the nature of a decision of a masonic question, and is an authoritative *dictum*; and should he report such action to his Grand Lodge, and, being new, should meet the approbation thereof, it becomes a rule of the Grand Lodge for future guidance."

But we have noted one evil: instead of confining the decision to the precise point decided, there is a tendency to formulate a general rule broader than the decision, which may embarrass subsequent Grand Masters. We speak from experience.

Referring to the minority report of Bro. SCHULTZ, that when performing public ceremonies, the Grand Lodge is open and at labor, he says:

"In reference to the minority report, we have to say that Bro. Schultz referred the matter to the writer, and we took great pains in hunting up the record upon this subject, and found in all of the old books, Ahiman Rezon, &c., the facts as stated in the minority report."

The following is sound, and we regret that the doctrine does not prevail in all the jurisdictions:

"Now, just here we would say that a Past Master of any jurisdiction where he presided as a Worshipful Master must be considered a Past Master wherever he may sojourn, for the same reason that a Master Mason is considered such always and everywhere he may sojourn. So soon as he regularly becomes a member of any lodge he is certainly entitled to all the privileges of a member. Then why, when the Past Master of a lodge dimits from the lodge over which he presided and becomes a member of any other lodge does he lose his past rank? We say the same of a Past Grand Officer. When changing his membership he does not lose the rank he held at home.

This is the law of our jurisdiction, and it is correct. It works for good to Masonry everywhere it prevails. If the present writer has been of any service to Masonry, and he hopes he has, it is due to the fact that when he became a member of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia it was by virtue of the fact that in 1849 he had presided over a lodge in Missouri. So you see that 'a fellow-feeling makes us wonderous kind.' "

His views in relation to objection after ballot are in precise accord with our law in Maine.

He thinks that the Master should vote as a member and have a casting vote in case of a tie. The practice is not uniform. But we believe that the correct rule is, that when the presiding officer is a member of the body and has a vote as such, he has no casting vote, and a tie is a negative vote. We think also that this rule now generally prevails in the law of our Grand Lodges.

We are somewhat surprised to find the following confirmation of our statement in relation to the law of territorial jurisdiction :

" Fifty years or more ago what is now called territorial jurisdiction was rarely considered. A lodge in any given locality was expected to know well the character of any applicant before electing him; the *place* of his residence was not considered. The only question was, is he eligible? This is the universal rule in every country except the United States."

We greatly regret that Maine is among the jurisdictions which his illness prevented his reviewing:

FLORIDA, 1897.

The portrait of the Grand Master (JAMES W. BOYD) is given as a frontispiece.

He had performed many official acts and rendered a large number of decisions, many of them based on local law.

The Grand Lodge overruled one decision, and we think correctly. The by-laws of a lodge provided for the payment of annual dues in advance, on a day named. He decided that if a member dimits during the year, he is entitled to have a proportionate amount remitted: but the Grand Lodge held that when dues are payable on a certain day, the whole amount is payable, and if not paid the party owing them is at once in arrears; there can be no apportionment unless expressly provided in the by-laws.

The storm, that swept across the State last September, destroyed the halls of, or otherwise severely injured, some twelve lodges, besides destroying the homes and other property of many of the members: to five he granted permission to issue appeals for aid. On account of the pressure of indebtedness, the Grand Lodge felt compelled to decline to remit their dues for 1897, but gave them an extension of time for payment.

Grand Secretary WILBER P. WEBSTER submitted a report showing the application of business methods in his office, and a constant effort to have all those having charge of matters of the craft adopt the same system, and he seems to have been highly successful.

For example, he says:

"I have overhauled and classified the Grand Lodge Library. In doing so I find that our files of several of the Grand Lodges are incomplete, and have done what I could, without an appropriation for that purpose, to complete them. Some of the missing copies have been procured by writing to the Grand Secretaries, others of earlier dates are more difficult to obtain. The thanks of the Grand Lodge are due to Brothers W. A. McLean and W. A. Evans for a number of books presented by them.

* * * * *

"The Regulations provide that a record of all charters shall be kept. Being unable to find any such record, I have had a book made for that purpose, and have succeeded in making a full record of nearly every charter that has been issued by this Grand Lodge since its organization."

We earnestly hope the following will be universally adopted:

"A number of copies of the Constitutions and Regulations of other Grand Lodges have been received, with the request that ours be sent in return. I would respectfully ask that the Grand Secretary be instructed to send a copy of our new revision to each of the Grand Lodges with which we are in fraternal correspondence."

Nothing will do more to secure uniformity in masonic law than the examination of the laws of other jurisdictions: but it has, heretofore, been very difficult and quite expensive to obtain the means of doing so.

We expect that our Florida brethren will hear further from the following:

"Upon motion, duly carried, a dispensation was granted Temple Lodge, No. 23, to ballot on a candidate at a called meeting, without waiting the required time, in order to furnish material for the exemplification of the work in the F. C. degree before the Grand Lodge."

An immense amount of routine business was done, the Committee on Jurisprudence being almost overwhelmed with propositions submitted to them. Their action, however, recalls the instance of a committee which reported "Inexpedient" so often, that it was termed the "Inexpedient Committee." But this one gives valid reasons for its action.

While the following is not the precise case which arose in our Grand Lodge, the principle applicable is the same:

"It is not the practice to insert the names of all the members in a charter when granted; the names of the officers, only, appear. The omission of the names in this case is a clerical error, which occurred before the paper reached the office of the Grand Secretary, by the omission of the names from the petition when the application for charter was being prepared in New River Lodge. The Grand Secretary can be authorized by the action of the Grand Lodge to insert a new and perfect list of the membership of the lodge, with the proceedings of the present Grand Annual Communica-

tion. Meanwhile, the brethren are not affected by the omission, and are and have been charter members of the New River Lodge from the date of the charter, and if their names do not appear so upon the books and returns of the lodge, it is their privilege to have proper amendments made to correct their records."

No Report on Correspondence: but we are somewhat consoled for its absence by the fact that the Grand Lodge is reducing its debt, and in a few years it will not be restrained from doing many things which it would like to do now but cannot for the want of funds.

GEORGIA, 1896.

The Grand Master (JOHN P. SHANNON) says:

"Our Great Grand Master has blessed us more than we have deserved, for of the officers of the Grand Lodge but one has crossed over the river and rests under the shade, and of the eighteen thousand masons in this jurisdiction, only a small percentage has shuffled off this mortal coil. Our State has been convulsed with political excitement, financial depression has impoverished our people, commercial, manufacturing, agricultural and professional business have all been unprofitable, but through it all our Royal Craft has grown in numbers and increased in moral influence more than in many years past. Men may be poor, business may be stagnated, politics appear absorbing, but Masonry, as long as its precepts are practiced, will command the approval and receive the support of all who understand and appreciate a society whose sole aim is the mental and moral improvement of mankind. Our numerical increase is not large, but the men who have joined our ranks during the year are almost without exception the best in the State. Causes which need not be named have in the past permitted some unworthy persons to gain membership, but gradually such have disappeared from our rolls and their places have been supplied with better material. This was noticed last year; it is even more apparent now."

He had an exceedingly active year, and had devoted himself to the duties of the office with great enthusiasm, and had performed them with signal ability.

He had granted eighty dispensations for various purposes—among them five to lodges whose charters had been burned.

He had rendered fifty-four decisions, many of them repetitions of former ones, which he reports in order to emphasize the principles contained in them. Some of them were modified by the Grand Lodge. Many of them were expositions of local law.

We copy some of general interest:

"1. Masonic burial can be performed in only one way. The craft take charge of the body, perform such services at the house or the church as are deemed proper, accompany the remains to the place of interment, all religious services and ceremonies by different orders are concluded, then Masonry finishes the burial services around the grave as our ritual prescribes. There is no such thing as a masonic funeral, or concluding the ceremonies at some later date.

* * * * *

“11. Under the laws of this jurisdiction a separate ballot is necessary in each of the three degrees, and this ballot covers the question of proficiency as well as character. While I still doubt the wisdom of this requirement, it is the law of this jurisdiction and must be enforced.

* * * * *

“14. ‘A’ was elected Worshipful Master. He had committed a masonic offence, for which charges had not been preferred at the time of his election, but the same were preferred before his installation: *Held*, that he is entitled to be installed, and afterwards his trial must be by a lodge summoned by the Grand Master. Such a mason should not be elected Master, but the presumption of innocence which attaches to all would entitle him to election and installation until his guilt had been proven.

* * * * *

“24. Where there are several candidates for the same degree to be balloted for, it is permissible for the Worshipful Master to direct a ballot for all the petitioners presented for that degree, and if no black-ball appears, declare them all elected. But if there is one or more black-balls, then a separate ballot must be had on each petition.

* * * * *

“33. Representatives of subordinate lodges in the Grand Lodge are the agents and servants of the several subordinate lodges which they represent, and it is the right of the lodges to instruct their representatives as to their wishes, and the duty of the representatives to obey the wishes of the lodge which they severally represent.

* * * * *

“40. An illegitimate, whose character is otherwise such as to entitle him to the benefits of Masonry, is not debarred therefrom in consequence of his birth. It is not what may be a man’s birth, provided he is free born, but what is his real character that entitles him to or debars him from the benefits of Masonry.”

In approving No. 11, the Grand Lodge declined to change the existing law, and a separate ballot for each degree must be taken.

The last sentence of No. 14 was not approved, as it is liable to be misunderstood. We dissent from the rest of it, for reasons already given in this report.

We gravely doubt the expediency of No. 24: balloting for a crowd at one time quite destroys the sense of responsibility which one has when he ballots on the petition of one candidate.

The committee added the following to another decision, and it was adopted:

“It being the opinion of this committee that the Edict of 1892, denying the right of the Grand Master to grant dispensations to confer two or more degrees at one communication, is a contravention of the ancient landmarks and therefore void.”

The Grand Master made an eloquent appeal in favor of a Masonic Home: but the Grand Lodge is in debt, with an increasing balance yearly on the wrong side of the account. The dues are large, but they are almost all paid out in mileage and *per diem*: they managed to get through in two days this

year, and thus save about \$1,200. The pay of Representatives is very excessive, as it seems to us, being larger than in any other jurisdiction, but all attempts to reduce it have failed. In this connection the Grand Master says:

"But if there had been no extra expenditures, the income from all sources each year are not sufficient to pay necessary annual expenses. These expenses cannot be reduced fairly in but one direction. Salaries are as low as they should be, but the mileage paid delegates is too much. At present, delegates to the Grand Lodge are paid ten cents a mile both ways. Those who travel on railroads pay three cents one way and return for one cent, making the railroad fare four cents for the round trip, thus allowing a profit of sixteen cents on each mile of railroad travel. This is too much profit for a Master who is honored by being the head of a masonic lodge; too much for the Grand Lodge officers more highly honored; too much for a Past Grand Officer who has reaped all the honors in the past."

It is of little use to talk about a Masonic Home as long as a majority of the Grand Lodge refuse to apply *business methods* in managing its financial affairs. A motion to reduce the mileage so that the expenses of the Grand Lodge shall come within its receipts, was presented, earnestly debated, but laid on the table: but a motion to reduce the Grand Secretary's salary received a majority vote!

The following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved by the Grand Lodge of Georgia, in the 110th annual communication assembled, That from and after the passage of this edict no man who deals or traffics in intoxicating liquors shall be eligible to membership in any lodge in this jurisdiction. This shall not affect the standing of any who are already members of the order, but the Grand Lodge most earnestly urges all brethren engaged in the liquor business to find some other occupation not contrary to the laws and principles of true Masonry as well as of the laws of God."

Messages of sympathy and condolence were sent to Bro. WILLIAM ABRAHAM LOVE, who had been obliged to submit to a severe surgical operation, in consequence of which he had been confined to his bed for a long time, and worse even than that, had lost a son by an accident on a railroad. The following dispatch was received from him in reply, which was ordered to be spread on the record.

"The benedictions of a house of sorrow be upon you. May our Supreme Grand Master protect and direct us all in carrying out His grand designs, and vouchsafe to us a happy reunion in the great beyond.

"In deep grief and fraternally,

"WM. ABRAHAM LOVE."

We confess to a feeling of disappointment, after having examined these Proceedings, and serious misgivings as to the future prosperity of this Grand Lodge. It was obliged to borrow \$4,500 to pay the expenses of the year, and we are quite unable to decide whether this deficiency was increased or diminished. Nothing will more seriously demoralize a Grand Lodge, its sub-

ordinates and their members than a floating debt, especially if it is increasing. It is with much grief that we note this, for we have greatly rejoiced in the past at the seeming prosperity in this jurisdiction.

The Report on Correspondence (126 pp.) is in three installments, one by Bro. A. Q. MOODY, one by Bro. W. E. MUMFORD, and the other by Bro. W. S. RAMSAY. The Grand Lodge, however, voted that for the future, the committee shall consist of one, and Bro. RAMSAY was appointed.

Bro. MOODY confined himself to an effort to give "a fair and concise exposition of the various matters pertaining to the Grand Lodges under review," with scarcely a comment, and he succeeded admirably.

Bro. MUMFORD follows the same plan, but gives more comments. In his review of Maine, he says:

"These are noble words most fitly spoken, and yet some masonic lodges even in Georgia will give the sacred degrees of Freemasonry to a man who is making merchandise of the temptability of his neighbors and brethren. Yes, some of our subordinate lodges have made masons of rum sellers. For one, this writer raises his protest against it, and we masons of Georgia ought to have in our Grand Lodge law a stringent statute against this evil, as many of our sister Grand Lodges already have. We hail with delight the manly words of the Grand Master of Maine."

Bro. RAMSAY heads his part "Foreign Grand Lodges" and starts with England, but soon reaches "North Carolina" and other Home Grand Lodges.

Of "making masons at sight" he says:

"Where there are lodges in abundance to pass upon the qualifications of a candidate, whether physically, mentally or morally, it seems to us to be absurd, unless there is some urgent necessity for it, to make a mason 'at sight.' It implies a dread of the ballot for some reason."

He will have the whole field to himself next year, and we shall look with interest for his report.

IDAHO, 1896.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Grand Secretary, adopted by the Grand Lodge, we have in this pamphlet "half-tone" portraits of three Past Grand Masters.

A special meeting was held to bury Bro. AUGUSTINE HAAS, the first Senior Grand Warden, and at the time of his death Grand Tyler. The Grand Lodge opened in ample form, performed the services and closed.

At the annual communication the attendance was quite full: though six of the Grand Officers were absent: we note that none of those absent were elected or appointed to office for the next year.

The Grand Master (ISADORE WRILER), in an able address of twenty-five pages, gives an account of the numerous matters upon which he has been

called to act during the year, with pertinent comments and judicious recommendations.

He congratulates the craft upon the prosperity and prevalence of peace and harmony that have marked the year.

In addition to Bro. HAAS, Past Senior Grand Warden EDWIN A. JORDAN had died during the year. He was a native of Oxford County, Me., but went to California in 1862 and to Idaho in 1864, but did not permanently settle there till 1863. He had been a member of the Legislature and at the time of his death was a Regent of the State Normal School. The Grand Master says of him:

"He was the soul of honor: in sympathy with the people of the community where he lived, and with all who knew him, and they in turn loved and cherished him for his sterling worth and generous impulses. He was an honored, worthy, and respected citizen, devoted to Masonry, his interest in his lodge ceasing only with his death."

He decided that the permission of the Grand Master is not necessary for a public installation, and also that—

"Any past or present Master, after he has been installed, is eligible to install the officers of a lodge, but in no case can a past or present Master install himself. If there is no Past Master available to install the newly elected Master, and he is the present incumbent and about to succeed himself, he retains his office until his successor shall be duly qualified."

It seems that by express statute, in the absence of the Master and Warden, a Past Master can open the lodge only on funeral occasions: this exception is a recognition of the old law, and we suggest that it would be better to recognize it fully.

A lodge in Quebec having initiated a resident of Idaho and requested the lodge in whose jurisdiction he resided, to confer the other degrees, he decided that the party could not be recognized as a mason. Thus Idaho sustains the position that she will not recognize work done in a regular lodge upon a candidate, who *by her laws* is ineligible to be made in the lodge which attempted to make him: whether she recognizes the right of other Grand Lodges to do the same when their rejected candidates are made in her lodges, we do not know, but the principle involved is precisely the same.

This Grand Lodge is one of the *very* few which adopted the "Wisconsin proposition," and it has already involved two of her own lodges in controversy, which was settled only by the strong arm of the Grand Lodge. Its action is very suggestive:

"Your committee are satisfied from facts stated to them that Bro. Becraft has been and is now able to pay the said sum of eighty dollars, for which Eagle Rock Lodge, No. 19, has become responsible; and your committee recommend that Eagle Rock Lodge, No. 19, demand of said Bro. Becraft the said sum of eighty dollars, to be paid within thirty days of said demand, and if Bro. Becraft fails or refuses to pay said sum within the time so fixed, that

Eagle Rock Lodge, No. 19, bring proper charges against Bro. Beecraft and expel him from all the rights and privileges of Masonry."

Wonderful *charity* in this! It is merely a loan, which must be repaid *under penalty of expulsion* if the Grand Lodge becomes "satisfied," without hearing the party, that he subsequently becomes able to re-pay it! However it is only carrying the "Wisconsin proposition" to its logical result.

About ten pages of these Proceedings are given to the action upon this and other cases arising out of this innovation in the very groundwork of Masonry.

For many years a tax of one dollar for each member was levied in aid of the Orphan Fund; but last year it was reduced to fifty cents; the fund is now \$27,000, and he earnestly urged that no further reduction shall be made. The income may be disbursed in charity, but the principle is "irreducible."

The Grand Master questions the justice of their law which, without trial, deprives the non-affiliate "of all masonic rights and privileges, the same as though they had been found guilty and expelled for some grievous offence or crime against Masonry," even though they are willing and anxious to regain their membership, but are financially unable to do so. The matter was referred to a committee of Past Grand Masters, to report next year.

He calls attention to Life Insurance Associations organized to insure masons only, and bearing the name "Masonic," and referring to one of them, he says:

"There are a number of masons in this jurisdiction who have been members and paid their assessments in this association for the past eight years who carry no other insurance. Some of them are now aged and otherwise physically disqualified from further life insurance, and what is their condition? Not only have they lost the amount paid into this association, but they find themselves without that protection to their families which they thought they had provided. Their faith in the association was absolute. Why? Because it carried with it the name 'Masonic,' which to them was a guarantee for honesty and for the faithful performance of the obligations made to them. If the Grand Lodges in whose jurisdiction the business of these associations is transacted would exercise a supervision over them, by appointing a committee to examine and investigate at stated periods the books and general financial status of their affairs, a recurrence of such high-handed practices as instanced would be avoided, and the craft protected against further impositions of this nature."

That is not certain: a Grand Lodge, meeting once a year, is a very poor supervisory of a business of the extent and character as the insurance business is. No Grand Lodge would be willing to guarantee the contracts of such an Association, and an undertaking to do so would be outside of its legitimate province. The Grand Lodge adopted the following:

"WHEREAS, There are a number of life insurance associations doing business within several of the Masonic Grand Jurisdictions of the United States, and

"WHEREAS, These associations invite and solicit patronage and membership from Master Masons in good standing only, and

"WHEREAS, The financial responsibility of these associations is not established; therefore be it

"Resolved, That for the protection of the members of our fraternity against imposition by fraudulent or irresponsible associations organized for the purpose of insuring the lives of Master Masons, it is the sense of this Grand Lodge that the attention of our sister Grand Lodges, in whose jurisdiction these associations are established, is hereby directed to the foregoing, that they may take such action as will prevent a further recurrence as instanced in the Most Worshipful Grand Master's address upon this subject."

Of the "Eastern Star" he says:

"The growth of the Order of the Eastern Star in Idaho is a matter of congratulation. During the past year the membership has materially increased, and several new chapters have been organized.

"Among the lodges that I have visited where Eastern Star Chapters are established, I became the recipient of several delightful social entertainments, which were participated in by members of the lodge and chapter, and it was plainly noticeable that the benign influence of the ladies of these chapters rendered social life more agreeable and cemented the brethren together in a firmer, warmer degree of fraternal love and friendship, thereby adding much to the general flourishing condition and prosperity of the lodges."

The Grand Secretary (CHARLES C. STEVENSON) had introduced "business methods" into the office, and his full report shows that he very successfully performed his duties. He had given attention to the Library, which has attained very respectable proportions. We note that it has a large proportion of non-masonic books: this is well enough in the early days of a library, but the result will be, as it was in Utah, that shelf-room and expense of its care will lead to a separation and the turning over of the non-masonic part to a different organization.

A case was before the Grand Lodge in which a brother was charged with unmasonic conduct in having visited a lodge after he had been suspended by Monument Lodge in our jurisdiction for non-payment of dues. A new trial was ordered on technical grounds: but the Grand Lodge did not seem to know that the brother had not been suspended in the sense of the term used in the charge, but was only *suspended from membership in that lodge*, and could visit any lodge in Maine, which should choose to admit him, without a violation of law by either party. However, under the Idaho law a non-affiliate can visit only three times, and this brother was a non-affiliate for the time being, and that only, and his offence, if he had committed any, is vastly different from that of a suspended mason, who should undertake to visit a lodge.

The following amendment to the Grand Lodge by-laws was adopted:

"Provided further, that at any time before his initiation, if objection be made by any member of the lodge, he shall not receive the degree of Entered Apprentice Mason until such objections be removed, no charges being required before initiation."

This is the worst kind of "perpetual jurisdiction"; there is no record of the name of the objector and no one knows who he is: if he dies, or is expelled, even his objection keeps candidates out, without any possibility of relief. The effect of an objection after ballot ought not to be greater than a rejection by ballot, and most Grand Lodges are making it equivalent to that. By the way, we wonder, whether if such a hung-up candidate should go to California (or any jurisdiction which holds to the same practice), live there a year, his petition would be received and acted upon regardless of his *status* in Idaho.

The Report on Correspondence (66 pp.) was presented by Bro. CHARLES C. STEVENSON, Grand Secretary.

In his introduction he says:

"I desire to again urge upon the brethren to read. The proceedings that are annually produced, at considerable expense, are not intended for mere idle amusement, but are for the information and guidance of the brethren. The mere formality of going through the ritual, glibly repeating the part allotted you, or eloquently delivering the lecture, does not necessarily make a bright or a good mason. While I do not wish to throw the slightest slur upon the necessity of a ritual, I would respectfully urge that the brethren read more of the grand, good works that adorn the great field of masonic literature. The reports on foreign correspondence that are annually presented to the reading world are intended to educate the average mason up to an understanding of the real designs and purposes of Masonry. I am afraid that too few pay much attention to the Grand Lodge proceedings. However, it is encouraging to note that lately there appears to be a growing desire for knowledge among our younger members. The value and standing of our lodges would be immeasurably increased if more of the members would probe for the reason of things, instead of accepting the dictum of some better-informed brother."

And of "ciphers":

"We are perfectly in accord with his energetic views on the cipher innovation, which menaces the very existence of this ancient and honorable institution. There was a time when masons loved to come together for mutual, intellectual, and social improvement. At those meetings, held for instruction, minds were directed into those fathomless channels of masonic knowledge, the result being the development of profound students of jurisprudence and the higher perfections of masonic philosophy. The ritual was well learned and thoroughly explained. The art of delivery was fully practiced, in order to attain that polish and smoothness that has charmed the ears of an entire lodge. Now, with this innovation, how is it? The meetings are discontinued, for very few will come. The stated meetings are sparsely attended. The bright masons are rapidly growing scarcer. Text books remain closed on dusty shelves. The word jurisprudence is scarce heard outside of Grand Lodge. Why? Because each one has a cipher, and being able to read considers it a waste of time to follow the old plan. With a snattering gained from the infernal thing, he imagines he knows all of Masonry, and goes on his way, each day becoming less and less indifferent to the glories and beauties of Freemasonry. It is a positive fact, that these keys will sap our life blood if continued."

There is one "out" in this: his assumption that the cipher is an innovation is erroneous: they have been made and used since WEBB's time and

fifty years ago more in proportion than now. There is no doubt that the great increase of interest in "the work" which commenced about thirty years ago, grew very largely out of the use of what were believed to be *authentic* ciphers, by the use of which a brother could devote his spare time at home to acquiring the work. The fact is, that our masons began to be too busy to meet together at stated times and learn the work by oral instruction. The process was too long, too tedious and too uncertain for our modern times. If the cipher is an evil, the only way to correct it, is to look the matter squarely in the face, recognize the facts as they are and take measures accordingly.

In his review of Maine (1895) he most emphatically approves Grand Master BURBANK's words in relation to drunkenness, profanity and slander. He quotes the closing words of the address and would add "study," to which we feel sure Bro. BURBANK will not object, as we know that he includes it in "work."

He thinks our practice of having the Committee on Credentials meet in advance of the hour of the meeting of the Grand Lodge would not work well in a sparsely settled jurisdiction like Idaho. That depends upon whether the members are expected to be present at the hour the Grand Lodge meets: if they are, the committee could meet and do all the work in the hour previous.

But we must stop here, though the way is a pleasant one and we would gladly linger in it.

ILLINOIS, 1896.

The Grand Lodge, open in ample form, laid the corner stone of a State Normal School, May 27, 1896.

After a brief introduction touching upon the object of Masonry and the duties of masons, and a few words concerning the dead of the year, the Grand Master (OWEN SCOTT) proceeds to a concise, but full enough to be clear, account of his official acts during the year, with a few suggestions and recommendations.

For a more complete statement of the condition of the craft, he refers to the reports of the District Deputies, but they are so brief and meagre, that we do not get much light from them. From general results, we judge that the Institution has had a good degree of prosperity during the year: the losses in the total membership were about sixty per cent. of the gross gains: the re-instatements were about one-third of the suspensions, while the "admissions" were nearly *ninety* per cent. of the "dimissions."

He says:

"It came to my knowledge that certain brethren were being deceived by the representations of publishers of books and documents purporting to contain the standard secret work of this jurisdiction. In two of the lodges charges were preferred against certain brethren for disseminating these fraudulent publications. The charges were sustained, the brethren both found guilty, and regularly suspended. On which I felt that the attention of the craft should again be called to the fact that there is no book, key, or document containing the secret or esoteric work of this Grand jurisdiction."

He issued an edict accordingly, and required it to be read in every lodge and entered in full upon the record.

He thus speaks of a new feature:

"At this point it will not be out of place to commend a feature of work that, happily, is growing more in favor. It is the custom of some lodges to hold what they term 'conclaves.' A whole day and evening are given to work. Lodges are invited for many miles around. The lodge sending the invitation will have the first, second, and third degrees, and invite a neighboring lodge to do the work in one degree and another in another. Some have three or four candidates for the third, and divide up in this. In the evening there is a grand masonic rally, attended by hundreds. Such meetings during the past year have had from three to four hundred masons present, and in some cases as many as thirty lodges have been represented, almost rivaling the interest and value of our superb schools. The good of such gatherings is inestimable. It brings the brethren closer together and stimulates them to better work and higher standards."

In relation to masonic schools, he says:

"In addition to the excellent work of the Board of Grand Examiners in the esoteric work of Freemasonry, the Grand Master at each place availed himself of the opportunity of holding a council with the Worshipful Masters and other representatives of lodges present. The various details of lodge management, the laws, rules, and regulations of Masonry, and many matters of general interest were discussed, to the profit and enlightenment of all. There is, therefore, a threefold benefit to be derived from these schools, viz: a greater perfection in the standard work, a more complete knowledge of the law and usage and a development of a burning enthusiasm for Ancient Craft Masonry."

He had found that the provisions for life membership had created many difficulties, and the system had worked so badly, that he believed it wise to abolish all provisions for life membership "involving exemption from paying an equal share in the burdens of lodge and Grand Lodge."

Among his decisions are these:

"An objection to the initiation of a candidate, who is in every way eligible, must be made before the lodge begins to confer the degree. It comes too late after any part of the work within the lodge has been done."

* * * * *

"In electing officers a lodge cannot instruct the Secretary or any other brother to cast the vote of a lodge for a brother, although he may be the only one placed in nomination. The brethren have the power to vote for and elect one not in nomination at all. There must be a ballot for each elective office, at which each member present shall have the opportunity to vote."

This last is the correct doctrine: brethren may refrain from voting, when the sentiment is unanimous, and thus save time in counting.

We note that in the votes granting charters, all the charter members are named.

The following was unanimously adopted:

"No mason shall give the masonic name to any business concern, association, or calling organized or prosecuted for profit or for a livelihood. No mason shall use or be a party to the using of the masonic name as a part of the style and title or the designation of any business firm, concern, company, association, or enterprise, unless such business shall be the printing or publishing of masonic books, papers, or periodicals, or the manufacture and sale of masonic supplies."

The Grand Orator, Bro. ADLAI E. STEVENSON, delivered an eloquent oration worthy of the study of every brother.

The Report on Correspondence (341 pp.) was presented by Bro. JOSEPH ROBBINS. We could usefully devote at least one-tenth as many pages to a review of it, and yet touch upon only such matters which, if they stood alone, we should notice as a matter of course.

In his introduction, he says:

"The question of jurisdiction over rejected material still continues to attract more attention than any other, fresh instances of deadlock between sovereign jurisdictions differing in their interpretation of the law of Masonry, serving to keep it continually at the front. The discussions of the question during the past year have, we think, fully justified the opinion expressed in our last report that it was beginning to be more clearly seen that a necessary condition precedent to any agreement must be a recognition by both sides of the fact that Masonry, not the candidate, is the chief factor in the problem."

* * * * *

"So, too, it may take a good while for us to see that on the other hand the status given a rejected candidate under the properly administered law of a Grand Lodge recognized by us as the competent law-giver within its territory cannot be denied without discrediting the lawful acts of its lawful lodges, no matter how much we may condemn the policy of giving that status or the law which gives it. The acknowledgment of complete masonic competency on the part of each, is involved in the mutual recognition of Grand Lodges, and until this is fully realized by both parties to this debate, so that each can approach the other as a recognized equal in all things, there can be little profitable discussion of the minor questions whether a wrong doer may repent and an unfit candidate outgrow his unworthiness, and whether as a rule rejections are prompted by unworthy and unmasonic motives."

Of another matter he well says:

"It would be by no means surprising, considering their common root, if the crusade against non-affiliates and the tendency to convert Masonry into a mutual benefit or assurance society, should wane as they have waxed, together. The proceedings we have had under review contain much to encourage the hope expressed last year, that the Wisconsin proposition relative to masonic relief, was the high water mark of this tendency. Still there is abundant reason for watchful apprehension so long as Masonry is environed by numberless initiative societies, formed, for the most part, on the basis of

fixed benefits contingent on fixed contributions, and in which a cessation of payment works forfeiture of membership."

Here we had quoted a statement by him, and written a reply in a tone of indignation, which we deemed not only just, but absolutely called for; but upon reflection we conclude merely to express our deep regret, that he should have allowed himself to impute dishonorable motives and even an attempt to sacrifice Masonry, to masons, whose devotion to the York Rite for years almost equal to his own lifetime, is shown by their acts, as great and as loyal as his own, or that of any one of us. It is a maxim among lawyers, that when a disputant leaves his argument and attacks the motives and conduct of his adversary, it is an emphatic admission of the weakness of his argument and of his consciousness or fear of that fact. One phase of his discussion of the Gran Dieta of Mexico forcibly illustrates the truth of this maxim.

In relation to the inspection of the charter, he well says:

"If we, as the Master of a lodge, were satisfied that the request of the visitor to inspect the charter as prompted solely by a conscientious regard of the visitor for his engagements to countenance only genuine masons, we should not only not refuse to show him the parchment but should gladly do so."

Of waiver of jurisdiction:

"In Illinois it is held that where jurisdiction is concurrent waiver must also be concurrent, on the express ground that what is equally the possession of all, no one can give away."

This involves an erroneous assumption: it is "not equally the possession of all"; it is the sole possession of only *one*—that one to be selected by the candidate. When he selects the lodge by applying to it (either for initiation or for waiver), the other lodges have no more to do with him than any other lodge in the world.

He replies to Bro. MILLER, of Kansas, at some length in relation to the Gran Dieta of Mexico: we are mixed in it somewhat, but as we fully replied to Bro. ROBBINS in our report of last year, which we had not seen when he wrote this report, we have occasion to notice only one paragraph in it: he says:

"In the first place it is well to eliminate the Pennsylvania riddle as not germane, because the organization with which Franklin was connected as Grand Master at the date of his letter to Price, (November 28, 1734), *did not perpetuate itself and never received recognition from any Grand Lodge*. To the fact that it was an unauthorized body we think we were the first to call public attention in our report for 1872, a fact which was apparent on the face of Franklin's letter to Price. We do not feel quite sure whether the statement of Bro. Miller that Franklin was made in one of these unauthorized lodges is made as a matter of knowledge, or as an inference which he feels warranted in drawing from the fact that he was a mason in Pennsylvania when no chartered body of masons existed there. Grand Master William S. Gardner, in his address on Henry Price, delivered before the

Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in 1871, says that between the time of his leaving Boston in 1724 and his visit there in 1734, Franklin had been in England and had there probably been made a mason."

The famous "Liber B" shows conclusively that FRANKLIN was made a mason in that voluntary lodge in Philadelphia. The latter part of the clause Bro. ROBBINS puts in *italics* is erroneous, for the Grand Lodge of England recognized the work of that lodge as regular, *by making Franklin Provincial Grand Master*, and authorizing him to form a Provincial Grand Lodge of the masons made in that lodge: and Franklin did just that. The "Pennsylvania riddle" (now one no longer) cannot be eliminated from the discussion, for the reason stated by Bro. ROBBINS. We had occasion to investigate this matter fully, before this question under discussion arose. See Yorston's edition of Gould's History, Vol. IV, pp. 361, *et seq.*

He gives a very full review of Maine (1895), copying, as worthy of preservation, the lines read at the funeral of Past Gr. Master ALBERT MOORE.

Of the decisions, he says:

"Of the four which are of general application we are not disposed to question the correctness of any but the second. If an annual reception with its social opportunities will tend to the prosperity of the lodge, we do not see why the brethren have not the same right to draw on the treasury for the expenses, that they would have to expend the lodge funds in beautifying their masonic home, with the same design."

The one objected to related to receptions, the principal feature of which was dancing. In the first place it may be said, there are many members of our lodges, who object to dancing on moral grounds, and, therefore, would be excluded from the reception: so that the use of the funds which they have aided in contributing cannot be used for the purpose unless such use is justified by the ancient usages of the craft. But the conclusive reason is that the use of lodge funds for social purposes must not go beyond the limits of the law made by those ancient usages.

He thinks our system of consolidating lodges better than theirs in Illinois. There a new charter is granted: we presume that it is a charter of *creation*, and that the new lodge is constituted under it: if so, it is all right from the legal standpoint, but seems to sever the lodges entirely from their previous history.

Of Grand Master BURBANK's address, he says:

"In closing, the Grand Master has some strong exhortations as to individual and collective duty toward intemperance, slander, profane and licentious speech and bad citizenship. We should be glad to copy it all, but must content ourselves with some passages of especial strength."

He quotes largely from the address delivered on our seventy-fifth anniversary, and generally with comments of emphatic approval.

There is one notable exception, so important that we shall be pardoned for copying what our usual rule would have excluded:

"The oration of Past Grand Master Drummond is a paper of great practical value, which no mason can read without profit. It is to be regretted that an address which as a whole is so broad, so instinct with the true principles of fraternity, and of the fraternity, should be marred in its basic statement of principles by an attempt to narrow its catholic basis, a basis broad enough to warrant the statement that 'the fundamental principle of Masonry is the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.'

"This basis Bro. Drummond would narrow by adding to the sole religious test which the landmark warrants and requires—belief in God and obedience to the moral law—the additional test of belief in the divine authenticity of the Bible. He says that an inspection of the early records shows this to have been held by the fathers of their Grand Lodge, and the implication is that it was therefore a part of Masonry as it came down to them. We know that the masonic history of Maine furnishes instances—as does also that of Missouri and Texas—where God-trusting men have been expelled from Masonry for want of belief in such authenticity, but this does not warrant the assumption, that from a masonic standpoint, either of these Grand Lodges is holier than others whose history bears no such blot. These expulsions have been in the face of the landmark, which, as interpreted by ancient usage, universal and unvaried since Masonry assumed its present form, guarantees immunity from religious inquisition save upon the single point of belief in God. We say *unvarying* usage with such confidence that if Bro. Drummond will say that in the ritual as practiced in his jurisdiction—where, if anywhere, we ought to look for it—the one test question touching religious belief has ever been a double question or anything but a single-pointed, unqualified interrogatory most satisfactorily answered in two words, we promise in advance to admit that Masonry as he defines it, and as he says it was also defined by the fathers of his Grand Lodge, is the Masonry which came down to them from the fathers of the elder days, who agreed to the charges of a Freemason as the unchangeable law."

He does not state the Maine case quite accurately, but we pass that as unimportant.

But he does not give the whole landmark: it includes not only belief in God but also that he can become a mason only in the presence of a book which he believes to contain the law of that God in whom he believes. This matter cannot be fully discussed, save in a lodge; but we believe brethren will understand us, and agree that such has been the usage every where as far back as our history can be traced.

He says further:

"Under the topic of 'Fraternity,' he thinks the fact must be recognized, unwelcome as it is, that the bonds of fraternity among the craft are not as strong as they once were, and upon this he lays great stress as relates to the future welfare of Masonry. His apprehension that 'many of our lodges are too large for Masonry to have its perfect work,' touches, we are satisfied, one of the causes of this weakening, as it bears directly upon another cause noted—'the failure of our members to cultivate intimacy with each other.'

* * * * *

"This, we think, supports the conclusion to which our study as well as our observation and experience long ago brought us, that the real strength and enduring quality of Masonry lies in the fact that it aims at and satisfies the craving for human fellowship; equal, trusting, unrestrained fellowship for its own sake, shorn as far as possible of all mercenary and selfish considerations."

He explains the ground of his inference from a decision of Grand Master TAYLOR and its approval by the Grand Lodge. It is possible that the language used may justify such an inference, but we do not think so; but if it did, it was not so intended. The statement of a proposition of law, however, cannot properly be extended by inference beyond its meaning as expressed.

He quotes from a former report of ours:

"The only difference between us—and that difference is a very wide one—is, that while we claim for ourself and concede to him the utmost freedom of *opinion* as to the landmarks and every other matter, yet we hold that when our Grand Lodge decides the question, we are bound to conform our masonic *action and conduct* to that decision, but Bro. Robbins holds, as we understand him, that he is not so bound."

And adds:

"What we insisted upon in the remarks to which the above quoted sentence is intended as a reply was, that the exercise of the same freedom of opinion on our part which he exercises on his, should not be held to place us among the goats while he remained the bell-wether of the sheep. We are not vain enough to think that we have said anything stronger of the rightful constraint of the landmarks on the action of Grand Lodges than he has, and we know of no utterance on our part on any other subject to warrant him in assuming that we occupy a different attitude as to the binding effect of the action of a Grand Lodge on the masons of its obedience."

It would be threshing over old straw to go into details, and we can only say that in the discussion of the action of Grand Lodges on the Cerneau question for many years, we have misunderstood positions, which he seemed to us to have expressed with his usual clearness and force, or else our statement to which he excepts is the logical result of them, in our opinion.

He quotes from our report two passages which possibly he holds to be contradictory. He had spoken of "printed ciphers and rituals," and charges the responsibility for them upon the Scottish Rite, especially upon Bro. PIKE. We made a distinction between "ciphers" and "rituals": and both passages are correct. Ciphers were printed long before the Scottish rituals were, and both years before Bro. PIKE became a Scottish Rite mason.

In confirmation of his views in his review of Kansas, he quotes from us the statement that FRANKLIN and the masons made in his lodge were not recognized as masons by the Provincial Grand Lodge which became the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania: but if he had quoted all we said, it would not have confirmed his position at all; it was the battle between the Ancients (so-called) and the regular masons, called "Moderns" by their opponents, the former recognizing none of the latter in Pennsylvania or elsewhere.

We do not remember what the criticism was to which he alludes in the following, and are not aware that we have changed the views formed under the instruction of the Fathers of Masonry in Maine, almost twice as many years ago as he names:

"Twenty-two years ago we criticized some remarks of Bro. Drummond which we thought tended to strengthen the tendency which crops out in the Iowa legislation and which had just then found expression—for the first time, we think, outside of frontier or new jurisdictions—in the legislation of New York. In our review of New York we made as vigorous a protest as we knew how to do against the inequitable and unmasonic deprivation of rights which non-affiliates suffered under that and kindred legislation. To-day it warms the cockles of our heart to find Bro. Drummond, Bro. Fellows, of Louisiana, Bro. Schultz, of Maryland, and others of the old guard dealing sledge hammer blows at the same evil and compelling attention to the gravity of the situation, in the interests of Masonry."

He sharply criticises the New York Committee on Jurisprudence for its action in relation to lodges created by Supreme Councils: he has evolved a theory as to what ought to be, *in his opinion*, regular lodges: it is true that the usage of masons from 1717 down, and the consensus of views of all masons from that time down, with the exception of a few within the last twenty years, are against him, yet he battles for his theory so fiercely that, as we have already said, he gives ground for regret on his own account. In his review of New York, he says:

"Modesty would be becoming, too, in the New York committee, when they undertake to settle by a simple declaration, without adducing any proof whatever, that those hailing as masons under the obedience of the Supreme Council of France are not under the ban laid on the Grand Orient of France and its constituents by the Grand Lodges of the world."

The statement of that committee was only of a fact, which every mason, that knows anything about Masonry in France, must know and so is assumed to know. The Supreme Council is and ever has been, the rival body of the Grand Orient, and is named in no ban ever adopted by any American Grand Lodge, and never took any such action as that which led to the ban against the Grand Orient, and moreover holds masonic communication with European Grand Lodges, which even Bro. ROBBINS recognizes as regular.

He says further:

"They are not warranted from any point of view in saying that 'Masonry is recognized throughout the world as just as legitimate in all countries where the three symbolic degrees are controlled and conferred by the bodies of the Scottish Rite as it is in this country,' because the assertion is not true. It does not follow because the Grand Lodge of New York has turned its back upon the landmarks and repudiated the conditions which afford the only excuse for its existence, that there are no masons and no jurisdictions still acknowledging the constraints of the charges of a Freemason."

Oh no, they should have excepted Bro. ROBBINS and a few more in Illinois, and a few in Pennsylvania—"only this and nothing more."

He has a controversy with Bro. CUNNINGHAM, of Ohio, in which he says that "single individuals [in the Supreme Councils] assumed to expel each other." We had supposed that he said this in a Pickwickian sense, but finding him to be in earnest and that he has not access to the Proceedings, we hasten to assure him that he is in error, and all expulsions were by

a body of men claiming to be a Supreme Council, as the record of their proceedings shows. The issue was that Bro. ROBINSON claimed to bear the same relation to the Supreme Council when in session, as the Grand Master bears to the Grand Lodge in the older jurisdictions: while the other party held that he was only the presiding officer of a body composed of his peers. He claimed the right to close the Supreme Council at pleasure, and against the wishes of the other members if he saw fit. He did declare it closed and left: other members, claiming to be a majority of the whole council, remained, and decided that it was not closed: and thus the schism came. ROBINSON and his adherents formed one body and MOORE and his adherents formed the other body.

Each body expelled members of the other body, but no expulsion "by the one man power" was ever made or attempted: and never dreamed of so far as any evidence shows.

In his review of Pennsylvania, he says:

"If the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania can claim succession to the body over which Allen presided, it is only in the sense of having existed later on the same territory. It had no successive connection with it, the provincial Grand Lodge which preceded the present Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, refusing to affiliate the masons hailing under the Allen body, without first healing. Hence the remark made in the eulogy on Bro. Vaux, where the orator speaks of the 'one hundred and sixty-five years of its existence' of 'this Grand Lodge,' is misleading."

While we have not yet got to the end of the alphabet, our time, if not our space, calls a halt.

INDIANA, 1896.

This pamphlet contains the portraits of the in-coming Grand Master and of all the Past Grand Masters since the organization of the Grand Lodge, *sacæ* *sic*, with a cut of the building in Madison in which the Grand Lodge was organized. This was the *seventy-fifth* annual communication, but was the *seventy-ninth* year of the life of the Grand Lodge: the difference grows out of the Grand Lodge's meeting only biennially, for a time.

The Grand Master (EDWARD O'ROURKE) says:

"During the past year great activity has prevailed in the subordinate lodges, and more than ordinary zeal has been manifested in the work. Especially has this been the case where the Worshipful Master governed his lodge in a mild but firm temper, and did not seek to rule by arbitrary methods."

He says further:

"Our relations with other Grand Lodges, with the single exception of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, are cordial and fraternal. Notwithstanding the full and clear statement of the law by my predecessor to the Grand Master of Masons of Pennsylvania in relation to the length of residence requi-

site to authorize a lodge in Indiana to receive a petition from one seeking to be made a mason, and that the rejection of such a petition, even by a lodge within the Grand Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, did not forever exclude the one rejected from again searching for the light in Masonry in a lodge within the Grand Jurisdiction of Indiana, R. W. Matthias H. Henderson, Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania, ignoring the autonomy of every Grand Lodge in the United States, except that of Pennsylvania, has seen fit to grossly insult, and without any excuse or palliation whatever, to affront the Grand Lodge of Indiana by sending to the Grand Master of Masons of this State the following circular."

The circular, after stating that a candidate, who had been twice rejected by a Pennsylvania lodge had been made a mason in an Indiana Lodge, without the consent of the rejecting lodge, proceeds as follows:

"Now therefore, I, Matthias H. Henderson, Right Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania and masonic jurisdiction thereunto belonging, by authority of the powers and authorities in me vested, do hereby prohibit your lodge from admitting said George Snyder as a visitor, and do also prohibit any member of your lodge from extending any masonic recognition whatever to said George Snyder.

"You are also directed to inquire of all brethren from the jurisdiction of Indiana desiring to visit your lodge, whether they have ever been residents of this masonic jurisdiction, and if they have, whether they have been rejected by any of our lodges."

This circular was issued to all the Pennsylvania lodges, and as it concerned the masons of Indiana, or some of them, we think that it was not only proper, but necessary, to send a copy of it to the Grand Master of Indiana.

The principle of the first paragraph is the law in Maine, and the party would have been treated in the same way in Maine, if he had been received by the Indiana lodge before the disability caused by the rejection had been removed or its term (five years) expired.

The second paragraph at first seemed harsh and uncalled for, but as the Grand Master of Indiana had officially stated that it is the policy, law and practice in his jurisdiction to accept candidates, without regard to their rejection in another jurisdiction, we regard it as a proper safe-guard for the protection of the lodges: the only defect in it is, that it does not go far enough: it ought to include all made in one jurisdiction while laboring under the disability of rejection by any lodge anywhere, and while the *status* given by that jurisdiction continues.

The Grand Master moralizes upon the matter, and asks if the ties, that bind us together, are to be strengthened by carrying out the policy outlined by the Grand Master of Pennsylvania: it occurs to us that the question would have been more pertinent and forcible, if for "Pennsylvania" he had substituted "Indiana." We can scarcely conceive of a greater insult to a lodge than to send back to it one, who has been rejected as not fit to be admitted to the lodge, armed with the power to demand admission in spite of it.

The matter was referred to the Committee on Correspondence, which reported affirming the doctrine asserted the year before: it is not worth our while to quote or discuss it: because it asserts in substance that if a mason, expelled by the Grand Lodge of Maine or any other, shall go to Indiana and reside, he may lawfully be made a mason, and if he goes back to the lodge that expelled him, and admission be refused because of his expulsion, it would be a violation of the landmarks. A proposition, that necessarily leads to this result, is so palpably and evidently erroneous, that it is not worth discussing.

This case, however, very forcibly shows the necessity of establishing a uniform rule upon this subject among the different Grand Lodges. When one Grand Lodge solemnly charges the Grand Master of another with "misguided zeal without adequate knowledge," with violating masonic courtesy and usage, ignoring Grand Lodge autonomy and violating a landmark of Masonry, and the cause for such action is liable to happen daily, involving other Grand Lodges, it is time to make a stupendous effort to secure concert of action necessary to provide a remedy.

An immense amount of routine business had occupied the attention of the Grand Master, and the Grand Secretary had been busier still.

Among his decisions are the following:

"After a ballot for the degrees has been declared unanimous, and an objection is made to conferring the degrees privately to the Worshipful Master, and made a matter of record, such objection cannot be withdrawn so as to allow the degrees to be conferred."

We assume that an objection is equivalent to rejection by ballot, and of course is followed by the same consequences.

"The lodge that receives the petition of one seeking to be made a mason and elects him to receive the degrees, holds jurisdiction over him, and no other lodge can receive his petition without the consent of the lodge that has acquired such jurisdiction."

This is correct, but not in accordance with Indiana law as expounded by the Committee on Correspondence; for if the candidate moves into another state, he may petition a lodge and be made a mason, and the lodge, which first elected him, has no masonic cause of complaint!

A Committee on History was appointed the year before, which reported progress—and most excellent progress, too—but had not made as much as it would, had it not been necessary to visit several localities and no appropriation for expenses had been made. The Grand Lodge continued the committee, and appropriated \$250.00 for expenses. One member writes the history of Ancient Craft Masonry; another, Royal Arch and Cryptic Masonry; and the third, Knights Templar and the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

Grand Secretary SMYTHE had been procuring the portraits of Past Grand Masters; he then lacked eight, but he got two of them before he went to press: the Grand Lodge made an appropriation to cover the expense of procuring the others, which could be done only by personal visitation. The history, thus illustrated, will be almost invaluable.

The Committee on Jurisprudence, to which the "Wisconsin proposition" was referred, reported that they—

"Totally but fraternally dissent from any such position, and recommend that this Grand Lodge declines to take any steps toward an inter-jurisdictional enactment tending to effect such an understanding or arrangement.

"The Grand Lodge of Indiana has at all times contended and held, that a mason in distress is entitled to aid and assistance from the Fraternity, wherever he may be at the time of his need, and that, as a matter of law, his lodge is not bound to make any restitution, though it may always do so at its own option."

And the report was accepted.

The Report on Correspondence (141 pp.) was presented by Bro. WILLIAM COMMONS.

In his introduction he says:

"In the prosecution of our work we have studied brevity, condensing our reviews as much as seemed practicable, and giving as much as we could in the space occupied. As heretofore, we have refrained from controversy, making our comments *in loco*, whenever comment seemed called for. We were often inclined to an exchange of courtesies with committees of other jurisdictions, but to have done so would not have been consistent with the exigence of space. Regarding Masonry throughout the world, we can say that for the year reviewed its condition has been that of quiet prosperity."

He adhered to his plan admirably. He is vehemently opposed to the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction.

We do not think that he fights with those who consider a rejection as a mere matter of form, because he says, or approves (we cannot tell whether he quotes it or not) the following:

"He goes on to say that 'there are other forces, far more potent for harm, that are surely and rapidly sapping its foundations.' These forces are lack of care in guarding the ballot, anxiety to increase numbers, carelessness in selecting material and the legitimate results therefrom. Masons have been made who have no sympathy with the objects of Masonry; who become drones in the hive, and by their conduct and disregard of the tenets of our profession bring disgrace and reproach upon the craft."

We were about to invite him to give us his views in relation to some of the questions involved in the rejection of candidates, but we perceive that in accordance with the custom in his Grand Lodge, having served the usual time, he gives way to another.

He gives examples of the very rare cases in which a man, who has lived a long time in a place, is unable to apply for initiation because years before he was rejected somewhere else: but he fails to suggest that in ninety-nine

out a hundred of the cases actually occurring, the candidate has lived many years in the jurisdiction of the rejecting lodge, and is well known there, but goes into another state and in twelve months or so applies to be made a mason, before his true character and fitness can possibly be known. We do not believe in perpetual jurisdiction, but we believe still less in opening our doors to candidates before there has been time for them to show their true character. The extract which we have just made is good reading in connection with much that we read in relation to perpetual jurisdiction.

INDIAN TERRITORY, 1896.

The address of the Grand Master (JOHN COYLE) is one of the most concise that we have ever read.

He had visited forty-two lodges during the year, and found that the deprivation of many privileges elsewhere enjoyed, draw the brethren of that jurisdiction more closely together. He had enjoyed these visits greatly, and was satisfied that great good accrues from them. We have no doubt of it.

Among his decisions was this:

"A man petitions a lodge and is rejected: afterwards there is a new lodge formed and he lives within the territory of this new lodge. Which lodge has jurisdiction over him? Answer. Taking it for granted that both lodges are in this Grand Jurisdiction, the one that rejected him has jurisdiction."

There being no qualification in this decision, it seems that the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction prevails as to *their own lodges*: the words "taking it for granted," &c., indicate that the decision would have been different had the rejecting lodge been in another jurisdiction: such a condition of things is an unanswerable argument (so far as this jurisdiction is concerned) in favor of the doctrine.

One of his decisions was modified by the Grand Lodge so as to read:

"If a non-affiliate in good standing believes that he has sufficient reasons why a candidate should not be made a mason, he has a right, and it is his duty to state them to the members of or to a lodge to which an application is made, but such objection or reasons should not be a bar to said candidate if the lodge deems them insufficient."

This states the correct doctrine with accuracy.

Experience in that jurisdiction seems to be against leasing halls to other societies: he says:

"I would recommend that an edict be passed, prohibiting lodges which own their halls and are free of debt, from renting their halls to other societies. There are many reasons for this. Those other societies fill our halls with all sorts of paraphernalia. Some of them claim the use of the hall at times when the masonic lodges need them for drill or work. Some of those societies have feasts in our halls—halls owned by the masons, and all paid for—and leave them in a shameful condition. They use and abuse our

furniture and pay little money and no thanks. It is becoming a crying evil."

This objection seems to lie against flagrant abuse of the privilege rather than against the privilege itself.

Of a matter of great importance in these days, he says:

"In visiting lodges, among other matters, I have urged each lodge to make a start towards a library, and would also recommend that the Masters and Wardens here assembled have this matter brought before and agitated in their lodges. Urge upon the brethren the necessity of becoming reading masons. Have your lodges purchase a few good books, also some good masonic newspapers. When we become posted in a few things we will become hungry for more, so that in the natural course of events your libraries will grow and will be a lasting benefit not only to yourselves but to those who come after."

As late as the time when we were made a mason, it was regarded absolutely necessary that every brother should own a "Monitor," and become familiar with its contents. He was scarcely regarded as fully "made" until he should do this. But this duty is now neglected, and we doubt if one in ten of the 22,000 masons in Maine have any kind of a book from which they can learn the principles of Masonry, and yet we believe that Maine is not behind the other jurisdictions in this respect. We fear that there is a growing disposition to leave book knowledge of Masonry to the Master, and the few others who do the work.

Grand Secretary MURKOW understands the importance of a good Secretary: he says:

"There is no more important officer in the Lodge than the Secretary. Good business qualifications are more important in a lodge Secretary than to be able to write beautifully. He should know how to approach men pleasantly and kindly and get them to feel that it is not only a duty but a pleasure to pay dues. Procrastination is an exceedingly bad qualification in a lodge Secretary."

We have expressed similar views sometimes when we have fancied that the brethren thought we were just a bit "cranky" on the subject; if so the disease is chronic!

We find that the Committee on Charters were of the same opinion: in one case, they say "Brethren, you have a No. 1 Secretary: keep him there."

The Grand Lecturer had visited thirty-five lodges, and in his report he gives his brethren excellent advice by pointing out errors in the administration of the affairs of the lodges. He says that the general condition of most of the lodges visited is good: he makes the usual complaint in new territories, that lodges are created before the growth of the place of their location warrants it.

The Grand Orator, R. W. and Rev. Dr. ROBERT W. HILL, delivered a very able and learned address. We give his concluding paragraph:

"The present masonic use of the Name is meaningless if there be any departure from the homage which the principles of Masonry inculcates, and the use of the Great Light is an emphatic declaration that Masonry recognizes righteousness as the source of its power and the assurance of its continuance and prosperity, and that the protection of the Most High is given in answer to the prayer of faith, which itself is consequent upon a high ideal of the Divine Nature."

The Law Committee seems to have duplicated their report on two of the decisions and we find a second one in relation to objection by a non-affiliate: but we let the one, which we have copied, stand as the better of the two.

A proposition to make Past Masters members of the Grand Lodge was rejected: but the vote was reconsidered, the proposition amended by providing that they shall have no-pay, and then adopted almost unanimously.

The following incident occurred in connection with the installation:

"Grand Master Murrow, on assuming the Grand East, stated that for nearly forty years he had been a missionary among the Indians. That having labored for this race with all his powers, he naturally loved the Indian people. That ever since the Grand Lodge was organized he had longed to see some man with Indian blood predominating qualify himself for the position of Grand Master. That his hopes were now realized, and that it was a great pleasure to him to install into the office of Grand Master of Masons of Indian Territory an Indian by blood and especially so good a man as Grand Master Armstrong!"

The Grand Treasurer created a sensation by a statement showing that the expenses for the past year had exceeded the receipts, and at the rate the Grand Lodge was going on, it would soon be bankrupt, and might be during the current year. The mileage and *per diem* expense had increased \$500; and there was no limit to the expense which the Grand Lecturer and his assistants might incur. The matter was referred to a committee with power to fix the sum to be expended for the dissemination of the work.

The Report on Correspondence (134 pp.) was presented by Bro. LEO EDMOND BENNETT.

He pays a deserved tribute to his predecessor, Bro. JOSEPH SAMUEL MURROW, who for eighteen years has prepared reports creditable alike to him and to his Grand Lodge.

He says:

"Masonic relief, as outlined in the Wisconsin proposition which met your disfavor last year, is being thoroughly discussed and generally rejected. I see no reason to advise you to again take up the subject."

We find his views on the doctrine of "Perpetual Jurisdiction," thus stated:

"Considerable feeling seems to have arisen between the Indiana and Pennsylvania Grand Masters, growing out of Pennsylvania's adherence to the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction, and the issuance of a circular letter by the Grand Master of Pennsylvania which was taken by the Grand Master of Indiana as a gross insult and without any excuse or palliation whatever. Our Grand Lodge must necessarily sympathize with Indiana in this contro-

versy, holding as we do that the claim of the perpetual jurisdiction is not well founded. According to the Pennsylvania doctrine, rejection by a lodge is *prima facie* evidence of the bad character of the applicant, and who is thereby forbidden to ever reform unless with the consent of the Pennsylvania lodge which has placed this 'brand' upon him. We do not believe either the one or the other. No man is of bad character, because rejected by a lodge, and at times the worst men are 'taken in' and the better class rejected, e. g., Zerubbabel, No. 329, New York, 1896. Generally, rejection simply means that there is one or perhaps more members of the lodge who are not on good terms with the applicant, for very few bad men are attracted to Masonry. It has no place in its ranks for such."

The fact that this Grand Lodge maintains the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction among its own lodges is a complete answer to this. If the doctrine is just, wise and masonic in the Indian Territory it is so *everywhere*: if it is so among their own lodges, it is so as between their own lodges and all other lodges in our great Fraternity, because *it is* a Fraternity. He misapprehends the Pennsylvania doctrine, which is that the rejection is a judicial decision, under the laws of our Order, that the candidate is unfit for initiation, and that that decision can be set aside only as other decisions may be—by the tribunal which rendered it. "Very few bad men are attracted to Masonry": what a mistake! They are attracted to Masonry to use it for their selfish purposes, but are deterred *by the fear of the black ball*: often, too, they exercise a consummate ingenuity in tricks to escape the ordeal of it where they are known, and sometimes it has seemed to us of late years that many brethren, whose zeal surpasses their knowledge, are doing all they can to assist in evading our law. Bro. BENNETT is right when he says: "It has no place in its ranks for such": then why all this turmoil to *make* a place for them?

In this connection please read the following from the earlier part of his report:

"But we can more closely guard our doors in the reception of new material and to a greater degree cull from the applicants those whose careers, conduct and habits are such as promise nothing of benefit to Masonry. The man who thinks only of self or self-interest has no place in Masonry, and ought never to be admitted within its tiled recesses."

* * * * *

"Secrecy of the ballot has had some attention and ought to have more. All masons know they have no right to enquire or ascertain the reasons for an unfavorable ballot, or who cast the negative votes. Yet many more do not understand that no mason has any right to even express to any person how he may have voted. Our law is plain and needs no construction, yet occasionally we come to understand through various channels that Bro. So-and-so blackballed Mr. So-and-so. The right and duty of every member to vote is statutory, and none present can be excused. When masons are true to their obligations no one can ever know how any brother may have voted."

Referring to our claim that lodges perform funeral and other public ceremonies, *while open*, he says:

"We are pleased to endorse his views on this subject. Installations, burials or other masonic ceremonials are masonic *work*, and we confess our

inability to conceive how lodges can perform any work until they are opened. Congregations of masons, unless opened as a lodge, cannot lawfully perform any masonic ceremonial."

Replying to some remarks of ours in relation to the organization of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, he says (among other things):

"Originally there was but one territory—the Indian—and but one Grand Lodge. Subsequently Congress divided the country into Indian and Oklahoma Territories, but Congress did not and could not affect masonic jurisdictional lines, and the lodges in both territories continued under the one Grand Lodge."

The proposition of law involved in this is utterly erroneous, and herein lies his error and that of his Grand Lodge. On this continent the masonic law is, that the lodges in an independent civil jurisdiction have the inherent right to organize a Grand Lodge, *regardless of the wishes of the mother Grand Lodge*. This doctrine was formally announced when the American lodges, chartered under British authority, organized the first American Grand Lodges, without consulting the Mother Grand Lodges, and it has ever since been maintained. When Massachusetts was divided, and the State of Maine created, the lodges in the latter proceeded of their own motion to form a Grand Lodge: the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts recognized their right to do so, and never dreamed of objecting or authorizing them to do it, or of sending down her Grand Master to see that everything was done in order: indeed, the Grand Master of New Hampshire installed the first Grand Officers.

So when the Indian Territory was divided and the Territory of Oklahoma was created as its peer, the lodges in the latter had the right to continue their allegiance to their parent, or to form a Grand Lodge of their own. The moment Congress establishes an independent civil jurisdiction, that moment the masonic law applies to it. The only thing, we have criticised, is this error in masonic law, into which the parties fell.

Of the "Eastern Star," he says:

"Our observation, from active participation in its work for nearly ten years, clearly demonstrates the usefulness of this organization, which makes no claim to being masonic, but, basing its membership upon affiliated Master Masons and their wives, mothers, sisters, widows and daughters, claims a right to 'exist for the purpose of giving practical effect to one of the beneficent purposes of Freemasonry, which is to provide for the welfare of the wives, daughters, mothers, widows and sisters of Master Masons.' "

But we cannot linger longer on this very able report. However, we will add that it must not be assumed that, because we have given so much space to controverting some of his propositions, we disagree with the most that he has written, for, in the main, we do agree that he holds to sound views as well as forcibly expresses them.

IOWA, 1896.

A fine steel plate portrait of the Grand Master, GEORGE WASHINGTON BALL, a half-tone of the Deputy Grand Secretary, NEWTON R. PARVIN, cuts of primitive masonic halls and of an old masonic pitcher, a *fac simile* of the petition for the first lodge and a map of the state, showing the location and number of every lodge, embellish this magnificent volume, whose contents are in keeping with its mechanical execution. Biographies of a most interesting character, statistics and lists of Past Grand Officers and lodges, with dates of organization, make these Proceedings quite an epitome of the history and condition of Masonry in that state.

The address of the Grand Master (GEORGE W. BALL) takes up thirty-two closely printed pages in small type—and though eloquent, able and interesting, we can only glance at a small portion of it.

Of the condition of the craft, he says:

"In our masonic life, I am glad to be able to state that we have had a happy and prosperous year; that no strife or ill-will has been engendered among the brethren, but that harmony and good will have prevailed throughout the jurisdiction. This statement I am sure will be gratifying to us all, and it is one that affords me much pleasure to make at the beginning of my report on the condition of the order."

The fact, that he had granted dispensations for ten new lodges, emphasizes his statement. The basis upon which he acted is thus stated:

"I believe it is much better for the interest of the fraternity, as well as for the interest of its individual members, that in all cases where the population of the country justifies it, lodges should be established sufficiently near to each other to give to every member a masonic home within a reasonable distance, not greater than seven or eight miles."

They have a law requiring a brother who has received the third degree to pass an examination in his own lodge, before he becomes a full-fledged Master Mason: the Grand Master says the law works great hardship in many instances; but it occurs to us to enquire where the Grand Lodge gets its authority to set aside a landmark of the craft of the most fundamental character. While a mason seeking advancement may be required to show that he is qualified for it, he cannot, save by due trial for unmasonic conduct, be deprived of rights inherent in receiving what he has received.

He devotes over a page to the "Prerogatives of Grand Masters." When young, he had a very correct, though somewhat exaggerated, idea of the powers of the Grand Master under the ancient usages and landmarks of Masonry: but unfortunately, the organizers of his Grand Lodge had hobbies in relation to what civil government ought to be, and at once undertook to apply them in masonic government, without regard to what the fundamental law was, and thus educated the masons of that obedience; many of the ideas then or afterwards adopted, the stern logic of events has obliged them

to abandon, or to disregard in particular cases, but the teachings remained the same, and so Grand Master BALL adopted gradually the prevailing sentiment and, in his mind, had reduced the Grand Master to about the level of a Moderator of a town meeting. But when he came to be Grand Master, he woke up to a realization of the condition, and his remarks show that he had experienced a change of views, although he loyally followed the law of his Grand Lodge. When will masons learn that Freemasonry is a law unto itself, and that the objects of civil government and of masonic government are so different and the conditions to be met are so dissimilar, that the system of either is utterly unsuited for, and unapplicable to, the wants of the other? The failure to appreciate this, is one of the greatest dangers now threatening the craft.

They have a law in relation to changing membership in lodges, similar to our own, but with an addition that works badly. The Grand Master advises to change the law so that the old membership terminates when the dimit is issued, and the new one commences when the dimit is filed with the Secretary of the other lodge—as is the case with us. But, heretofore, dimits have been granted only to effect a change of membership, so as not to be held by an unaffiliated mason.

Right here we wish to correct an error; in our report of 1895, we said:

“A member may resign his membership, but no dimit is given to him, and under this new law he can never become again a member of an Iowa lodge, nor of a lodge in any other jurisdiction, which requires the production of a dimit.”

To which Bro. COXE, in his Report on Correspondence, replies as follows:

“We are surprised that our brother should have fallen into the double error of this statement. The law explicitly recognizes the right of a non-affiliate to petition for re-instatement, and further, that a brother removing to another Grand Jurisdiction may receive a dimit direct.”

We are glad to be corrected, and especially that we *can* be corrected. We, however, do not yet understand the process by which one, who has *resigned his membership*, can get into an Iowa lodge, or one in another jurisdiction: we presume, however, that provision is made for granting some kind of a certificate, after he has applied for membership.

Of the Wisconsin proposition, the Grand Master well says, (and we quote it at length, because he states the position so forcibly and correctly):

“There is much to be said on both sides of the question. I believe that masonic charity is, and should be, universal, and that a brother who is a member of an Iowa lodge should have the same right to ask and expect masonic relief from a lodge in the State of California, or in the City of London, or in any other part of the world, as he has in a lodge in the State of Iowa, and that his ability to obtain such relief should not be in any sense dependent upon the right or hope of the lodge furnishing the relief to be reimbursed by the Iowa lodge. Such relief should be furnished, if he is found worthy, to the extent of his actual necessities, limited only by the ability

of the parties or lodge furnishing the assistance, and it should be done without asking whether or not the amount furnished would be repaid by his home lodge. If, after the relief is furnished, the lodge of which the brother is a member is able to re-imburse the parties furnishing the relief, it should do so; but, in my judgment, this should be done voluntarily by the lodge, and not under compulsion of any law.

"Whenever the Grand Lodges of the United States shall generally adopt a law making the re-imbursement by a brother's lodge of the amount expended for his relief compulsory, Masonry will have been converted into a mere guaranty or insurance association, instead of a purely charitable organization, as it now is. A person may then become a member of the Order having the positive assurance that the lodge of which he becomes a member is compelled to furnish him support in sickness, bury him when dead, and provide for his widow and children, should their necessities require it, after his death. He can obtain the same relief, only making it more certain and positive, by joining an insurance company and paying a stipulated sum annually therefor. I am in favor of the broadest masonic charity when voluntarily exercised, but am opposed to any law or rule that provides for charity under compulsion."

This Grand Lodge has passed a law depriving dimitted masons of all rights, except the right to petition for re-instatement, and has asked the Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery to adopt the law and its effect in those bodies; the Grand Chapter replied that such is already its law, but the Grand Commandery decided against it. Upon his recommendation, a committee was appointed to present the matter to the Grand Commandery at its next session. The question whether a dimitted mason can become a petitioner for a new lodge was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, which reported an amendment to the code allowing them to do so.

But the matter was recommitted for a report at the next annual communication, and we believe all the propositions in relation to dimitts were disposed of in the same way. We find that the committee proposed to carry the Iowa law to its logical result, by providing that if a non-affiliate applies for admission to a lodge, a committee shall be appointed to investigate, and unless charges are filed *and sustained*, his name shall be entered upon the roll of members without any vote of the lodge. The committee seems to appreciate the unmasonic character of the present code, for it says:

"The general claim in favor of absolute non-affiliation is that it should be with the rights of Masonry, barring such as are dependent upon lodge membership—which includes masonic aid, the right of lodge visitation, of masonic burial, and the right to walk in masonic procession. These are not all the rights of Masonry, but they are an important part of them."

* * * * *

"There is something inherently inequitable in a non-affiliate being subjected to masonic disabilities who asks in a lodge of his local jurisdiction the right of lodge membership and is denied that right by the lodge."

We think that the Grand Lodge was wise in its hesitation to violate one landmark of Masonry in order to sustain itself in the violation of another. We venture to suggest that adherence to the old law and usage after all

may be the wisest course. The phrase "masonic aid," in our quotation, should be qualified by the addition of the words "by the lodge," to prevent any misunderstanding, for the personal obligation to relieve the distressed is in no sense a *lodge* privilege.

The reports of the Grand Secretary and Librarian are a perfect mine of information and instruction to similar officers, as well as of great interest to the historian: but our space will not allow a review of them. He denounces the loss of lodge records by fire as a "criminal neglect of duty," because he says that for from \$25 to \$50 a fire proof safe may be procured, in which their books and papers may be safely kept from loss by fire.

The Grand Lodge approved the views of the Grand Master in relation to the "Wisconsin proposition."

The Report on Correspondence (163 pp.) was presented by Bro. JAMES C. W. COXE.

In his introduction, he says:

"The tendency is to more rigid scrutiny of material offered for the masonic structure; to greater stress upon mental and moral qualifications than upon absolute physical perfection; to emphasize the virtues of 'brotherly love, relief, and truth,' and apply them to the every day needs of the present time; to make fraternity mean much more than a poetic fancy or a revolutionist dream. Few of the questions which have heretofore disturbed Grand Lodge harmony have any prominence in discussions of to-day. Differences of opinion yet exist—it will be a sad day when they do not; absolute accord is to be found only in cemeteries; but differences are being discussed with a view to elicit truth and secure harmony, rather than for the beggarly satisfaction of a fruitless victory."

And of "ciphers":

"The Massachusetts cypher imbroglio moves him to extended protest against any writing or printing of the esoteric work as an infraction of the masonic obligation—and we honor our brother's fidelity to his convictions; but inasmuch as five jurisdictions in the United States and several abroad have an authorized cypher ritual in print, and a majority (doubtless) of the remaining jurisdictions have a standard work in writing as a source of final appeal, we are puzzled to reconcile this general consensus with Bro. Pillans' interpretation of the O. B. prohibition. Moreover, we frankly say that we can see no possibility of ensuring correct and uniform work without some such standard of appeal."

He holds sound views in relation to lodge membership, which, we are sorry to say, have not prevailed in his Grand Lodge:

"We have italicized the sentence to which we especially call attention, in confirmation of our oft contention as to the distinction between lodge membership and masonic membership; the severance of the former does not necessarily affect the latter, except in Grand Jurisdictions where an unwise legislation has decreed to make the latter depend on the former. Such legislation we deprecate, believing it to be unjust in principle, impotent in practice as a remedy for non-affiliation, and contrary to the most honored traditions and teachings of the craft."

The following is true not only in Iowa, but everywhere else, so far as our observation has extended:

"This is not in accord with our observation; the rather is it true, in our own lodge, that the most faithful attendants and zealous workers are members of the other masonic bodies. We are personally acquainted with a larger number of brethren who have taken no 'higher degrees' and yet are conspicuously negligent of lodge obligations than we have ever found whose loyalty to the lodge was weakened by alliance with chapter, commandery, or consistory. We join our brother in urging loyalty to Symbolic Masonry; we also deprecate any crusade upon the Capitular, Templar, or Scottish Rite institutions."

And his rebuke of Bro. Robbins may well be read in this connection:

"We also utterly fail to see the slightest sign of the peril to the integrity of Ancient Craft Masonry which calls forth such repeated warnings from our esteemed brother. He sees 'machinations' where we see no evidence of dissembling or of disloyalty: and we dislike to be put in the category, or to have our friends so placed, when we are conscious of none but pure motives and unswerving loyalty to the craft. The so-called 'Holy Empire' membership is within the body of Ancient Craft Masonry, and is amenable thereto; we do not concede that the tail can wag the dog so readily as some good brethren seem prepared to admit."

In his review of Maine, he says:

"The 'perseverance of the saints' is illustrated in the fact that in the list of Grand Representatives appears 'Iowa, Hiram Chase.' Truth must be having a 'stern chase' in the attempt to overhaul Maine with the intelligence that Iowa has abandoned the Grand Representative system."

The fact is, Bro. COXE, that the masons of Maine have great regard for ancient usage, especially if it is a wise and good one. Now Bro. CHASE, our Senior Past Grand Master, has represented Iowa so long that it has almost become a landmark: besides, when one of our sister Grand Lodges does a foolish thing, we are very slow to find it out!

He thus refers to the address of Grand Master BURBANK:

"The address of the Grand Master (seventeen pages) is both bright and strong—the pillar of wisdom abides in strength and beauty."

* * * * *

"In his 'conclusion' the Most Worshipful utters words of warning which are weighty. He cautions the craft against intemperance, and urges fidelity in dealing with persistent tipplers; warns against tattling and slander, and against the senseless habit of profanity, and urges to a faithful performance of the duties of citizenship. The utterance is worthy of both brain and heart."

He commends the examples of our Grand Lodge, in obtaining the Histories of its lodges, to all others. In the Proceedings, Bro. PARVIN gives a few very interesting scraps of the history of two of the old lodges, with a cut of the first hall erected in the state for masonic purposes.

Of the manner in which this report is given in our Proceedings, he says:

"A new departure which we heartily endorse is the consecutive paging of the reports for the two years, which will constitute a volume, with a full index for the period. Maine has set an example well worthy of imitation."

Although we have given his views in relation to lodge membership, the following is so forcible a statement of our own, and, as we have always been taught, the correct one, that we copy it:

"We have no need to 'join the procession'—have been in the front rank for years, and have constantly urged that it was a *mistake* for any one to drop out from lodge membership; but we as steadfastly have maintained that it was not a *crime*, and should not be treated as such; that no brother should be deprived of his masonic rights except after due trial and conviction of a masonic offence. Here we stand, in defense of masonic rights as against lodge privileges, personally valuing both, but believing that they are not equivalent and co-extensive, but that the latter may be voluntarily surrendered without invalidating the essential integrity of the former, as one may withdraw from membership in a church and yet maintain his Christian character and standing. Neither do we believe withdrawal to be wise, but we sturdily defend the right to do so without impairment of character or suspicion of base motives."

He thus explains the reason for the peculiar use of the words "non-affiliate" and "unaffiliate" in that jurisdiction:

"And does not see the object to be accomplished by the distinction in terms which involves no difference in penalty. We share his perplexity, and while we originally suggested the distinction in the terms, it was with a view to avoid the confusion of thought which had often arisen from failing to make a distinction between a voluntary unaffiliate whose masonic character is unimpeached, and a non-affiliate who is under disability because of penalty for offence. With our legislation as to unaffiliates we are not at all in sympathy; we believe that it invades primary rights unwarrantably in imposing penalty without trial and conviction for masonic offence; but we were not on the Committee on Jurisprudence, nor did we represent the majority in the Grand Lodge session of 1894."

As usage gives words their meaning, and as very general and long usage has made these words synonymous, we think the use of them in another sense will mislead; we deem it much better to follow the usage and use the term "suspended or expelled mason" for those who are such; the term "non-affiliate" has never before been applied to these, so far as we know.

He thus replies to Bro. URROX, of Washington:

"A valuable report' on masonic homes was made; but when it comes to the report on appeals and grievances something quite as offensive as 'Parvinisms' excites his ire, and he reads the riot act thus:

"No enactment of a Grand Lodge can make any act a masonic offence; nor does the neglect of a Grand Lodge to declare a certain act a masonic offence prevent its being such. A masonic offence is any violation of masonic law. ALL masonic law existed before Grand Lodges were dreamed of; and no Grand Lodge, any more than a particular lodge, ever made a masonic law. Grand Lodges make laws, rules and regulations, which are binding upon those who have covenanted to obey them, and on no one else. *Masonic law binds all masons.*"

"A Daniel come to judgment,' forsooth! We wonder whence this learned jurist derived such stores of wisdom, and would be grateful to him for a definition of so simple and yet comprehensive a word as 'law.' And where may be found the *origines* of 'all masonic law' which antedates all Grand Lodges? Were Brother Upton to sojourn as a non-affiliate within

this jurisdiction, and assume to hold himself superior to the laws, rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, he would soon learn, if he offended, that we can make short shrift of such anarchy."

* * * * *

"There are other matters in this report which we had marked for quotation or comment, but we must forbear. We have been edified by many things which we have found; we have had occasion for sharp dissent from some utterances; we have been pained by a few clauses which have come under our eye. We cannot resist the conviction that Bro. Upton's severity of language belies his kindness of heart. We would not have less of vigor, but only of vinegar; not less of strength but more of sweetness. Not all are masters of masonic lore; deal gently brother, with those of us who may not yet have attained, yet are honestly seeking, that which was lost, and have a real love for and loyal devotion to Ancient Craft Masonry. The wise teacher will stimulate and encourage Johnny Dull to better endeavor; meantime, Sam Smart needs neither whip nor spur."

He gives Bro. PARVIN's paper on Mexican Masonry, to which we referred last year, but is not ready to recommend the recognition of the Gran Dieta.

In this connection we quote the following from his "Conclusion," which we earnestly commend to the attention of all the craft and especially to Bro. ROBBINS, of Illinois:

"If it be said that the use of our (Protestant) Bible cannot wisely be insisted upon in a country where the Catholic influence has so long dominated the people, we reply that such is not our contention, but that the use of a sacred book—a book of religion—is a proper masonic requirement. The Douay version of the scriptures would meet all of the requirements in the case, as would the Koran in Mohammedan countries, or the Zend Avesta, or the books of Confucius in countries where these are so generally recognized. But the Book of Constitutions is *not a book of religion*, any more than is the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution of the United States. Is it averred that none can point out a law or landmark which requires the presence of the Great Light upon masonic altars? We reply that usage makes law; universal consensus establishes landmarks; uniform observance of a custom for a century has well nigh the force and authority of Magna Charta. 'The unwritten law' is recognized in the Masonic Code of Iowa equally with the written law, and as imposing a limitation upon the latter. 'The letter killeth; the spirit giveth life.' The intent and purpose of an institution like Freemasonry is larger and broader than its written code or creed. We believe in the universality of Masonry; but we do not believe in it as a universality of negations, but rather as having a world-wide and age-long basis in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of men. The latter is impossible without the former; hence was recognition promptly and properly withdrawn from the Grand Orient of France when that body withdrew recognition from the Supreme Being. The presence of the Great Light does not make men religious, nor does it indicate that they are religious; but its absence from our altars would be a tacit declaration of Atheism which would belie all masonic teaching and tradition."

We have devoted more space to this very able report than we had intended: but its utterances are so forcible and so in accord with Masonry, as it was taught to us by the Fathers, that we believe we cannot do a greater service to the Institution, than by quoting freely from it. We are bound to say, also, that we have thought that we discovered in this jurisdiction a tendency

to modernize Masonry, and therefore this report is more than doubly welcome.

KANSAS, 1897.

The Grand Lodge held a special session at Wichita, Sept. 10, 1896, to dedicate "The Kansas Masonic Home."

The Grand Lodge was opened on the third degree and some business transacted, and then opened on the first degree; the procession formed and marched to the Home: the Grand Officers occupied the porch, while the brethren and spectators were seated or massed on the lawn: the exercises were in the usual form, including the giving of the "Public Grand Honors": at the conclusion, the Grand Lodge returned to the Hall and closed. The addresses were of a very high order of excellence, but we have not space for a review of them. We, however, give a few statistical facts for possible future reference.

A cut of the building shows that it is of stone and was constructed for an elegant dwelling house. It originally cost \$90,000 but was purchased for \$21,000, of which the citizens of Wichita gave \$5,000. Something over \$5,000 has been expended in repairs and in converting the stone stable into a dormitory. The plan is to make additions, when required, on the cottage system. The Board of Directors consist of seventeen, nine from the Grand Lodge, and two each from the Grand Chapter, Grand Commandery, A. & A. Scottish Rite and the Eastern Star. The latter organization took upon itself the furnishing of the Home. All debts had been paid and the Board had on hand \$24,000. It was opened October 16, 1896, and at the end of the year, there were nineteen inmates, four old men of ages varying from 74 to 80, one man of 46, utterly helpless from rheumatism resulting from the grip, one crippled widow of 42, and thirteen children of ages varying from seven to fourteen. The running expenses are not given, of course, as it had been in operation only a few months. The number of masons in Kansas is about 20,000, nearly equal to the number in Maine: for this reason we have given this account of this Home.

The Grand Master (CHARLES C. COLEMAN) says that peace, harmony and tranquillity had prevailed during the year, and we note that the net gain in membership during the year had been nearly two per cent.

He announces the death of Past Grand Master OWEN A. BASSETT, in whose memory a Memorial Service was held by the Grand Lodge: several addresses were delivered: Past Grand Master JOHN W. GUTHRIE gave a most interesting glance at the history of the Grand Lodge from 1855 to 1865—an era in the history of Kansas never to be forgotten. He says:

"This state of uncertainty and confusion existed in all the new jurisdictions in the early years of their existence. In view of the social, politi-

cal and physical conditions during the first ten years of the Territory and commonwealth of Kansas, more could not have been expected or demanded. The marvel is, that Grand Masters Rees, Fairchild, Saqui, Holliday, and other faithful craftsmen, were able to preserve harmony and keep the lights of Ancient Craft Masonry burning."

But in 1866, a large number of younger men, many of whom had been in the army, came into the Grand Lodge, and this new blood effected quite a change for the better in the administration of masonic affairs. Bro. BASSETT was among them, and he was made Grand Lecturer and Chairman of the Custodians of the Work. In two years a uniform system of work was established, which still is the approved work of that jurisdiction. For thirty years, Bro. BASSETT was literally one of the pillars of his Grand Lodge. We would gladly give an account of his civil and masonic life, did space permit: but we can only add that when at the age of sixty "God's finger touched him" suddenly "and he slept," Masonry and his country lost a most valuable and efficient worker for good.

One of the lodges conferred the degrees for less than the minimum fee prescribed in the law of the Grand Lodge: the Grand Master ordered the lodge to collect the deficiency of each candidate: we presume that they were privy to this violation of the law, otherwise we do not see what claim the lodge had upon them: if they were innocent of the fraud, we should say that the Master and others, who violated the law, ought to have been the ones to make up the fees.

We are surprised to find that the following decision was approved by the Grand Lodge:

"3. Where a petitioner for the mysteries of Masonry permanently removes from the jurisdiction of a lodge before the Committee of Investigation makes its report, the lodge loses jurisdiction of him, and should cause his petition and deposit to be returned."

We had not supposed that there is *any* exception to the rule, that if the lodge has jurisdiction of the candidate, *when it receives his petition*, it can lose that jurisdiction only by its own waiver, so far as that petition is concerned.

The reports of the Grand Secretary and Librarian show an exceedingly able and energetic administration of those departments. By the permission of the Grand Lodge, he had adopted the Card Registry system, by which the masonic history of every one made a mason, or becoming a member of a lodge, in that jurisdiction, is given on a card: the cards are arranged alphabetically in drawers prepared for that purpose: the system is similar to that now in vogue for cataloguing libraries.

The Grand Master, Deputy and Grand Wardens comprise a "Council of Administration": we have not before us the law fixing their duties, but they seem to have charge of dispensing relief during the recess from the

Charity Fund of the Grand Lodge, and other similar matters. They report to the Grand Lodge, and we note that body passes upon their action, as it seems to do upon all the official acts of the Grand Officers. We have been a little puzzled to determine what the object of this approval (and it always *is* approval, so far as we have noticed) can be: is it merely to say "well done," or does it have some force? Suppose the Grand Lodge withholds its approval of some act, which the Grand Master, under the constitution, has power to do, what is the effect?

The Committee on Returns say:

"The first error we note is the failure of a large number of Secretaries to give at least one Christian name in full. The requirement is constitutional, and of such long standing that it seems strange so many continue to disregard it. That such non-conformity to the law cannot always be attributed to a lack of knowledge, is shown by the fact that in some instances Secretaries observed the requirements in making their returns for 1895, and wholly ignored it in preparing those for 1896."

While within a few years, there has been a great improvement in this respect, we wish committees in other jurisdictions would imitate this. We have an impression, that if the Grand Secretary were empowered to reject such returns and require the Secretary to make another set conforming to the law, the evil would cease to exist. To be sure, they might cite in excuse the example of one member of the committee making the report, and of the members of other committees whose reports are given in those Proceedings.

The Grand Orator delivered an address, which is well worthy of being read and *studied* by the craft.

The resolutions of our Grand Lodge in relation to jurisdiction over rejected candidates, were presented by our Grand Representative, Bro. DAVID B. FULLER, and referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, which reported (apparently immediately) the following, and it was adopted by the Grand Lodge:

"In the matter of the communication from the Grand Lodge of Maine, your committee recommend that this Grand Lodge do not concur therein. The constitution of this Grand Lodge will not admit of such legislation."

Inasmuch as the provisions upon this subject are invariably found in the constitutions of Grand Lodges, the irresistible conclusion is, that our brethren in Kansas have a Medes-and-Persian constitution! We fraternally commend to the Kansas committee the advice said to have been given by an old judge to a young one, "Give prompt and decisive rulings, *but never give reasons for them!*"

The Report on Correspondence (186 pp.) was presented by Bro. MATTHEW M. MILLER. The "returns" from our printer show us that we are making so much greater progress in the number of pages of our report, than we are in getting to the end of the alphabet, that we are constrained to omit refer-

ence to many matters in this report that we had intended to notice. We prefer to give our space to a few matters of importance.

In his review of Illinois, he answers fully and completely the argument of Bro. ROBBINS in relation to the Gran Dieta of Mexico.

In his review of Maine, he says:

“Bro. Drummond, for the Committee on Jurisprudence, made report in regard to the question of uniform rules in relation to jurisdiction over rejected candidates. The report is a compilation of usage in the various jurisdictions, together with an argument in favor of a five years’ uniform rule of exclusion of rejected candidates, except in the lodge where rejected, or to another lodge with the consent of such lodge, or such consent of officers and members as may be prescribed by the Grand Lodge of the jurisdiction where rejection took place. We have heretofore discussed this question at such length that we do not care to take it up again. The rule suggested is an excellent one for jurisdictions which adhere to the dogma of perpetual jurisdiction. If a return was made to ancient usage requiring three black ballots to reject, we would favor it, because with such a rule we believe nine-tenths of the rejections now possible would be impossible, and the rule as to the other tenth would, probably, in a majority of instances, be a wise one. The man who is conscious of the rectitude of his life and conduct is the one who persists; the other fellow, whose sin has found him out, is generally content with a single rejection.

“Back in the land of steady habits, where every one not only knows all about his neighbor’s life, but his business as well, a rejection seems to mean a great deal more than it does further west. While our limitation here is shorter, the candidate is subjected to the closer scrutiny, if anything has occurred in his former history to affect or discredit his standing, so that really the difference is a seeming rather than a real one.”

The concluding sentence of the first paragraph is not in accordance with our observation for over forty years. We have in mind one man who, where he had been known for ten years, could not get a *majority* of white balls, managed by changing his name to get rejected by more than one lodge, more than once, and then stole into a lodge by which he had been known but a brief time: it is true that he was expelled. On the other hand, a man “conscious of the rectitude of his life,” is so hurt by a rejection that he is unwilling to submit to the ordeal again. We think that he is right in the first sentence of the second paragraph; but alas for Masonry, that a rejection does not mean as much “further West” as it does “in the land of steady habits.” Considering the claims of Masonry to a high character as an Institution and to the high character necessary to be admitted into it, human experience shows that the “shorter limitation” does not give sufficient time to ascertain whether a candidate has that character.

He decidedly objects to the proceedings of our Grand Lodge in the HART case, and devotes three pages to a discussion. We are glad that he does, as he states the reasons for objecting to it as forcibly as they can be stated. He makes several minor points, which we will dispose of first.

He says:

"We think it well-settled law that jurisdiction vested in either the lodge 'within whose jurisdiction said crime had been committed,' or the lodge of which the accused was a member, and that he could have been lawfully tried in either body for the offence."

What the Washington lodge might have done, we do not know, and it is not necessary to know, because, as it had a right to do, it declined to do anything: it may be that in that jurisdiction, the formerly existing law prevails, that a mason can be tried only by the lodge of which he is a member. Under the law of Maine, a lodge is responsible for the conduct of its members wherever they may be; and the Grand Lodge is bound to see that its lodges do their duty in *this* respect as in others. *Theoretically* HART could be tried by Somerset Lodge, but *practically* he could not be. The witnesses were all in Washington, and their attendance could not be procured. A lodge cannot use a deposition under our law unless it is taken upon notice to the accused, and our law assumes that it must be *personal* notice: HART had absconded, and it was impossible to give him either actual or constructive notice. But fortunately our Grand Lodge has never parted with the power to try any member of its obedience; and as the Washington lodge *would* not, and Somerset Lodge *could* not try HART, a case was presented in which it was necessary for the Grand Lodge to intervene in order that anything should be done.

We are not sure that our brother holds to the doctrine of "constructive notice," but we desire to say that the provision in some codes, that when personal notice cannot be given, notice may be left at his last and usual abode or mailed to him at his last known Post Office address, only requires the performance of a *farce*. It is equivalent, and *known* to be equivalent, to *no notice at all*. The very doctrine of constructive notice is an admission of the right to proceed without notice, when it appears that actual notice cannot be given.

But we do not rest our position on such narrow grounds. We do not wonder at the position of Bro. MILLER, because for many years we held firmly to the same doctrine. Like him, we were educated as a lawyer, and one's education is a part of one's self, and we are wont to view every subject in the light which education gives. Our general and our legal education precedes our masonic education. For years and years, we brought the principles of the *civil* law to the decision of questions of *masonic* law, till at last we awoke to the fact that "Freemasonry is a law unto itself."

Investigation shows that the *requirement* of notice to the accused, in order to deal with him masonically, was never a part of the masonic law till imported into it from the civil law, and undoubtedly by lawyers like him and us. The formal and technical proceedings in cases of discipline are modern innovations from the civil law, and the worst of it is that these innovations are increasing continually.

We marvel greatly that, in spite of the force of habit, we did not sooner see that masonic trials have little analogy to civil trials.

Under the civil law, the sole object of punishment is to deter others from the commission of crime, though it is true that in recent years, in a limited class of cases, the idea of reformation has been introduced: but under the masonic system the leading object is the reformation of the brother, or in default of that, purging the society of an unworthy member. "*Salus reipublicæ suprema lex*" is the practical maxim of Freemasonry. The good of the craft and the consequent good name of the institution are superior to all other considerations. In this line was the ninth "Old Regulation," which unhappily under recent innovations has become practically obsolete:

"But if any brother so far misbehave himself as to render his lodge uneasy, he shall be twice duly admonished by the Master or Wardens in a formed lodge: and if he will not refrain from his imprudence and obediently submit to the advice of the brethren, and reform what gives them offence, he shall be dealt with according to the by-laws of that particular lodge, or else in such a manner as the Quarterly Communication shall in their great prudence think fit: for which a new regulation may be afterwards made."

In the first By-Laws of Portland Lodge, adopted in 1769, we find:

"XVII. Every brother that, after the closing of the lodge, shall continue in the lodge room, and be guilty of, or accessory to, any quarrels, fightings, swearing, cursing, abusive or opprobrious language, or any obscene behavior, *so that the Society may by that means be censured or reflected on, and consequently liable to the aspersions and contempt of the world*, on a proper remonstrance, for the first offence he shall receive a public admonition from the Master, the first lodge night he appears, which shall be registered by the Secretary: for the second offence he shall pay one pound ten shillings, lawful money, for the use of the lodge, or be excluded being a member; and for the third offence shall be forever excluded from the lodge, either as a member or visitor."

In another respect, the disciplining of a mason differs so much from a trial under the civil law, as to make the rules in the latter, utterly inapplicable to the former. Under the civil law there must be an impartial jury empanelled to try the particular case; no one who has formed an opinion can be a juror, and there are many other disqualifications: but in Masonry, he must be tried by his lodge, every member of which is bound to act; no one is excused; no matter if he may have openly expressed an opinion, or is the near relative of the accused, he not only has the right, but it is his duty, to sit upon the hearing of the case.

Without going into other matters, we will say that the modern idea of a masonic trial never entered the minds of the fathers: but the fundamental idea was that every mason is in the hands of brethren, bound to him by the most solemn ties, who can be relied upon to get at the truth in their own way, and take such measures as the good name and well-being of Masonry may require.

With these general statements, we have no occasion to notice Bro. MILLER's arguments in detail, save one: he says:

"For one, we still adhere to 'ancient usage' trial by one's peers upon charges and specifications, after service of lawful notice, an opportunity to meet the witnesses face to face and cross-examine them, and judgment by the ordeal of the secret ballot."

He must pardon us for saying that not a single one of these propositions is correct: ancient usage had no "trial by peers"; no charges or specifications; no service of notice; no required opportunity to meet the witnesses face to face and to cross-examine them; and least of all, judgment by the secret ballot: the latter practice is by no means universal and its application to masonic trials any where is recent.

We must say further that we think our brother gives an unfortunate illustration. He refers to a man falsely accused of a crime, who held his peace and made no answer to the accusation, and by his silence was held to admit his guilt; he took this course "*to save the name of one dear to him.*" While his course was heroic, in law and in morals, it made him a sharer in the offence.

We deprecate the present condition of things which makes a masonic trial the same as a trial in a criminal court, requiring able counsel, the utmost nicety in observing all the technical requirements of a specific code of law, and the admission of only strictly legal evidence, so that unless the Master is equal to a Judge of the Supreme Court in knowledge of procedure, the result is a mistrial. We would have the essential safeguards thrown around the accused: these are notice when practicable and a hearing when desired; not for the purpose of raising technical objections, but in an honest desire to get at the truth. We are glad to note a reaction in this matter; and that Committees on Appeals are saying that while there are technical inaccuracies in the proceedings the accused is not injured thereby, when the decision is in accordance with the substantial merits of the case, and is affirmed.

It is no reproach to the civil law that a man commits a crime and goes unpunished when he is able to hide himself, because that law cannot punish a criminal unless he is in its custody: but to allow a mason to commit an offence and to prevent a trial by preventing the giving of notice to him is a reproach to the Fraternity and its methods. In such a case, it is peculiarly within the province of a Grand Lodge to ascertain the truth in its own way and take such course as will vindicate the fair fame of the Institution, and do no injustice to the accused. No mason has an inherent right to a particular method of ascertaining the truth: the civil law has chosen one method; the masonic law originally chose another method; in whatever method it is ascertained, let the truth prevail in spite of technicalities and quibbles!

The change in our views has been the result of much thought and investigation, and we earnestly commend this matter to the consideration of all who love Masonry.

KENTUCKY, 1896.

Looking to preparations for the celebration of the centennial of the Grand Lodge in 1900, the Grand Master (FRANK C. GERARD) gives a brief history of the organization of the lodges which formed the Grand Lodge. In this connection, he says:

"In this connection I will venture to suggest: Our Centennial Proceedings would be immensely valuable should they be made to contain an account of Freemasonry in Kentucky, and sketches of prominent masons of this jurisdiction, with appropriate 'half-tone' illustrations. This will require time for its preparation, hence it may be well to decide upon it at an early day, if it is to be done at all."

Of public installations, he says:

"These occasions, if the ceremonies are well conducted, afford recreation, increase an interest in things masonic, and give information as to our teachings that the public have a right to know, in consideration for kind tolerance of a secret society among them."

He had suspended a Master for unmasonic conduct and summoned him to appear before the Grand Lodge. He deemed the law in relation to this matter very indefinite: but he appointed a commission to take the testimony on both sides and report it to the Grand Lodge. The Committee on Jurisprudence commended this action as "wise, prudent and according to law." So do we: and we are specially glad to read the endorsement of this committee, of the doctrine that a Grand Master can do some things for which he cannot find a warrant in the constitution of the Grand Lodge. However, the committee, fearing, perhaps, that some successor would not be so "wise" and "prudent," reported an amendment providing for a commission with power to remove him from office and yet leave him to be tried by his lodge, after the expiration of his term of office. We prefer our law, under which the Grand Lodge tries the whole case: we would add, however, the provision, for a commission, to save expense and possible delay. While the law has been as it now is for many years, yet so far as we remember, we are yet to have the first trial of the Master of a lodge for unmasonic conduct. Trial by the Grand Lodge can be had practically only through the agency of a commission.

The following was among the decisions approved by the Grand Lodge:

"The apron is worn, 1°, bib up; 2°, bib down; 3°, flowing freely, as in the 2°, except when worn as a mark of distinction, then the left hand corner is tucked up. This is according to the teachings in the oldest jurisdictions, viz: Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, the Carolinas, Georgia, Virginia, Connecticut, Tennessee and others (see Connor's Tennessee report

1892), and in some of the oldest charts and illustrated manuals—Webb-Carson, 1858; Moore, 1851, etc.”

As usual the “Home” takes up considerable space in the Proceedings; we are glad to find that it is in a flourishing condition.

The Grand Secretary had obtained the portraits of *sixty-nine* of the *eighty-six* Past Grand Masters, he felt sure of obtaining some of the others. The Grand Lodge voted unanimously to add that of the Grand Secretary: whereupon the retiring Grand Master asked and obtained the privilege of paying for the portrait as a slight token of his appreciation of the assistance he had received from Bro. GRANT during his term of office. Our Kentucky brethren know a good thing when they see it—that is sometimes!

We note that the Grand Master did not appoint the Standing Committees until the afternoon of the first day. In his address he complained (and we think justly) of the hasty work of committees. In Maine, we avoid that in part, by appointing our committees for the next year on the last day of the session, having a provision in our Constitution that a member of a committee, being a member of the Grand Lodge when appointed, shall continue to be a member of the committee until the close of the next session, although in the meantime he ceases to be a member of the Grand Lodge. It is true that this method prevents the appointment (save to fill vacancies) of new members of the Grand Lodge, but as the object is not to honor the appointees, but to have *work* done and *well done*, one session's experience all the better qualifies the brethren for that duty.

In passing we note that the Library is now “respectable in size and choice,” as it certainly will continue to be if Bro. STATON is allowed “half a chance.”

The sermon by Bro. H. R. COLEMAN was a splendid exposition of Brotherly Love.

The following preamble and resolution were unanimously adopted by a rising vote:

“WHEREAS, Some delegates who attend the Grand Lodge of the State of Kentucky as representatives of their subordinate lodges have debased themselves and brought reproach upon the institution of Masonry by becoming intoxicated while acting in the capacity of delegate. Now, therefore be it

“Resolved, That should any delegate become intoxicated while in discharge of his duty, as such, and should it come to the knowledge of the Grand Secretary, it shall be his duty to report the act to the subordinate lodge to which the delegate belongs, to be acted upon by said lodge, and the punishment shall be expulsion.”

Well meant, but utterly impotent for good! Let the Grand Lodge, in the exercise of one of its primal powers—that of self-protection—visit swift and condign punishment upon the offender, and there will be rare cause for similar complaints.

Kentucky has a "Widows' and Orphans' Home," but proposes to go further:

"As announced in the Grand Lodge when the Centennial Committee was first appointed, the object in beginning thus early the arrangements for the proper celebration of our masonic centennial in 1900, was to give five years in which to raise a fund with which to build and endow a Home for aged and destitute masons, and an Infirmary for the benefit of our masonic families. Your committee being of the opinion that the work should not be undertaken with a less amount than \$50,000, have taken the pledges for this fund conditional on that amount being subscribed. At the end of this, really the first, year of the five (though some subscriptions were made last year), they are enabled to report that less than 1,800, or less than one-tenth of the craft in this jurisdiction, have subscribed \$25,000.00, or more than one-half the required amount. They are also gratified that they can report that the bulk of those subscribing ignore the condition of \$50,000, and many are already paying to the Secretary and Treasury of the committee their first installments on their subscriptions.

"Your committee are of the opinion that it is but a matter of time when not only the \$50,000 but \$200,000 will be raised by voluntary contribution for this deserving charity.

"An average contribution of \$2.00 a year for five years by the craft in this jurisdiction will produce the last named sum—enough to build and endow and make self-sustaining this greatly needed and beneficent institution. There may be a few of our brethren unable to contribute to this work, but we can not conceive of a brother being unwilling to do so."

The Deputy Grand Master presiding, a proposition to amend a proposed amendment to the constitution, presented the year before, was ruled out of order, and the ruling sustained by the Grand Lodge. Correct: but there has been, of late years, a tendency in the opposite direction, and some codes expressly provide that amendments may be made in such cases.

We find the following:

"Touching the communication from the Grand Lodge of Maine with reference to perpetual jurisdiction, we desire only to say that the doctrine in question is not held by this Grand Lodge, and we are satisfied that it does not desire to change its attitude upon this question. Adopted."

This illustrates the haste with which the committee work was done. The question was not what Kentucky desires, but whether Kentucky was willing to do something to preserve harmony among the jurisdictions, and while the inference from this action is that *she is not willing*, we do not believe that such is the fact, and do believe that the deliverance of the committee was a blunder caused by a lack of opportunity to examine the matter sufficiently to comprehend correctly what was submitted to them.

The Report on Correspondence (157 pp.) was submitted by Bro. WILLIAM W. CLARKE.

Our Proceedings were received late and the review of them is evidently a hurried one.

He misapprehends the report on jurisdiction over rejected candidates. He says:

"The report admits that the rejection by so many Grand Lodges of these propositions makes uniformity impossible. Proceeding, it then in an able manner repeats many of the arguments in favor of perpetual jurisdiction which, in our opinion, have been time and again exploded."

There was no such admission: there was the statement, then historic, that so many Grand Lodges had declined to adopt the Mississippi proposition, that uniformity could not be secured in that manner. That fact was the reason for trying something else, which would be a very foolish thing to do, if it was admitted in advance that uniformity is impossible.

Nor is there a single argument in that report "in favor of perpetual jurisdiction": the whole report is directly against that doctrine.

He says further:

"We will not at this time enter upon a discussion of this matter; the following, however, quoted from the report, is worthy of careful thought, and it is suggested that if every Grand Lodge will give full faith and credit to the acts of all other Grand Lodges in the matter, the danger feared will have passed:

"The reasons which caused the Grand Lodge of Mississippi to propose this rule exist to-day, and are stronger than ever before. The question of jurisdiction over rejected candidates threatens to disturb the relations between the Grand Lodges of this country, and the danger of such disturbance grows more imminent as the years roll on. It has already caused dissensions and protests, and it is only because some Grand Lodges do not have 'the courage of their convictions,' or are willing to endure what they deemed a wrong rather than disturb the harmony of the craft, that a disruption of masonic relations between some of our sister Grand Lodges has not already taken place. Such disruption must surely come, and it is only a question of a brief time when it *will* come, unless some common understanding is reached in relation to this matter. Our own Grand Lodge is not exempt from this danger. Your committee, therefore, have deemed it important to examine the whole question and submit the result to the Grand Lodge."

Yes; that is true; and if Kentucky will give "full faith and credit to the acts of all other Grand Lodges," there can be no danger of trouble, so far as she is concerned; but while she wishes all other Grand Lodges to give "full faith and credit" to *her* acts, she refuses to reciprocate unless those acts are in accord with her own law: if she will apply this doctrine to Pennsylvania, for instance, there can never be any clashing with that Grand Lodge. The object of the Maine resolutions is to get all the Grand Lodges to yield somewhat, and thus reach the desired result.

He is in accord with the deliverance of our Grand Lodge in relation to the Wisconsin proposition, saying that it "presents the matter in the clearest possible light."

In his "conclusion," he submits what he calls his third argument on the question of jurisdiction over rejected candidates.

His first argument, to our comprehension, if it proves anything, proves

that our law requiring a unanimous ballot is utterly unjust, and therefore that a rejection goes for nothing.

His next point is that if the Pennsylvania law is valid, it is valid everywhere. He is right: he might have illustrated it further by applying the doctrine that an expulsion, if valid where made, is valid everywhere.

He then supposes a case in which a rejected candidate is made a mason in violation of the law of jurisdiction, and then is elected Grand Master of Kentucky.

He then says:

“Would Grand Master Hiram be permitted to visit a lodge in Pennsylvania? If the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania be consistent he would not, because the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction unequivocally affirms, not that a lodge in Pennsylvania acquires perpetual jurisdiction over candidates rejected by it (their apologists dare not so affirm), but that every lodge everywhere acquires perpetual jurisdiction over rejected candidates.”

In answer to his question, we say certainly not, any more than if the Grand Lodge of Kentucky should make a woman a mason, and then elect her Grand Master, and she should attempt to visit a lodge in Pennsylvania: or if it should make a mason of an expelled mason, and make him Grand Master.

We are not advocating the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction; we do not believe that it is a landmark; but we *do* hold that an act done by a Grand Lodge within its jurisdiction shall have the same effect everywhere that it has under the law of the jurisdiction in which it is done, and that any Grand Lodge, which does not give it that effect, violates the supreme law of Freemasonry: the illustration, we have already made—the expulsion of a mason—is in point.

He then goes on with an argument based upon his ideas of the powers of Grand Lodges, and asks this question:

“Let us suppose that every lodge in Kentucky should surrender its charter, would any one deny that there were still many thousands of masons in Kentucky, or would any one assert that there was a Grand Lodge of Kentucky?”

We cannot answer for Kentucky, because, as we understand it, that Grand Lodge has departed from the ancient landmarks and is not a *sovereign* Grand Lodge in the sense that the Grand Lodge of Maine, or of Pennsylvania, and all other Grand Lodges in the world, except Kentucky and a very few others, are sovereign. If he will strike out “Kentucky” from his question, and insert Maine or any one of the other Grand Lodges that do not fall within the exception, the answer to the last clause is “Most certainly.”

The Grand Lodge of Maine is composed of over fifty members in addition to the representatives of lodges: all are absolutely equal in their rights and powers: and the Grand Lodge of Maine will continue to exist as long as it

has members enough to open a Master's lodge, though there be present not a single representative of lodges, and even if there should be not a lodge in existence in the state. What is true of Maine is true of every other Grand Lodge, that has not divested itself of the power which was inherent in the Mother Grand Lodge, and is formed on its model. To say that lodges *create* Grand Lodges (even if it were true, and it is not), and that the same power, which created, can control or destroy them, is utterly erroneous. The creative power is *the fundamental law of Freemasonry*, and the lodges are the mere instruments by which that law, *over which they have no control*, is made effective. A clergyman can make the union of a man and a woman legal, but he is the mere instrument of the law; lodges, which are the instrument of the law in organizing a Grand Lodge, can no more control or destroy that Grand Lodge, than the clergyman can control or destroy the marriage in effecting which he has served as the instrument of the law.

BRO. CLARKE SAYS:

"We submit that Grand Lodges are governments of enumerated powers, and, therefore, can enact such legislation only as they may be empowered to enact by their constitutions expressly or by necessary implication granted; or they are governments of general legislative powers, and may enact any legislation not inhibited by their constitutions."

His Grand Lodge, and a few others, come within the first proposition: the others come within the second, and when it is remembered that those Grand Lodges *can change their constitutions at their own pleasure*, in the mode prescribed by themselves, his argument, based upon limitations of the power of Grand Lodges of this class, therefore, has no weight.

We would be willing to admit that the fox, which lost its tail, had the right to consider that the proper condition to be in, and even to urge that other foxes shall follow his example, but we are not willing to admit that the foxes, which do not follow that example, are nevertheless without any caudal appendage.

The fallacy in Bro. CLARKE's argument is shown by the fact that it applies equally to expelled masons and rejected candidates.

There are a very few Grand Lodges which hold that the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction is a landmark. There ought to be a common ground upon which the others can stand; but it can be reached only by mutual concession: if "full faith and credit" are given to the acts of a Grand Lodge, the effect given to such act everywhere is the effect it has under the law in the jurisdiction in which it was done: if this principle is admitted the solution of this grave question is an easy one.

LOUISIANA, 1897.

Two special communications were held to lay the corner stone of public buildings: according to the record, the ceremonies were performed by the Grand Lodge open as such. On each occasion the Grand Master, ALBERT G. BRICE, delivered a very learned, instructive and interesting address.

In his annual address, the Grand Master says:

"On the state of the Order, therefore, with all the anxiety and general depression without, if we look within the lodge, I do not think we have cause for concern. The financial affairs of the Grand Lodge are fairly well sustained. The lodges generally have paid their dues and representation on the floor shows no falling off from previous years, however discouraging has been the financial outlook. It is true, we have not performed all that was intended during the year, but we have not added any new burden to our debt; and if the suit for taxes, that has recently been submitted to the Supreme Court for decision, were not pending over us as a nightmare, the members of the Grand Lodge would really have cause for rejoicing at the promise before them. It was intended some considerable improvement should be made to this building, so as to have it second to none for the comfort of its tenants; but these improvements were deferred, for reasons fully detailed in the report of the Committee on Improvements.

"The returns up to this writing show the lodges have made acquisitions to their membership during the year; and if it were not for the number of suspensions for non-payment of dues the increase of members for the year would be considerable. Information from several portions of the state assures me there has been a very general interest in Masonry throughout the jurisdiction, and much good work has been accomplished."

He announces the deaths of Bros. HENRY HAMBURGER, for eighteen years Master of Louisiana Relief Lodge, and ABEL G. NORWOOD, Past G. Master.

In this jurisdiction, joint occupancy of halls is not permitted save by the consent of the Grand Master: the stringency of the times, however, had caused him to give that consent in quite a number of cases. This rule imposes a severe burden upon country lodges, and, so far as we can see, for a mere sentiment. It is not justified by ancient usage, nor by anything inherent in the use of halls.

The Grand Master decided that when a candidate is rejected for advancement, he may apply again as soon as he pleases, but the Grand Lodge, upon the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence, held otherwise: we think, however, that the Grand Master has the best of the argument. The law provides that when a petition for initiation or the degrees is rejected, another petition shall not be received till after six months. It seems to us that this applies to petitions for initiation, or for one or more of the degrees, by one who has received part of them elsewhere, and thus understood, the law is a wise and prudent one, as experience has shown.

But the application for advancement is not by petition, and is made orally. Moreover, the language of the law clearly implies that the right to advancement depends on proficiency, and it is absurd to say that in all cases in

which a candidate fails to pass a satisfactory examination, it will take every one six months to become proficient, or that he cannot become proficient in one month. The committee seem to assent to the claim that the question is one of proficiency, for they agree with the Grand Master that notice of such rejection should not be sent to the Grand Secretary, as is required in other cases: this admission also supports the position of the Grand Master. Perhaps they found as we do, that the argument of the Grand Master is unanswerable:

"A candidate for initiation in a lodge stands in a very different relation to the Fraternity to that of a brother E. A. or F. C. Mason of such lodge. The former has no right whatsoever in the lodge. It is eminently proper, from wise and prudential motives, that the lodges of the jurisdiction should be notified of the rejection of petitions for initiation or for degrees. But why should an E. A. or a F. C., who has merely exercised his legal right and made application for advancement, have his name published in all the lodges of this jurisdiction, because his lodge, in the exercise of *its prerogatives*, denied him this favor? For it is a favor the lodge may grant or withhold without affecting his good standing in his lodge. At most, it is an expression of the will of his lodge that he is not qualified for advancement. If his moral standing or character in the lodge is unimpeached by the unfavorable ballot for advancement, it follows, as a rule of right, that no act should be done by his lodge, nor by the Grand Secretary, calculated to put a doubt or discredit on his good name. He is a member of the lodge, and in good standing as an E. A. or F. C. To publish his name in the monthly circular is to put on him the seal of condemnation, and suggests unworthiness—and if I have read the Regulations correctly, without authority or warrant in law. That it has been a custom to publish in the monthly circular all rejections for advancement is admitted. But a custom, however long exercised, if in violation of common right, cannot, with reason, be pleaded as justification for its continuance."

Grand Secretary LAMBERT reports that all but two of the one hundred and thirty-one lodges had made returns.

The fiftieth anniversary of the raising of M. W. Bro. SAMUEL MANNING TODD to the degree of Master Mason came during the session of the Grand Lodge. The venerable Past Grand Master JOHN Q. A. FELLOWS, presented to him, in open Grand Lodge, a testimonial elegantly engrossed, with remarks appropriate and just, as only that distinguished brother could make. This sentence states a masonic service which but very few in the world have rendered:

"This is the forty-fifth session of the Grand Lodge of which he has been a member: for fifteen successive years he sat in this East as a Grand Officer; Deputy Grand Master, Grand Master, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, and again as Grand Master, and for twenty-four years a Past Grand Master."

The remarks were all the more forcible from the fact that these two brothers had been associated in masonic work for more than forty-five years. Others followed with eloquent remarks, and the testimonial was ordered unanimously by a rising vote. Bro. TODD was almost overwhelmed,

but his few words of reply were eloquent in their modesty and simplicity. Would we had been there to see!

The Grand Representatives were received, and their Senior, Bro. TODD, who had served, we think, thirty years, Bro. FELLOWS, who is a "close second" with twenty-nine years' service, and Bro. PINCKARD, just returned from a visit to England, responded, to the great pleasure and interest of the Grand Lodge.

The Report on Correspondence (81 pp.) was presented by Bro. JOHN Q. A. FELLOWS: as heretofore, he divides it by subjects, and under each head he quotes the deliverances of other committees upon the subject, giving the views from the different standpoints, sometimes without indicating his own opinion, sometimes expressing it briefly and in a few instances taking a part in the discussion.

Upon many questions we are fully in accord with him: upon others we differ: the difference generally arises from a disagreement upon a fundamental principle: we hold to the original form of masonic government, that the Grand Lodge is the source of power and grants to lodges such powers as they have: he holds to the doctrine first imported into Masonry at the organization of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, from the system of law about that time adopted for the government of the United States, that the Grand Lodge is not sovereign, but has only such powers as the lodges have seen fit to give to it. His own Grand Lodge is apparently with us, for while its constitution provides for submitting proposed amendments to that instrument to the lodges, and if approved by a majority of them, it becomes effective, still the Grand Lodge may, by a two-thirds vote, adopt an amendment. The constitution gives to the lodges the power to adopt, but apparently if a majority vote against it, nevertheless the Grand Lodge may still adopt it by a two-thirds vote. The test of the sovereignty of a Grand Lodge is whether it has the power in itself to amend its constitution. This Grand Lodge recognizes the binding force of ancient usages, for "It may make laws * * not inconsistent with the provisions of this constitution, 'the old charges of the Free and Accepted Masons of 1723,' or *the ancient usages and landmarks of the order.*"

Of ciphers, he says:

"The difficulty in these matters arises from the different views on the subject of the ritual. Many believe that there must be an *exact* uniformity, even to the dotting of an 'i' or the crossing of a 't,' and so insist; and that the work they have is the Simon pure, original work, and, as Bro. Schultz intimates, is a landmark. The Grand Lodge of Louisiana, long ago, as heretofore shown, made the essentials to consist in uniformity in the tie which binds us together as masons, and in the means of recognition—as a consequence, I may say, we, in Louisiana, have had no use for printed or written rituals or ciphers.

"Every one, on reflection, must admit, that it is impossible to retain the exact verbiage of the work and lectures by oral transmission. It simply can't be done."

This is true; but the tide is setting strongly in the opposite direction, and hence—ciphers.

With his views upon masonic government, he of course denies that Grand Masters have the power to make masons at sight: but in so doing he denies the effect of "the ancient usages and landmarks of the order," which the constitution of his own Grand Lodge recognizes as superior to itself.

He holds to the old doctrine in relation to masonic charity and to the right of non-affiliates, and after quoting the action of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, he adds:

"The way to remedy the evil suggested is to do what is right and to enact in the Grand Lodge that non-affiliation is not a masonic crime, and that non-affiliates are only denied strictly lodge benefits. Taking the distinction made by the statutory definition of unaffiliates as 'one whose membership in a recognized lodge has been severed on account of sentence for offence'; it follows that a non-affiliate is guilty of no masonic offence, and is and can be only deprived of lodge benefits—such as being entitled to share in the lodge work, visit it, walk in its processions, or receive, as a right, masonic aid, or masonic burial. These all are what are termed *lodge* benefits. But yet the non-affiliate is a mason in good standing, not *in* a lodge, to be sure, for he is in no lodge, but entitled to all the other benefits and rights of a mason, which are infinitely superior to lodge benefits, strictly speaking.

"When our brethren divest themselves of the features of other so-called secret, benevolent societies, of no kin to Masonry, return to first principles and recognize the institution as *Free-Masonry*, they will find the evil of non-affiliation, much, very much, lessened."

He quotes nearly ten pages (some four from Maine) of the deliverances in relation to jurisdiction over rejected candidates, but adds nothing of his own.

He again discusses the questions involved in the recognition of the Gran Dieta of Mexico.

He has modified the views expressed last year and has deserted Bro. Robbins, for he says:

"We do not even assert that Supreme Councils cannot create lodges, as such assertion is not necessary, but we do assert that no 33d degree mason, as such, can make a mason, nor can any Supreme Council create a lodge of profanes, thus made masons."

This refers to a preceding pragraph:

"The chairman of this committee well knows, that in 1860, Bro. Charles Laffon, of New Orleans, then a member of the Supreme Council of the Southern jurisdiction, went to Mexico to establish Masonry and a Supreme Council in that country. We have yet to learn that there was a single lodge in existence in Mexico at that time. I know that he made a number of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General (33d degree masons)—established *the* Supreme Council, and there being no affiliated masons in the country, so I understand from him on his return, he made masons, and created them 33ds.

If there were lodges or masons, in Mexico at that time, he did not so report (and there may have been), I would like to see some proof of the fact.

"Now, I do not think Bros. Drummond, Miller, Hedges or Parvin, will fail for a moment to admit that every profane made a mason by Bro. Laffon, in 1860, was a clandestine made mason, and that though at the time he gave them the degrees up to the 33d, inclusive, they were still clandestine and could never be recognized, not even healed, but could become masons only by being *made* in some legitimate and regular lodge, nor can they but admit the conclusion which must necessarily follow, that these clandestine masons could do no legitimate work, not even if they had the 33d degree and they were a Supreme Council, received in the manner above set forth. If that Supreme Council—the Supreme Council of Mexico—thus created, has made masons of profanes and constituted lodges of those thus made, such persons are clandestine made masons, and the lodges are clandestine and incapable of forming a Grand Lodge and should not be recognized."

We do "fail to admit" his proposition: if a Supreme Council *can* create lodges, it creates them *in accordance with its own laws*: according to Bro. FELLOWS, there was no Grand Lodge there and no lodge even: masonically speaking, the country was absolutely open to any masonic power to establish Masonry there without infringing the jurisdiction of any other power in the least: if, under the laws of a Supreme Council, one of its members is authorized, *in such a country*, to confer the degrees to establish Masonry there, his acts are valid: the proposition that a profane can be made a mason only in a regular lodge has exceptions; if not, RICHARD VAUX lived and died a clandestine mason, as well as many others, who have been everywhere recognized as regular.

The fact is that the admission that a Supreme Council can create lodges, carries with it necessarily the admission that a Supreme Council can make masons, and that masons made in accordance with its laws are regular.

Bro. FELLOWS, to a certain extent, restates his proposition that Supreme Councils and Grand Orients, save in exceptional cases, are not masonic bodies: he bases his argument upon the construction which he gives to the action in 1717, when the Grand Lodge system began: but unfortunately for his argument, the masonic world from 1717 down, by its usage, has given the opposite construction, thus settling the whole question, a proposition which our distinguished brother does not attempt to controvert.

MANITOBA, 1896.

Two special communications were held, at which the *Grand Lodge* laid corner stones, with the usual ceremonies, and interesting addresses.

The Grand Master (CHARLES N. BELL) had granted a large number of dispensations, and of them he says:

"You will notice that, as usual, at least one-half of the dispensations granted were for permission to attend Divine Service in regalia. Brethren,

in my opinion either no dispensation should issue for this purpose, or all lodges should regularly, by constitutional enactment, be permitted under simple regulations, to enjoy this privilege, for it has become a recognized custom in this Grand Jurisdiction for lodges to attend Divine Service in celebration of the Festival of St. John the Baptist, or at some other date. A proposed amendment to the constitution in respect to this matter has been made for consideration at this communication."

The amendment was proposed, but was "declared lost": the terms of it indicate that a dispensation is necessary in order that the lodge may bury its dead; we regard this limitation not only as unwise, but contrary to the almost universal usage.

He reports the healing of two masons made in a clandestine lodge; he does not give the location of the lodge, and we have no means of determining whether the craft in other jurisdictions should be put on their guard in relation to it, or not.

He had visited many lodges, with excellent results. Even in Maine, with its large territory, we have little idea what visiting lodges in Manitoba means, as will be seen from the following:

"To illustrate how extensive our jurisdiction now is, and the difficulty your Grand Masters experience in visiting, I may say that on one trip when I was absent from home for two weeks I traveled about 2,300 miles by rail and stage, made nine official and two unofficial visits, constituted a lodge, and delivered eight lectures or addresses."

We find that a jurisdictional case has arisen, which we shall follow with much interest, the matter having been continued in the hands of the Grand Master:

"It having been reported to me by Doric Lodge, No. 36, situated at Boissevain, that a person resident there who had applied to be initiated in that lodge and been rejected, had, during a visit to a village in Ontario, presented his application to a lodge there and been initiated. I immediately, through the Grand Secretary, entered into correspondence with the Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario in regard to this complaint of Doric Lodge, and have to report that the facts as stated by Doric Lodge have been admitted. I have not, however, been informed if the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario has taken, or intends to take, any further action in this matter."

The reports of the District Deputies show a careful and intelligent performance of duty by those officers, and a generally prosperous condition of the lodges.

We find that the Grand Secretary gives the particulars in relation to the two masons healed:

"The M. W. Grand Master, according to ancient custom, healed two members of an association claiming to be masons, but not recognized as such by this Grand Lodge. The said association is known as the Grand Lodge of Ontario, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. These members furnished satisfactory evidence that they, and without knowing the consequences, had become members."

The Board of General Purposes report in relation to the same matter:

"At a meeting held on the 7th October, 1895, the M. W. Grand Master brought up the question of the advisability of healing brethren of the illegitimate and now defunct Grand Lodge of Ontario. A communication was also read from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario, detailing the method adopted by the Grand Lodge of Canada in healing masons made by such illegitimates. After a general discussion it was deemed advisable and in the general interests of Masonry in this jurisdiction for our Grand Master to heal such irregularly made masons, and a resolution was passed adopting the procedure followed by the Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario.

As the Association referred to has disbanded, there is probably no longer any danger of imposition on the craft by it, or its members.

The action of the Grand Lodge of Canada upon this question allows the healing of those "Ontario" masons in any jurisdiction in which they reside.

Under the head of history, Grand Secretary SCOTT says:

"I am pleased to report that since our last annual communication, considerable progress has been made in obtaining material necessary to continue the history of Freemasonry in the Canadian North-West. In September, 1895, I received from Mr. W. Bannatyne, son of the late W. Bro. A. G. B. Bannatyne—who was W. Master of Northern Light Lodge at the date it ceased to exist—all the books and records of that pioneer lodge, including the dispensation issued by the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, bearing date May 20, 1864. These records being the property of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, I made a formal request to that Grand Body that we might be permitted to retain them."

It is scarcely necessary to say that the Grand Lodge of Minnesota acceded to the request in the most fraternal manner.

The Report of the Librarian shows a large increase in the library and the almost wonderful success of the reading room. It is, however, a general library, and we doubt whether it can be continued many years under the exclusive care of the Grand Lodge.

In regard to the amount of work done, one of the committees say:

"We are indeed pleased to see the large number of initiations during the year in the several lodges, and trust that the material has been of good quality. While the initiations are numerous and the number of joining members large, yet the number of suspensions for N. P. D. is also large, which is to be regretted.

"We observe that the proportion of rejections is very small. This would indicate that only very excellent material was proposed or that unwonted carelessness prevailed. We trust that to the latter we may not attribute the satisfactory increase in our membership."

We have reason to believe that the recent deliverances of the extreme anti-perpetual jurisdiction brethren, in which the object of the ballot has been belittled if not grossly misstated, have affected for the worse, the care taken in the admission of new members.

The following resolution was adopted; we regret that there should be any occasion for it anywhere, but Manitoba is not alone in needing it:

“Resolved. That it is the opinion of this Grand Lodge that it is unmasonic to give to the Press for publication, without the consent of the Grand Master, any of the business transacted at meetings of subordinate lodges.”

No Report on Correspondence.

MARYLAND, 1896.

These Proceedings are adorned with the picture of William Henry Shryock, who has served the Grand Lodge, as its Grand Treasurer, for ten years, but who declined a re-election, although a special committee was appointed to confer with him in an effort to induce him to retain the office longer, but, largely on account of his health and the necessity of his lightening his labors, the committee were obliged to report, that it was due to him to accept his declination.

The committee say:

“The Grand Lodge is under great obligation to Bro. Shryock for the able, faithful and entirely voluntary service he has rendered in its behalf.

“Coming into office ten years ago, when the Grand Lodge was financially embarrassed, he did not hesitate to interpose his own responsibility as a guarantee for the fulfillment of its obligations, and at no time during his term of office has he faltered a single moment in extending to the Grand Lodge any assistance, either financially or otherwise, when needed.

“In retiring he leaves the Grand Lodge prosperous and self-supporting—a result largely due to his own personal efforts. He has chosen an auspicious occasion for his retirement, and some fitting testimonial should be devised as an expression of our high appreciation of his long, faithful and valuable service, and of our affectionate regard for him.”

The Grand Lodge ordered that a committee be appointed to present him with a suitable testimonial in the form of a gold medal.

At the May session the Grand Master (THOMAS J. SHRYOCK) stated that the lodges were in a greatly improved condition, and from the reports of the inspecting officers and his own personal visits, he found the greatest encouragement for the growth and prosperity of Masonry in Maryland.

A special communication was held on June 25, 1896, to lay the corner stone of the new Court House in Baltimore. The occasion was one of much interest, a large number of lodges joining with the Grand Lodge in the performance of the ceremonies. An interesting history of the old Court Houses of the city was given by Past Grand Master JOHN M. CARTER. HON. WILLIAM PINKNEY WHYTE also delivered an address.

At the annual communication Grand Master SHRYOCK delivered a brief address, in which he says:

“Harmony prevails: good fellowship abounds and the order is prosperous beyond precedent. Notwithstanding the depression in all mercantile pursuits in the past year, Masonry in Maryland has increased in numbers and enthusiasm. Our lodges, with scarcely an exception, have had an abund-

ance of work, and that work has been well done. Not a single lodge has fallen by the wayside, and we have added two or three to our roster."

* * * * *

"Learning that the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts was to visit Baltimore, and knowing that a large majority of them were members of the craft, I invited them to visit the Masonic Temple while in our city, and received a letter of thanks from their captain, accepting the invitation, and many of them inspected the Temple during their stay."

BRO. THOMAS J. HOOVER, our Representative, presented our communication in relation to jurisdiction over rejected candidates, which was referred to the Committee on Correspondence, whose recommendation, that the whole matter lie over until the next annual communication, was adopted. In their report the committee say:

"Your Committee on Correspondence, to whom was referred the resolutions of the Grand Lodge of Maine, regarding 'rejected candidates,' respectfully report that the Grand Lodge of Maryland has always held the doctrine that the petition of a rejected candidate for admission into the fraternity could not be entertained by any other lodge without the unanimous consent being first obtained of the rejecting lodge.

"At the 1894 annual communication of the Grand Lodge this subject was presented by your Committee on Correspondence in a special report on the so-called Mississippi proposition regarding rejected candidates, and upon their recommendation the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction previously held by the Grand Lodge was re-affirmed.

"This doctrine is universally held by all American Grand Lodges, so far as regards rejected petitions, so long as they remain within the jurisdiction, but a number of Grand Lodges hold that when a rejected candidate from another jurisdiction removes into theirs, and after a residence of one year therein, they acquire jurisdiction over him, and any lodge therein can receive a petition from, and if elected, confer the degrees upon him. This right is denied by many of the jurisdictions, more particularly the older ones of our country, and in consequence much friction has ensued between them and those claiming the right referred to.

"The Grand Lodge of Maine, with a view to harmonizing these conflicting claims, and if possible, obtain uniform legislation by the several Grand Lodges in relation to rejected candidates, have adopted the resolutions referred to and requests for them the fraternal consideration of this Grand Lodge.

"Your committee believe that the doctrine held by this Grand Lodge upon the subject is a most wholesome one and in accord with the polity of our fraternity; they, however, submit for the consideration of the Grand Lodge the views of the able Law Committee of Maine, who say:

"In this country where men frequently move from their childhood's home and make a new one in a place so distant that his old neighbors have little or no knowledge of him thereafter, it would follow that those among whom he lived in his new home after *sufficient time* would become the best judges of his fitness to be made a mason. This is also true of different localities in the same state. It therefore follows that the disability caused by his rejection, should be controlled by the rejecting lodge for no longer than a reasonable time."

The statement of the third paragraph is erroneous. As we understand it, the practice of the several jurisdictions may be divided into four classes.

First, that lodges have perpetual jurisdiction over rejected candidates without regard to any change of residence by those candidates, without the unanimous consent of the rejecting lodge: Second, other Grand Lodges hold to the same doctrine, except that they provide for the giving of the necessary consent in some other method than by a unanimous vote: Third, others limit the effect of a rejection to a period of time varying from one year in some jurisdictions to five years in other jurisdictions, when the effect absolutely ceases, no matter where the candidate may reside: Fourth, a few Grand Lodges maintain the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction as long as the candidate remains within their territory, but concede that the effect ceases when he goes outside of their jurisdiction.

To this should be added the statement that quite a large number of Grand Lodges hold that the effect of a rejection wholly ceases, when the candidate goes into another jurisdiction. But many of the Grand Lodges deny this doctrine, and hold that if one of their rejected candidates is made a mason in another jurisdiction, such making is unlawful and recognition is refused to all such candidates.

These different practices and claims make the question a much more serious one, and give additional reasons why a strong effort should be made to secure uniformity.

The Report on Correspondence (125 pp.) was presented by Bro. EDWARD T. SCHULTZ.

In his review of Arkansas, referring to the address of the Grand Master, he says:

"He then goes on to say that the ballot box is not guarded with the same zealous care that it was in the days of the fathers; that in our anxiety to increase our numbers we are not careful enough as to the kind of material that is taken from the quarries, and as a result 'great numbers find their way into our lodges who have no sympathy with the objects, teachings and principles of Masonry, who at once become drones in the masonic hive by their conduct and utter disregard of the tenets of the Fraternity, bring reproach and disgrace upon the craft.'"

And he adds that there is much food for serious thought in these words of the Grand Master, for masons in other jurisdictions as well as his own.

Referring to public ceremonies, he says:

"Bro. Singleton will have seen ere this that the resolution referred to was adopted by our Grand Lodge, and that hereafter public ceremonies will be performed while the lodge or Grand Lodge is open in the third degree. He is correct in stating that the Old Monitors provide for work in public to be done in open lodge in the first degree, but we think he must except masonic funerals which all the text books that we have ever seen provide such labor must be performed by the lodge opened in the third degree. As all the business of Masonry, except that of conferring degrees, is now performed by the lodge and Grand Lodge in the Master's degree, we think the public ceremonies should likewise be performed in that degree."

He thus sustains a prerogative of the Grand Master:

"We are not disposed to quibble over much with the opinion of Bro. Coxe that the prerogative of making masons at sight is 'much more honored in the breach than in the observance,' but the *right* of Grand Masters to exercise such a power is, in our opinion, unquestionable, and there are times and occasions when the exercise of the power would redound to the honor of both the fraternity and the recipient."

In his review of Kentucky, he says:

"We are gratified to know that Bro. Clarke concedes the correctness of our proposition 'that according to the Old Regulations (Anderson's) a lodge cannot be opened in the absence of the Master and both Wardens.' Bro. Drummond also now admits this when saying, the Old Regulation 'was changed,' and we trust that in time both of them will concur also in our second contention—that it is a most wholesome regulation, and should be strictly adhered to."

His proposition is incorrect in spite of what Bro. CLARKE says, and our admission, that the old regulation was changed, admits of no such interpretation as he gives it, for the old regulation was that in the absence of the Master, the Junior Past Master succeeded to the chair, and the only change that was made, was (and the change was made within a few years after the adoption of the old regulation) that in the absence of the Master the Wardens should succeed to the chair if present, rather than the Past Master, but when the Master and Wardens were both absent the old regulation was to be followed.

Further replying to Bro. CLARKE, he says:

"We may not be able to 'point out' to Bro. Clarke the 'Old Regulation that makes a rejected candidate *unworthy* or inhibits [another lodge from receiving his petition,' but the rejection of a petitioner for admission into the *fraternity* of Freemasons can mean nothing more nor less, than that in the opinion of one or more *members* of the *fraternity* the petitioner is deemed to be 'unworthy,' unfit or undesirable material for entrance therein. We have no right whatever to assume that the rejection was for any other cause. If Freemasonry, be as we claim it to be, a *universal fraternity*, subdivided into lodges and Grand Lodges merely for convenience, then the lawful acts of a lodge, one of the subdivisions of that fraternity, must be respected equally as though it were the acts of the entire fraternity. They are universally so in the *making of masons* and in the *expulsion of its unworthy members*, why then should they not be in its rejection of material submitted for inspection?"

We referred to the making of a mason at sight by Grand Master SURROCK, and added that we don't understand the significance of "repairing to the lodge" to do the work. Bro. SCHULTZ explains, and we perceive that we did not understand the meaning of the term "lodge," which we now find means the lodge hall.

In reply to us, he says:

"We have never said that 'congregating' a lodge, as used in the old regulations, means opening a lodge. We said that the term 'congregating' means the calling of the brethren together; to order, preparatory to opening the lodge. Whatever *struggling* may have been exhibited in our reports for

the past few years, in this regard, was simply to *convert* Bro. Drummond and Bro. Todd from the error of their way, who alone, of all the correspondents, have expressed a contrary belief to that held by your committee.

"We are aware that the Grand Lodge of England, as well as other Grand Lodges of the British Empire, have, as he says '*changed the old law,*' but when he says more than double their number in the United States have done so, we enter our demurrer. We thoroughly investigated this matter some years ago, and our recollection now is that not more than three, possibly four Grand Lodges of the United States did permit their lodges to be opened in the absence of the Master and Wardens. If Bro. Drummond can furnish a list of more who have done so, we hope he will do so."

We agree with him completely as to the first paragraph, as it is precisely what we have claimed. In olden times they had no stated meetings of a lodge but the Master called them together when he saw fit. In other words, he "congregated" the lodge when he saw fit. The "Old Regulation" says, "The Master of a particular lodge has the right and authority of *congregating* the members of his lodge into a chapter at pleasure, upon any emergency or occurrence, as well as to appoint the time and place of their usual forming." Now, at stated meetings, the brethren come together of their own motion and the Master "congregates the lodge only for special meetings and the question which we have been discussing relates entirely to what is done *after* they are "congregated."

The expression in the second paragraph, "*changed the old law,*" is utterly misleading, as we have already explained, and if those who think as he does can get any comfort from that change they are welcome to it. His recollection in the latter part is sadly out of joint, as, from time to time, we have noted in our reports the Grand Lodges which in some form or other still hold to the old practice, and our estimate is that the number, which do so, comes close up to one-half of the American Grand Lodges. We cannot furnish the list without the expenditure of considerable time and labor, and, therefore, shall not attempt to do so.

Referring to ciphers, he says he does not understand what we mean by the "limitation of the prohibition." Well, we cannot write it, but, unless the work in Maryland is different from any work that we have ever seen, the limitation is there all the same.

He admits that Webb and his contemporaries undoubtedly used ciphers. The usage by the parties, who revised the work and really who were the parents of the work, shows the construction which they put upon it, and the construction so put is always admitted to be, if not conclusive, substantially so, as to the true intent and meaning of the language used.

He seems to hold that it was only under the Dermot Ahiman Rezon a Past Master could preside in the absence of the Master and Wardens, while the fact is that the provision is in the Regulations in the Anderson Constitutions, (First Edition). And the further fact is that the Grand Lodge of Masssa-

chusetts and other Grand Lodges, which based their system upon Anderson's Constitutions, continued this practice.

The following is of much interest:

"There is no such thing as *Funeral Grand Honors* mentioned in any of the early Text Books, either of this country or of England. The term employed in all of them in the forms for the laying of corner stones, opening of lodges and the funeral of a deceased brother invariably is 'THE HONORS OF MASONRY,' or 'THE PUBLIC GRAND HONORS.' The words used in some jurisdictions—'We cherish his memory,' etc., are an innovation of the last twenty-five or thirty years. We well remember the first time we heard these words used. It was at the funeral of Past Grand Junior Warden Jordan at Cambridge, about twenty or twenty-five years ago. Their use was suggested by a brother present who had heard them in another jurisdiction, and as they appeared to be *pretty* and appropriate, they were introduced and since then generally used on funeral occasions in our jurisdiction. When it was discovered those words were inappropriate for other than funeral occasions, something else had to be substituted for Grand Honors to be used on the occasions of laying corner stones and other public ceremonies, and the 'battery' 3 x 3 was introduced to be used on all other occasions than funeral, and the so-called Mackey System was called '*Funeral Grand Honors*.' But in order that they might *fit* the new words an actual change had to be made in them—the third motion—letting 'the hands fall upon the thighs,' was *changed* to that of extending the hands, palms down, towards the open grave."

We are surprised to learn from him that Bro. CUNNINGHAM, of Ohio, holds that the battery is "the Grand Honors" to be used on other than funeral occasions; and he well says, in our judgment, that such is not the old usage; in fact, the battery is merely a salute.

BRO. SCHULTZ very ably discusses the right of the Grand Master to make masons at sight. We shall avail ourselves of his remarks, when we come to our review of Mississippi, as we desire to give in one place what we shall have to say upon that subject.

MICHIGAN, 1897.

We have for a frontispiece the portrait of the retiring Grand Master, JOHN J. CARTON. We also have portraits of Past Grand Masters GEORGE E. DOWLING and RUFUS C. HATHEWAY, and of Bro. ALEXANDER MCGREGOR (Grand Tyler for twenty-five years), who had died during the year.

Grand Master CARTON, speaking of Freemasonry, well says:

"The oldest institution of human origin, it has continued, during all the ages through which it has passed, to teach the great yet simple lesson that we are all brethren, until to-day the flame of brotherly love burns more brightly upon the altar of Freemasonry than ever before. As long as we fix our gaze upon the eternal principles of right and justice which underlie Freemasonry and take them as our guiding star in ascertaining our duty toward our fellow men, so long will Freemasonry continue to be what it is now, one of the greatest educational and moral forces in every community."

We wish that he had added a caution against the tendency, in these times, towards changing those principles which have given the Institution so long an existence, for the "progressive" (?) ideas of modern days.

His account of his official acts and decisions shows that the Grand Master had been a very active and busy officer, and yet had acted with such deliberation, intelligence and wisdom as commanded the entire approval of the Grand Lodge.

He decided:

(1.) That a sailor, who "has no residence, save on his vessel," which sails to various ports, and has no home port in which he claims to reside, cannot be said to have had his residence in any place the time required to authorize the reception of his petition.

(2.) That a lodge, formed by the consolidation of two lodges, comes under the general law in relation to territorial jurisdiction, *and does not have* that of the two lodges which were consolidated.

(3.) That a lodge cannot parade on Decoration Day.

(4.) That a written objection to a candidate, *made before the ballot*, has no force.

(5.) That an unaffiliated mason cannot be made an honorary member of any lodge; and when an honorary member of a lodge ceases to be an actual member of a lodge, his honorary membership also ceases. In his jurisdiction, however, a mason cannot be made an honorary member of his own lodge.

(6.) That an E. A., losing an arm after his initiation, cannot be advanced.

(7.) That a member may pay his dues and relieve himself from the penalty at any time before the trial.

(8.) That a candidate must be of age before his petition is presented.

(9.) That a lodge cannot attend church on Sunday, even though it is St. John's Day. We presume that this does not include attending church on St. John's Day, as a part of the services of a masonic celebration of that day.

(10.) That a blank ballot is no ballot and cannot be counted.

(11.) That voting to designate a brother to "cast the ballot of the lodge" is illegal: "The election by ballot *by the members* cannot be legally waived, even if the members desire to do so."

Of the Eastern Star, he says:

"To the second question I reply that while a chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star is not strictly speaking a masonic organization, yet the Grand Lodge of this state has said that it was proper for masonic lodges to permit chapters of the Eastern Star to occupy masonic lodge rooms. See transactions 1894, pages 120 and 121.) The Order of the Eastern Star, being composed only of masons, their wives, mothers, sisters and daughters, is an organization that is entitled to favorable consideration at the hands of masons and masonic lodges, and I hold that by reason of its relation to Masonry it is perfectly proper and legal for masonic lodges in this Grand

Jurisdiction to permit its chapters to occupy masonic lodge rooms upon such terms as may be agreed upon between them."

In this connection, we quote the following decision:

"Question: Will it be proper for our lodge to give a dancing and card playing party in our lodge room? The lodge room has been dedicated.

"Answer: No. The lodge room is dedicated to Masonry and must be used exclusively for masonic purposes. It is improper to permit either dancing or card playing in a masonic lodge room after it has been dedicated. Card playing and dancing are subjects upon which a great many good people who are members of the fraternity differ, and while these differences exist we should exclude them from the lodge room, even if it would be otherwise proper to permit them there."

We agree with the decision for the reason stated in the last sentence. But if the dedication of a Masonic Hall precludes its use for any other than masonic purposes, then few halls ought to be dedicated. It is too great a burden to impose on a single lodge to be at the expense of supporting a hall exclusively for its use, when that use is limited (as in almost all cases it is limited) to from twelve to twenty-four times a year: even if a lodge can afford it, it is a wasteful and unmasonic use of its funds. The exclusive use of lodge halls finds no warrant in the old laws or the usages of the craft. In cities where there are many lodges, such use is practicable; but even there, it is done only when other bodies, which many deny to be masonic, aid in bearing the burden. The ceremony of masonic dedication carries with it no such implication; the apartments are to be used for masonic purposes, but there is nothing in the ceremonies that prohibits any other use when not used for masonic purposes. The doctrine stated by Grand Master CARROX is borrowed from some other quarter. Many of our Portland brethren will remember the storm raised by a refusal to have the masonic funeral service performed in a building which had been "dedicated" to other uses.

He further decided that one, who claims to have been made a mason (in this case in an army lodge) and cannot prove himself to have been made in a lawful lodge, has no other recourse than to petition "in the same manner as though he had never seen the inside of a lodge room."

We give one other decision in the words in which it was made:

"Question. A resident of our city who had but one arm went to Scotland in an official capacity. While there he was made a mason in one of the lodges. He has now returned. Have I the right to permit him to visit our lodge?

"Answer: We recognize the Grand Lodge of Scotland as a regular masonic body, and if by a proper examination you become satisfied that he is a Master Mason in good standing in a regularly constituted lodge, working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, then you would have a right to permit him to visit your lodge."

In most jurisdictions, recognition in such a case is refused, unless with special permission of Grand Lodge or Grand Master.

He pays fitting tributes to the memories of the three members of the Grand Lodge, who had died during the year. Neither Past Grand Master DOWLING or HATHEWAY had reached the age of sixty years, and both were active masons, constant in their attendance on Grand Lodge and serving on important committees.

Under the head of "Masonic Insurance," the Grand Master says:

"During the year I have had reason to examine into the modes of doing business of several so called Masonic Insurance Companies, either life or accident, and from my investigation of these matters I have come to the conclusion that as a rule the word 'Masonic' or 'Knights Templar' in the name of the company, is simply put there for the purpose of advancing the business of the company without intending to deal in a manner at all masonic with those who take any accident or life insurance, as the case may be, with it."

He then gives two instances, one that of Past Grand Master DOWLING. If the facts stated by the Grand Master are correct in this case, the refusal to pay the policy (\$5,000) is based on a technicality, which we believe would never be sustained in court.

The other was an accident case, which happened to a brother away from home, requiring him to be taken to a hospital, where he remained in intense agony more than three weeks, and his claim was refused, because he had not given notice of the injury *within ten days*, as required by his policy. In the view of the Grand Master, this company added insult to injury by its published claim, that all differences are "settled in a manner PURELY MASONIC."

He says:

"I think the time has come when this Grand Lodge should prohibit the use of the word 'masonic' in the name of any business institution, and make it a masonic offence for any member of the fraternity to solicit business for any such institution. The word 'masonic' has no place in business—it belongs exclusively to the fraternity."

His last sentence is the correct doctrine, very clearly stated.

The committee reported the following:

"Sec. 48. The use of Masonic Emblems by Masons as business signs or cards, unless such business be exclusively or largely in masonic goods, and the use of the word "Masons" or "Masonic" or "Free and Accepted Masons," or of the letters "F. & A. M." in connection with any private business enterprise, *hereafter established*, is strictly prohibited, and any Master Mason, who shall solicit business for any person, persons, association or corporation violating the provisions hereof shall be deemed equally guilty with his principal or employer."

The regulation was amended by striking out the words "hereafter established," and, as amended, adopted almost unanimously, only two voting against it.

"The Masonic Home" was again before the Grand Lodge, and the following plan was proposed:

"All life and active memberships in the Association to be released. The property conveyed to seven Trustees in trust for the Masonic Fraternity of Michigan. The corporation to be dissolved. The property to be managed by a Board of Control, to be chosen by the Masonic Grand Bodies at the annual meetings thereof. All funds for the maintenance of the Home to be contributed by masons and other charitably disposed people. If the Home is not maintained the Trustees to sell the same when directed to do so by the Grand Bodies, the proceeds from such sale to be paid into the Treasury of the Grand Lodge, to be used by it for charitable purposes."

This was changed as follows:

"1. The number of Trustees who are to hold the title to the property in trust for the Fraternity to be four; one to be chosen by the Grand Lodge, one by the Grand Chapter and one by the Grand Council, and one by the Grand Commandery.

"2. The Board of Control to consist of fifteen members, three to be chosen by each of the Grand Bodies above named, and three by the Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star. This Board to have power to make rules and regulations for the purpose of its own organization and control, and the control of the Home, as well as the admission of inmates.

"3. In case sufficient funds to maintain the Home are not contributed the Board of Control is to report that fact to the Grand Bodies, and the property is not to be sold for two years after such fact is reported, and if during said two years sufficient funds are contributed to maintain it as a Home, then it is not to be sold."

The committee reported that the other bodies had accepted the proposition, subject to the favorable action of the Grand Lodge, and recommended that the Grand Lodge concur, but saying:

"Grand Lodge is to assume no pecuniary obligation, only to join in the management of the Home and to become an almoner of the charity of the fraternity."

* * * * *

"Your committee therefore recommend that Grand Lodge, in connection with the other masonic Grand Bodies, in behalf of all the masons of the state, accept said property as recommended by the M. W. Grand Master, it being understood that Grand Lodge by this action assumes no pecuniary obligation in behalf of the Home, but confidently relies upon the voluntary contributions of the craft for its support and management."

But we judge from the newspapers that the end is not yet: apparently many brethren intend to keep up the agitation until the Grand Lodge assumes the full maintenance of the Home, and taxes the members of its obedience to raise the necessary funds. Such a course we hold to be a violation of the fundamental law of Freemasonry. If the masons of any jurisdiction are not ready to support such a Home by voluntary gifts, they are not ready for a Home. The modern rage to force *some one else* to pay for the support of the unfortunate, is out of place in Masonry.

The Grand Master announces with pleasure (shared in by hosts of others) that Bro. CONOVER had made good progress in his "History of Freemasonry in Michigan."

The Grand Secretary says:

"Information has been received that Granville A. Frambes, late a member of a Michigan lodge and chapter, who was well known in parts of this state a few years ago by reason of his connection with and work for what is called the 'Cerneau Rite,' has been expelled by Lafayette Lodge, No. 81, Cincinnati, for organizing lodges in that state under the clandestine Grand Lodge which has been organized there. The same person was recently expelled by a chapter in California, where he went on leaving Michigan, for a somewhat similar course of action. From his former relations in this state, I deem it my duty to mention these facts for your information."

We give the following extract from the petition of a lodge, as an illustration of the truth of what we have already said in relation to Masonic Trials:

"That the provisions of the penal code of the order in this state at present provide for but one method of conducting masonic trials, and that that method is one which is very wasteful of time and very expensive in case of a determined defence to the charge filed and being tried. That it is required that all testimony be reduced to writing and read to the lodge. That this lodge has, during the past year, terminated a trial which lasted about four months, although conducted with all possible dispatch. That the testimony taken and read to the lodge comprised about eight hundred folios of one hundred words each and took about eight hours to read. That when the case was finally heard the lodge was obliged to remain in session for about twelve hours, viz: from 7:30 p. m. to about the same hour the next morning. That the said trial cost this lodge \$337.54, although it was not appealed.

"Your petitioners further show that they verily believe that there are many men in the fraternity who should be tried for unmasonic conduct and some who would be tried if it were not for the labor and expense connected with a contested masonic trial as at present conducted. That your petitioners are determined to do their duty in this respect but that they dread the necessity for another trial, not only for reasons of charity and brotherly love, but quite as much because they can none of them afford the time expended and the lodge cannot afford the money. That for the reasons stated, they believe that some steps should be taken to make the procedure in masonic trials less expensive and less elaborate."

The matter was sent to the Committee on Jurisprudence for report next year. In this connection, we would say that we understand that the experiment of trial by commissioners, adopted a few years since in Massachusetts, is working very satisfactorily.

The communication from our Grand Lodge was presented by Bro. WILLIAM WENTE, our Grand Representative, and was disposed of by the adoption of the following:

"That we find no practical difficulty, under the rule which prevails in this jurisdiction. Ordinarily there is no difficulty in procuring a release of personal jurisdiction if the circumstances warrant it."

But suppose one of your rejected candidates goes to Kentucky, and is made a mason without such "release," and comes back to Michigan and seeks to visit a lodge, what will you do?

The committee do not consider the question which our Grand Lodge submitted: Is the Grand Lodge of Michigan willing to make some concession to secure uniformity and avoid the complications suggested in the question

we have just asked. We supposed that the report of our committee made this point clear, and are very sorry to find that it is not so, and that so many mistake the purpose of the action proposed by our Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge By-Laws were amended as follows:

"Provided, further, that chapters of the Eastern Star may be permitted to meet in masonic lodge rooms under such regulations and rules as each lodge may adopt."

Of the "Wisconsin Proposition," a report from which the following are extracts, was adopted:

"Your committee would respectfully report that were it not for the fact that the circular letter which embodies the above proposition is headed with the words masonic relief there is nothing in the letter which would lead them to even suspect that it came from a Grand Lodge of F. and A. M., but would presume that it came from some one of the fraternal orders or societies whose foundation principles are mutual benefits founded upon system of taxation."

* * * * *

"Your committee would respectfully call the attention of the brethren in Wisconsin and elsewhere, who seem to believe that the obligation of a Freemason binds him to any system of taxation for the relief of the worthy distressed, that under our system it is the individual mason, not the lodge, who is bound to the extent of his ability, of which he and not the lodge is the judge."

There is no Report on Correspondence. In its place we have the Forms for Ceremonies adopted by the Grand Lodge, and the "Compiled Law" just revised. The Grand Lodge also ordered the publication of a Monitor, whose contents are limited to the monitorial work, including, we judge, the Forms for Ceremonies.

MINNESOTA, 1897.

The frontispiece is a portrait of the Grand Master (JAMES F. LAWLESS) and in the Proceedings of the Masonic Veteran Association, published with those of the Grand Lodge, are given portraits of Bro. CHARLES K. SMITH, "Founder, organizer and first Master of the first masonic lodge in Minnesota Territory," and CHARLES P. SCOTT, the first initiate in that jurisdiction. He was initiated Sept. 17, 1849, and some twenty-one thousand have followed his example.

The Grand Master says that notwithstanding the business depression, the returns show "a flattering increase in membership."

He decided that a Master may be tried, after he ceases to be Master, for a masonic offence committed while in office.

Also, in answer to the question whether a lodge has the right to vote its funds to aid the distressed family of a brother, who has been expelled:

"An expelled mason has no masonic rights whatever, but masonic charity being as universal as the institution itself may well be bestowed even upon an erring brother, and it may wisely be extended to those dependent upon him who were not directly responsible for but rather suffered by his downfall."

The following decision of a practical question seems to us to be correct:

"Question. Is it permissible for the Worshipful Master to admit a member or allow one to retire during the spreading of ballot on a petition for the degrees in Masonry?"

"Answer. After a brother deposits his ballot, the Worshipful Master may excuse him. It would be, in my judgment, improper to deny admission to a brother during pendency of ballot upon applicant for the degrees or membership, and the Worshipful Master should make known to any brother not present in lodge when announcement was made, but who subsequently enters before ballot is closed, the name, etc., of party on whose petition the brethren are voting."

We greatly regret to note the following:

"We note the absence of our R. W. Bro. L. Z. Rogers, who, at this writing, lies sick at the Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis. Our brother has been actively interested for many years in conserving the funds of the Grand Lodge, and steadily attentive and watchful of our interests in other regards. It is not necessary for me to remind the brethren that their first care should be to send our esteemed brother a message breathing forth our sorrow for his absence, our sympathy for him in his suffering, and our recognition of his valued services."

BRO. LUTHER Z. ROGERS is our Representative, and though unable to be present, he transmitted the resolutions of our Grand Lodge to the Grand Master, who presented them. A message of sympathy was sent to him. We trust that ere this he has fully recovered.

The following suggestion is widely applicable in these days when newspapers, in the anxiety of their managers to be "the first to announce the news," publish items, not only prematurely but without foundation in fact:

"From some facts that have come to my knowledge during the year, I fear that the brethren forget at times that invitations should come direct to Grand Master from those having the authority to invite, and local lodge, after invitation has been accepted, should then as a matter of pride do everything possible to make the affair a success. But before the Grand Master accepts, it is not proper for lodge to promise that request will be complied with, and it is entirely wrong to even suggest that any ceremony of this kind should be performed under craft auspices."

Of Schools, he says:

"The reports received from Custodians show that representatives from seventy-two lodges were present at schools held during the year, outside of the large cities. Much interest manifested in the work. The difficulty in getting an attendance, as I know from practical experience, at the evening sessions is not great, even though the brethren have to come long distances to the point where school is held. But it is difficult at any season of the year for the brethren to attend day sessions; other duties which have an interest in the way of bread and butter for them demanding close attention. However,

much good has been accomplished and the plan commends itself to the brethren."

He announces, with fitting tributes, the deaths of Bros. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH and ALONZO J. EDGERTON, both Past Junior Grand Wardens.

BRO. PARVIN, of Iowa, was introduced and received with all the honors. In reply, he recalled many very interesting reminiscences.

Among other valuable statistics, Grand Secretary MONTGOMERY gives the gains and losses of all the lodges from their respective organizations down to 1897.

He reports the existence of 202 chartered lodges and four U. D. and a total membership of 15,428 members—a goodly showing for thirty-six years in a new state.

The Committee on Fraternal Relations reported:

"We desire to further report, that, having duly considered that portion of the M. W. Grand Master's address contained in the request of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine, made through R. W. Bro. L. Z. Rogers, Representative near this Grand Lodge, that having great regard for the wisdom and masonic standing of the Grand Lodge of Maine, and much as we might wish to reciprocate with that Grand Body and adopt the resolutions requested, yet we are opposed to the spirit of the same, and have by precedent of this Grand Lodge so adopted, refused to indorse the policy of perpetual jurisdiction, either limited or unlimited.

"We believe that the true spirit of Masonry should hold out to all men inducements to reform and thereby become 'wiser, better, and consequently happier.'

"For the above reasons we cannot recommend the adoption of the resolutions."

We do not quite understand what the committee mean by "perpetual jurisdiction, either limited or unlimited." We can only infer that a rejection in Minnesota means nothing, and that a rejected candidate stands just as well as any other profane. The statistics of returns do not give rejections, and it looks as if no return of them is made. We do not like to believe, however, that our inference is correct.

The Grand Lodge instructed the Grand Secretary to purchase 250 copies of Todd's Digest (edition of 1895) for gratuitous distribution among the lodges and the Grand Lodge officers.

The following resolution was offered just before the close of the Grand Lodge, and after discussion, action was postponed until the next annual communication:

"*Resolved*, That it shall be deemed unmasonic for any mason to become, or to remain a member of any insurance company, or any organization, company, association or business enterprise having or using the term masonic, or referring to the masonic fraternity in its title, excepting societies for masonic purposes recognized as such for conferring masonic degrees authorized by this Grand Lodge, the Grand Chapter, Grand Commandery, and other masonic orders in this Grand Jurisdiction, and it shall be deemed and is deemed unmasonic for any mason to hereafter solicit any person to become

a member of any such organization for business purposes, using title as above indicated; this resolution to take effect Jan. 1, 1898."

The Grand Orator, Bro. LYMAN R. BARTO, delivered an excellent, practical address, from which we take the following, trusting that his listeners fully appreciated it.

"An institution that has withstood the disintegrating forces of time, the devastations of war, the slanders of the malevolent, and the persecutions of the ignorant and superstitious; that has seen kingdoms and empires spring into being, rise to power, flourish for a time, and fall into ruin; that has withstood the assaults of the most powerful church organization the world has ever known; that has been made a football of in the political arena, and notwithstanding all these has flourished and grown, until to-day it has its home in every civilized nation, and in every hamlet a dwelling place,—such an institution has nothing to fear from forces from *without*. If it fails to perform its whole duty to humanity it will be because of forces from *within*."

The Report on Correspondence (86 pp.) was presented by Bro. THOMAS MONTGOMERY.

It is a terse, but very comprehensive, *résumé* of the Proceedings reviewed.

When he reaches Maine, however, he makes an exception:

"The Mississippi proposition is the basis of a lengthy and interesting report from the Jurisprudence Committee upon the question of jurisdiction over rejected candidates, with a summary of the usage in the different Grand Lodges of the United States, which confirms our opinion that a large majority had abandoned or never adopted this pretense to an interminable ownership which obviously could not be enforced. There is no question as to the old rule, nor of its comparative desuetude in 1853, when the Grand Lodge of Minnesota was organized. The first legislation we had upon the subject was in 1858, as follows:

"*Resolved*, That all applicants for the degrees in Masonry shall reside within the jurisdiction of the subordinate lodge to which application is made at least one year previous to making such application.

"*Resolved*, That the time intervening between a rejection of a candidate in a subordinate lodge under this jurisdiction and a re-application for the degrees in the same shall not be less than six months.

"This is still the Minnesota law, with a further resolution in 1869 permitting re-application to a lodge having concurrent jurisdiction after the required probation.

"The desirability of uniform legislation is one thing, its practicability quite a different affair. If the several Grand Lodges would all agree, when a rejected applicant renews his petition, to treat his case according to the law of the jurisdiction where the rejection actually occurred, there might be a way out of the difficulty without infringing upon fraternal relations. No other compromise seems possible under existing circumstances.

"Bro. Drummond's suggestion of a five-year limit as the effect of a rejection would hardly find favor in several of the older jurisdictions, Pennsylvania for instance, and possibly in none of the younger Grand Bodies adhering to the other extreme."

The five-years limit is only tentative, but we do not believe that it should be less than three. The idea that the fitness of a stranger to become a mason may be determined by observation during the first year of his residence in a community is not only absurd, but fraught with the greatest dan-

ger to the craft, especially when he comes as one rejected by a lodge in the community where he lived long enough to become well known.

The "compromise" suggested would certainly prevent the infringement of fraternal relations; but we think some concession should be made on the other side.

We have never expected that *every* Grand Lodge will at first come into any arrangement, that may be made: but if nearly all do, it will relieve the strain, and ultimately the other Grand Lodges will acquiesce. One step at a time ultimately reaches the goal.

He says further:

"Bro. Drummond's conundrum upon our time-honored mode of opening may be answered, Yankee fashion, by asking what becomes of an entered apprentice or fellow craft's lodge when the master mason's lodge is closed in form?"

Just, we suppose, what becomes of a master mason's lodge when that is closed in form! Is he giving us the old saw? "What becomes of fire, when it goes out?"

Also:

"Under Mexico there is an interesting account of Masonry upon the Grand Orient plan. His objection to recognition of the Gran Dieta is not that it was organized by lodges in part chartered by the supreme council, which he holds to be as regular as those chartered by the York Rite, but that the great light is not required upon their altars. The argument is calm and dispassionate, and well fortified by undisputed facts."

* * * * *

"After a lapse of two years a second objection to recognition is met by acknowledging the legitimacy of master masons under the obedience of supreme councils wherever the ancient and accepted is the dominant rite. This has been tacitly conceded by many of our Grand Lodges in the admission of visitors hailing from lodges chartered by Grand Orient, etc., and is sustained by the best authorities."

The Proceedings of the Masonic Veteran Association comprise fifty-six pages, and they are very valuable and interesting.

Two evenings were given to its sessions: at the first only formal business was transacted. At the second, the new members were welcomed in form; the reports made; the election held: then a fifteen minutes speech of rare eloquence by Bro. PARVIN, who was then within two days of his eightieth birth day. Then came the feast, with reading of letters; the lighting of pipes (cigars are tabooed) came next and then the speeches.

The address of the President, GEORGE R. METCALF, was a most interesting account of "The Early Masons of St. Paul." The other speeches were of a historical character, the whole making a most valuable contribution to the History of Masonry in that state.

MISSOURI, 1896.

The address of the Grand Master (A. M. HUGH) was very brief, less than five pages in length.

Of "The Home" he says:

"The Masonic Home is one of the brightest jewels in the crown of Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction. The action of the Grand Lodge at its last annual communication established its support and maintenance beyond doubt. Too much credit and praise cannot be bestowed upon the Board of Directors of that institution, especially upon the President and Executive Committee. The labor performed by them, and the interest taken in the Home can be known only to those who participate in their proceedings. All praise to them."

He had held during the year *seventeen* "State Lodges of Instruction": all but two were well attended; he thinks "they will result in much good to the Fraternity."

Of the Grand Lecturer, Bro. ALLAN McDOWELL, who had also attended all these Schools, he says:

"The labors of the Grand Lecturer cannot be too highly appreciated by the brethren of this jurisdiction. His knowledge of Masonry, and his patience and perseverance in imparting it to the brethren are remarkable. He seems never to be unwilling or too weary to instruct those who wish to learn. He has rendered much valuable service to the Fraternity and is worthy of the highest praise."

He says further:

"I recommend that the Grand Lodge take such action as will require, under penalty, the reading of the report of the Committee on Appeals, and Grievances and Jurisprudence, in full, in every lodge upon receipt of the Annual Proceedings of the Grand Lodge. And Masters should be, by some means, required to comply with that portion of the installation ceremony which requires them to search the Book of Constitutions, and cause it to be read in open lodge that none may pretend ignorance of the law. If Masters and brethren would familiarize themselves with the proceedings of the Grand Lodge and the Book of Constitutions, they would save themselves, their lodges and the Grand Master a great deal of trouble, and the Grand Lodge would have fewer appeals and grievances to attend to."

A brief service as Grand Master causes the wisdom of these suggestions to be appreciated.

The Grand Secretary says there were an unusual number of delinquencies of lodges in making returns, but it might be reduced before the final wind up.

The report of the Grand Lecturer justifies the tribute of the Grand Master. Of the Schools, he says:

"Meetings such as these are of incalculable good in many ways. The first and most important is, of course, that a larger number of brethren are instructed at a less expenditure of time and money than by any other means. But they also bring about a spirit of sociability and good fellowship between lodges and members that had not previously existed. They tend to break

down the barriers of sectionalism, and extend the masonic horizon of those attending, thereby making masons more cosmopolitan, more liberal, more just and generous in their estimation of each other, and of each other's work. A mason attending them soon learns to know that the work which has been practiced in his lodge is not necessarily that adopted by King Solomon, and thus, prejudices against the work of the Grand Lodge—that work which has been so long established and so long maintained—insensibly melt away. The presence of the Grand Officers, and especially of the Grand Master, intensifies the interest of these meetings, especially when the Grand Master—as has been the case with the present Grand Master and many preceding ones—assists in the work by assuming any position, from Worshipful Master to Junior Deacon, thus inculcating the lesson that it is not beneath the dignity of any mason, however high and exalted his position, to possess a thorough knowledge of the first principles of Masonry."

Quite a number of appeals came before the Grand Lodge, in one-half of which the decision of the lodge was reversed. In various other cases appeals were dismissed. An examination of the reports of the committee suggests that some reform in the rules of proceeding in such case must be made, or that masonic judges be appointed to preside at masonic trials. To expect the Master of a lodge to be able to pass upon points of law raised by expert lawyers is absurd, and would be funny, if the matter were not so grave a one.

The President of "The Home" says:

"We do not desire to trouble the Grand Lodge with a rehearsal of difficulties of the management of the Home, but we respectfully suggest that the members of the lodges who send inmates to the Home exercise care not to give those whom they send the idea that they are going to a hotel and will have nothing to do and have servants to wait upon them. Each inmate at the Home is expected to perform such labor as he or she can for the benefit of the Home and to comply strictly with its rules. Discipline is as necessary there as elsewhere. If it cannot be strictly enforced, the management of the Home must fail. Some inmates have been found unwilling to obey the rules of the Home or to contribute such services as they reasonably can, seeming to have an idea that they are to be maintained as a matter of grace. As it always has been, it is still true, that 'Satan finds some mischief for idle hands to do.' Those who refuse to work have, we regret to say, used their time in fomenting discord and dissatisfaction among the inmates. Those in charge of the Home have met these difficulties promptly and fearlessly, and this suggestion is made to the lodges that when inmates are sent, especially those who are of mature years, they should be advised not to expect more care and attention than is actually necessary."

The Superintendent gives these statistics:

"Twenty-three have been admitted to the Home during the year; seven have been honorably discharged, one dismissed, and one died. Our present membership numbers one hundred and four (104) as follows: girls fifty, boys thirty-three, old ladies twelve, old brethren nine. Sixty-eight of our children are enrolled in the public schools; with but few exceptions they are progressing satisfactorily in their studies, and have high rating in conduct."

The following resolution was presented, ordered printed in the Proceedings, and action thereon postponed to the next session:

"Resolved, That a committee of three (of which the Grand Secretary shall be one) be appointed by the incoming Grand Master, to secure and prepare biographical sketches and half-toned portraits of the Past Grand Masters, Grand Secretaries and Grand Treasurers of this Grand Lodge from its organization.

"That such biographical sketches and portraits shall be ready for publication at the annual communication in 1898.

"That beginning with 1897, there shall be inserted in the published proceedings of each year the biographical sketch and half-toned portrait of the out-going Grand Master."

The Report on Correspondence (158 pp.) was presented by Bro. Joun D. VINCIL.

There is scarcely an extract in it. As an "analysis of the points," it would have delighted the heart of our teachers in college times.

One of his brief comments thus reads:

"I would just as soon go out on the street and pick up an unknown party, introduce him into my lodge and make a mason of him, as to confer the degrees upon a person whose character has never been investigated by a proper committee."

This is true, with exceptions, however, in relation to candidates in small villages, where all who have lived there any time are well known. But we say the same of one who comes a stranger and wants to get into the lodge as soon as he has been there one year.

This remark is called out by the following:

"Bro. Barlow in his review announced, 'Connecticut holds to the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction over rejected candidates.' I would like for him to explain how jurisdiction over rejected material can be made effectual when it is impossible to enforce the claim or doctrine. That which is established and maintained as a masonic dogma ought to be of such nature that it can be of universal application. To hold otherwise is to hold to a fragmentary thing, a mere figment. No one can maintain and establish the claim that jurisdiction over material rejected by a subordinate lodge in one state can be made perpetual as applied to other jurisdictions. It may hold good in Connecticut, but for them to project their claim into Missouri and dictate the terms on which our lodges shall govern themselves, as to receiving the application for the degrees, is arrogant and therefore destroys the universality of the rule. Hence perpetual jurisdiction must be not only fragmentary in its nature, but of no force and effect outside of the jurisdiction that contends for it."

Our answer is, precisely as if an expelled mason should be initiated in another jurisdiction. The *laws of Masonry* "dictate" that the Missouri lodges shall not initiate expelled masons; and the old law of Masonry "dictates" to Missouri lodges, and all others, that they shall not receive the petitions of rejected candidates; the remedy in both cases is the same,—such parties are not recognized as masons, except in such jurisdictions as practice similar violations of the law.

His words against profanity and drunkenness are vigorous, as well as earnest: and we suspect that he would willingly apply the doctrine of "perpetual rejection" to candidates guilty of either of them!

From his remarks upon rejected candidates in his review of Illinois, we infer that he holds that the masons in each¹ Grand Lodge are a *Fraternity*, rather than that all masons constitute *the* Fraternity, of which each Grand Lodge is a *mere agency*, controlled by the superior laws of the whole Fraternity. When a lodge rejects a candidate, it decides not that the candidate is unfit to come into that lodge, but is unfit to come into the *Fraternity*. It follows that the effect of that decision is binding upon all the agencies of the Fraternity everywhere, as well as upon those in the same Grand Lodge jurisdiction.

The law of Missouri deprives a non-affiliate for a certain time, of the right to visit lodges, to take part in masonic processions and to masonic burial. But we agree with Bro. ROBBINS, that this does not take away his good standing, so that he cannot petition for membership, or, which is practically the same thing, become a member of a lodge *U. D.*

In his review of Indiana, he finds the answer to his question, in substance, that if a candidate rejected in one jurisdiction is made a mason in another, what the Grand Lodge of the former can do about it.

Does not our good brother, who has a high standard of character for those who *are* masons, think that if there is to be an error made, it is better that it should favor the fraternity, rather than the candidate? Bro. BARO of Minnesota, well said that the danger to Masonry comes not from *without*, but from *within*; and the danger from *within* comes from those whom we admit.

He holds (and we fully agree with him) that *permitting* the Bible to be used in a lodge is not sufficient; its use must be indispensable to the legality of every meeting of the lodge.

In his review of Maine (1895) he says:

"The Grand Master concluded his very practical and business-like address with some most admirable and pertinent suggestions. The first was to remind the fraternity that temperance is a cardinal virtue. He regretted the necessity of speaking on that subject, but said that masons are not exceptions to the excessive use of intoxicants. The declaration that the abuse of intoxicating liquors by some of their members was a standing reproach to the craft was evidently intended to have local application. I am glad that he defined drunkenness to be a masonic offence, though he did not say that drunkard-making was worse. He felt called upon to reprobate the slanderer and the profane mason, as well as such as are guilty of other masonic offences. He concluded his admonitions by saying, 'There is no room in our mystic circle for the intemperate, the untruthful, the licentious, the profane.' The utterances of Bro. Burbank along this line are admirable and suit this writer to perfection."

In opposing the doctrine that a Grand Master may make a mason at sight, he is obliged to admit, that granting a dispensation to confer the degrees "out of time" is doing the same thing, and that if there is a distinction, it is without a difference. But others do not so view it, claiming that in the

one case the party is made in a lawful lodge and in the other he is not. Take your choice, brethren; ancient usage and law make both proper and masonic; and we care not whether they are the same or not.

Referring to use of ciphers, he quotes:

“The sooner we retrace our steps and again follow the foot-prints of our forefathers, the better it will be for Freemasonry in this jurisdiction.”

And adds:

“What a sad pity this conviction did not obtain at the time the proposition was discussed looking to the printing of the unwritten work.”

It may be that he did not understand that the *printed* cipher was a mere copy of the *written* cipher, but understood that the work was printed in full; but we presume not, and the fun of the thing is that use of cipher rituals is following “the foot-prints of our forefathers” clear back to Webb himself!

Our only difficulty lies in the facts (1) That these ciphers were absolutely indecipherable in the days of Webb and for many years after. (2) But that so great has become the skill of experts in reading ciphers, we fear that our masonic ciphers are no longer undecipherable, if they were of sufficient consequence to command the necessary time and labor by an expert.

We read this report with great pleasure, but time (and the printer) press and we must pass on.

MONTANA 1896.

The portrait of Bro. CHARLES H. MILLS, the retiring Grand Master, looks out pleasantly upon us, as we open these Proceedings. We have very pleasant feelings in relation to this Grand Lodge and its masons, and that fact may “give a tone” to this portrait.

The Grand Secretary made his usual report, showing that a majority of the lodges had made returns, paid their dues and were represented, thus putting it in the power of the Grand Master to open the Grand Lodge: and he opened it in ample form.

This feature of Montana Masonry we *do not* like: it is a departure from masonic law and an adoption of the civil law: it implies a distrust of the Grand Master and of all the masons in the jurisdiction. The entire want of cause for this is shown by a passage in the address of the Grand Master:

“Whatever the contentions of the times, whatsoever the estrangements that disturbed the outer world, no shadow of them has ever fallen across the portals of Montana Masonry. It rises sublimely superior to mutation and discord, towering undisturbed in majestic grandeur above the evanescent vapors of the hour.”

He thus states the result of one experiment (which has worked smoothly in Maine for over forty years):

"The one-ballot system for all the degrees, which was adopted at the last Grand Lodge to supersede the ballot-for-each-degree system previously in force, has taken its place as day succeeds the dawn. There has been no jar or friction brought to my notice, and but one inquiry as to methods has reached me. If it has not given entire satisfaction, I have not been advised of the fact. This is the more gratifying, as in several preceding Grand Lodge Communications, discussions in which serious apprehensions of its effect were disclosed, consumed many hours of time."

Of the condition of the craft, he says:

"Notwithstanding the active agencies earnestly at work in the state soliciting material for the numerous societies having fraternal and stipulated beneficiary features, our Grand Secretary's report will show a healthy increase in new members during the year. This is, to something more than the usual extent, cancelled by suspensions for non-payment of dues. This latter is, I believe, owing almost entirely to the continued business depression which overshadows the entire land and involves seriously our own state. We have hundreds of old members who feel severely the stress of the times, and in the urgency of other demands some have permitted their lodge dues to become delinquent. I doubt not nearly all will speedily seek re-instatement, and that the better days which we anticipate will come in the near future, will enable them to resume full fellowship without distress."

The Grand Secretary called the attention of the Grand Lodge to the danger that the expenses would exceed the receipts; the committee recommended that the amount transferred to the Charity Fund be reduced from *fifteen* per cent. to *nine* per cent., and their report was adopted. With this reduction the committee were of opinion that the revenue would be sufficient without reducing the mileage and *per diem*, which are about four-sevenths of the total disbursements.

This year the testimonial to the Grand Master was "a beautiful pair of candelabra and a pair of fruit plates," and Bro. HEDGES, in his letter to the recipient, says:

"Its value to you will be more than doubled, I am sure, by the fact that your good wife can even more than yourself enjoy its silvery light, and you will be more frequently reminded of the good wishes and grateful esteem of your brethren, than by an official jewel, to be worn only on state occasions."

We are inclined to think that the verdict of almost any household would sustain Bro. HEDGES in this opinion. We hope he will not take out Letters-Patent on the invention.

By some over-sight, this Grand Lodge had failed to adopt a resolution recognizing the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma; attention having been called to this, the *amende honorable* was made.

The following report and resolution were adopted, after a motion to refer the same to the Committee on Jurisprudence for report next year had been lost:

"The question of the recognition of the Gran Dieta Simbolica of Mexico has for some time been pending before the Grand Lodges of this country. So far as we have heard at this writing, only the Grand Lodges of Texas,

New York and Kansas have voted recognition. Many more have investigated the case and have stated their objections. We have carefully read all the reasons urged, both for and against recognition, and have become satisfied that all substantial objections have been removed; that the body which asks recognition confines its jurisdiction to the three Symbolic degrees, but over these is supreme, acting through Grand Lodges in each separate state. These state Grand Lodges have existed for many years, and several of them formerly secured recognition from some of our Grand Lodges. It simplifies matters greatly to deal with one general body like the Gran Dieta, rather than with so many separate states.

"We submit for your adoption the following:

"Whereas, Evidence has been presented satisfying us that Masonry in our sister republic of Mexico has been reorganized, purged and consolidated, with separate and independent government for the lodges of Symbolic Masonry, under the central authority of the Gran Dieta Simbolica; and,

"Whereas, We readily recognize the important influence that Masonry must exert in elevating and liberalizing its adherents, promoting peace among nations, and leading to more intimate relations for mutual benefit; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Montana hails and greets the Gran Dieta Simbolica of the republic of Mexico as an independent masonic body, whose friendship we shall prize and in whose future growth and welfare we shall rejoice."

The Grand Lodge at first voted to publish a Monitor, which had been prepared: but later reconsidered the vote, and authorized the author to publish it "By authority of the Grand Lodge," and as the "Standard Monitor of the Grand Lodge of Montana."

The work in the Third degree was exemplified by a lodge *U. D.* As the dispensation expired at the opening of the communication, it had to be extended. This suggests the wisdom of our law, which keeps a lodge *U. D.* alive till constituted under its charter, unless the Grand Lodge refuses to charter it or extend its dispensation, in which case it ceases to exist at the close of the annual communication.

We always look for the "P. S." to the proceedings, and as usual we find one:

"P. S.—In accordance with the general request of last year, there was no banquet by either of the Grand Bodies, and it aided much to the progress of business, and was a subject of congratulation among those who expressed themselves. It was a good time and place to begin this new order of things, for the Butte craft were abundantly able and willing to provide a banquet, and did spread a lunch accessible at all times, and the O. E. S. Sisters gave a handsome reception, with music, oratory, and a concluding lunch.

"The attempt to render Burn's Adieu, resulted in a bloodless massacre."

There is no doubt that a banquet interferes with the prompt dispatch of business, unless that is the main business to be attended to.

The Scotch blood in our veins prompts us to demand the issuing of a writ *de inquiringdo* in relation to that "massacre!"

BRO. CORNELIUS HEDGES gives us another of his inimitable Reports on Correspondence (151 pp.)—decidedly interesting to read, but very hard to review. We can do it "only in spots."

Of ciphers, he sensibly says:

"We, too, would oppose any device by which any one not entitled to receive them should be enabled to obtain them unlawfully, but we can trust that those charged with the duty of keeping these secrets inviolate will do their duty. Communicating the ritual only by oral instruction is certainly a very slow and expensive process, and few could master it or have such an exact and retentive memory that they could impart their knowledge without falling into numerous errors. The differences perceptible in the rituals of different jurisdictions are witnesses of the defects of this system. It must be remembered that in these modern times men in active life have more to do and think of than formerly. The secrets of Masonry have been unlawfully revealed as we know by men who cared nothing for their obligations. We do not consider that those who authorize the use of cipher rituals and exercise the proper care in their use are conscious of violating their obligations. It is certainly desirable that more should be familiar with the ritual than could obtain it by mere oral communication, and that there should be some security against the constant divergencies that come from depending on memory alone."

And of "lodge banquets":

"In his very fraternal notice of Montana, he speaks of our endorsement of the former rule in California of prohibiting the use of lodge funds for banquets. Just as we had become converted the California rule was changed, and it leaves us in an awkward predicament. The present law in California allows the use of five per cent. of lodge revenues for banquets, and we take it that Bro. Davies approves. His illustration of the case is headed in that direction, and shows the benefits of the social feature, which, as human nature is constructed, no doubt deserves proper consideration and cultivation. The Stoics were always few and the Epicureans many. Our conversion was rather intellectual than spiritual, and we will own up that modest, occasional banquets are good things."

As our brother believes in "progressive Masonry," as the term is, we are certain to differ from him upon many questions. He stoutly defends the "Wisconsin Proposition," making a distinction between "relief" and charity, both of which he claims are masonic duties.

He says:

"There seems to be a widespread fear of Masonry degenerating into a mutual benefit society. We have indicated our views sufficiently in this report on that subject, and shown what we believe to be a just distinction between relief and charity, and that both are masonic duties. The great difference in Masonry, is that relief is furnished in proportion to the necessities of the member, and the reasonable ability of the lodge."

But the last sentence is in direct conflict with the Wisconsin proposition, which demands full relief if the lodge is able, and, if not, that the Grand Lodge shall take its place.

He is in error in another respect; he assumes that the objection to that proposition is in the *method* of relieving, and devotes considerable space in showing that an organized charity is less liable to imposition than individuals are. Nobody doubts that; and the objection to his theory is that it demands relief as an absolute right without regard to the ability of the

lodge; whereas the masonic doctrine always has been that the right of relief is not an absolute right, and the obligation to relieve depends also upon the ability of the one called upon. Stripped of high sounding words and put in plain language, Bro. HEDGES's doctrine is, that every lodge owes to every one of its members the full support of himself and family if their necessities require it, and that the Grand Lodge is bound to compel the lodge to perform this duty, or perform it itself; and if such member is away from the seat of his lodge, any other lodge may give such relief as it sees fit and be entitled to full re-imbursement from the home lodge or its Grand Lodge.

Of course, he finds no warrant for this in the ancient usages and laws of the craft, and, therefore, he casts them all aside and invokes "progressive Masonry." He predicts that his doctrine will ultimately prevail. We do not believe it. The Institution has weathered too many storms to allow us to believe that it will go to destruction in this manner.

In his review of Maine, he says:

"We will only notice one of the decisions of Grand Master Burbank, to the effect 'that a lodge has no right to pay out of its treasury the expenses of an annual reception, the principal feature of which is dancing,' and he adds 'that it is unmasonic to advertise Masonry in that or any other manner.' His last statement is much too general, if it would include attendance on occasions of laying corner-stones and masonic funerals, especially the latter. We have often had occasion to regret that Masonry was so poorly advertised on funeral occasions. As to 'annual receptions,' we are rather in favor of them, and have no serious objections that those who know how, should dance, but we think the usual, and we know the proper way, is to provide for the expense of such occasions by the sale of tickets, letting those who dance pay the fiddler. Bro. Burbank's conclusion is so exactly expressive of our sentiments on the subjects of intemperance, slander, profanity, and kindred vices, that we would like to quote it all, and have every brother in Montana hear it. There is more good Masonry in these admonitions than in all the rituals ever devised, and there is no violation of any landmark in making them public."

And in relation to another matter:

"Probably Brother D.'s point is well taken, that if our Grand Master has any real prerogative powers, a Grand Lodge regulation would not reach them. But we are ferninst such powers altogether, and regard them as a survival of the unfittest. The partial recognition of such powers in our constitution always arouses our antagonism, and we feel like giving it a kick. In these days of ample constitutions, there is no excuse for prerogative, a kin of that other monstrosity, 'the divine right of kings.'"

There it is again! This tendency to put Masonry into the same Procrustean bed with civil government, is continually cropping out. Because it is necessary to put checks upon the powers of civil rulers, and place guards against abuses by them, many at once jump to the conclusion that the same thing is necessary in masonic government, and the framers of many of the masonic constitutions in the younger Grand Lodges, have thrown aside the old constitutions and taken civil constitutions for their model. They utterly

forget that the object and purposes, the scope and the powers of the two kinds of government are so utterly dissimilar, that what is fit for one is utterly unfit for the other.

Coming again to the blackball, we find that he says that "it is a good institution when properly handled," and yet the logical result of his whole argument is that it is unjust to allow a single ballot to reject. Let those who have so much sympathy for rejected candidates, have the courage of their convictions and openly demand, what their arguments require, that the unanimous ballot be discarded. We do not think that Bro. HEDGES really intends this, but in his zeal for progressive Masonry, he has failed to perceive to what extent his arguments carry him.

Montana prescribes perpetual jurisdiction among her own lodges, but allows its release by a three-fourths vote. This is a pretty long step towards abolition of the secret unanimous ballot.

If we have devoted more space in this report to these views, it is only because our brother has made them more prominent in his report than usual, and we are only following his lead.

There is one thing to be noticed in his argument, and, indeed, in all the arguments of those who agree with him in relation to the prerogatives of Grand Masters. Their arguments are all theoretical. They have never ventured to suggest that Masonry has been injured by the action of Grand Masters in exercising these prerogatives. No mason, made at sight, has ever disgraced the Institution; on the contrary, masons so made have always been ornaments to the craft, and strong pillars of support to Masonry. These brothers must admit that human laws are not perfect, and sometimes operate with needless severity; and nothing *in practice* has ever happened to show that it is not wise to have the power to suspend these laws in special cases placed in the hands of the Grand Master. The whole opposition to this doctrine is a mere theoretical sentiment, and, worse than that, a sentiment based upon principles of civil law that have no application whatever to masonic law!

But we *must* stop.

We are pained to learn that since the session of the Grand Lodge, death has taken away Past Grand Master JOHN STEDMAN, a native of Hartland in our own State, but who went to California when a boy, then to British Columbia, where he was made a mason, and then to Helena, in 1867, where, we believe, he continued to reside till his death, March 28, 1897, at the age of sixty-one.

NEBRASKA, 1896.

There were 214 out of the 220 lodges represented, a fact, as we suppose, ascertained when the Committee on Credentials finally reported.

To get the Grand Lodge open, a lodge of Master Masons was opened in ample form: the roll of lodges was called, and it was ascertained that a constitutional number of lodges was represented: thereupon the Grand Master declared the Grand Lodge open for the transaction of business, and due proclamation was made by the Grand Marshal.

The Grand Master (HENRY H. WILSON) says:

"Never has this Grand Lodge convened when the prospects for material prosperity in Nebraska were fairer than they are to-day. The promptness with which our subordinate lodges, in every part of the jurisdiction, have responded to the annual call for funds, is worth a volume written on the financial credit of Nebraska.

"I congratulate the people of the state upon the increasing evidences, to be seen on every hand, of returning prosperity.

"And, as masons, let us rejoice that the craft throughout this Grand Jurisdiction are prosperous, and peace and harmony prevails among them."

He had constituted seven lodges, and issued dispensations for nine more.

Of special dispensations, he says:

"Several applications have been made to me for special dispensations to receive and act upon petitions from candidates who had resided less than a year within the jurisdiction of the lodge. In every such case I have declined to issue the dispensations, and I am of the opinion that a year's residence within the jurisdiction is one of the conditions which should be seldom or never waived."

And "so say we all of us." The evident tendency to receive petitions of those whose true characters can not be sufficiently known, is one of the great dangers now threatening the Institution. We recently read a labored article in a respectable masonic Magazine, the gist of which was that we are bound to accept a candidate, unless something is known against him! The old rule that only those, *shown to be worthy*, should be admitted, is reversed.

We regret to find, by an approved decision of the Grand Master, that "perpetual rejection" is allowed: a member objects to a candidate after election and before initiation, and the candidate cannot be initiated nor apply again *until the objection is withdrawn*. What *status* do our anti brethren give such a candidate? If he goes elsewhere, can his petition be received by another lodge? He has been elected, but his initiation indefinitely suspended. Of course the proposition enunciated by our anti brethren, in its bald terms, includes this case: but as all of them have been "hedging," and no two of them build the same hedge, we have been unable to obtain an average, and so must leave our question for *them* to answer.

The following decision touches a point that we have already noticed in this report:

"When a candidate is elected to receive and does receive the Master Mason's degree, he becomes at once a member of the lodge electing him, and such lodge has no power to make the passing of a satisfactory examination in the work of that degree a condition precedent of lodge membership."

A member of an Illinois lodge was twice suspended for non-payment of dues, and each time was re-instated in full membership. He became delinquent again and was again suspended: after a time his dues were paid, and while the lodge re-instated him to good standing, it declined to restore him to membership. Some two years after he fell into distress in Nebraska, where he had resided for some time, but of course the Illinois lodge disowned him and the Grand Master decided that he had no power in the premises. Grand Master WILSON adds:

"This matter is here reported to call your attention to the masonic law of Illinois, by which a subordinate lodge seems to have the right to re-instate a suspended brother to good standing in the fraternity and still deny him membership in the lodge. Thus a lodge has the power to place the fraternity at large under masonic obligation to the re-instated brother, while such lodge declines to assume any responsibility for his conduct or any duty toward him."

And the committee (whose report was adopted) say that the brother was sent forth—

"Under the exceedingly curious (un) masonic usage of Illinois, a mason without masonic rights or privileges—without legal right to appeal to any particular lodge in his distress and need of aid."

* * * * *

"Your committee are of opinion that the legal liability rested upon the Grand Lodge of Illinois, or upon Alpha Lodge, 155, and that any relief granted by this Grand Lodge would have been a voluntary charity; and we return the papers without recommendation, inasmuch as no legal obligation rests upon this Grand Jurisdiction nor upon any of its lodges."

This matter interests us in Maine, for our highest penalty for non-payment of dues is "deprivation of membership": the payment of the dues enables the party to petition that or any other lodge for affiliation, but he is not restored to membership save by petition and ballot, the same as any other non-affiliate.

We are rather surprised that our Nebraska brethren have apparently never before heard of restoration to masonic rights without restoration to membership, which leaves the party a non-affiliate, in as good standing as a non-affiliate can be.

We must add that we fully appreciate the action of the Lincoln masons in aiding him, even after they learned that they would not be re-imburshed—a genuine illustration of masonic charity, according to the doctrine of the fathers.

We learn that in Nebraska, the seals of lodges must be approved by the Grand Master, who acted in the instances given upon the certificate of the

Grand Secretary that "the proposed design was distinctive." It seems to us that the name and number of the lodge makes the seal sufficiently "distinctive."

Two applications by lodges in other and very distant states, to waive jurisdiction over candidates, had been refused by the respective Nebraska lodges.

We hail the following words of the Grand Master with pleasure and a sense of relief. We wish they could be read by every mason in the land. They take us back to the olden time, when "Guard well the outer door" was impressed upon every member of the craft as the sure means of preserving the high character of the Institution: read them, brethren, and accept them as fraught with the most important consequence to Masonry:

"If more care were exercised in the selection of the material from which our lodges were replenished, the necessity for invoking the penal powers of the Order would be less frequent. It cannot be too often stated and reiterated that Masonry is not a reformatory. None should be received into our ranks except those whose character and conduct give assurance that they will not bring disgrace upon the Fraternity. The weakness of human nature and the constant presence of temptation make it sufficiently difficult to maintain the high standard at which we aim, even though none but the best material be selected. The laudable desire to increase our numbers should never lead us to lower our standard of admission. I do not hesitate to say that a lodge of a score of members, all of whom are of high character, is a greater power for good in any community than one of double that number over the character of some of whom we must draw the mantle of charity. Even when we have been duly cautious in the choice of material, occasion will arise when the ax must be laid to the root of the tree. When such necessity arises, let no maudlin sentiment blunt the edge of masonic justice. It should be understood that punishment is the legitimate and should be the inexorable consequence of every wilful serious violation of law. Ill-advised charity toward the habitual violator of law is often a crime against the rest of the craft. I fully appreciate the sentiment that leads one to hesitate to assume the responsibility of setting the penal powers of the lodge into motion. That the duty is irksome is no justification for leaving it unperformed. Who can doubt that in some communities Masonry has lost much of its power for good, and failed to enlist in its ranks worthy men, because it has failed to purge itself of the unworthy? All this may sound harsh and unfeeling; but it is duty, masonic duty—duty to the unsullied history of the past; duty to the worthy and zealous of the present; duty to the masons of the future, to whom we should transmit this venerable institution in all its purity.

"If there be those upon whom the solemn and impressive lessons of Masonry have made no impression, it is no charity to them, but a wrong to the Fraternity, to spare the knife. Where these rare cases occur and the remedy has been applied, still greater care should be exercised in re-instating those who have been once expelled. That one was once admitted to the Fraternity is no reason for his readmission. The fact that he was once expelled is a *prima facie* reason why he should remain so.

"Let us require fruits meet for repentance; let us demand satisfactory evidence of reformation before we reopen our doors to those who have once dishonored this most ancient and honorable Fraternity."

The earnestness and impressiveness with which Past Grand Master DUNLAP uttered the homely words "Guard well the outer door, brethren, for an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" made them eloquent.

We thank Grand Master WILSON for his brave, true words, and trust they fell not as seed sown on barren soil.

Grand Secretary BOWEN's report is the same old story of most efficient administration of the affairs of his office.

This resolution was adopted:

"WHEREAS, Past Grand Master Robert C. Jordan, the first Grand Master of our Grand Lodge, now resididg in the city, by reason of his great age, is unable to walk from his home to attend the meetings of the Grand Lodge; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That a committee of two be appoined to procure a carriage, and convey Bro. Jordan from his home to such meetings of the sessions as he may be able to attend, and that the expense thereof be borne by this Grand Body."

Later the aged brother was introduced, and as he was too feeble to address the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master spoke for him in one of the happiest efforts that it has been our fortune to read.

The oration by Bro. FRANK G. SIMMONS is also a splendid production. We cannot resist the temptation to quote one sentence which we wish to commend to the advocates of "progressive Masonry":

"The Masonry of to-day is recognized as a potential reality in the affairs of men. While holding to its ancient landmarks, and abating no jot or tittle of its adherence to the customs and traditions that have been handed down from previous generations, it keeps pace with the quickened thought and progressive spirit of the present, and, with keen appreciation of the triumphs of modern civilization and science, encourages and applauds all that tends toward the improvement of mankind. Never was there greater need of the encouragement which the fraternity lends to all deserving men. The conditions surrounding mankind in these latter days are different from those of former years. Never was the battle of life so fierce as now; never were men so eager to gain precedence, or so ready to thrust aside their competitors; nor was there ever such an opportunity presented to the intelligent, active, educated man to benefit his fellows and make a name for himself."

Apparently in order to keep the Committee on Jurisprudence from getting rusty or being idle, the Grand Lodge allows members to fire at the committee a grist of conundrums, which they answer and the Grand Lodge passes upon the answers. The only one of general interest that we find is an affirmation of the practice in this state, that when objections to the installation of an officer-elect are made, they should be referred to the Grand Master for investigation.

The Grand Lodge also correctly decided that being a Master at the time of filing the charges and trial gives the Grand Lodge original jurisdiction in cases of discipline, and without reference to when the alleged offence was committed.

The Report on Correspondence (61 pp., *large* ones) was presented by WILLIAM R. BOWEN. We are making this report so long that we ought to

follow his example, and notice only so much as relates to Maine. But we cannot.

He says:

"Anent California's affiliation requirements he remarks that 'men are much easier led than driven,' to which proposition we assent and reply that in most jurisdictions that observe the old regulations of lodge membership a Freemason determines his own status; as in the state the citizen votes if he registers, and deprives himself of the right of suffrage if he doesn't register, so in Freemasonry a brother has the rights, lights and benefits of our society if he registers in a lodge and deprives himself thereof if he doesn't register in a lodge; there is in most of these jurisdictions no coax or drive other than this, that he who wants rights must do right, but may suicide if he pleases."

This is precisely correct: but this is not what the California law does: to keep up the parallel under that law, the citizen, who does not register, not only would be deprived of voting, but hung at sight *and without trial*! California does not believe in *making* masons "at sight," but *pretends* to believe in *killing* them masonically "at sight," but, when the case actually arises, does just what she ought to do in spite of her pretence.

In his review of Indiana, he thus "hits the nail on the head" in relation to two of the burning questions of the day:

"But he strenuously denies the right of Pennsylvania to refuse recognition as a Freemason of one rejected in a Pennsylvania lodge, and afterwards (with full knowledge of his status?) made a mason in Indiana; to be consistent with its rule of perpetual jurisdiction, it seems as if Nebraska must side with Pennsylvania in this matter—that is if we do not misunderstand the situation; it seems to have been the idea in Nebraska that Freemasonry was not limited by the lines of states or commonwealths; we merely state our view of Nebraska's attitude without asserting its position, for the matter of *personal* jurisdiction has not yet been prominently brought before our Grand Lodge."

* * * * *

"In our time Nebraska has had correspondence with Indiana on two or more occasions when we asked re-imbursement for relief given; and it has sometimes occurred to us that the consistent and unvarying position of Indiana was not understood and appreciated by many of our Nebraska brethren. In Freemasonry relief is not a matter of fixed benefits, and a Freemason should not seek to determine by the rules of other societies what shall be the extent of his contribution towards the alleviation of the distress of a brother; it should be decided by the need of the one Freemason, and the ability of the other; aren't we right in our view of this matter? We wish the subject could be studiously considered in all its bearings by a committee of our Grand Lodge."

In our last two reports we noticed a suggestion of his that dismission from membership was of recent origin, and borrowed from the Odd Fellows: we stated that it prevailed long before the existence of Odd Fellowship, citing the case of SIMON GREENLEAF in our own state. We are not sure that he does not mean *the paper limit*, from what he says in this report. The History of Cumberland Lodge, in which SIMON GREENLEAF was made, and of

which he became a member January 15, 1805, states that he "soon after [1810] removed to Portland, *resigned his membership* in our lodge and joined Portland Lodge, No. 1, of which he became an active member."

NEVADA, 1896.

A special communication was held, October 6, 1895, to bury JOHN CLARKE HAZLETT, the M. W. Grand Master, who had been installed scarcely four months before, in apparently robust health. Six months later, the Grand Lodge met again to bury Past Grand Master JOHN E. JONES. Both brethren stood high in all the relations of life, and their death is a heavy loss to our Nevada brethren.

The Acting Grand Master (ESOCH STROTHER) in his annual address paid an eloquent tribute to these two brethren.

He had visited several of the lodges, and of the condition of the craft he says:

"The year in this jurisdiction has been very quiet. No difficulties requiring the exercise of authority have occurred, and our relations with all other jurisdictions are pleasant. The business depression which has so long been our portion, still continues. Many of our brethren are still moving to other jurisdictions, and year by year our numbers are decreasing, although this last year we have lost but seven—which is encouraging."

The following communication was received from the Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, and his proposition was accepted:

"I believe a report should be made out, and so firmly am I convinced of the advisability of printing a correspondence report, that I offer to write one without compensation if the Grand Lodge will print it. I know from experience that it is no easy task to prepare this report, and that it is well worth \$150 to write it; but such is the interest I take in it that I will do the work gratis if the Grand Lodge will make an appropriation for printing it. I am sorry that I cannot be with you, but press of duty forbids at this time."

The following rule, now generally prevailing, in relation to physical qualification, was adopted:

"Men to be made masons must be free born, of mature age, of good report, hale and sound, perfect in their members so far as to be able to perform all masonic labor."

The following report in relation to "Mixed Funerals" was adopted:

"It is the request of the brother that makes it the duty of his lodge to bury him.

"It has become a custom for members of a lodge to assume that their lodge will bury them without a formal request, and for the lodge to assume that such request has been made unless the contrary appears.

"These assumptions are proper and natural enough unless there is some special reason to question them. In all cases such request of a brother should be respected and complied with.

"If a brother should be a member of some other charitable and fraternal order, which has a funeral service, and should request that such other order should perform its funeral rites and services over him, his request should also in that case be respected. In such case his masonic lodge would have no formal duty to perform. In such case, however, it would be proper for masons, as individuals, to attend such funeral and pay sincere respect to the services.

"If a brother, also a member of some other fraternal order, should request his masonic lodge to conduct his funeral services, the Worshipful Master and his lodge should take and assume exclusive control of the funeral ceremonies.

"If a brother, being also a member of some other fraternal order, should die without having made a formal request concerning his funeral, it would be proper for his lodge and its Worshipful Master to consult and respect the wishes of his nearest surviving relatives, but in no case should a lodge, or its Master, suffer itself or himself to be drawn into any controversy or rivalry concerning the burial of our dead.

"We can see no reason why a masonic lodge should not accept the escort of a Royal Arch Chapter or of a Commandery of Knights Templar on funeral occasions.

"Our funeral service seems to contemplate that at a proper time the Master may permit religious services by the clergyman of such church as the deceased brother may have been a member of, and we can see no good reason why, in lieu of church services, the funeral services of some other fraternal order, of which the deceased was a member, might not be permitted, subject always to the sound discretion and good judgment of the lodge and its Master."

The Report on Correspondence (75 pp.) was presented by Bro. ROBERT LEWERS—a good abstract with brief pertinent comments.

He well says:

"We acknowledge our mistake in calling Bro. Wolfe to task for not having a correspondence report once upon a time. These reports should be distributed to the various lodges in sufficient number to enable the brethren ample opportunity to read them. Or, perhaps, as most lodges have ample time during the year, they should be read in the lodge and discussed, so that all may know what is going on in the masonic world. Little localized streaks of Masonry begotten by isolation are apt to make narrow masons, while a general knowledge of the power and work of Masonry throughout the world will materially benefit each and every brother."

Of course we agree with this:

"While we may incline to be facetious about printing the names of all members in full we commend the practice, because it is of the greatest use to Masters who may have applications for aid, which sometimes occur. We set one impostor about his business at one time while we were serving as Master of Reno Lodge, simply because we were able to look up the list of Illinois lodges and show the beggar, very much to his dissatisfaction, that the lodge he named was not in Chicago; and at another time we made good use of the Vermont report in settling the genuineness of a needy brother.

"At still another time we called forth the truth from a 'masonic widow tramp' who was absolutely unable to give the names of any of her husband's associates in a Burlington lodge except that she thought 'one of them was named Smith.'"

Of another question he says:

"We have said so much on the subject that we presume our views are well known. If a person's character were absolutely unchangeable there might be some reason for the rule; but we all know that character is constantly changing, and that bad men become respectable citizens and that good men become bad citizens; so that it would seem that the only safe rule would be to judge the person at the time the application is made, and allow that to be judged by the lodge in whose jurisdiction he happens to be."

But is one year long enough for a man to change his character "from bad to good," so that the change may be relied upon? And can a lodge, in whose jurisdiction "a candidate happens to be," safely judge of his character unless he has been there a sufficient time to show what his real character is? And is one year a sufficient time? We agree with our brother, if he will only add the limitations that will make the rule correct.

We have recently had, in two cases, a most mortifying experience, in concluding that persons, who claimed to have reformed and apparently *had* reformed, had *really* reformed. We did not wait long enough to test the genuineness of the change. In one case our endorsement probably counted for little, but in the other case it did, and the result was disgrace.

Of the Pennsylvania and Indiana case, he says:

"Pennsylvania believes in perpetual jurisdiction and the prohibition is expressly confined to her territory and to candidates like the one mentioned. It does not extend to all Indiana masons. We fail to see wherein Indiana has been grossly insulted, unless it be in the question of perpetual jurisdiction, and that doctrine was in existence long before the present case arose."

He thus states the correct rule anent another question:

"We heartily agree with Bro. Schultz in his conclusions, and think that when we pay that homage to the secret work which will preserve the autonomy of the fraternity we have gone as far as any reasonable being would ask. When we have work that is necessarily public in its character, the secret work disappears, but the lodge must be open and possessed of its full powers to do the work at all. Those who think the open lodge should never see the light of the sun are worshippers of the shadow Masonry, to whom the mystic rites of the fraternity are more valuable than the real earnest work that makes our order a living reality, appealing to the best of mankind."

We quote the Regulation of the Grand Lodge of England in relation to visitors, which is in accord with the charge to the Master in this country, though in opposition to the views of many so far as *written* evidence is concerned: it will be seen that a visitor must show not only that he is a mason, but also that he was made in a regular lodge. The former is shown by vouchers or examination, and the latter by written evidence:

"The Constitutional Law of England, in regard to visitors from foreign jurisdictions, is as follows. 'No visitor shall be admitted into a lodge unless he is personally known to one of the brethren present, or he be well vouched for, after due examination, by one of the brethren present, or until he has produced a certificate of the Grand Lodge to which he claims to belong, or has given satisfactory proof that he is the brother named in the cer-

tificate or other proper vouchers of his having been initiated in a regular lodge.' The Grand Lodge construes the 'or,' in the above, to mean 'and.' "

He adds to his report a Digest of the Decisions that seem of practical value. We have not deemed this a desirable thing to do, because so many of them depend on "local law"; but Bro. LEWERS has exercised sound judgment in his selection.

NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1896.

The "semi-annual" was held, as usual, to "exemplify the work."

The Grand Master (CHARLES C. HAYES) speaks thus of the condition of the craft:

"Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction is in a healthy and prosperous condition, never more so, notwithstanding the continuation of the depression in the business world and the much-talked of 'hard times.' This is evidenced by the increase in membership, and the fact that the lodges are occupying better quarters, with better accommodations and better furnishings, and that more buildings are now owned by the Order than ever before. This is as it should be, and I congratulate you upon this prosperous condition. No cloud has arisen to cast a shadow over the peace and harmony which prevail between the officers of this Grand Body and the lodges throughout the state, and nothing has transpired, so far as I am aware, to disturb the relations which exist between this and the other Grand Jurisdictions."

Then he adds:

In the midst of our success and prosperity it may be well to pause and consider whither we are drifting; whether, as an Order, we are not growing and increasing too fast. With the multitude of secret societies springing up around us, all striving for new members and soliciting openly for the same, there is a tendency on the part of some masons and some lodges to enter into competition with them. I regret to say that some Worshipful Masters are more anxious to increase the membership of their lodges than they seem to be for the good name and reputation of the Order. This should not be, and no brother who is a good and true mason will ever be guilty of this offence. I sound a note of warning at this time. Guard well the outer door of the lodge. It should be our duty as men and as masons, so far as it is in our power, to sustain the high character and good name of our Institution, and never by thought, word or deed suffer its standard to be lowered."

Read it, brethren, *read it!*

He expresses (and with great force) similar views to those of our own Grand Masters in relation to profanity.

We receive from his address, with much surprise and sorrow, the first information of the death of a personal friend, of whom he says:

"Charles G. Connor was born at Exeter, N. H., July 6, 1833. He was one of the most prominent and esteemed citizens of his native town, loved and respected by all who knew him. He was Clerk of the Court for Rockingham County for many years, performing the duties of that office with

rare ability. In Masonry he was deeply interested, and exemplified by his daily life the great principles of the Order which he loved so well."

He announces the appointment of Bro. HOWARD D. SMITH as Representative to our Grand Lodge.

He had dedicated four halls, and of the ceremonies he says:

"All of the dedications were public, and should an attempt be made to describe in detail each one, as well as the public installations at which the Grand Officers were present, more time and space would be required than this day could afford. What can be said of any particular one is equally applicable to all. In every instance the brethren, as well as the citizens, did all in their power for the comfort and pleasure of the Grand Officers, providing abundant banquets and interesting entertainments. All of the new halls are models, elegantly furnished, and will prove a benefit to our Order, and be a source of pride to the lodges occupying them. Two more new halls will soon be ready for dedication. One is at Laconia, the other at Tilton, necessitating work for the distinguished brother who is to succeed me as Grand Master."

The following report upon the Mississippi proposition was adopted; while it may foreshadow the fate of the proposition of our own Grand Lodge, we trust that the matter will be considered from the standpoint of what is necessary for the peace and harmony of the craft:

"The idea of the fraternity in many of the western states, as we are all aware, is in favor of a modification in the nature of establishing a time when the jurisdiction over rejected material shall cease. Usually one or two years is suggested as their limit. It is very natural for the fraternity in new states, and in jurisdictions where the lodges have been recently established, to desire the privilege of using such material as is there present, for the increase of their numbers. In many cases the population is new, and increasing by removals from the East to the West. It is a matter of expediency with them, and the prevailing motive with them is to make use of the material at hand. In this jurisdiction it has been maintained that perpetual jurisdiction should be maintained over rejected material. The principle is of great importance and its maintenance has a direct and vital bearing upon the harmony and stability of our institution. It is not necessary to remark upon the various ways in which the abandonment of this principle would affect the fraternity; they are too obvious to need mention. The doctrine is grounded in the Landmarks and in our fundamental law, as well as in justice and reason, and no hardship can result from it which we are in any sense bound to alleviate. We see no reason for its abandonment, and every reason bearing upon it is in favor of maintaining the doctrine."

And the following in relation to the Wisconsin proposition:

"We do not look favorably upon the proposition and believe that it should be rejected. A great many evil consequences might follow from such a contract or arrangement as that would be, and the principle of freedom in conferring charity, according to the discretion of the various lodges in this jurisdiction, would be violated and destroyed. Conferring charities upon strangers who are traveling through our jurisdiction and seeking help because of a pretended membership has very many times proved to be ill-advised and the fraternity have found themselves defrauded and swindled. Precautions have been taken and great care exercised to guard against such swindling throughout the country, and still some are able to impose upon kind-hearted

and benevolent members of the fraternity, and oftentimes obtain money by false pretences and unworthy influences. One of the principal guards against such a procedure would be lost if a lodge or its committee were to understand that whatever charity was conferred upon a member hailing from another state would be re-imbursed and they would be saved harmless from any loss, in a case worthy or otherwise. The lodge to which the person applying for aid belonged would be deprived of the right to investigate the case and determine its merits. Such would be the practical effect. It would also multiply greatly the number of persons who are constantly seeking aid from the fraternity whether deserving or otherwise. And there would be no end to the applications for aid if it were understood that the lodges conferring the same could call upon the Grand Lodge, or the subordinate lodge in some other state, to repay the same. But more forcible than the many practical evils which would grow out of this practice, were it to obtain, would be the sacrifice of the principle that masonic charity is voluntary and not obligatory, which lies at the foundation of aid and assistance to deserving members."

In two cases before the Committee on Appeals, we are very glad to see that the attempt of the accused in each case to escape a trial of the case on the merits by filing technical pleas was overruled. The object of masonic trials is to get at the truth, and if the truth convicts a brother of an offence substantially charged, he ought to be convicted, although the technicalities of the civil courts are not followed.

An autograph letter of Lafayette, in which he excuses himself from attending a masonic celebration, was presented to the Grand Lodge. A photographic *fac simile* is given in these Proceedings, which we copy:

"I much regret the impossibility I am under in consequence of previous and positive engagements, to attend my brethren of the Masonic Humane Lodge of Rochester, on the celebration which they contemplate on the 24th. My heart will be with them, and I beg them to accept my fraternal * * and good wishes.

"Dover, June 23, 1825.

LAFAYETTE."

And yet there are those in these days who deny that masons, made as Lafayette was made, are entitled to recognition.

The Report on Correspondence (137 pp.) was submitted by BRO. ALBERT S. WAIT.

Noticing Bro. PILLANS's statement, that the use of ciphers is an innovation in the body of Masonry, he says:

"As we recur to the obligation which all masons enter into, as well as to the well-recognized traditions of the masonic institution, we can but agree with his view; yet we fear the practice has gone too far and has become too common to the Grand Lodges of the country to admit in our day of correction. We fear that all that can now be done is to guard as well as possible these ciphers, so that they shall not come to the eyes of the profane."

A practice adopted by WEBB and continued ever since can scarcely be an innovation. But what says Bro. WAIT to the proposition that there is a *limitation* to the prohibition, and that the cipher is not in violation of the prohibition as limited?

Of Relief Associations, he well says:

"We do not question the beneficent character, *per se*, of such an association as this appears to be, but it seems to us a new feature engrafted upon Masonry, not known to its early history, and although we would by no means discourage such an organization formed by individual brethren, we question the propriety of it being adopted by a Grand Lodge as a part of the masonic organization."

And of the Eastern Star:

"Our brother has probably ere this seen from our proceedings that the Eastern Star Chapters are now allowed to occupy the halls of our lodges. We were in entire sympathy with that action and we are satisfied in believing that we had something to do in bringing it about."

In his review of Maine, he says:

"It is very easy to assert that one party construes a law differently from another, and it is what every despot has done when confronted with a plain statute intended and plainly worded for protection against arbitrary and irresponsible power. 'The Grand Lodge, indeed, might have 'fixed another penalty,' and it might have 'reversed the action of the lodge and fixed the penalty it deemed suitable.' If the Grand Lodge had done either of these no one would have questioned the validity of the act. And why? Plainly because the Grand Lodge is the judicial tribunal of last resort in the jurisdiction. Such is not the Grand Master anywhere, unless in Maine."

"There may be jurisdictions where, as Bro. Drummond says, the Grand Master would have suspended the charter of the lodge for fixing a grossly inadequate penalty; if so, it would be directly contrary to every recognized principle of safe jurisprudence in every civilized country on the face of the globe. A lodge, in the trial of delinquents, acts in its capacity of a judicial tribunal. Its judgments are liable to undergo revision or reversal by the Grand Lodge, which is the superior tribunal, to which an appeal in all cases lies. But error by an inferior tribunal does not subject the tribunal itself to pains and penalties, unless on impeachment for corruption, and then only after due trial and an opportunity afforded for self-vindication. There is no reason why any other rule should apply in Masonry."

This talk about a despot in Masonry is absurd. But we quote this to correct an error in his statement. The Grand Master is not, and in this case did not attempt to be, "the tribunal of last resort" in Maine. The whole matter goes to the Grand Lodge, which passes upon it as the "tribunal of last resort," and did in the cases under discussion, as we supposed we had fully explained before. In New York, the Grand Master exercises the same power. And we are amazed to note what Bro. WAITE says about the suspension of charters by the Grand Master; he is arguing from the standpoint of a technical lawyer and deciding questions by the rules of the *civil* law rather than by those of *masonic* law.

We surrender the remainder of our space to his reply to Bro. ROBBINS, of Illinois:

"In his strictures upon these acts of recognition, Bro. Robbins, the able chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence of Illinois, goes even so far as to assert that there is no legitimate Masonry existing that is not derived, either mediately or immediately, from the Grand Lodge of England. We would fain ask him: What of Masonry before the Grand

Lodge of England was formed? Was there no Masonry until that time? If there was, was it confined exclusively to England? Whence did England obtain its Masonry? Was it indigenous to England, originating exclusively there? Our teachings are all to the contrary, and we feel warranted in believing that no student of the history and antiquities of our institution will at this day venture such an assertion. That Masonry existed, not only in England, but on the continent of Europe, indefinite ages before the Grand Lodge of England was formed, is not only the general belief of the fraternity, but it is the ascertained fact of history. Out of the ages that Masonry has existed has been evolved the axiom that it is *universal*. What right has the Grand Lodge of England, or any one in its behalf, to assert that no legitimate Masonry exists except it trace its origin from a point of time which in comparison with its traditions is but as yesterday? Every assumption of the institution postulates its origin in ages unknown and its character as universal. The Grand Lodge of England is no fountain from which Masonry has originally sprung. Its fountains are elsewhere and in regions not yet, and probably never to be, explored. So far from the Grand Lodge of England having the right to assert its own exclusive legitimacy, its own legitimacy was at its formation open to criticism from the legitimate Masonry of the European continent. At any rate the test of legitimacy in Masonry is not its traceability to an English Grand Lodge origin. The test is rather its common object, attainable by like means with the Masonry we know. It is its similarity of type, not its actually known line of descent.

"We recognize legitimacy in Masonry, as we recognize kinship in race, not by tracing its annals, but by its identity of type. In the language of our accomplished Bro. Hedges, of Montana, which we have quoted in our review of that jurisdiction: 'We have preferred to identify branches of the masonic family by their principles more than by their pedigree, with a disposition to broaden rather than contract the basis on which our institution stands.' The streams of its progress from out the darkness through the growing light of successive ages may not be traced; yet when we meet with it we do not fail to observe a general likeness which distinguishes it from all other organized associations of men. Answering the tests which masons are never at a loss to apply, there is no right to ignore Masonry wherever it is found."

And when we add to this, recognition by the masonic powers that are descended from that Grand Lodge, from a time as near its own actual organization as can be traced, the argument is absolutely conclusive. When correct principle is sustained by ancient usage it is doubly law in Masonry.

NEW JERSEY, 1897.

The Grand Master (GEORGE W. FORTMEYER) was unable to be present on account of illness, and his address was read by the Deputy Grand Master, who presided.

The Grand Master devotes nearly eight pages to necrology, giving a brief sketch of all the Past Masters, who had died during the year. As we understand it, Past Masters are members of that Grand Lodge. We find that each lodge is required by a Regulation of the Grand Lodge to notify the Grand Secretary of the death of Past Masters and give their masonic history.

The amount of routine business which he had been called upon to perform is almost incredible. He had had *sixty-four* requests from other Grand Masters to waive jurisdiction over candidates, of which fifty had been granted and fourteen denied. He had made two complaints against New York lodges for working New Jersey material, and in each case the New York lodge promptly expelled the one upon whom the degrees had been conferred. He had visited very many lodges, passed upon the physical qualification of thirty-nine candidates, and had granted a great number of dispensations, besides doing other official acts too numerous to give even by classes. We do not wonder that he became ill, but do wonder at his accepting a re-election!

We think that the following is more appreciated in the older than in the younger jurisdictions:

"To my mind, no act of deeper import to the craft can be authorized by the Grand Lodge or executed by the Grand Master than the warranting of a subordinate lodge, and the constituting thereof. It becomes at once a part of our masonic life. Its possibilities for good or evil are unbounded. The character of its acquisitions from the profane will indicate its destiny, and its departure from or adherence to the principles of our Fraternity will mark the ebb and flow of its prosperity."

He closes his address with the following, which is of universal application:

"Permit me, in these closing words, to indulge in a single admonition. The laws of this Grand Jurisdiction are published for your guidance and instruction. Study them carefully and conscientiously, for a knowledge of them on your part is essential to that proper administration of your masonic trusts which your brethren are entitled to demand at your hands, and it will relieve your Grand Master of much unnecessary trouble, and from the pain of admonition and discipline which he must inflict when the occasion arises, however trying to his own feelings such duties may be."

The following, in relation to funerals, was adopted by the Grand Lodge:

"In answer to a question propounded by the M. W. Grand Master as follows: What is the proper place for a masonic lodge in a funeral procession when other organizations join in the obsequies of a deceased mason? Your committee are of the opinion that the proper position of the lodge in a funeral procession is immediately preceding or surrounding the hearse."

An amendment to the constitution, providing that the Grand Master shall not be eligible for re-election, was presented, but under the rule, action upon it cannot be taken till next year. We regret to find that in any Grand Lodge the idea prevails to any extent that masonic offices are created to honor brethren rather than to subserve the interests of the craft.

The Grand Master, not being present, was installed by proxy. An emergent communication was held to install the appointed Grand Officers.

The resolutions of our Grand Lodge were presented and referred to the Committee on Correspondence.

The Report on Correspondence (165 pp.) was presented by Bro. GEORGE B. EDWARDS.

Referring to dispensations, he says:

"Such departures bring no credit to the institution; indeed, they are a detriment. If laws are found necessary to the maintenance of good government, they should be sustained; if irksome, they should be repealed, but not evaded."

We do not agree: human laws are imperfect and in particular cases operate injuriously: experience shows that in Masonry it is wise and safe to place in the hands of the Grand Master the power to suspend their operation in cases in which, in his wisdom, he deems that it ought to be done.

In reply to a statement, that in a certain community the Quakers were bitterly opposed to Masonry, he says:

"If there is any class of men more entitled to the privileges of Masonry than the Quakers, this writer does not know it. In the history of New Jersey there have been two Quakers who have held high office, and who were for many years shining lights in the Masonic Order. One was for a long term the Senoir Past Grand Master, and the other the Grand Secretary for nearly half of the present century. No names are placed higher on rolls of Masonry than those of Bros. Joseph Trimble, Past Grand Master, and Joseph H. Hough, Grand Secretary."

While we were not aware of the fact stated by him, we heartily endorse his concluding sentence; and we never before heard of any opposition from that denomination.

We find that we are correct in our understanding that Past Masters are members of this Grand Lodge. Bro. EDWARDS says:

"All Past Masters holding membership in a subordinate of New Jersey, are entitled to voice and vote as such in the Grand Lodge, and it has never been productive of any difficulty or infringement of lodge rights."

The idea prevailing in some quarters, that making Past Masters members of the Grand Lodge is dangerous to lodges, is one of the most insane delusions of the day. Past Masters are all members of lodges and as devoted to the interests of the lodge as the Masters and Wardens, and, as a rule, have more experience and wisdom in matters relating to the craft. But in the larger jurisdictions the objection that their admission would make the Grand Lodge so unwieldy as to prevent the intelligent dispatch of business, is decisive. Another objection has support in what has happened in at least a few instances, viz: that when the Grand Lodge meets in a large city, their admission gives the city lodges an undue preponderance in the Grand Lodge.

In his review of Maine, he holds the other members of the committee responsible for this report, as their names are appended to it: so in justice to them, we must tell him that it is, and for over thirty years has been, the work of the chairman.

In his review to Maryland, he says (and we quote it as a another reply to Bro. WAIT of New Hampshire):

"An instance was adduced of energetic action in the interest of preserving the integrity of the fraternity. One of the lodges had received the petition and had elected to confer the first degree upon one who was of 'notorious character, one who had been expelled from a legislative body of our state for malfeasance in office.' The lodge was notified not to confer, to return the fee, and was admonished 'that should they continue to receive and act favorably upon material which would be a discredit to the fraternity, I would consider it my duty to arrest their charter and lay the matter before the Grand Lodge.'"

He thus supports a statement we have made in this report:

"While admitting the power and prerogative of a Grand Master to make masons at sight, he fails not to express the opinion that the practice is 'inexpedient, very highly so,' except in extraordinary cases. No doubt great discretion should govern such action, as is required in the making of a mason under any circumstances. The record of sight-made masons will certainly compare with that of the lodge-made as to quality of material and tempered construction."

He also turns the tables on Bro. KUYKENDALL, who had undertaken to be very severe upon the Grand Master of New Jersey for making a mason at sight, by showing that that very power "exists in Wyoming by constitutional grant!"

NEW MEXICO, 1896.

We have in this volume fine portraits of Past Grand Masters RICHARD ENGLISH and JOSEPH H. KUHN.

The Grand Master (JAMES H. WROTH) gives a concise account of his official action.

He makes one startling announcement. A Past Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge and his twelve year old son, while on their way home from court, disappeared and no trace of them could be found. The buckboard in which they were traveling had been carried across the country at right angles to the road and the three horses had been found at different places. The circumstances indicated that both had been murdered. A committee of masons, known only to the Grand Master and the Master of the local lodge, had been appointed and the matter was in their hands, but they were not ready to report. In response to a circular from the Grand Master, the lodges had contributed liberally to pay the expenses.

The Grand Master had found that the work had not been properly done in many of the lodges—a failing which he attributes largely to brethren who cannot or will not qualify themselves. He also says that the teaching of Master Masons is almost wholly neglected: brethren well posted in the first two degrees fail wofully in the third, when examined for visitation.

It seems from his statement that the District Deputies are not inspectors of the work. We are surprised at this, for in the estimation of many, that is the chief object of the office, and in the estimation of all, it is an important object.

He also said:

"In conclusion, it is clearly my duty to call the attention of this Grand Lodge to the rapid and extensive growth of a disease that is threatening the very existence of the Fraternity, that is, the frequency with which the masonic obligations to protect the reputation, person and well being of a brother mason are constantly disregarded in this jurisdiction."

Taking this as a text, he makes a most earnest appeal for reform: part of his address is omitted from the printed report. He closes as follows:

"How can it be done? How can the desired result be brought about? The answer is easy. Let you and me, and every one of us—your subordinate lodge and mine—do its duty. Do not wait for anybody else to do it. Let it once be understood that no violation whatever of masonic law will be tolerated by any reason, high or low, in politics, in business, in Masonry or elsewhere, and the end will be obtained. Do not wait for the injured brother to become the accuser. Do not allow any compounding of the crime. Both parties may be guilty, and it is the duty of the Lodge to act and act promptly. I repeat, if we have not the intent to enforce masonic obligations, let us stop administering them."

The Grand Lecturer confirms the statements of the Grand Master in relation to the work. He recommends, among other things, that a month be allowed between election and installation of officers, so that they may become proficient in their parts, or, failing that, be barred of installation. He also recommends that the minimum fee be raised to guard more securely the avenues of the temple.

The resolutions of our Grand Lodge in relation to jurisdiction were presented and referred to the Committee on Correspondence.

An attempt had been made to amend the constitution; but under their departure from the old law, it had neither been accepted nor rejected, and the lodges were ordered to act upon it again during the ensuing year. Iowa formerly had the same provision, copied from civil law, but in time found by experience the folly of it and returned to first principles: New Mexico seems to be in a fair way to learn the same lesson.

The Grand Master granted a dispensation to confer a degree without waiting the usual time; and the committee say:

"If the right to dispense with this by-law is claimed upon the ground of the ancient prerogative of the Grand Master to make masons at sight, it may be said that such power, if it exists, can not be delegated. In modern times such powers have been assumed by Grand Lodges themselves, and their exercise by the Grand Master is regulated by constitutions and statutes of Grand Lodges."

This is not accurate. In many jurisdictions, this power is conceded to and exercised by the Grand Master, without reference to constitutional pro-

visions; in many others, the constitution assumes that the Grand Master has the power, and adds to the prohibition, "except by dispensation"; while in others, there is an express grant of power in the constitution.

However, the following was substituted for the Report of the Committee:

"In the case reported from Socorro Lodge, No. 9, wherein the Grand Master granted a dispensation to confer the Master Mason's degree upon a Fellow Craft, without waiting for the proper time wherein such should be done in accordance with Section 4, Article 16 of the by-laws of this Grand Lodge, this committee desires to say, without now discussing or passing upon the question of prerogatives and powers of the Grand Master as laid down in the Ancient Regulations, that such powers should be exercised very sparingly and with the utmost caution."

Why very sparingly? The time limit is a modern innovation, and was established in order that suitable proficiency might be made, and because the power of the Master to determine whether proficiency had been made, was abused. Now it is certain that some can acquire the proficiency required in less time than a month; and we can see no reason why it is hurtful for the Grand Master to shorten the time for good reasons, provided, always, that he is satisfied that suitable proficiency has been made by the candidate. To prevent abuses, the law is a wise one; but to assume that the Grand Master will be a party to abusing it, is inadmissible.

Of the use of the term "masonic" in business enterprises, the committee say:

"Your committee begs leave to say, concerning the timely remarks of the Grand Master in relation to the entrance into this territory of so-called Masonic Insurance Companies, Building Associations, and the like, that this committee knows of no way to legally restrain such associations from so doing. Your committee highly approves of the action of the Grand Master in calling attention to this growing evil, and respectfully calls the attention of the craft throughout this jurisdiction to this abuse and to warn them against any connection with any such institutions. They have no connection with the Masonic Fraternity and in most cases are utterly unreliable from a business standpoint."

The report was adopted.

We copy the following, as bearing upon a point made by Bro. WAITE, noticed in our review of his report:

"The committee recommends that the Grand Master take the necessary steps which he is fully empowered to take under masonic law, to cause charges to be preferred and immediate trials had in the proper subordinate lodges in these particular and all similar cases, wherein subordinate lodges fail to discharge their duty. They further recommend, that if a subordinate lodge in such case, after charges have been ordered to be preferred, refuses to promptly cause such charges to be preferred and prosecuted, to visit upon such lodge the penalty of arrest of charter."

The Report on Correspondence (95 pp.) was presented by Bro. MAX FROST—an excellent abstract, but with no points upon which to hang a review. He quotes criticisms of his views without a reply.

NEW YORK, 1896.

We have excellent portraits of Grand Master JOHN STEWART and Past Grand Master OSCAR COLES.

Grand Master STEWART says:

"So efficiently have the officers of the Grand Lodge served the craft, and so conscientiously have the Masters, officers and brethren performed their duties, that I am constrained at the very threshold of our annual gathering to extend my most sincere congratulations, coupled with hearty greetings, to you the Representatives of more than ninety thousand loyal and steadfast craftsmen."

He announces the deaths of a large number of brethren, among them Past G. Master JOHN HODGE and Bros. HENRY C. BANKS and JOHN F. COLLINS, whom we had known personally for many years, and Bro. ELY S. PARKER, of whom the Grand Master says:

"Bro. Parker was the first Master of Akron Lodge, No. 527, of this jurisdiction, and a member of that lodge at the time of his death. He was a full-blooded Indian, a grand-nephew of Red Jacket, and was chief of the Seneca tribe and titular king of the six Nations, his Indian name being Done-ho-ga-wa. He resided for a time in Galena, Ill., and there became acquainted with General Grant, upon whose staff he subsequently served in the capacity of private secretary, attaining the rank of Brigadier-General. It was he who copied the surrender of Lee at Appomattox from the pencil draft made by Grant. He was not only as brave as his celebrated uncle, but also as eloquent."

He states that the Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund now amounts to over \$230,000. The trustees had arranged for an additional building, expressly for children, in order to meet the "increasing number seeking our protection."

Having been informed that Zerubbabel Lodge was initiating unworthy candidates and conducting its meetings in an unmasonic manner, he ordered an investigation, of the result of which he says:

"I regret to say the investigation disclosed a condition of affairs so entirely foreign to the usages of Masonry, and so absolute a violation of the constitution and statutes, that it became necessary, in order to preserve the good name of our craft, to act promptly. Accordingly, I arrested the warrant of the lodge, and, on presentation of charges, appointed Commissioners to try the Master, Junior Warden, and three other brethren, one of whom was the last candidate initiated. I need not enter into a detail of the trial further than to mention the fact that on the evening the last candidate was initiated the disreputable place kept by him was raided by the police. All against whom charges were preferred were found guilty, and promptly expelled from the rights and privileges of Masonry."

This was a case in which a bad element in the lodge got control of it. In closing it up, over one hundred received certificates from the Grand Secretary, part of whom formed a new lodge and others affiliated with other lodges. These brethren must have been remiss in their duty or many of the worse

element could never have gained admission, or, having got in, obtained control of the lodge.

In submitting his fifteenth report, Grand Secretary EHLERS calls attention to the growth of the craft since his first report: the membership had increased from less than 70,000 to over 90,000; the Temple debt of \$600,000 had been paid, the asylum had been erected at a cost of \$230,000, and the Grand Lodge has over \$300,000 in its Treasury. He adds:

"The brother who, more than fifty years ago, while filling the office of Grand Secretary, evolved the idea of building a hall in this city, out of the revenues of which should be erected and maintained a home for the indigent brother, the destitute widow and the helpless orphan, 'builded better than he knew.' Among the 151 inmates of our Home is the daughter of the founder of the Hall and Asylum Fund."

A reduction in the *per capita* cost of maintaining the Home had been made from \$5.31 per week the year previous, to \$4.08 for the year just closing. The decrease was due partly to an increase of the number of inmates, but largely to economy in management.

By a strange oversight, the civil charter of the Home does not include the wives of masons; but the Trustees say:

"There are now thirteen wives living with their husbands in the Home. There being no statutory authority for their reception as beneficiaries, and the cruelty and injustice of separating worthy couples, both alike indigent and dependent, being manifest, the clear oversight of the statute has been met by the Trustees by receiving this class as employees, without compensation for services other than their maintenance and care."

The details are given in full, in these Proceedings, occupying some fifty pages, and are of great interest and value to those managing or contemplating the building of similar institutions.

We are very glad to find that the Librarian has put the Library in order, arranging manuscripts and documents. We hope that it will be found that documents, which were once in the Library, but have since been reported as missing, were only mislaid, and are now found again.

The reports of the Boards of Masonic Relief are full of interest. They give a brief statement of some of the cases, saying by way of introduction:

"We have proven to our entire satisfaction that when a man assumes the obligations of Masonry, he does not at that or any other time drop any of the peculiarities of human weakness that distinguishes the entire family one from another, and we find it prudent to regard each person applying to us for relief in the light of a probable 'sharp,' though we do not treat him as such until we are sure of it."

Among the cases are these:

"Case No. 1,136. An over-proud brother from Maine, once a very prominent mason and business man, now old and poor. Had not been in his lodge in twenty-two years; but that lodge, on a representation of the case, acted promptly and nobly. The brother does not know that his lodge had anything to do with his relief."

"Case No. 1,139. A young mason from Maine. Came here on invitation of his brother whom he had not seen since his childhood. On arrival went at once to Brooklyn, where the brother boarded, and while waiting for him information came that the brother had just been killed by falling from a building. A pitiable case."

Other cases were of a different complexion, such as this for example:

"Case No. 1,112. From Ireland. We secured a position for him on Third Avenue Cable Road, paid his board while he was learning his duties, procured him a uniform, and after one week of regular service he was discharged. A week afterward he appeared in an intoxicated condition, and abused us because we would not further aid him. The school of adversity did not supply him with the proper education."

We note that every one of the Grand Officers were elected "by acclamation."

A revised constitution was adopted upon the report of a committee, who had, evidently, carefully considered it.

We note that the Grand Lodge retains the power to amend the constitution: that it gives to lodges "original" (and we presume exclusive) jurisdiction over E. A.'s made, and F. C.'s passed, in them, and over their members, except the Master and members against whom charges are preferred by members of other lodges, and concurrent jurisdiction with the Grand Lodge over "unaffiliated and non-affiliated masons" residing within their several territorial jurisdictions. The decision of the lodge is final unless an appeal be taken to the Grand Master (will Bro. WAITE observe?) or to the Grand Lodge: and an appeal lies to the Grand Lodge from the decision of the Grand Master.

As some of our brethren deny the right of the Grand Lodge to exercise original jurisdiction save in a limited number of cases, we quote the provision of this Constitution.

"The Grand Lodge shall have original jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of its constitution and laws, and to hear and determine charges which may be preferred against an unaffiliated or non-affiliated mason, and all matters of controversy which may arise between lodges, or between a lodge and its Master, or between a lodge and a member or the members of another lodge, or members of different lodges; and when charges are preferred in any of the foregoing cases, it shall be the duty of the Grand Master, or District Deputy Grand Master of the District in which the offence or controversy shall arise, to appoint by his warrant a commission, consisting of not more than five nor less than three disinterested brethren, who shall have attained the rank of Master, and shall hail from at least three different lodges, to hear and determine the same."

We quote the following Report of Committee on Jurisprudence, signed by seven Past Grand Masters, partly for the information it contains, but very largely because it states the correct doctrine:

"The Standing Committee on Jurisprudence would respectfully report that two applications have been referred to them, viz:

"One from the Grand Lodge of Chili and one from the Grand Lodge of

San Domingo, each applying for recognition and an exchange of representatives.

"Your committee report that it is the settled policy of this Grand Lodge to decline a recognition and exchange of representatives with any but independent Grand Lodges of Symbolic Masonry, wholly independent of and not under the control of any other body of Freemasonry, whether of the York or Scottish Rite.

"The papers presented to your committee do not furnish sufficient evidence that either of these Grand Lodges seeking recognition (both of Scottish Rite origin and originally receiving their authority from and being under the control of a Supreme Council of the A. A. S. Rite) have separated therefrom, and with the consent of the Supreme Council become independent of and taken entire control of the three symbolic degrees. We do not question the right of Supreme Councils of the A. A. S. Rite to control and confer the first three symbolic degrees in all countries where that is the dominant Rite, and we recognize Master Masons made under that authority as regular, and as much entitled to our regard and recognition as if made under our authority, but until the Supreme Council has relinquished its authority over the three symbolic degrees (as has been done in this and other jurisdictions), and the control of the three symbolic degrees has been relegated to symbolic Grand Lodges entirely independent of other authority, we cannot recognize the Grand Lodge organization.

"Until we have full information as to their organization and copies of their present constitutions, we cannot intelligently report to you, or recommend any action other than to decline an exchange of representatives with either the Grand Lodge of Chili or San Domingo.

"At the same time, we do not question the legitimacy of any brother made a Master Mason in a lodge created by a Supreme Council in any country where the A. and A. Rite is the dominant Rite. He is as regular as any made in either New York or Pennsylvania. 'The bodies of the York Rite do not embrace the whole of Free and Accepted Freemasonry.'

"Masonry is recognized throughout the world as just as legitimate in all countries where the three symbolic degrees are controlled and conferred by the bodies of the Scottish Rite as it is in this country, where they are solely under the control of the York Rite. Whichever Rite is the dominant Rite in any country has control of symbolic degrees by full consent of all, and until the Supreme Councils in those countries relinquish control of the first three degrees to independent Grand Lodges, we should recognize all Master Masons made under their authority, and allow them to visit and affiliate with our lodges under the same masonic restrictions as if made in lodges of the York Rite.

"The only exception to this rule is, masons hailing from the atheistic *Grand Orient* of France are debarred by the edict of this Grand Lodge and cannot be recognized as legitimate under any circumstances.

"Master Masons hailing from lodges under the obedience of the *Supreme Council* of France are not under this ban, as they are entirely independent of and antagonistic to the atheistic doctrines of the *Grand Orient*.

"We recommend the adoption of the following:

"*Resolved*, That the applications of the Grand Lodges of Chili and San Domingo for recognition and exchange of representatives be denied, until we have definite information as to their present status as Independent Grand Lodges of Symbolic Masonry.

"*Resolved*, That we fully recognize the legitimacy of Master Masons made in lodges of the A. and A. Rite in countries where that is the dominant Rite, and welcome them to the right of visitation and affiliation under the usual masonic restrictions, the same as if made in lodges of our obedience, those of the obedience of the *Grand Orient* of France alone excepted."

The report was received and its recommendations adopted.

The Report on Correspondence (200 pp.) was presented by Bro. JESSE B. ANTHONY, save that a very valuable review of Foreign Grand Lodges (other than English) was prepared by Bro. ERNEST RINGER.

In his introduction, he pays the following tribute to his late associate, in which we join:

"As we pen this introduction our heart is saddened by the intelligence that 'another silver cord has been loosed, a golden bowl broken.'

"Associated with us as a member of this committee for the past two years, was a friend and masonic associate of many years, R. W. John F. Collins—the genial John, the zealous brother, the eloquent ritualist, the indefatigable mason. Loyal to the heart's core, he was a brother in whom there was no uncertainty, and with the added years the growth of masonic affection strengthened.

"On the 29th day of March the door of the dividing line which separates the finite from the infinite, swung on its hinges, and R. W. Bro. Collins entered upon the enlarged work of the future.

"The light of his pure life went out
As sinks behind the hill
The glory of a setting star,
Clear, suddenly and still.' "

In his review of Arkansas, he says:

"We cannot see any reason for the publication of the report of the Directors of the 'Masonic Mutual Relief Association,' and are strongly of the opinion that the less Grand Bodies have to do with business enterprises of this character, the better for them."

If other Grand Lodges would adopt the system shown in the following, a large amount of expense would be saved and the business more intelligently transacted:

"New York for 1895 has friendly notice, and he expresses surprise that the representatives in Grand Lodge assembled are enabled 'by *organization* and *business methods* of their creation to prepare and despatch the indispensable business of so important a body in the brief space of forty-eight hours.' Let me whisper in your ear that the points we have *italicized*, combined with work, account for it."

Some Grand Lodges tie their hands so that committees cannot be named in advance, and the result is that all their work has to be done during the session.

Of masonic funerals, he says:

"A lodge is at labor when engaged in the discharge of the last sad rites over the remains of a deceased brother. After the usual preliminary ceremonies the lodge, under the charge of the Master, proceeds in funeral procession in the discharge of that duty, and when the duty is ended the brethren return to the lodge-room and are dismissed. The usual formalities of opening are dispensed with, the Master declaring it to be an emergent communication for funeral purposes."

In his review of Maine, he asks a question which probably the following statement will answer. When a resident of Maine takes the degrees elsewhere, he will not be recognized in Maine, without the permission of the

Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, and, generally, the unanimous consent of the lodge: while not a *technical* "healing," that term is frequently used.

He says further:

"In several instances claims were presented for the re-imbursement of money paid for assistance or funeral expenses by one lodge to or for the benefit of the member of another lodge. It being ascertained that these expenses had been incurred without notice or agreement, the Grand Lodge decided that it had no authority to enforce the payment thereof. This we deem to be correct."

"Attention is directed to the fact that in Maine the same effect is given to a rejection as in the jurisdiction in which the original rejection occurred. No rejected candidate from Oregon, Pennsylvania, or any other Grand Jurisdiction holding the law of perpetual jurisdiction can be received in Maine without the *consent of the rejecting lodge*. This naturally obviates any clash of interest between Grand Bodies. New York recognizes the same principle, in the requirement of the consent of the rejecting lodge.

"This question can only be settled upon some middle ground, and in New York we occupy such a position. For while holding to the principle of perpetual jurisdiction, it is of a qualified character, inasmuch as the consent for a relinquishment of jurisdiction between lodges under its government can be granted *by a majority vote*. This relieves it of the iron-clad claim of a one-man power following a candidate forever. We are emphatically and teetotally opposed to any such principle."

"If we may be permitted, we hardly think the illustration in the last paragraph is exactly pat. If a profane is eligible to petition a lodge after twelve months, the time usually required to attain a masonic residence in a state, why, as a matter of law, any greater length of time in the case of a rejected candidate? In both instances the same duty is enjoined upon the Committee of Investigation, viz: due inquiry into the candidate's previous character."

Because a candidate once rejected should be under the observation of the brethren longer on that account than one who comes into the community free from such a disability. Experience shows that it is very difficult, save in flagrant cases, for a committee to obtain accurate information from a distance.

His remark, that a rejection on a petition for affiliation, means no more than that he is not wanted in that lodge, suggests that the law of some jurisdictions requiring unaffiliates to apply to nearest lodge, and the law in relation to non-affiliates, make such a rejection an exclusion from all masonic rights.

In his review of Wyoming, he says:

"We should take exception to the statement 'that the privilege of a Past Master to open and conduct the business of a lodge in the absence of the Master and Wardens is *contrary to all masonic usage*,' for it was an ancient custom and is now permissible in some Grand Jurisdictions. The proposition to eliminate this provision from the Constitution of the Grand Lodge did not receive, as we think it should, favorable action."

Why receive favorable action? An ancient *law* (not merely "*custom*,"

BRO. ANTHONY) existing in the Mother Grand Lodge from organization, and in many others, should not be repealed save for good reasons.

NORTH CAROLINA, 1897.

Portraits of the retiring Grand Master, FRANCIS M. MOYE, and Past Grand Master ROBERT W. BEST are given, as well as a list of the Grand Masters from the organization of the Grand Lodge. There is one defect in that list; the "front names" of seventeen of them are not given.

After an eloquent introduction and tributes to the dead (including Past Grand Master ROBERT W. BEST, of his own jurisdiction) Grand Master MOYE says:

"Taking a retrospective view of the work which, with your kind assistance, I have been able to accomplish for the Order the past two years, I am happy to state at the close of my term of office as Grand Master, that the condition of Masonry in this jurisdiction is most encouraging, and presents to my successor an inviting field, which promises a rich harvest in return for the zeal and ability, I have no doubt will characterize his administration."

* * * * *

"The supervision of the craft by the Grand Master is necessarily of a general character. In the absence of any system of official visitation which it seems impracticable to inaugurate in view of the large expense it would impose upon the Grand Lodge, it is impossible to keep in touch with the almost three hundred lodges in the state. While this is true my official correspondence has been large and varied and I am indebted to some of the brethren for valuable information furnished me from time to time during the year, which has compensated in no small degree for the difficulties to which I refer."

Eight new lodges had been established and the charters of two dormant ones restored; and one charter had been arrested.

He records his "unqualified approval" of the present system of Grand Lodge representation.

He speaks in the highest terms of the good accomplished by the Oxford Masonic Asylum; but the obtaining of the means for its future support was a cause for anxiety; and he earnestly appealed to the lodges to incorporate into their by-laws a provision requiring each member to pay five cents a month for its support.

He well says:

"In the admission of candidates, the reputation of our time-honored institution and all that we hold dear as masons is at stake. None should be permitted to enter the sacred precincts of our lodges, who do not love and fear God, and have honest hearts filled with charity for their fellowman.

"The presence of one unworthy member in a lodge often keeps out five good men, who would otherwise be glad to unite with us.

"The ballot is the great bulwark of Masonry. Its privacy should at all times be sacredly observed, to the end that peace and good-fellowship may

prevail among the brethren. At the close of the ballot it is the duty of the Master, by a simple but effective method, to prevent its inspection save by the the three principal officers. It should never be discussed in or out of the lodge, as this tends to destroy its secrecy, which must ever be maintained."

If his practical recommendations are heeded by the brethren, the future prosperity of the craft in that jurisdiction is absolutely certain.

The librarian reported that no binding had been done for the preceding fifteen years, and he had had 167 volumes bound, without completing the work.

Considerable space is taken up with an account of the asylum, which had had the best year in its history, having 211 inmates (110 girls and 101 boys).

The proposed amendment to the constitution, limiting the eligibility of Grand Master and Grand Wardens to one year, had been submitted to the lodges, and while they voted 109 to 62 in favor of the amendment, yet as two-thirds did not vote in favor, it was declared lost.

The Committee on Reprint asked, and were allowed, further time.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted by a rising vote:

"*Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge procure a portrait of Mr. B. N. Duke, and that the same be hung in the building at the Orphan Asylum which Mr. Duke names after his deceased son."

Mr. DUKE, not a mason, gave \$10,000 to the Asylum on condition that a specified sum should be given by others, and paid over the amount, although the condition lacked some \$1,700 of being performed.

We find the following:

"One of the most pleasing incidents of the Grand Lodge then occurred. Bro. W. A. Withers, in the following remarks, presented to retiring Grand Master Moye a beautiful jewel, as a token of love and esteem from the masons of North Carolina, for his faithful and efficient services as an officer of this Grand Lodge, on his retiring from office."

The presentation speech and the reply were unusually eloquent and appropriate.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"*Resolved*, That it is the sense of this Grand Lodge, that as all elective Past Grand Officers, viz: Past Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurers and Grand Secretaries, are members of this Grand Body, and so recognized by our constitution, that it is therefore right and proper that their expenses while attending the one annual communication, should be paid by this Grand Lodge."

The Grand Lodge celebrated the twenty-fourth of June at the Orphan Asylum by laying the corner stone of a new building; the oration by Bro. R. N. HACKETT is well said to be "a gem of rare beauty and excellence."

The Report on Correspondence (176 pp.) was presented by Bro. JOHN A. COLLINS.

The following from his introduction will show why there is little more for notice:

"All the transactions of our Grand Lodges which have accumulated within the last three years (about 120 volumes) have been carefully examined and reviewed, and it is believed that few items of general interest have escaped notice. It will be observed, however, throughout these notes that, in recording matters upon which Grand Lodges hold diverse views or practice, your committee has refrained from adverse criticism, because it believes its duty is restricted to simply submitting an intelligent synopsis of the state of the Fraternity at large, and not to assail the polity of any Sovereign Grand Lodge, or to assume the duties assigned to Committees on Jurisprudence.

"A large number of the brethren who write these correspondence reports are so thoroughly equipped with a knowledge of the principles of masonic law and usage that their contributions are of permanent value to the craft, not alone in their own jurisdictions, but everywhere. Your committee, however, lays no claim to this essential qualification, and has therefore declined to break a lance, or to invite a sword-play, with any of the Knights of the quill now in the field. In this discretion the Grand Lodge of North Carolina will at least escape the discredit which would befall her should her reporter meet disaster through a display of zeal without knowledge."

He quotes from our report of 1895, our criticism of a decision of his Grand Lodge that a candidate rejected for *membership* cannot apply to another lodge without the unanimous consent of the rejecting lodge, and asks "who can gainsay it?"

His rare and brief comments show that his fears that if he discusses questions his Grand Lodge will suffer, are entirely groundless.

NORTH DAKOTA, 1896.

The portrait of the retiring Grand Master (WILLIAM H. BEST) is given as a frontispiece.

Grand Master BEST delivered an excellent address. He had granted two dispensations for new lodges and other dispensations as *required*, being firm in the "opinion that the prerogative power of the Grand Master, so far as it relates to the setting aside of any law or regulation of the Grand Lodge, should be exercised only in cases of great emergency."

He decided that a lodge may be opened on the degree on which work is to be done, and work may be suspended on the degree on which the lodge is opened and then the lodge opened on a *lower* degree, but not on a *higher* degree. He states correctly that *the* lodge is opened: now we cannot possibly perceive why the practice prevailing when we were made a mason is not correct: then *the* lodge was opened on any degree the Master saw fit, then closed on that degree and opened on any other degree, and so on back and forth as often as the Master saw fit: the degrees are mere matter of ritual, the lodge itself being in session until finally closed. The whole object of

changing from one degree to another is to qualify the lodge to do particular business.

He made one decision that we believe is contrary to the general practice now. He decided that a lodge, a member of which commits an offence in the jurisdiction of another lodge, has paramount jurisdiction, and the latter lodge only upon the neglect or refusal of the former. The law generally prevailing is, that either lodge may proceed, and the one, that first commences, acquires jurisdiction: it was formerly held, that masonic courtesy requires that the lodge of which he was a member should be notified and requested to act, before the other lodge should entertain charges, but still that this was not necessary: and the practical difficulty of trying a brother away from the place where the offence is committed, has led to the present practice. Especially is this true, when the two lodges are in different jurisdictions. Every Grand Lodge now insists upon the right to try a mason who violates its laws, no matter where the lodge of which he is a member is located.

The following does not accord with the practice in this section of the country:

"While a Warden is presiding as Master, during the temporary absence of the Master, he, for the time being, is vested with the full authority of the Master, and is the judge of the emergency which makes the calling of a special meeting a necessity, and he may, while presiding at a regular meeting, fix the time for holding special meetings, the same as the Master could do were he present and presiding. During the interim between the regular or stated lodge meetings the Senior Warden cannot call a special meeting of the lodge if the Worshipful Master is within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge and accessible to communication either by letter or wire, or if temporarily out of the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge he can be reached by mail or wire in time to authorize the special meeting. It is not a question of distance, but one of actual absence."

If the Master is out of the jurisdiction of the lodge, so that practically he cannot be reached in person, to give the order, the Warden may act: this usage grew up before telephones or telegraphs were invented, and when even mail facilities were wanting. We doubt the policy of using either in such cases. We think the last sentence, properly construed, gives the true rule. "It is not a question of distance, but of absence" from the lodge jurisdiction.

The Grand Secretary had had a busy year. With but little, if any conception of the work involved, the Grand Lodge had ordered the Registry system to be adopted. Upon commencing it, the magnitude of the job became apparent, and became more so as progress was made. But Bro. THOMPSON is not one, who will fail to carry out the order of the Grand Lodge, because it involves unexpected work. He went at it with his usual vigor and made splendid progress. There was only one bad result: this work kept him so busy that, with the concurrence of the Grand Master, he

omitted his Report on Correspondence. The thinness of the pamphlet revealed this fact to us before we opened it, and we commenced our review with a sigh of disappointment.

Of the Registry, he says:

"At the time I began to agitate a system of keeping a Grand Lodge Registry of the members of particular lodges in our Grand Jurisdiction I thought my imagination was sufficiently vivid to penetrate and discover the difficulties, obstacles and labor connected with the completion of the system. After the Grand Lodge had authorized the establishment of the system I began to prepare to set the wheels in motion. I have undertaken many tasks in my life, but this one was the most momentous in my experience. I find the labor about as great as any of the tasks of Hercules of which we read in classic lore. I have often felt like Patience sitting on a monument, and indeed, have sometimes wondered whether I was a martyr to my own zeal or not. Still I would not retrace the steps taken. The sum total of results at the present, begins to assume the form of a reward for the labor and thought expended."

"I am quite sure that more than one poor over-burdened Secretary has wished me in Halifax for imposing the System of Membership Registry upon our Grand Lodge, and I cannot blame him very much, because he probably does not see any ultimate good so clearly as I do, and, hence, does not particularly see any good from the labor, except to satisfy what might have been termed 'a cranky notion of the Grand Secretary.'"

* * * * *

"The correspondence with the various Secretaries has been something enormous considering our number of lodges. I have not counted the number of letters, but there are nearly 500 pages covered in the copy books which are used for this kind of work. No return has been received in this office which fulfilled all of the requirements and which did not take one or more letters to ascertain definite information. Each name is handled, in obtaining the different verifications, at least seven times, so that this office during the past year has handled what is equivalent to more than 20,000 names. I do not expect to complete the Grand Lodge Registry before two years. This will include furnishing duplicates of the cards to the particular lodges. A large portion of my time has been used in getting up circulars of explanation, writing letters of explanation and furnishing Secretaries with information to follow in making up the Registry Returns."

His experience may have the effect to keep other Grand Secretaries from following his example!

The committee recommended the adoption of the "Wisconsin proposition," but the Grand Lodge refused to adopt the recommendation.

The Grand Lodge decided that neither a Master nor a Warden can resign.

The committee reported against the decision as to a Warden's calling a meeting in the absence of the Master, but the Grand Lodge sustained the Grand Master.

While no one can act for the Grand Master while he is within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, we do not think the same rule should be applied to the Master of a lodge, especially in view of the usage.

NOVA SCOTIA, 1896.

An emergent communication was held to devise means to reduce the debt on Freemasons' Hall. The committee recommended taking shares in some "Building Society" (equivalent, as we understand it, to our "Building and Loan Associations"): one member, in opposing the particular scheme, proposed taking "Twenty year endowment policies" on the lives of members of the Grand Lodge; different Societies were proposed; but finally and wisely (as it seems to us) the sinking fund plan was adopted.

The Grand Master, WILLIAM F. MACCOY, was congratulated upon his recent marriage by the presentation of a box containing a service of silver plate.

At the annual communication, as usual, the Grand Lodge attended divine service and listened to an exceedingly appropriate sermon by Bro. Rev. CANON BROCK, from the text "God said, let there be light, and there was light."

The Grand Master delivered a brief practical address, in which he says that peace and harmony prevail.

He had visited a large number of the lodges and reports that they are in a flourishing condition.

The Deputies made full reports, and in the words of the Grand Secretary, "their general tone is hopeful"; but there are about six weak lodges, which should be visited by the incoming Grand Officers. One lodge had surrendered its charter; another was preparing to move to a new location, and hoped to gain strength by the change; and another had consolidated with an older lodge.

The following resolution was adopted:

"That it is recommended that at all entertainments of Grand Lodge and subordinate lodges, the use of spirituous liquors and wines be strictly prohibited."

The Committee on Correspondence were pleasantly and fittingly remembered:

"R. W. Bro. Cossmann referred at some length to the services performed by this committee, and moved that R. W. Bro. T. B. Flint, who for many years has performed a large proportion of the work, be accorded the rank of Past Deputy Grand Master. This was seconded by R. W. Bro. Ross, Grand Secretary, and passed unanimously.

"R. W. Bro. Mowbray spoke of the valuable services rendered during the past two years by W. Bro. Rev. Dr. Willet, president of Kings College, Windsor, one of the committee, and moved that a hearty vote of thanks be tendered to that distinguished brother as a slight recognition of such services. This was seconded by the Grand Secretary and passed unanimously."

"Past Rank" was conferred on five District Deputies and thereupon—

"The M. W. the Grand Master in conveying to these R. W. brethren (Bro. Connors being the only absentee) the resolution of Grand Lodge, spoke at

some length on the duties and responsibilities of D. D. G. Masters, and the beneficial results of a faithful discharge of the duties of that important office and expressed his entire approval of the manner in which those duties were performed by the R. W. brethren he was then addressing."

The Constitution is published with the Proceedings. We copy the provision in relation to the Grand Lodge:

"SECTION 15. In the Grand Lodge alone resides the power of enacting laws and regulations for the government of the craft and of altering, repealing and abrogating them; always taking care that the ancient landmarks of the Order are preserved. The Grand Lodge has also the inherent power of investigating, regulating, and deciding all matters relative to the craft, or to particular lodges, or to individual brothers, which it may exercise either of itself or by such delegated authority as it may appoint, but in the Grand Lodge alone resides the power of erasing lodges and expelling from the craft."

We also find this:

"In the temporary absence of both Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master from the jurisdiction, the Junior Past Grand Master present shall possess all the powers of the Grand Master."

But the similar old provision, that in the absence of the Master and Wardens, the Junior Past Master may preside, is omitted—this Grand Lodge being the only one in the British Dominions that has not retained it. Yet Wardens cannot confer degrees, but may invite a Master or Past Master to do so.

The Report on Correspondence (160 pp.) was prepared by Bros. THOMAS B. FLINT and CHARLES E. WILLETT, aided, in consequence of the unexpected absence of those brethren, by the Grand Secretary and Bro. THOMAS MOWBRAY.

As heretofore, the report is an excellent abstract with but few comments.

Bro. Ross says quite truly:

"The Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia being the first on the American continent to recognize and uphold the action of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, rejoices with their brethren in New Zealand that even at this late hour their Mother Grand Lodge has slowly but surely done them justice. The public mind of Englishmen in matters of reform and even in masonic matters moves slowly and carefully—but the right is sure to succeed in the end. We cannot help thinking that there was a strong under-current from provincial officers holding warrants from the Grand Lodge of England which operated silently but successfully for the prevention of the desired recognition.

"The example thus set by the Grand Lodge of England will, we trust, be soon followed by the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland."

In a few instances we have been inclined to doubt whether success in the direction indicated is always *sure!* We have waited, lo, these many years, for that result to be reached in Quebec, but the end is not yet: but we still hope.

BRO. FLINT gives the address of the writer in 1895 one quality which we did not dream that it possessed: *it was intended for the brethren of Maine;*

we *did* aim to be "practical" and to speak "sound common sense," but the *literary* character of it gave us no concern; we strove to convey ideas, not to paint pictures. We "guess" Bro. FLINT's kindness of heart has invested it with beauties that are not really in it.

The following from Bro. Ross's review of Scotland deserves attention:

"We may here say that it has come under our own observation, that brethren receiving their degrees in lodges in Scotland or lodges under Scottish authority, coming to this country and desiring admission as visitors to our lodges, are found most deficient in their knowledge of Masonry, and in many cases fail to gain admittance to a lodge, through their ignorance of the first rudiments of Masonry. The possession of a Grand Lodge certificate is no proof of being a mason in good standing.

"This is owing to the fact that candidates receive their degrees without undergoing any examination as to their proficiency in the preceding degrees; and we are informed that it is not an uncommon thing for a candidate to receive his three degrees in one evening."

And one reason why three degrees are conferred in one evening is because lodges in Scotland are allowed to confer the degrees on sojourners, sojourners even for a few days only. If the Grand Lodge would fall in line with other Grand Lodges and require lodges to confine their work to actual residents, the evil of which Bro. Ross speaks so forcibly would almost wholly cease.

We join in his regret in the following and trust that ere this, complete recovery has been reached:

"Worshipful Bro. Willet, we most sincerely regret to say, had a sore trial during the year, sickness in his family compelling him to make a prolonged stay in New York where it was necessary that an operation requiring great surgical skill should be performed on one most dear to him."

OHIO, 1896.

We have not only the portrait of the retiring Grand Master (WILLIAM B. MELISH), but also a group of all the Grand Masters from 1876 to 1896, inclusive, eleven in number, without a single break. The front row is venerable in appearance, but if anybody should take any one of them for superannuated, he would quickly be surprised at the size of his mistake!

In a jurisdiction like Ohio, the Grand Master must needs be a busy man, and in spite of his energy and activity, the duties of his office must have made a heavy draft upon the time of Grand Master MELISH, as his address most abundantly shows: we can touch only upon a few of the matters presented.

Of a "new departure," which we have advocated for many years, he says:

"It will be remembered that the Grand Lodge at its last session ordered that the expenses of visiting the lodges be paid from the Grand Lodge

treasury, instead of each subordinate lodge paying the expense of being inspected. This has caused a new expense to the Grand Lodge, which, during the past year, amounted to \$1,079.49. This, however, is but an average expense of \$2.72 to each lodge visited, and is but little over the average reported by the Grand Master last year, which was \$2.65. I am of the opinion that the expense incurred is a good investment, resulting in great good to the lodges, and in a more complete knowledge by Grand Master and Grand Lodge of the condition and work of the subordinate lodges."

The code, upon which a committee had been laboring some four years, had been completed and published at a cost of from \$2,500 to \$3,000. But the Grand Master says that the book does not answer the purpose, because (and such seems to be the tenor of the resolution under which the committee was appointed) it is a collection of all the decisions since 1808, many of them conflicting: indeed, the Grand Master says that at least fifty are the opposite of as many others. The Grand Lodge apparently ordered a *compilation* instead of a *revision*. The matter was referred to a committee to examine and report next year:

"And until such further action of this Grand Body, your committee recommend that in all cases of conflict between the provisions of the code, the Resolutions or Decisions, if any such be found, they shall have force and authority in the following order: First the Constitution, second the By-laws, third the Code, fourth the Resolutions, fifth the Decisions; and in case of conflict between Decisions, the one last rendered shall prevail."

The Grand Master says:

"The Grand Master had made no decisions of law during his term. This announcement may bring about a stroke of paralysis to some of our elder brethren who have attended Grand Lodge for a score of years. The effect it will have on the learned and usually hardworked Committee on Jurisprudence can not be foretold, but it is to be hoped that the committee will conclude that they are entitled to a 'day off,' and spend the time enjoying the hospitality of the Cincinnati brethren. As the Committee on Grievances has but one case to worry over, these two committees will have an opportunity to commune together over a Jurisdiction that revels in harmony, and also, I may add, in too much law."

We find, however, that he did make one decision—a very sensible one—that when a lodge has remitted the dues of a member, and notified him accordingly, it cannot afterwards undo that action.

There were others, that read like decisions, but the Grand Master stated that they cannot properly be so called, because "the laws already in force apply to each case"; but that is just what a "decision" is: a "decision" does not make law, but tells what the law is. The one we have quoted above is new to us, and we don't think that the Master, by looking up the law, could have found it. However, we forgive him, for he gave the Jurisprudence Committee a rest!

He announces the decision of the Supreme Court in the Cerneau cases, by which the position of the Grand Lodge was fully sustained:

"The courts place their decision upon the principle that the Grand Lodge alone has the right to determine what is masonic and what is unmasonic conduct, and that when it has determined a question of this character the masons are bound to observe the law as established by the Grand Lodge, and the courts will not help any one in a rebellious attitude towards the Grand Lodge to which he owes his allegiance. Masons everywhere revere our country's laws, honor its institutions, reverence its courts, and obey its authority, and we are glad to know that the action of the Grand Lodge in regard to the 'Cerneaus' has the approbation of secular courts. This substantially ends all litigation in regard to the 'Cerneaus,' and is an authoritative recognition of the right of Freemasons to govern themselves in all matters concerning the Fraternity."

"On January 13, 1896, Goodale Lodge, No. 372, F. and A. M., of Columbus, completed the struggle, of several years' duration, to purify their lodge membership, and rid the Order of defiant masonic offenders, by the expulsion of Jas. C. Kroesen, Clinton D. Firestone, Wm. A. Hershisier, Robert W. Linen, Isaac B. Potts, Chas. H. Simmer and Isaac C. Aston, all of Columbus. Later in the year, Moses P. Smith and Joseph H. Outhwaite were expelled by the same lodge. This was the culmination of the litigation alluded to in another part of this address, in which the final decision of the court was, that a masonic lodge 'is a society, not for profit but for masonic purposes, and that it has power to expel one or more of its members for unmasonic conduct, and to determine wherein unmasonic conduct consists, and that this court has no jurisdiction to restrain the lodge from proceeding to expel a member or members for an alleged irregularity by the lodge, or its proper officers, in the exercise of its powers of expulsion.'

"The other case was the expulsion from all the rights and benefits of the Order, of Granville A. Frambes, formerly of Columbus, by Lafayette Lodge, No. 81, F. and A. M., of Cincinnati. The charge was gross unmasonic conduct, in attempting to organize within the state of Ohio, bodies of men into masonic lodges, so called, without authority so to do from the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio. This fellow came within the penal jurisdiction of Lafayette Lodge, to practice his schemes upon the unwary, and was promptly handled. Frambes is a notorious peddler of clandestine degrees, and has been expelled from lodge, chapter, commandery and Scottish Rite in turn."

Of Physical Qualifications he says (among other things.)

"In a recent case in Cincinnati, a man was refused because he had an artificial foot, a fact which no one in daily contact with the candidate knew until he told it. He was capable of complying with all the requirements of the Order, was of moral character, intelligent, zealous, but the law said that he was ineligible because he was not physically perfect."

If a man, who cannot see without spectacles, is eligible, we do not see on what principle this candidate was denied admission.

The Grand Lodge is likely to have a circus this year over the Eastern Star question. The Grand Master devoted three pages of his address to the subject. Bro. CARSON introduced an amendment to the by-laws entirely excluding the Order from lodge rooms: other brethren introduced an amendment leaving to the lodge the question of its admission. Both sides are in earnest and excited, and when the time for action upon the proposed amendments comes, there will be a battle royal. We are constrained to say that,

in our opinion, the Grand Master, in his remarks upon this subject in his address, forgot the dignity of his high office.

The whole controversy grows out of the foolish law about joint occupancy of halls; under that law, allowing a body to meet in a masonic hall concedes a masonic, or a *quasi* masonic, character to the body admitted. To carry out the doctrine of dedication to its logical result, when a lodge ceases to occupy a hall dedicated to Masonry, it should be burned up or at least torn down. If the effect of dedication ceases when its masonic use ceases, it ceases when the use is temporarily interrupted as well as when permanently terminated.

The Grand Master announces the death of M. W. Bro. ASA H. BATTIN, Grand Master from 1872 to 1874, inclusive.

We find that after all the Committee on Jurisprudence had considerable to do.

The law in relation to dimitts was thus formulated:

"Where a brother applies to a lodge for a copy of a dimit granted him for the reason that he has lost the original one, it is the duty of the lodge, through a committee or otherwise, to make careful inquiry. If the brother, after receiving the dimit, ever became a member of another lodge, he has no right to demand, and should not receive, a copy of his dimit; and if, while on dimit, the brother has been unmasonic in his conduct, no copy should be granted him. If he feels injured by the action of the lodge, his remedy is to petition or memorialize the Grand Lodge.

Referring to the Grand Master's discussion of Physical Qualifications, the committee say:

"It is the province of the Grand Master to *interpret the law*, and his decision in this regard, when approved by the Grand Lodge, has the force of a *precedent controlling like cases*. It is not his province to decide *facts* referred to him by subordinate lodges, and when he does so his expression simply relates to the facts of the particular case, and does not become a rule for the determination of other cases upon other facts. A candidate for Masonry must have the required physical, intellectual, and moral qualifications. No one in this world is perfect in either of these qualities. What degree of excellence in either or in all of these will fit a candidate for Masonry must be determined by the subordinate lodge, for perhaps its members alone have sufficient information to determine them. They should not be referred to the Grand Master, who is probably remotely situated and a stranger to the candidate, and has no more information to enable him to pass upon the physical than he has to pass upon the mental and moral fitness or unfitness of the candidate. He can only state the law and give the rules for guidance, leaving it to the lodge to apply them."

And the rule stated by them was adopted:

"A candidate for the degree of Entered Apprentice should be able, physically as well as intellectually, to receive and impart all the essentials for masonic recognition, and this the lodge may determine."

The committee also held, contrary to the conclusion of the Grand Master, that the following provision of the Code is in force in relation to the Eastern Star:

"Chapters of this society, when constituted as specified in that section, may use masonic property with the permission of the Masonic Bodies occupying the property, and with the consent of the Grand Master, and not otherwise."

In this connection the committee say:

"The sections of the Code are the positive enactments of the Grand Lodge sitting as the supreme legislature of Masonry. The decisions are the constructions of the law and the interpretation of masonic jurisprudence made by different Grand Masters at different times and applied to given facts. Sometimes a section of the code is passed for the purpose of overcoming or changing a rule established by decisions. And then the question may be asked, why keep up in our revised volumes these decisions which are thus made to appear in conflict with our code? The answer is that the decisions represent the growth of our government, elucidate the principles upon which it is founded, and are useful in making applications of the laws to the different conditions of facts that may from time to time arise. It was the aim of the Committee on Code Revision to report and cause to be printed only those decisions which are of use for the purpose above indicated, dropping all others. It is believed there are very few instances where there is any conflict, and even in such cases the disagreement is only on one point, while the conflicting decisions are important on other points, and could not for that reason be left out of the revised volume."

The Report on Correspondence (350 pp.) was presented by Bro. WILLIAM M. CUNNINGHAM.

As to vouching, he says:

"As chapters of Royal Arch Masons and commanderies of Knights Templar are now recognized masonic bodies, and doubtless known by every mason to require the possession of the first three degrees upon the part of their membership before advancing to the chapter, and thence to the commandery, it does seem illogical to require any further avouchal than such statement of having sat in chapter or commandery with the proposed visiting brother."

In those jurisdictions in which, by positive enactment or long usage, these bodies are recognized as masonic, his proposition cannot be denied.

His review of Maine is a full abstract, with quotations: we regret that he does not oftener express assent or dissent. Especially would we have been glad to have had his answer to our inquiry, whether WEBB and those of his day did not understand and hold that ciphers come under the limitation of the prohibition, rather than under the prohibition itself.

He holds that our law, allowing non-affiliates to register with the Grand Lodge, is a wise one: but what obligations does this registration impose upon the Grand Lodge in relation to assistance when in distress?

He concurs in our views that—

"It is lamentable, that those called upon to render decisions forget so often that the original source of all masonic law is *masonic usage*, which ought to be the standard of law not made by express enactment."

He says that Ohio has partly adopted the system of appointing standing

committees in advance "to its advantage in expediting the business of the Grand Lodge."

He makes a long and very conclusive reply to Bro. BOUCK, of Wisconsin, in relation to Reports on Correspondence.

We would be glad to notice very many other matters in this splendid report. We must be content to close our review by copying the following caution:

CERNEAUISM.—As may have been noted, but comparatively little has been said by the writer in relation to Cerneauism in report for current year. Whilst it may be considered as dead within this Grand Jurisdiction, yet there are probably a half-dozen clandestine lodges (a greater number is claimed by them) in this state, from which the Cerneau bodies are said to be securing their candidates for their degrees. These clandestine lodges claim to have been chartered by a so-called Grand Lodge, equally bogus in its inception. As members of such clandestine lodges claim to have visited regular lodges in this and other states—although many grains of allowance must be made for their statements—yet two cases of carelessness upon the part of lodge officials in this connection are known—one in Ohio and one in another state. Hence the necessity herein of a word of caution to the craft of this and other Grand Jurisdictions to have a watchful eye upon these impostors, before the conclusion of this report."

OKLAHOMA, 1896.

We have portraits of Past Grand Masters SELWYN DOUGLAS and CHARLES A. NEWMAN.

Representatives from twenty of the twenty-three chartered lodges, and delegates from the five lodges U. D. were in attendance.

The Grand Master (CHARLES A. NEWMAN) gives a succinct account of his official action.

He had given his consent to a lodge to lay the corner stone of a new court house and a new church: and to another lodge to participate with other societies in a public celebration and parade on April 26, 1895. These are scarcely in accordance with the usage in other jurisdictions.

The folly of not adhering to the old law in relation to the opening of a lodge is illustrated by a case in which he was called upon to act. The Master and Senior Warden had removed from the jurisdiction, and the Junior Warden was temporarily absent. The by-laws provide for stated communications of the lodge, but when the brethren assembled they found themselves confronted by a provision of the model by-laws, that in the absence of the Master and Wardens, "it shall not be lawful" to open the lodge. The result was that the Grand Master was obliged to visit the lodge in person in order to open it: he then declared the office of Senior Warden vacant, held an election and installed the one elected. The constitution empowers the

Grand Master to convene any lodge and preside therein, and we presume that he held that the constitution controls the by-laws.

The following sound advice is applicable in all latitudes:

"In this connection I cannot refrain from impressing upon the minds of the Masters and Wardens that their duty as officers is to become acquainted with our laws. If our officers would study the laws with as much zeal as they do the Monitor, the Grand Master would have time to devote to other matters that he is compelled to give to correspondence. Brothers, whoever your next Grand Master may be, shield him from unnecessary labor. Don't vex him with foolish and unnecessary questions. Examine the law for yourself, and if not satisfied with your own construction, then ask his opinion, and not before."

His attention was called by the Grand Master of Illinois to the subject of perpetual jurisdiction: and he submitted the matter to the Grand Lodge. He, however, misapprehends the doctrine: he understands that a rejected candidate can be made *only in the rejecting lodge*, or at any rate be *elected* in that lodge—a very different matter from waiving jurisdiction. He understands that the candidate is obliged to forfeit the fee which accompanies the petition. He says:

"For my part I am willing that my brethren, wherever dispersed, shall examine into the physical ability and moral standing of the applicant, and if satisfied of his fitness, to receive him. Our aim should be to elevate man, not to retard and hold him down. He may have been unworthy—*MAY HAVE*. He may have repented and be doing right. Take him by the hand as a brother and help him along. These, my brethren, are my views; you have yours; and I recommend this to your careful consideration."

But Masonry is not a reformatory institution; on the other hand, it admits none *who need reformation*, and it is the solemn duty of those to whom the power of admission is entrusted to see that none such are admitted through any want of care on their part. "*MAY have repented*" will not do; the "*fruit meet for repentance*" must first be brought forth.

The Grand Master argues against the utility of Reports on Correspondence. And yet, if he had read them, he would undoubtedly have been saved from the blunders he made in granting the dispensations to which we have referred.

Of the condition of the lodges, the Grand Secretary says:

"I regret that I have to report that some of our lodges have hardly held their own during the year, and the unprecedented number suspended for non-payment of dues, has temporarily reduced the aggregate membership of the jurisdiction."

There is no Report on Correspondence, but the constitution of the Grand Lodge is published in the Proceedings.

We are glad to find that this Grand Lodge adheres to the original form of masonic government. The Grand Lodge retains full power to amend its constitution, and its power and authority are thus defined:

"SECTION 1.—Power and Authority.—This Grand Lodge is the supreme source of all masonic power and authority within its jurisdiction, possessing all the attributes of sovereignty and government—legislative, executive and judicial, limited only by strict adherence to the ancient landmarks and the provisions of its own constitution and regulations."

Its power in cases of discipline is stated as follows:

"It has appellate jurisdiction of all controversies upon appeal, and may affirm or set aside the findings of any lodge or remand an appealed case for new trial."

But we understand that an amendment, recommended by the Grand Master, was adopted, adding the following:

"Or may cause the same to be disposed of in such a manner as the Grand Lodge may deem best."

We think a mistake is made in requiring the presence of the representatives of a majority of the lodges to make a "quorum."

The Grand Master has power—

"To do and perform and require all other acts and things which Grand Masters may of right do, consistent with this constitution and the ancient usages of Masonry; provided that the Grand Master has not the right to make masons at sight."

The question arises whether the proviso is valid, under the first provision which we have quoted.

The following provision is a decided change of the old law and usage, in an effort to modify the injustice of the law attempting to deprive non-affiliates of all their masonic rights:

"When a non-affiliated mason applies to join a subordinate lodge and is rejected, he shall have the right to demand an investigation, and if upon investigation it shall appear that no cause for objection exists that could affect the standing of the applicant, then another ballot shall be held, and if again rejected the party or parties making such objection shall, within one month thereafter, prefer charges against the applicant, and if charges are not preferred, or when preferred, are not sustained by trial, then said applicant shall be enrolled a member of said lodge, but in no case shall the proceedings herein required be unnecessarily delayed."

The Grand Lodge had an actual case before it, in which a candidate for membership was rejected, and according to his statement, he did not receive the benefit of this provision of the constitution. The matter was referred to the Grand Master for investigation and report at the next annual communication. We shall await the result with much interest, especially as the applicant represents that one member of the lodge was his "personal and bitter enemy." Such being the fact, can the Grand Lodge force the applicant into the lodge? If it does will it not destroy the harmony of the lodge and even the lodge itself? We believe in the old rule, not only because it is old but also because experience has proved the eminent wisdom of it.

OREGON, 1896.

We have portraits of Past Grand Masters JAMES F. ROBINSON (now Grand Secretary), JACOB MAYER, BRENHAM VAN DUSEN ("the first native-born Oregonian" Grand Master) and FRANK A. MOORE, (a native of Maine, and since 1892, a Judge of the Supreme Court of Oregon). An interesting biographical sketch of each is given.

The address of the Grand Master (MORTON D. CLIFFORD) is a very concise statement of his official acts and other matters of interest to his Grand Lodge.

He announces the deaths of Past Grand Master DAVID G. CLARK and Past Junior Grand Warden NATHANIEL PERKINS BUNNELL.

Apparently this Grand Lodge has adopted the form of installation obligation first framed by MACKAY, (and which we also believe has not been construed as MACKAY intended) and, therefore, does not permit any installed officer to resign. This is so utterly without reason, and unbusiness-like (except in the case of officers who acquire rank, or eligibility to some other office) that we should think the Grand Lodge would change the form of installation and adopt a more convenient system, by returning to the old usage. The doctrine is a modern innovation and cannot be found in the ancient usages or laws of the craft. It had its origin, as we believe, in a misconception of MACKAY's form by following the *letter* of the form too strictly. The Grand Master held that the place of a Treasurer who had removed from the jurisdiction could be filled only by *pro tem.* appointments. When one considers the duties and responsibilities of a Treasurer, it is evident that if such is the law it ought to be changed. For the life of us, we have never been able to understand why the old usage of allowing a lodge to fill vacancies in any of the subordinate offices as they occur, was ever abandoned. A dispensation is no more necessary in such a case, than one is necessary to enable a Warden to preside in the absence of the Master.

The Grand Master decided (and the Grand Lodge concurred) one question differently from the decision of the same question in other jurisdictions. The law formerly provided that a petition of a rejected candidate should not be received till one year after the rejection: this was changed to six months, but the decision was that parties rejected under the old law must wait a year. Our Grand Lodge decided a similar question the other way, and it seems to us correctly. In the absence of both laws, the petition could be renewed at once: the first law said it must not be received within a year: the amended law repealed the old law; so when the Master comes to decide upon the question of receiving the petition, all the law he finds is the six month's limitation, and he is bound by the law in force at the time the petition is presented. As a rule, also, an amended constitution repeals the old law and has full effect the moment that it comes in force.

The following seems to us a much better course than to allow the jewel ultimately to be sold for old gold:

"Bro. J. C. Moreland, on behalf of Mrs. B. Jennings, widow of the first Grand Master of the state, then presented to this Grand Lodge the jewel presented him by this Grand Body, and requested that the same be placed among the archives, as a memorial of Brother Jennings.

"On motion it was accepted, and a special committee appointed to draft suitable resolutions of thanks to Mrs. Jennings for the valuable gift."

The following resolution was adopted and transmitted:

"Resolved, That we greet the Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star in session with fraternal greetings, and congratulate them upon their prosperity and wish them God speed in their mission of benevolence and charity.

"2. That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Grand Chapter in session, by the Grand Secretary."

And the following was received in reply:

"To the M. W. Grand Lodge in Session.

"The Grand Chapter of Oregon, O. E. S., now in session, thank you for your kindly fraternal greeting and congratulations, and wish the Grand Lodge of Oregon, A. F. & A. M., a happy and successful session and a prosperous future in its noble work in the cause of brotherly love, friendship and truth."

The Grand Orator delivered an elegant and instructive address, a thousand copies of which were ordered printed for distribution.

The Acting Librarian made a report that would give one the heart-ache, were it not that he gives assurance of an immediate reform.

He found a large mass of Proceedings on hand, but many of them had been spoiled by cutting extracts therefrom by the Committee on Correspondence. He could not find a complete set of the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge: but by exchanging he had nearly completed four sets. There were on hand several hundred copies of the reprint of the years 1853-54-55, which he says they have no use for: we think that they will be available in the future. Arrangements were made for completing and binding sets, and obtaining shelf-room for them, and the Grand Lodge made an appropriation to enable the Librarian to carry out his plans.

We are sorry to note that the Committee on Jurisprudence deprecate the issuing of dispensations for shortening the time between degrees; we are sorry, because the law places this power in the discretion of the Grand Master, and as he knows the facts in each case, he is much better able to decide as to the propriety of granting them than the committee possibly can be.

At this session, the Grand Chaplain, J. R. N. BELL, entered upon his twentieth year of consecutive service as Grand Chaplain, and in behalf of his brethren, Past Grand Master ROBERT CLOW presented him with a watch in a most appropriate speech, to which Bro. BELL made a fitting reply; the following from the former is of much interest:

"But a few months ago the reverend and venerable Bro. Dame, who had officiated as Grand Chaplain in the Grand Lodge of Virginia for thirty-two years consecutively, responded to the summons of the Supreme Grand Master and joined his brethren in lodge Celestial. His demise, my brother, promotes you to the seat of honor as the oldest living Grand Chaplain in point of consecutive service on the American Continent, and to-day very unexpectedly has been assigned to me the duty of expressing in a tangible form the appreciation of your brethren of this Grand Lodge of your long and faithful services. The duty would indeed be pleasant were I capable of expressing in appropriate language your unselfish devotion to duty and the fervor of your supplications to the Supreme Grand Master for his choicest blessings upon your brethren."

The Constitution, Regulations and Digest are published with the Proceedings. The constitution is patterned after the old form of masonic government. The Grand Lodge possesses the supreme masonic power, limited only by strict adherence to the ancient landmarks of the Order and by the provisions of its own constitution, which it "possesses the inherent power" to amend or alter. We commend the examination of it to Bro. CLARKE, of Kentucky, as showing what a really "sovereign Grand Lodge" is.

It, however, departs in one respect from the old law; it contains the word "Quorum" and defines what it is—"the representatives from at least seven chartered lodges."

It recognizes among the powers of the Grand Master the power "to confer any degree at sight."

The regulations allow a Past Master, in the absence of the Master and Wardens, to call a meeting of the lodge and bury a deceased brother with masonic ceremonies, but apparently in no other case.

We note, as applicable to the case discussed in our review of Oklahoma, that a Warden can call a special meeting in case of the absence of the Master from the *jurisdiction of the lodge*.

The Report on Correspondence (244 pp.) was presented by Bro. ROBERT CLOW. It is a very full abstract of the Proceedings, with appropriate extracts and occasional comments.

This is his view of physical qualifications:

"We believe there is very properly a disposition to a more liberal interpretation of the rule touching physical qualification of candidates, and the rule quite generally obtains that if a candidate is physically able to comply literally with all the requirements of the ritualistic work he comes within the constitutional rule and is eligible to receive the degrees."

We do not know whether he applies this to all the degrees or not. Basing the rule upon the reason for it, it would seem to be applicable to all the degrees; but if it is carried to the extreme logical result, it would be necessary to deny masonic recognition to a mason maimed after he has taken the third degree, because he cannot make himself known as a mason; this could never be tolerated: and as a result of the recent discussion, we are inclined to the opinion that *helps to the limbs* will, in the not distant future, be allowed, as

helps to the eyes are now. We notice that our perfection brethren are not inclined to discuss the "spectacles" question, and we do not wonder, for we cannot divine in what manner they can reconcile the universal practice to their theory.

When we come to his review of Illinois, we find, if we understand him correctly, that he applies the rule above stated to every degree.

He is kind enough to note our first appearance in the Grand Lodge and our election as Deputy Grand Master in 1858. By the blessing of God, we have been able to attend every annual communication from 1858 to 1897, forty in number. Year by year, our pleasure in meeting the brethren has increased, clouded only by missing those, who for many years have shared our labors, joys and sorrows, but who have since gone home.

We are glad to have his support in a matter, which we have discussed in the report:

"If we are to understand by this ruling that all the technicalities and subterfuges resorted to and permitted in civil courts, both for the eliciting and suppressing of testimony, are admissible in a masonic trial, we cannot subscribe to it. Technical advantage should never be allowed in a masonic trial. The writer once witnessed a masonic trial whereat attorneys appeared for the accused and accuser respectively. The rules of evidence were applied with a nicety that would have met the approval of any court of last resort, and the dignified summing up of the evidence, according to rule, by the W. M., himself an attorney of standing in his profession, would have done honor to Greenleaf himself (we do not mean Bro. Greenleaf of Colorado), and looked ominous for the accused, until a brother from a farm in the backwoods arose, during the deliberations preceding the ballot, and with a few common sense remarks rent asunder the web which a strict application of the rules of evidence permitted to be woven around the accused, and he was acquitted. An honest, unprejudiced effort to arrive at the truth and throw such light upon the case as will give the lodge a clear understanding of the matters in issue, is the only rule that should be recognized in a masonic trial."

PENNSYLVANIA, 1896.

By vote of the Grand Lodge, the portraits of Past Grand Masters JOHN K. MITCHELL and HENRY M. PHILLIPS are published in these Proceedings.

A Grand Lodge of Emergency was held January 30, 1896, at which the Grand Master conferred the degrees on J. LEE PATTON "at sight."

At the March communication, report was made upon a complaint, by one lodge, of irregularity in the making of a mason by another lodge, that the claim of irregularity had been allowed to slumber so long, the lodge would not be censured. Nothing is said as to the status of the party made, who had apparently been enjoying masonic rights nearly six years. Apparently he belonged to the same class, whose making has been declared void by the Grand Master.

In June the death of Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary MICHAEL

NISBET was announced, and in September eloquent and fitting tributes were paid to his memory. By a singular coincidence his father, of the same name, had, like him, been both Grand Master and Grand Secretary.

BRO. NISBET was born in 1829; made a mason in 1851, was Junior Warden in 1854, Senior Warden in 1855, Master in 1856, and Secretary of his lodge from 1861 to 1877, inclusive.

In the Grand Lodge he served on the most important committees from 1858 to 1889, except while serving as Acting Grand Master or as Grand Master; closing his term of Grand Master in 1880, he was immediately elected Grand Secretary, and served by successive re-elections continuously till his death.

He realized that to perform the duties of Grand Master properly a knowledge of Masonic law was indispensable. In this connection, his eulogist says:

"In order to obtain such knowledge, he took upon himself the task of reading the minutes of the Grand Lodge from its organization down to his day, and noting every decision that had been rendered, making a brief of every one sufficiently full to enable him in an instant to determine to what the decision aimed, and then noting the book and page, so that he might promptly, almost instantly, decide according to precedent, and I have the authority of the late Past Grand Master Clifford P. MacCalla that the digest he compiled was complete and accurate, reliable and trustworthy."

He says further:

"Bro. Nisbet was a positive man; his temperament, his education, his business training, the labor by which he earned his living, all prompted him and required of him accuracy. He would willingly spend hours, days, aye, even months, digging and delving upon a subject that he was responsible for, before he would permit it to leave his hands faulty or inaccurate. He had a positive aversion to record or file any document that could be doubted in any way. He would write letter after letter, labor in season and out of season, to reach accuracy on the part of the lodges under his jurisdictional correspondence. He could not help it; it was his nature; nothing that was not absolutely correct would pass him."

* * * * *

"He was the soul of geniality; he was not a religious nor an effusive man, but he was humane, and his kindness was as natural to him as the breath he drew; he was not demonstrative in his good work, but always ready to assist the suffering; he was tireless in his patience; his mind seemed balanced up to the high standard, to do good because he loved to do good. His motto, acted rather than spoken, was, 'Do unto others as ye would they should do unto you.' His sympathy ran in the direction of aiding the weary, educating the ignorant, helping the needy, and in trying to make every one of God's creatures with whom he came in contact feel better and be better for their experience in having touched his garment."

As Grand Master and Grand Secretary, he was more or less under our observation for nearly twenty years, and our estimate of him agrees with that of his eulogist. He was modest, tolerant, courteous, and charitable in his judgment of others. His death causes a sad loss not only to his brethren in Pennsylvania but to the whole Fraternity.

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His eulogy was pronounced by R. W. Bro. WILLIAM J. KELLEY; but others added tributes, which were ordered to be published and sent to the other Grand Lodges and to the subordinate lodges.

At the September communication a full report was made in relation to the residence of a young, unmarried man, who worked and spent the most of the time in one place, but claimed his residence at his father's, the home of his youth, in a distant place. The committee reached the conclusion which has been adopted in this state, that his residence was at his old home. But they make the wise suggestion that inquiry should be required to be made of the lodge in the place where he spends the most of his time. The cause of making this suggestion led to the adoption of the rule in Maine, that a candidate must be personally present in the jurisdiction of the lodge to which he applies, a certain part of the year next preceding his application.

From a case before the Committee on Appeals, we learn that a member of another lodge may appeal from the decision of a lodge: we presume, however that he was a party to the record. The Grand Lodge reversed the decision, and instead of expelling the accused, requested the Grand Master to order the lodge to expel him.

The following case was before the Grand Lodge:

"W. H. K., the appellant, was charged with unmaasonic conduct in that he, being a member of the lodge, communicated to a former member, who had been suspended for non-payment of dues, the proceedings at various meetings of the lodge, and particularly the names of petitioners for initiation and membership, and the action of the lodge thereon, both those who were approved and those who were rejected."

He was found guilty and expelled. The Grand Lodge decided that the penalty was excessive, as the evidence showed that the offence had been committed thoughtlessly and not wilfully: and as he had been already deprived of masonic privileges for nearly nine months, it dismissed the whole proceedings.

In the same case another question arose:

"Evidence was offered before the Trial Committee of the lodge to impeach the credibility of a witness by showing that his reputation for truth and veracity was bad, but was rejected because it was not confined to his reputation for truth and veracity in masonic matters. Your committee cannot understand how the general reputation of a witness for truth and veracity can be bad without destroying his credibility in a masonic trial."

Moreover, it is difficult to conceive how a person can establish a bad reputation for truth in masonic matters as distinguished from his general reputation.

We are glad to note that considerable progress had been made on Volume III of the reprint.

We very greatly regret that the Committee on Correspondence were unable

to prepare a report. These Proceedings, without a Report on Correspondence, are almost like meat without salt.

The valedictory of Grand Master MATTHIAS H. HENDERSON is an able document.

While we do not agree with him to the full extent as to the rights of the public, we hold that in the following he was clearly right:

“My attention was called to an item which appeared in the local news column of a country newspaper, stating that Mr. A. B. C. would that evening be raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in Lodge No. —. The editor was a Master Mason, and it is hard to believe that so gross an offence was committed ignorantly. I instructed the District Deputy Grand Master to warn him that it must not be repeated.”

Lest we may be misunderstood, we will add that we hold that the public in this country have the right to know the principles and objects of any organization that has the protection of the laws.

He says further:

“A subject which has caused me much thought is the following: A candidate is initiated with some informality on the part of the lodge. The Grand Master issues his edict striking him from the roll of members for an error which was not his, while those who were responsible for it escape without even a reprimand. The innocent suffer and the guilty go unpunished. While I have known for years that this was the case, it has never come home to me with such force as since I have been Grand Master and have myself issued the edicts which blighted the aspirations of some brother, who, after intrusting himself to others, finds that he must bear the consequences of their misdeeds, and be, like Mahomet's coffin, suspended between heaven and earth, neither a mason nor a profane. The edict must issue, because what the candidate has received unlawfully he has no right to enjoy, and I do not agree with the masonic jurists who maintain that those who receive the degrees, even though it be done in an irregular manner, are nevertheless masons, and should be recognized as such.”

He advises that in such a case the Master or Secretary, or both, shall be summarily removed from office.

When the test of what makes a mason has been received in a lawful lodge, it is contrary to all principles of law to declare the action void because of the omission of some form or act that does not affect the actual eligibility of the candidate. Grand Master HENDERSON admits that a grave injustice is done to an innocent and worthy man. This of itself admits that the act is in no sense allowable under the principles of Masonry, and that the law that allows it is in direct conflict with those principles.

If such a man is “neither a mason nor a profane,” what is he? With due respect to our brother, we must say that his proposition is absurd. Every man (save an expelled mason) is either a mason or a profane. The true *status* of such a candidate is, that he is a profane who has learned the secrets of Masonry without being under any obligation to treat them as such. We would like to know how old a precedent can be found for this proceed-

ing. We are inclined to believe that it is an innovation of comparatively a modern date.

The following is a provision of the Grand Lodge Constitution:

"Each lodge within this jurisdiction shall, at the time at which its officers are chosen, elect as its Representative in the Grand Lodge the Master or a Past Master thereof, who shall serve until his successor shall have been elected."

He wisely urges lodges to select a competent brother, and elect him from year to year, as the proper degree of efficiency is acquired only by service and experience.

In relation to decisions, he says:

"Every Grand Master is required to make these decisions. In many jurisdictions his address, of which they form a part, is referred to a committee, which reports, recommending that they be approved or disapproved, which report is confirmed or rejected by the Grand Lodge, so that the Grand Lodge must finally approve them before they become effective."

He is in error in his conclusion: in all the jurisdictions, the case in which the ruling is made is finally decided by the Grand Master. The decision becomes effective the moment it is announced. The only question upon which the Grand Lodge passes is whether the rule of law, involved in the decision, shall stand as a rule of conduct *in the future*. We doubt very greatly if Bro. HENDERSON claims that the Grand Lodge has not the rightful power to declare that a former ruling of a Grand Master shall not be law for the future.

He decided, and as we hold correctly, that in a Past Master's jewel silver alone is permissible.

Also:

"A man who is not able to speak above a whisper and one who is cross-eyed are not physically disqualified for initiation. The one is not dumb, nor is the other blind."

We were hoping that the case of one, who cannot see without spectacles, was included in the decision, but it is not.

Also that an oral objection, made in the lodge after ballot, had the same effect as a rejection by ballot.

In Pennsylvania, in the absence of the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden succeeds to his station.

Of another matter he says:

"A subject which requires notice is that of residents of Pennsylvania who go to foreign countries, more especially England, Ireland and Scotland, are there made masons, and expect to be recognized as such on their return. Some of them do this unwittingly, acting under the bad advice of friends; others do it understandingly, and because the degrees cost less there than here. No person so made can be recognized by our lodges. If they desire to enjoy the privileges of Freemasonry in Pennsylvania, they must resign from their foreign lodge, surrendering all allegiance to it and to the Grand Lodge under which it holds, and apply in regular course for initiation and

membership, paying the fees required by the by-laws of the lodge to which they apply."

It will be noted that while this is in substantial accordance with our law, it is more severe, but we are inclined to believe that it is more effective and at the same time just.

BRO. HENDERSON has given the masons of his jurisdiction an able, energetic and conscientious administration of their affairs. While we have occasionally thought that his devotion to, and faith in, Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Masonry, have made him somewhat intolerant towards his brethren of other jurisdictions and their laws and methods, we have been willing to admit that the fault, if fault it is, "leans to virtue's side."

His successor, R. W. BRO. WILLIAM J. KELLEY, delivered a brief address. We most heartily concur with him in the following and reciprocate his hopes:

"Our relations with our sister jurisdictions are harmonious and fraternal. It has been to me a great satisfaction to observe the close friendly relations that have been steadily growing between this Grand Lodge and those of Maryland, District of Columbia, New York, New Jersey and Delaware, caused largely by the interchange of personal visits of the officers of each to the other, especially at our annual communications, thus giving an opportunity of cultivating genuine fraternity, and the advantage of personal conference, so valuable in begetting confidence and so prolific in promoting brotherly feeling. I hope we may be able to extend the same to other jurisdictions farther distant than those named, that the good of personal acquaintance may make more active our kindly regards to each other and give opportunity to advance the feeling of humanity that should always exist among the well-disposed."

We have had some experience in visitation and only wish that we had had more. It tends very greatly to make us *one fraternity* instead of a good many friendly associations.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, 1896.

The Grand Master (R. MACNEILL) announces the death of the wife of the "venerable Grand Secretary": she had been a great admirer of the craft and had shown her regard for it by her acts.

He decided that any one occupying the chair of a lodge by invitation of the Master or Warden, has the full powers of the Master for the time being, but that the Master can resume the chair when he pleases.

He visited the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick and of course received a hearty welcome. He conferred with the brethren in relation to the erection of a Masonic Home for the Maritime Provinces: arrangements were made for the appointment of a joint committee consisting of committees from the three Grand Lodges interested.

He had issued a circular to the lodges with the view of founding a Grand Lodge Relief Fund, and the responses had been very encouraging. The Grand Lodge took the necessary steps to carry out the plan. He had visited many of the lodges and the most of them voted a sum equal to one dollar for each member, for the Charity Fund. In this connection he says:

"As many of the brethren seem to confound charity with insurance and sick benefit societies, I deem it necessary to add that charity is not insurance; neither can we engraft pensioners upon it, as we can only aim at moderate relief for present necessities."

Questions in relation to the powers of the Grand Lodge had arisen, and he had corresponded with brethren in other jurisdictions in relation to the matter. We note that Bro. PARVIN speaks of the practice of submitting all amendments to the Grand Lodge Constitution to the lodges, "as the old doctrine prevailing half a century ago," and concludes that the few Grand Lodges now holding to that doctrine will ultimately succumb to the practice of the majority. But this doctrine has not prevailed ever very extensively. None of the Grand Lodges in Great Britain or in the Dependencies of the British Crown have ever adopted it. The Grand Lodges first organized in the United States did not adopt it, and none of the New England Grand Lodges have ever adopted it. It was first adopted at the organization of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina in 1787, just after the Federal Constitution had been framed; and that constitution was taken by North Carolina as a pattern. In 1791, Grand Lodges formed upon the old system had been organized in Massachusetts (two), New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina (two), Georgia and Rhode Island, and one, North Carolina, upon the then new system. All the former adhere to the old system now, and always have, save that we have an impression that New York tried the new system for a time and then abandoned it and returned to the old.

The Grand Lodges formed after 1791, generally followed the system of the Grand Lodge which organized the first lodges in the new jurisdiction: accordingly Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama adopted the new system, but Mississippi and Florida did not: Illinois and Iowa followed Kentucky, while Ohio and Indiana followed the old system. California adopted the old system, and the Pacific coast Grand Lodges, with Arizona and Nevada, did the same. The Ohio daughter Grand Lodges generally followed her example. We have not, however, examined as to all the Grand Lodges not specifically mentioned above.

Of the Grand Lodges, which at their organization adopted the new system, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota and Tennessee have discarded it and adopted the old law. We were not aware of the change by Kentucky till this writing. We assumed from what Bro. CLARKE wrote, that the law first adopted

by his Grand Lodge still remains in force. We regret the error for a double reason; first, we dislike to make a mistake, especially in a matter of this kind; and second, we could have pointed to the action of his own Grand Lodge as a complete answer to his argument.

An examination of the latest editions of the constitutions to which we have had access, shows that there are three methods of amending constitutions, now practiced.

One class requires preliminary action by the Grand Lodge, then affirmative action by a majority (and in some cases, two-thirds) of the lodges, and then final action by the Grand Lodge: the Grand Lodges in this class are Delaware, Idaho, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska and New Mexico.

The second class require preliminary action by the Grand Lodge, and then action by the lodges, and a majority (and in some two-thirds) of all the lodges must vote in the affirmative in order to adopt an amendment: those in this class are Alabama, Illinois, Kansas, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota and Utah.

The third class, consisting of all the other Grand Lodges (*thirty-six* in number,) require preliminary action by the Grand Lodge at one session, the publication of the proposed amendment in the Proceedings, and final action by the Grand Lodge at the next session. In all, a vote by lodges may be had as a matter of right, and in several the vote *must be* by lodges.

It should be further stated that the constitutions of nearly all the Grand Lodges in the first and second classes are very meagre, embracing only provisions not likely to need change, while the mass of the laws for the government of lodges and the craft (usually embodied in their constitutions by Grand Lodges of the third class) are prescribed in *by-laws*, which are amendable precisely as the constitutions of Grand Lodges of the third class may be amended, or without postponing the proposed amendment to another session, provided it receives in some states a unanimous, and in other states a three-quarters vote.

This "new departure" in 1789 was an attempt to incorporate the policy of the civil into masonic law, and experience has shown the unwisdom of so doing.

The Grand Master further says:

"A manifest progress has been made during the year. In addition to the Symbolic degrees and Capitular degrees, we have now the Cryptic and Knights Templar, and I trust ere long we shall have a Lodge of Perfection in this jurisdiction, so that it will not be necessary for young and progressive masons to leave the jurisdiction to obtain those degrees that are now universally acknowledged as legitimate degrees in Masonry."

The proceedings were of a routine character, of no special general interest, save the fact that the views and acts of the Grand Master were endorsed and commended. No Report on Correspondence.

QUEBEC, 1897.

We are exceedingly sorry to learn by a letter just received by our Grand Secretary from Bro. JOHN H. ISAACSON, that he has been for some time past seriously ill; but we are very glad to learn that he is recovering, having gone to a quiet town in Massachusetts to find the rest and quietness necessary. We hope his recovery will be speedy and complete. He is now in his twenty-seventh year of service as Grand Secretary, having served almost ever since the organization of the Grand Lodge.

In these Proceedings we have the portraits of M. W. Bros. JAMES DUNBAR and MELBOURNE M. TAIT, Past Grand Masters.

The Grand Master (FREDERICK MASSEY), after forcibly referring to the elements in Freemasonry which guarantee its perpetuity, says:

“The year has been almost uneventful, as far as Grand Lodge is concerned. Among our subordinate lodges, however, it has been exceedingly interesting and progressive. I have noticed particularly in respect to charity, a feature which should predominate among us, that more and more good has been done and is being done, by our lodges and also as individual masons, bearing unmistakable evidence to the fact that one of the principal foundations of our order is being practiced generously, so that the lessons constantly inculcated from the beginning, and throughout our whole masonic education, are being conducive of good, not only to the craft but to others with whom we are constantly coming in contact.”

He announces that the constitution adopted at the last annual meeting of the Grand Lodge had been completed and printed. He states further that one copy had been mailed to each Grand Lodge in Canada, the United States and others, with the compliments of his Grand Lodge. This is a most excellent procedure, and we wish that every Grand Lodge on this continent would adopt the same plan. The opportunity of examining the constitutions of other Grand Lodges is a very great aid towards securing uniformity of polity as well as of work.

He had finally decided what is well known in that jurisdiction as “the J. H. MARTIN case.” As we remember it, it originated in an unseemly quarrel between two lodges in relation to the jurisdiction over a candidate, and, we fear, on account of the fees. At any rate it has occupied the attention of the Grand Lodge and the Grand Master for several years. MARTIN was either suspended or expelled, we forget which, but at the last annual communication of the Grand Lodge the matter was referred to a special committee, of which the Grand Master was one, with power to take such course as it should deem best. That committee investigated the matter, and upon its report MARTIN was restored to the full privileges of an unaffiliated mason in good standing. One of the lodges was angry at this decision and voted to surrender its charter, evidently in an attempt to compel the Grand Master to retrace his steps, but the action did not have that effect. He accepted the surrender of the charter, demanded the books, etc., and although

they were kept back he went on in the course which he had marked out and called upon the Grand Lodge to take action in relation to the wilful disobedience of the parties who refused to surrender the property of the lodge. Moreover, he received a petition from the minority of the lodge for the return of the charter. The charter was accordingly returned, and the lodge starts out again "with renewed vigor and full of hope for future prosperity." We trust that the lesson, which was well deserved, will have its proper effect.

In conclusion he refers eloquently and feelingly to the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the reign of "our most gracious Majesty the Queen."

The Grand Secretary reports that on account of the surrender of two warrants and the depression in business, the total membership had fallen off twenty-four.

The reports of the District Deputies show a very good condition of the lodges and the almost universal prevalence of harmony. We note that one of them speaks of "the prescribed plans of work," and says that the scarcity of those "plans" has caused a great drawback in establishing perfection in the work. This is a new phrase to us, but we presume it means what in other jurisdictions are known as "ciphers." He instructed the workmen that it was illegal and unmasonic to draw "private plans," but he adds:

"At the same time, I must assert, with all due respect to the powers that be, that it is unreasonable to expect business men, widely separated from each other in country places, to attain that proficiency in the work to which they should attain without proper forms of procedure to go by. Nor can exactness and uniformity be preserved without these forms. If Grand Lodge had declared that they should not be used at all, the case would be somewhat different, but—as it has allowed them to be in existence—some method should be adopted to give possession of these plans to those entitled to use them; otherwise, the duties of the Worshipful Master cannot be performed according to sections 2 and 3 on page 70 of the constitution, and the alternative must be imperfect building or assimilation to that of a neighboring jurisdiction. After five years of importunity, King Solomon succeeded in getting one more plan by imploring, by beseeching, by insistence as an absolute necessity and by the payment of \$3.00. The Wor. Master, Rt. Wor. Bro. S. H. Edey, Present Grand J. Warden, made personal and persistent effort or he would not have been successful. I believe Eddy and Argenteuil are in a worse condition still. I would respectfully suggest to this M. W. Grand Lodge that while proper care is strictly required to be observed and the plans are compelled to be kept in rigid security, some method should be adopted whereby our lodges may be properly equipped without such vexatious delays as those to which we—in this district—have been forced to submit."

The statement in relation to "King Solomon" at first caused us to think that our Right Worshipful Brother had gone back a good many years for a precedent, but further examination satisfies us that that was the name of a lodge and not of the old King so often spoken of in Freemasonry.

The Grand Chaplain, Bro. CHARLES T. ROLLIT, delivered a very impressive and instructive address to the Grand Lodge.

Bro. ISAACSON, the representative of our Grand Lodge, presented the resolutions and they were referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, which reported:

"Your committee would remind Grand Lodge that the question referred to in the resolutions of the Grand Lodge of Maine has already been considered by this Grand Lodge at its annual communication, January, 1895, (Proceedings 1895, page 83), when this Grand Lodge decided to adhere to its own rules that the application by a profane for initiation does not place the applicant under the jurisdiction of the lodge to which he may apply, but prevents him, in case of rejection, from again applying for initiation for the term of one year; and that it is the duty of the Committee of Enquiry to inform themselves carefully of and report upon the moral character of the candidate.

"We believe Grand Lodge still adheres to this position and recommend that the M. W. the Grand Lodge of Maine be so advised."

We do not know what inference to draw from this action; whether it is that the Grand Lodge is unwilling to yield anything on its part to secure uniformity, or does not think uniformity is desirable. Least of all does it state its position in relation to the admission of candidates rejected in other jurisdictions where a different rule prevails. Such a case as that is liable to arise in Quebec as it has in other jurisdictions, and it is liable to cause the same trouble which it has caused elsewhere. We were hoping that the Committee on Jurisprudence would take a year for the careful examination of all the questions involved and then determine whether there is not reason to make some efforts to secure as nearly a universal uniformity as is practicable.

In relation to the use of lodge funds for refreshments, the committee say:

"In noting the hospitality and social entertainments extended by lodges to visiting officials, as well as their appreciation of same, we undoubtedly value the social element in Freemasonry, promoting as it does harmony and good fellowship and being the means of bringing us more into touch with one another in aiding the interests of the craft, but we are led to consider the growing practice of having lodge refreshments after labor, and as a warning to our lodges, especially city ones, to ask is it not the practice to allow lodge funds to bear too great a proportion of the consequent expense? The direct advantages are to the individuals of the lodges, and the expense should be borne by those participating or from funds provided for that special purpose, so as not to interfere with revenue, which should be devoted to regular lodge expenses."

The proceedings of the Grand Lodge were of a routine character and not of general interest.

The Report on Correspondence (108 pp.) was presented by Bro. E. T. D. CHAMBERS, who takes leave of us for the present on account of his promotion to the high office of Grand Master. He has prepared this report for eleven years, and while we rejoice in his promotion, we are sorry to part

with him, but his successor, Bro. WILL H. WHYTE, has had experience, and we shall look to see the high reputation of this Grand Lodge in this respect fully maintained. He devotes some space to the anti-masonic movement, but we regard it as space substantially thrown away, because we believe that that movement, and all who are aiding it, should be treated with silent contempt. Their power for evil is so small that it is perfectly safe to take no notice of them. Indeed, noticing them would give them the only dignity or consequence which they would have.

His report is very largely an abstract of the Proceedings reviewed, but with occasional comments. In his review of Maine he says:

"Since Masonry teaches the duty of strict obedience to all law, human as well as divine, it is rather surprising, we must say, to find in a jurisdiction in which the sale or importation of intoxicating liquor is prohibited, that the Grand Master was asked whether it was in accordance with masonic teachings to allow the introduction of such liquors into a hall or apartments that have been solemnly dedicated to the purposes of Freemasonry. So long as the Maine liquor law is in force, it is, of course, the duty of masons to observe it, whether they approve of its provisions or not. Masonry does not, of necessity, teach total abstinence. It teaches temperance, however, and we can readily appreciate the generous conduct of those real temperance people who not unfrequently pass for intemperate advocates of total abstinence, because they deny themselves the indulgence of temperate practices in the use of beverages, for the sake of those who cannot use spirituous liquors in moderation."

He seems to draw the inference that the Maine liquor law forbids the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage under all circumstances; but while that law forbids the *sale*, it does not forbid the *use*, unless the public is disturbed by the drunkenness of the party indulging. Under the law of Massachusetts, it is perfectly easy for any one in Maine to obtain, lawfully, liquors for his own use under the limitations above expressed. So that the ruling of Grand Master FARNHAM was based, not upon the violation of the local law, but upon the reasons stated by him in his address.

Referring to another matter, he says:

"Our critic says 'we only wear it in public on masonic occasions.' So do we. It is made a masonic duty with us to attend divine service as masons. Then as to 'packages of Masonry,' those who criticize the use of such aids have apparently, only in mind, that part of the O. B. on the subject that precedes the 'whereby or whereon,' and take no note of what so significantly follows those words."

We have made the same point, but as yet have had no answer from those who either overlook the point or deny its validity.

In closing, he refers to the new duties with which he has been charged as follows:

"It shall be our earnest hope and faithful endeavor to merit, in the more important station to which we have been called in the Grand East of our Grand Lodge, a continuance of that masonic approval and support which has stimulated and encouraged us in our work as Grand Lodge reviewer."

We have no doubt that he will be as successful in their discharge as he has been in the discharge of the duties of this committee, and his brethren everywhere will wish for him an administration of harmony and prosperity.

RHODE ISLAND, 1896.

Mention is made of the attendance of the Grand Lodge with brethren of the subordinate lodges to the number of two hundred seventy-five, upon the triennial convocation of the General Grand Encampment of the United States at Boston. The Grand Lodge was the guest of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and the exchange of salutations was of the most pleasing character.

At the semi-annual communication, the proceedings were of a routine character, except that a report was made, which shows that when the name of a member of a lodge is stricken from the roll for non-payment of dues, he cannot be re-instated until the dues accruing up to the time of his application to be re-instated, shall be paid in full, or be remitted by the lodge with the specific consent of the Grand Lodge. One lodge applied to have the general power in such cases, to remit the dues upon payment of the fee charged for affiliation, but the Grand Lodge refused its consent, although it gave its consent in two specific cases which were presented to it. We have always regarded the requirement of paying dues during the time a brother is not a member of the lodge, as wrong in principle and impolitic in practice. He is required to pay for benefits which he does not have, and the law tends greatly to prevent such brethren from seeking re-instatement. The dues which have accumulated are a very serious obstacle to many brethren. We regard it, moreover, as a departure from the ancient usages to which the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island has so generally adhered with commendable tenacity.

A special communication was held to consecrate an altar presented to Mount Vernon Lodge, No. 4, by its Master, and the ceremonies on the occasion were beautiful and interesting. A note states that the altar is an exact copy of the one erected by St. John's Lodge, No. 1, in Providence at the celebration of her one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary, but which we are sorry to say was destroyed in the fire that consumed the temple.

The Grand Master (EDWARD P. LOWDEN) delivered a brief address devoted chiefly to routine matters. The reports of the Deputies show that the lodges are in a prosperous condition. The report of the Grand Secretary is a sad one, especially when taken in connection with his report as Chairman of the Library Committee. Of this he says:

"For twenty-four years the personal property of the Grand Lodge has been in the custody of the Grand Secretary, all of which, save the material

for clerical work and a few copies of Past Proceedings, and other printed matter, were kept in the Freemasons Hall. Everything, save the exceptions noted, was totally destroyed by the fire, March 19th. None of the regalia was saved, excepting chain collars and jewels, and those in a very bad condition, and scarcely worthy of any attempt at restoration, so badly were they burned, and the white and purple trimmed linen aprons, which, fortunately, were in the Grand Tyler's hands for repairs. The safe delivered its contents in a fairly good condition, the bindings of the books being badly charred. This safe contained the old record books, old and valuable papers, and some of the oldest bound volumes of annual returns. All books and papers are in a legible condition, the most valuable being without serious harm. The safe, which was an old one, was in a terribly hot fire, and was the only safe from the ruins which was cut open. Other than the articles mentioned, there was not a single vestige of Grand Lodge property left."

The portraits of the Past Grand Masters and all the Proceedings both of that Grand Lodge and of other Grand Lodges, and the library with boxes of duplicate Proceedings to the amount of nearly three thousand in number, the valuable books presented by Past Grand Master DOYLE, and in a word every thing in an exceedingly valuable masonic library, were utterly destroyed, and we fear that very many of them can never be replaced. Bro. BAKER as chairman of the committee, makes an appeal for contributions to the library. Of the loss he well says:

"The loss of the Library is by far the most severe one which the Grand Lodge has been called upon to bear. The accumulations of nearly fifty years, and the labors of many zealous brethren for years were all swept away in a few short hours."

Under these circumstances we trust that his appeal will be responded to, not only by the brethren of his jurisdiction, but by the brethren everywhere. He further announces that all the copies of the first volume of the reprint on hand were destroyed, but the sheets of the second volume to the amount of about two hundred and fifty pages were in the hands of the printer, and escaped. The Grand Lodge made the usual appropriation for continuing the publication of the second volume.

The Festival Communication was observed with great enthusiasm, as it happened on the centennial of Washington Lodge, whose guest the Grand Lodge was. A very interesting historical sketch of the lodge was read and addresses made by the Grand Master and other brethren, and the occasion was one long to be remembered.

An incident, unexpected by a good many, was the presentation to the lodge of a full set of sterling silver chain collars for the officers, and an especial one for the Master of the lodge. There was no Report on Correspondence.

SOUTH CAROLINA, 1896.

Two special communications were held for laying corner stones, at which addresses were made, which, however, are not given in the Proceedings.

The Mayor of Charleston, who was a Past Grand Master, welcomed the Grand Lodge, it is said, in a felicitous and eloquent address, to which the Grand Master appropriately responded, which we may well believe, although we have to regret that they are not given in the Proceedings.

In his address the Grand Master, CLAUDE E. SAWYER, says:

"It is gratifying to be able to report that there has been no unpleasantness whatever in our relations with other bodies, and so far as I can learn, none with them, except there seems to be some commotion in the Grand Jurisdiction of Ohio about the so-called 'Cerneauism.' It seems that another Grand Lodge has sprung up in that state, and is organizing lodges claiming allegiance to the Cerneau Grand Lodge. So far as I can learn there is little difference between the esoteric work of the two, as I am assured by the Cerneau masons that men raised in their lodges are received in full fellowship in the old lodges by simply renouncing their allegiance to the Cerneau body. The Grand Lodge of Ohio classes them with clandestine masons, and some trouble may yet arise when these Cerneau masons come to visit in other jurisdictions. It is only my intention to mention the matter here, as I do not know that we are called upon to do more than remember that there is a schism in Ohio. I will simply add that I have received the arguments of the Cerneau body, which, I may say, are very strong with one exception, and that is that when men were obligated in lodges holding charters from the Grand Lodge of Ohio they bound themselves to obey its Constitution, by-laws, rules and regulations. But, at the same time, I cannot see what Master Masons have to do with the so-called higher degrees. If Cerneauism is not Masonry where can there be any greater objection to a Master Mason joining a Cerneau lodge than for him to join the Knights of Pythias? A few years ago a reverend brother traveled around conferring five so-called degrees which he denominated the 'Pilgrim Knight,' and yet I cannot see that any harm was done to Ancient Craft Masonry by his new degrees.

"When I come to speak of the condition of the craft in our own jurisdiction, I deem it my duty to say that it is not as satisfactory as we could reasonably desire it to be."

We think if our M. W. brother would visit Ohio, he would find that the statement that men raised in these clandestine lodges are received in full fellowship by the old lodges, by simply renouncing their allegiance to the Cerneau body, is not true. The reply to his suggestion, is that while Cerneauism is not Masonry, *it pretends to be*, and pretends to work as a masonic organization, and this pretense or claim is the ground of interference by the regular Grand Lodge. We have a very strong suspicion that if a man should organize a body in Charleston and claim that it was a masonic lodge, our M. W. brother would scarcely wait for the meeting of the Grand Lodge before he would denounce it and warn the brethren against it.

The Grand Master had been decidedly busy and had had a large number of applications for dispensations, some of which he granted and some of which he refused. He makes a very strong and valid argument against granting dispensations to hurry a man into Masonry just because he is about to go on a journey or change his residence into some other locality. He made quite a number of decisions, several of them based upon local law, but

others that have been given in other jurisdictions and are of no special interest to us in Maine.

As the representative of our Grand Lodge, he presented the resolutions as requested by us, and adds;

"I shall not express my individual opinion upon this matter as I have done that heretofore, but it gives me pleasure to be able to serve the Grand Lodge of Maine which I have the honor to represent."

We have no doubt whatever that if the adoption of our resolutions depended upon the good will of himself and his brethren, towards us in Maine, they would have at once been adopted, but the Grand Lodge holds that the law of perpetual jurisdiction is a landmark and that they have no power to change it, and, thereupon, could take no favorable action upon our request.

In his Report on Correspondence Bro. INGLESBY holds to the same doctrine, and we should like very much indeed to have him give us the reasons for holding that this doctrine is a landmark, because we have been unable to find any authority for that position in the history of the ancient usages of the craft.

The Grand Master pays a high tribute to the value of the services of Bro. INGLESBY in his office of Grand Secretary. We have been familiar with his services for a good many years and we most heartily endorse the tribute of the Grand Master.

The reports of the District Deputies show that the lodges, as a rule, are in a fair condition, but not doing a great deal of work, largely, as we judge from the reports, owing to the financial depression, to which some add, that very many of our brethren are enthusiastic members of other Orders and give their attention to those.

A model code of by-laws was adopted and made obligatory, except as to the filling of certain blanks, but it was found that under the constitution that could not be done and an amendment to the constitution was proposed in order that these by-laws may be made, not merely advisory as in most jurisdictions, but obligatory.¹

The Committee on Correspondence spoke in high terms of the review of the Proceedings of the Grand Lodges by the Grand Secretary, and they will not find many who will take issue with them upon that point.

The death of Past Grand Master, JOHN D. KENNEDY, was announced and an eloquent tribute paid to his memory, from which we attempted to extract, but if we do, we can scarcely do justice to it without copying the whole. In his death the Grand Lodge and Free Masonry have sustained a great loss. He died very suddenly in the fifty-seventh year of his age, but he had lived long enough to attach himself very strongly, not only to his masonic brethren, but to all who knew him.

The following decision in relation to funerals was adopted:

"That where a brother is a Knight of Pythias and had requested to be buried with Masonic Honors, he is entitled so to be buried, although the Knights of Pythias propose to perform their ceremonies—provided, however, that the masonic ceremonies shall be performed after the other ceremonies are over; the masons taking charge of the body last of all and not mingling with the other bodies."

The Report on Correspondence (124 pp.) was as heretofore, presented by Bro. CHARLES INGLESBY. He makes very few extracts, but gives the substance of what is said in other jurisdictions in his own words. He studies the Proceedings carefully, notices the points of interest and frequently discusses them, and always intelligently and ably.

He rather laughs at us for saying as Chairman of the Committee on Jurisprudence that the committee does not deem it expedient to discuss the Mississippi proposition, and then, in justice to its distinguished author, we proceed to discuss it.

He is not quite accurate: we did not discuss the "Mississippi proposition" at all. That proposition originated in an attempt to harmonize the law. It failed yet to command approval, and in some quarters, because it was not understood. What we did do, was to propose and discuss an entirely different proposition.

He agrees with us as to what a rejection means and as to what the question is that is submitted to the lodge and as to the effect of a rejection, but he holds that the doctrine is a landmark and cannot be modified as proposed by our Grand Lodge. He corrects us in one respect. He says that they hold in South Carolina that neither a rejected candidate nor an accepted candidate can be received in another lodge, even by the unanimous consent of the lodge to which the candidate applied. We had supposed that South Carolina, in common with every other Grand Lodge, holds that it may waive jurisdiction over an accepted candidate, but it seems that we were mistaken. An accepted candidate can get the degrees in another lodge only by their being conferred for the lodge which accepted him, by another lodge, at its request. And right here we would like Bro. INGLESBY to tell us, where authority for any such performance as this, can be found in the old laws and usages of the craft. He concurs in the great desirability of having a uniform rule among the Grand Lodges, and we infer that he would favor a consideration of the manner in which that might be brought about, did he not feel that his Grand Lodge is absolutely prevented from doing so by a law which it deems that it has no right to change.

He endorses fully what our committee said in relation to the cultivation of social relations and having refreshments at the communications of the lodges. He sustains Bro. SCHULTZ's and the general usage in relation to the performance of public ceremonies by the lodge and the Grand Lodge.

In his review of New York he says:

"The Standing Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom had been referred an application from the Grand Lodge of Chili and one from the Grand Lodge of San Domingo, for recognition, reported that it is the settled policy of the Grand Lodge of New York to decline a recognition and exchange of representatives with any but independent Grand Lodges of Symbolic Masonry, wholly independent of and not under the control of any other body of Freemasonry, whether of the York or Scottish Rite. That the papers presented do not furnish sufficient evidence that either of these Grand Lodges seeking recognition, (both of Scottish Rite origin and originally receiving their authority from and being under the control of a Supreme Council of the A. A. S. Rite) have separated therefrom, and with the consent of the Supreme Council become independent of and taken entire control of the three symbolic degrees. They do not question the right of Supreme Councils of the A. A. S. Rite to control and confer the first three Symbolic degrees, in all countries where that is the dominant rite, and we recognize M. M.'s made under that authority, as regular, and as much entitled to our regard and recognition as if made under our authority, but until the Supreme Council has relinquished its authority over the three Symbolic degrees (as has been done in this and other jurisdictions) and the control of the three Symbolic degrees has been relegated to Symbolic Grand Lodges entirely independent of other authority, we cannot recognize the Grand Lodge organized. In all of which we most heartily concur."

There are many other matters in this report which we would like to notice, but as the sheets come from the printer we find that we are stretching out our report to a much greater length than we supposed, and to keep within due bounds we must make our review of the remaining Grand Lodges briefer, much as we dislike to do so.

SOUTH DAKOTA, 1896.

The portraits of M. W. Bros. FREDERIC H. FILES, the retiring Grand Master (a native of Maine), and HENRY H. BLAIR, Past Grand Master, are given in the Proceedings.

The Governor of the State, Bro. CHARLES H. SHELON, was presented, introduced and invited to a seat in the East.

Bro. FILES had had a busy year in the routine business incident to his office, of which he gives a concise, but full account.

He had one case which he submitted to the Grand Lodge, being at a loss how to dispose of it. A Master, obliged to be absent from the annual meeting of his lodge, was re-elected but declined to serve, and asked for a dispensation to hold a new election. He declined to grant it, because it would either be unjust to the Wardens, or lead to a new election of nearly all the elective officers, which last he doubted his power to permit. It has been held in several jurisdictions, and Maine among the rest, that a dispensation should issue to elect another Master and such other officers as might be necessary to fill all vacancies. We hold that even if the Warden had been installed he would be eligible to the office of Master: he does not resign,

but the Grand Lodge vacates his office of Warden by his installation as Master. In our Grand Lodge, a Master of a lodge can not hold one of certain Grand Offices, and be Master of a lodge at the same time, but Masters have been elected to and installed into those offices, and the office of Master declared vacant. In Masonry, no more than in business matters, should mere technicalities subject those interested to injury or even serious inconvenience.

He announced quite a number of decisions, the most of them based upon local law: the others are in accordance with the decisions of the same questions in other jurisdictions. In making one of them, he gives some advice which we wish could be read and heeded by every mason:

"This query involves no principle of Masonic Jurisprudence and does not properly belong here. I refer to it because I have received several communications not so replete with irregular methods of procedure as this, but, nevertheless, seemingly expressing the honest convictions of the writer, to the effect that the ballot often works injury to the lodge and candidate, and in these several instances expressing the opinion that there must be something radically wrong. I want to say that it is in the power of any man in the lodge room to abuse his privilege and to vote actuated by unworthy and unmasonic motives. True as this may be, the spasmodic and frantic attempts to evade this ancient law, are fraught with still greater danger. Do not, my brethren, in your disappointment, confess to yourself, or admit, that upon the reception or rejection of an applicant depends the existence or downfall of your lodge. Follow the law literally. Guard well the outer door. 'Hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may.' Permit me to add that the time must and will come when the man who abuses his right will publicly boast of his determination to shut out all and even wreck the lodge. Then the remedy is in your hands. Do not be slow to apply it."

If this could be followed by every mason, we should hear very little about the injustice of the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction.

He discusses the subject of "Masonic Relief," and quotes a resolution adopted by the Grand Lodge upon his motion. He now has the courage and manliness to say of it:

"This resolution now stands as the sense of this Grand Lodge; yet I am satisfied that it does not express the conviction of members of this Grand Lodge now assembled. More than that, further thought and study of the aims of Masonry and a more intimate knowledge of the beliefs and feelings of others, have convinced me that the resolution was ill advised in its conception and adoption."

The Grand Lecturer (JOHN H. SCRIVEN), having served eight years, declined further service, and in his report gives the Grand Lodge some excellent advice. He says:

"Our Grand Lodge is anxious to accomplish this end, but Most Worshipful Grand Master, it can never succeed by continuing in the practices of the last few years. No Grand Lecturer can afford to devote his time without a reasonable compensation. I visited five different lodges the last year which could not pay me for my services, although they needed them the most. The provision that each lodge receiving instruction shall pay the

Grand Lecturer will either deprive the small, weak lodges of schools or force the Grand Lecturer to hold them at his own expense. To my mind, the surest way to accomplish our object, throughout the whole brotherhood, is for the Grand Lodge to make an appropriation sufficient for the Grand Lecturer to hold schools in about one-half of our lodges each year, without any expenses whatever upon the individual lodge."

There had been a falling off in the total membership, forty lodges showing a decrease.

The committee to which the "Wisconsin proposition" was referred, reported (in part) as follows:

"While your committee is satisfied that this proposition was actuated by pure and honest motives on the part of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, earnestly endeavoring to best promote the greatest efficiency of our cardinal tenet, 'to relieve the distressed,' still, we believe the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin in advocating its adoption, is diverging from the ancient and well established usages of the fraternity.

"We are proud of our Order and the privilege of belonging to the great brotherhood. We love it for its antiquity and traditions. We honor it for its charity toward all mankind and because it gives freely, voluntarily and almost secretly. We are proud of our beloved Order because it has no *fixed* sum set aside for 'relief' or 'sick benefits' to attract the avaricious candidate to knock at our door with the assurance of being 'helped' as if he were joining a 'mutual benefit association.'"

The report was adopted, and the resolution referred to by the Grand Master was repealed, the committee concurring with the Grand Master in his views as given in his address.

The Committee on Library report many valuable additions to it. The union of the Libraries of the several Grand Bodies had contributed materially to the completion of sets. Favors from the Grand Secretaries and others, among them Bro. M. L. KIMBALL, of Norway, Maine, are acknowledged with hearty thanks.

When we come to the Report on Jurisprudence we find that the question submitted in relation to the Master, who declined to accept a re-election, was disposed of precisely as we have above suggested.

The Report on Correspondence (120 pp.) was presented by Bro. WILLIAM BLATT.

In his introduction he says, and we wish that this could be read so often by all charged in any respect with the administration of the affairs of the craft, that it would be uppermost in their minds also:

"It is but briefly that we desire to refer in this introductory to two of the leading masonic topics of the day, prefacing the same with the admonition always uppermost in our minds and ever ready upon our lips: beware of all departures from the long trodden paths, from seemingly innocent new legislation, and particularly such as may be introduced for an avowed better government of the craft. A study of those laws already existing, of the principles of government, fundamental axioms hoary with age, will at once convince that Masoury, in herself a government, a law, needs no improvement as to these, at the hands of the innovator. It is rather the improve-

ment of masons, of ourselves, of our brethren we should strive to accomplish under the guidance of the very principles, laws and statutes which are attempted to be perverted under the guise of improvement."

Of the Wisconsin proposition, he says:

"In no part of our ritual, written or unwritten, in no part of our history, is relief, or if you wish, charity *by the lodge*, even hinted at. It is simply non-existent from the fact that masonic charity is made the duty of each individual mason, a duty impressed upon him in most solemn manner in every degree of Masonry, and from which masonic or natural death only can release him. Lodges are instituted primarily and principally for the purpose of making masons and teaching its votaries to imbibe, practice and disseminate masonic teachings and principles. The social element of the lodge was but a natural sequence of the association of men banded together for such purposes. It is to be deeply deplored that this feature of the early lodge has given away entirely to affairs of business, and to this change may be ascribed the proposed adoption of business methods of relief instead of masonic charity as established by the fathers. We reiterate, while it is praiseworthy on the part of lodges and Grand Lodges to create funds for charitable purposes, and even to assess with its consent the membership, yet this charity cannot, nor is it intended to supplant that which the proposed legislation would ultimately obliterate as the chief of masonic duties, the chief of masonic virtues."

When he comes to the question of jurisdiction over rejected candidates, he fails to keep "uppermost in his mind" the excellent doctrine of the paragraph first quoted by us.

He claims that the utter failure to accept the Mississippi proposition must prove the fallacy of the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction! As the purpose of this proposition was to *modify* that doctrine, if it proves anything, (as it does not) it proves the very opposite of what our brother claims.

He claims that the canvass by the Grand Master of Illinois shows that twenty-nine Grand Lodges do not, and sixteen do, recognize the doctrine. This may be true, for quite a number, in an effort to secure uniformity, have modified that doctrine. But that doctrine is not the one that is making the difficulty. He says:

"We are not after converts. We believe a very little comity on the part of our 'hard-shelled' brethren would be all that is necessary to destroy the ill effects, here and there, of this conflict in masonic jurisprudence. An acknowledgment of the undenied doctrine that one made a mason in a regularly constituted lodge of such, is and remains a mason until deprived of the same by due process of masonic law, would be another factor in the peaceful maintenance of diverse rules upon the subject.

"An additional and potent reason for the fraternal treatment of cases arising out of a diversity of the law, would be a recognition by every Grand Lodge and its Grand Master of the fact that supremacy in legislation and practice, barring unchangeable principles and landmarks, is an established and fundamental principle of Grand Lodge sovereignty."

But there is another doctrine, utterly ignored by him, which in masonic law takes precedence of the principle which he supports. We all belong to one great Fraternity. Every Grand Lodge is an instrument of that Frater-

nity, and acts for it. The Grand Lodge, therefore, is absolutely bound by the fundamental laws of the Fraternity. One of those laws is that each Grand Lodge, within its jurisdiction, fixes the *status* of those who become subject to its governmental jurisdiction, and that *status* they carry with them wherever they go, until it is changed according to the law of that Grand Lodge. The interference by any other Grand Lodge to change that *status* is a violation of the fundamental law of the Fraternity, and is, therefore, in spite of "Grand Lodge Sovereignty" utterly void. It follows, therefore, that the proposition that "one made a mason in a regularly constituted lodge of such, is, and remains, a mason until deprived of the same by due process of law," is not a correct statement of the law. One important word is left out of the proposition as stated by Bro. BLATT: let him insert "lawfully" between "one" and "made," so that the proposition shall read, "One *lawfully* made," &c., and it is exactly correct. To be sure, the corrected proposition completely overthrows his argument, but even that consideration is not a reason for changing a correct statement of the law. If our "soft-shelled" brethren will recognize the law of the Fraternity, there would be no necessity for appealing for "comity"! The recognition of this principle allows every Grand Lodge to adopt whatever law it pleases in relation to its own rejected candidates, without in the least interfering with the rights of other Grand Lodges, or causing the least friction.

We believe that the law of his own Grand Lodge, in putting a rejected candidate coming from another jurisdiction upon the same plane as any other profane, is not only dangerous, but nearly approaching an insult to the rejecting lodge, and an actual lowering of the standard of character necessary for admission, especially in the eyes of those who may become candidates and in the estimation of the public.

Bro. BLATT is against dispensations, and is quite disposed to growl (in a fraternal way) against the exercise of this power by Grand Masters, who have admittedly the right to exercise it. We have closely observed his deliverances upon this subject, and it seems to us that his opinion is based upon mere sentiment, rather than upon any mischief which the exercise of this power has caused.

He somewhat discusses an Alabama decision which we think has been misunderstood. A brother was charged with a violation of his obligation, and the proof was that while he had violated the moral law, and, therefore, the masonic law, he had not committed the offence technically charged: and the question was, whether he was properly convicted. In the strictness of the *civil* law, he was not; but as the charge really included a violation of the moral law, we do not think that the technicality ought to prevent a conviction, even though an acquittal on this charge would be no bar to a charge

made on the broader ground. A special finding of the lodge upon the specification would have supported the charge.

In his review of Kansas, he well says:

"We believe that when a mason, in consequence of a crime committed, flees from justice, a lodge should have the power to do justice to Masonry by ridding itself, so far as lies in its power, of the stain upon its escutcheon. We do not believe the absence of the offender, and the inability of the lodge to make personal service to cut any figure in the premises."

In his review of Maine, he quotes from our discussion of the proposition that his objection to the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction, because *ninety per cent.* of the rejections "are for causes which should not influence a mason in balloting," is an argument against the secret ballot, and adds:

"While we cannot at this time reply further to the criticism, we believe that his inference as to the unanimity required in the secret ballot is jumping at a conclusion."

What? When a masonic law works gross injustice in nine times out of ten, is not that fact a conclusive reason for its repeal? We cannot believe that Bro. BLATT will answer this question in the negative.

We regard, as most lamentable and dangerous, the low estimate of the power to keep unfit men out of the fraternity, which, as this discussion has developed, prevails especially in those jurisdictions which maintain the doctrine advocated by Bro. BLATT.

TENNESSEE, 1897.

The portrait of the incoming Grand Master, ARCHIBALD N. SLOAN, is given as a frontispiece.

The Grand Master (PHILIP N. MATLOCK) says:

"My correspondence the past year has been extensive and general, all over the state. It has also been pleasant and courteous, and but little has occurred that demanded any assumption of power or necessity to exercise any unrequested authority. The many decisions made, so far as I am aware, have been acquiesced in without a murmur by the lodges to whom they were addressed, and have been obeyed. More in this respect I could not have asked, and the thought is as gratifying to my feelings as it was kind and respectful on the part of the fraternity. My greatest pleasure the past year has been in visiting lodges, sometimes kindly accompanied by some of the best workers of this jurisdiction. Not very many lodges, it is true, have I visited, but as many as my time and circumstances would permit. The tendency of the Masonic Fraternity in our state, I am pleased to affirm, has been to be more rigid in discipline and require masons to live more in accordance with masonic teaching. Masonry is elevating the moral and masonic standard of its members, and peace, good feeling and unity, except in a very few localities, prevail throughout this jurisdiction.

"Brethren, in the midst of all this progress and prosperity let us not forget that old Landmark of Masonry—a belief in the existence of God, the Great Architect of the Universe."

He had made a large number of decisions, one of which is new and important: having been asked "what is an answer to a summons?" (which we understand to mean what is a sufficient reason for not obeying a summons to attend one's lodge) he replied:

"Having carefully examined the Tennessee Text Book and Masonic Code, and Chase's Digest of Masonic Law, I find they throw no light on the question. The Grand Lodge, so far as I recall, has made no deliverance on this point. The excuse given by the brethren, that it was inconvenient for them to attend, is a very flexible one, and whether or not it is sufficient must necessarily depend upon the degree of inconvenience. If trifling, it would not be sufficient; if really great, it might be. It seems to me, therefore, that each case must be determined by the local lodge upon the fact and circumstances surrounding it. If the lodge is not satisfied with the sufficiency of the answer it might, upon proper proceeding, investigate the degree of inconvenience and determine for itself whether such inconvenience was sufficient to excuse a member. I therefore hold that a respectful response to a summons ought to be treated *prima facie* as an answer; its sufficiency to be determined by the lodge in each case."

In some jurisdictions, the practice is to make no answer for not attending unless specifically called upon to do so, by subsequent proceedings of the lodge. We think the practice indicated in the decision is the correct one.

He announced the death of Past Grand Master JOSEPH M. ANDERSON, in his eighty-first year, and a mason of over fifty-two years' service. A fine tribute was paid to his memory in the Grand Lodge.

Resolutions of regret were also adopted for the absence of Past Grand Master ARCHELAUS M. HUGHES for the first time in *forty-four* years.

The Widows' and Orphans' Home, which had cost \$40,000 and was free from debt, was offered to the Grand Lodge as a gift, and after full consideration by committees of the Grand Lodge, the gift was accepted and provision made for its maintenance by a *per capita* tax of fifty cents annually. The committee states the grounds upon which the action of the Grand Lodge is based:

"Inasmuch as the Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home is an Institution for the support of indigent widows and the maintenance and education of orphan children of deceased masons of Tennessee, without distinction of residence, and this Grand Lodge is the supreme authority of the Freemasons of the state, with powers generally to do all things right and proper for the promotion of the honor and dignity of the Order and the good of the Fraternity, chief among which is the proper care of the widows and orphans of our deceased brethren, who are worthy of our bounty, and inasmuch as justice dictates that the common burthen of responsibility belonging to us all should not be longer borne by the willing, generous few, whose enthusiasm and philanthropy have devised, established and hitherto conducted this noble charity, and whose locks are silvering with the frost that never melts, your committee is unanimously of opinion that it is just, right and best for the Grand Lodge of Tennessee to own and control the Widows and Orphans' Home."

Its history is thus stated by the Directors:

"On Saturday, December 10, 1892, the Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home of Tennessee was opened, with six inmates. The number was rapidly increased, so that when the Grand Lodge convened in 1893 there were fifteen inmates. The number of beneficiaries has been steadily increased until, at this date, there are ninety-seven widows and orphans of our deceased brethren of Tennessee beneath its sheltering roof; the strong right arm of the great Masonic Fraternity thrown around them to defend and protect, its warm heart beating with sympathy, and its liberal hand ready to provide for their maintenance, if a suitable, just and economical plan shall be devised for so doing.

"In point of number of inmates the Home of Tennessee is only exceeded by two others in the United States. In respect to the character of training and educational facilities given to the children it is not exceeded by any.

"There are now thirty-five applications on file for admission to the Home from parties in every way worthy and justly entitled to its benefits, but the present building is filled to overflowing.

"The time seems to have come when the two wings contemplated in the original plan of the building should be erected. This will fully if not more than double its capacity, and you will be able to provide for more than two hundred inmates.

"You are aware that the location is beautiful and attractive, convenient of access, elevated and healthy. The inmates are contented and happy, and feel that by your fraternal care they are indeed living in a home, and not in a hospital or poor house."

The Grand Master most excellently defines "Masonic Obedience":

"Masonry asks of its members obedience to certain defined principles and well-established lines of action that comport with honor, justice and humanity; but it requires no blind allegiance to itself, nor any performance of service contrary to the individual conscience, or in conflict with the duties and responsibilities of good citizenship.

"Nothing can be demanded of any member of the craft that is in violation of those fundamental obligations; indeed, his personal independence is recognized in many ways, and all along the line of his masonic advancement he is told that his primal duties consist in being faithful to himself, his country and his God.

"He finds laws and principles clearly laid down, definite courses of social and moral obligation marked out, and he promises an obedience thereto. He promises to obey the moral law, to be a loyal citizen and an honest, upright man and mason.

"Masonry demands obedience to its laws, edicts and regulations, and not only of its own, but also demands honest obedience to the laws of the state, and excludes no one from its benign influence, nor dictates to its votaries to what other orders or societies he may or may not belong.

"Masonry enforces obedience, but it is an obedience with a freer conscience—the obedience of a free man. Masonry stands for law and order, stands above all, for universal tolerance and universal charity."

The committee had succeeded in obtaining a portrait of Past Grand Master JENNINGS—the only one wanted to complete a full set. The recent loss of many portraits, by the burning of masonic halls, suggests whether the better way would not be to publish in the Proceedings and finally collect in a book, good and lasting portraits, so that in case of fire, duplicates would still be preserved.

We have thought that time might be saved and the business of the Grand

Lodge be more speedily and intelligently transacted if our Grand Master's address should be printed in advance and distributed immediately upon its delivery in the Grand Lodge. In Tennessee that plan has been tried, but, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accounts, been abandoned on account of the expense. It seems to us, however, that the type might be kept standing, and thus the additional expense be but slight.

The resolutions of our Grand Lodge in relation to rejected candidates were presented by the Grand Secretary and referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, whose report was adopted:

"*Resolved*, 1. That this Grand Lodge is in sympathy with the purpose and spirit of this movement, and will rejoice to see any probable cause of discord among Grand Lodges of the United States removed.

"2. That to this end this Grand Lodge would favorably consider a regulation requiring three years' probation of a candidate rejected in any other Grand Jurisdiction."

We are glad to perceive that the object of our Grand Lodge was understood and appreciated; and we have no doubt that if a change from five years to three years would secure the desired uniformity, our Grand Lodge would readily change its law in order to conform.

We learn that dropping from the roll for non-payment of dues is not now allowed in Tennessee.

A convocation of Past Masters was held, a large number of brethren were "duly installed and instructed in the duties pertaining to the office," and the proceedings certified to by the Grand Secretary, and published with those of the Grand Lodge. An examination of the report of the Committee on Credentials shows that all these brethren represented their lodges as Masters; we, therefore, conclude that they had previously been installed, and were really only "instructed" in this convocation, as was the correct course to take, as we hold.

The Report on Correspondence (87 pp.) was presented by Bro. GEORGE H. MORGAN—a compact abstract with brief comments.

He says:

"We would add, it gives us a grander idea of the universality of Masonry to learn, through the Report on Correspondence (and we can learn it nowhere else unless we have time to read it up in a masonic library)—a grander idea of the hold that our eternal principles have upon humanity, and a more clear insight into the wonderful influence that our Order exerts throughout the world."

The Grand Master of Delaware having ruled that a mason whose wife runs a saloon in her own name, and who, while he is her general agent, does not dispense intoxicating liquors, is not within the prohibition against saloon keepers. Bro. MORGAN thus comments:

"We hardly think this is sound. We have known men to carry on the liquor business, and do a great many 'mean things' in the names of their

wives. Bro. Cahall excuses his decision by the word 'technically.' We do not think technicalities ought to govern in such cases. The committee sustained the ruling of the Grand Master, but recommended that the regulation on the liquor business be repealed, holding 'that the moral qualifications of candidates for Masonry should be decided by the members of the subordinate lodges in each and every case.' The Grand Lodge non-concurred in the recommendation. The ruling of the Grand Master was approved. The law stands as it was, but the brother, if he got to be a brother, can still permit his wife to carry on the saloon business, and he can 'attend to her *general* business, as her agent, and not dispense intoxicating liquors.' As her agent he can hire a clerk, or let the good wife dispense the intoxicants herself.

"Brethren, we think your law on the subject of the liquor traffic an excellent one, and we offer the above as a friendly criticism, for it occurs to us that the case named is one of evading the law—is simply the old case of 'whipping the old boy around the stump.'"

We are glad to perceive an increasing indisposition to allow technicalities to defeat masonic justice, as too often happens in these days.

We have always held that it is not unmasonic for a mason to stand on his legal rights; but we have learned that legal rights (such is the imperfection of human laws) may sometimes be abused and made a shelter for dishonesty, which Masonry ought to punish, and the following case stated by our brother, if the whole case is stated, seems to be one of them:

"We do not propose at present to question the wisdom of our Jurisprudence Committee or of the Grand Lodge, nor of our distinguished brother of Illinois, but desire to give the case on which the Grand Master made the ruling under consideration, that the question may be fairly understood. A brother loaned two hundred dollars to another brother, taking his note therefor. Not needing the money, he did not collect it. The debtor was amply able to pay, but did not, except some of the interest. The creditor died. The note passed into the hands of his administrator. A mason's widow and three orphan children were now the beneficiaries. The creditor brother had gone to his long home. He left his God and his lodge to protect his widow and orphans. The debtor refused to pay the note. The administrator brought suit on it. The debtor plead the statute of limitations. The note was barred and the court so held. The Grand Master of Tennessee thought this a case of 'cheating, wronging and defrauding,' and so held. He thought the course of the debtor brother *plain, outright dishonesty*, and that, as '*masons can not afford to be dishonest*,' the recalcitrant brother ought to be *disciplined*. The question may be treated as closed for the present, though we are not sure but what the old saw comes in here:

"Convince a man against his will,
He's of the same opinion still."

"We reiterate, however, that no criticism of the Jurisprudence Committee or of the Grand Lodge is intended by the writer, but as this is deemed a vital question by many brethren, and as Bro. Robbins has seen proper to give it an extended notice, we thought it not inappropriate to discuss it in this connection. While we agree that 'Masonry is not a court of appeals from civil tribunals,' we always understood that Masonry is not an asylum for dishonesty and roguery."

The civil courts hold that a debt barred by the statute of limitations is still a debt, but that the creditor has lost his remedy by his negligence in failing to enforce it within a reasonable time. In this very case it may be

that the creditor did not enforce it because the debtor was a mason, and very likely the debtor understood that and relied on being able to cheat his creditor *for that very reason*. Surely, if that could have been proved, the debtor was guilty of a gross abuse of his masonic relations, for which he ought to have been punished.

TEXAS, 1896.

As usual in this immense territorial jurisdiction, the address of the Grand Master (B. R. ABERNETHY) is necessarily a long document, covering an immense amount of business, a very small part of which we can notice.

He announces (among others) the death of Bro. ROBERT BREWSTER, Past Junior Grand Warden, who served as recording officer of the Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery. His name was familiar to us all, and his reputation, official and personal, commanded for him universal respect and esteem.

The law in relation to physical qualifications is very strict in Texas, and the Grand Master was a good deal troubled by cases arising in relation to it. He besought the Grand Lodge to "settle this question so definitely that it will never arise to vex and harass again." But so far as we have seen as yet, the Grand Lodge concluded not to undertake it: the contract was probably too big. He quotes with approval Bro. MACKAY's idea that every mason represents a stone in the *spiritual* Temple, and, therefore, in order to be a mason he must be perfect *physically*: remembering that MACKAY also taught that it is the *internal*, and not the *external* qualifications of a man that should recommend him to be made a mason, we have always been surprised that he should write what the Grand Master quotes: it has always seemed to us symbolism run mad. The whole aim of Masonry is intellectual, moral and spiritual improvement: the old law of physical qualification had reference, in express terms, to ability to do masonic work, and the perfection required was that degree, and that alone, which enabled one to do the work of a mason, and as the physical work of masons has changed, the qualifications for it have changed with it, and the ability to do the masonic work of the present day is all that the law, sound sense or masonic usage, requires.

The Super-Excellent degree is not included in the Cryptic Rite in Texas. He was asked if there was any objection to its being conferred as "a side degree," in a masonic hall, and he replied:

"My information is that the Super-Excellent degree was formerly one of the Cryptic or Council degrees: that since about A. D. 1860, it has been practically abandoned in nearly all the states of the American Union; that recently it has been revived, and is conferred in nearly every Grand Jurisdiction, not as a Council degree, but as a sort of social wind-up of the 'American rite;' the exception being the two Virginias, Pennsylvania and

Texas. My answer was that there was nothing improper or clandestine in such action, provided none but Master Masons in good standing were allowed to participate, and provided that nothing was done, or permitted, contrary to the constitutions, resolutions or edicts of the Grand Lodge; and that the degree not being conferred or recognized by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, there was no conflict of jurisdiction."

He is not quite correct in his history: that degree was one of the council degrees very early in some of the states, and never has been abandoned; on the contrary, the conferring of it in councils has gradually increased and spread, till it is now conferred in nearly all the jurisdictions: in Pennsylvania, it has always been conferred as one of the regular council degrees.

He rendered a vast number of decisions, many of which he reports; and the committee well say:

"The decisions of the Most Worshipful Grand Master bear evidence of laborious and intelligent research, and the higher affection for the principles of Freemasonry, and except in the few points hereinafter indicated, meet with the hearty approval of this committee. Many intricate and interesting questions of masonic law have been examined into by the Grand Master, and the ability with which they have been disposed of will erect for him an imperishable monument."

Of the Super-Excellent degree question, they say:

"It is the opinion of the committee that the so-called degree of 'Super-Excellent Master' is a matter of which neither the Grand Master, this Grand Lodge or any subordinate lodge has any knowledge, or in which they are concerned, and any action recognizing the existence of any such degree should not meet with approval. Freemasonry cannot prescribe the qualifications of those who may desire to receive degrees foreign and unknown to it nor have any connection with them, not even by accepting funds emanating from them as a quasi appendage to any subordinate lodge."

This scarcely answers the question whether it may be conferred in a masonic hall; we presume that in Texas, chapters are allowed to meet in masonic halls; it is just as easy for the Grand Master to obtain a knowledge of the S. E. degree, as of the chapter degrees, and the manner is the same: it seems to us that the Grand Master was right.

But we agree with the committee in the following:

"We disagree with the decision that a candidate not permitted to take a degree on account of a physical disqualification not discovered until after the election, stands in the same attitude as a man prevented by a protest from taking a degree. It is his misfortune, and not any defect in his character or any action upon the part of a member that prevents him from being initiated, and it would be an injustice to report and publish him as an ordinary rejection. It should be reported that he was prevented from taking the degree by physical disqualification discovered after the election of the candidate. The facts as reported by the Grand Master show that there was no protest, but a discovery of physical disqualification was made by the Worshipful Master, and he simply declined to confer the degree because masonic law forbade it."

A mason was convicted of a crime and sent to prison for twelve years;

his lodge tried him for the same offence and acquitted him: there was no appeal, but the case was brought before the Grand Lodge by the Grand Master; the committee well say:

“The situation evolved by the action of the lodge is one of very grave importance to this Grand Lodge. The authorities of the state, through the machinery of the courts, has placed the brand of a felon upon a member of the Masonic Brotherhood, and the opprobrium that will certainly be entailed upon Freemasonry by placing the seal of approval upon one legally pronounced a criminal, will be felt by the whole institution, and the decision as to the masonic status of such an one is a question of too much importance to rest alone upon the decision of a lodge of the vicinage of the crime, whose action may be influenced by the attending circumstances, if not local bias or prejudice. Every such case should be appealed to this Grand Lodge for a full investigation on the facts certified in the record.”

The Grand Lodge ordered a transcript of all the proceedings sent up, with the view of a proper investigation by it, and adopted a rule for such cases in the future:

“That whenever a brother has been tried and convicted in the courts of the country of a felony, and he is subsequently tried by a lodge and acquitted, it shall be the duty of the Junior Warden to appeal the case to the Grand Lodge for revision.”

It was decided that a District Deputy Grand Master cannot appear in any lodge as proxy for or counsel for or against a brother charged with a masonic offence.

The following in relation to the work was approved:

“It is not proper in order to expedite business, where there are a number of candidates ready to take the Master Mason's degree, to separately confer a portion of the degree on each candidate at one meeting, leaving the degree only partly conferred, close the lodge, and at a subsequent meeting confer the balance of the degree on any one or more of the candidates. The candidates should be taken one at a time, through all the sections of a degree without interruption, except that the explanatory portion of the degree may be given to more than one at the same time. In no event should the lodge be closed or called off, leaving a candidate partly initiated into any degree; as this would be an innovation on the long established custom.”

A brother accused of murder was elected Master of a lodge, and he stood indicted therefor in the civil courts: objection was made to his installation: the Grand Master directed an investigation, the result of which was that it was decided that he acted in self defence: his lodge refused to file charges against him, and the Grand Master in effect gave permission for his installation unless charges should be preferred: we give the rest in the words of the Grand Master:

“Later, however, and after mature deliberation, I wrote to Bro. Pardue a personal letter, in which it was stated, that although there was no legal reason known to me why he should not be installed, yet in my opinion, in no instance should a mason be elevated to the highest position in his lodge while resting under the imputation of so grave a crime as he then was; that while from the information received it seemed that he had not only not

violated any law, but had acted nobly and chivalrously in defending himself and those dear to him; yet, looking alone to the good of the craft at large, which should be dearer to every true mason than the preferment of himself or any individual mason, it would be better that he should refuse to be installed until after the disposition of the indictments pending against him. His answer was most kind and courteous, and showed him to be strongly imbued with the true masonic spirit. It stated that, acting under the advice of well-informed brethren, he had already been installed; that he very much regretted not having received my letter before installation, and that he was ready to do my bidding in all respects. As he had been regularly installed, nothing further could be done, and he was so informed. The reason why this matter is here reported, is, that proper emphasis be given to the idea that no mason should ever be elected to or installed in any important office in his lodge while resting under the accusation of a grave crime, no matter how much he may be respected and loved by his brethren, nor how strongly they believe in his innocence. It is the highest type of Masonry to extend love and charity to a stricken brother, and to defend and vindicate his good name when improperly traduced; but Masonry should neither directly nor indirectly interfere with the administration of the law of the land nor attempt to forestall the action of the courts. The election of a mason to office by his lodge, while under indictment, is in effect a declaration that the brethren have passed upon the accusation and have found him innocent; and while thus vindicating the brother, the craft at large may be implicated and its usefulness impaired. It is right to add, however, that recently the brother had been tried and acquitted on both charges."

The position of the Grand Master in this last communication is undoubtedly correct, and the course indicated should always be followed in such cases.

An unusual case gave rise to the application of now well settled principles of masonic law:

"Since the last communication of this Grand Lodge the Supreme Court of the United States has decided that Greer County is not a portion of the State of Texas, but that it is unoccupied territory of United States; and that county is now attached to, and has become a part of, the Territory of Oklahoma. As is well known, there are two lodges in existence in Greer County, working under charters from this Grand Lodge."

"So far as I have been able to ascertain the matter here presented is one entirely new to masonic jurisprudence; and while it is not my desire to attempt to bind the Grand Lodge in regard thereto by my individual opinion, yet it seems not improper for me to say that the only course open for the Grand Lodge, which has suggested itself to my mind, is to relinquish all claim to those lodges and to the territory embraced in Greer County. So long as Greer County was in dispute, or its territory not occupied by any other masonic body, it was entirely right and within the scope of its authority, for this Grand Lodge to occupy it and exercise masonic jurisdiction therein. But Greer County having been by the court of last resort declared to be no part of the state of Texas; having been attached to and become a part of the Territory of Oklahoma, and there being a regular Grand Lodge in Oklahoma, it seem to me that masons in Greer County now owe allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, and no longer to this Grand Lodge."

The Grand Lodge adopted the following report and resolutions:

"That Greer County, until recently, formed a part of the State of Texas and said lodges were rightfully and duly chartered by this Grand Lodge.

Now, however, by a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, said county has been held to be no part of the state of Texas, and by act of Congress the same has been attached to, and made part of, the Territory of Oklahoma, and all civil and political relations with this state have been abrogated and have ceased.

"It is manifest, therefore, that following the American rule and masonic custom that these lodges should of right be transferred to the Grand Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory, and the adoption of the following resolution is recommended, to wit:

"*Resolved*, 1. That Greer County having become a part of the geographical and political subdivision of our country known as Oklahoma Territory, the Grand Lodge of Texas hereby waives and yields jurisdiction over the said Mangum Lodge, No. 685, and Altus Lodge, No. 711, located in said county, to the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, to take effect and be in force from the first day of the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma.

"*Resolved*, 2. That said lodges shall continue to work under their present charters with all the rights and powers granted by said charters from this Grand Lodge until the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma and until said Grand Lodge shall assume jurisdiction and issue new charters to said lodges, then the charters under which said lodges are now working shall be surrendered to this Grand Lodge and the authority conferred thereby shall cease."

As the lodges were lawfully chartered, we think that their old charters should have been retained by them and properly endorsed by the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma. What will the lodge have to show in order to prove the regularity of its previous work? But we are greatly pleased by the prompt decision of the Grand Lodge of Texas, because in all cases in which the same question has arisen heretofore, the Grand Lodge situated as that of Texas was, has at first taken the opposite course and continued to claim jurisdiction, though ultimately in every case has yielded, and yet we believe that in one of the cases the losing party still continues to "cuss the court."

In spite of the space which we are devoting to the Grand Master's address, and the matters contained in it, we deem the following worthy of the attention of the brethren of Maine:

"During the summer a 'contest' was had in one of the daily newspapers of the state as to who was the most popular minister; the one receiving the most votes to be given a paid-up policy in a life insurance company. My attention being called to the fact that one of the candidates was being advertised as the 'Masonic Candidate,' 'Candidate of the A. F. & A. M.,' etc., on July 13th I wrote a letter to the paper, requesting its publication in the 'contest' column, in which letter it was stated that while it was not my desire to influence any person to vote, or not to vote for any candidate in the contest, my duty required me to deny to any person the right to be the candidate of Masonry in any contest whatever; that it was unmasonic to make use of the word 'Masonry' or of any masonic word, device or insignia for the purpose of advancing the business or secular interest of any individual mason. All masons in this Grand Jurisdiction were warned not to make further use of anything masonic in connection with the contest. (The letter was printed as requested, and no further allusion to things masonic was made in the contest.) It is but just to the brother thus advertised, to state that he was not to blame for the unwarranted use of Masonry in connection

with his name, and that he wrote to the publishers, asking them to notify all persons of the impropriety thereof."

A long report in relation to the location of the proposed Widows' and Orphans' Home was made, but after discussion, the following resolution was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That the report and resolutions of the Board of Directors locating the Widows' and Orphans' Home be postponed until the next Grand Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge, and that said Board be directed to continue to invite bids for such location, and submit report thereon with such recommendations as they may think proper to make, at said next annual communication."

The expected report was made the special order for ten o'clock on the third day of the next session.

We have often found that the maxim "Hard cases are the quicksands of the law" applies also in Masonry. But while the Grand Lodge had before it an inexpressibly hard case, it did not allow its sympathies to be the quicksands of its duty. After stating the case, which called for sympathy, as few cases do, the committee proceed:

"While thus expressing these sentiments, we deem it proper to state that, so far as we are informed, no similar question has ever been before this, or any other, Grand Lodge, and we are entirely without a precedent to guide us. We do not believe that this Grand Lodge or the subordinate lodges of Texas, as masons, have any jurisdiction of such matters, and any action that we might take as a Grand Lodge would be improper and hurtful to Masonry. If a mason is convicted in Texas and sentenced to the state penitentiary under the forms of law, would the Grand or subordinate lodges of Texas officially petition the Governor of Texas for his pardon under any circumstances? Certainly not. Would masons, as such, do so? Again we answer, no. A mason would sign such a petition, if at all, in his individual capacity, and not then as a mason, but as a citizen. Masonry in its ancient landmarks enjoins us to be good citizens and to obey the civil magistrate, which means that we should support the legally constituted civil and political authorities of the state in the execution of the laws enacted for the government of all the citizens—whether masons or not—and for the protection of life, liberty and property. A mason guilty of crime is amenable to the general law and should be punished the same as others. There never was a greater slander of Masonry than the assertion, often made by non-masons, that if a mason commits a crime his masonic brethren will shield him and secure his exemption from punishment.

"We believe that it does not comport with the dignity of the Grand Lodge of Texas to petition the civil authorities of this or any other state or country for the pardon of a mason convicted and imprisoned under the forms of law, and for that reason we recommend that no further action be had by the Grand Lodge in this matter."

We have often known similar action to be invoked, and yet while masons may act *because they are masons*, they must not act in the name of Masonry.

The Report on Correspondence (136 pp.) was presented by Bro. THOMAS M. MATTHEWS.

In his review of Maine, he says:

"We must confess we are surprised, and sorry, too, to see that Bro. Drummond condones, if he does not endorse, the use of 'cipher rituals.' We cannot understand it, unless the O. B. which he has taken, and that which we took, are different. If a man swears he will not do a thing, and then straightway goes and does it, by what name can it be called if not perjury? Again, having voluntarily and without reservation taken such an obligation, we do not believe that any person, or set of persons, can absolve him therefrom. Such is the standpoint from which we view it, and we confess we can see it in no other way. Certain it is, that if we were to make a cipher ritual ourself, or permit another to do it, if in our power to prevent it, we would feel that we had *perjured* ourself. Grand Lodges did not, if we are correctly informed, make the O. B's. The latter existed, or were in use, long before the former were thought of, and how, therefore, could they absolve the individual who voluntarily assumes the O. B.'s?"

"When this question is to us satisfactorily answered, perhaps then, *but not till then*, can we believe that cipher rituals are 'all right,' and that it is no violation of the O. B. to make and use them. We have, with much interest, pleasure and profit, read this masterful paper of our brother, and among his many good ones this is, we believe, the best one we have seen."

If his memory is good, there *must be* a difference; what that difference is, he will know by this time if he has looked through this report.

He says further:

"Our good brother chides us just a little for what we have so often said about the granting dispensations by Grand Masters to confer degrees out of time, thus overriding, or setting aside, as we have seen fit to term it, the organic law, saying that in so doing 'they do not override the law, but that they exercise a power given by a masonic law, to except cases from another law.' All we have to say is to submit, that if the constitution says that a petition shall lie over one month before a ballot is taken on it by the lodge, or that after the conferring a degree one month shall elapse before another is conferred, and the Grand Master gives permission to do away with, or confer the degree in less than the required time, what is it but setting aside, or, as we called it, 'overriding' the law? Grant that the same constitution, or, more frequently, an edict, in certain cases, or under certain conditions, gives to the Grand Master the right to waive the time. It certainly intends that it shall be done only in rare and extraordinary cases, and it was surely not intended that it should be done upon any excuse, however frivolous, as is far too often the case. But enough now. We have already said more than it was at first our intention to say."

Lodges formerly had the power to decide for themselves when sufficient inquiry into the character of a candidate had been made, and to determine when a candidate had made proficiency for advancement. But it was found that abuses grew up in some lodges, and a law was enacted, necessarily applicable to all lodges, making a time limit; but recognizing the absurdity of assuming that the same length of time is necessary in all cases, the power of the Grand Master to grant relief in cases in which good reasons for doing so existed, was recognized or expressly granted. While in most jurisdictions, there is now no time limit between the degrees, the tendency to make one is on the increase; just as if it takes every man just so long to become proficient. Now we want to say to Bro. MATTHEWS that these time limits have not been wholly productive of good. *They encourage carelessness, carelessness in investigating*

the fitness of applicants and the degree of proficiency acquired. We have been forced to think that Grand Masters are more on the alert to discover whether the time limit law has been fully obeyed than they are to learn if the necessary due inquiry into character or proficiency has been made. We speak whereof we know, when we state that there is a disposition in lodges to assume that if the time-limit is observed, nothing or scarcely anything further is necessary. The duties of Committees of Investigation are more carelessly performed than in the olden time. On the contrary, when a dispensation is asked for, the most thorough investigation necessary is made before the request. We have often challenged "all comers" to name a single case in which a dispensation-made mason has proved unfit, and our glove still lies where we threw it. Will Bro. MATTHEWS pick it up?

We had noted other parts of this report for extract and concurring comment, but time calls a halt.

UTAH, 1897.

It had been the intention to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization of this Grand Lodge last autumn. The arrangements were to be made and the expense largely borne by the masons of Salt Lake City, but they had just erected and furnished a masonic temple, and it would have been impossible for them to provide the means for a proper celebration without incurring a debt that would be deemed unwise to incur, and to their credit, they used their means for furnishing their new temple.

But while the masons of Utah lost the celebration, the Grand Lodge has given to them and to the fraternity an exceedingly good substitute. These Proceedings contain portraits and cuts of masonic halls, etc., which in themselves are quite a history of the craft in Utah.

The portraits of all the Past Grand Masters, of the present Grand Master and of the Grand Secretary are given in these Proceedings. We note that with two exceptions no Grand Master served more than one year; "one served two years, but not consecutively, and another served three years consecutively"; so that they have had twenty-two Past Grand Masters. Of these, sixteen are still living, so that this young Grand Lodge, of only twenty-five years of age, has more Past Grand Masters than our own Grand Lodge, more than three times as old. Cuts are given of the hall in which the first two lodges were organized; of the first hall in Salt Lake City, which was in use five years; of the second hall in the same city, which was in use a little less than five years; of the third hall, which was in use twenty years, and of the fourth hall, which was dedicated in 1896. We have been familiar with this Grand Lodge since its organization, and we could not help noticing the history of its growth and prosperity as shown in the changes from one hall to another

at Salt Lake City. The one just dedicated compares with the first very much as the Grand Lodge now corresponds with the Grand Lodge at the time of its organization. We would be very glad if we could, in Portland, match the masonic temple just erected in Salt Lake City.

Cuts of some of the rooms, and especially the Grand Secretary's office, *with the Grand Secretary in it*, are given in these Proceedings, which show that its interior arrangement corresponds with its outward appearance. Cuts are given also of various halls in other locations in the state, and as we have already said, we can almost trace the history and growth by these cuts alone.

Photographs of two of the lodge charters are given, one issued by the Grand Lodge of Kansas and the other by the Grand Lodge of Colorado. The charter of the third lodge, or rather we should say of the first lodge, has been lost, and it suggests how much better it would have been if the rule which we believe is the correct one had been followed: that is to say, that if, instead of surrendering the charter to the mother Grand Lodge and issuing a new one to the lodge in its place, the lodge had retained its old charter with the action of the Grand Lodge endorsed upon it. We have no doubt, as the Grand Secretary says, that its loss is very greatly regretted. We presume, however, that the charter issued in place of it is so worded as to give lawful evidence of the existence of the lodge from the time when it was really first organized.

A brief account of the dedication of the new masonic hall is given, and it was evidently an occasion of great interest, not only to the masons of the city but to those of the whole jurisdiction.

At the annual communication the Grand Master (WILLIAM THOMAS DALBY) thus speaks of the condition of the craft:

"The growth of our institution is, as would naturally be expected, dependent to a large degree if not entirely, upon the growth and progressive condition of the country. They both prosper together as well as feel alike the depression of hard times. The stagnation of business that has been sorely felt throughout every section of our country has also been felt by business concerns of all classes in the young State of Utah. In spite of these hard times and general depression, however, the records show an increase of twenty-five in membership over that of last year. Quite a number of 'drones in the hive' have been weeded out, leaving a zealous residue in a prosperous condition, and among whom the greatest of peace and harmony prevails. Other matters relative to the lodges, as to their financial condition and work, will be given to you in the report of the Grand Secretary."

He presented to the Grand Lodge, as our representative, the resolutions in relation to rejected candidates, and he adds:

"I am of the opinion that more uniformity in legislation in this matter would be productive of much good, and that portion of this resolution which requires a rejected candidate to re-apply to the lodge which rejected him, and to no other lodge except that he have the consent of the lodge so rejecting him, is good masonic law, and such is in vogue in our jurisdiction. I think, however, that the limit of five years placed upon such rejection is

possibly longer than there is any real necessity for. A rejected candidate in this Grand Jurisdiction can apply to the lodge rejecting him six months after his rejection, and can continue to do so each six months thereafter; but he cannot apply to any other lodge in the jurisdiction unless he have the consent of the lodge so rejecting him.

"I have always believed that if there were more uniformity in the legislation of the various Grand Lodges, much good would be accomplished, and I will recommend that this resolution from the Grand Lodge of Maine, be referred to proper committee for consideration."

When we read this we were hoping that the Committee on Jurisprudence would take time to examine the matter carefully, and we had little doubt but that, if they did so, their views would harmonize with those of the Grand Master, but we are disappointed. The committee reported, and the Grand Lodge adopted the following:

"Your committee begs leave to report on that portion of the Grand Master's address referring to the communication received by him as representative of the Grand Lodge of Maine; that we see no reason for deviating from the established rule made by this Grand Lodge that one year's residence within this jurisdiction entitles a profane to petition for the degrees; and the further protection that he shall state in his petition whether or no he has been rejected within six months, affords ample safeguard against unworthy applicants."

We regret that the committee did not apprehend the purpose of the communication, but we more deeply regret, and are pained to find, how low an idea of the fitness of a man to be made a mason must prevail in that jurisdiction. If he has not been rejected within six months, that time is sufficient to determine whether a stranger is a fit man to be made a mason. This overwhelms the consideration that the Grand Lodge of Utah does not feel called upon to do anything to prevent the discord which has already arisen between other Grand Lodges, and which is very likely to arise in that jurisdiction if she should undertake to follow the "special rule" made by that Grand Lodge, and confer the degrees on candidates rejected in other jurisdictions. But we repeat, this is of very little consequence as compared with the low estimate which evidently is required of candidates in that jurisdiction.

The Wisconsin proposition was also received and acted upon. The same course was taken and the same reasons given as have been taken and given in the other jurisdictions.

The Grand Master pays a deserved tribute to Grand Secretary "CHRIS. DIEHL." We have never met him, but the face which looks out upon us from this book seems like one familiar to us for years.

Some movement has been on foot in relation to the library, which has not been apparently successful. It was impossible for the Grand Lodge to care for a general library, although composed, to quite an extent, of masonic works, and it turned over to an Association ten thousand volumes or more, but for want of funds the work could not be carried on in accordance

with previous expectations. There appears to be a movement to turn it over to the city, and if the city will undertake to maintain it we think the movement a wise one, even if the Grand Lodge gives to the city all that it has expended for the library. We think, however, that the masonic library proper was not turned over to the Association, but has been retained by the Grand Lodge, which now seems to have somewhere near fourteen hundred bound volumes. If we are correct, we are glad that this is so, because a Grand Lodge can find room for and support and maintain a strictly masonic library, when it would be exceedingly unwise to maintain and care for a general library.

A revised Constitution and Code of By-Laws were adopted, but they are not given in these Proceedings.

The signet ring presented to the Grand Lodge for the Grand Master, by Bro. ALBION B. EMERY, now deceased, was presented to the incoming Grand Master with an address of much beauty, to which he responded in a similar strain. As Bro. EMERY was a native of Maine, we have looked at his portrait with much interest, and it seems to us to bespeak the high character of the man. Of course, the knowledge that he was from Maine is quite likely to affect the manner in which we see him. But his face seems to us familiar, and we cannot help believing that we see in it the resemblance to families here in Maine.

The Report on Correspondence (82 pp.) was presented by Bro. CHRISTOPHER DIEHL. It is signed by a *fac simile* of his autograph, but it does not look natural. To us he is always "CHRIS. DIEHL," although, perhaps, his whitening locks should require us to be less familiar. However, as we think we are the older, we doubt if we change our habit!

But we are surprised at one thing. We never thought that he would call Freemasonry by *hard names*, but he says "Freemasonry is a Fraternity, an Institution, *ein Menschheitsbund*." The first part of this quotation is all right, but if the last part of it is not a *hard name*, what can be? And he prints it in italics too!

His report is briefer than usual, but he condenses very much into a very brief space. He says:

"Ancient Landmarks or no Ancient Landmarks, we do not believe that a liquor dealer is the right kind of timber for a masonic edifice."

In his review of Wyoming he says:

"In Wyoming a Past Master may open and transact business of a lodge in the absence of the Master and the Wardens. A resolution to repeal the law was negatived by a vote of twenty-four to nine. In Utah a lodge cannot be opened without the presence of the Master or one of the Wardens, but we have read in some law book that in 'ye olden times' the Wyoming statute was the law. We cannot now lay our hand on the book, hence cannot quote, wish we could."

Look in the second edition of Anderson's Constitutions, published in 1738, Bro. DIENL, and you will find it.

VERMONT, 1896.

The frontispiece is a capital portrait of Past Grand Master LAYANT M. READ, and following it is a sketch of him by Bro. HALL.

Four special communications were held to dedicate masonic halls. On three of the occasions the exercises were public.

The Grand Master (KITTREDDGE HASKINS) refers to many matters of local interest, and of the condition of the craft says:

"I am pleased to report that this Grand Jurisdiction is at peace with the whole world. Nothing has occurred to disturb that harmony and brotherly affection which has heretofore existed between us and other Grand Jurisdictions, and which is essential to the well being of our beloved Order. At home, nothing has occurred to mar the beauty and symmetry of the masonic edifice which has been erected in the hearts of all true and loyal brethren. I am not aware that any brother has a grievance to be submitted for your consideration at this session. This is evidence of the excellent discipline which prevails, and of the high standard to which Masonry has attained in this jurisdiction. The returns made by the subordinate bodies show an increase in membership that is encouraging. And, upon the whole, I have reason to believe that the work of conferring the degrees was never better or more impressively rendered than now; and that there is existing among the brethren an honest rivalry as to 'who best can work and best agree.' It behooves us all to strive to ever keep it so."

He made quite a number of decisions, among which was one which recalls action similar to that once taken in a lodge in this state:

"That while it is highly improper for a candidate, at any stage, to be electioneered into the Order by advocacy and speech-making, still I hold that previous to the ballot being passed it is proper for any brother to rise and explain who the candidate is that they are about to ballot for, and what his qualifications, especially where there is danger that his name may be confounded with that of another person living within the jurisdiction of the lodge."

In the case in Maine referred to, however, nothing was said of the *qualifications*, but only the *identity* of the candidate was pointed out, and while he had previously been twice rejected he was accepted after this explanation had been made. No doubt the previous rejections were caused by the mistake of identity.

He refers to the District Deputies' meetings in terms of high commendation. He urges every officer to read the address of the Grand Lecturer, delivered on the occasion and published with these Proceedings; and we wish every District Deputy in Maine could do the same thing.

The Grand Master, in this connection, expresses sentiments which perhaps will have a familiar sound in our Grand Lodge:

"To this end, I earnestly appeal to the representatives of the subordinate lodges, here present, that in submitting to the Grand Lodge nominations for District Deputies of their masonic districts, respectively, it be, only, of such brethren as are at this time thoroughly qualified, and love the work. The 'step ladder' process which some subordinate lodges practice in choosing their officers from year to year, is not always for the best interest of the lodge, or of the Institution of Masonry. A brother, no matter how clever or popular he may be with the members of his lodge, unless he is an earnest mason, constant in his attendance upon the meetings, can see a reason for, and beauty in every form and gradation, he has no right to expect promotion to office; and the brethren who confer such honors upon him are to a great extent responsible that the work of their lodge is no better done. So in making nominations of your District Deputies, neither age, wealth, location nor popularity alone, should recommend any brother to the position. He stands as the representative of the Grand Master, and if possible, he should be qualified for one. Neither should any iron-clad rule of rotation disqualify a brother, unless you can fill the office with another equally as good. During the past winter I have had opportunity to see and to know how absolutely essential it is, to the well being of Masonry, that our District Deputies be selected by reason of their eminent fitness and qualifications for the duties of the office. To adopt any other course will, of necessity, lower the standard of Masonry in the district that does it."

In respect to one question he says, and we fully agree with him:

"I have received a number of applications, during the year, requesting me to secure a waiver of jurisdiction over candidates coming here to reside from other states, and before they had been residents of this state twelve months. In every case I have received the reply, in effect, that the candidate not being a resident of their state they had nothing to waive, which, to my mind, was an unanswerable position. In one or two cases, however, by making a personal appeal to the Grand Master to have the request granted in order to meet the requirement of our Standing Resolution of 1887, I have succeeded in obtaining the waiver. In one case, a lodge in a sister jurisdiction voted as follows: 'While we do not claim jurisdiction of a candidate, yet if we have any it is hereby waived.'"

The Grand Lodge has undertaken to build a new masonic temple at Burlington, and a cut of the proposed temple is given in the Proceedings. The brethren are making haste slowly, and we think their course is a wise one, but they have taken hold of it in deep earnest and we have no doubt of a successful outcome.

The Grand Lecturer's report shows that he has been a faithful, diligent and successful officer and fully merits the tribute paid to his work by the Grand Master.

We have run rapidly through the reports of the District Deputies and find that the lodges are generally in a very prosperous condition, and are apparently doing excellent work and exhibiting a due degree of care that the material shall be fit for Masonry.

The Report on Correspondence (165 pp.) was presented by Bro. MARSH O. PERKINS, who continues to give that full abstract of important action and instructive sayings which we have been accustomed to find in his report, and which requires the expenditure of much time and labor. If, however,

he would sandwich in more of his comments the reviewers would like his report better.

We find enough to let us know that he is against perpetual jurisdiction, but we cannot tell what his views are upon the other question of practically more importance, what the effect of a rejection during the time-limit is.

He quotes very fully from the Proceedings of our Grand Lodge, 1895, saying that he would like to quote the whole of Grand Master BURBANK's conclusion, but says he must be content with the part relating to profanity, "which ought to sink deep in the heart of every offending brother."

He devotes some space to our "Diamond Anniversary" exercises, and from his statements Vermont stands with Maine in relation to most of the matters then discussed.

He refers to our criticism of a decision of his Grand Master in relation to the powers of a Past Master presiding in a lodge on the invitation of the Warden. Upon reviewing our remarks, we find that we inadvertently went farther than we intended. We still hold that the occupant of the chair has all the powers of the Master in governing the lodge *while he is in the chair*, but we are of opinion that the Warden can resume the chair when he pleases; and this applies only to cases in which Past Masters have the right to preside in the absence of the Master. In this report we have already referred to one or more decisions holding the same view as we do.

In his conclusion, he says:

"Attention is again called to Mexican Masonry, which has been freely discussed during the past few years, and we query, whether Vermont may not join with Texas, New York, North Dakota and Kansas in extending fraternal recognition to the Gran Dieta. We earnestly commend this subject to the careful study and consideration of our brethren, that they may be prepared to act intelligently in the matter, whenever action may be demanded."

We do not find, however, that he refers to this subject elsewhere in the Proceedings, and we suppose that the brethren must depend somewhat upon him to furnish them the means of "careful study and consideration." We were hoping to find in his report an examination of the case and a statement of the conclusions to which he had arrived.

VIRGINIA, 1896.

The portrait of Rev. Dr. GEORGE W. DAME, Grand Chaplain, who had died during the year, is given as a frontispiece. Bro. DAME was born in Rochester, New Hampshire, July 27, 1812. He was educated in Virginia by his uncle, and commenced the study of medicine: but having been elected an Instructor in a College, he became a teacher. He was elected Principal

of Danville Female Seminary in 1840, and at the same time entered the ministry, thus beginning his long career of usefulness.

He was made a mason in 1823, the year in which he attained his majority: in 1840, he became a member of Roman Eagle Lodge in Danville: of this lodge he was Master *twenty-eight* years, and maintained an active interest till his death,

He was appointed Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge in 1863, was elected Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery in 1864, and was Grand Chaplain of the Grand Chapter in 1870, and served continuously in these offices till his death—a length of service not paralleled in either, as we understand, in the history of the Fraternity.

He was elected Grand High Priest in 1865, and served two years. The writer was serving in the same office in Maine a part of the same time, and he well remembers the thrill of joy with which he received the photograph of Bro. DAME, with a most fraternal message that in *those* days had a significance that can hardly be appreciated in *these*. We treasure that photograph among our most precious possessions.

The Grand Lodge held a special communication to lay the corner stone of the Jefferson Davis Monument in Richmond.

As some questions have arisen in relation to these ceremonies, and as this Grand Lodge is one of the oldest and most conservative in the world, we note its method of proceeding in certain particulars.

The Grand Lodge "was opened in ample form": the purpose of the meeting was announced by the M. W. Grand Master: visiting Past Grand Masters of South Carolina, West Virginia, Louisiana and Tennessee and the Grand Secretary of Mississippi were introduced, saluted and delivered eloquent and fraternal addresses, to which appropriate, earnest and feeling responses were made by Bros. WELLFORD and WITHERS.

"The Grand Lodge was formed in the following order of procession," under the direction of the Grand Marshal. We do not copy the order of procession: it was in the usual order. The Square, Level and Plumb and the Golden Vessels were carried by the four visiting Past Grand Masters: the Orders, the Great Lights (with attending Large Lights) and the Book of Constitutions were carried by brethren selected for the purpose. The procession was escorted by a Commandery of Knights Templar.

After music and the "Grand Lodge called up," prayer was offered. The Grand Master then said (*italics ours*):

"Bro. Grand Senior Warden, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia, having been invited to lay the corner stone of the monument here to be erected by the Jefferson Davis Monument Association, it is my order that the Grand Lodge do now proceed to the performance of that important ceremony. This, my will and pleasure, you will communicate to the Grand

Junior Warden, and he to the assembled brethren, that all may have due notice thereof."

This was reported by the Grand Wardens and the "Grand Lodge seated." The ceremonies then proceeded as usual: the following description of placing the stone is given:

"The Grand Master with the *Trowel* standing at the East, with the Deputy Grand Master with the *Square* on his right, the Grand Senior Warden with the *Level* at the West, and the Grand Junior Warden with the *Plumb* at the South side of the stone. The Grand Master spreads the cement, after which he directs the Grand Marshal to order the craftsmen to lower the cap-stone. This is done with three motions: First. Lowering the stone a few inches, and stopping while the Grand Honors are given. Second. Lowering again a few inches and repeating the Grand Honors. Third. Lowering to its place and repeating the Grand Honors. The *Square*, *Level* and *Plumb* are then applied to the stone by their respective bearers, and all return to their stations."

At the conclusion of the ceremonies, the Grand Lodge, under the escort of the commandery, returned to the hall, transacted some business and closed.

Additional importance must be attached to this, because the ceremonies were participated in by the representatives of five other Grand Lodges. We think that the carping against this method should now cease.

In his address at the annual communication, the Grand Master (JONAS P. FITZGERALD) says:

"Comparatively few applications for special dispensations have been made, and those received were similar in their character to those acted on and reported last year. Brethren have learned that it is better to follow the letter of the law than that the Grand Master should suspend its operation to gratify their wishes in some particular case, and have abstained from making such request. There have been instances, however, when seeing there could result no injury to the craft, I have allowed procedure otherwise than that prescribed by law. I have not considered that such special dispensations as I have granted belonged to the class which must be authenticated by the seal of the Grand Lodge, and consequently no revenue was derived therefrom."

* * * * *

"I am fully persuaded that our laws which place a member of a lodge, who has been suspended for the non-payment of monthly dues, upon the same footing with one who has been suspended or expelled after trial for a masonic offence, in that they provide the same procedure for each in order to be re-instated and restored, should be so amended as to provide that one who has been suspended for non-payment of monthly dues, shall upon their payment be *ipso facto* re-instated into the rights and benefits of Masonry and restored to membership in the lodge which suspended him and others of which he may have been a member at the time of his suspension, unless at the time of such restoration objection be made and charges preferred for some offence committed during the time of his suspension. I am fully aware that much can be said both for and against this suggestion, but I believe it would be to the best interest of Masonry to adopt it."

He presented the action of our Grand Lodge in relation to rejected candidates, saying:

"The Grand Lodge of Maine is without a representative near this Grand Lodge, and therefore I thus bring the resolutions before you. The very decided position taken by us at the last Grand Communication upon the subject of perpetual jurisdiction seems to render unnecessary any further action, except to acknowledge the receipt of the communication."

The committee, whose report was adopted, say:

"In regard to the communication from the Grand Lodge of Maine, asking our cooperation in securing uniform legislation in relation to the status of rejected candidates, and the suggestion of asserting the jurisdiction of the rejecting lodges over them for the term of five years, your committee fully concur with the Grand Master.

"This subject was considered at our last Grand Annual Communication in the report of the committee upon the correspondence of the Grand Master with the Grand Masters of Illinois and Pennsylvania. In that correspondence our Grand Master assumed as the masonic law of Virginia, that our lodges did not claim for themselves or recognize in lodges of different jurisdictions any right of perpetual jurisdiction over rejected profanes. The report of the committee approved his action as in full conformity to the established masonic law of Virginia, and that report was adopted by the Grand Lodge. In view of this recent and well-considered action—with all fraternal deference to the differing opinion of our brethren in Maine—we see no occasion for any reconsideration of this question."

Of the Wisconsin proposition, they say: "Your committee cannot assent to its wisdom or propriety."

The Grand Master argued this year as he did last year, very earnestly against allowing lodges to adopt codes of by-laws. The matter was discussed by committees and a "model code" proposed: it was finally ordered that the proposed code and the reports should be printed in the Proceedings, in order that the attention of the lodges might be called to it, and that the matter be specially assigned for consideration on the first day of the next annual session.

Great interest was manifested in the Masonic Home, which seems to be in a very flourishing condition. A proposition was made to levy a *per capita* tax of twenty-five cents annually: the committee reported against adopting it *at this time*, saying among other things:

"Your committee is in full and thorough sympathy with all that can be said or done looking toward the advancement of the interest of this splendid masonic charity, but at the same time we realize the fact that the real supporters of this institution are to be found in the ranks of the Brotherhood of the masons of Virginia, and in our judgment the Grand Lodge should be very careful to take no step, not imperatively necessary, which might in any way tend to weaken the hold of the Masonic Home on the affections of the brethren, for the craft very justly regards every increase of the dues to the Grand Lodge as a masonic tax, levied by the Grand Lodge on the resources of the individual mason, and the exercise of this power by the Grand Lodge should always be carefully guarded, and at all times limited to actually existing demands."

The committee reported that a portrait of Bro. WILLIAM B. ISAACS had been secured: one had been ordered in his life time, but when partially

completed, work on it was at first suspended by his illness, and then stopped by the death of the artist. For some reason the committee in charge were not even allowed to see it, and only obtained it by purchase at auction. Fortunately, it was so nearly finished, that it was practicable for another artist to complete it. Much pleasure, in which brethren everywhere share, was expressed at having it hung on the wall of the Temple.

We welcome with great delight the Report on Correspondence (65 pp.)—brief though it be: it is signed by the full committee; but we believe it to have been written by our former co-laborer, WILLIAM F. DRINKARD. Our special cause for joy is, that he has sufficiently recovered his health to be able to write it.

The title of the Grand Lodge of "Alabama and its Masonic Jurisdiction" puzzles him. We suspect that the latter words were originally used, because in those days, Grand Lodges established lodges in the Territories where no Grand Lodge had been established. In like manner the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania still retains in its official title, "Pennsylvania and the Masonic Jurisdiction thereunto belonging." We understand this to include lodges outside of the State of Pennsylvania, if there are any: in former times there were many such lodges; but now, we apprehend, the addition to the name is a mere matter of form, practically.

We believe that the following is the old law, though it is now generally held that the one who casts a black ball has no right to say so. This new prohibition does not come within the reason of the rule and ought not to be a part of it:

"We hold that no member has a right to inquire directly or indirectly how another has voted, and that no member casting a *white* ball has a right to say so, in order to thus prevent any one finding out who cast the black ball; but that a member casting a black ball can avow it or not as he pleases, but no one has a right to criticise his action or question his motives."

There may be exceptions, as we think, to the other rule: at any rate, a case came near arising which we then thought would be an exception. A mason was accused of maliciously black-balling a candidate, and so high was the feeling, that the filing of charges was contemplated, in which an essential allegation was the casting of a black ballot: we came to the conclusion that the accused was entitled to deny the allegation, and *support the denial by his testimony*. Fortunately, the accuser, who relied upon an alleged statement of the accused, found that the statement was never made, and withdrew the accusation. We are still of the opinion that we then formed.

In this connection, we quote the following:

"We require him to apply to the same lodge, unless he has removed from its jurisdiction, and then we require the facts to be stated in his petition, and we want to know the reason why if possible."

We commend the following to Bro. SINGLETON (who was a Virginia mason) and others who think with him:

"Who would care to be thus Grand Master in name only and subject to a constitution in an organization, one of the corner-stones of which is the Master's prerogative, and which was in full working order before men ever thought about constitutional government?"

In his review of California, he thus maintains views which we have been advocating for many years:

"The Grand Master, in answer to the question as to whether a Past Master of another jurisdiction could, by request, install officers, decided that a Past Master in California was one who had earned the title by actual service there only, and then adds that he can see no reason why a Past Grand officer or a Past Master of another jurisdiction might not be invited by one, having himself the authority, to install officers. This seems to be taking both sides of the question. Our custom is to recognize as Past Masters and thereby members of the Grand Lodge all who have served the full term for which they were elected as Masters of regularly constituted lodges in this or any other jurisdiction, provided they are members in good standing in some Virginia lodge. It seems difficult to see how we would acquire the masonic right to reduce an actual Past Master to the ranks for no other crime than that of making his masonic home in the old Commonwealth."

Of course we need not say that we concur in this:

"He also, as do so many Grand Masters, calls attention to the imperfections of their constitution, but recommends caution as to its amendment. If his prerogative were properly recognized and a simple Methodical Digest of Grand Lodge laws substituted for this modern innovation, could not he, whenever he found special cases arising to which it did not well apply, by his dispensation overcome the trouble? Would it not be better to let the code of laws be his guide and counselor and his useful servant in carrying out the purposes of the Grand Lodge than to make it a constitution from which he cannot escape, even when to follow its provisions absurdly prevents him from accomplishing those purposes? Ought not he to be *Grand Master of Masons in Canada*, and as such, captain of the ship instead of a mere executive officer afraid to act in emergencies for fear of violating an organic law made before the emergency arose?"

The change suggested in the following would relieve many brethren from the very serious (?) trouble which they are having about "Past Masters." It is inconsistent to call a man, just installed for the first time as Master of a lodge, "*Past Master*":

"Our law requires Wardens-elect who have not had the degree in Royal Arch Chapter to receive it from a lodge of Past Masters, convened for the purpose, before installation. This does not make them Past Masters, however, as the title and privileges belong only to those who have served a full term for which they were elected as Masters of regular lodges. Would it not be well, in order to avoid the confusion, to return to the old name of Present Master for the degree, and reserve the title of Past Master for those who are really Past Masters? Present Master would properly describe the degree, as Past Master does not. Old masonic charts called the degree 'Present or Past Master.'"

We earnestly commend the following to the iconoclasts of the present day:

"Probably the reason for all the controversy as to the antiquity of speculative Masonry, and its being only traceable back to 1717, is due to the fact that before its crystallization into the Grand Lodge system there were no records kept, as there could not have been the least necessity for them. If we will take as a suggestion our ritualistic teaching, handed down the ages, that 'the ground floor of King Solomon's Temple was a mosaic pavement,' when, until a few years ago, all masons knew, or thought they knew, that it was not a mosaic pavement at all, and then recall that late excavations show that the plain floor thought to be that of the original Temple proved to be a later one sixteen feet above the original one, which *was* a mosaic pavement, and part of which the Grand Lodge of Virginia has in its possession, we will see that there must be something in our traditions proving their antiquity. There are many other things, the meaning of which is lost, which we could trace up easily if our history only dated from 1717. Perhaps the future has more surprises in store for us in this direction."

He holds that gambling is not a masonic offence, because it is not a violation of the landmark that masons must "strictly obey the moral law," and yet he adds in italics, "*Still, good masons will not gamble.*" Why not?

Another item for Bro. SINGLETON:

"Bro. Singleton disputes the prerogative of Grand Masters to make masons at sight, and holds that such prerogative could only arise from constitutional provision of the Grand Lodge. Now we in Virginia recognize the constitutions of Masonry, but have no constitution or fundamental law. We hold that the Grand Lodge in its jurisdiction is supreme, but that the Grand Master is not only the Master of the Grand Lodge but is in reality, as we term him, 'Grand Master of Masons in Virginia.' At our last Grand Annual Communication an amendment was proposed to our Methodical Digest, prohibiting the public installation of officers, which had been done by dispensation during the year. The question was asked of the Grand Master, who was himself very favorable to the amendment, what would then become of his prerogative. The answer came like a bugle note.

"It remains as it was—if I choose to allow any lodge to publicly install its officers, it will only be necessary for me to say in my dispensation, *I suspend such and such a section of the Methodical Digest, and grant the dispensation, and I will not hesitate to do it if I think proper.*"

"Our institution is the most beautiful specimen of the handiwork of mortal man, and is at once the most democratic and the most autocratic on earth. Do not let us dilute its force in imitation of other societies or systems of government."

Of "dual membership," he says:

"We allow a mason to become a member of as many lodges as he chooses and as will elect him to membership. Suspension for any cause in any one suspends him in all, and troubles like those alluded to above cannot arise. There are many positive advantages in dual membership, and it is hard to see any disadvantages. One of the advantages is that it, in every case, increases the brother's responsibility to the institution, and another is that members of strong lodges can help weak ones by joining them, either permanently or until they are stronger."

Of another matter, he says:

"We require Wardens to receive the Past Master's degree before installation, because without it they would not know how to preside in the absence of the Master. What there is inconsistent in this is hard to see, and it does

seem that any mason who has received the degree would at once recognize the fact that without it he could not correctly rule and govern his lodge.

"To those who have not received it, it may be proper to say that their idea of the degree is probably perverted by its name, and this very controversy, added to the long standing discussion as to what constitutes a real Past Master, would emphasize the wisdom of restoring its ancient other name of Present Master. We do not care whether it is given in a R. A. Chapter or in a lodge of Past Masters convened for the purpose. When the Grand Lodge of Virginia surrendered jurisdiction of the Chapter degrees to the Grand Chapter, this was reserved for Wardens and Masters. It may be news to those in younger states, but one hundred years ago the lodges in Virginia conferred all the degrees now included in the chapter, and conducted all business in the Entered Apprentice's degree."

The degree cannot be conferred on a Warden under the ritual in use in Maine forty years ago (which was then an old one) and ever since.

He explains that the reason, why Bro. ISAACS was not eligible to election as Grand Secretary to succeed his father, was that he was not a member of the Grand Lodge. The reason is not in accordance with the old law or ancient and general usage; his election and installation as Grand Secretary would have made him a member of the Grand Lodge as much as the election and installation of a brother as Warden of his lodge makes him a member of the Grand Lodge.

In his review of Maine, he says:

"Under Virginia, Bro. Drummond notices the bad acoustics of the Grand Lodge room in our then new Temple. He ventures a 'Yankee guess' that the architect, sacrificing the question of acoustics to that of beauty, made it too high for its other dimensions. Well, brother, your guess is not far wrong. Now guess us out some other and more feasible remedy than the one you suggest of time, please."

We cannot: but amazing as it has been to us, we have known of more than one instance in which time and use have apparently remedied the defect.

He claims that the appointment of a Committee of Investigation causes the other members to depend on it, and make no investigation themselves: on the other hand, our experience shows that the maxim "What is every body's business is nobody's business" was found to be so true, that provision for such a committee was the result.

We still think that a brother, cited to appear at a lodge meeting for any cause, is bound to be there when the lodge opens, and if not and his case has been acted upon before his arrival, his request for a hearing then should be based upon a good reason, and be granted or denied at the discretion of the lodge. Suppose ten are cited, can they all wilfully wait till the Master is ready to close the lodge and then demand hearings?

Our brother says that it is the usual custom in that jurisdiction to have refreshments at lodge meetings, and his experience and observation are that

much good results, and he thinks that in the long run the funds of the lodge are not decreased thereby.

In his review of Mississippi, he says:

"A special committee, appointed to report on the Grand Master's prerogative, gave an exhaustive argument against his power to make masons at sight, claiming that Mackey's claim in favor of it was flimsy, being based on the landmarks as to his power to create and dissolve lodges under dispensation at his pleasure, and from their standpoint arguing that, as this power was not conferred on him by their *constitution*, it did not exist, notwithstanding their Jurisprudence Committee had at the preceding communication recognized the fact that 'the power undoubtedly exists and has often been recognized by the Grand Lodge.'

"Well, if the Grand Master is the mere creature of the Grand Lodge, tied hand and foot by a constitution, possibly they are right; but if he is, as he ought to be, *Grand Master of Masons in Mississippi*, and the representative of King Solomon in our Ancient Institution, dating back three thousand years, and not to 1717, he ought to be as able to make masons individually as to do so collectively, as he in effect does in every lodge under dispensation."

In one matter, if we understand him correctly, we do not agree with him. A member of a lodge openly declares that he has black-balled candidate after candidate solely because a friend of his is rejected, and that he will black-ball every candidate until his friend shall be admitted: is there no remedy? We believe so and have always taught so. Of course, if he says nothing, nothing can be done: but when he waives his privilege and boasts or threatens, we then have legal and competent evidence of his unmasonic conduct, which in our judgment should be speedily and severely punished.

In his "Conclusion," he says:

"For example, the constitutional form of government we consider totally out of place and an innovation calculated to pull us down from our high position as a unique society, the oldest, noblest and most perfect of human organizations, autocratic in the extreme, and at the same time democratic in the extreme, and thus typifying the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. Essential to this is the Grand Master's prerogative to rule and govern absolutely, make masons individually, as well as to do so collectively by dispensations to form lodges."

We earnestly hope that hereafter a Report on Correspondence will be a regular feature in the Proceedings of this Grand Lodge.

WASHINGTON, 1896.

The portrait of WILLIAM WALLACE WITHERSPOON, the retiring Grand Master, is given as a frontispiece.

All but two of the NINETY-SIX lodges were represented, with thirteen Past Grand Masters and six other Past Grand Officers.

The Grand Lodge was welcomed in behalf of the citizens of Seattle, and the Junior Grand Warden responded.

The Grand Master announces the death of Past Grand Master ELISHA PIERRE FERRY, the first Governor of the state, and says of him:

"In the life and character of M. W. Bro. Elisha P. Ferry we have a grand illustration of a noble patriot, wise statesman, profound lawyer; an incorruptible and honest citizen; a kind and courteous gentleman; a devoted, tender, loving husband and father; a true, just and upright man and Freemason. Well may we as masons revere his name and do honor to his memory."

Of the condition of Masonry, he says:

"I am happy to state that our relations with all other Grand Lodges in communication with us remain harmonious, and that nothing has occurred in the past year to disturb this good fellowship. In our own jurisdiction I am pleased to state that with few exceptions peace and harmony prevail. The returns from our subordinate lodges do not show a large increase in membership, but this is due to the fact that greater care is being exercised in the selection of material, and to the stringency of the financial situation which has prevailed, but which, happily, seems to be nearing an end; and with returning prosperity we can confidently look forward to a healthy growth in the future."

Among his decisions is the following:

"A pastor of a church, hired to preach within the jurisdiction of two lodges, resides with his family in one jurisdiction part of the year, and then moves to the other jurisdiction and lives the balance of the year. Has a lodge in either jurisdiction the right to receive his petition? No. The petitioner must be an actual resident within the jurisdiction of a lodge for one year before the petition can be received."

This is one of the cases in which in Maine a dispensation might be in order.

A Master of a lodge v. d. continued to call meetings and do work after the session of the Grand Lodge and before the lodge was constituted. A similar case in Maine led to enacting a regulation providing for the continuance of the dispensation until the constitution of the lodge, unless otherwise ordered by the Grand Lodge.

The most interesting part of the proceedings is the report of Bro. WILLIAM H. URROX, as Chairman of the Digest Commission and the action of the Grand Lodge thereon.

In relation to the non-payment of dues, Bro. URROX thus expresses the views taught by the fathers in Maine:

"Upon this subject the views of your commissioners are, in a nut shell, that lodge dues are the price paid for the privilege of belonging to a particular lodge; that when that price is not paid that privilege should cease, and that the loss of membership should be the *only* result of failure to pay the price of membership. Not only is this the view anciently held everywhere and adhered to by many Grand Lodges to this day, but it is the one which was dominant in this Grand Lodge through much the greater part of its existence. It is now held by nearly all, if not quite all, masonic writers who have given the subject attention, that a mason becomes endowed with certain privileges by reason of his initiation into the universal fraternity, and with

other and entirely different privileges because of his good fortune in being a member of some particular lodge; that he may justly forfeit the privileges which the lodge bestowes, if he fails to comply with the contract to pay dues which he has made with the lodge; but that there is no warrant in reason or in the genius of the masonic institution for holding that his breach of one contract—that with the lodge—shall forfeit rights which he acquired under an entirely different contract—that into which he entered with the institution itself at the time of his initiation, the financial part of which he complied with before he was first taken by the hand as a brother. In other words, that suspension or expulsion 'from all the rights and privileges of Masonry' is an unwarranted penalty for the non-payment of dues."

The Grand Lodge concurred and substituted "striking from the roll" for suspension from the rights of Masonry: the former, as adopted in Washington, is very nearly the same as our suspension from membership in its consequences. But in one respect, Bro. UPROX's provision is, in our judgment, wrong. No action of the lodge is required. When a member has been in arrears a certain time, his membership ceases *ipso facto*, and the Secretary must strike his name from the roll and the Master must announce it at the annual meeting. It has been held in Maine, at least since the days of BRADFORD and his associates, that while the non-payment of dues is not a masonic offence in the usual signification of that term, still that a mason should not be held to have violated a contract involving the loss of so great a privilege as membership in a lodge, without notice and an opportunity to be heard. It hardly lies in the mouth of a mason to say that such a matter is not of sufficient importance to require a trial; but there is no real trial: the delinquent is notified to appear at a meeting of the lodge and show cause, if he have any, why he should not be dropped from the roll for non-payment of dues: the proceedings are very brief. We were once present in a large masonic body at a time when some thirty or more of these cases were disposed of: the Secretary stated the amount of dues and read his return of the notice: the presiding officer asked if any one had any suggestion to make; if there was none, he put the question to vote: in a few cases, a member moved that the dues be remitted and gave his reasons, and the dues were remitted: in a few cases, action was postponed for the purpose of making further inquiries: all the cases were disposed of in about as many minutes: we said then, and believe now, that the proceedings were a model for masons of all grades. The real masonic feeling was exhibited, and no one was struck from the roll unless his fellow members were satisfied of his ability to pay, and no one was put to the humiliation of asking to have his own dues remitted.

Unless one provision escapes the eye of Bro. WAITE, he will have a bone to pick with Bro. UPROX: for the legislative power of the Grand Lodge is declared to "extend to every case *not expressly delegated by law to the lodges*": and the "Powers of lodges" thus defined:

“The powers and duties of a lodge are those described and determined by the immemorial laws and usages of the Fraternity, except in cases where those powers or duties have been expressly modified by the terms of its charter or dispensation, or by the constitution or laws of the Grand Lodge. Its powers are executive, legislative and judicial, and include the following:

“1. *Executive.*—To perform its proper work under control of its Master and in accordance with law.

“2. *Legislative.*—To enact any legislation relative to its own affairs not in conflict with its by-laws, the constitution or laws of the Grand Lodge, or the immemorial law or usages of the Fraternity.

“3. *Judicial.*—To exercise discipline over its own members (except the Master), and all other masons within its jurisdiction, and to settle controversies between them, subject, always, to a revision by the Grand Lodge upon appeal.”

We are very glad to find “usages” thus mentioned, especially by Bros. REED and UGROX, for we have regarded their masonic education as defective in that, judging from their deliverances, they have not seemed to appreciate the importance of masonic usages as a source of masonic law.

This also is the correct doctrine:

“The right to masonic burial is not an absolute one. Masonic burial is a privilege for the lodge to bestow or deny, and may be extended to non-affiliated masons in good standing, as well as to members of the lodge. It is for the lodge or Master to determine; and no worthy brother Master Mason should be denied this sacred rite.”

BRO. UGROX was appointed a commissioner to prepare an “Annotated Digest” of the constitution, regulations and decisions.

The committee held that no one shall be tried for a masonic offence “until he has had actual notice of the charges,” but the Grand Lodge wisely (as we believe almost all will agree), decided and provided that when the whereabouts of the accused are unknown, notice by mail, sent to his last usual place of abode, shall be sufficient. We go further, and hold that if the proof is clear that a mason has absconded and is in hiding, the *Grand Lodge* may proceed with his trial, without going through the useless attempt to give notice.

The following in relation to the Wisconsin proposition was adopted:

“That we consider charity one of the cardinal principles of Freemasonry, charity for all mankind, but under no consideration can we believe that it should be circumscribed by the limits of the jurisdiction of any lodge or Grand Lodge. It should be like the bounty of God who sendeth rain upon the just and the unjust. We consider that each mason is bound to contribute to the relief of distressed worthy brothers so far as his necessities require and the donor's ability permits, he, of course, finding the recipient worthy; therefore, the gift must be that of pure charity, for the love of the brethren, and for mankind, and without hope of fee or reward. Your committee do not consider this either a reformatory or beneficiary society. Masonry is a law unto itself, and under no circumstances can it permit local or class legislation to hamper its influence or bind it by pecuniary contracts subversive of its landmarks or broad principles of the order.”

The Report on Correspondence (187 pp.) was presented by Bro. THOMAS

MILBURNE REED, but in consequence of "severe and painful bodily affliction" (from which we are more than happy to learn that he has recovered) he called to his assistance Bro. WILLIAM H. UPTON, who distinguishes his reviews by his initials.

BRO. REED, as heretofore, denies "the prerogative" of Grand Masters to grant dispensations, as he is "bound by his obligation to respect and obey the law." Exactly, Bro. REED, but the *whole* law and not a mere *part* of it; with us he takes an obligation to "maintain and support the constitutions and regulations of this Grand Lodge and *all ancient masonic usages*"; moreover, the constitution of the Grand Lodge of Washington expressly recognizes "the immemorial laws and usages of the fraternity" as a part of its law, that the Grand Master is bound to "respect and obey."

Quoting from the address of the Grand Master of Arkansas, his remarks in relation to the falling off of the care in guarding the ballot box, he adds:

"This picture is not pleasant to contemplate, and while it is perhaps not so gloomy, generally, as here portrayed, it is nevertheless suggestive, and may serve as an important lesson to all, to guard well the outer door of the lodge, and accept none who are not well known to be worthy and well qualified, morally true and honorable men, in the higher sense of those terms. Then will the bright and soul inspiring banner of Freemasonry be lifted aloft and shower its beams of blessing upon mankind, with no fear of tarnishing its ancient and time-honored escutcheon by the unworthy within, or by the foe from without."

We are glad to read this, and we trust that it will be remembered by all when they come to consider whether one year's observation of a stranger rejected by a distant lodge, is sufficient to determine that he comes up to the standard so forcibly described by Bro. REED.

He doubts whether attending divine service is masonic work, which a lodge may properly perform: we share his doubts; but we find by an examination of the early records of lodges in this country, that it has been the usage to celebrate St. John's Day, by attending church as a lodge, and listening to a sermon prepared for the occasion.

BRO. REED evidently holds that the law of California "infringes upon masonic equity and the rights of a Freemason": and he holds, also, that no right of a member can be taken away without a judgment after conviction: and, therefore, that a by-law, preventing those in arrears of dues from voting, is unsound—"bad in theory and practice." Do not his remarks apply with greater force to striking from the roll for non-payment of dues in the manner now provided by his Grand Lodge?

Illinois is the first review of Bro. UPTON, and we are pained to find that he still adheres to his low estimate of the object of the secret and unanimous ballot: when we read the eloquent words of Bro. REED, which we have quoted, we had hoped to find that his associate had come to hold the same views.

From his review of Indiana, we find that he holds that there is no exception to the general rule that one made a mason in a lawful lodge is a mason, and entitled to recognition wheresoever he may go. Yet the quotation upon which he comments says "lawfully" made, or its equivalent. We suppose, then, that if a Maine lodge should make a mason of one lawfully expelled by a lodge in Washington, Bro. URTOX would say that such man is entitled to masonic recognition in Washington. We hold otherwise, and have already expressed our views at length in a previous part of this report.

Maine (1895) fell to Bro. URTOX; we are quite embarrassed as to the course to follow, for under Illinois, he announces that this is his "last appearance as a reviewer," and there is little satisfaction in a discussion to which the other party cannot reply.

But there are some matters in his report, which we can notice by way of rejoinder to his reply to us.

He says:

"With some of his views we are so unfortunate as to disagree. He holds that 'membership in the Catholic church ought to prevent the admission of a candidate into Masonry'; for, because a 'law' of that church declares that 'a Catholic cannot be a mason,' if a Catholic becomes a mason, 'he is either a traitor to his church or a traitor to Masonry, or to both.' After the law lecture which, under Washington, he reads Bro. REED—who, by the way, is a lawyer himself—we marvel at the distinguished brother's idea of the legal definition of 'treason.' In fact, if we ever employed the weapon of sarcasm, with which Bro. Drummond sometimes strikes a young brother whom he cannot refute, we might seize the occasion to 'smile' an 'extensive' smile (*vide infra*). The best scholarship of the Catholic church denies the jurisdiction of the church to make such a 'law,' and treats such a 'law' as most Protestants would a similar one made by their churches, or as Bro. Drummond would a Grand Lodge 'law' 'absolving him from his obligation' and *forbidding* him to contribute to the relief of distressed worthy Master Masons, their widows and orphans. Moreover, at one time *all* masons were Catholics; and in many lands most masons are to-day. Freemasonry will never desert them, or brand them as 'traitors.'"

First, we will dispose of some incidental matters in this quotation.

We did not "read a law lecture" to Bro. REED. We discussed one of his propositions involving a question of Masonic Jurisprudence: we did it from the standpoint of our knowledge that Bro. REED is a lawyer, although what we said is equally applicable whether he is, or is not. Bro. URTOX does not quote it and neither he nor Bro. REED attempts any reply: and the evident reason is that both he and Bro. REED, as lawyers, (for almost every paragraph that he writes shows that Bro. URTOX is also a lawyer) know that no even plausible answer can be made; and, as a lawyer, *we know it also*, as in fact will any one who reads it. And "that's what's the matter!"

Why our brother marvels at our idea of the legal definition of "treason," we cannot say, for we never gave either in the report which he is reviewing or elsewhere, our "idea" of the "legal definition" of "treason": in fact, we did not use the word at all! The tendency in these days to apply to

Masonry, the definitions, procedure and principles of the civil law, and the folly of so doing, are sharply illustrated by our brother's comments. We used the word "traitor": our brother defines that word at once as "one guilty of treason," then rushes to the constitution of the United States for the "legal definition" of "treason," and " marvels " at our "idea"! As we fully believe that every body else perfectly understood our meaning, we should not have noticed this save to "point a moral" and illustrate the folly of applying "legal definitions" to Masonry.

But our brother denies the correctness of our statement because "the best scholarship" denies the power of the church to make such a law. But it is not a question of "best scholarship," but of *law*. The former may deny the power to make such a law; but the conclusive answer is that for all that the *law has been made*. It is another illustration of the old anecdote, "They can't put you in jail for that," said the young lawyer; "but *I am* here," was the reply. We all know that the Head of the Catholic Church has formally and officially decreed, that Catholics must not be masons; that this decree has been promulgated in the usual manner; and that no Catholic Priest will administer the last rites of the church to a dying Catholic mason, unless he absolutely abjures and renounces Masonry. We make no complaint of this: we interfere with no man's religious opinions; we concede to every man the utmost freedom in this respect; but we hold that, if a man's religious opinions are in conflict with the fundamental principles of Masonry, or if in becoming a mason he violates the *actual law* of the church to which he professes to belong, he is not fit to be a mason; in the latter case he is a traitor (and we use the word in spite of "legal definitions!") either to his church or to Masonry, and no such man *can be* a true mason.

He does not concur in our belief that there is not a lodge in the world that was not *created* by a Grand Lodge; but he gives no reason for the faith that is in him, by naming one not so created; it may be that one or more of the four lodges existing in 1717 have continued to exist and are now working without a charter; but every mason *knows* that there is not one since organized that was not *created* by a Grand Lodge.

He speaks of "an inter-Grand Lodge law, binding on all Grand Lodges," as one of our "latest innovations"! And yet that law was practically recognized upon the introduction of the Grand Lodge system into this country, and was explicitly asserted and maintained, and actually, though not avowedly, recognized in an inter-Grand Lodge controversy that happened before our brother became a mason, if not before he was born!

He says:

"This imaginary law, we find, is what he usually means when he cites 'the common law of Masonry'—a most misleading use of words, for the terms 'common law' and 'immemorial law' have a definite, well settled meaning. In our opinion, the *only proper or legitimate use* of either of them

in Masonry is to designate the body of law which existed before 1717. Readers will do well to *suspect sophistry* when they find them used in any other sense. We pointed out last year brother DRUMMOND's tendency to apply the term 'old law' to some forty-year-old custom, with the *apparent* intention that his reader should understand him to certify that the custom was 'immemorial'—that is, existed prior to 1717."

He is in error again: we should no more think of saying "the common law of Masonry," when we mean "inter-Grand Lodge Law," than we should mean, in speaking to him as a lawyer, "International law," when we say "common law."

We believe our readers credit us with saying what we mean, and that when we say "old" we do not mean "immemorial" or even ancient. We utterly dissent from his definition of "immemorial": it has the same meaning when used in Masonry as when used elsewhere: to limit its meaning to a *fixed date* is much like saying a white blackbird: it is used in Preston's Burial Service, still in common use, and who can find record of a masonic burial *before 1717*.

He has discovered that we are in favor of "perpetual jurisdiction": is it possible that he cannot distinguish between holding that the effect of a rejection under the law of the jurisdiction seems to give a candidate a *status* which attaches to him for one year, five years or perpetually, according to that law, and holding that perpetual jurisdiction is the right and proper doctrine?

He quotes the following from our report:

"But one thing in this extract surprises us. He says the rejection means only this: 'We [the Lodge] do not want you, and do not intend to have you.' Such is not the case in Maine; the question here is: 'Is the candidate *qualified* for admission *into the fraternity* of Free and Accepted Masons?'"

And adds:

"This is a remarkable disclosure: Because the brethren in Maine choose to take a vote *for which there is no warrant in masonic law*, they claim, forsooth, that the result should bind the masonic world! They might as well—so far as any warrant in the immemorial usages of the craft is concerned—vote who shall be the next President of the United States."

This is another illustration of his seemingly inveterate propensity to understand that a man means not only what he says, but what *he does not say*! We stated plainly a simple fact, and meant what we said—no more and no less.

We were surprised before, but we are now more pained than surprised—extreme as our surprise still is. But having quoted what Bro. REED said, we do not think Bro. URROX can do much damage in his own jurisdiction: and as every where else the same rule prevails as in Maine, and the contrary has never been asserted until within a few years by Bro. URROX, and

perhaps half a dozen others, in a desperate attempt to defend an indefensible position, we have no occasion to say more.

He devotes some three more pages to our report (largely in attempts to controvert our position), but as he understands us to mean what we do not *say*, and consequently what we do not *mean*, and puts *his own* erroneous definitions in our mouth, it is not worth our while to notice it in detail, especially as we have discussed most of the matters in reports which he had not seen.

We regret that he mars his report by claiming to find evidences of an intention to mislead on the part of brethren with whom he discusses questions, and by using such terms in relation to them as "learned counsel," "skillful lawyer" "subtile lawyer," "laughs in his sleeve," &c. There are rare exceptions to the rule, applicable to all discussions, that when one party begins to apply personal epithets, questioning the motives or sincerity of his opponent he gives proof that he has a poor case, whether such is the fact or not: more than that, one who accuses another of employing "expedients," is apt to be held to judge others by himself, and to remind us of what the rough old lawyer said to a young man, "Yes, judging another by yourself is a *righteous* judgment, but it is ——— *unreliable!*"

WEST VIRGINIA, 1896.

As now usual in this jurisdiction, we have a portrait and brief sketch of the incoming Grand Master, BRAXTON D. GIBSON, in these Proceedings: also of Past Grand Master GEORGE E. THORNBURG.

Several special communications were held during the year to constitute new lodges, dedicate new halls, or lay corner stones.

The Grand Master (JOHN M. COLLINS) gives an account of an immense number of official acts of a routine character.

He had received a complaint from the Grand Master of Pennsylvania, that a man rejected by a Pennsylvania lodge had received the degrees in, and become a member of, a West Virginia lodge. Upon investigation, the Grand Master found that such was the case, and moreover, that the lodge had violated the law of its own jurisdiction in several important particulars: he held that the candidate was without fault; but under the law of West Virginia, was not eligible, and, therefore, the whole proceedings were declared to be void, and the party still a profane.

The reports of the District Deputy Grand Lecturers and District Deputy Grand Masters show a fairly good condition of the lodges, but give evidence to us that it would be a vast improvement to combine the two offices in one. Upon reading the reports, one will come to the conclusion that the former office may safely be abolished.

The Grand Lodge took measures looking to the establishment of a Masonic Home.

Bro. O. S. LONG made a very interesting "thirty minute talk" in relation to the "Symbolism of the Masonic Apron."

In relation to the communication from our Grand Lodge, the following report was adopted:

"That the communication of the Grand Lodge of Maine, submitted to this Grand Lodge by the representative of the Grand Lodge of Maine, upon the subject of uniform legislation in relation to the admission of rejected candidates, has been considered by your committee. In this jurisdiction no rejected candidate can apply for admission to any lodge within a year from the time of his rejection, and our general regulations provide that no lodge shall entertain the application of anyone who has been rejected in any other lodge, without the written consent of such lodge, and such consent must be unanimous.

"Your committee think it would be well for this Grand Lodge to agree to the adoption of the following resolution, suggested by said committee, viz:

"*Resolved*, That the effect of a rejection in this jurisdiction shall be limited to five years; but this resolution not to take effect until the same be approved at the next annual communication, as provided by the by-laws."

And the following in relation to the "Wisconsin proposition":

"In this jurisdiction it has always been considered to be the duty of each lodge to provide for the necessities of its members, wheresoever dispersed, but it has never been obligatory on this Grand Body to re-imburse any lodge in another jurisdiction which may have contributed to the relief of a worthy brother; and your committee deem it inexpedient now to so legislate."

The Report on Correspondence (203 pp.) was presented by Bro. GEORGE W. ATKINSON.

It is a very full and complete abstract, carefully prepared; he gives extracts, but being printed precisely in the same manner as what he writes, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish one from the other.

Referring to the Indiana and Pennsylvania matter, he says:

"I cannot agree with the learned committee in its conclusion on this subject. I cannot see wherein the Grand Master of Pennsylvania was in the remotest degree discourteous. He simply vindicated and enforced one of the very oldest and best known principles laid down by his Grand Lodge. He could do nothing else. Bro. Snyder may be a legal and legitimate mason in Indiana, but Pennsylvania cannot recognize him as such, unless she gives up her old landmark of perpetual jurisdiction. This she is not likely to do, however earnestly our Indiana brethren may demand it."

He believes in perpetual jurisdiction and can see no particular merit in the plan proposed by our Grand Lodge, but still says, "It would, however, prove a blessing to the fraternity if it were generally agreed to, and a universal law were established." We are glad to find that he appreciates the motive which led to this action by our Grand Lodge.

In his review of New Hampshire, he says:

"Among others I find this ruling by the Grand Master, that after a man has been elected to receive the degrees in a lodge he cannot be prevented

from receiving the same by objections being made to the Worshipful Master by a member of some other lodge.

"I cannot believe that this is good law. Suppose a profane is elected to receive the degrees where he is not very well known; and suppose further that a brother from some other lodge, who knows him well, learns that he has been elected to receive the degrees, and accordingly hastens to inform the sitting Worshipful Master of the unworthiness of the applicant—according to this decision, the lodge would be compelled to go on and confer the degrees upon him, even if he be a murderer. That would be very wrong. It would be a crime upon the fraternity. The ruling, therefore, is bad."

As the same law prevails in Maine, we will explain. A mere objection by a member of the lodge is equivalent to a rejection; a mere objection by one not a member is not equivalent to a rejection; so the ruling was accurately correct. But our law also requires that if the objector is willing to give his reasons, they must be investigated, carefully considered and acted upon; and the future action of the lodge must depend upon the result.

WISCONSIN, 1896.

The Grand Master (W. W. PERRY) [*Et tu*, Bro. LAFLIN] delivered an instructive and practical address. Perhaps our coming so directly from the review of Washington, the following more easily attracted our notion:

"When you do this, justly can you reject such as are not worthy when they knock at the door, and you yourselves will have done your whole duty as men and masons.

"When work is unfit, for which you are responsible, Masonry, in her endeavor to mold and chisel it into a perfect ashlar, will find that its time is spent for naught, and consequently fails in the purpose for which it was intended."

The other matters are of a routine character, or so connected with local law and usage as not to be of general interest.

Grand Secretary LAFLIN says:

"Unlike the Grand Master, your Secretary is allowed to impart such masonic information to inquiring brethren, as his ability will permit, without being required to subject such information to the bright light of criticism by our Committee on Jurisprudence. The universal fraternal courtesy extended by officers of lodges in their intercourse with this office, renders the duties required by these calls from brethren most pleasant, and awakens regret only when full compliance with requests cannot be made."

He had moved into a new office, whereat he justly rejoices and says:

"So long as the Grand Lodge honors the present incumbent by retaining him as Grand Secretary, he extends a most cordial and fraternal invitation to the brethren to make as much use of the masonic headquarters as may be convenient and pleasant to them when visiting the city."

BRO. GABE BOUCK submits what he calls a "Report on Foreign Correspondence," which, however, is really his argument that there should be no such report. We quote the following:

"The Committee on Foreign Correspondence respectfully submit the following report: This report is made upon its theory of the origin and purpose of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, and what it should be. It is a committee known only to American Freemasonry. [Mackey Masonic Juris., 492.]

"The duties thereof originally appertained to the M. W. Grand Master. The original purpose thereof, undoubtedly, to relieve the M. W. Grand Master from some of his onerous duties, and relieve him from investigating and advising as to the transactions in foreign jurisdictions. [This is recognized by Sub. III. of Sec. 2, of Art. III of the constitution.]

"An eminent masonic writer has even termed it a body. [Mackey Masonic Juris., 602.]

"That is to say, has *de facto* become a distinctive tribunal in Masonry. This *de facto* has become the case in this jurisdiction. Until comparatively recently, the committee read its report at the stated communication of the Grand Lodge; it was then subject to the consideration of the Grand Lodge, its criticism, approval or disapproval, in part or in whole, the same as the M. W. Grand Master's address or any other communication to the Grand Lodge.

"For several years the report has not been read, although, perhaps, as a rule, may have been distributed among the members; not referred to any committee for investigation and report; not considered by the Grand Lodge; not examined to ascertain whether it contains objectionable propositions or views. This would not be the case if read in open lodge.

"When the M. W. Grand Lodge's highest officer in Masonry submits his annual address, it is referred to a committee for reference; what such committee thinks should be considered is referred to appropriate committees for consideration and report. Such committee's report is passed upon by the Grand Lodge.

"M. W. Grand Master cannot deliver an address or submit his decisions without having the same examined critically, and closely scrutinized by committees and considered by the Grand Lodge. The Committee on Foreign Correspondence reports, and such report is not examined by a committee or considered by the Grand Lodge. Treating it in fact as a 'body,' a distinctive tribunal, in fact, a 'Star Chamber.'

"It is a remarkable status—an anomalous condition of things.

"The Report of the Committee upon Foreign Correspondence may be in conflict with the decisions and views of the M. W. Grand Master, the adjudications of this M. W. Grand Lodge; it may criticize, repudiate or intimate doubts of the wisdom, propriety and regularity of the Grand Master's decisions, acts and conduct; of the conduct, adjudications, edicts, rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge. This report, without consideration or an opportunity for consideration, is published in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, thereby a *quasi* endorsement by the Grand Lodge."

So far as our knowledge extends, his second paragraph is utterly erroneous. We will take Maine as an example. At the next session of our Grand Lodge after its organization, that is in 1822, the Grand Secretary had received quite a number of the printed Proceedings of the other Grand Lodges. Thereupon the Grand Lodge voted to send them to a committee for examination to the Grand Lodge: at an adjourned session in January, 1822, that committee submitted a report, of which the following is the first paragraph:

"That while from these communications it is gratifying to perceive the advancement of Masonry and the wide dissemination of its principles, it is with no ordinary feelings of satisfaction that they also find this Grand

Lodge recognized by some of the oldest and most respectable Grand Lodges in the United States, and as intercourse of this kind leads to a more correct knowledge of the regulations adopted for the government of the craft and conduces to the interest of the fraternity, they feel persuaded that it will be properly appreciated and cultivated by this Grand Lodge."

A copy of the report was ordered to be furnished to each lodge.

At the next session these Proceedings were referred in the same manner.

In 1823, a Committee on Foreign Correspondence was appointed.

At the same session, a report was presented giving statistics and other information about other Grand Lodges; also a brief statement of things "of particular interest," and these were the action of the Grand Lodges upon particular questions.

In 1824, the committee discussed briefly some of the acts of some of the other Grand Lodges. The same course was taken the next year in a report prepared by SIMON GREENLEAF.

In 1826, Bro. GREENLEAF again submitted the report, in which he replied to the criticism of certain acts of our Grand Lodge by the Georgia Committee. The discussion related to the question of physical qualifications. While it is not quite germane to this discussion, we will say that the Maine Committee stated that the practice of this Grand Lodge and of all its lodges had uniformly been "in exact accordance with the principle which is so clearly and vigorously expressed by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in their resolution of March 7, 1825, in these words: 'That no person can be initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry, either by dispensation or otherwise, who is so maimed or defective in his limbs or members, as to be incapable of a livelihood for himself and family, or to perform all the work required of any individual member, within the body of a Lodge.'"

This was in substance, at a later date, incorporated into the constitution and is still our law. We had not noticed before the source of this provision of our law, and confess to some surprise, because now Pennsylvania rejects what it so "clearly and vigorously expressed" in 1825.

This same report states that the first section of our laws recognizes "all the *ancient usages* of Freemasonry" as "essential and *unalterable* principles."

This report is signed by SIMON GREENLEAF, CHARLES FOX and SAMUEL FESSENDEN. "There were giants in those days."

In 1827, the committee note discussions of action of our Grand Lodge, by the Committees on Foreign Correspondence of the Grand Lodges of Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, Delaware and Virginia.

While *official* correspondence fell within the province of the Grand Master, we do not believe that the examination of and report upon these Proceedings, sent to the Grand Secretary, was ever made a part of his duty, or that

he ever performed it, save as a committee and not as Grand Master; and we do not believe that Bro. Bouck can cite a single case, because, with some acquaintance with the subject for over forty years and means of knowledge of it for more than thirty years, we have never known an instance, so far as our memory serves us.

Moreover, these reports were made *solely for the information of the brethren*: the reason was found in the fact that masons constitute a fraternity of which Grand Lodges are the agents, and, therefore, the masons of every jurisdiction have an interest in those of every other jurisdiction, and therefore are interested to know about its administration in other jurisdictions as well as in their own.

Very rarely do these committees have anything for the *action* of the Grand Lodge: and if they do, they almost invariably present it in a special report.

We think we have sufficiently shown that *seventy years ago* (and probably longer) the object of these reports was to give the home brethren information as to the condition of the craft in other jurisdictions, and the action of other Grand Lodges, with such discussion thereof as seemed useful or instructive to the brethren who cannot have access to the Proceedings of the other Grand Lodges.

Whatever may be the case in Wisconsin, the statement that it is a "Star Chamber" or even a "Tribunal" in other jurisdictions is simply ridiculous.

But it is not adopted by the Grand Lodge: of course not; it would be difficult to "adopt" information. So far as the discussions are concerned, they are, on their face, the views of the writers, and the Grand Lodge must actually adopt them to make it responsible, and as all this is known to everybody, it cannot properly be said that the Grand Lodge gives it a *quasi* endorsement by publishing it in the Proceedings.

But it is not read in Grand Lodge. For good reasons: there is nothing in it requiring action, and it is much better for all concerned to read it in print rather than to hear it read.

We have never known any of the direful consequences, described in the last paragraph quoted, to happen: and as the practice of having these reports has existed nearly a century, we do not have any apprehension that injurious results will happen in the future.

Our good brother must forgive us for having a hearty laugh at his expense, when, after reading his vigorous condemnation of criticism of the action of other Grand Lodges by these committees, we came to his pungent criticism, *in this very report of his*, of the action of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi in having a Law Committee! He says that it is an "innovation," an "encroachment," "a departure," &c. We must apply a famous saying of a Maine man, with a modification, to him, "*Practically* he has a correct idea

of the proper functions of this committee," though "*theoretically* the reverse"!

It was read in Grand Lodge, referred to a committee, whose report, made without time for consideration, was accepted by the Grand Lodge. This referring the report of one committee to another committee to determine whether the report of the first committee is correct or not, is too farcical to have place in a Grand Lodge.

There is published in these Proceedings a very excellent practical address, by Past Grand Master LITTLEJOHN, on the occasion of the constitution of a lodge.

WYOMING, 1896.

Portraits of Past Grand Masters FRANK M. FOOTE, LEROY S. BARNES and E. A. ABRY, and of Grand Secretary WILLIAM L. KUYKENDALL, are given.

The Grand Master (FENIMORE CHATTERTON) announces the death of Past Grand Master ORLANDO NORTH; his death is the first break in the ranks of the Grand Masters.

He had been asked if there was any law prohibiting the admission of saloon keepers, and we take the following from his reply:

"If intemperance is a masonic crime, how much more so is the offering for sale that which not only produces the crime, but drags men bodily, mentally and spiritually down to the lower levels of sin? If the introduction of liquor into our lodge rooms is and should be prohibited, how much more so should the vender of intoxicating iniquity be excluded from the high privileges of masonic rights? In the light cast by the spirit of these two sections referred to, I cannot see how a committee can favorably report upon the application of a liquor dealer, if they have the good of the Order at heart.

"As a result of very close observation, I am firmly convinced that the extension of masonic rights to this class of applicants, sooner or later, brings discredit upon the Order, and places not only the individual lodge and its members, but the fraternity at large, in a position of deserved adverse criticism and often of censure, and I trust that the masons of Wyoming will not brave that possibility."

And the following report of the committee in relation thereto was adopted:

"Your committee desires to especially endorse and commend the decision of the Grand Master against admitting within the sacred circle of our ancient and time-honored Fraternity, men who are engaged in the degrading and demoralizing business of liquor selling. 'This business is so debasing both to those who sell and those who consume intoxicating liquors, that we cannot conceive it possible that the man who engages in it can possess the moral attributes essential to make him a good man and mason.

"Masonry was never intended to make good men out of bad ones, but only to make good men better. Our 'Great Light' says: 'Cursed is the man that putteth the cup to his neighbor's lips.' Masonry has no place for them."

A resolution making the matter more definite was presented and referred, and the committee reported the following additional by-law, which was adopted:

"Sec. 89. It shall be and is hereby made the imperative duty of lodges in this jurisdiction to restrain as far as possible the crime of intemperance; and hereafter no subordinate lodge shall admit by initiation or affiliation any person engaged in the manufacture or sale of intoxicants. Engaging in such business hereafter by any brother shall be considered a masonic offence, and if after trial he be found guilty of the charges he shall be suspended or expelled, as the case may require; and for the faithful performance of this duty each lodge shall be held accountable to the Grand Lodge. Provided, That the above provisions shall not be deemed to apply to persons who are regularly engaged in the business of druggists, and inn keepers, nor to dealers in liquors used exclusively in the arts and sciences."

The other proceedings were of a routine character, but show the prevalence of harmony and a fair degree of prosperity in that jurisdiction.

We hold that the manner of electing the Grand Officers is not in accord with the provisions of the constitution. That requires the election to be by ballot of the members: a motion was made that Bro. A. B. cast the ballot of the Grand Lodge for a certain brother; unanimously adopted, and carried out. This is not election *by ballot*, and is open to all the evils that the plan of election by ballot was adopted to prevent. We are aware that this course is frequently taken, but the details are not usually given in the record, as in this case.

The Report on Correspondence (60 pp.) was presented by Bro. WILLIAM L. KUYKENDALL. We regret to find that Maine is not in it.

In his review of the report of Bro. PILLANS, he says:

"He thinks we will not deny that prerogatives do exist under unwritten usages beyond the power of any man or set of men to alter. If our brother will designate the unalterable prerogatives so existing we will very quickly affirm or deny them. We believe in and have at all times advocated the granting of ample powers to the Grand Master, but believe in limiting and defining such by constitutional provision. Our brother says some of said prerogatives are capable of change and limitation by the Grand Lodge and others are not. Now the question is, which are the changeable and which the unchangeable? Our endeavor has been to find this out, and hope we are now on the right track to get at the facts and ascertain exactly what are his unwritten prerogatives. Those embodied in constitutions are valid and binding until changed, because defined. One says a Grand Master can do any and everything under the claim of prerogative; another says he cannot. Will our brother say which is right?"

The constitution of his Grand Lodge recognizes the existence of "ancient landmarks," which his Grand Lodge has no power to change. It is but a few years since younger brethren talked of the landmarks precisely as he is now talking of prerogatives. They demanded a list of them, not appreciating the nature of a landmark and how they became established as such.

We apprehend that the sensible view is that there are some laws quite universally admitted to be landmarks; that there are other laws, though of long standing, that are quite as universally conceded not to be landmarks; and that there are some other laws, concerning which there is a difference of opinion as to their being landmarks. These opinions differ, sometimes because the parties have not examined the evidence, and sometimes because they differ as to the weight of the evidence.

Now the same thing is true in relation to the prerogatives of Grand Masters: it would be very dangerous for any one to undertake to enumerate the powers that Grand Masters exercised before 1717, or at the reorganization of Masonry at that time, were assumed to have previously exercised. But when a specific statement is made, the question is raised whether the evidence shows that that particular proposition comes within the rule so far as the Grand Master is concerned: the question is what was the usage before 1717. As to other landmarks this limitation does not apply.

Now in an Institution which kept few or no written records and committed to writing very little, the usage in 1717 and from thenceforward to the present time is the best possible evidence of the usage before that date. Herein, in our judgment, is the weakness of many of the masonic writers of the present day: while they may have studied carefully all before 1717 that they can find to study, they have taken no pains to ascertain the usages since that time.

But why does our brother "believe in limiting and defining" the powers of Grand Masters "by constitutional provision"? If he will ask himself that question, we believe he will say that such is the wisest rule of civil law, and, therefore, it must be in masonic law. But that does not follow. Masonry is of such a character, that the principles of the civil law do not apply to it. Civil law has to do with the *material* interests of men which are *continually* in conflict: while Masonry has to do with the *moral and spiritual* interests of men, which are *never* in conflict. Civil rulers, unrestrained by law, may advance their own material interests by the sacrifice of those of others; but if masonic rulers advance their own moral and spiritual interests, instead of sacrificing those of their brethren, they advance those too. What can be more certain than that the laws of the one cannot be a test for the laws of the other? The best test of the wisdom of a system of law is experience. Judging the future by the past, where can be found any danger of injury to the Institution growing out of what some zealous brothers call the autocratic powers of Grand Masters?

ADDITIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

MASSACHUSETTS, 1896.

At the March Quarterly Communication, the Grand Master, EDWIN B. HOLMES, referred in fitting terms to the decease of FREDERIC T. GREENHALGE, Governor of the Commonwealth, a member of Kilwinning Lodge of Lowell. He had expressed to the Governor's family the fraternal sympathy of the Grand Lodge, and had received an appreciative acknowledgment.

A portrait of Past Grand Master, OTIS E. WELD, was presented to the Grand Lodge in behalf of his lodge: this gift has since been made all the more precious to the Grand Lodge by the death of Bro. WELD.

A Past Grand Master's jewel was presented to M. W. Bro. CHARLES C. DAME, on behalf of Revere Lodge. He was Grand Master in 1866, 1867 and 1868, during the erection of the Masonic Temple, and is now the Senior Past Grand Master, and with a single exception, we think, is the Senior Permanent Member of the Grand Lodge. But he is still an active worker in the advancement of the interests of the Institution.

During the year, there were quite a number of cases before the Commissioners of Trials. We have deemed this system an experiment and have watched its operation with much interest. We think that it is perfectly safe to say that it is a decided success in every respect. How it would be in a large and, as compared with Massachusetts, sparsely settled jurisdiction, we have not as yet formed an opinion. It certainly has these merits; the accused is tried by a tribunal without prejudices or undue sympathies; by one far less liable than the lodge to make mistakes; and it removes from the lodge a very frequent cause of discord and serious disturbance.

One case was of such interest that we devote unusual space to it, trusting that it will be carefully read.

One charge was a criminal conspiracy to injure a man not a mason; he had been indicted for this offence, given bail, and had left the Commonwealth and had not returned, so that the probability was that the case would never be brought to trial. The Commissioners make no finding in relation to his guilt of the offence charged, but find the facts which we have briefly stated.

They say further:

"The Commissioners also find, from the evidence submitted to them, that the said Crandall was, and still is, addicted to the excessive use of morphine, by reason of which he has become so much of a physical and mental wreck as to be unfitted for membership in our fraternity. Your Commissioners also find that the reputation of said Crandall, for the causes above set forth, and on account of his general character, is such as to greatly injure the fraternity and the good name of the Order.

— "On simply technical grounds, Henry C. Crandall is perhaps not guilty of

offences which would warrant his expulsion from the rights and privileges of Masonry. It has, however, been laid down as a principle by the Grand Lodge that 'Whenever it shall be found that the acts of a brother are clearly adverse to the principles and regulations of the craft, or the rights and happiness of any of its members, he may be tried for such acts, although the offence involved has never been described or known before as such.'

"It has also been held by this Grand Lodge that 'Acts clearly and distinctly opposed to the cardinal principles known as the general tenets of the fraternity, or to the special obligations involved in the ritual and voluntarily assumed by the initiates, are masonic offences.' It has been held by this Grand Lodge that 'A brother may be expelled for cruelty to his wife in her last sickness;' that 'Intemperance furnishes a sufficient reason for expulsion,'"

They recommended his expulsion; the report was accepted, the finding and sentence approved, and the party expelled by the Grand Lodge.

Another party was expelled after a trial *ex parte*, under the provision of the Constitution—because he had absconded to parts unknown.

That provision is: "If the residence of the accused be out of the Commonwealth, and unknown, the Commissioners may proceed to examine the charges and accusations *ex parte*."

We commend this case and this provision to the brethren who have doubted the correctness of the proceedings of our Grand Lodge in the HART case.

The following is in accord with the views which we expressed two years ago:

"We do not believe it possible to add to the impressiveness of the work by the use of the stereopticon. A plain and simple illustration of the various emblems alluded to in the ritual, by charts, is sufficient in our ceremonies. The language used and the ceremonies observed should be at all times such as to produce the most impressive effect upon the mind of the candidate. This can be best accomplished by an intelligent and earnest rendering of the ritual. In this way will the high and noble purposes of the Institution best appeal to the heart. Illuminated illustrations distract the attention of the candidate from the more important lessons of the ritual."

* * * * *

"Resolved, That the use of the stereopticon, or other devices not in general use in the work and lectures of the degrees, is hereby prohibited as contrary to the ancient usages and customs of the fraternity in this Grand Jurisdiction."

* * * * *

"In regard to dress, the nearer it conforms to the dress of a gentleman, the more likely it will be to impress the candidate with the high character of our Institution. A practice in some lodges of dressing the officers and assistants in garb other than their usual dress has a tendency to detract from, rather than add to, the dignity of our ceremonials. We therefore recommend that the subject of dress for officers and assistants, while working the degrees, be referred to a committee for special consideration."

* * * * *

"A reasonable amount of music adds very materially to the impressiveness of our services, but it should be limited as to time and place. As this may be considered an addition to the ritual, your committee recommends

that the subject of music be referred to a special committee, to formulate an order setting forth the various points where music may be introduced in the ritual, these committees to report on both recommendations at the next Quarterly Communication."

The new apartments procured for the (we trust) temporary use of the Grand Lodge were dedicated: the Grand Master delivered a historical address of very great interest and value in relation to "the perambulations of the Grand Lodge as to its various places of meeting, with its temples, halls and their associations." From the mere historic standpoint, it is a most valuable contribution to the history of Boston.

In March, 1896, Washington Lodge and King Hiram Lodge each celebrated its centennial—the former in the Meeting House in which the lodge was constituted in 1796; then, as well as now, the exercises were public: the proceedings have been published in a magnificent "Centennial Volume,"—a rare treat for the student of masonic history.

At the June Quarterly, the Grand Master announced the receipt of a check for \$5,000 from Bro. JOHN H. COLLAMORE, to be added to the special charity fund bearing his name. This generous brother has since "passed over to the majority."

In one case the Commissioners of Trials accepted the judgment of a civil court in a case to which the accused was a party, as sufficient evidence to sustain a charge of unmasonic conduct, for which he was expelled.

The Committee on Music made an extended report, which we would be glad to copy in full, but as we have not space, we commend to all brethren, having charge of the work, to examine it carefully, as these Proceedings are found in several of our libraries.

To what extent music is used in our Maine lodges we do not know, but as its introduction is in keeping with the tendency of the day, we extract and condense from this report, although that treatment does not do it justice.

The committee say:

"We agree that music adds to the impressiveness of the masonic ceremonial, and we are quite aware that there has been too great license in its employment. It has been introduced at points where it detracts from, rather than adds to, the desired effect of the ritual, and it has been introduced so frequently and at such great length as to present itself as the leading feature of the ceremony instead of a mere accessory.

"That a masonic degree should never be turned into a concert is a proposition too obvious to need stating."

Want of time; the interpolation into the ritual of incongruous words; the indifference of many brethren to music, to the extent of its being a positive discomfort to them: and its tendency to provoke criticism, are among the reasons urged why it must be so used as not to be abused.

As to instrumental music, the committee say:

"First of all, the organ must never be used as a means of mere personal display of the technical skill of the Organist. His business is to illustrate

the proceedings of the lodge, not to illustrate himself. Then he must remember that the occasion he is illustrating is a solemn occasion, not a festive one. He must not accompany a procession as if he were accompanying a picnic."

"He should present that which has been stamped with the approval of the most competent judges, not the flimsy product of popular tune-makers. Then he should be chary of improvising."

"Here he must be careful not over-crow the recitation. The Organist who covers or blurs the words of the ritual with his instrument deserves speedy discipline for unmasonic conduct."

Then as to vocal music:

"The opening and closing hymn are, of course, in order in all the degrees; and if a practiced choir is available, an anthem or a motet may be substituted for the hymn. We may say, in general, that these are the only places in the degrees where anything of the length of the ordinary anthem or motet should appear, except that the Scripture lesson of each degree might be sung as an anthem, where a competent choir is at hand, instead of being read; and except also that a piece of some importance might be sung in the second degree in illustration of the mention of music as a liberal art. In other places shorter pieces should be used."

"In the first degree, nothing beside the Scripture lesson already mentioned is advisable, except a short sentence at the reception of the candidate, and short sentences before and after that part of the service which is to him of the most solemn import.

"The second degree may be treated as the first, with the addition, already suggested, of a hymn or anthem in praise of music. It has been suggested that this degree, which is shorter and less striking than the others, might be made more interesting by the addition of musical numbers. We see no objection to this, provided that the numbers are not so long or so frequent as to give the whole degree the tone of a concert. The second degree was intended to be didactic and should remain so. We know no authority, however, for attempting to increase its didactic quality by inserting a lecture on the art of music, as is done in some lodges.

"The third degree has been the greatest temptation to the purveyors of music. We have seen programs of choral service in this degree, comprising from twelve to eighteen numbers. This is preposterous. Such pieces as have been indicated for the first degree may be used, but the strictest silence should be observed when the candidate is engaged in personal devotion. Three numbers, referring to evening, to morning and to death, have been so commonly introduced that we are not disposed to discountenance them; but they should be so short and so serious in tone as not to interfere either with the march of events or with the prevailing current of thought."

In conclusion, the committee disapprove of the use of printed programs of any private work of the lodge.

The report was accepted and the recommendations adopted.

We desire to emphasize the idea of the committee, that if the music is of such a character as to attract the attention of the candidate, *as music*, it is utterly out place in our work. If it distracts his attention from the lessons intended to be taught by the work; nay, if it fails to impress those lessons more strongly upon his mind, its use is absolutely unmasonic.

The Committee on "Costuming of Fellow Crafts" reported, and their report was accepted and the recommendation adopted:

"We find that, as a general thing, the costuming destroys that beautiful and impressive simplicity, which has been not only the peculiar characteristic but also the strength of masonic work. It places in the background the elevating lessons of the ritual, and gives the prominent place, with its lasting impressions, to what is usually undignified and often burlesque."

* * * * *

"In conclusion we would suggest that in an institution whose precepts are transmitted as are ours, it should always be a cardinal principle to endeavor to inculcate the moral precepts, rather than to exhibit our dramatic abilities—to appeal to the higher nature, rather than to the love for the spectacular—to cultivate the substantial, rather than the superficial, elements and possibilities of our work. And, finally, we should strive to cultivate that impressive and intelligent simplicity, which is always the most appropriate vesture for such truths as our ritual is designed to teach.

"We therefore recommend the adoption by this Grand Lodge of the recommendation made by the Grand Master on this subject: 'That the Grand Lodge order the discontinuance in this jurisdiction of the costuming of the Fellow Crafts.'"

June 14th, Union Lodge of Dorchester; June 17th, Harmony Lodge of Northfield; and June 24th, Cincinnatus Lodge at Great Barrington, celebrated their several centennials, with addresses of welcome, sermons, orations, masonic and historical, and "with song and story." The Grand Lodge participated in them all, and the accounts given in these Proceedings are a source of delight.

The Proceedings for September have an excellent portrait of the venerable and venerated LUCIUS R. PAIGE, who was buried by the Grand Lodge on the fifth of September last.

At this session, the resolutions of our Grand Lodge in relation to rejected candidates were presented and referred to a special committee.

This pamphlet contains a tribute to the memory of EDMUND DANA BANCROFT, for thirteen years Grand Lecturer, who died August 12, 1896, from the effect of a sunstroke, in the seventy-fifth year of his age; also the proceedings of the Grand Lodge in laying corner stones in several instances, and in dedicating halls, accompanied with addresses of a very interesting character; but we have space only for this brief reference to them. It also contains the invitation of the Grand Lodge of Hungary to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, to be represented at the One Thousandth Anniversary of the existence of Hungary as a nation, and the consecration of the Freemason's Palace in Buda-Pesth; the reply of the Grand Master; and the report of the delegates who attended. The latter contains quite a history of Masonry in Hungary. We had contemplated giving a full account of it, but must be content with the following extracts:

"One hundred and fifty years ago Masonry was in a fairly flourishing condition in Hungary. There were innumerable lodges, and the craft were

everywhere accorded the freedom of meeting for work and the furthering of their worthy purposes. This state of affairs continued until the latter part of the eighteenth century, when the reigning dynasty of Habsburg-Lothringen succeeded to the throne of Hungary by right of Maria Theresa, the daughter of Charles III. Queen Maria Theresa—and after her Joseph II—placed the Masonic Fraternity under the ban, and one after another the lodges gave up their charters, so that by the year 1800 not one was known to exist.

"So it continued until somewhere about 1863 or 1864. At that time the brethren began to assemble at private houses or in rooms fitted for their purpose in some of the hotels. In 1867 Hungary received the famous charter which is known as the 'Arrangement,' and which is inscribed in golden letters on the pages of her national history."

* * * * *

"Since the days of that famous 'Arrangement,' Masonry has grown apace in Hungary. It is under the ban in Austria, but its interests are advanced with zeal and love by the Hungarians, and many of its leading and most influential men are not only allied with the fraternity, but most earnest in its behalf.

"Somewhere about 1868 the Grand Lodge of France exercised jurisdiction over Hungarian masons, but in 1871, under the direction of General Turr, an intimate friend of Garibaldi, the Grand Orient Hungarian was organized, and these two were united under the latter name in 1890.

"There are forty two subordinate lodges in Hungary. Fifteen of these are in Budapest, twelve are in Vienna, and the remainder are scattered throughout the country. Together they number about 2,200 brethren. Of course no work can be done in Vienna, and the lodges there are nominally benevolent or social bodies, but when they initiate a candidate, they go across the Hungarian border to the city of Pozsomy. The brethren meet weekly; their work is all done while opened on the first degree; they have no higher degrees, and they rest upon a Theistic basis and have in substance a ritual corresponding to our own."

It is stated that the full proceedings at the dedication are to be published in English; and we trust that our Grand Lodge will be favored with a copy.

At the December Quarterly, Grand Master HOLMES delivered an address, in which he gives a full statement of his official acts, his visitations, the financial statement of the Grand Lodge and of the Directors, and of an immense amount of other official business. He announced the deaths of Bros. LUCIUS R. PAIGE and BENJAMIN A. GOULD, both Past Deputy Grand Masters; Bro. LORENZO H. GAMWELL, Past Grand Warden; Bro. ALONZO H. QUINT, Past Grand Chaplain; Bro. EDMUND DANA BANCROFT, Past Grand Lecturer; and Bro. JOHN H. COLLAMORE: to these must now be added that of Bro. BENJAMIN DEAN, Past Grand Warden, and, as we have already stated, Bro. OTIS E. WELD, Past Grand Master.

He says in relation to another matter:

"My attention having been officially called to the condition of affairs in one of the lodges, I felt constrained to take action in order to sustain the constitutions and regulations of this Grand Lodge, which in my opinion were being violated. I was informed that several officers of a lodge in this jurisdiction were members and officers of a so-called masonic body which is not recognized by this Grand Lodge. Believing that such a condition of

affairs was detrimental to the interests of our fraternity, I endeavored to prevail upon the officers of the lodge, who were also members of that body, either to renounce their connection with said body or give up their offices in the lodge."

His efforts were not successful, and he issued an order forbidding the installation; the lodge voted to have no installation, in order to allow the old officers to hold over, hoping thus to evade the law: he declared the election of the implicated brethren to be illegal and ordered a new election, declaring the implicated brethren to be ineligible. The lodge complied with his order, and elected and installed new officers. He adds:

"The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts has adopted certain provisions in its constitutions. If these provisions are to be broken in one particular, they can be in every particular. The laws that the craft has ordained for its government must be recognized and obeyed."

A tribute to Bro. BENJAMIN A. GOULD, with a portrait is given.

The committee to which was referred the resolutions of our Grand Lodge reported. It notes the omission to give "all the recent proceedings upon this subject in the various states of the Union." No attempt was made to do that, as was expressly stated in the report: to have done so would have filled a volume; on the other hand, the object was to show what the law had been before the quite recent action changing that law, and to meet the recently originated and erroneous statement that the old law is of very recent origin and had been adopted by only a few Grand Lodges. Nor was it deemed necessary to refer to the recent change in the law of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, as that had been given at length in our Grand Lodge Correspondence Report of the previous year.

However, the committee reported an amendment to the constitution, limiting the effect of a rejection to five years in all cases: and it lies over for action at the next Quarterly Communication.

On December 15, 1896, the centennial of Thomas Lodge, at Palmer, was celebrated, with a historical address and an oration by Rev. Dr. GEORGE C. LORIMER.

At the annual communication, a Past Grand Master's jewel was presented to the retiring Grand Master, EDWIN BRADFORD HOLMES; and his portrait is given in connection with the presentation address and response. Bro. HOLMES has given a splendid administration, and we are glad to know that it is appreciated.

The speeches at the Grand Feast were excellent: but we can only again commend to the brethren to read and study these Proceedings, for they form one of the most interesting and valuable masonic books ever published.

MISSISSIPPI, 1897.

The Grand Master, JAMES F. MCCOOL, looks out upon us from the frontispiece.

He gives us a brief business address, containing little of general interest, save the fact that he found "legally sufficient and satisfactory reasons" for granting quite a number of dispensations for conferring degrees "out of time." He granted several, also, to retake ballot to correct mistakes: we presume that he knew certainly that there had been a mistake in each of the several cases, so that he was right in granting them: but it is quite remarkable that in one year, there should have been five mistakes and positive evidence thereof.

We are glad to note the announcement of the completion of Bro. SPEND'S Digest.

The Deputy Grand Master had acted as Grand Master, in consequence of the illness of that officer. While he did not question the authority of the Grand Master to grant dispensations, he doubted the propriety of doing so, and refused to grant them in favor of admittedly "good men and true," who would have been "valuable acquisitions to Masonry," simply because an arbitrary law assumes that it takes a longer time to find out in some cases that candidates *are* "good men and true" than was possible in these cases. The very nature of that law is such, that there must be numerous exceptions to the necessity of applying it: the sole object of it is to give time to ascertain if a candidate is "a good man and true," and when that fact is admitted the necessity for the law ceases.

The Law Committee submitted a report of almost thirty printed pages. In the Introduction, they lament that so much of their report is taken up with questions connected with Masonic Discipline. We are of the opinion that unless we can get rid of the introduction into masonic trials, of the technical rules of the civil law, we shall go from bad to worse, and must ultimately create a special tribunal to try such cases. As we have already said in this report, it is utter folly to expect the average Master of a lodge to rule according to law upon the admission of evidence and to conduct a trial according to the methods of the civil law. We believe that masonic law contemplates the leaving of these matters to the absolute discretion of the Master, and that appeal to the Grand Lodge carries the whole case there for trial, just as if it had not been tried at all, and that all changes of those methods are importations from the civil law. We favor as close a return to the old methods as possible.

They regret also the increasing number of questions presented to them. Any brother is allowed to fire a conundrum at them. In this connection they say:

"We have also considered whether it would not be wise to return to the old plan of having all questions go to the Grand Master for decision, during the recess. The objection to this is that while most of our Grand Masters have been men of marked ability, many of them have had no legal training and were as completely at a loss to decide such matters as those who propound them, and not having the time or inclination to study law, they have decided them off-hand, with the result that nearly every Grand Master has been "a law unto himself," and at last, the Committee has been called in to review his decisions and sift out the chaff from the wheat, to the great detriment of those whose interests have been affected thereby."

We do not agree. Our observation is that in very many cases, so far as the good of the craft and the welfare of individuals are concerned, it is not of the slightest consequence which way the decision is, and the only reason for a correct decision is that as there is a law the decision should conform to it. The most numerous exceptions are when the decision has the effect to exclude one from the Fraternity, and thus result in a misfortune to him and a possible loss to the craft.

We have read the decisions of the committee with much interest. In some we do not concur; but a discussion of them would require space beyond the limits of this report.

The Grand Secretary brings to the attention of the Grand Lodge many complaints in relation to the payment of dues, when the party is a member only a fraction of a year. The whole trouble arises from a defect in the by-laws, if it is deemed worth while to have any but annual dues. When dues are payable annually on a given date, the law beyond question is that the amount is then payable, without regard to the length of time that the party has been or may remain a member. It is precisely like a tax under the civil law. There is also no doubt that the annual dues are to pay the expenses of the ensuing year and not to pay those of the past year: the lodge should have funds in the treasury to meet bills as they accrue. Of course, if a lodge chooses to have quarterly or monthly dues it may do so; if so, the same rule applies, but the absurdity of "fractional dues" is more clearly apparent. But the complaints are founded upon an utter misconception of the basis upon which dues are charged: the complainants assume that the dues are a payment by members for privileges which they have already enjoyed, and, therefore, should be measured by the time during which they have enjoyed those privileges; whereas dues are contributions for the support of the Institution and the carrying out of its objects, in which every mason is bound to aid, whether a member or not: it is true that there are some incidental privileges growing out of membership, but these are merely incidental; the ideas upon which these complainants proceed are derived from the system of dues and benefits of other organizations: but *masonic* rights and privileges are neither bought nor sold: that idea is in conflict with the fundamental principles of the Institution; the money, which we pay, purchases nothing, but is a con-

tribution, as already stated, to aid in administering the affairs of the craft and the carrying out of its objects.

We notice that the Grand Lodge elected several brethren life-members of it: they had been affiliated forty-six, forty-seven and forty-nine years, respectively. We have not looked into the Constitution to see what their rights and powers are. If we had been present we might have claimed to come in, in the forty-eight years class, so there would have been no gap in the consecutive service!

The following resolutions, presented by Past Grand Master SPEED, were unanimously adopted:

"WHEREAS, A number of the Grand Representatives of other Grand Lodges to this Grand Lodge, now on the roll, have neglected to attend its annual communications for several years, and it is the opinion of the Grand Lodge that the honor of being a Grand Representative ought to be confined to those who are regular in their attendance at the annual communications; be it

"Resolved, That the exequator of all Grand Representatives of other Grand Lodges to this Grand Lodge, who were not present at its last annual communication, and who are not present at this annual communication, be withdrawn, and that the Grand Secretary be directed to give notice to the several Grand Lodges which will thereby be left without representation, of the vacancies created hereby, and to respectfully request that the same be filled in the usual manner.

"Resolved further, That it is the opinion of this Grand Lodge, that the Grand Master in making nominations of Grand Representatives ought to confine the honor to those masons who by their attendance at the annual communications enables them to intelligently discharge the duties of the office.

"Be it further Resolved, That the Commissions of all Grand Representatives from this Grand Lodge to other Grand Lodges, who have failed to attend the annual communications of the Grand Lodges to which they are respectively accredited, for two years last past, be and the same are hereby withdrawn, and that the Grand Secretary is hereby directed to inform the several Grand Masters of this action, and that this Grand Lodge will be pleased to commission such active masons as they may be pleased to nominate to fill the vacancies."

The withdrawal of the "exequator" means, as we understand it, the withdrawal of recognition of the Representative: that might imply a grievance against the Grand Lodge represented, and we should prefer that the Grand Master of Mississippi request the Grand Master of the other jurisdiction to recall the appointment of the delinquent Representative for failure to perform his duties. However, Mississippi and Maine will have no trouble as long as Past Grand Masters McCORMICK and COLLAMORE are able to go out of doors!

The following question divided the Law Committee and the Grand Lodge:

"Is one who travels for a wholesale grocery house, and who in addition to soliciting orders for groceries, also solicits orders for wines and liquors, eligible for initiation."

The Chairman answered, "Yes"; Bro. PAXTON answered "No"; and Bro. HARRISON held that the Grand Lodge had already decided the question in the negative: the Grand Lodge adopted Bro. PAXTON's negative answer by the close vote of 310 to 299.

BRO. SPRED presented the report of the committee upon the resolutions of our Grand Lodge in relation to rejected candidates.

The committee state that Maine is the only Grand Lodge that gave a formal answer to the Grand Lodge of Mississippi in relation to its own proposition, and are still of the opinion that the objections urged do not meet the issue involved. As we have already stated, we believe the Mississippi proposition was very generally misunderstood; it was understood as calling upon a lodge to go into an investigation and ascertain *the reason of its rejection* of a candidate, and in default of doing so, to be deemed to waive objection to his initiation.

Of the law of perpetual jurisdiction, the committee say:

"The law of perpetual jurisdiction of lodges over rejected candidates, rests upon two fundamental principles which have been recognized as co-existent with organized Masonry: 1. That no lodge shall interfere with the work of another; and 2, that no one shall be admitted a mason without due inquiry as to his character. We do not propose to enter upon an examination at this time, of the arguments usually urged by those who would break down these safe-guards, set at the very door of Masonry by the fathers; suffice it to say that the law of perpetual jurisdiction was the common law of American Masonry when this Grand Lodge came into existence. It is to be found in the organic law of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar and the General Grand Chapter of the United States, the only National Bodies, whose existence antedates our own. It was not until the flow of immigration crossed the Mississippi that the demand came for a relaxation of the law that no man should be made a mason until due inquiry was made as to the character he bore, not at the moment, but from the beginning and everywhere, he had sojourned. In their anxiety to increase their numbers the few and struggling lodges in the new west became impatient under a restriction which compelled them to trace back a man from the very beginning of his manhood, involving the delay of communication with the distant place in which his youth was spent, and they began the, until then unheard of, practice of receiving the rejected material of other lodges, ignoring the duty of making due inquiry into this character, quieting their consciences by the new and strange dogma that if a man maintains a fairly good character for a few years at his last place of residence the presumption is that it has always been good."

They reach this conclusion:

"While we are not in a position to say whether the suggested Uniform Rules proposed by this Grand Lodge have been fairly considered upon their merits, we know that they are not acceptable to the other Grand Lodges upon this continent, and while we believe still that they are as liberal as a due regard for the safety of the Masonic Institution will permit, waiving all pride of opinion we yield to whatever shall seem best to the majority of Grand Lodges. Of course we are not prepared to recommend to this Grand Lodge that it yield its predilections in favor of the ancient law of Masonry which we still believe to be wise and salutary, yet, as further adherence to

it may prove a source of danger to the masonic craft, we advise the adoption in part of the proposal of the Grand Lodge of Maine, to limit the jurisdiction of lodges over rejected candidates to five years from the date of rejection; but we think, however, that during that period the safety of Masonry demands that the petitioner should not be allowed to enter the threshold of Masonry with the consent of a part of the membership of the rejecting lodge, and we cannot therefore recommend that portion of the proposition be adopted."

And the following resolutions were adopted:

"*Resolved*, That when a majority of the Grand Lodges in America, shall agree 'that the effect of a rejection *shall* be limited to five years, and that during that time the candidate *shall* be allowed to petition only to the lodge which rejected him,' The Grand Lodge of Mississippi will so amend its laws as to make such agreement effective and binding upon the lodges of its obedience."

"*Resolved*, That it fraternally rejects so much of the proposition of the Most Worshipful, the Grand Lodge of Maine, as would permit a candidate to renew his petition in another lodge unless the same shall be amended so that the same shall require the consent of all the members of the rejecting lodge."

The committee of our Grand Lodge found that a unanimous vote is not required in all jurisdictions to give consent in such cases, and they deemed it unwise to attempt too much and so left the method of waiver to be determined for itself by each Grand Lodge, as that is its own matter: the object was to secure the proper recognition of the action of a particular Grand Lodge by the other Grand Lodges.

We must be permitted to express our high appreciation of the manner in which this matter has been considered and acted upon by the Grand Lodge of Mississippi.

The committee submitted an exceedingly able report upon the "Wisconsin Proposition"; we cannot copy it all, but cannot omit its eloquent conclusion:

"We admit that in a proper case, where a lodge had authorized an expenditure by another lodge for the relief of its member or other person having a claim upon it and afterwards repudiated the obligation, that a Grand Lodge ought to compel its lodge to do its duty, just as it should if the debt was contracted for lodge furnishings or any other purpose at home, and the lodge should afterwards neglect or refuse to make payment, but that is a very different thing from its assuming the indebtedness itself.

"Sweet, ever sweet, will remain the recollection of the great overflowing of the hearts and money of our Northern brethren towards us of the South in the hour of our deep distress, when death held high carnival in our midst.

"Purer than thy own white snow;
Nobler than thy mountains' height;
Deeper than the ocean's flow;
Stronger than thy own proud might;
Oh! Northland, to thy sister land,
Was late, thy mercy's generous deed and grand.

“ Blessings on thine every wave,
 Blessings on thine every shore,
 Blessing that from sorrow save,
 Blessings giving more and more,
 For all thou gavest thy sister land,
 Oh! Northland, in thy generous deed and grand.”

“ Such debts are not to be discharged with money, else principle and interest would have been paid long ago. But there remains a mortgage on every Southern home which is extinguishable. It will only be satisfied in the Grand High Court of Chancery when ‘we shall meet upon the level there, when the gates of death are passed.’

“ It was true Masonry which came rushing to answer the cry of distress, unbidden and with no thought of recompense. So it is true Masonry to fly to the relief of the distressed wheresoever we may find them, having no thought of the debt which is being created or the bond by which it is secured to be paid.

“ We stand debtor to Wisconsin and never can hope for a release from that obligation, and we honor and esteem the true-hearted mason from whose brain emanated this proposed departure from the fundamental principles upon which our craft is builded. If it were a mere question of courtesy to the one or respect and affection for the other we should not be found amongst those who opposed any proposition coming from that source, but as we view it, there is involved a masonic principle which cannot be sacrificed to inclination. And therefore we submit the following:

“ *Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge of Mississippi tender its fraternal respects to the Most Worshipful, the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, and in declining to accede to its first or second propositions relating to the adoption of a uniform rule regulating the liability of lodges for disbursements made for its members in distress by another lodge, begs leave to assure its sister that is not actuated by any but the warmest motives of fraternal love and affection.”

The Law Committee adversely criticised the action of the Grand Master in several instances, especially in relation to the granting of dispensations. The issue between him and the committee seems to be, that the latter take the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge as his sole rule and guide, while he reads them in the light of the ancient landmarks and usages of the craft, superior to all Constitutions, thus taking for his guide the whole body of Masonic Law, instead of a fraction of it. We are with the Grand Master. However, the report goes over to the next annual meeting for action.

We greatly regret to find that the Law Committee are, year by year, departing more and more from the original plan of Masonry, and substituting for *masonic* law the prevailing principles of *civil* law. As the Virginia committee well say in substance, masonic government was founded long before constitutional government was known: the craft has prospered wonderfully under its original system; it is a landmark of Masonry that this original system must be preserved: we deprecate exceedingly all assaults upon it.

The Report on Correspondence (74 pp.) was presented by Bro. ANDREW H. BARKELEY.

His reviews of the several Grand Lodges are very brief, but he makes up for the brevity of these by his Introduction: although that consists of but seven pages it contains a great deal. He discusses "What to do," "How to do" and "When to do": if any orator is prevented from keeping an appointment to deliver a masonic address, let some brother obtain these Proceedings, and read this introduction instead: it is adapted to any occasion on which Masonry is to be taught.

This communication was held at Biloxi, on the coast. Of course, the mileage would be much greater than if the Grand Lodge should meet nearer the center of the lodges. Bro. BARKELEY thus gives the reason:

"My brother, we want to tell you what will soon be an open secret, and you need not publish it from 'the house-top.' We meet at Biloxi, on the sea coast, where they have fresh fish of all sorts and sizes the year round, and fresh oysters every month in the year that has the letter 'r' in it. This, with others, was one of the inducements held out to get the brethren to vote for that place, and without stopping to count the cost, the majority said go to Biloxi. And so they decided to go there in February next. The result of going there will be to swamp the finances, and hence Bro. Franklin will have very few, if any nickels, to bring back with him."

The Grand Secretary, however, thinks that it will pay:

"In the event the General Fund available for 1897, be not sufficient to meet all the demands of the year, I suggest that the Grand Treasurer be authorized to borrow enough from Trustees or the Home to make good any deficit, paying the usual interest. In coming to the coast, it was well understood that the expense would be somewhat greater; but the experience is worth all that it may cost. I am sure that we will all return to our homes feeling richer, and that as Mississippians ours is a 'goodly heritage'; that we 'live, move and have our being' in a land of such marvelous resources and possibilities."

It seems that they are preparing to build a Masonic Home, by raising funds from year to year, till a sufficient sum is raised. There is a splendid charity at Natchez—the Protestant Orphan Asylum, to which the Grand Lodge has in past times lent a helping hand. Of this Bro. BARKELEY says:

"He quotes from Grand Master Harrison's address the report of the Law Committee, and in noticing Bro. Fowler's report he calls him 'the veteran Grand Secretary,' and quotes the proposition to transfer the Natchez Protestant Asylum to the Grand Lodge of Mississippi. It is to be hoped that all such propositions will be passed by in silence by the Grand Lodge. The matter of building a Masonic Home, of *our own* has been before the craft since 1890, and the funds for this purpose carefully invested. We cannot combine with another institution, although it should be transferred to us, without running counter to the purpose and plans for our own institution as they lie in the mind of the originator of the scheme. These plans have not yet been submitted to Grand Lodge and of course are known only to himself. The purpose to press the location of our home where this Protestant Asylum is located would be inopportune at this time. When the time comes to locate, the proposition should be open to bids from every quarter. Many things would have to be considered in the matter of location, for which we are not yet prepared. It will be time enough to weigh this

matter after the *endowment* fund shall have been completed.

"Permission was granted by the last Grand Lodge, held at Biloxi, to labor in the interest of this Protestant Asylum. *This institution does not belong to us, and we fail to see why permission was asked of the Grand Lodge to labor for it.*

"There may be something back of all this, as well as something looking to the future, with which we have no acquaintance. We shall await developments."

And Bro. POWER adds in a note:

"Grand Secretary takes advantage of his proof-reading of this report to make an observation or two. The proposition to transfer the Natchez Protestant Orphan Asylum to Grand Lodge has not been, and will not be 'pressed.' It was referred to in 1896, at the instance of the lady managers of the Asylum, and was laid over as unfinished business; but it was not again called up, and never will be, so far as the writer knows. As to the 'permission' granted by Grand Lodge to labor in a special direction for the Asylum there is nothing 'back of all this' that can in any way compromise the Grand Lodge. A hospital or infirmary is needed and Bro. Paxton has undertaken to raise the funds, and he simply wanted the moral effect of a commendatory resolution. Only this and nothing more."

We trust that no mere sentiment will prevent doing the best thing. The matter is one of strict business, and when the proper time comes the question should be settled upon business principles.

NEW BRUNSWICK, 1896.

The Grand Master (JULIUS T. WHITLOCK) announces the deaths of Past Deputy Grand Masters HENRY DUFFELL and EDWIN J. WETMORE; the latter was also, for a number of years, Grand Secretary.

Speaking of the prosperous condition of Alley Lodge, he says:

"In this connection, I cannot refrain from mentioning the continued kindness and unselfishness of St. Croix Lodge in waiving jurisdiction over candidates living in Baring, Me., who apply for admission into Alley Lodge. At present the Worshipful Master of Alley Lodge and many of its members reside in Baring, and most of its initiates are drawn from that place. If it were not for the generosity of St. Croix in this matter, Alley would find it difficult to maintain its standing."

There was a different state of things on the border in 1859 and 1860: we are very glad that now the true masonic spirit prevails.

He had visited a large number of lodges with good results. He announced that Howard Lodge had been reorganized: and that he had granted a dispensation for one new lodge.

He says:

"At the request of M. W. Bro. John Stewart, Grand Master of New York, I have revoked the commission of R. W. Bro. William J. Beateay as our representative near the Grand Lodge of New York, and have appointed to that position W. Bro. John W. Palmer, of Commonwealth Lodge, No. 409, in the City of Brooklyn."

As the same request was made of our Grand Master, we are led to wonder what is the matter with the New York Grand Representative. Is there liable to be a call for a masonic "civil service reform"?

Why may not our Grand Lodge claim an interest in the "historical sketch" mentioned in the following?

"On the 29th of April, Sussex Lodge, No. 7, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its organization in a special communication, at which I had the happiness to be present. St. Croix, St. Mark's, St. George, Alley and Victoria Lodges were represented by their Worshipful Masters or Past Masters. The entertainment included a musical and literary programme and refreshments. Among many other pleasant features that linger in the memory were a deeply interesting historical sketch of Masonry in New Brunswick and of the border lodges, by R. W. Bro. Vose, of St. Croix Lodge, and a poem of great merit written in honor of the occasion by Worshipful Master Gray, of Alley Lodge."

We hope this will be widely read:

"But our greatest dangers are within. We have more to fear from indifference than from persecution or from revolution. When the spirit of unrest is abroad in the world and men are seeking some new thing, it behooves us to be faithful to our trust. Other and newer societies and associations offer pleasant social intercourse or material benefits, or are banded together for the attainment of some special object which their promoters think of greatest moment. But our ancient craft, influenced by the highest considerations for the welfare of mankind, offers little to gratify the feelings of those who do not first think of the welfare of others. Its spirit demands of us self-sacrifice without hope of material reward. The good that we seek to accomplish, we must do without the hope of any selfish reward. Let us strive by diligent study to grasp the higher teaching in this direction of our fraternity, while by consistent conduct we maintain its honor."

The resolutions of our Grand Lodge in relation to rejected candidates were presented and referred to a special committee, and upon its report were referred to the Board of General Purposes for consideration and report, if deemed advisable, at the next annual communication.

The brief reports of the District Deputies show a fair and growing degree of prosperity.

No Report on Correspondence.

ENGLAND.

We have the Proceedings of the "United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England," for June, July, September and December, 1896, and March, 1897.

As we have before stated, these Proceedings give an account not only of what is done, but also of the debates.

At the June communication the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"That this Grand Lodge desires to record its gratitude to the Great Architect of the Universe that the 21st anniversary of the installation of His Royal Highness the Grand Master has been attained, to the great advantage of the Craft in general and the happiness of the brethren in particular, and this Grand Lodge earnestly prays, that by the protecting blessing of the Most High, His Royal Highness may continue to be the wise and enlightened ruler of English Freemasonry for many years to come."

The Provincial and District Grand Masters were also authorized to commemorate this anniversary by conferring Past Provincial and District Grand Rank on Brethren in their respective Provinces and Districts, but not exceeding one for every ten lodges in each Province or District.

In the Report of the Board of General Purposes, we find the following:

"The attention of the Board has been directed to what is understood to be a not uncommon custom for Masters of lodges to omit to hand over to initiates, copies of the Book of Constitutions; an omission which is frequently pleaded as excuse for the total disregard of some of the most important and essential rules and regulations governing the craft.

"The Board cannot too strongly insist on the duty of every Master of a lodge to satisfy himself that all initiates are put in possession of copies of the Book of Constitutions, by the rules of which every member of the craft is bound."

A most commendable law: we wish that the practice could be universally established. At the time when we were made a mason, the initiate (at any rate in our lodge) was informed that while older brethren would instruct him, it was his duty to obtain a "Monitor" and study it thoroughly.

Two clerks in the Grand Secretary's office, who had served twenty-three years, but whom ill-health had compelled to resign, were retired upon annual pension equal to two-thirds of their respective salaries.

The following was also adopted:

"That the sum of five hundred guineas be contributed from the funds of Grand Lodge in aid of the special effort now being made under the Chairmanship of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Most Worshipful Grand Master, on behalf of Guy's Hospital, with the object of re-endowing and permanently improving the financial condition of that noble institution."

The income of this famous hospital had been reduced one-half, and H. R. H. The Prince of Wales had undertaken to raise £100,000 to endow it.

The meeting in July was a special one to consider the question of the recognition of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand. The Pro Grand Master presiding, submitted the following:

"His Royal Highness the Most Worshipful Grand Master having considered the application for recognition by the Grand Lodge of England of the New Body called the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, as an independent sovereign masonic authority, and having informed himself of the general state of masonic feeling in the colony, is of opinion that with a view to promote the harmony and union of the various masonic bodies there, and to end all sources of difference, the period has now arrived when recognition may be properly accorded, and therefore desires that the sense of Grand Lodge should be taken on the following resolution, which I now move:

“That, taking into consideration the message of the M. W. Grand Master, Grand Lodge requests that His Royal Highness will be pleased to take such steps for the recognition of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, and for the establishment of fraternal good feeling with our New Zealand brethren as he may consider consistent with the honour of this Grand Lodge, and with just consideration for those lodges which may desire to retain their connection with the Grand Lodge of England.”

“I beg to move that.”

The resolution caused an earnest and protracted discussion.

One brother argued that it would “set aside the old precedent,” requiring “practical unanimity,” before recognition should be accorded.

But the chief objection was that the rights of the English lodges were not sufficiently protected. One brother insisted that the right to grant new charters should be retained. An amendment was moved to carry out the views of those opposed to recognition, but it was lost by a very large vote, and the original resolution was carried almost unanimously.

From the discussion and action we infer that the following propositions may be taken as the doctrine of the Grand Lodge of England.

(1.) A vote of a lodge to join in the organization of a new Grand Lodge is of no effect. As long as three members of the lodge remain, they have the right to retain the charter and are the lodge to all intent and purposes; if less than three remain loyal to the Grand Lodge the lodge ceases to exist.

We may add, however, that in the case of the American Grand Lodges, this doctrine was not asserted. The right of *lodges* to join in the organization of a new Grand Lodge, and retain their charters, was recognized by recognizing Grand Lodges so formed, and maintaining masonic relations with lodges still working under their English charters, but under the obedience of another Grand Lodge.

(2.) The Grand Lodge of England will now recognize a new Grand Lodge, when satisfied that the good and harmony of the craft require it, although the movement is not “practically unanimous.”

(3.) After recognition, it will grant no new charters in the jurisdiction of the new Grand Lodge.

(4.) It will continue to maintain jurisdiction over lodges which choose to adhere to it, as long as three members remain loyal to it.

(5.) It will maintain in such territory a District Grand Lodge, as long as not less than three lodges adhere to it.

It is true that the Grand Lodge voted down an amendment proposing to embody the fourth and fifth in the resolution in express terms, but on the ground, we think, that the resolution really recognizes these propositions.

At the September communication the business was brief, and of a routine character, save the acknowledgment by the Grand Master of the address of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, congratulating him on his twenty-first installation as Grand Master.

At the December meeting nominations for Grand Master and Grand Treasurer were made: one of the opponents of the recognition of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand undertook to catechise the President of the Board of General Purposes as to why the Board did not report upon a letter sent to it anent that matter; but he subsided, after being informed that the matter was in the hands of the Grand Master, and the letter had been sent to him.

On March 3, 1897, "The sum of one thousand guineas was voted to the Indian Famine Relief Fund," and the Grand Treasurer announced that he would pay the amount at once, and not wait for the confirmation of the grant at the next Grand Lodge in June.

The following amendment to the constitutions was adopted:

"Every brother who has been initiated into Masonry in a regular lodge not under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England shall previously to his becoming a member of any lodge, declare in open lodge his adhesion to the Book of Constitutions, and promise due obedience to the Grand Master, and the Rules and Regulations of Grand Lodge, and the fact shall be recorded on the lodge minutes."

The reason for this is thus stated:

"This has been brought to our notice because on one occasion a brother was initiated, passed and raised on the same night by a Past Master who was initiated into Freemasonry under the Scotch jurisdiction, and it was held by our Grand Registrar that we had no power to call the Past Master before the Board of General Purposes, as we had no jurisdiction over him."

In this country, every member of a lodge is held to be bound by our laws and amenable for a breach of them, without regard to the jurisdiction in which he was initiated. Here a violation of masonic law is an offence, because it is a mason's duty to obey that law, and not because he has promised to obey the law and has broken his promise.

A long and very sharp debate grew out of the New Zealand question in fact, though the motion was a general one. It seems that the Grand Registrar has come to the conclusion, that the doctrine of the Grand Lodge in relation to the part which lodges may take in organization of a new Grand Lodge, needs modification. As already stated, lodges are not now permitted to act upon, or even to discuss the question: worse than that, a meeting of brethren to discuss such a question is also unlawful: and even worse still, until the new Grand Lodge is recognized, it is unlawful to have masonic intercourse with the brethren concerned in the organization of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Registrar depicted the evils of the present practice very forcibly and submitted amendments to the Book of Constitutions: in substance, provision is made, that by dispensation from the District Grand Master (subject, in case of refusal, to appeal to the Grand Master) a special meeting or meetings may be held to discuss and resolve on the question of participating in the formation of a Sovereign Grand Lodge: also (and this applies to New Zealand) that when a Grand Lodge is recognized, so that no

warrants for new lodges shall be issued, within six months after such recognition, every lodge must hold a meeting, upon notice of not less than twenty-one days, and determine by a two-thirds vote whether it would go with the new Grand Lodge or not.

The opponents of the recognition of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand opposed the motions. They denied that the Grand Lodge of New Zealand had been recognized, while the Grand Registrar asserted that it had been, and quite a sharp debate took place on that question. One of the opponents said:

"I do not like repealing our old Constitutions, that have worked well in the past; probably they will work well in the future. These that are proposed to be added, are not required; at least there is no immediate hurry for them."

This brought to his feet Bro. J. WIMBURN LAURIE, Past Grand Master of Nova Scotia, and now Provincial Grand Master for New South Wales, who commenced by saying:

"It has been said that the present constitution works well. I can speak from actual personal experience that it works exceedingly—I was going to say scandalously. I have had the honour of presiding over a Colonial Grand Lodge for some fifteen years; but I was in the Colony of Nova Scotia when it was decided by the masons there to form a separate and independent Grand Lodge. I will give you an explanation, that Grand Lodge may know."

He then went on to describe in forcible terms the condition of things in Nova Scotia, and how the present system worked there. It is safe to say that the statement that the present system has worked well in the past will not be repeated in his presence!

The opponents moved to refer the matter to the Board of General Purposes, but the motion was defeated by a vote of 248 to 148.

It was then agreed to refer the matter to the Grand Registrar, GEN. LAURIE, Bro. FENN, (Past Grand Warden), Bro. EVE (the leader of the opposition), and the Colonial Committee of the Board G. P. as a special committee to report at next Grand Lodge.

We are glad to find that the Grand Registrar (who is the "law officer" of the Grand Lodge) holds that a mason is amenable to discipline in the place in which he commits an offence, without regard to the place of his membership.

The lodges number up to 2,646, of which about 800 made returns for the quarter. We regret that we have no method of ascertaining or even of estimating the total membership of the obedience of this Grand Lodge.

IRELAND.

We have the usual small pamphlet giving the names of the Grand Officers; list of Provincial Grand Lodges; a list of Grand Representatives (among whom we find none from our Grand Lodge); a list of those struck from the rolls and of those re-instated.

The following amended rule is published:

"No lodge shall initiate any person who shall not be able to read and write, or who shall be a sheriff's, coroner's, or marshal's bailiff, or a domestic livery servant. Any lodge violating this rule shall have its warrant cancelled or suspended, or be fined five pounds, as Grand Lodge shall see fit; provided always that in the colonies the Provincial Grand Master shall exercise within his province a discretionary power as to the application of this rule in the case of bailiffs."

Twelve charters had been granted during the year; two restored and one suspended.

One brother had been expelled and two suspended.

It still maintains a District Grand Lodge in New Zealand and one in Queensland. It carries seven lodges in New Zealand and seventeen in Queensland on its roll, but not one of them is credited with the payment of dues. Each of the Provincial Grand Lodges is credited with a small amount: but both are in arrears.

MEXICO.

We have received documents on both sides of the controversy in relation to the GRAN DIETA. RICHARD H. CHISM issued a pamphlet, to which Dr. A. W. PARSONS replied, and CHISM has issued another by way of rejoinder.

All these pamphlets deal altogether too much with personal matters. CHISM's first pamphlet was very largely a defence of himself. He had been expelled, but he denies the validity and justice of his expulsion: upon his own statement, his expulsion was valid, and whether his expulsion was just or unjust, it remains that he is an expelled mason.

The character of his statements suggests to the reader that they must be taken with many grains of allowance, and the reader leaves it without any information upon which he dares to rely. In his later pamphlet, he speaks of Bro. PARVIN in a manner that injures himself.

The statements of Dr. PARSONS, while evidently made under strong excitement, seem to be reliable, and when we find them endorsed by Bro. PARVIN, who has made a second trip to Mexico, we cannot resist giving them credence.

But we are not yet prepared to recommend the recognition of the Gran Dieta.

A question has been raised as to the relations between the Gran Dieta and the Grand Lodges. The system seems to be like the one formerly proposed

in this country; the Gran Dieta seems to be like the proposed General Grand Lodge. We had intended to examine this question and come to a conclusion: but sickness in our family and a visit of the grip during the winter months prevented, and we have not had time since.

Does the Gran Dieta system promise permanency? Or will Grand Lodge after Grand Lodge, upon slight pretexts, secede from it and thus endanger its existence?

The system is of such a character that it cannot be a success unless it has under its obedience substantially all the regular Grand Lodges in Mexico, and in such a manner that they cannot separate from it without its consent.

We have been examining such documents as we have, but cannot complete the examination in season for this report: we hope, however, to do so, and put our conclusions in the hands of the Grand Master in season for presentation to the next Grand Lodge.

NEW SOUTH WALES, 1896.

Four quarterly and two special communications were held during the year ending with the month of June, 1896.

The death of Past Grand Master Dr. W. G. SEDGWICK was announced, and a letter of condolence sent to his family: in accordance with his expressed wish his burial was strictly private. Only a month before his death, he had installed the Grand Master.

The following from the Report of the Board G. P. shows the wisdom of the proposed action of the Grand Lodge of England:

"An application was received from this lodge, asking for monetary assistance in defending an action commenced against them, in the Supreme Court of New South Wales, by certain brethren formerly members of the same lodge when under the English Constitution, to obtain the furniture, jewels, and other lodge property. Your Board, after a very exhaustive enquiry into the merits of the case, and considering that the status of Grand Lodge may be involved in the trial, recommend that the sum of £50 be donated from Grand Lodge funds."

Seven lodges were reported to be in arrears and incapable of taking part in Grand Lodge proceedings.

A lodge had been fined two guineas for initiating a resident of the territorial jurisdiction of another lodge "without making due inquiry as provided in the constitution." This method is to be commended, as it removes from such disputes considerations relating to the fees.

The "Inspectors of Workings" had visited nearly all the lodges: their reports, as a whole, say that the work is creditably performed.

One of them says:

"The secession of members caused by adversity during the past two or three years, has had a manifest effect on the muster roll of most lodges, and

the result has been that frequently the crudest raw material has perforce been utilized in completing the roster of officers in a lodge, with a resultant weakening of the powers for usefulness of Masonry in the vicinity."

He thinks that the consolidation of lodges should be urged and encouraged.

Others report lodges as struggling under depression and other lodges as having little or no work.

The Grand Lodge endorsed the action of the Grand Master in presenting an address of welcome to the new Governor of the Colony upon his arrival.

The Board G. P. had decided:

"That an honorary member (that is, a member who does not contribute the ordinary dues to the funds of the lodge) is not entitled to any privileges, but merely the privilege of attending the meetings of the lodge without the necessity of an introduction."

But the Grand Lodge adopted the following:

"That the Grand Lodge refuses to endorse the view set forth in paragraph No. 1 of the Report of the Board of General Purposes, and expresses the opinion that all members of lodges whose dues are paid to Grand Lodge are entitled to all the privileges of lodge members."

The "Grand Inspector of Workings" says:

"The work in most lodges has been of a most commendable nature, attention being strictly paid to every detail in the various degrees. And some lodges, I am pleased to see, are dropping into the custom of closing all the degrees in the orthodox manner. The duty of closing a lodge is as imperative, and the ceremony as solemn, as that of the opening, nor should it ever be omitted through negligence nor hurried over with haste, but everything should be performed with order and precision, so that no brother shall go away dissatisfied. From the very nature of our Constitution, a lodge cannot properly be adjourned—it must either be closed in due form, or the brethren called off. I trust all Masters of lodges will see to this in the future."

This confirms the views of Bro. SCHULTZ as to the meaning of the word "adjourn" as used in the forms for public ceremonies.

It was proposed to amend the constitution by adding to the qualification of candidates, the following:

"Nor until he shall have been a resident of New South Wales during a continuous period of at least six months."

But it was defeated: we believe that this action was a mistake.

Among the Proceedings, whose receipt was acknowledged, are those of our Grand Lodge.

The Deputy Grand Master, referring to the falling off in the membership and in the receipts, says:

"The foregoing figures will naturally cause us to pause and consider our position, and in doing so, in the light of my knowledge of the various lodges and their working, I feel that we have no real cause for regret. We are not a public company or a commercial organization, whose success is to be measured exactly by our income, or our increase in membership. I have thought, and others have thought, that Freemasonry has in these latter days

been increasing too rapidly, and I have for years been trying to impress the brethren with the fact that our success as Freemasons depends far more upon quality than quantity. I am convinced that wholesale initiations are a great element of weakness and danger to the best principles of the craft, and I also believe that our present decrease is due to the facts, that a large number of undesirable members are gradually dropping out, that greater caution is being exercised in the issuing of warrants for new lodges, and that the members generally are getting increasingly careful as to the kind of men they introduce into our Order. If this is correct, then the decrease in our membership and the falling off in our revenue may be received with equanimity and with a feeling of satisfaction."

The Committee on Correspondence submitted a report which was expected to be published in these Proceedings, but it does not appear.

NEW ZEALAND.

This Grand Lodge holds an annual communication in April and a semi-annual in October; and we have the Proceedings of the two held in 1896.

The death of Past Grand Master E. T. DILLON was announced and appropriate resolutions adopted.

In this Grand Lodge, as well as in most of the other Grand Lodges of British descent, outside of America, the Grand Master makes no report of his official acts, and the report of the transactions of the year comes from the Board of General Purposes. Other Boards and some other officers also make report to the Grand Lodge.

We are gratified to find evidence of a more fraternal state of feeling among the lodges holding under different Grand Lodges, than has heretofore existed; the Board of Benevolence say:

"A tabulated statement of benevolence disbursed by the Board from the 1st of May, 1890, to the present date is appended, and shows that the Grand Lodge Fund of Benevolence has always been administered irrespective of Constitution or Nationality, and with the universal beneficence which should at all times characterize Freemasons.

"In addition to the actual grants made by the Board, the Grand Master has, upon the Board's recommendation, sanctioned the issue to lodges holding under the Grand Lodge of New Zealand of numerous appeals made by lodges of sister constitutions. And although from absence of complete data the actual figures cannot be given, it is safe to say that very large sums have been contributed in this manner, whilst it is equally gratifying to be able to record that similar appeals issued in urgent cases by our own lodges have received a like prompt and generous response from those of other constitutions, evidencing that all are still working together in harmony where the true and practical spirit of benevolence is concerned."

Of the action of the Grand Master, the Board of General Purposes say:

"M. W. Grand Master.—M. W. Bro. F. H. D. Bell being at this time absent from the Colony, affords an opportunity for the Board to express its deep sense of the work carried out during his two years of office. If M. W. Bro. Bell has not been seen in lodges as often as the preceding Grand Masters

were, the Board and the brethren were quite prepared for this by a knowledge of Bro. Bell's manifold engagements. The Board desires to assure the brethren and record its conviction that he has been efficient in counsel, and has undertaken work of a very delicate character. The return of the charters was willingly entered into by the Grand Master, and both with R. W. District Grand Master Bro. Arkwright, of Wellington, and R. W. District Grand Master Bro. Cunningham, of Christchurch, as well as with other District Grand Masters, he, both by correspondence and personal interviews, whilst upholding the dignity of Grand Lodge, embraced every opportunity of showing the true masonic spirit which has animated Grand Lodge since its inauguration, of goodwill towards men. It is too soon yet to speak of what he may be able to accomplish at Home, but the Board has every confidence in leaving in his hands the conduct of affairs with the masonic authorities in the old country, and very sincerely trusts that he will be successful in obtaining recognition from the Grand Lodge of England."

Two halls had been dedicated, one lodge constituted, and the officers of several lodges installed by the Grand Officers; of these the Board say:

"Your Board has been assured that the various ceremonies were eminently satisfactory from every point of view; indeed, they are characterized as the most brilliant masonic gatherings ever held on the west coast.

"Your Board is strongly of opinion that in isolated districts such as this every assistance and facility should be afforded by Grand Lodge, especially at meetings where members representing lodges extending over a large area of country are assembled."

The recognition of the Grand Lodge by quite an additional number of Grand Lodges was announced.

The office of the Grand Lodge was ordered removed to Dunedin, to remain there until otherwise ordered.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"That Grand Lodge appropriate a sum, not exceeding £50, to provide a head-stone and suitable railing to the grave of the late Bro. E. T. Gillon, Pt. Gr. Master, in commemoration of his many services to the Grand Lodge, and in fraternal respect to his memory."

The reports of the District Superintendents show that all the lodges, except two, had been visited, and a fair degree of prosperity and good progress are reported.

Considerable space is given to the proceedings at the installation of the Grand Officers, and at the banquet which followed.

We quote the following from the address of the installing officer to the Grand Master, in order to show to our "Constitutional" brethren, the views of the powers of the Grand Master held in the Mother Grand Lodge, and her daughter Grand Lodges which have recently sprung from her:

"Most Worshipful Sir, before inducting you into the chair I am now temporarily occupying, I will venture briefly to direct your attention to the importance of the duties and responsibilities you are undertaking, in the hope that my admonitions may strengthen those resolutions, I have no doubt you have already formed in your own mind that the powers vested in you shall never be abused or perverted. By immemorial custom and the

irrevocable landmarks of Masonry, you are invested as Grand Master, with powers and prerogatives well nigh absolute. The interests of the craft, and the happiness of your brethren throughout this Colony are practically in your hands during your term of office. But the very consciousness of the possession of great power will ever incline a man of generous mind to be cautious and gentle in its exercise. To rule has been the lot of many, and does not necessarily require either strength of intellect or soundness of judgment. To rule well has been the fortune of but few, and may well be the object of an honourable ambition. Let me remind you, sir, that it is not by the strong arm and iron will that obedience and order, those first requisites of good government, are best secured, but rather by holding the key to the hearts of men."

The Grand Master made an excellent address, which may be read with great profit by all who are concerned in administering the affairs of the craft. Among other things, he said:

"We have in the Grand Lodge two charges: We have the charge of the administration of the ordinary affairs of the Grand Lodge, and we are charged to see that our ancient landmarks are observed in the closest manner by the large and rapidly increasing number of lodges that come under our rule. Most Worshipful sir, it is part of our duty never to forget, and, indeed, we cannot forget, that the rites of Freemasonry, its ceremonies, its allegorical teachings, and its noble precepts, are not of our own devising. They were practiced ages before our time, and they will survive after we have been forgotten, and while we are entrusted with the care and supervision of our lodges it must be our close endeavour to see that they hand on unimpaired the landmarks that have reached us through centuries."

The receipt of three copies of our Proceedings was acknowledged. The name of Bro. HERBERT HARRIS, as Representative near our Grand Lodge, is given, but in the table of Representatives it is said "From. Not yet appointed." While we find no mention later, that the appointment had been made, it is noted in the proceedings in October, that congratulations were tendered by the Representative (among others) of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

In October, the Board report:

"Since the annual communication, Lodge Unanimity, of Marlborough, has transferred its allegiance from the Grand Lodge of England, was welcomed into the fold by Rt. Wor. Bro. H. J. Williams, and is now No. 106 on our roll. Lodge Ohinemuri, No. 107, at Paeroa, was consecrated and opened by Mt. Wor. Bro. Niccol, Past Grand Master, on July 23, under the most favourable auspices, the proceedings forming altogether 'one of the grandest and most impressive masonic ceremonies that have ever taken place in New Zealand.' Lodge Winton, No. 108, at Winton, Southland, was consecrated by the Mt. Wor. Grand Master, Bro. Wm. Barron, on September 23d, assisted by the Grand Superintendent of the District, Rt. Wor. Bro. M. R. Bree, and the Grand Secretary. There was a large attendance of brethren from Invercargill and the surrounding districts."

Past Grand Master BELL had written that the Grand Lodge of England had recognized the Grand Lodge, but no official announcement had been received.

SCOTLAND.

We regret that we have received but one pamphlet from this Grand Lodge—the Proceedings for May, 1896, including those of a special session held on the twenty-fifth of that month and the action of the Grand Committee at their meetings during the quarter year following:

The statement of the proceedings at the May quarterly are very meagre, but so far as shown, they were of a routine character and of merely local interest.

We note, however, that "the Chairman" (the substitute Grand Master) submitted to the Grand Lodge the question whether a brother who had made a motion should be heard in reply to others, and the Grand Lodge decided, "by an almost unanimous vote," that he should not be heard.

Thereupon:

"A discussion took place as to whether the motion by Bro. Cameron or that by Bro. Sneddon should be held as the amendment. The Chair, with the sanction of the meeting, ruled Bro. Sneddon's motion as the amendment, and on a division, Bro. Cameron's motion was carried by 215 votes to 4.

"Bro. Sneddon then protested in the following terms:—'I hereby enter my dissent, and protest against the ruling given by the Chair, on the ground that the Grand Committee's Recommendation was the substantive motion.'"

The meeting on May 26, 1896, was held for the special purpose of laying the foundation stone of the "New North Bridge" in Edinburg. The ceremonies had a peculiar interest, from the fact that the foundation stone of the "Old North Bridge" was laid one hundred and thirty-three years before, by GEORGE DRUMMOND, Lord Provost of the City, and Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, as Acting Grand Master.

There was a very large attendance, deputations being present from more than one hundred lodges, numbering about fifteen hundred brethren.

The ceremonies in 1763 were closely followed; an account of them, taken from the records of Grand Lodge by the Grand Secretary, is appended to this pamphlet; the account does not differ materially from that given by PRESTON.

The Grand Lodge was opened in the first degree: and "the Grand Master having intimated the special business," "Grand Lodge adjourned" and proceeded to join the lodges, which were being marshalled in Charlotte Square.

A very brief account of the ceremonies is given, but the Grand Master, referring to the ceremonies in 1763, said that "they were that day strictly following the analogy at that time." As then, the Grand Lodge marched back to Masonic Hall, and was closed by the Grand Master.

After the ceremony, the Lord Provost and the Corporation of the City entertained the Grand Master and about 250 of the craftsmen at a dinner in

Music Hall. An account of it, abridged from a newspaper account, is appended. Cuts of the Old North Bridge and of the new one as it is proposed to be, are given. We find that the "Old North Bridge" still stands and that the new one is an additional avenue required by the growth of the city and its business.

An examination of the reports of the Grand Committee shows an increasing revenue and an increasing balance over expenditures: the establishment of a District Grand Lodge in the Transvaal; and that there is a sub-committee to visit such lodges in the Metropolitan District as may express a desire to receive such visit.

An amendment to the constitution had been adopted, requiring an interval of two weeks between the conferring of any two degrees. We think this will have a tendency to prevent the admission of candidates from abroad and remove the cause for complaints as to infringement of jurisdiction by lodges in this country. We note that the lodges have not yet become accustomed to this rule, for many violations of it were reported. The committee suspended the charters temporarily and remitted the matter to the District Grand Master, with full power to deal with each case and report.

We find the following:

"The privileges of a Past Installed Master are—The right to sit as a constituent member of his Provincial Grand Lodge; and, in the absence of the Installed Masters of any regular lodge in which he may for the time be, to sit and officiate in the chair of such lodge if called thereto by the brethren present.

"Grand Secretary is of opinion that diplomas to those having the degree of Installed Master in virtue of their election to the chair of a lodge should not be issued until the full service of one year as Master shall have expired, and has been certified to by the Secretary of his lodge.

"It was unanimously resolved to recommend to Grand Lodge to adopt the suggestion offered by Grand Secretary with reference to the issuing of diplomas of the degree of Installed Master."

It will be seen that the law of this Grand Lodge is, that in the absence of the Master, a Past Master presides.

One Provincial Grand Master reports:

"The Dunblane Lodge celebrated its Bi-Centenary in June last year. Many of the lodges in the province were present at the proceedings, which were conducted under the auspices of Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge. The words of the Grand Master on the occasion are worthy to be recorded in this report—'It has been a pleasure to the Grand Master to have to-day taken part with Lodge No. 9 in celebrating the completion of the second century of its existence, and it is the hope of the Grand Master that its future career may be such as to advance and adorn the craft in and beyond its ancient home.'"

This is lodge No. 9 on the roll: and the claim is that it was organized in 1695; we noticed last year that it is claimed that the lodge has complete records for two hundred years. It would be a grand contribution to masonic

history to give an abstract of the early records. In this connection, we note that this lodge, with five others in the same province (one of them a young lodge) confer the Mark degree.

The Grand Secretary of the "Grand Lodge of All India" (Provincial), in the name of its Grand Master, urges that the Grand Master be given the power to grant dispensations to shorten the two weeks interval between degrees, saying, among other things, that the English Prov. Gr. Master has that power, so that the rule operates to the injury of the Scottish lodges. The consideration of the question was deferred.

The following is of much interest:

"A communication, of date May 20, was read from the Scottish-holding Lodge Aintab, Syria, No. 773, of which the following is an extract:—'It is more than six months since we wrote you last. The cause of our silence is evident: the dreadful massacres that took place in all the Eastern Provinces of Asa Minor extended also to Aintab. Hundreds have been killed and thousands have been robbed. More than four thousands people, reduced to utter destitution, have been saved from imminent death by the timely help of British and American Christians. A good many of our brethren have suffered sorely,—and some eight or nine of them are still in prison, in Aleppo, under false and malevolent charges. We, the remaining few, now ask your help, and through you the help of all the brethren in Scotland to enable poor and robbed artisans to procure instruments and utensils for their trades and handicrafts. . . . Since writing the above our brothers in Aleppo have been released from prison. Anything that the Grand Lodge of Scotland may send will be taken charge of and be dispensed by the Rev. Dr. Fuller, Central Turkey College, who is designated here by the British and American Embassies of Constantinople.'

"It was resolved to recommend to Grand Lodge to grant one hundred pounds towards the relief of the distressed brethren in Aleppo and Aintab."

We again express our great regret that we have not received the Proceedings for the remainder of the year.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1896.

At the semi-annual communication in October, 1895, the business was merely routine.

The following decision was made:

"The Board have been asked for a ruling in reference to the status of honorary members. The constitutions are very clear on the point. Honorary members cannot vote on any questions, unless a unanimous vote by ballot is taken conferring that privilege; it is also quite clear that honorary members are not eligible for any office."

At the annual communication in April, 1896, the report of the Board of General Purposes was adopted.

One new lodge had been chartered. A proposition had been made that an organ be purchased "for the rendering of the Masonic Ritual," but the

Board of Trustees decided that the expenditure proposed (\$2,000) was not warranted, at any rate at the present time.

The Inspector of Lodges had visited nearly all them, and found them (with one exception) working satisfactorily: in the excepted case, the Master had promised compliance with the order which had been issued to him. The Lodge of Instruction had not been sufficiently attended.

The finances of the Grand Lodge were in an admirable condition: the total dues received were over \$4,000, of which some \$1,250 was for the benevolent fund. The total membership had fallen off from 2,351 to 2,257; of this loss 31 arose from the surrender of the charter of one lodge; of the 38 active lodges, one showed an increase of 26 members, nine others an increase of one or two each, several just held their own, and the others show a loss, generally of only a few members; so it would seem that the depression is a general one: the Grand Lodge dues are equivalent to nearly two dollars a year *per capita*, and in the depression of business, the payment of heavy lodge dues is probably a large cause of the falling off.

VICTORIA.

We have the Proceedings for 1896, except those of the March Quarterly.

The Board presented a large amount of business for the consideration of Grand Lodge.

A Master, having refused to put a motion, duly seconded, for the confirmation of a portion of the minutes, was held to be guilty of a masonic offence: and that his refusal to convene a meeting of the lodge for election of a Master was a violation of the constitution. The Board found further, that he was unfit for the position, and that he should be suspended, but the Grand Lodge, on motion of the President of the Board, changed suspension to removal.

The following was adopted:

“The Board considers it desirable ‘That any brother convicted of a felony or misdemeanour, and sentenced to a term of imprisonment, shall be reported by the lodge of which he was a member at the time of committing the offence for which he has been convicted, to the Board of General Purposes; and if in the opinion of that Board, such felony or misdemeanour is considered to be a masonic offence, the Board shall report the brother to Grand Lodge for expulsion. The lodge failing to so report within six months of such conviction shall be deemed contumacious, and be dealt with under clause 242 of the book of constitutions. This resolution to be retrospective, and any lodge within six months of the confirmation of the resolution failing to report a member who has been convicted, shall be dealt with under the before mentioned clause.’”

Applications were made to the Board for charters for lodges in Western Australia: the Board replied, “That this Grand Lodge has no jurisdiction”;

but Grand Lodge amended by saying, "That this Grand Lodge does not desire to assume jurisdiction." As the reply of the Board was, in our judgment, clearly correct, we regret the change, as it carries the implication that whether it will grant a charter or not rests in the discretion of the Grand Lodge. The only correct rule is, that while the three British Grand Lodges have concurrent jurisdiction in the unoccupied Dependencies of the British crown, they have *exclusive* jurisdiction as against all others.

The following action of the Board, after discussion, was approved by the Grand Lodge:

"A Senior Warden of a country lodge wrote, stating that his W. M. being absent, assumed that he was the principal officer to rule the lodge until the next installation. To this the Past Masters of the lodge demurred, relying on rule 123, of the book of constitutions, which they considered supported the claim of the Junior Past Master to officiate and work the lodge. The Board approved the action of the Past Masters."

The Grand Lodge confirmed the negative reply of the Board to the following questions:

"1. A member tenders his resignation in writing, which is read in open lodge. It is proposed that the letter be considered at the next meeting. Is the W. M. justified in accepting said motion?

"2. Can a member withdraw his resignation after tendering same in writing, or by word of mouth, in open lodge?

"3. Can a lodge refuse to accept the resignation of a member, he being in arrears?

"4. Can a lodge refuse to accept the resignation of a member, all dues paid, if the lodge is in financial difficulties?"

In September, also, the Board had quite a budget for presentation to Grand Lodge: the following, all of which were adopted, are of interest:

"It having come under the notice of the Board that several lodges have committed a breach of the constitutions, by conferring a degree at a less interval than four weeks from the reception of the previous degree, the Board desires to draw special attention to rule 173, which prohibits such a course, unless application has been previously made to the M. W. Grand Master for a dispensation."

"A charge of unmasonic conduct was made by a P. M. of a suburban lodge, against the W. M. of another suburban lodge, viz: 'That the said W. M. did ballot for and accept a candidate, of whom the tongue of good report had not been heard.' The Board fully enquired into the charge, and found that it had not been sustained; and was of opinion that the W. M. should be exonerated from all blame in the matter, he having taken more than usual care in making the necessary enquiries as to the fitness of the candidate. The Board was, however, of opinion, that although the charge of unmasonic conduct was not sustained, the evidence adduced by the P. M. showed that he was actuated by the sole desire of endeavoring to maintain the purity of the craft. The Board instructed the W. M. not to initiate the candidate in respect of whom the charge was made."

"The following letter has been received from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England:—

“UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND,
FREEMASONS' HALL, GREAT QUEEN STREET,
LONDON, W. C., June 22, 1896.

“*Dear Sir and V. W. Brother:*

“The relations between the Grand Lodge of England and that of Victoria are of so cordial and fraternal a character that I feel some hesitation in even referring to a report which has reached me, that the Grand Lodge of Victoria has entertained an application from certain brethren resident in Western Australia, for a warrant to establish a new lodge in that colony, which, as you are aware, is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England.

“It is needless to point out to you that the granting of such a warrant would be a most flagrant act of aggression, and one which would be naturally resented by the Grand Lodge of England.

“I shall be glad to learn from you that there is no foundation for the rumour, to which I find reference is made in an Australian masonic newspaper called ‘Masonry,’ a copy of which reached me a few days since.

“I am dear Sir and V. W. Brother,

“Yours faithfully and fraternally,

“E. LETCHWORTH, G. S.

“V. W. BRO. JOHN BRAIM, Grand Secretary, Victoria.

“The Grand Secretary was instructed to communicate the decision arrived at by Grand Lodge on 15th June last, viz: ‘That this Grand Lodge does not desire to assume jurisdiction.’ ”

We had not seen the item in relation to lodges in Western Australia, when we wrote our comments above.

We commend the second item to those who hold that all, that a rejection means, is that some member of the lodge does then desire the candidate to become a member of the lodge.

Three charters for new lodges were granted upon the recommendation of the Board.

In December, a form of application was adopted to be used by all lodges and to be preserved on file by the Secretary, at least one year. We give the form in order to show something of the law of eligibility of candidates:

“FORM OF APPLICATION.

“*To the Worshipful Master, Officers and Members of the Lodge, No.*

“I, _____, being a free man, and of the full age of twenty-one years, do declare that, unbiassed by the improper solicitation of friends, and uninfluenced by mercenary or other unworthy motives, I freely and voluntarily offer myself a candidate for the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry; that I am prompted by a favorable opinion preconceived of the institution, and a desire for knowledge; and that I will cheerfully conform to all the ancient usages and established customs of the Order.

“QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY CANDIDATE.

“Name in full, _____ Age, _____ Occupation, _____

“Married or Single, _____ Address, Business, _____ Private, _____

“Have you ever made application to be proposed in any other masonic lodge?

“If so, please state name of lodge, and where holden.

“Were you accepted? _____ If not, for what reason?

“Freemasonry not being a Benefit Society, have you seriously considered whether your circumstances will enable you to support the institution?

“Candidate's Signature.

“WE PROPOSE the above-named Gentleman as a Candidate for Initiation

[and deposit the sum of £ Proposition Fee]. We also beg leave to refer you to—

"Here give Two Referees, with address
as fully competent to give satisfactory information concerning him.

"Proposer's Signature. Secondcr's Signature.

"Date, 18 "

We do not understand the pertinency of the question, "If not, for what reason?" Because we do not understand how the candidate can know the reason.

The communication from our Grand Lodge was presented to the Grand Lodge by the Board without recommendation. Our Grand Representative, R. W. BENJAMIN D. SMITH, requested fraternal consideration of it, whereupon:

"R. W. Bro. T. H. Brain, P. S. G. W., moved the adoption of the clause. Objection having been taken to adopting the resolutions contained in the communication, the M. W. the Grand Master pointed out that the clause contained no recommendation, but simply stated that a communication had been received, therefore there was nothing to adopt. The clause was passed."

We understand that this means that no action will be taken.

Under the rule adopted in relation to reporting the names of persons convicted of felony at any time in the past, three were reported for expulsion and were expelled.

We are glad to notice evidences of prosperity in this jurisdiction.

COMPARISON OF STATISTICS.

	G. Lodges. 1897.	Totals. 1897.	G. Lodges. 1896.	Totals. 1896.	G. Lodges. 1895.	Totals. 1895.
Members,	57	804,706	57	781,670	57	765,293
Raised,	55	43,721	55	40,755	54	39,537
Admissions, &c,	55	22,574	55	21,881	54	21,029
Dimissions,	56	17,916	56	17,544	56	17,346
Expulsions,	54	478	53	431	54	476
Suspensions,	36	383	37	304	34	335
" npt dues,	56	18,700	56	18,381	56	15,905
Deaths,	56	12,062	56	11,185	56	11,077

STATISTICS.

We append our usual table.

GRAND LODGES.	Members.	Raised.	Admitted and Restored.	Withdrawn.	Expelled.	Suspended.	Susp'd for non-payment of dues.	Died.
Alabama,.....	11,113	627	762	511	15	22	542	265
Arizona,.....	569	49	20	34	0	0	14	4
Arkansas,.....	13,264	544	476	476	33	32	484	257
British Columbia,.....	1,272	111	43	68	1	.....	*32	10
California,.....	18,208	1,192	685	380	4	3	418	342
Canada,.....	23,351	1,186	490	657	1	10	587	255
Colorado,.....	7,257	392	309	216	7	.....	*174	76
Connecticut,.....	16,813	693	142	94	1	3	204	281
Delaware,.....	2,077	97	14	13	1	.....	13*	27
Dist. of Columbia,.....	5,118	304	103	49	0	0	103	86
Florida,.....	4,393	268	241	214	7	.....	245	*90
Georgia,.....	17,317	975	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Idaho,.....	1,152	69	47	32	2	.....	19*	21
Illinois,.....	52,509	3,346	1,279	1,128	15	.....	945	736
Indiana,.....	28,430	1,815	982	758	24	33	595	450
Indian Territory,.....	2,908	323	331	174	7	.....	*103	44
Iowa,.....	26,890	1,506	1,057	789	20	7	741	319
Kansas,.....	19,595	995	636	660	5	.....	*368	225
Kentucky,.....	18,367	1,406	890	636	24	.....	*1,085	302
Louisiana,.....	5,363	283	132	91	2	.....	*169	126
Maine,.....	22,085	721	177	160	1	2	242	339
Manitoba,.....	2,413	167	104	100	0	3	84	13
Maryland,.....	7,310	204	48	57	2	1	44	28
Massachusetts,.....	37,460	2,393	400	340	6	0	374	536
Michigan,.....	38,668	1,947	601	626	9	.....	*403	548
Minnesota,.....	15,428	761	342	373	7	8	239	183
Mississippi,.....	9,110	514	491	350	8	9	256	203
Missouri,.....	30,606	1,325	1,140	839	48	26	817	458
Montana,.....	2,626	194	79	85	2	1	71	36
Nebraska,.....	11,836	588	425	404	9	.....	*421	113
Nevada,.....	948	36	27	36	1	.....	*27	17
New Brunswick,.....	1,774	70	34	48	0	.....	*20	24
New Hampshire,.....	8,963	.....	440	103	0	1	43	168
New Jersey,.....	16,094	904	266	192	2	2	315	240
New Mexico,.....	894	52	34	45	1	.....	*5	11
New York,.....	90,874	5,726	2,099	1,023	27	.....	2,950	1,522
North Carolina,.....	10,839	580	296	224	24	38	206	148
North Dakota,.....	2,535	233	77	95	2	0	25	15
Nova Scotia,.....	3,351	216	104	86	0	0	77	43
Ohio,.....	40,839	2,507	1,549	735	32	17	1,704	645
Oklahoma,.....	1,085	101	112	64	0	.....	*43	64
Oregon,.....	4,874	267	193	119	3	4	193	81
Pennsylvania,.....	49,589	2,487	682	499	.....	.....	719	834
P. E. Island,.....	515	21	13	16	0	0	7	3
Quebec,.....	3,519	208	71	110	0	1	67	41
Rhode Island,.....	4,890	315	325	26	1	0	20	59
South Carolina,.....	5,725	318	.....	177	.....	.....	191	112
South Dakota,.....	4,243	262	115	237	0	6	132	32
Tennessee,.....	17,682	755	666	812	25	43	271	354

GRAND LODGES.	M.	R.	A. & R.	W.	E.	S.	S. for n p. d.	D.
Texas,.....	30,567	1,491	1,751	1,539	65	38	706	499
Utah,.....	763	49	36	18	1	0	22	9
Vermont,.....	9,694	430	140	105	0	....	*97	137
Virginia,.....	12,652	.....	193	426	19	13	318	222
Washington,.....	4,991	239	231	183	6	5	223	64
West Virginia,.....	5,867	459	136	158	3	2	123	74
Wisconsin,.....	16,408	936	592	506	1	51	334	256
Wyoming,.....	1,023	64	34	22	3	2	9	15
Total,.....	804,706	43,721	22,574	17,916	478	383	18,700	12,062

*Including suspensions for unmasonic conduct.

†Including expulsions.

‡Restorations only.

PROCEEDINGS REVIEWED.

The following Table gives the Proceedings reviewed, the date and length of the annual communication, and the page of these Proceedings upon which the review of each commences.

Grand Lodge.	Date and Length of Annual Communication.	Page.
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Arizona,	November 10 to 12, 1896.	278
Arkansas,	November 17 and 18, 1896.	279
British Columbia,	June 18 and 19, 1896.	284
California,	October 13 and 17, 1896.	286
Canada,	July 15 and 16, 1896.	293
Colorado,	September 15 and 16, 1896.	296
Connecticut,	January 20 and 21, 1897.	301
Delaware,	October 7 and 8, 1896.	304
District of Columbia,	November 11, 1896.	308
Florida,	January 19 to 21, 1897.	312
Georgia,	October 27 and 28, 1896.	314
Idaho,	September 8 to 10, 1896.	317
Illinois,	October 6 to 8, 1896.	322
Indiana,	May 26 and 27, 1896.	330
Indian Territory,	August 11 and 12, 1896.	334
Iowa,	June 2 to 4, 1896.	339
Kansas,	February 17 and 18, 1897.	346
Kentucky,	October 20 to 22, 1896.	353
Louisiana,	February 8 to 10, 1897.	359
Manitoba,	August 15 and 16, 1896.	363
Maryland,	November 17, 1896.	366
Massachusetts,	December 27, 1896.	499

Michigan,	January 26 and 27, 1897.	371
Minnesota,	January 13 and 14, 1897.	377
Mississippi,	February 11 and 12, 1897.	506
Missouri,	October 20 and 21, 1896.	382
Montana,	September 16 and 17, 1896.	386
Nebraska,	June 10 and 11, 1896.	392
Nevada,	June 9 and 10, 1896.	397
New Brunswick,	August 25 and 26, 1896.	513
New Hampshire,	May 20, 1896.	400
New Jersey,	January 27 and 28, 1897.	404
New Mexico,	October 5 and 6, 1896.	407
New York,	June 2 to 4, 1896.	410
North Carolina,	January 12 to 14, 1897.	416
North Dakota,	June 9, 1896.	418
Nova Scotia,	June 10, 1896.	421
Ohio,	October 21 and 22, 1896.	423
Oklahoma,	February 11 and 12, 1896.	428
Oregon,	June 10 to 13, 1896.	431
Pennsylvania,	December 28, 1896.	434
Prince Edward Island,	June 24, 1896.	439
Quebec,	January 27 and 28, 1897.	442
Rhode Island,	May 18, 1896.	446
South Carolina,	December 8 and 9, 1896.	447
South Dakota,	June 9 and 10, 1896.	451
Tennessee,	January 27 to 29, 1897.	456
Texas,	December 1 to 3, 1896.	461
Utah,	January 19 to 21, 1897.	468
Vermont,	June 10 and 11, 1896.	472
Virginia,	December 1 to 3, 1896.	474
Washington,	June 9 and 10, 1896.	482
West Virginia,	November 10 and 11, 1896.	490
Wisconsin,	June 9 to 11, 1896.	492
Wyoming,	September 8, 1896.	496
England,		514
Ireland,		519
Mexico,		519
New South Wales,		520
New Zealand,		522
Scotland,		525
South Australia,		527
Victoria,		528

CONCLUSION.

Our review covers all the North American Grand Lodges and nearly all of the others with which we maintain an *actual* exchange of masonic correspondence.

There are a few subjects upon which we desire to speak specifically.

JURISDICTION OVER REJECTED CANDIDATES. We regret to find that in several Grand Lodges, the resolutions of our Grand Lodge have been considered from the narrow policy of what is best for that particular Grand Lodge, instead of from the broad standpoint of what is best for the harmony and peace of the craft universal. Already this harmony and peace have been disturbed in numerous cases by questions growing out of the diverse law and practice of different Grand Lodges: and the excitement is increasing, and unless the matter is met as masons should meet it, the consequences will inevitably be disastrous. Our Grand Lodge, while entirely satisfied with its own law, believed that mutual concessions should be made to secure uniformity and consequent peace, and, thereupon, changed its own law and made an appeal to other Grand Lodges to act in the same direction. She made a proposition for the consideration of the others, not as an ultimatum, but as a basis of action, and if modifications were found to be desirable, she was ready to consider them from the broad standpoint of the good of the craft, as it should seem to her.

The end is not yet with those Grand Lodges which have acted upon the proposition from the standpoint of their own interest. Sooner or later it will be the turn of each of them, either to fail to sustain candidates in rights which she claims to have given to them, or disturb the peace of the craft by an unseemly quarrel with a sister Grand Lodge.

One fact has been developed, which should cause anxiety to every true mason—and that is, that in many quarters there exist utterly unmasonic ideas in relation to the significance of the ballot, and the considerations which should govern a mason in balloting upon the petition of a candidate for admission into the Fraternity.

This has been recently illustrated by newspaper writers, in reference to balloting, by placing the box upon the altar, and each member approaching it in turn and giving the Master the sign before depositing his ballot. With their usual ignorance (we are compelled to say) of masonic usage, they declare it to be the recent invention of some "idiot": Bro. BERRY has called attention to the fact, that this method is given by MACKEY in his *Lexicon* (edition of 1855). The first time (early in 1849) that we balloted upon a petition, this method was followed. The reason then given to us, was that the object was that each member should be most forcibly reminded of the importance of the act which he was about to perform, and that his obligations

bound him to ballot with an eye single to the good of the craft, without indulging in personal favor or personal prejudice, whereby unfit men might be admitted or worthy candidates rejected.

The disuse of this method was a consequence of the growth of the lodge to such an extent as to make it impracticable. In some lodges, after it was disused, the Master was in the habit of delivering a brief charge just before collecting the ballots, as to the duty of each member, nearly in the language which we have above given. We were once present in a masonic body when a candidate was proposed, who was not on speaking terms with one of the members present; to the surprise of very many, the ballot was clear: the matter was mentioned to the member, but he said, "I was taught years ago, that in balloting upon a candidate, *it is unmasonic* to be governed by my personal wishes." The candidate gave a start of surprise when, on his introduction, he saw that member present. As soon as the ceremony was over, he rushed to an acquaintance and asked, "Is Mr. P. a member of this body? Was he present when my application was voted upon? Did he vote?" Upon receiving an affirmative reply, he rushed to the member, and while what was said was never known to others, they soon stood with clasped hands with the tears coursing down the cheeks of each; and they were devoted friends ever after. If the same spirit and sense of masonic duty could influence and control all masons, little difficulty could ever grow out of the rejection of candidates.

THE WISCONSIN PROPOSITION. We have not made a specific report upon the circular submitted to the committee, for the reason that the proposition has been rejected by the almost unanimous voice of the Grand Lodges, because its adoption would overthrow one of the fundamental principles of Masonry.

This circular is an attempt to defend the position of the Wisconsin committee against the objections made to it. The original proposition is restated and re-argued. The committee state that they do not "propose any innovation or new departure in Masonry"; and yet the very first line of their proposition—"It is the duty of each lodge to take care of its own members in distress, wherever they may be," *is* an innovation and new departure utterly in conflict with a fundamental principle of Freemasonry. They admit that it is not masonic charity, but claim that it is "masonic relief." They point to no authority in the ancient charges, or the old regulations, or the ancient usages; and for a good reason, there is no authority in them for it.

They utterly misunderstand the position of their opponents. They assume that we object to organized relief; there is no ground for the assumption. The contention is not as to the *method of relief*, but as to the principles upon which it is to be given. The Wisconsin committee claim, First, That a mason

in distress is *entitled* to relief to the extent of his actual necessities, and that, too, without regard to the ability of his brethren: Second, That it is the duty of his lodge to give that relief in any event: Third, That it is the duty of the Grand Lodge to see that the lodge does this, or to do it itself: Fourth, That any lodge may relieve what it may deem to be the actual necessities of a brother and hold it as a debt against his lodge, guaranteed by its Grand Lodge.

No warrant for *a single one of these propositions* can be found in the landmarks, laws or ancient usages of the fraternity. It does not follow, that by denying any one of them, any objection is made to "organized" masonic charity. Almost, if not all, the Grand Lodges, which have rejected these propositions, have organized systems of charity. The distressed are relieved by "organized charities" as well as by individual brethren, to the extent of their ability. But that is not the real object of the Wisconsin Proposition: its real object is to obtain re-imbursement by lodges and individuals, of amounts expended by them for a member of another lodge. To lay the foundation for this, they lay down the unmasonic propositions which we have quoted.

In this Circular the committee say:

"We note, however, one point made by Bro. Drummond, that in case our proposition is adopted, an additional clause should be added, that the relieving lodge is to be sole judge of the distressed brother's necessities, otherwise it would be a *felo de se*, and that consequently it might run its brother lodge hopelessly in debt. We cannot conceive how so distinguished a brother can gravely cast such an assertion upon the Masonic Fraternity. No man in active business but has, at times, to trust those with whom he deals, to as great an extent, and certainly our own brethren are to be trusted to that extent, or we had better disband. In all legislation, civil or masonic, the principle is recognized that laws may be adopted containing certain provisions subject to restrictions."

The printer has evidently mangled the "copy," and we can scarcely tell what the "copy" was.

We suppose, however, that we are safe in reading "aspersion" for "assertion." We cast no aspersion whatever upon the Masonic Fraternity: we were showing the result of the *actual* and *honest* working of the proposed system, which is so bad that abuses are not needed to condemn it. This is what we said:

"The proposition is explained in the circular; were it not, the full scope of it would not be understood; indeed, the main feature of it is omitted. To understand it, there must be added after the second sentence, 'And the lodge, in whose jurisdiction such member falls into distress, has the right to determine whether such member is in distress, and the amount which his "actual necessities" require, and to grant relief accordingly, and have a valid claim for that amount against the lodge of which the brother relieved was a member, and in case of its inability, against the Grand Lodge.'"

Do the committee controvert this? Or a single one of the propositions which it contains? Not a bit of it!

But we said further:

"Again; the proposition demands an amount of aid, limited only by the 'actual necessities' of the applicant, without regard to the ability of the party for whom relief is sought: it declares in effect that every mason is entitled to full support for his whole life, if his circumstances require it. But the obligation of the mason to relieve the distressed is limited by his ability; and Masonry never contemplated the decision by one brother or one lodge, as to the amount which another brother or another lodge is able to give by way of relief. While this feature of the proposition is unmasonic, it is also exceedingly dangerous: a lodge is liable to find itself overwhelmed by debt without its consent or even its knowledge, and still worse, against its protest."

We did not propose that "an additional clause should be added": we were giving the correct interpretation of the proposition—an interpretation that is not denied. Our second statement gives the consequences in exact conformity to the proposition. Can any one deny it? Does the proposition state that a member of a lodge is entitled to relief to the extent of his actual necessities? And if his "actual necessities" are the means of living day after day, do they not amount to continual support? And is not the lodge in whose jurisdiction he is, bound to aid him to that extent? Does not the proposition assert that such lodge has a legal claim upon the lodge of which he is a member for the amount expended? And when the lodge has used up all its property, upon its Grand Lodge? Would not the perfectly honest working of this system run a lodge hopelessly in debt? Does the proposition give his own lodge the slightest right or power to stop the expenditure for "actual necessities"? Go to! It is folly and waste of space to discuss such a proposition!

THE FRATERNAL DEAD. It seems to us that Death has been more busy than usual during the past year, and the craft has suffered many grievous losses.

Circulars inform us of the deaths, since the Proceedings were issued, of the following brethren among others:

Past Grand Master **MARCUS WOLF**, of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, and Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence. Our review of the Proceedings of that Grand Lodge, written when we supposed him to be living, indicates how great a loss we deem that the Fraternity suffers in his death.

Past Grand Master **ZEPHANIAH C. LUSE**, of Iowa, has recently died: formerly he used to visit the East and he was always a welcome guest. In later years, he has suffered intensely with rheumatism, and been obliged to forego masonic work and even correspondence. We learned to esteem him highly.

We have noted in our review of Massachusetts how that jurisdiction has suffered.

New Hampshire has recently lost Bro. ANDREW BUNTON, one of the foremost masons in the State, who died suddenly in the apparent prime of life.

JOSEPH N. DOLPH, Past Grand Master of Oregon; WILLIAM F. BUNTING, Past Grand Master of New Brunswick; ANDREW M. WOLIHIN, the venerable Grand Secretary of Georgia; JOHN STEADMAN, Grand Master of Montana; JOHN H. BELL, Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary of Manitoba; THEODORE SCHREINER, for so many years Grand Tyler of the Grand Lodge of Iowa; JOHN WILLIAM MORRISON, Grand Master of Prince Edward Island; and our own Past Senior Grand Warden, ARLINGTON B. MARSTON, are among those whose deaths the craft is now mourning.

In spite of business depression, in spite of the allurements of the numerous "beneficial organizations," and in spite of the opposition of a few apparently honest but misguided cranks, our membership has handsomely increased during the year. Those in authority have pleaded so earnestly and eloquently for the preservation of the high character of the Institution, that we have confidence that the quality of our membership has not diminished. We believe, too, that we discern an ebb in the tide that has been threatening to sweep Masonry towards the Dead Sea of modern methods. We find, too, an increase of faith in, and a corresponding resolution to stand by, the ancient landmarks and usages of the craft; and to hand down to those, who shall come after us, the Institution, bearing aloft the banner under which it has won the victories of the past.

Fraternally submitted,

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,	} Committee.
EDWARD P. BURNHAM,	
ALBRO E. CHASE,	