

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Grand Lodge

OF

ANCIENT . FREE . AND . ACCEPTED . MASONS,

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

VOL. XVII.

1898 AND 1899.



PORTLAND :
STEPHEN BERRY, PRINTER.

1899.

Index Grand Lodge, Volume 17.

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- 112 Eastern Frontier. Thomas H. Palmer, at Lubec, Oct. 4; Albion P Wellington, charter member, in California, in November.
- 113 Messalonskee. William O. Breck, in Bedford, Quebec, May 27, aged 45; Alfred Winslow,* Dec. 26, aged 84—a respected member and leading townsman.
- 114 Polar Star. Edward Poole, March 24; Geo. H. Nichols, April 22; Ebenezer A. Howard, Aug. 20; Charles Gibson, the last charter member, Sept. 8; Millard F. Marble, Nov. 9.
- 115 Buxton. Charles H. Harmon,* April 20.
- 116 Lebanon. William P. Winslow, March; Clare L. Holbrook, May 6.
- 117 Greenleaf. Oliver Murch, March 24; Leander E. Cran, Jan. 28.
- 121 Acacia. Orington B. Hunnewell, May.
- 122 Marine. John B. Webster, Sept. 9; George H. Howard, Jan. 1.
- 123 Franklin. Seth Pratt, June; John F. Pratt; Hosea S. Leighton, January.
- 124 Olive Branch. Isaac Libby.
- 126 Timothy Chase. Seth L. Milliken, April 18; William L. Littlefield, Oct.; Emery Robbins, Nov. 6; Lewis W. Pendleton, Jan. 12.
- 127 Presumpscot. John B. Jordan,* April 6; Charles O. Hawkes,* Dec. 25; John J. Williams, Feb. 12.
- 128 Eggemoggin. Prentice E. Stanley,* April 10; David F. Billings,* April 22; James A. Parker,* Sept. 27; Robert A. Friend; Andover Carter.
- 129 Quantabacook. Isaac A. Marriner,* Past Master and charter member, Nov. 8.
- 130 Trinity. Thomas H. Lowry,* Feb. 17; G. F. Burrell.
- 132 Mount Tir'em. Charles A. Flint,* April 12; Sylvanus W. Cobb,* at Durango, Colorado, June 3—buried by lodge there; Joel S. Plummer,* Feb. 13—had been Treasurer for fifteen consecutive years.
- 133 Asylum. Elisha D. Gould,* March 11; William H. Erskin,* Aug. 30; Woodbury S. Knapp,* Sept. 17; Charles S. Haynes,* Oct. 20; John M. Woodbury, at Old Orchard, Feb. 23.
- 137 Kenduskeag. Thomas J. Haines, a charter member, May 10.
- 138 Lewy's Island. William F. Bates, March 15.
- 139 Archon. Greenfield G. Bickford, Past Master, Dec. 23.
- 140 Mount Desert. Henry Tracy, Jan. 31, aged 81 yrs. 5 mos.
- 141 Augusta. Richard W. Black, March 25; Edwin L. Nash and Joseph M. Wight, accidentally drowned May 22; David B. Crosman, June 4; Greenlief W. Ward; Harry D. Macomber, June 9; Charles B. Chick, Sept. 14; Alonzo W. Kimball, Oct. 16.
- 142 Ocean. Eber C. Freeman,* April 15.
- 144 Seaside. Arthur W. Tatner,* in Honduras, March 10, buried with

GRAND [Ⓜ] LODGE [Ⓜ] OF [Ⓜ] MAINE.

— 1 8 9 8 —

Seventy-ninth Annual Communication.

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, }
Tuesday, May 3, 1898. }

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. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,		Grand Master;
R. W. WINFIELD S. CHOATE,		Deputy Grand Master;
“ ALFRED S. KIMBALL,		Senior Grand Warden;
“ ENOCH O. GREENLEAF,		Junior Grand Warden;
“ MARQUIS F. KING,		Grand Treasurer;
“ STEPHEN BERRY,		Grand Secretary;
“ CHARLES D. SMITH,		Cor. Grand Secretary;
W. & Rev. MARTYN SUMMERBELL,		Grand Chaplain;
“ JOHN GIBSON,		“ “
W. WILLIAM J. BURNHAM,		“ Marshal;
“ ERMON D. EASTMAN,	as	“ Senior Deacon;
“ FRED G. PAYNE,	as	“ Junior Deacon;
“ JACOB R. STEWART,		“ Steward;
“ CHARLES W. CROSBY,		“ “
“ WILLIAM A. REMICK,		“ “
“ WILLIAM N. HOWE,		“ Sword Bearer.
“ HORACE MITCHELL,	as	“ Stand. Bearer;
“ ALBERT M. AMES,		“ Pursuivant;
M. W. FRANK E. SLEEPER,		“ Lecturer;
W. WALTER S. SMITH,		“ Organist;
“ WARREN O. CARNEY,		“ Tyler.

Fig. L.

The Grand Lodge was opened in ample form, with prayer by Grand Chaplain, REV. MARTYN SUMMERBELL.

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

On motion of R. W. Bro. WINFIELD S. CHOATE,

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.

TRANSPORTATION.

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

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND,
Tuesday, May 3, 1898. }

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your Committee on Transportation made the usual arrangements with the railroad and steamboat lines, and all delegates were duly notified of the terms.

Fraternally submitted,

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

NEW LODGES.

The dispensation, records and by-laws of Mount Bigelow Lodge, u. d., and of Hiram Abiff Lodge, u. d., were presented and referred to the Committee on Dispensations and Charters.

CREDENTIALS.

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

IN GRAND LODGE OF MAINE, }
MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 3, 1898. }

Your Committee on Credentials have attended to their duties, and beg leave to report that they find the lodges represented as follows:

- 1 *Portland*, by Charles Fred Berry, M; George W. Sturgis, SW; Thomas E. McDonald, JW; Couvers E. Leach, Proxy.
- 2 *Warren*, by Francis L. Talbot, M; Herbert Harris, Proxy.
- 3 *Lincoln*, by Clarence A. Peaslee, M.
- 4 *Hancock*, by John N. Gardner, Proxy.
- 5 *Kennebec*, by Hadley O. Hawes, Proxy.
- 6 *Amity*, by Wallace E. Easton, M.
- 7 *Eastern*, by Wheeler C. Hawkes, M.
- 8 *United*, by John Furbish, Proxy.
- 9 *Saco*, by Fred B. Wiggin, M.
- 10 *Rising Virtue*, by Jeremiah Fenno, Proxy.
- 11 *Pythagorean*, by John L. Osgood, M; Wallace R. Tarbox, Proxy.
- 12 *Cumberland*, by Henry W. Loring, M; Frank W. Winter, SW; Newell P. Haskell, JW; Hiram W. Ricker, Proxy.
- 13 *Oriental*, by Fred Willby, M; Norman H. Libby, Proxy.
- 14 *Solar*, by Walter S. (Hidden, JW; W. Scott Shorey, Proxy.
- 15 *Orient*, by William H. Stackpole, M.
- 16 *St. George*, John W. Dunbar, M; George J. Newcomb, JW; G. Dudley Gould, Proxy.
- 17 *Ancient Landmark*, by George H. Owen, M; Winslow E. Howell, SW; Charles F. Tobie, JW; Charles P. Costello, Proxy.
- 18 *Oxford*, by Henry F. Favor, M; Lee M. Smith, SW; Irving Frost, Proxy.
- 19 *Felicity*, by William A. Remick, M.
- 20 *Maine*, by George C. Purinton, M.
- 21 *Oriental Star*, by Chester H. Thurston, M; Fred Raymond, Proxy.
- 22 ————*York*, not represented.
- 23 *Freeport*, by Freeman M. Grant, M; Charles W. Bennett, SW; Jacob W. Amick, JW.
- 24 *Phoenix*, by William C. Libby, M.
- 25 *Temple*, by Elliott Wood, Proxy.
- 26 *Village*, by Frank H. Purinton, SW.
- 27 *Adoniram*, by Samuel N. Small, M; Hardy H. McKenney, Proxy.

- 28 *Northern Star*, by Bert Witham, M.
- 29 *Tranquil*, by James P. Hutchinson, M; Albert E. Verrill, SW; Murray B. Watson, Proxy.
- 30 *Blazing Star*, by Cyrus P. Eaton, M; Waldo Pettengill, Proxy.
- 31 *Union*, by George C. Hawes, M.
- 32 *Hermon*, by James M. Larrabee, Proxy.
- 33 *Waterville*, by Herbert M. Fuller, M; Calvin W. Gilman, SW.
- 34 *Somerset*, by George C. Thompson, M.
- 35 *Bethlehem*, by Charles B. Adams, M; James E. Kingsley, JW; Frederick W. Plaisted, Proxy.
- 36 *Casco*, by Edwin M. White, JW.
- 37 *Washington*, by Irving W. Case, M; Robert G. McBride, Proxy.
- 38 *Harmony*, by Henry R. Millett, Proxy.
- 39 *Penobscot*, by Ernest E. Carr, SW; Owen W. Bridges, Proxy.
- 40 *Lygonia*, by Elvert E. Parker, M.
- 41 *Morning Star*, by Chapin Lydston, Proxy.
- 42 *Freedom*, by Edwin Dsley, Proxy.
- 43 *Alna*, by John L. Thompson, Proxy.
- 44 *Piscataquis*, by Henry F. Daggett, M.
- 45 *Central*, by Gustavus J. Nelson, M.
- 46 *St. Croix*, by Millard D. Lawrence, Proxy.
- 47 *Dunlap*, by Everett M. Staples, M; Fred P. Abbott, Proxy.
- 48 *Lafayette*, by Ernest A. Morgan, Proxy.
- 49 *Meridian Splendor*, by Percy L. Oakes, M.
- 50 *Aurora*, by Asa P. St. Clair, M; Frank A. Peterson, Proxy.
- 51 *St. John's*, by Charles M. Sleeper, M; John B. Whitehead, SW; John M. Burleigh, Proxy.
- 52 *Mosaic*, by William W. Thayer, Proxy.
- 53 *Rural*, by Nathan A. Benson, Proxy.
- 54 ——— *Vassalboro*, not represented.
- 55 ——— *Fraternal*, not represented.
- 56 *Mount Moriah*, by Almon P. Pingree, M; Samuel D. McKusick, Proxy.
- 57 *King Hiram*, by William F. Putnam, Proxy.
- 58 *Unity*, by John N. Tilton, Proxy.
- 59 *Mount Hope*,—*Charter surrendered, 1879.*
- 60 *Star in the East*, by Virgil E. Tucker, M.
- 61 *King Solomon's*, by George H. Douglass, M; Webster Hazlewood, Proxy.
- 62 *King David's*, by Leslie D. Ames, M.
- 63 *Richmond*, by Ocar P. Galusha, SW.
- 64 *Pacific*, by Alfred W. Hicks, M.
- 65 *Mystic*, by William E. Bogart, Proxy.

- 66 *Mechanic's*, by Andrew M. Shaw, M.
 67 *Blue Mountain*, by Mason Parker, M.
 68 *Mariners'*, by Joseph W. Black, Proxy.
 69 ————*Howard*, not represented.
 70 ————*Standish*, not represented.
 71 *Rising Sun*, by Asher B. Hutchins, M.
 72 *Pioneer*, by Sanford C. Murphy, Proxy.
 73 *Tyrian*, by James W. Wayne, M; James H. DeCoster, Proxy.
 74 *Bristol*, by Albert Drummond, Proxy.
 75 *Plymouth*, by Alonzo E. Peabody, JW.
 76 *Arundel*, by Wilbur Francis Goodwin, Proxy.
 77 *Tremont*, by Eben F. Richardson, M.
 78 *Crescent*, by Albert S. Farnsworth, Proxy.
 79 *Rockland*, by Alexander A. Beaton, M.
 80 *Keystone*, by Leonard P. Cates, Proxy.
 81 *Atlantic*, by Fred H. York, M; James E. Leighton, SW; Fred C. Cobb,
 JW; Edwin G. Jackson, Proxy.
 82 *St. Paul's*, by Lorin A. Brewster, JW.
 83 ————*St. Andrew's*, not represented.
 84 ————*Eureka*, not represented.
 85 *Star in the West*, by William J. Getchell, Proxy.
 86 *Temple*, by Ernest A. Bodge, M; Oliver A. Cobb, Proxy.
 87 *Benevolent*, by Frank E. Stevens, Proxy.
 88 ————*Narraguagus*, not represented.
 89 *Island*, by Emory N. Bunker, Proxy.
 90 *Hiram Abiff*,—*Charter revoked, 1868*.
 91 *Harwood*, by Henry R. Taylor, Proxy.
 92 *Siloam*, by Benj. M. Bradbury, Proxy.
 93 *Horeb*, by Philip J. Mills, Proxy.
 94 *Paris*, by A. C. Thomas King, Proxy.
 95 *Corinthian*, by Milton L. Merrill, Proxy.
 96 *Monument*, by George A. Gorham, Jr., M.
 97 *Bethel*, by James H. Barrows, M.
 98 *Katahdin*, by John Jackman, M.
 99 *Vernon Valley*, by Charles H. Severy, M.
 100 *Jefferson*, by James L. Bowker, M; A. Mont. Chase, Proxy.
 101 *Nezinscot*, by Francis T. Faulkner, Proxy.
 102 *Marsh River*, by Willard S. Jones, M; Forrest K. Roberts, SW.
 103 *Dresden*, by John S. Snow, Proxy.
 104 *Dirigo*, by Joseph A. Banks, JW.
 105 ————*Ashlar*, not represented.
 106 *Tuscan*, by Melvin L. Cleaves, M.

- 107 ——— *Day Spring*, not represented.
- 108 *Relief*,—*Charter recalled 1894*.
- 109 *Mount Kineo*, by Albion W. Ellis, M.
- 110 *Monmouth*, by John M. Prescott, M.
- 111 *Liberty*, by Oren W. Ripley, M; Albert D. Ramsey, Proxy.
- 112 *Eastern Frontier*, by Chandler C. Harvey, SW.
- 113 *Messalonskee*, by Charles A. Ridley, M; Orestes E. Crowell, Proxy.
- 114 *Polar Star*, by John W. Ballou, Proxy.
- 115 *Burton*, by John Berryman, Proxy.
- 116 *Lebanon*, by Charles W. Farrand, Proxy.
- 117 *Greenleaf*, by William R. Copp, M.
- 118 *Drummond*, by Willie F. Edwards, M.
- 119 *Pownal*, by Albert M. Ames, Proxy.
- 120 *Meduncook*,—*Charter surrendered, 1884*.
- 121 *Acacia*, by Marcus W. Eveleth, M.
- 122 *Marine*, by John J. Spofford, M; Frank A. Gross, SW.
- 123 *Franklin*, by Augustus W. Morrill, M.
- 124 *Olive Branch*, by Frank H. Drummond, M.
- 125 *Meridian*, by Orrin E. Libby, SW.
- 126 *Timothy Chase*, by S. Augustus Parker, Proxy.
- 127 *Presumpscot*, by Frank H. Haskell, M.
- 128 *Eggenoggin*, by Theodore A. Smith, M.
- 129 *Quantabacook*, by Adelbert Millett, M.
- 130 *Trinity*, by Fred H. Blake, M.
- 131 *Lookout*, by Emory G. Davis, Proxy.
- 132 *Mount Tire'm*, by William Douglass, Proxy.
- 133 *Asylum*, by J. M. Moulton, Proxy.
- 134 *Trojan*,—*Consolidated with Star in the West Lodge, No. 85, in 1888*.
- 135 ——— *Riverside*, not represented.
- 136 *Ionic*,—*Charter surrendered, 1882*.
- 137 ——— *Kenduskeag*, not represented.
- 138 *Lewy's Island*, by Benj. F. Chadbourne, Proxy.
- 139 *Archon*, by C. Hale Thurlow, M.
- 140 *Mount Desert*, by Melvin L. Allen, M.
- 141 *Augusta*, by Weston Lewis, M; Charles W. Jones, Proxy.
- 142 ——— *Ocean*, not represented.
- 143 *Preble*, by George H. Nowell, Proxy.
- 144 *Seaside*, by Lewis A. Dunton, M.
- 145 *Moses Webster*, by James H. Paterson, M.
- 146 *Sebasticook*, by John H. McGorrill, M; Frank L. Besse, JW.
- 147 ——— *Evening Star*, not represented.
- 148 *Forest*, by James A. Reed, Proxy.

- 149 *Doric*, by Harold E. Morrill, M.
 150 *Rabboni*, by T. Lloyd Pratt, M; Edwin K. Smith, Proxy.
 151 *Excelsior*, by Albert W. Hasson, Proxy.
 152 *Crooked River*, by Irving W. Parker, Proxy.
 153 *Delta*, by John A. Farrington, Proxy.
 154 *Mystic Tie*, by Elmer E. Payne, Proxy.
 155 *Ancient York*, by Harry E. Plummer, M.
 156 *Wilton*, by Fred W. Allen, M.
 157 *Cambridge*, by Jacob T. Brown, SW.
 158 *Anchor*, by Walter H. McFarland, Proxy.
 159 *Esoteric*, by Albert K. Cushman, JW.
 160 *Parian*, by George W. Nutter, Proxy.
 161 *Carrabassett*, by Walter H. Smith, M.
 162 *Arion*, by J. Burton Roberts, Proxy.
 163 *Pleasant River*, by Elmer H. Poole, M.
 164 *Webster*, by George W. Jordan, M; Edwin Woodside, Proxy.
 165 *Mohunkus*, by Freeman C. Harris, M.
 166 *Neguemkeag*, by Oliver P. Robbins, Proxy.
 167 *Whitney*, by Herbert J. DeShon, Proxy.
 168 *Composite*, by Harry A. Fowles, SW.
 169 *Shepherd's River*, by James R. Hill, Proxy.
 170 *Caribou*, by Carl C. King, M.
 171 *Naskeag*, by Eldoras H. Bridges, M.
 172 *Pine Tree*, by Edson P. Reynolds, Proxy.
 173 *Pleiades*, by Elmer E. Sawyer, Proxy.
 174 *Lynde*, by Charles Phillips, Proxy.
 175 *Baskahegan*, by David C. Parker, Proxy.
 176 *Palestine*,—*Consolidated with Dunlap, No. 47, March 19, 1895.*
 177 *Rising Star*, by Walter J. Creamer, M.
 178 *Ancient Brothers'*, by George E. McCann, M; Willie E. Cutler, SW;
 John R. Webber, JW; Albert M. Penley, Proxy.
 179 *Yorkshire*, by Winbern C. Dutch, JW.
 180 *Hiram*, by John Mella, M; Albert A. Cole, SW; Frank I. Brown, JW;
 Stephen Scamman, Proxy.
 181 *Reuel Washburn*,—*Consolidated with Oriental Star Lodge, No. 21, in
 1892.*
 182 *Granite*, by Willard E. Bryant, M; Jesse C. Howe, Proxy.
 183 *Deering*, by Charles W. Blake, M; Ernest L. Watkins, SW; Walter S.
 Coleman, JW; Francis E. Chase, Proxy.
 184 *Naval*, by Horace Mitchell, Proxy.
 185 *Bar Harbor*, by Charles F. Paine, M; Alfred E. Connors, Proxy.
 186 *Warren Phillips*, by Clinton S. Eastman, M, Elvin A. Leighton, JW.

- 187 *Ira Berry*, by George G. Long, M.
 188 *Jonesport*, by Nehemiah Guptill, M.
 189 *Knox*, by George C. Horn, M.
 190 *Springvale*, by Harmon G. Allen, M.
 191 *Davis*, by Charles B. Richardson, M.
 192 *Winter Harbor*, by Bedford E. Tracy, M.
 193 *Washburn*, by James M. Story, Proxy.
 194 *Euclid*, by Nyron Churchill, M; Granville D. Perkins, Proxy.
 195 *Reliance*, by Joseph H. Eaton, M.
 196 *Bay View*, by Edward Whitehouse, M.
 197 *Aroostook*, by Howard W. Safford, M.
 198 ————*St. Aspinquid*, not represented.
 199 *Bingham*, by Benj. W. Adams, Proxy.
 200 *Columbia*, by Lindley H. Folsom, M; George W. Brown, JW.

Number of chartered lodges, 192; represented, 177; delegates, 240; represented by proxy only, 59.

Your committee further find that the following Permanent Members 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,	- - - - -	"
"	GEORGE R. SHAW,	- - - - -	"
"	JOSEPH A. LOCKE,	- - - - -	"
"	HERBERT HARRIS,	- - - - -	"
"	WINFIELD S. CHOATE,	- - - - -	"
"	ALBERT M. PENLEY,	- - - - -	"
"	JOHN W. BALLOU,	- - - - -	P. J. G. W.

R. W.	A. M. WETHERBEE,	- - - - -	P. J. G. W.
"	EDWIN HOWARD VOSE,	- - - - -	"
"	ARCHIE LEE TALBOT,	- - - - -	"
"	AUGUSTUS BAILEY,	- - - - -	"
"	BENJAMIN AMES,	- - - - -	"
"	ALGERNON M. ROAK,	- - - - -	"
"	EDMUND B. MALLET,	- - - - -	"
"	SAMUEL L. MILLER,	- - - - -	"
"	HOWARD D. SMITH,	- - - - -	"
"	WM. FREEMAN LORD,	- - - - -	"
"	GUSTAVUS H. CARGILL,	- - - - -	"
"	MOSES TAIT,	- - - - -	"
"	BENJAMIN L. HADLEY,	- - - - -	"

And Grand Officers as follows :

M. W.	JOSEPH A. LOCKE,	- - -	Grand Master.
R. W.	WINFIELD S. CHOATE,	- - -	Deputy Grand Master.
"	ALFRED S. KIMBALL,	- - -	Senior Grand Warden.
"	ENOCH O. GREENLEAF,	- - -	Junior Grand Warden.
"	MARQUIS F. KING,	- - -	Grand Treasurer.
"	STEPHEN BERRY,	- - -	Grand Secretary.
"	CHARLES D. SMITH,	- - -	Cor. Grand Secretary.
"	HERBERT S. SLEEPER,	- - -	D. D. G. M. 1st District.
"	WALTER F. BRADISH,	- - -	" 2d "
"	EDWARD F. DAVIES,	- - -	" 4th "
"	THOMAS J. PEAKS,	- - -	" 5th "
"	ALBERT J. DURGIN,	- - -	" 6th "
"	ALBERT W. WARD,	- - -	" 7th "
"	JAMES E. WENTWORTH,	- - -	" 8th "
"	WILLARD T. MARR,	- - -	" 10th "
"	LEVI E. JONES,	- - -	" 11th "
"	FRANKLIN WALKER,	- - -	" 12th "
"	HERMAN W. S. LOVEJOY,	- - -	" 13th "
"	ROBERT W. CARR,	- - -	" 14th "
"	JAMES H. HOWES,	- - -	" 15th "
"	ARTHUR C. RICKER,	- - -	" 16th "
"	FRANKLIN B. REDLON,	- - -	" 17th "
"	JAMES C. AYER,	- - -	" 18th "
"	ISAAC P. GOOCH,	- - -	" 19th "
"	EDWIN A. REED,	- - -	" 20th "
"	EZRA G. MASON,	- - -	" 21st "

R. W.	GEORGE M. BOND,	- - -	D. D. G. M. 22d District ;
"	FRANK H. DEXTER,	- - -	" 23d "
"	FREDEBICK G. PAYNE,	- - -	" 24th "
"	J. FRANK BRYSON,	- - -	" 25th "
W. & Rev.	MARTYN SUMMERBELL,	- - -	Grand Chaplain.
"	JOHN R. CLIFFORD,	- - -	" "
"	JOHN GIBSON,	- - -	" "
W.	WM. J. BURNHAM,	- - -	Marshal.
"	JACOB R. STEWART,	- - -	Steward.
"	CHAS. W. CROSEY,	- - -	" "
"	WM. A. REMICK,	- - -	" "
"	WM. N. HOWE,	- - -	" Sword Bearer.
"	ALBERT M. AMES,	- - -	" Pursuivant.
M. W.	FRANK E. SLEEPER,	- - -	" Lecturer.
W.	WALTER S. SMITH,	- - -	" Organist.
"	WARREN O. CARNEY,	- - -	" Tyler.

Your committee further find that the following Grand Representatives from other Grand Lodges are present:

Alabama—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.	Missouri—	DANIEL P. BOYNTON.
Arizona—	AUGUSTUS BAILEY.	Montana—	HENRY R. MILLETT,
Arkansas—	JOHN W. BALLOU.	Nebraska—	EDWARD P. BURNHAM.
California—	HENRY R. TAYLOR.	Nevada—	LEANDER M. KENNISTON.
Canada—	SCMNER J. CHADBOURNE.	New Hampshire—	HOWARD D. SMITH.
Colorado—	FRANK E. SLEEPER.	New Jersey—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.
Cuba—	E. HOWARD VOSE.	New York—	MARQUIS F. KING.
District of Columbia—		New Zealand—	HERBERT HARRIS.
	STEPHEN BERRY.	North Carolina—	
Florida—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.		WILLIAM R. G. ESTES.
Georgia—	" " "	North Dakota—	ALGERNON M. ROAK.
Idaho—	ALBRO E. CHASE.	Nova Scotia—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.
Illinois—	JOSEPH A. LOCKE,	Ohio—	WILLIAM J. BURNHAM.
Indian Territory—		Oregon—	MARQUIS F. KING.
	JOSEPH M. HAYES.	Quebec—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.
Kansas—	ARCHIE LEE TALBOT.	Rhode Island—	HORACE H. BURBANK.
Louisiana—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.	South Australia—	BENJAMIN AMES.
Manitoba—	A. M. WETHERBEE.	South Dakota—	
Michigan—	FESSENDEN I. DAT.		FRANCIS T. FAULKNER.
Minnesota—	JOHN B. REDMAN.	Texas—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.
Mississippi—	CHAS. I. COLLAMORE.	Utah—	HIRAM CHASE.

1898.]

Grand Lodge of Maine.

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Vermont—GEORGE R. SHAW.

West Virginia—ALBERT M. PENLEY.

Virginia—WINFIELD S. CHOATE.

Wisconsin—EDMUND B. MALLET.

Fraternally submitted,

WILLIAM N. HOWE, }
FRANCIS L. TALBOT, } *Committee.*

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.

HORACE H. BURBANK, WILLIAM R. ESTES, HENRY R. TAYLOR.

On the Pay Roll.

A. C. T. KING, ELLIOTT WOOD, WALTER S. GLIDDEN.

On Unfinished Business.

JOSEPH M. HAYES, ARCHIE L. TALBOT, CHARLES E. MESERVEY.

The dispensation, records and by-laws of David A. Hooper Lodge, U. D., were presented and referred to the Committee on Dispensations and Charters.

The Grand Master then read his

ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Brethren of the Grand Lodge:

It scarcely seems a year since last we met in this hall, but the changing seasons and the spring-time inform us it is true, and that we have now reached another mile-stone in the course of human events. We gather here annually, drawn from our homes throughout the state, and the different walks and professions in life, that around this common altar, erected to God, we may pay our devotions and here gather inspiration, strength and wisdom for the future. Some who gathered with us a year since are not here now, while others have come up to fill their places. Like as the waves which beat upon our rock-

bound coast, ever restless and changing, yet always the same, so is this Grand Lodge. We rejoice to meet again those we have been accustomed to meet in the past, and extend a cordial welcome to those who come for the first time. Let us enter upon the duties of this convocation with a fervent prayer that our Heavenly Father will guide us aright, and that the result of our deliberations may tend to the advancement of humanity, the strength of our Order and to the glory of his Great Name.

During the year peace and harmony have prevailed in this jurisdiction; not a single complaint has been made to me nor charge preferred. We are also in cordial and fraternal touch with all the Grand Lodges throughout the world, with whom we have heretofore held fraternal relations, excepting the Grand Lodge of Peru, with which I was much grieved to be obliged to sever masonic communication as more fully hereinafter stated.

Scarcely a year passes that the grim Messenger does not enter the ranks of our Grand Lodge, and, beckoning some beloved member, calls him to the other shore.

ARLINGTON B. MARSTON. On the sixth day of May, 1897, just as this Grand Lodge was closing its last annual session, the spirit of our beloved brother, Arlington B. Marston, Past Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge, winged its flight from the earthly tabernacle he had occupied here below to the celestial home above.

Born in Smithfield, Maine, August 1, 1834, he moved to Bangor with his parents in 1840, where he afterwards resided, excepting two years at Waterville. He was married in 1854 to Miss Caroline S. Hurd, of Bangor, who with two sons and a daughter survive him.

Bro. Marston was an honest, sincere and earnest man, a loving husband and father, and a true friend and brother.

His attachment to Freemasonry knew no bounds, as is evidenced by the record of his life, and the many years of constant, uninterrupted attendance at the sessions of this Grand Lodge. Made a mason in 1857, he afterwards became presiding officer in his local lodge, chapter, council and commandery, and was

for twenty-five years Secretary of St. Andrew's Lodge, at Bangor. He was District Deputy Grand Master for the Sixth Masonic District for the years 1872, 3, 4. In 1875 he was appointed Grand Steward, and from that time until his election as Senior Grand Warden in 1883 held office in this Grand Lodge, since which time he continuously served upon one or another of our most important committees. He has also served the Grand Chapter as M. E. Grand High Priest, the Grand Council as M. I. Grand Master, and the Grand Commandery as Rt. Em. Grand Commander.

In all these positions he was ever faithful, punctiliously performing every duty devolving upon him. A good ritualist and an excellent presiding officer; he commanded the confidence and esteem of all the brethren.

September 14, 1886, at Chicago, he was received and proclaimed a Sov. Gr. Inspector General, and enrolled as an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council 33°, A. and A. S. Rite, for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States.

For twenty-six consecutive years our brother was in attendance upon this Grand Lodge. It was ever a joy for him to be present, and a great pleasure and profit to us. Earnest, patient and industrious, with strong convictions of what was right and wrong, he gave to every question presented that calm deliberation which its merits demanded, and was ever ready to stand up for and defend that which he believed to be right. Methinks that at our last session, though confined to his bed by an incurable disease, and awaiting the summons "Come up higher," his thoughts were with us in session, and he could not bear to go hence until our labors were closed.

CHARLES ALLEN PRICE, Wor. Master of Bethlehem Lodge, No. 35, at Augusta, died at his home August 21, 1897.

Made a mason in 1890, he took great interest in the principles and teachings of the Order, and was rapidly advanced by his brethren through the offices of Steward, Deacon, Junior and Senior Warden to that of Worshipful Master. His cheerful dis-

position, cordial greetings and strict integrity endeared him to all.

DANA N. GRAY, Wor. Master of Plymouth Lodge, No. 75, died December 2, 1897, aged 33 years. Made a mason in 1892, he was appointed Tyler of his lodge in 1893; Steward in 1894; elected Senior Warden in 1895, and Wor. Master in September, 1897. He was an honest man, a true mason and respected by all who knew him. He was shot while hunting deer, by the carelessness and stupidity of a would-be hunter. He left a wife, three small children and an invalid mother to mourn the untimely death of a loving husband, father and son.

Four hundred and four other brethren, members of our subordinate lodges, have received "That Golden Key that ope's the palace of eternity."

While giving honor to our own beloved dead, it is proper that we unite with other Grand Jurisdictions in paying the tribute of respect to their honored brethren who have passed over the silent river during the year past. My attention has been called to the following:

IOWA.—Zephaniah C. Luse, of Iowa City, Past Grand Master of Iowa, died in Iowa City, June 21, 1897, aged 71 years. He was Grand Master in 1877 and had many friends in this state, having visited here about that time.

OREGON.—Joseph Norton Dolph, Past Grand Master of Oregon in 1882, and a distinguished Ex-Senator, passed away March 10, 1897, closing a long career of honor and usefulness.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.—Ill. Andrew Bunton, 33°, Past Grand Master of N. H., and an active member from New Hampshire of the Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the 33° and last degree, for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, departed this life at his home in Manchester, N. H., June 18, 1897. He was a man honored and esteemed by all, and loved by those who had a personal acquaintance with him. Of strict integrity and sterling ability, with a heart overflowing with kindness and good will to others, he maintained for years his position as one of

the foremost citizens and masons of New Hampshire. A loving father, an upright citizen, a true man and friend has gone. The funeral of our distinguished brother, who was also Past Grand Commander of New Hampshire, was one of the largest masonic funerals ever seen in that state.

LOUISIANA.—John Quincy Adams Fellows, 33°, Past Grand Master of Louisiana, and an active member of the Supreme Council, 33°, Southern Jurisdiction, “passed into rest” Nov. 28, 1897, “in the seventy-third year of his age, and the forty-eighth of his masonic life.” He was Grand Master during the critical period from 1860 to 1865, inclusive, and for many years Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Law and Jurisprudence and of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence. At the Conclave of the Grand Encampment, holden in Baltimore in 1871, he was elected Grand Master of Knights Templar, serving in that capacity until 1874. In fact he was called to fill the highest office in every branch of our beloved fraternity. An upright man, an able advocate, and a safe counselor, his long life of usefulness has closed, and only the memory of his life and actions remain as a guide to us in the future.

INDIAN TERRITORY.—Walter Noel Evans, Representative of this Grand Lodge near the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory, died at Stillwater, May 24, 1897, in the fifty-fourth year of his age. He was Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Indian Territory and a man of prominence in the community in which he lived.

ARKANSAS.—James M. Harkey, Past Grand Master of Arkansas, died near Sweet Home, Arkansas, Tuesday evening, September 28, 1897, aged sixty-five years. His was a strong and earnest character, filled “with rugged maxims hewn from life,” which enabled him to grasp at once the salient points of any subject presented, and made him a tower of strength in his Grand Lodge which it will be hard to fill.

WEST VIRGINIA.—Odel S. Long, 33°, Past Grand Master, Past Grand High Priest and Past Grand Commander of West

Virginia, was called from this earthly lodge to the Celestial above on the evening of December 26, 1897. In his death West Virginia loses one of her noblest and most accomplished citizens, and Freemasonry one of its brightest lights. It was my good fortune to be honored with his personal friendship and esteem. He was a gentle, noble and true man, one whom to know was to honor and respect. His deep interest in Masonry continued to the last, for only a few days before his death he gave an address on true masonic friendship, at Wheeling, which was one of the finest ever delivered.

“Transiently the passing faces
Stamp their image on the mind,
Other features fill their places,
But we backward turn to listen
For the tones we would recall.
Murmur we, while tear-drops glisten,
One by one our loved ones fall.
No one hears the door that opens
When they pass beyond our call,
Soft as loosened leaves of roses
One by one our loved ones fall.”

GEORGIA.—William Abram Love, Past Deputy Grand Master of Georgia, was called from the scenes of his earthly abode at Atlanta to his home above, January 22, 1898, aged seventy-three years and eight months. He was for many years an earnest worker in different positions in the various masonic bodies with which was connected.

VIRGINIA.—William B. Taliaferro, Past Grand Master of Virginia from 1874 to 1876, died at his home in Gloucester County on the 27th day of February, 1898. He was a grand old Virginia gentleman, a devoted husband, a loving father, an humble Christian, a gallant soldier, a learned jurist and an eminent mason.

IDAHO.—Charles C. Stevenson, Grand Secretary, and Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence of the Grand Lodge of Idaho, died at Boise on the evening of February 28, 1898, aged thirty-five years and three months. He was highly respected and honored by his Grand Lodge.

WASHINGTON.—Elwood Evans, Past Grand Master of Washington, died at Tacoma, January 28, 1898, from apoplexy. He was an able man.

MICHIGAN.—Daniel Striker, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Michigan in the year 1879, died suddenly at his home in Hastings on the evening of April 11, 1898, aged 63 years. He was also Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of the state, and was elected General Grand Treasurer of the General Grand Chapter of the United States in 1891, which office he retained until his death. He was a very prominent man and will be sadly missed.

BY-LAWS.

Amendments to by-laws of the following named lodges have been approved, to wit: St. John's, No. 51; Timothy Chase, No. 126; Vernon Valley, No. 99; Temple, No. 86; Oriental Star, No. 21; Casco, No. 36; Horeb, No. 93.

DISPENSATIONS.

I have granted several dispensations to lodges to appear in public for the purpose of attending Divine service.

For apparently good and sufficient reasons given, seven dispensations to receive and act upon petitions in less time than that required by law, have been granted, it being required in each case that notice should be given in the notifications of the meeting that there would be balloting under dispensation, giving the name of the candidate.

I have felt it my duty to refuse several similar requests. Brethren, this granting of dispensations is a bad practice, and I do not believe that the fraternity, *as a rule*, is benefited by the admission of a candidate who must be hurried through. Three times out of four you will find that such a candidate is going away, and then for the first time he thinks he may want friends, may fall into distress, get into trouble, and knowing from report that there are masons everywhere, and none others so ready to

assist, he makes up his mind he must be a mason. What is the result? The lodge must hold special meetings, a dispensation must be obtained, he is hurried through and departs with no knowledge of the principles and teachings of the Order, most times without sufficient information to enable him to work himself into a lodge if he receives such an examination as ought always to be given. That information and knowledge which he should have received and learned while receiving the degrees is never learned, and usually you will find that he never after takes any interest in Masonry unless it be for an entirely selfish purpose.

In this connection I wish to urge upon the masters of our several lodges, and especially those who have heretofore been careless in this respect, that it is their duty to see to it that the candidate is well-informed in the lessons of the preceding degree before he is farther advanced, that he may not hereafter blame you for neglect of duty. Appoint some brother who shall have the educational charge of the candidate in the interim.

On January 1, 1898, dispensation was granted to Corinthian Lodge, No. 95, at Hartland, to move into a new hall prepared for its occupation; this change of location from place of old hall not to change the former limits of its jurisdiction.

On Tuesday morning, April 26, 1898, the hall of Hermon Lodge, No. 32, at Gardiner, was destroyed by fire. I am glad to report that the lodge saved its charter, books, jewels, library, silver ware, &c., and had a fair insurance upon their property. At their request I granted dispensation to said lodge to hold its meetings for business and work in the hall of Gardiner Lodge, No. 9, of Odd Fellows, until permanent quarters could be obtained elsewhere; due care being taken of its working tools and paraphernalia.

On October 26, 1897, dispensation was granted to Asylum Lodge, No. 133, to elect a secretary at the stated meeting to be holden in November, to fill vacancy caused by the death of its secretary, Bro. Charles S. Haynes.

On November 24, 1897, a communication was received from the officers of Katahdin Lodge, No. 98, stating that the Academy building in that village was burned a short time previous, that their lodge building seemed to be the most conveniently located for the school, and asking if permission could be granted to let the lodge room for school purposes.

Answer. As Masonry believes in education and teaches the diffusion of knowledge, and as your lodge room is the best located and most convenient for the desired purpose, I hereby grant permission to Katahdin Lodge, if so voted by the lodge, duly called, notice for said meeting containing a notice of the proposed action, to rent its hall for school purposes until further orders, all paraphernalia of the lodge, working tools, &c., being properly taken care of.

LODGES UNDER DISPENSATION.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Committee on Dispensations and Charters, and the action of this Grand Lodge at its last session, on June 3, 1897, I granted a dispensation for a new lodge at Sullivan, under name of David A. Hooper Lodge, instead of Sullivan Lodge, as at first proposed.

June 19, 1897, dispensation was granted to Danville C. Durrell and twenty-three others, for a lodge to be known as Mount Bigelow Lodge, and located at Flagstaff. I granted this dispensation only after having made all due inquiries. At our last session a charter was refused these petitioners for a lodge to be located at Stratton on account of objections made by Blue Mountain Lodge, No. 97, at Phillips, as the new lodge would have jurisdiction over the town of Rangeley, and it would be more convenient for brethren at Rangeley to go to Phillips than to Stratton. The location of the lodge at Flagstaff removes this objection.

November 24, 1897, dispensation was granted to master masons resident of Washington and vicinity, for a lodge to be known as Hiram Abiff, and located at Washington.

These lodges *u. d.* will return their dispensations received, and records, and ask for charters at this session. From reports of our *D. D. Grand Masters*, it appears that these lodges have been doing good work, are enthusiastic and prosperous.

DEDICATION OF NEW HALLS.

On Monday, November 15, 1897, with the assistance of *Rt. Wor. Bros. Alfred S. Kimball, S. G. W., Marquis F. King, Grand Treasurer, Franklin R. Redlon, D. D. G. M. of the 17th District, Wor. & Rev. John R. Clifford, Grand Chaplain, Wor. William J. Burnham, Grand Marshal, and others*, I dedicated the new hall of *Dunlap Lodge, No. 47, at Biddeford*. This was a great pleasure to me, and I felt highly honored in being invited by the *Wor. Master and brethren of the lodge* to personally perform this duty. *Dunlap Lodge* was my first masonic home. There I was made a mason May 14, 1866, being twenty-two years of age, and elected to membership June 4th of the same year. Afterwards, having decided to make my home in Portland, under advice of friends, I was dimitted June 7, 1869, and joined *Portland Lodge, No. 1*. First impressions are lasting, and during the thirty odd years since that time my thoughts have frequently reverted to this early home, and I have oft recalled with pleasant memories my admission to the Order and the striking scenes which were enacted during the closing act of the drama, on the evening I was raised. As my first masonic knowledge was received in this lodge so my first public official act was to dedicate its new apartments. Their hall is large, beautifully decorated, with new furniture and furnishings, suitable ante-rooms and banquet hall, commodious and convenient in all their appointments. The brethren of this lodge are to be congratulated that they are so happily and well located and in such prosperous circumstances. An excellent banquet followed the exercises.

On Wednesday January 5, 1898, with the assistance of *R. W. Winfield S. Choate, D. G. M., Wor. William J. Burnham, Grand*

Marshal, and others, I dedicated the new hall of Monument Lodge, No. 96, at Houlton. The brethren of this lodge have well arranged and beautiful apartments in one of the best buildings in Houlton, and are to be congratulated upon the success and prosperity that attends them. A fine banquet followed the exercises, after which all repaired to the lodge hall, where a History of Masonry in Houlton was given, followed by responses from the presiding officers and members of the different masonic bodies in that place, with remarks by Governor Powers, visiting officers and others.

I am glad to report that there is a general desire in the fraternity to secure pleasant and convenient apartments, and mention with pleasure the great improvement in this respect. I trust it will not be many years before every lodge in this state will have good convenient rooms properly furnished, where, in addition to the work or business of the evening, it will be a pleasure to meet, and a delight occasionally to take our wives and sweethearts.

CONVENTIONS.

After conferring with M. W. Frank E. Sleeper, our Grand Lecturer, conventions for instruction in masonic work were called as follows, viz :

At Rockland, Friday, October 29th, at 10 A. M.

At Portland, Thursday, November 4th, at 10 A. M.

At Bangor, Tuesday, November 9th, at 10 A. M.

Good report has come to me of the great benefit received from these conventions. I had the pleasure of attending the one holden at Portland, and was much pleased with the way and manner the same was conducted under the supervision of our Grand Lecturer, and know that they are of inestimable benefit to the fraternity and our lodges. I am sorry to say that all the D. D. Grand Masters, who should have been present at this convention holden at Portland, were not present. One or two of the Deputies from other districts have expressed to me their regrets that they were not able to attend the conventions

in their sections of the state; but all who did attend speak in the highest terms of the benefit received from the same.

From the report of our Grand Lecturer I learn that the representatives of sixty-two lodges were in attendance upon these conventions. He also reports: "Eight District Deputy Grand Masters were not present at either convention, five of whom sent letters giving satisfactory reasons for their absence. Five districts were not represented either by deputy or lodge, and five were represented by deputies only. One district was not represented in any way, either this year or last, and I have been obliged to answer more letters of enquiry from that district than from all the others."

When one accepts an office and assumes its responsibilities, it is a duty he owes to himself, as well as to the fraternity, that he properly fit himself to perform those duties. The District Deputies are the representatives of the Grand Master; they come in close contact with the lodges and the brethren in their respective districts, and consequently their influence, if rightly directed, can accomplish more for the good of the Order in their several sections than that of the Grand Master personally. Hence it is the duty of each District Deputy to make special effort to attend one of these conventions each year, and thus make sure that he is properly qualified to perform the duties of his office.

Each and every lodge should have one of its officers present at one of these conventions, that he may become thoroughly informed in regard to the ritual and manner of exemplifying the work, and thus be able to give instruction to the brethren of his lodge. To this end I recommend that hereafter each lodge at its expense send at least one of its first three officers to the convention holden nearest its location.

I append the report of the Grand Lecturer.

The Tenth Annual Convention of the Second Masonic District was holden with Lewy's Island Lodge, Princeton, November 10, 1897. Large delegations were present from five different lodges in that district, and also representatives from Victoria

and Alley Lodges of New Brunswick. The work of the three degrees was exemplified in full. There was an attendance of about 200.

I have also received a communication giving an account of the District Convention holden in Belfast, in the 8th district, on February 10, 1898. Representatives from all the lodges in that district and from seven lodges outside of the district were present. The work was exemplified in each of the degrees, followed by remarks, questions and criticisms. The good resulting from these conventions will be felt for years.

Should the lodges in the other masonic districts follow the example set in the second and eighth districts and hold annual conventions, thus bringing the officers and many of the members of the lodges in each district together for an exemplification of the work in each degree, and for social intercourse, the result would be of inestimable benefit, not only to the lodges and members participating, but to the whole fraternity. I wish the District D. G. Masters would take this matter into consideration and see if they cannot bring it about.

CONDITION OF THE CRAFT.

From reports received from the D. D. Grand Masters, and from information received otherwise, I learn that our lodges are generally prosperous, and the brethren more attentive upon the meetings. I think this has been brought about in a great measure through the masonic conventions, and that renewed interest is created to become well informed in the rituals and teachings of the Order.

By reference to the report of the Committee on Returns, we find that

774	brethren	have	been	initiated,	against	746	last	year.
768	"	"	"	raised,	"	721	"	"
54	"	"	"	re-instated,	"	59	"	"
407	"	"	"	died,	"	339	"	"

And we now have a membership of 22,191, a gain of 106.

This report also shows that in the past many have gained admission who ought never to have been permitted to pass the Tyler's door, for 305 have been suspended from membership—the largest number for several years.

If a member of a lodge is able, and will not pay the small annual assessment required in support of the lodge and its charity fund, the sooner he is weeded out of the body and his name stricken from the rolls the better for the fraternity and its good name; if worthy and unable to pay, his dues should be freely and cheerfully remitted, for the best of us knows not when misfortune may assail him.

DECISIONS.

Many decisions have been rendered during the year, a large majority of them being on points fully covered by the constitution and decisions heretofore rendered. I mention only the following:

A brother suspended from membership for non-payment of dues, on payment of his dues is restored to all the privileges of Freemasonry as though he had not been suspended, and without a vote of the lodge. When paid, if the records show his suspension, as I presume they do, a minute should be made thereon by order of the Wor. Master, that Brother ———, having paid his dues, is restored to membership.

The charity funds taken from the treasury of masonic bodies and put into a masonic building should be considered in the nature of a loan; and the rents of the building should be applied first to the payment of taxes, insurance and repairs, and then to pay the interest on the funds taken from the masonic bodies. The interest on said funds, and especially if they were funds the income of which was held for charitable purposes, should be considered a sacred debt and should be guarded carefully, in exactly the same way and manner as if the masonic bodies had loaned these charity funds to a third party. I do not think the trustees should surrender the use of any part of the building with-

out payment of rent, unless the income from the building is sufficient to provide, as I have before stated, for the taxes, insurance and repairs, besides the interest on those funds. If there is a difference of opinion, having such a balance, the majority should rule.

A lodge has no authority to appropriate its charity fund for any other purpose than that for which it was designated. If _____ Lodge wishes to grant aid to any other lodge in building or repairing its hall it can do so from its general income, if it has any.

Question.—"Where one applies to a lodge under dispensation and is rejected, and the lodge under dispensation does not afterwards receive a charter, can the one who is rejected make application to the lodge within whose jurisdiction he lived before said dispensation was granted, in six months, or must he wait the five years, as required by Section 96 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge?"

Answer.—The Grand Lodge, by refusing the charter, places the applicant, who was rejected, under its own jurisdiction, and he can apply by permission of the Grand Lodge, or by permission of the Grand Master in vacation, for permit to receive the degrees in the lodge within whose jurisdiction he is, six months after the rejection, provided he is otherwise eligible.

Question.—"When brethren were raised in a lodge under dispensation, and the charter is afterwards refused, how shall they proceed to become members of a lodge?"

Answer.—Such brethren are non-affiliated masons in good standing, and can apply to any lodge for membership. A certificate from the Grand Secretary will supply the want of a dimit.

Question.—"Is it proper for a lodge to attend the funeral of a brother not a member of the lodge, as a lodge, after opening, when the brother's lodge attends, and the commandery attends and officiates at the service?"

Answer.—A former Grand Master of this Grand Lodge has rendered the following decision, which, on report of the Com-

mittee on Masonic Jurisprudence sustaining the same, was approved by this Grand Lodge: "A masonic burial is the business of the lodge, and cannot properly be performed by any other body." Under this decision, if the commandery officiates at the service, the lodge, as a body, ought not to be present.

Question.—"Should the dues of a deceased brother be paid from his estate, if sufficient to do so?"

Answer.—Yes. It is a just and legal claim, but one that ought never to be enforced by law. The estate may be sufficient to pay the dues, but the circumstances of the family such that they ought to receive the full benefit of what estate is left.

It is not permissible for officers of a lodge to wear robes.

Question.—"Some twelve years ago the by-laws of _____ Lodge were revised and approved by the Grand Master. One section reads like this: 'All past masters shall be honorary members and exempt from all dues.' Now at the last stated meeting an amendment was proposed to make all past masters pay dues. I would like to know if that would affect those who were past masters before this date."

Answer.—As a lodge has a right to amend its by-laws at any time in accordance with the terms of its by-laws, and as past masters were made honorary members by virtue of said by-laws, and also exempt from annual dues by the by-laws, it follows as a natural sequence that an amendment to the by-laws is in order, and would subject past masters to the payment of dues after the adoption of the proposed amendment.

Question.—"If one who has been rejected in a lodge in this jurisdiction should afterwards move into another jurisdiction, can he then at once apply for the degrees in that town with the consent of the lodge in which he was rejected, without waiting six months from the time of rejection?"

Answer.—Section 97 of the constitution reads as follows: "No petition for the degrees shall be received by any lodge from any candidate, who has been rejected in that lodge, within less than six months after the rejection."

Section 98 reads: "A candidate, rejected in any lodge, and

residing in the jurisdiction of another lodge, may apply to either with the consent of the other, obtained in the manner and under the conditions hereinbefore provided."

Under these two sections I answer "No," he cannot apply for waiver of the jurisdiction until after six months has expired from the time of his rejection. If he so applies, and it is granted, he may then put in his application to the other lodge in the town where he is then residing.

Question.—"In case of the death of the Wor. Master of the lodge, how shall the diplomas be signed?"

Answer.—They are to be signed by the Senior Warden acting Master; the Senior Warden, *pro tem.* will sign as such, and the Junior Warden will sign in his own name.

CALENDAR AND LUNAR MONTHS.

I have been asked if lodges are to be governed by Section 88, Article 5, of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, or by the decision of Grand Master Chase in 1890 (page 686 of Proceedings), as they appear in conflict. They are not in conflict. The idea of Section 88, Article 5 of the Constitution was, as has been interpreted by the Grand Lodge, that there should be four weeks between stated meetings of the lodge. The month referred to is the lunar month, and when two meetings so come, it is proper to hold both in the same calendar month, there being two distinct lunar months.

During the temporary absence of the Wor. Master from his home (being detained by a storm), if there is a meeting of the lodge the Senior Warden is to preside and take charge of the business. The Senior Warden's authority as presiding officer ceases at the close of that meeting. If a candidate was elected at that meeting, and the records were read and approved, showing such an election without an objection at the time, and the lodge closed, an objection afterwards made to the Senior Warden against the candidate who was elected at the meeting is not sufficient. The objection must be made to the Wor. Master of

the lodge, if made during the interim before the next communication of the lodge.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS APPOINTED.

Last December, a communication was received from R. W. John H. Shepherd, D. D. G. M. of the 22d District, that on account of sickness he would not be able to perform the duties of the office, and on the 28th I appointed R. W. George M. Bond, of Exeter, D. D. G. M. for that district for the remainder of the term.

On February 25th, I appointed R. W. Willard T. Marr, of Boothbay Harbor, D. D. G. M. of the 10th District, in place of R. W. Walter E. Clark, resigned on account of having been appointed Post Master at Waldoboro, which would interfere with his performing the duties of the office.

I trust the brethren will read the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters which will be printed in the proceedings, and thus obtain a detailed knowledge of the condition of the fraternity throughout the state.

And in this connection I wish to call the attention of District Deputy Grand Masters to the fact (as under the constitution they have power to grant dispensations for public processions) that no lodge can properly appear in public merely for show or to help others make a show; that they cannot appear as a lodge at the dedication or unveiling of a monument unless there is masonic work, which is well defined in the decisions of this Grand Lodge, for them to do. Every District Deputy should carefully examine the decisions noted in our Masonic Text Book. Allusion is made to this matter because our deputies are frequently importuned to grant such dispensations, and I fear one deputy has granted such an one during the year.

MASONIC RELIEF.

On July 7, 1897, a communication was received from Bro. F. A. Ashton, W. M. of Chandler Lodge, Oklahoma Ter., giving

an account of the great suffering among the masonic fraternity in Oklahoma on account of a destructive cyclone which visited that place March 30, 1897, and asking permission to send a letter (copy of which he enclosed) to the different lodges in this jurisdiction. I granted the desired request, although I knew that many of the lodges in this state had many and heavy calls upon them for assistance.

During the year my attention has been called to several cases of peculiar hardship where the brethren and the lodges have assisted nobly. There are, however, a few who feel that masonic charity, instead of being a personal matter, is a duty of the lodge, and that when the lodge has no funds, or has expended its funds in building, then their duty ceases. This is all wrong. Our masonic charity is the charity which one brother owes to another less fortunate than himself, and to whom sickness, sorrow or misfortune has come, and we should not fall back upon the lodge. At the same time I feel it is the duty of the lodge to gather a charity fund, the income of which should be applied to help the unfortunate, but this will not relieve the members of a lodge from their individual duty.

My attention has been called to the applications made for aid from the Grand Charity Fund. A few lodges, and I am happy to say that there are but few such, seem to act as though the income from the Grand Charity Fund was sufficient to furnish all the aid needed for charity and to help all those in need throughout the state. This is not so. It is the duty of each lodge and its members to take care of and help its own and the poor widows and helpless orphans of its deceased members so far as it and they can. No lodge should come to the Grand Lodge for assistance unless it has done something according to its means and that of its members. The income from the Grand Charity Fund should only be asked when the needed aid becomes oppressive and a burden upon the lodge. In most of our lodges the annual assessment is very light, and I cannot believe there is a lodge in this state whose members would not be willing to be assessed an extra dollar, if it was needed for an afflicted

brother, or the poor widow and helpless orphans of a deceased brother. Think this matter over, brethren, and let us do by others as we would have they should do by us.

WAIVER OF JURISDICTION.

On January 24th, a communication was received from M. Wor. D. N. Nicholson, Grand Master of Vermont, communicating the request of Mystic Lodge, No. 56, F. & A. M., at Stowe, Vt., for waiver of jurisdiction over two brethren within the jurisdiction of St. John's Lodge, of South Berwick, which communication was duly forwarded, jurisdiction waived and notice thereof sent to M. W. Bro. Nicholson on March 9th.

On February 11th, a communication was received from M. W. Henry A. Marsh, G. M. of New Hampshire, forwarding the request of Temple Lodge, No. 88, of Keene, N. H., asking waiver of jurisdiction over a brother within the jurisdiction of St. Croix Lodge, at Calais; this request was duly forwarded, jurisdiction waived by St. Croix Lodge and the same forwarded to M. W. Bro. Marsh April 8th.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

On recommendations of the M. W. Grand Masters of the following named jurisdictions, Representatives of this Grand Lodge have been appointed as follows:

May 25, 1897, William S. Ware, of Jacksonville, near the Grand Lodge of Florida.

June 19th, John H. Randall, of Minneapolis, near the Grand Lodge of Minnesota.

Sept. 11th, Charles A. Nesbitt, of Richmond, near the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

Dec. 23d, James R. Sheehan, of Vinita, near the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory.

The following brethren of this jurisdiction have been recommended for appointment as Representatives near this Grand Lodge for the following Grand Lodges, viz:

May 25th, Henry R. Millett, of Gorham, for Montana.
 May 25th, Albert M. Penley, of Auburn, for West Virginia.
 June 17th, Albro E. Chase, for Idaho.
 Sept. 17th, Winfield S. Choate, for Virginia.
 Dec. 14th, Augustus B. Farnham, for Delaware.

FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS.

PORTUGAL.—On the 20th of July, 1897, a most courteous communication was received from the M. W. Grand Master of the "Grande Oriente, Lusitano Unido Portugal," requesting fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge by the appointment of Representatives. In compliance with my request our R. W. Grand Secretary answered the same, and the following is a copy of his letter:

PORTLAND, July 20, 1897.

"TO THE ILLUS. GRAND ORIENTE LUSITANO UNIDO :

"*Dear Brother* :—Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Joseph A. Locke, 33°, would be most gratified to avail himself of your kind offer and nomination, but he feels it necessary to submit it first to the Grand Lodge, which he will do on May 3, 1898, when it will be referred to a committee who will report back directions.

"In the meantime, if you will kindly send me some of your proceedings to refer with it, the committee will be better able to form an opinion regarding your honorable body.

"With the most cordial good wishes from the Grand Master, and in my own behalf,

"I am very faithfully and fraternally yours,

"STEPHEN BERRY, *Grand Secretary.*"

I recommend that this matter, with the correspondence, be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence.

BELGIUM.—On April 30, 1898, a most cordial and fraternal communication was received from the Grand Orient of Belgium, giving a brief history of said Grand Orient, and requesting fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge by the appointment of Representatives. This communication was accompanied also by a copy of the Treaty between the Grand Orient of Belgium and

the Supreme Council of Belgium; also a copy of the record of its Proceedings, embracing the years 1894-96, namely, the 22d and 23d years of its publication. I have requested our Grand Secretary to acknowledge receipt of the same.

I also recommend that this communication, with accompanying papers, be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence.

PERU.—On the fifth of October, 1897, I received through our Grand Secretary, Bro. Stephen Berry, a communication from R. W. Francisco L. Crosby, our Representative near the Grand Lodge of Peru, enclosing his resignation as our Representative near that Grand Lodge, giving as his reason that he could not possibly remain in said Grand Lodge when one of the great lights of Masonry had been put out. His letter contained a statement of facts which had occurred up to the time of his letter. I requested our Grand Secretary to thank Bro. Crosby for the course he had taken, and to ask him to retain his Commission and report to this Grand Lodge the facts of future condition of Masonry in Peru, especially if any lodges continued to practice ancient Masonry in that jurisdiction, until I could report to you at this May session.

As I am informed, it appears that the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, after consultation, and with the approval of the Deputy Grand Master at a session of said Grand Lodge holden June 13, 1897, issued the following decree, "That on all masonic altars the Bible should be removed and replaced by the Constitution of the Order of Freemasonry, and that in our rituals the word 'Bible' shall be struck out, and the words 'the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Peru' put in its place." This decree was approved by the Grand Lodge, though in direct contradiction with the customs and landmarks of the Order. At a session of said Grand Lodge, holden on or about September 13th, Kosmos Lodge, No. 7, of Lima, presented a petition for a reconsideration of the resolution sustaining said decree, which was refused consideration. Then our Representative, in the name of the Grand Lodge of Maine, solemnly protested against the action taken and withdrew. Soon after the Grand Master

and his Deputy resigned their positions, but immediately had their friends at work to keep them in, begging the signature of everybody, and representing the Grand Master as a martyr. At an extra session of said Grand Lodge, holden October 17th, after a very warm discussion, twelve members retired protesting against the proposed irregularity; and then the resignation of the Grand Master and his Deputy were refused acceptance by a unanimous vote of 15 of their friends whom they had been able to get together.

I am inclined to think that had the friends of Ancient Craft Masonry been present this unfortunate action of their Grand Lodge would have been prevented. Learning afterwards that at this session of the Grand Lodge it was resolved to summon our Representative to trial for insubordination in refusing to yield to this action of the Grand Lodge of Peru, I felt it my duty not to await the action of our Grand Lodge but immediately suspend communication with said Grand Lodge of Peru, and accordingly issued the following notification:

GRAND LODGE OF MAINE, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER,

PORTLAND, December 9, 1897.

To the brethren of the obedience of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Maine:

It having come to my knowledge that the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the Republic of Peru, with which the Grand Lodge of Maine has been in masonic communication, has changed its fundamental law whereby the "Book of the Law," viz: "The Great Light in Masonry," is excluded from its altar and the altars of the lodges of its obedience, and thereby it and they have ceased to be masonic bodies:

You are hereby notified that all masonic communication with said Grand Lodge, its subordinate lodges and the members of its obedience who continue to adhere to said Grand Lodge under its constitution, changed as aforesaid, is suspended until the next annual session of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of Maine.

But you are further notified that masonic communication may be continued with all brethren formerly of the obedience of said Grand Lodge of

Peru who have or shall renounce allegiance to said Grand Lodge on account of said change in its fundamental law, without regard to any action of said Grand Lodge of Peru or the lodges of its obedience against said brethren, after said change of its fundamental law, on account of their refusing obedience to said action.

Yours Fraternaly,

JOSEPH A. LOCKE, *Grand Master.*

Attest: STEPHEN BERRY, *Grand Secretary.*

The following is a copy of Translation of Decree of the Grand Master of Peru, June 13, 1897 :

**GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF PERU.**

OFFICE OF THE GRAND SECRETARY.

CHRISTIAN DAM, *Grand Master of Masons of Peru.*

Taking into consideration that in the Grand Constitution of the Order, Freemasonry puts no limit on investigation of truth, and orders that its members shall aid, instruct, animate, and defend each other, that each one may sustain and perfect himself in freedom of conscience, thought and of speech:

That in conformity with this principle, Freemasonry does not protect any religion, nor defend any philosophical school, nor any political system.

That in virtue of this principle Freemasonry cannot instruct nor practice anything that in any manner can falsify or alter it.

That according to Catholicism, the Bible is a sacred book, in which the revealed word is deposited, and as such cannot be freely examined and criticised, without which the spirit cannot progress or be perfected, nor the truth be found.

That the Bible cannot be considered as a fountain of scientific knowledge or history, nor as a basis of morality.

That following an old custom in this *Orient* which is not authorized by law, the Bible has been placed on our altars of our lodges, on which are taken the obligation.

That Masonry having members of every religious relief, this obligation cannot be exacted on the Bible without Freemasonry becoming an accomplice in a serious rupture of the dogmatic and fundamental principles of the Order.

That in the jurisdiction of our Rite and in that of the Scotch Rite, since the meeting of the Masonic Congress in Lausanne in 1875, the Bible has

been removed from our altars of our lodges and replaced by the Constitution of the Country or that of Masonry.

— I DECREE —

that on all masonic altars the Bible shall be removed and replaced by the Constitution of the Order of Freemasonry, and that in our rituals the word "Bible" shall be struck out, and the words "the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Peru" put in its place.

For the better and full observance of this decree, let it be noted in the books of this Grand Lodge, signed and sealed with our Grand Seal of the Grand Lodge, in ample session, this thirteenth day of June, Vulgar Era 1897.

CHRISTIAN DAM, *Grand Master.*

M. I. CACERES, *Grand Secretary.*

(This copy and copies of the El Comercio of October 16 and 18, 1897, papers printed at Lima, and other papers received, I file with this report.)

The reasons given by the Grand Master of Peru for this action on his part appear to me a subterfuge, a mere excuse.

I fear that the leaders of that movement are inclined to drift away from all forms of religion, and wish to forget, if not deny, their recognition of, and their dependence upon God, the Great Architect of the Universe; and in addition they wish to drag the fraternity with them, and by a vote of the governing body in that country, removing the Bible from their altars, relieve themselves from being called foresworn and dishonored among men and masons. But this they cannot do. Upon the Bible, as representing and teaching the word of God in Christian countries, has every mason taken his vows. It is one of the landmarks of the Order that no atheist can be made a mason, and every mason in the world knows that before he could gain admission to the masonic lodge he voluntarily expressed his "belief in God." We claim Masonry to be universal, so is "belief in God." A distinguished writer says: "Be assured that God is equally present with the pious Hindoo in the Temple, the Jew in the Synagogue, the Mohammedan in the Mosque, and the Christian in the Church." Mackey, in his great work

on Freemasonry, uses the following language: "The Bible is used among masons as the symbol of the will of God, however it may be explained, and, therefore, whatever to any people expresses that will may be used for a substitute for the Bible in a masonic lodge."

In other countries as well as this, all masonic vows have been taken at an altar upon which lies a book supposed to contain the Divine will revealed to them.

And now the Grand Master, with the approval of the Grand Lodge of Peru, undertakes to remove from the masonic altar of that country the Bible, and for the fallacious reasons given by him. He wilfully does not mention the fact that nowhere, nor in any way or manner, does Masonry attempt to dictate to any man the construction or meaning he shall put upon any portion of the Bible, nor the religious belief he shall deduce therefrom, nor the fact that each and every man is at full liberty to interpret the same according to his own conscience, and the result of his own individual researches and reading of the same; but he attempts to put a different construction upon the same.

He says: "That following an old custom in this Orient, which is not authorized by law, the Bible has been placed on our altars of our lodges on which we take the obligation."

He does not state to what law he refers, but he knows that every mason within the jurisdiction of that Grand Lodge, including himself, has taken his vow upon that Bible, or upon some other book symbolical of the Divine will of God, and that all lodges in that Grand Jurisdiction have from their first organization had the Bible upon their altars.

Some book, believed by the masons of any particular religion to contain the revealed will of God, has always been upon the altar of every true masonic lodge. That book, from the earliest history of Masonry, has been called the "Book of the Law." The five books of Moses, or the Pentateuch, were called by the Jews "The Law," because they included the law of God which Moses received on Mount Sinai. Masonry was not founded on a mere sentimentality, lacking an underlying principle to give

it firmness and stability, but on historical facts contained in the Old Testament. Hence the book containing "The Law," or the "Book of the Law," as the foundation and source of our faith and of our works, has ever been upon the masonic altars. In a lodge of Israelites, it is the Pentateuch; in a lodge of Moslems, the Koran; in a lodge of Brahmans, the Vedas; and in a lodge of Christians, the Old and New Testaments. That "Book of The Law" upon the masonic altar must represent the symbolism of the Divine will to man, otherwise the foundation of our faith is removed, and there will be no beacon light to guide us on to "Truth."

One of the most distinguished masons in this country, who has traveled extensively in foreign lands, in a letter informs me that he has seen both the Bible and the Koran upon the same masonic altar at the same time.

No book or other law can be substituted for this "Book of The Law," and an attempt to remove the same is an attempt to tear out and wrench from its foundation one of the principal corner-stones upon which the superstructure of Freemasonry is founded. No other law can be substituted for it, not even the Constitution of a Grand Lodge, for that only represents the work of man.

I sincerely trust that the M. W. Grand Master of Peru and that Grand Lodge will see the mistake they have made and rectify the same.

INVITATIONS.

On September 4, 1897, I received from M. Wor. A. N. Sloan, Grand Master of Tennessee, a fraternal invitation to the Grand and Past Grand Officers and all masons in this jurisdiction to be present and participate in the ceremonies pertaining to Masonic and Knight Templar Day at the Tennessee Centennial Exposition, on October 14, 1897, at Nashville. This invitation was promulgated by having the same published in the Masonic Journal. Much to my sorrow I was unable to attend. Report says it was a pleasant and profitable occasion.

On December 14, 1897, a communication was received from Bro. George W. Carpenter, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, extending to this Grand Lodge a cordial invitation to participate in the Centennial Memorial Ceremonies incident to the observance of the death of Wor. Bro. George Washington, to be held at Mount Vernon on December 14, 1899, which invitation, with accompanying papers, I place before you for your action. Every Grand Lodge in this country ought to have a representative in attendance upon these ceremonies. It will doubtless be an event long to be remembered in the annals of Freemasonry in this country.

EXEMPLIFICATION.

To-morrow afternoon, beginning promptly at half past two, the degree of Master Mason will be exemplified in full, and the Lectures of the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft degrees given under the supervision of M. W. Bro. Sleeper, Grand Lecturer. I trust that all desirous of witnessing the work, and especially all officers of lodges, will be promptly on hand, that there may be no interruption whatever.

ATTENDANCE.

There is another matter to which I feel it is my duty to call your attention.

All permanent members of and delegates to the Grand Lodge are paid their mileage and allowance, and are supposed to remain here during the entire session. These annual communications, as a rule, close Thursday forenoon in season for the brethren to take the noon trains home. Oft times and usually the most important business of the whole session is transacted Thursday forenoon, for then many of the important committees make their report. It is of the utmost importance, for the good of the Order, that the permanent members and delegates should therefore be present. I hope none will ask to be excused unless it be for most urgent reasons, and that all will remain through

the entire communication. The Grand Treasurer will be ready to make all payments Thursday morning.

I wish also to call your attention to the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, from the pen of our distinguished M. Wor. Bro. Josiah H. Drummond. Copies of this report will be placed before you during the session. It contains a brief review of the doings of all Grand Lodges in this country and many foreign jurisdictions. Questions of importance relative to the welfare of our fraternity are there discussed. No brother, who wishes to be well informed in Masonry, can afford to omit a careful examination of the same.

CONCLUSION.

Brethren, the three principal rounds in the Masonic Ladder are Faith, Hope and Charity. Faith in God, and the Holy Bible upon our altars is given to be the rule and guide of that faith; Hope in immortality, and we believe there is a life beyond the grave, where, free from the trials and troubles incident to this life, we may dwell in the presence of the Grand Architect of the Universe; and Charity for all mankind, and this includes Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. These are the tenets of our beloved Fraternity, and with the cardinal virtues of Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice teach us how masons should live and act, not only among themselves but towards the world. Resting upon these tenets, principles and teachings as its foundation, Freemasonry has stood the test of ages.

Every mason is sworn to support and obey the laws of his own country, but this does not prevent his sympathy being extended to, and his charity reaching out and helping the down trodden and the oppressed of other countries and climes. Only a few days since the call "To Arms" issued by President McKinley was flashed over the wires to every portion of this great country; and why? Was it to repel an invasion? No. Was it to prevent dismemberment? No. Was it for aggrandizement and the seizure of the territory of others? No. Why was it?

It was in answer to the cry of distressed humanity ascending to the Heavenly Throne on High. God yet rules the universe, and in the fullness of time He puts it into the hearts of men and of nations to do His bidding. Moses was raised up and sent of God to do His bidding, so was St. John the Baptist and the Prophets of Old. We may say these were men of Destiny; and so others have been men of Destiny, even down to our times. Can any one doubt that this country was concealed for ages from the kingdoms and the people of the old world, that it might be occupied and become the home of a God-fearing and liberty-loving people? Were not Washington and Lincoln and Grant men of destiny, and appointed to do the work assigned them? This is not the first time this cry from Cuba has been heard. Like Banquo's ghost it would not down, but has arisen about every generation to trouble this country. It was one of the issues in the days of Jefferson and John Quincy Adams, and helped elect Franklin Pierce to the Presidency. It arose again during Grant's administration, and nearly culminated in war by the course pursued by the Spanish officers in seizing and condemning to death, with hardly the form of a trial, the sailors of the *Virginius*. The people of this country then demanded justice and that Spain should abandon Cuba, and General Grant went so far as to order our Navy to be placed on a war footing; but diplomacy and the influence of the money power, aided by the Secretary of State, over-persuaded Grant and Congress to accept an apology and indemnity for the families of those condemned to death, and to leave the Cubans alone. The same influence would doubtless have controlled this nation again, but it was in the heart of the great masses of our people to say "No," and the President and Congress have obeyed the voice of the people, as it were the voice of God. *Vox Populi, Vox Dei.*

Only twice before in the history of this country have the great masses of the people been aroused as they are to-day, and their hearts fired with the premonition of war, viz., in 1776 and in 1861. There is no man living in this country to-day, no

matter what his views may then have been, but will admit that those events were inspired by the noblest impulses that can stir the human breast, liberty and humanity. The history of this world shows that all great events which have been far reaching in their result have been inspired by noble impulses. So to-day the cry of humanity strikes a responsive chord in the great heart of the people of this country, and no matter what our individual views now may be as to whether or not it was the duty of our Government to pursue the course it has, we should now obey and sustain the same.

Freemasonry believes in God, and that He is merciful; it believes in charity for all mankind,—that charity which reaches out its arm not only to feed and clothe but to aid and lift up, to the extent of its ability, struggling humanity wherever it may be found,—that charity which extends to a fallen foe “that glorious attribute of Deity,—Mercy.”

Freemasonry does not interfere with any man’s religious belief, so long as he believes in God, the Great Architect of the Universe, the Giver of all good and perfect gifts; it does not interfere with any man’s political views, so long as he is true to himself and the government of his country. In short, its aim is to uplift our fellow man and to promote the happiness of the human race.

To this end, let our prayers ascend to the Throne of Grace, that He, who rules the Heavens by His name “Jah,” will by this conflict elevate the oppressed and down-trodden and promote the happiness of the human race.

Brethren, a year since, in entering upon the duties of this high office, I felt many misgivings, but the cordial support I have received from all, and the ready acquiescence in decisions rendered have made the duties of the office a pleasure and not a burden. In all my doings I have endeavored to act for the best interests of our beloved fraternity, to maintain and uphold its dignity and the high standing heretofore attained, without any personal feeling or prejudice in any matter. If my actions meet your approval, it will be an ample reward for the labor

bestowed. If I have erred, it has been an error of the head and not of the heart. I sincerely thank you, one and all, for the hearty support and kind wishes ever extended me, and for your affection and sympathy manifested on all occasions.

JOSEPH A. LOCKE, *Grand Master.*

SABBATUS, April 20, 1898.

To Most Worshipful JOSEPH A. LOCKE, *Grand Master of Masons in Maine:*

During the present masonic year I have held three conventions for the purpose of imparting masonic instruction to District Deputies and brethren, viz:

At Rockland, Friday, October 29th.

“ Portland, Thursday, November 4th.

“ Bangor, Tuesday, November 9th.

Conventions were asked for at several other places, but my time has been so fully occupied that I could attend no more than these three. Many Grand and Past Grand Officers and a large number of brethren attended, and made up conventions over which it was a pleasure for me to preside.

At Rockland were 3 D. D. G. M's., and representatives of 13 lodges.

“ Portland “ 6 “ “ “ “ 25 “

“ Bangor “ 8 “ “ “ “ 24 “

Eight District Deputy Grand Masters were not present at either convention, five of whom sent me letters giving satisfactory reasons for their absence. Five districts were not represented either by Deputy or lodge, and five were represented by Deputies only. One district was not represented in any way either this year or last, and I have been obliged to answer more letters of enquiry from that district than from all the others.

Two districts were not represented this year, owing to distance, but were fully represented last year at a nearer convention.

As in former years, strict attention to the work in hand was required from all present, and opportunities for free enquiry, if not for free discussion, were afforded,

From year to year I notice less divergence in interpreting rituals in different portions of our state, and I believe our present system of instruction far excels any we have previously employed.

Fraternally submitted,

FRANK E. SLEEPER, *Grand Lecturer.*

On motion, all matters in the address referring to Dispensations and Charters were referred to the Committee on Dispensations and Charters,

All matters referring to Foreign Jurisdictions, and the decisions to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence,

And all the rest to the Committee on Doings of the Grand Officers.

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 Charity Fund, see report to Trustees.]

1897.		RECEIPTS.	
May	4.	By cash balance,	\$ 6,380.49
June	1.	“ from Grand Secretary, dispensation to David Hooper Lodge,	25.00
Nov.	23.	“ from Grand Secretary, dispensation to Hiram Abiff Lodge,	25.00
		“ from Joseph A. Locke, Grand Master, dispensations to eight lodges at various dates,	24.00
		“ from District Deputy Grand Masters, as follows:	
1898.			
Mar.	9.	Walter F. Bradish, 2d District,	180.20
	18.	Ezra G. Mason, 21st District,	304.00
	18.	Albert W. Ward, 7th District,	146.40
	18.	G. Harris Foster, 3d District,	203.20
	18.	Herman W. S. Lovejoy, 13th District,	205.00
	19.	Robert W. Carr, 14th District,	294.80
	21.	Herbert S. Sleeper, 1st District,	119.40
	21.	Edward F. Davies, 4th District,	183.00
	23.	Isaac P. Gooch, 19th District,	267.20
	23.	Edwin A. Reed, 20th District,	110.80
	24.	Franklin Walker, 12th District,	202.20

Mar.	24.	James M. Smith, 9th District,.....	395.60
	28.	James H. Howes, 15th District,.....	212.40
	30.	James E. Wentworth, 8th District,.....	168.60
	31.	Franklin R. Redlon, 17th District,.....	609.20
April	1.	Frederick G. Payne, 24th District,.....	414.20
	8.	Thomas J. Peaks, 5th District,.....	242.00
	9.	James C. Ayer, 18th District,.....	170.60
	14.	Levi E. Jones, 11th District,.....	377.60
	15.	J. Frank Bryson, 25th District,.....	110.80
	16.	Frank H. Dexter, 23d District,.....	136.60
	18.	George M. Bond, 22d District,.....	157.80
	21.	Arthur C. Ricker, 16th District,.....	269.60
	22.	Albert J. Durgin, 6th District,.....	259.40
	25.	Willard T. Marr, 10th District,.....	221.60
	25.	By cash from Stephen Berry, Grand Secretary, Regis- trations, Diplomas, etc.,.....	9.04
		“ from Grand Chapter, 3-10 expense Grand Sec- retary’s office,.....	141.11
		“ from Grand Commandery, 2-10 expense Gr. Secretary’s office,.....	94.07
		“ interest on deposits,.....	54.60
			\$13,688.01

1897.

DISBURSEMENTS.

May	6.	To cash paid orders Committee on Pay Roll,.....	\$ 2,022.36
	6.	“ “ Bros. Harriman and Cotton, expenses of attendance on account of McVeigh trial,.....	21.80
	6.	“ “ Walter S. Smith, Grand Organist, attend- ance at Grand Lodge,.....	10.00
	6.	“ “ Frederick G. Payne, printing,.....	3.50
	6.	To deposit in Portland National Bank, transferred to Charity Fund,.....	1,082.42
	17.	To cash paid Miss M. M. Laughlin, clerk to Committee on Pay Roll,.....	10.00
	20.	“ “ Lookout Lodge, dues of 1897 returned, ..	8.60
July	9.	“ “ Portland Paper Box Co., 7 boxes,.....	3.50
	9.	“ “ express charges on D. D. Grand Master’s trunks,.....	5.25
Aug.	2.	“ “ J. L. Brackett & Co., 1 trunk,.....	10.00
	2.	“ “ 25 trunks for D. D. Grand Masters,.....	90.63
	2.	“ “ Thomas K. Jones, for lettering trunks,..	5.00

1898.]

Grand Lodge of Maine.

45

Aug. 2.	To cash paid J. A. Merrill & Co., repairing D. D. Gr. Master's jewels,	55.00
Oct. 20.	“ “ American Bank Note Co., Diplomas,	100.00
27.	“ “ Dow and Pinkham, insurance,	59.40
Nov. 24.	“ “ Smith and Sale, advertising,	10.00
1898.		
Jan. 5.	“ “ Board of Masonic Trustees, use of halls, .	125.00
9.	“ “ Williams M'fg Co., book-case for library, .	102.50
28.	“ “ A. D. Pearson, two bills for binding Proceedings,	33.15
April 18.	“ “ Josiah H. Drummond, Chairman Committee on Foreign Correspondence, ...	100.00
	“ “ Warren O. Carney, Grand Tyler, and assistants for attendance on Gr. Lodge, .	30.00
	Aug. 2, expense shipping D. D. Grand Masters' trunks,	9.30
	Nov. 23d, services and expenses,	3.25
	“ “ Portland Savings Bank, rent of offices, ..	400.00
	“ “ Mrs. O'Toole, for care of Grand Lodge offices,	51.00
	“ “ Frank E. Sleeper, Grand Lecturer, .	
	May 6th, bill of expense,	5.50
	May 18th, books for Past Masters,	14.50
	Nov. 18th, attendance on Conventions, .	71.98
	Nov. 27th, by vote of Grand Lodge, ..	25.00
	“ “ Stephen Berry, Grand Secretary salary, .	500.00
	printing Proceeding,	827.73
	mailing Proceedings,	38.40
	letter heads, circulars, etc.,	48.90
	envelopes and sundries for office,	30.82
	printing, binding, etc.,	47.70
	incidentals,	19.37
	“ “ Marquis F. King, Gr. Treasurer, salary, and surety bond,	250.00
	book, postage, envelopes and express- age,	5.70
	“ “ Joseph A. Locke, Gr. Master, expenses, .	12.20
	“ “ D. D. G. Masters, expenses as follows:	
	Herbert L. Sleeper, 1st District,	17.00
	Walter F. Bradish, 2d District,	9.25
	G. Harris Foster, 3d District,	22.06
	Edward F. Davies, 4th District,	29.00

Thomas J. Peaks, 5th District,	31.16
Albert J. Durgin, 6th District,	5.12
Albert W. Ward, 7th District,	23.30
James E. Wentworth, 8th District, ...	18.25
James M. Smith, 9th District,	13.69
Willard T. Marr, 10th District,	23.55
Levi E. Jones, 11th District,	22.70
Franklin Walker, 12th District,	21.50
Herman W. S. Lovejoy, 13th District, ..	30.15
Robert W. Carr, 14th District,	13.44
James H. Howes, 15th District,	35.35
Arthur C. Ricker, 16th District,	30.85
Franklin R. Redlon, 17th District, ...	20.85
James C. Ayer, 18th District,	26.26
Isaac P. Gooch, 19th District,	24.42
Edwin A. Reed, 20th District,	20.00
Ezra G. Mason, 21st District,	38.45
George M. Bond, 22d District,	15.25
Frank H. Dexter, 23d District,	12.00
Frederick G. Payne, 24th District, ...	16.55
J. Frank Bryson, 25th District,	18.95
Cash to new account,	5,926.95
	<u>\$13,688.01</u>

Respectfully submitted,

MARQUIS F. KING, *Grand Treasurer.*

The report was referred to the Committee of Finance.

GRAND SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Grand Secretary's report was received and referred to the Committee on Doings of the Grand Officers, to wit:

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 3, 1898.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The duties of Grand Secretary have been faithfully discharged during the past year.

No brother has registered, and but one remains upon the rolls.

I have been called upon during the year to help collect a death benefit from a defunct "Masonic" Insurance Association, but could only advise that the attempt was hopeless.

Two applications have come for a hospital free bed, but I could only reply that the Grand Lodge had none. Fraternaly submitted,

STEPHEN BERRY, *Grand Secretary.*

OBSERVANCE OF DEATH OF GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Bro. DRUMMOND, for the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, reported a recommendation that so much of the Grand Master's address as refers to the observance of the Centennial Anniversary of the death of George Washington be referred to the Special Committee on that subject, and it was adopted.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The Grand Secretary presented a communication from the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick, declining to adopt the five years' limitation in regard to rejected candidates, which was received and ordered to be placed on file.

AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION.

He also offered the following:

I move to amend the Constitution by striking out Section 91 and substituting in its place:

Sec. 91. Every lodge must preserve one copy of the printed proceedings in the hall, and when a volume is completed should bind it for the use of the lodge.

The proposed section is the enactment of 1865 which is practicable.

In 1875 the addition was made: The proceedings furnished to the Master and Wardens of lodges are not their property, but should be transmitted to their successors.

This has been impracticable and a nullity, although kept studiously before the craft by printing upon the covers. It was contrary to the old-time custom. It is difficult to decide whether the retiring Master should turn over his set to the new Junior Warden, or whether each officer shall pass his set down to the succeeding officer. Finally, although each new officer should receive the proceedings of twenty-eight years from his predecessor,

I have never heard of a case where he has received them. A law, which no one heeds nor approves, had better be stricken out.

Entertained and referred to the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution.

RETURNS.

Bro. BERRY, for the Committee on Returns, made the following report, which was accepted:

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, Tuesday, May 3, 1898.

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, and the three under dispensation.

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

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Initiated,	797	850	831	746	774
Raised,	795	823	837	721	768
Affiliated,	108	124	137	118	80
Re-instated,	66	52	50	59	54
Dimitted,	240	224	209	160	169
Died,	397	372	366	339	407
Suspended,	0	1	0	1	0
Expelled,	1	2	3	2	2
Susp. from membership,	211	207	283	224	305
Deprived of membership,	4	6	22	18	13
Number of members,	21,564	21,809	21,953	22,085	22,191
Rejected,	223	172	222	174	196

The initiations have increased five per cent., the raised almost seven per cent.; the affiliations have fallen off thirty-two per cent. and the restorations one per cent. The dismissions have slightly increased; the deaths have increased twenty per cent.; the suspensions from membership thirty-six per cent. The result is a gain of 106, or about half of one per cent. The death rate is almost $18\frac{1}{2}$ to a thousand against $15\frac{1}{2}$ last year.

The accompanying abstract will show the work in detail.

Fraternally submitted,

STEPHEN BERRY,
MOSES TAIT,
JAMES H. WITHERELL, } Committee.

ABSTRACT OF RETURNS, 1898.

Nos.	Lodges.	Initiated.	Raised.	Affiliated.	Re-instated.	Dimitted.	Died.	Suspended.	Expelled.	N. P. Dues.		No. Members.	Rejected.
										Suspended.	D. of Mem.		
1	Portland	17	18	2	0	1	8	0	0	0	0	345	3
2	Warren	5	5	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	101	0
3	Lincoln	4	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	73	0
4	Hancock	0	1	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	76	0
5	Kennebec	7	8	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	148	1
6	Amity	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	189	0
7	Eastern	9	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	14	0	118	0
8	United	7	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	124	2
9	Saco	3	3	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	126	2
10	Rising Virtue	3	4	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	160	1
11	Pythagorean	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	93	0
12	Cumberland	6	4	0	0	1	4	0	0	4	1	64	1
13	Oriental	9	8	3	0	3	1	0	0	14	0	155	0
14	Solar	1	5	6	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	262	0
15	Orient	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	167	0
16	St. George	4	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	100	0
17	Ancient Landmark	8	11	2	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	442	12
18	Oxford	6	7	4	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	169	1
19	Felicity	8	9	0	0	5	0	0	0	3	0	103	1
20	Maine	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	109	2
21	Oriental Star	4	7	3	0	1	6	0	0	5	0	175	2
22	York	6	6	0	0	3	3	0	0	2	0	109	0
23	Freeport	6	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	142	2
24	Phoenix	2	1	3	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	162	0
25	Temple	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	79	0
26	Village	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	93	0
27	Adoniram	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	59	0
28	Northern Star	2	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	92	0
29	Tranquil	12	15	0	0	1	5	0	0	3	0	251	4
30	Blazing Star	16	17	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	142	1
31	Union	8	9	0	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	111	1
32	Hermon	7	5	1	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	327	0
33	Waterville	12	12	0	0	4	4	0	0	2	0	218	5
34	Somerset	4	3	1	0	2	4	0	0	4	0	168	2
35	Bethlehem	9	10	1	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	284	3
36	Casco	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	165	0
37	Washington	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	88	3
38	Harmony	2	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	137	0
39	Penobscot	3	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	143	1
40	Lygonia	5	5	0	2	1	5	0	0	6	0	231	0
41	Morning Star	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	113	0
42	Freedom	3	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	33	0
43	Alna	4	3	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	138	0
44	Piscataquis	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	112	0
45	Central	0	1	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	112	0
46	St. Croix	11	11	0	0	2	9	0	0	1	2	189	1
47	Dunlap	4	4	2	0	1	8	0	0	0	0	244	4
48	Lafayette	8	7	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	92	1
49	Meridian Splendor	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	81	0
50	Aurora	0	0	3	0	1	8	0	0	0	0	279	1
51	St. John's	12	12	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	103	2

Nos.	Lodges.	In.	R.	A.	R.	D.	D.	S.	E.	N. P. Dues.		Mem.	R.
										S.	D.		
52	Mosaic,.....	5	5	0	0	1	7	0	0	11	0	145	1
53	Rural,.....	4	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	41	0
54	Vassalboro,.....	2	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	59	3
55	Fraternal,.....	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63	0
56	Mount Moriah,....	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	48	0
57	King Hiram,.....	10	9	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	92	0
58	Unity,.....	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	1
59	Mt. Hope, (ch. sur.)												
60	Star in the East,...	5	3	0	1	0	2	0	0	5	0	166	2
61	King Solomon's,...	6	5	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	111	1
62	King David's,.....	6	4	0	4	2	1	0	0	18	0	79	0
63	Richmond,.....	11	10	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	120	0
64	Pacific,.....	2	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	105	0
65	Mystic,.....	1	1	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	114	0
66	Mechanics',.....	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	85	0
67	Blue Mountain,...	6	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	85	4
68	Mariners',.....	6	6	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	106	2
69	Howard,.....	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	108	0
70	Standish,.....	6	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	62	1
71	Rising Sun,.....	1	1	0	0	1	3	0	1	1	0	79	0
72	Pioneer,.....	3	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	72	0
73	Tyrian,.....	7	7	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	214	2
74	Bristol,.....	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	136	0
75	Plymouth,.....	2	1	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	65	0
76	Arundel,.....	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	58	0
77	Tremont,.....	4	6	0	0	1	3	0	0	5	0	133	1
78	Crescent,.....	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	9	0	111	0
79	Rockland,.....	6	4	0	5	5	6	0	0	40	0	245	0
80	Keystone,.....	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	106	2
81	Atlantic,.....	11	12	0	2	3	8	0	0	0	0	277	7
82	St. Paul's,.....	7	6	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	185	0
83	St. Andrew's,....	6	5	0	0	2	7	0	0	1	0	211	4
84	Eureka,.....	3	2	1	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	109	2
85	Star in the West,...	1	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	97	0
86	Temple,.....	6	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	164	3
87	Benevolent,.....	3	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	61	1
88	Narraguagus,....	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	95	0
89	Island,.....	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	74	0
90	H. Abiff, (ch. rev.)												
91	Harwood,.....	6	6	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	169	0
92	Siloam,.....	4	4	0	0	3	2	0	0	5	0	145	0
93	Horeb,.....	3	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	4	0	122	1
94	Paris,.....	3	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	102	4
95	Corinthian,.....	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	76	0
96	Monument,.....	7	6	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	176	4
97	Bethel,.....	1	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	97	1
98	Katahdin,.....	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	84	0
99	Vernon Valley,....	2	4	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	87	0
100	Jefferson,.....	4	3	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	70	0
101	Nezinscot,.....	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	91	0
102	Marsh River,.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	72	0
103	Dresden,.....	2	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	47	0
104	Dirigo,.....	7	7	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	92	0
105	Ashlar,.....	20	19	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	273	7

Nos.	Lodges.	In.	R.	A.	R.	D.	D.	S.	E.	N. P. S.	Dues. D.	Mem.	R.
106	Tuscan,.....	1	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	121	0
107	Day Spring,.....	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	46	0
108	Relief, (<i>ch. rec'd.</i>),.....												
109	Mount Kineo,.....	4	6	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	156	0
110	Monmouth,.....	3	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	95	0
111	Liberty,.....	2	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	99	1
112	Eastern Frontier,.....	3	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	106	0
113	Messalonskee,.....	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	90	0
114	Polar Star,.....	4	3	1	0	0	5	0	0	14	0	219	1
115	Buxton,.....	3	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	96	0
116	Lebanon,.....	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	80	0
117	Greenleaf,.....	5	4	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	184	0
118	Drummond,.....	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	49	0
119	Pownal,.....	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	91	0
120	Meduncook, (<i>ch. s.</i>).....												
121	Acacia,.....	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	74	0
122	Marine,.....	13	10	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	138	2
123	Franklin,.....	1	2	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	76	0
124	Olive Branch,.....	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	75	0
125	Meridian,.....	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	125	1
126	Timothy Chase,.....	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	127	0
127	Presumpscot,.....	1	2	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	93	0
128	Eggemoggin,.....	5	5	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	87	0
129	Quantabacook,.....	1	2	0	0	5	1	0	0	10	0	93	0
130	Trinity,.....	5	5	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	101	3
131	Lookout,.....	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	35	0
132	Mount Tire'm,.....	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	77	0
133	Asylum,.....	3	3	1	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	55	0
134	Trojan, (<i>consol'd.</i>),.....												
135	Riverside,.....	4	4	0	0	10	0	0	0	4	0	101	2
136	Ionic, (<i>ch. sur.</i>).....												
137	Kenduskeag,.....	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	91	0
138	Lewy's Island,.....	6	5	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	115	3
139	Archon,.....	3	4	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	54	0
140	Mount Desert,.....	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	111	0
141	Augusta,.....	18	20	1	0	2	8	0	0	8	0	240	3
142	Ocean,.....	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	48	0
143	Preble,.....	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	78	4
144	Seaside,.....	4	5	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	140	0
145	Moses Webster,.....	2	2	2	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	199	3
146	Sebasticook,.....	3	4	0	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	92	0
147	Evening Star,.....	1	2	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	78	0
148	Forest,.....	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	104	0
149	Doric,.....	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	103	0
150	Rabboni,.....	13	13	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	178	0
151	Excelsior,.....	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	44	1
152	Crooked River,.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	89	0
153	Delta,.....	2	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	73	1
154	Mystic Tie,.....	2	1	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	61	0
155	Ancient York,.....	3	3	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	109	4
156	Wilton,.....	3	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	7	0	119	2
157	Cambridge,.....	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	71	0
158	Anchor,.....	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	0
159	Esoteric,.....	7	7	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	181	3

Nos.	Lodges.	In.	R.	A.	R.	D.	D.	S.	E.	N. S.	P. D.	Dues. D.	Mem.	R.
160	Parian,.....	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	89	0
161	Carrabassett,.....	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	89	0
162	Arion,.....	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	0	0	48	0
163	Pleasant River,....	6	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	99	3
164	Webster,.....	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	0
165	Molunkus,..	5	5	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	60	1
166	Neguemkeag,.....	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	0
167	Whitney,.....	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	79	0
168	Composite,.....	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	60	3
169	Shepherd's River,.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	8	0	0	33	0
170	Caribou,.....	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	105	0
171	Naskeag,.....	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	65	0
172	Pine Tree,.....	4	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	129	5
173	Pleiades,.....	6	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	23	0	0	108	0
174	Lynde,.....	3	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	71	1
175	Baskahegan,.....	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	109	2
176	Palestine, (Con.)..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
177	Rising Star,.....	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	67	0
178	Ancient Brothers',	17	17	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	149	5
179	Yorkshire,..	6	6	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	5	65	5
180	Hiram,.....	9	11	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	176	1
181	Reuel Washburn,.	<i>Conso</i>	<i>lia</i>	<i>at</i>	<i>ed</i>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
182	Granite,.....	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	79	0
183	Deering,.....	12	13	1	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	208	2
184	Naval,.....	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	77	0
185	Bar Harbor,.....	3	3	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	118	2
186	Warren Phillips,.	9	9	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	164	1
187	Ira Berry,.....	3	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	0
188	Jonesport,.....	7	7	0	0	1	2	0	0	3	0	0	97	4
189	Knox,.....	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	54	0
190	Springvale,.....	9	7	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	79	1	
191	Davis,.....	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	89	0
192	Winter Harbor,...	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	94	0
193	Washburn,.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	43	0
194	Euclid,.....	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	10	2	91	3	
195	Reliance,.....	8	8	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	124	3	
196	Bay View,.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	0
197	Aroostook,.....	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	74	0	
198	Saint Aspinquid,.	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	0	
199	Bingham,.....	6	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	74	5	
200	Columbia,.....	2	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	37	0	
	D. A. Hooper, U. D.	12	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	1	
	Mt. Bigelow, U. D.	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	1	
	Hiram Abiff, U. D.	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	
		774	768	80	54	169	407	0	2	305	13	22191	196	

MILEAGE.

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

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 3, 1898.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The Committee of Finance, who, in 1896 and 1897, asked for further time to consider the question of mileage, would report, that the same conditions exist as existed in 1897, and your committee would ask to have another year to complete the duty assigned them.

Fraternally submitted,

EDWARD P. BURNHAM,	} Committee.
ALBRO E. CHASE,	
GEO. R. SHAW,	

Report accepted and further time granted.

LIBRARY.

Bro. CHASE submitted the following :

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 3, 1898.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The Committee on Library would report that during the year they have had bound thirty-nine volumes of Proceedings of Grand Lodges, Grand Chapters, Grand Councils, Grand Commanderies, Supreme Councils and General Grand Chapter. The early Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina being about to be reprinted, we have subscribed for a copy thereof at the price of ten dollars. We have also purchased Volume 3 of the reprint of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and several other Proceedings of other Grand Bodies to complete odd volumes. We have completed the sets of the Maine Proceedings for the Astor Library in New York, and have also made such other suitable contributions to other libraries as seemed fitting. During the year we have placed shelving in the Grand Lodge rooms which we trust will be sufficient for the accommodation of the library for some time. The expense was a little over one hundred dollars.

Your committee would recommend that a sum not exceeding thirty dollars be placed at their disposal for the purchase of 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.

Fraternally submitted,

JOSEPH A. LOCKE,	} Committee.
ALBRO E. CHASE,	
FRANK E. SLEEPER,	

Accepted and recommendations adopted.

At 11:35 the Grand Lodge was called from refreshment to labor until two P. M.

FIRST DAY—AFTERNOON.

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, }
 Tuesday, May 3, 1898. }

The Grand Lodge was called from refreshment to labor at two o'clock.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS.

BRO. CHARLES I. COLLAMORE offered the following, which was accepted:

PORTLAND, May 3, 1898.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The Committee on Grievances and Appeals would report that not a single case has come before them for consideration.

In making this report, the committee desires to congratulate the Grand Lodge upon the desirable condition of the craft thus indicated.

Fraternally submitted,

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

CONCURRENT JURISDICTION.

The Grand Secretary presented a petition from brethren in the town of Franklin, praying that the lodges in Ellsworth might have concurrent jurisdiction with David A. Hooper Lodge over the town of Franklin, which was referred to the Committee on Dispensations and Charters.

In the temporary absence of Bro. BURBANK, Bro. FRANK E. SLEEPER was added to the Committee on Doings of the Grand Officers.

In the absence of Bro. AUG. B. FARNHAM, Bro. FRANCIS T. FAULKNER was added to the Committee on Dispensations and Charters.

DOINGS OF THE GRAND OFFICERS.

Bro. WM. R. G. ESTES submitted the following:

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The Committee on Doings of Grand Officers have considered the matters referred to it and submit the following report:

It is cause of profound congratulation that no grievance nor charges have demanded the attention of the officers of this Grand Lodge for the past year. We believe it to be unprecedented.

Your committee would express the earnest hope that the D. D. G. Masters and Masters of lodges will carefully read the reports of the Grand Master and Grand Lecturer touching attendance upon conventions called for masonic instruction, and pay due heed to the suggestions therein found.

We recommend that the reports of the D. D. G. Masters be referred to the Committee on "Condition of the Fraternity."

We cordially approve the suggestions of the Grand Master in relation to applications for aid from the Grand Charity Fund.

Fraternally reported,

HORACE H. BURBANK,	} Committee.
WM. R. G. ESTES,	
H. R. TAYLOR,	

Report accepted and recommendations adopted, but the subject of conventions was recommitted to the same committee.

ELECTION.

Three o'clock being the hour fixed by the constitution for the election of Grand Officers, Past Grand Master CHARLES I. COLLAMORE was called to the East. He appointed as committees to receive, sort and count votes:

I. LEANDER, M. KENNISTON, FRANCIS T. FAULKNER, FRED B. WIGGIN.

II. HENRY R. MILLETT, HERBERT HARRIS, HOWARD D. SMITH.

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;
ELMER P. SPOFFORD,	<i>Senior Grand Warden,</i>	Deer Isle;
MILLARD M. CASWELL,	<i>Junior Grand Warden,</i>	Bridgton;
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 for Three Years—FRANK E. SLEEPER, Sabattus; A. M. WETHERBEE, Warren.

DOINGS OF THE GRAND OFFICERS.

Bro. ESTES reported as follows :

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your committee to whom was recommitted that portion of the Grand Master's address relating to the advisability of having "one of the first three officers of each lodge attend the District Convention nearest its location" at the expense of "the lodge," recommend that the lodge bear such expense of its representative.

WM. R. G. ESTES,	} <i>Committee.</i>
HENRY R. TAYLOR,	
FRANK E. SLEEPER,	

Report accepted and recommendation adopted.

FINANCE.

Bro. ALBRO E. CHASE reported :

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 3, 1898.

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, the records neatly written, and the affairs of the Grand Lodge in good condition.

The receipts for the past year have been as follows:

May 1, 1897. Cash on hand,.....	\$6,380.49
Cash receipts for year,.....	7,307.52
	<hr/>
	\$13,688.01

Transferred during the year to Charity

Fund, \$1,082.42

Cash paid the expenses of the year, 6,678.64

May 3, 1898. Cash on hand to new account, 5,926.95
 ----- \$13,688.01

Your committee omit a statement of the property in the Charity Fund since the Grand Treasurer will submit a detailed account thereof in his report; the amount of the Charity Fund, with cash on hand, is \$33,002.91.

Your committee submit the following recommendations:

That for compensation for their services for the year ending May 1, 1899, there 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.

Faternally submitted,

EDWARD P. BURNHAM,	} Committee of Finance.
ALBRO E. CHASE,	
GEO. R. SHAW,	

The report was accepted and the recommendations were adopted.

The report of the Grand Treasurer was then accepted.

The Grand Lodge was then called from labor to refreshment until two p. m. Wednesday.

SECOND DAY—AFTERNOON.

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, }
 Wednesday, May 4, 1898. }

The Grand Lodge was called from refreshment to labor at 2 p. m.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVE.

Bro. HENRY R. MILLETT presented his credentials as Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Montana, and was duly welcomed by the Grand Master.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

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

DISPENSATIONS AND CHARTERS.

Bro. ARCHIE L. TALBOT reported the following:

PORTLAND, May 4, 1898.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your 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 Flagstaff and vicinity, for a charter for a new lodge at Flagstaff, to be named Mt. Bigelow Lodge, we recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be granted and that the dispensation be continued until the charter shall be received.

In the matter of the petition of Master Masons, residents of Sullivan and vicinity, for a charter for a new lodge at Sullivan, to be named David A. Hooper Lodge, we recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be granted and that the dispensation be continued until the charter shall be received.

In the matter of a petition of Master Masons residing in the town of Franklin, "that Lygonia Lodge, No. 40, and Esoteric Lodge, No. 159, both of Ellsworth, have concurrent jurisdiction with David A. Hooper Lodge, of Sullivan, over the town of Franklin," your committee, with its present knowledge, do not feel justified in giving its approval and recommend that said petitioners have leave to withdraw.

In the matter of the petition of Master Masons, residents of Washington and vicinity, for a restoration of the charter of Hiram Abiff Lodge, No. 90, in the town of Washington, we recommend that a charter for a new lodge at Washington, to be given such name as shall be agreed upon by the Grand Master and the members of the lodge, other than that named in the petition, be granted, and that the dispensation be continued until the charter shall be received. Respectfully submitted,

ARCHIE L. TALBOT,
EDMUND B. MALLET, JR., } *Committee.*
F. T. FAULKNER,

The report was accepted and the recommendations were adopted.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVE.

R. W. Bro. WINFIELD S. CHOATE presented his credentials as Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, and was duly welcomed by the Grand Master.

RITUAL WORK.

At 2:30 a lodge under the direction of R. W. FRANK R. REDLON, D. D. G. M. of the 17th District, exemplified the work of the Third degree in an excellent manner, for which they received the thanks of the Grand Master.

PAY ROLL.

Bro. A. C. T. KING, for the Committee on Pay Roll, presented a schedule which 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 5, 1898. }

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

CONDITION OF THE FRATERNITY.

Bro. HENRY R. TAYLOR reported as follows :

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your Committee on "Condition of the Fraternity," having attended to the duties assigned them, beg leave to report.

We have examined all the Reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters (25 in number) and from them deduce.

1st. That harmony and general prosperity prevail throughout this Grand Lodge Jurisdiction.

2d. Your committee would emphasize this significant point. All the District Deputies report that those lodges of their several jurisdictions, which have been represented in district conventions, are invariably the ones less open to corrections of ritual or work, and more interested in the welfare of their respective lodges, and we heartily commend the suggestions of the Grand Master relating to this matter.

Another matter, to which your committee feel compelled to direct attention, even if exceeding the bounds of their province:

We refer to the "dispensation power" of District Deputies.

Custom appears to confine this power to the Grand Master alone, while the construction of Article 14, Section 25 of constitution, shares a portion with his appointed Deputies, or so far as relates to "public processions."

Either the "written law" or the *custom* should be made explicit and *unmistakable*. Fraternaly submitted,

HENRY R. TAYLOR,	} Committee.
HOWARD D. SMITH,	
ALBERT M. PENLEY,	

Report accepted.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Bro. WM. R. G. ESTES offered the following :

I propose the following amendments to the constitution:

First, to Article XIV, Sec. 25, by striking out "have power to grant dispensations for public processions," so that it shall read:

SEC. 25. The District Deputy Grand Masters shall visit the several lodges in their respective districts, once at least in every year; preside in the same, when present; and shall inspect their by-laws, records and mode of working; but if unable to visit any lodge, they may appoint some suitable brother to perform that duty.

They shall communicate to the lodges all such edicts and regulations of the Grand Lodge, as may be received by them from the Recording Grand

Secretary; shall receive and receipt for all dues to the Grand Lodge; receive the returns of the lodges, and make their remarks thereon.

They shall, on or before the first day of April in each year, make a report of their doings to the Grand Master; and they shall attend annually in the Grand Lodge; and they shall pay to the Grand Treasurer all moneys in their hands, or transmit the returns and money to the Grand Treasurer, on or before the fifteenth day of April. They shall be re-imbursed their expenses in visiting the lodges, their accounts being first examined and passed by the Committee of Finance.

Each District Deputy Grand Master, on receiving from the Grand Treasurer the jewel of his office, and the record of the district over which he is appointed, shall give a receipt to the Grand Treasurer, in substance as follows, viz:

“Whereas, I, ———, have been appointed and duly commissioned District Deputy Grand Master for the ——— Masonic District, and have received the collar and jewel appertaining to said office, and the book of records of said district, I hereby promise to return the same at the expiration or revocation of my commission, to the Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Maine; and in default thereof, I promise to pay to the Treasurer of said Grand Lodge the sum of fifty dollars.”

Second, to Article I, Part Fourth, Sec. 127, by striking out “or the District Deputy Grand Master within whose district it is located,” so that it shall read—

SEC. 127. No lodge shall form a public procession, funeral processions excepted, without permission from the Grand Master. 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.

Entertained and referred to the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Bro. EDWARD P. BURNHAM submitted the following, which was accepted:

GRAND LODGE OF MAINE,
PORTLAND, May 5, 1898.

Your special committee, to whom has been referred the communication of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, recommend the acceptance of the cordial invitation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, to be present at, and participate in the memorial ceremonies incident to the observance of the death of Wor.

Bro. George Washington, to be held at Mount Vernon on December 14, 1899, either in the person of the Grand Master, or such alternate as he may appoint. Fraternally submitted,

EDWARD P. BURNHAM, *Committee.*

HISTORY.

Bro. SUMNER J. CHADBOURNE, submitted the following report:

IN GRAND LODGE, May 5, 1898.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your Committee on History of Masonry in Maine regret that so few histories have been received during the year, but the *importance* of some of these may, perhaps, atone for the small number.

There have come to our notice histories of—

1. Ocean Lodge, No. 142, Wells, printed, from its organization in 1867 to March 22, 1897, by ALONZO K. TRIPP.
2. Warren Lodge, No. 2, East Machias, print, from its organization to June 1, 1896, by HERBERT HARRIS.
3. Amity Lodge, No. 6, Camden, print, from its organization to Oct. 16, 1896, by RUEL ROBINSON.
4. Marsh River Lodge, No. 102, Brooks, manuscript, from Dec. 31, 1879, to Dec. 31, 1889, by MARCELLUS J. DOW, P. M.
5. St. Croix Lodge, No. 46, manuscript, from 1881 to 1891, by E. H. VOSE.

These are all valuable and interesting histories, those of Warren and Amity Lodges notably so. The history of Warren Lodge deserves especial mention, by reason of the antiquity of the lodge. Chartered in 1778, the history of this lodge is the history of Freemasonry in Eastern Maine for many years. The book is a handsome volume of 245 pages, and would be a valuable addition to any masonic library.

Your committee recommend that the Grand Lodge purchase sixty-three copies of this history, and distribute them, with its proceedings, to the various Grand Lodges with which it is in communication.

There are a very few old lodges in the state whose histories have not been received. Your committee fraternally urge the brethren of these lodges to prepare their histories before the material for them shall be lost forever.

FRANK E. SLEEPER, }
S. J. CHADBOURNE, } *Committee.*
CHAS. W. JONES, }

Report accepted and recommendation adopted.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

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

RELIEF LODGE.

BRO. CHARLES W. CROSBY offered the following:

Resolved, That all members of Relief Lodge, No. 108, who were in good standing at the time the meetings of that lodge were suspended, shall be furnished by the Grand Secretary with certificates of their good standing, upon application to him, and that they shall be thereby discharged from any dues standing against them to the time the charter was forfeited.

BRO. DRUMMOND moved to amend by adding—

So far as this Grand Lodge is concerned, but without prejudice to the rights of creditors.

which was carried, and the resolution, as amended, was adopted.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVE.

BRO. ALBERT M. PENLEY presented his credentials as Grand Representative from the Grand Lodge of West Virginia, and was welcomed by the Grand Master.

MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

BRO. DRUMMOND reported as follows:

IN GRAND LODGE OF MAINE, May 5, 1898.

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, to which were referred the decisions of the M. W. Grand Master announced last year, have considered them and recommend that they be approved.

They recommend that the decisions announced this year be continued in the hands of the committee for report at the next annual communication.

As to the applications of the Grand Orient of Belgium and of the Grand Orient Lusitano Unido of Portugal, the committee report that there has not been sufficient time to examine the documents submitted, and recommend that the matter be continued in the hands of the committee for report at the next annual communication.

Fraternally submitted,

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

Report accepted and recommendations adopted.

PERU.

Bro. DRUMMOND presented the following :

IN GRAND LODGE OF MAINE, May 5, 1898.

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, to which was referred so much of the address of the M. W. Grand Master as relates to the Grand Lodge of Peru, have examined the documents submitted to them and find that the edict of the Grand Master of Peru, annexed to the address of our Grand Master, was formally issued and has been approved and confirmed by the Grand Lodge of Peru; wherefore your committee are constrained to recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Grand Lodge of Peru, by removing the Book of the Law from its altar and the altars of the lodges of its obedience and substituting therefor its own Books of Constitution, has violated a fundamental landmark of the Institution and ceased to be a masonic body:

Resolved, That the action of our M. W. Grand Master in the premises be approved and confirmed and that his edict is hereby made permanent.

Fraternally submitted,

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

Report accepted and resolutions adopted.

Bro. DRUMMOND then offered the following, which was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That this Grand Lodge most earnestly approves the course taken by R. W. Bro. FRANCISCO L. CROSBY, its Representative near the late Grand Lodge of Peru, in reference to the action of that Body in removing from Masonic Altars the Great

Light in Masonry; and thanks him cordially for the speedy, full and accurate information given to this Grand Lodge, concerning that most lamentable action.

Resolved, That Bro. CROSBY be requested to continue to represent this Grand Lodge, in the interests of genuine Masonry in the Republic of Peru; and, in its name, to give support to faithful brethren in their efforts to maintain the fundamental principles of Masonry and the ancient landmarks of the craft.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Bro. WM. R. G. ESTES, for the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution, stated that the committee, in the absence of the Chairman, had not had time to examine them, and they therefore reported them back without recommendation.

The report was accepted and the amendments were taken up severally.

Voted, To indefinitely postpone the first proposition on page 208, proceedings of 1897, and to adopt the second proposition on the same page, as follows:

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 amendment on page 233, proceedings of 1897, was adopted, as follows:

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 on page 237, proceedings of 1897, was also adopted, to wit:

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."

INSTALLATION AND APPOINTMENTS.

Past Grand Master DRUMMOND was called to the East, and P. G. Master CHARLES I. COLLAMORE presented M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE, Grand Master elect, who was duly installed.

He announced the following appointments:

R. W.	CHARLES D. SMITH,	<i>Cor. Grand Secretary,</i>	Portland.
"	HERBERT S. SLEEPER,	<i>D. D. G. M. 1st Dist.</i>	Washburn.
"	EVERETT H. FISHER,	" 2d "	W. Pembroke.
"	GEORGE H. FOSTER,	" 3d "	Machias.
"	EDWARD F. DAVIES,	" 4th "	Castine.
"	FRED H. SAVAGE,	" 5th "	La Grange.
"	FRED C. BARTON,	" 6th "	Bradley.
"	ALBERT W. WARD,	" 7th "	Thorndike.
"	JAMES E. WENTWORTH,	" 8th "	Searsport.
"	FRANK A. PETERSON,	" 9th "	Rockland.
"	WILLARD T. MARR,	" 10th "	Boothbay Har.
"	LEVI E. JONES,	" 11th "	Winthrop.
"	JAMES H. WITHERELL,	" 12th "	Oakland.
"	HERMAN W. S. LOVEJOY,	" 13th "	Fairfield.
"	ROBERT W. CARR,	" 14th "	Bowdoinham.
"	JAMES H. HOWES,	" 15th "	New Sharon.
"	ARTHUR C. RICKER,	" 16th "	Bryant's Pond.
"	HARLAN P. BABB,	" 17th "	Westbrook.
"	ISAAC F. JEWETT,	" 18th "	Waterford.
"	ISAAC P. GOOCH,	" 19th "	Kennebunkp't.
"	EDWIN A. REED,	" 20th "	North Lee.
"	JAMES E. PARSONS,	" 21st "	Ellsworth.
"	GEORGE M. BOND,	" 22d "	Stetson.
"	FRANK H. DEXTER,	" 23d "	Springvale.
"	GEORGE H. GODING,	" 24th "	Lewiston Junc.
"	J. FRANK BRYSON,	" 25th "	Houlton.
W. & Rev.	ELMER F. PEMBER,	<i>Grand Chaplain,</i>	Bangor.
"	JOHN R. CLIFFORD,	" "	Deering.
"	CHARLES A. HAYDEN,	" "	Augusta.
"	JOHN GIBSON,	" "	C. Elizabeth.
"	GEORGE M. HOWE,	" "	Lewiston.
W.	WM. J. BURNHAM,	<i>Grand Marshal,</i>	Lewiston.
"	HUGH R. CHAPLIN,	" <i>Senior Deacon,</i>	Bangor.
"	ERMON D. EASTMAN,	" <i>Junior Deacon,</i>	Portland.
"	JACOB R. STEWART,	" <i>Steward,</i>	Rockland.
"	CHARLES 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,	" "	Stock'n Sp'gs.

M. W.	FRANK E. SLEEPER,	<i>Grand Lecturer,</i>	Sabattus.
W.	WALTER S. SMITH,	" <i>Organist,</i>	Portland.
"	WARREN O. CARNEY,	" <i>Tyler,</i>	Portland.

The remaining Grand Officers, elect and appointed, who were present, were presented and installed, and proclamation was made, after which the Grand Master assumed the East.

STANDING REGULATIONS.

On motion of Bro. ALBRO E. CHASE, Standing Regulation No. 22, in regard to a five cent *per capita* tax, was repealed.

Bro. CHASE offered the following as a Standing Regulation, which was adopted:

Resolved, That, when the hour arrives for the election of the officers of the Grand Lodge, as is provided in the Constitution, the Grand Lodge shall go into an executive session for that purpose, and none but members of the Grand Lodge shall be present without the consent of the M. W. Grand Master in each case, and at the concluding of the election no further business shall be considered during the afternoon without unanimous consent.

The Grand Master then appointed the following

STANDING COMMITTEES.

On Credentials.

WM. N. HOWE, FRANCIS L. TALBOT, ALBERT E. VERRILL.

On Grievances and Appeals.

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

On Publication.

FESSENDEN I. DAY, W. SCOTT SHOREY, MANLY G. TRASK.

On History.

SUMNER J. CHADBOURNE, HERBERT HARRIS, HORACE MITCHELL.

On Dispensations and Charters.

AUG. B. FARNHAM, ARCHIE L. TALBOT, EDMUND B. MALLET.

On Amendments to the Constitution.

HORACE H. BURBANK, 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, ALFRED S. KIMBALL.*On Transportation.*

STEPHEN BERRY, W. FREEMAN LORD, CHARLES M. SLEEPER,

On Returns.

STEPHEN BERRY, MOSES TAIT, JAMES H. WITHERELL.

BRO. CHARLES E. MESERVEY, for the Committee on Unfinished Business, reported that the business of the communication was completed, which report was accepted.

The minutes were read and approved, and at 11:45 the Grand Lodge was closed, prayer being offered by Grand Chaplain JOHN R. CLIFFORD.

Attest:



Stephen Berry

Grand Secretary.

~ REPORTS ~

OF

District · Deputy · Grand · Masters.

FIRST DISTRICT.

To M W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit the first annual report of my official labor in the First Masonic District.

I have visited every lodge in this district and have witnessed work or an exemplification of it in all but one, and find that they are working harmoniously and that the work is done quite uniformly. The records of the different lodges are in good hands and are correctly kept.

January 3d, I visited Trinity Lodge, No. 130, at Presque Isle, and by invitation installed the officers. Work in E. A. degree was expected, but a severe snow storm was prevailing at the time so that the candidates were unable to appear. This lodge is doing good work. Every one seems to be interested and brotherly feeling prevails. Its officers are capable and the business of the lodge is well done.

January 6th, I visited Caribou Lodge, No. 170, at Caribou, and by invitation installed the officers and witnessed work in M. M. degree. The degree was conferred in a very creditable and impressive manner, the officers working smoothly and well.

February 2d, I visited Pioneer Lodge, No. 72, at Ashland. Witnessed work in M. M. degree, which was well done. The brethren seem to be interested and I think their prospects for the future are bright.

March 2d, I visited Eastern Frontier Lodge, No. 112, at Fort Fairfield. Witnessed exemplification of work in M. M. degree, which was easily and

carefully done with exactness. The officers are prompt in performing the work.

Washburn Lodge, No. 193, is my masonic home. I have attended all its communications except one regular and one special meeting. The lodge is prosperous and harmonious. I have witnessed work in all the degrees and I think it will compare favorably with the work of any lodge in the district.

In conclusion, Most Worshipful, I desire to thank you for the honor conferred, and through you, the officers and members of the several lodges in this district for the many kindnesses I have received from them as your representative. Fraternaly submitted,

HERBERT S. SLEEPER, *D. D. G. M. 1st M. D.*

Washburn, March 22, 1898.

SECOND DISTRICT.

TO M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

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

It is with much pleasure that I report the Order in this district as harmonious and prosperous, and that we have done considerably more work than last year.

Every lodge has been visited officially, excepting "Eastern," my masonic home; being a fairly regular attendant I deemed it unnecessary.

On June 5th, I granted permission to Lewy's Island Lodge, No. 138, to appear in public at divine worship on the Sunday preceding or succeeding June 24th, services to be commemorative of St. John the Baptist.

For the same reason as above, on June 8th, I granted permission to Eastern Lodge, No. 7, to appear in public June 20th, and on June 13th granted request of Washington Lodge, No. 37, Lubec, to participate with Eastern Lodge in services commemorative of the eminent Christian patron of Masonry, "St. John."

June 12th, granted permission to St. Croix Lodge, No. 46, to appear in public on Tuesday, June 22d, to attend divine worship in conjunction with Sussex Lodge, at St. Stephen, N. B., in honor of the 60th Anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Victoria's reign.

November 10th, the 10th annual convention of the several lodges in the Second District met with Lewy's Island Lodge, and I herewith append Bro. IRVINE CASE's report of the same:

F. AND A. M. CONVENTION.

"The 10th annual convention of the second district masonic lodges was held with Lewy's Island Lodge, Princeton, November 10th. Large delegations from St. Croix, Eastern, Crescent, Lewy's Island and Washington Lodges were present, also representatives from Victoria and Alley Lodges of New Brunswick.

"The convention was called to order by R. W. WALTER F. BRADISH, D. D. G. M., who stated the object of the convention, after which the officers of Lewy's Island Lodge assumed their stations and opened the convention. The officers of St. Croix Lodge then worked the E. A. degree in a very acceptable manner. After criticising the work the convention adjourned one hour for supper. On assembling in the evening, Eastern Lodge worked the F. C. degree. The work received much praise. Lewy's Island Lodge then worked the M. M degree in their usual fine manner. A few corrections by the District Deputy and criticisms by members followed and then the meeting was adjourned. These conventions have been a success each year they have met and this year's conclave was no exception to the rule, the attendance being about 200. The banquet was served at the Princeton House and the management showed their ability in handling the crowd.

"The next convention will be held at Pembroke, and it is expected the 'Shore line' will be completed by that time. A good Meddybemps brother is an authority in saying that 'the contractors have purchased a new wheelbarrow and work is about to begin' "

Monday, Dec. 20th, at Calais. Work on the Master's degree correctly rendered. The attendance large and usual interest displayed. Finances equal to last report. During the past year, in consequence of sickness, the lodge has munificently expended a large amount, and have substantially contributed to the relief of worthy Master Masons.

February 2, 1898, I installed the officers of Washington Lodge, No. 37, at Lubec. The attendance was good and the financial condition same as last year. Records well kept. It is to be regretted that no work has presented itself during the year, yet the new officers enter upon the discharge of their duties with zeal characteristic of this lodge, confident that it always seems darkest just before dawn. May their anticipations be fully realized.

March 2d, visited Crescent Lodge, No. 78, at Pembroke. Witnessed work on the E. A. degree, which was exceedingly well done. The financial condition is about the same as last year. Amount in treasury enables them to carefully look after the needy. Our veteran brother, GEO. W. ALLAN, P. M., has charge of the records, which at once serves as a sufficient guarantee that the important duties of the office will be discharged with fidelity.

March 8th, granted permission to St. Croix Lodge, to appear in public at

divine worship on Sunday, March 13th, to listen to an address on the Ethics of Masonry.

This constitutes my official work for the year, and I most heartily thank the brethren for the many courtesies extended me, which will always be recalled with much pleasure.

I sincerely regret being unable to attend any of the Grand Lecturer's Conventions, the time contained in the notices *not* being sufficient to make arrangements.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you for the honor conferred by appointing me as your representative, with the hope that my efforts have been satisfactory and of some benefit to the craft in general.

Fraternally yours,

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

Eastport, April 15, 1898.

THIRD DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit my report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Third District.

I am pleased to report the Order in this district in a prosperous condition, gaining in membership, and evincing a great interest in the work. Being unable to attend any of the conventions called by the Grand Lecturer, and wishing to perfect myself somewhat in the ritual, it was quite late in the season before I commenced my official visits, but I had the pleasure of meeting with all the lodges once, and some twice, and was well received by all.

I witnessed work of all the lodges but one, and in every instance it was well done; while not perfect, yet showing that zeal which is in itself a surety of good work, and which, I think, can be traced in part, at least, to the district conventions which Bro. HERBERT HARRIS inaugurated a number of years ago in this district, and which have been held nearly every year since. It has given us a uniformity of work, and tends to keep up the interest of the members as well as of the officers, which is one of the difficulties we have to surmount. Being situated so far from the Grand Lodge, and having light work, it is difficult to keep up the interest. I found some of the lodges have been rather lax in collecting their dues, but they are making an effort to overcome this, and, as a whole, are in a good healthy and prosperous condition.

December 7th, I visited Warren Lodge, No. 2, and witnessed work in the M. M. degree. There was a good attendance, including visiting brethren from Harwood and Lookout Lodges. Warren Lodge has got a good set of officers and are doing good work; they examine their candidates in open lodge before advancement, and are up to date in the floor work. As this evening was the stated, I had the opportunity of observing their business transactions, which I found very satisfactory. At the close refreshments were served.

I again visited this lodge on January 4th, and witnessed work in the First degree. They worked this degree in good form, with promptness and accuracy. After the work, I installed the officers, Past D. D. Grand Master HERBERT HARRIS assisting as Grand Marshal. There was a large number in attendance. After the installation refreshments were served.

January 1st, I visited Tuscan Lodge, Addison, which I found in good condition. The records are well kept and they are in good standing financially. They worked the Third degree, which was very creditably done. This is one of the best working lodges in this district, having the assistance of Bro. FRED A. CHANDLER, who was in the East. There was a large number of brethren present. After the work I installed the officers, and later refreshments were served and a social hour enjoyed.

January 11th, I made my official visit to Jonesport Lodge, at Jonesport. They worked the Third degree, which they did very well. The officers seemed to be anxious to do the work correctly, and the few mistakes they made were more from nervousness than from want of knowledge. There was a very large attendance. After the work, the ladies and friends of the brethren came in. I installed the officers, assisted by P. M. S. S. NICKERSON, as Grand Marshal. I had the pleasure of installing Past D. D. G. M. NEHEMIAH GUPTILL, as Worshipful Master. A banquet was served and music furnished by the ladies, which was much enjoyed by all.

January 18th, I made my official visit to Lookout Lodge, at Cutler. This lodge is now under the management of the younger members, with the help and advice of the older brothers. They conferred the F. C. degree on one candidate, which was very well done, and if the same interest continues they will have a good working lodge. They were unfortunate in having their hall burned, but have built a new one which they now occupy, but as yet have not been able to dedicate. They own the whole building, with the lot it sits on, and are out of debt. The records are perfectly safe in the hands of Bro. DAVIS. I installed the officers after the work, following which refreshments were served.

February 8th, I visited Pleiades, No. 133, at Millbridge. Had made two or three appointments to meet this lodge but owing to sickness and bad traveling had to be postponed. I think this lodge is well managed in all its

departments, and under the guidance of competent officers. This being the masonic home of Past D. D. G. Masters LINCOLN LEIGHTON and JUSTIN A. WALLING, I have no doubt of its good and correct work. This meeting was called for the purpose of a public installation of its officers, which I did, with the assistance of Bro. W. L. PRAY as Grand Marshal and Bro. WALLING as Grand Chaplain. There was a large number of masons and their friends present. The services were interspersed with appropriate music. Following the installation we repaired to a banquet hall for refreshments, after which we returned to the hall, where a very social and pleasant evening was spent, interspersed with speeches, readings, music and games. I found the brethren and their ladies very cordial and entertaining.

February 9th, I visited Narraguagus, at Cherryfield. The lodge was opened in the afternoon in order that I could inspect the records and make preparation for a public installation jointly with the chapter. This lodge is in good hands, managed by representative men of the county, who take a pride in the welfare of their lodge and the fraternity. They have refurnished their hall, putting in carpet, altar, seats, &c., making a very fine and attractive masonic home. They not having work, after a short talk the lodge was called to refreshment. A six o'clock dinner was served to the masons and their friends at the Baptist vestry. On returning to the hall we found it well filled with the brethren and their ladies. Bro. T. A. CAMPBELL, as Marshal, and Bro. SNOW, as Chaplain, assisted me in installing the officers. Fine music was furnished by the Glee Club, adding much to the interest of the occasion.

February 10th, I installed the officers of Harwood Lodge, at Machias, which was public to the ladies and invited friends of the brethren, there being nearly three hundred present. FRANCIS L. TALBOT, W. M. of Warren Lodge, as Grand Marshal, and Bro. SELDON GILBERT, as Chaplain. McCabe's orchestra and a select quartet furnished music. After the installation of Harwood Lodge, Grand Generalissimo HERBERT HARRIS installed the officers of St. Elmo Commandery, and then refreshments were served in the hall, and music by the orchestra, solos by Miss Ella Longfellow and others made it a very pleasant and enjoyable evening. Harwood Lodge being my masonic home, and being a constant visitor, I have not deemed an official visit necessary. We have revived from our set back caused by the loss of our hall, and have fitted one as good, and better in some respects than the old one, which we are in hopes in a short time to dedicate. We have a good set of officers, who are doing good work. Our bank account is not very large, but we are out of debt, and with the dues all collected will be in good condition. The records are well kept, being in the hands of Bro. C. W. BEVERLY, who has served a number of years and who is now looking after the delinquents.

March 10th, the annual convention of the lodges in this district met at the lodge room of Harwood, No. 91, in Machias. All the lodges in this district were represented. The lodge was called to order at 2:30 P. M. Harwood Lodge exemplified the work in the Entered Apprentice degree. The Fellow Craft degree was worked by Narraguagus, of Cherryfield, and the Master Mason by Warren, of East Machias. The work was well done in all the degrees, and the uniformity of work shows the great benefit derived from these conventions, there being very few points for discussion. After work in the evening, we were entertained by remarks by Past Grand Master TAYLOR, Bro. HERBERT HARRIS and others. An oyster supper was furnished by Harwood Lodge. As a whole, I think this meeting was instructive and beneficial to the craft in this district.

Thanking you, Most Worshipful, for having honored me with the appointment, and also the officers and brethren of the several lodges in the district, for their cordial and fraternal greetings as your representative; I am,

Fraternally yours,

G. HARRIS FOSTER, D. D. G. M. 3d M. D.

Machias, April 26, 1898.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

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 visited each lodge once during the year. I found them in a prosperous condition and doing good work. In every instance there was a good attendance and all manifested a good degree of interest, especially the officers, who seemed not only willing but anxious to be informed in the work.

August 7th, I received news of the death of P. D. D. G. M. ELISHA R. BOWDEN, of Rising Star Lodge, Penobscot. Our brother, after a long illness, was called to higher duties. His memory we cherish in our hearts.

October 29th, I attended a convention called by M. W. Bro. FRANK E. SLEEPER, Grand Lecturer, at Rockland, for instruction. I would recommend that the officers of lodges attend these conventions.

November 2d, I visited Marine Lodge, No. 122, Deer Isle, and witnessed exemplification of the work in M. M. degree, which was done in a fine and impressive manner. The records were neat and correctly kept. I am under obligations to the officers and members for courtesies shown me on this occasion, especially to Past Master ELMER P. SPOFFORD and his very pleasant wife, at whose home I was kindly entertained. Refreshments at close.

November 3d, I visited Reliance Lodge, No. 195, Green's Landing, now Stonington. The W. Master exemplified the work in the Third degree. The work was well done. As this was a special communication, several officers were absent and vacancies were filled from the floor with credit to the lodge. Records neat and correct. Banquet and social time at close of lodge.

November 15th, made my official visit to Eggemoggin Lodge, No. 128, Sedgwick, and witnessed work in the M. M. degree. The officers of this lodge do good work. Records are correctly kept. Banquet at close.

December 1st, I visited Naskeag Lodge, No. 171, Brooklin, and witnessed the exemplification of the work in the M. M. degree. The work was done in a nearly perfect manner by all of the officers. Records neat. Banquet at the close; a very enjoyable time.

December 16th, I installed the officers of Hancock Lodge, No. 4, Castine. P. M. JOHN P. SHEPHERD, as Grand Marshal. The records are in good hands. Bro. C. H. HOOPER is a good collector, and his books are correct. Supper at close.

January 4th, I officially visited Ira Berry Lodge, No. 187, Bluehill, and by invitation I publicly installed the officers, assisted by P. M. C. H. HOOPER, of Castine, as Grand Marshal. After the installation, supper was served in the banquet hall to the brethren and their guests. Following the banquet we were entertained by readings, music and short speeches. I inspected the books and found them correct.

February 9th, I officially visited Rising Star Lodge, No. 177, Penobscot. The W. Master exemplified the work in the M. M. degree in a very excellent and impressive manner. The records are in good hands, and are correctly kept.

In closing, permit me to thank you, Most Worshipful, for the honor you have conferred in appointing me to this responsible position, and also to extend to the officers and brethren of the several lodges my appreciation of the masonic courtesies I have received. My only regret is that I could not give better service.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

E. F. DAVIES, *D. D. G. M. 4th M. D.*

Castine, March 18, 1898.

FIFTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit my second annual report as D. D. G. M. of the Fifth District.

September 26th, made my official visit to Penobscot Lodge, No. 39, at Dexter. Witnessed work in M. M. degree. The work was very fine. There was a good attendance, and all seemed interested in the work. The records are a model of neatness, and correctly kept, and the dues well paid.

October 9th, I visited Mount Kineo Lodge, No. 109. I found this lodge in good hands. Witnessed work in Third degree. It was good work, all the officers performing their parts in a faultless manner, adhering strictly to the ritual work. The records are in good hands, and the dues well collected. I think the lodge is in a prosperous condition.

October 11th, I made an official visit to Doric Lodge, No. 149. It was a stormy evening, yet there was a very large attendance, there being a large number of visiting brethren. These fraternal visits are very helpful, each lodge striving to do the best work possible. Witnessed work in Third degree. The work was fine. I had no criticisms to make. The records are in hands of Bro. HAYNES, a thoroughly competent Secretary. After the close of the lodge a fine banquet was served. It was a very enjoyable occasion.

October 22d, I visited Composite Lodge, No. 168, at a special meeting. Did not witness work. This lodge is having a degree of prosperity which is very pleasing. With work and a good collection of back dues, the lodge has been able to reduce its debt, leaving it in a good condition. Bro. BAILEY, the Master, carries his business tact into the affairs of the lodge, and with Bro. DYER, the Secretary, and the members who have nobly assisted, have in one year greatly improved the financial condition of their lodge. I installed the officers publicly, in the presence of a large audience of the citizens with their families. A fine entertainment and banquet closed a pleasant, and, I think, profitable occasion.

October 4th, I visited Mosaic Lodge, No. 52. Witnessed work in M. M. degree. The work was good. There was a good attendance, and a good degree of interest was shown. Records still kept by Bro. JAMES T. ROBERTS. I need say no more in regard to the records. They are a perfect model of arrangement and neatness. Dues well collected. The lodge is in good hands.

November 9th, I visited Columbia Lodge, No. 200. It was a very stormy evening, consequently not a large attendance. Witnessed work in the Third degree. The work was fine, and for a lodge in its first year of chartered existence, was most excellent. One feature of Bro. HUNT's, the Master's, work was worthy of imitation. At the moment the lodge was notified to meet, he called to order, and there was no dragging or halting until the closing of the lodge. The interest of any lodge will be kept up far better by the officers being prompt than by *waiting*, halting and being always behind time in opening their lodge. The records are in good hands. I think this lodge

is destined to prosper and be a power for good in the community. Their lodge room is splendidly furnished, and a model of elegance and neatness.

January 7th, I visited Olive Branch Lodge, No. 124. I did not witness work on this occasion, but as this is my home, I have witnessed work in all of the degrees. In the evening I installed the officers in the presence of a large audience. After the installation service, a fine entertainment and oyster supper closed the very pleasant occasion. The lodge has been in good hands the past year. The lodge has purchased new collars and new furniture and of course feel justly proud, as they own their hall and do not owe a dollar. *A very happy condition.*

March 4th, I visited Piscataquis Lodge, No. 44. It was my third attempt to visit this lodge. Storms and bad traveling prevented me from visiting it earlier. I did not witness work, but found the lodge in the hands of experienced masons. Records well kept and dues well collected. This is one of the strong lodges of this district.

April 4th, I sent my notice to visit Pleasant River Lodge, No. 163, but on account of storms could not get there, consequently I asked Past D. D. G. M. EDWIN M. JOHNSTON to visit the lodge for me and notified the lodge to that effect. Bro. JOHNSTON reports: Witnessed work in Second degree. The work was well done. There was a good attendance. Harmony and good feeling prevail in the lodge. The records are neatly and correctly kept. The financial standing of the lodge is excellent.

I wish to thank you, Most Worshipful, for the honor conferred by my appointment. I have attended to the duties of the office to the best of my ability.

I did not attend the convention at Bangor, November 9th, as I had sent my notice to visit Columbian Lodge before I got notice of the convention. I was sorry to miss it, but felt obliged to.

I wish to thank the officers and brethren of this district for the warm fraternal greetings which I have received, and for the assistance rendered on every occasion. Fraternal yours,

THOS. J. PEAKS, D. D. G. M. 5th M. D.

SIXTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit the following as my report, for the current masonic year, in the Sixth District.

There have been twenty-three initiations during the year by eight of the

nine lodges in the district; interest is strong in all the lodges I have visited; dues are allowed to run more than three years in only one of the lodges.

In September, I witnessed the work in Star in the East Lodge, of Oldtown; the rendering of the ritual was good, the interest of the officers and members seemed unflagging, and a large attendance when there had been no special notice given proved the general interest. In October, at the request of the lodge, I installed the officers with the assistance of Worshipful Bro. A. M. SHAW; the installation was public and the capacity of the hall was tested to its utmost extent; the lodge strove to make the evening a pleasant one and they were very successful.

In December, I installed the officers of Lynde Lodge, of Hermon. This was also a public installation, and the same evening the chapter of Eastern Star, which meets in the same hall, installed their officers, making a very pleasant evening. The books are well kept, the dues promptly collected, and the members seem to have a warm love for the Order.

In February, with the assistance of W. Bro. SHAW, I installed the officers of Rising Virtue Lodge, of Bangor; the attendance and interest manifested showed the lodge to be in a flourishing condition.

The same month, I witnessed the work in St. Andrew's Lodge, of Bangor, and also installed their officers; the lodge was called in the afternoon and the Third degree was conferred in a manner very near perfection; not only was the ritual followed very closely, but the rendering of the work must have left a very lasting impression on the candidates.

In April, I visited Benevolent Lodge, of Carmel, and witnessed the work; though it was a wet, disagreeable evening, the attendance was good, the work fine, the interest (that could draw a crowd on such an evening) was commendable, the books in excellent condition, but the dues were not collected as closely as would be well.

Mechanic's Lodge, of Orono, I have attended all the year, and made my official visit in September; there has been very little work, but the lodge has met and passed lectures when there was no work.

At all these visits there have been banquets. The receptions to the District Deputy have been very pleasant, and I sincerely regret that a combination of circumstances have prevented my visiting the other lodges in the district; my inclinations and intentions have all been in favor of visiting, but circumstances and snow storms prevented.

In conclusion, I wish to tender my thanks to you, Most Worshipful, for the honor and pleasure of representing you in this district, and to the brothers, for the very pleasant manner in which they have accepted my ministrations and overlooked my shortcomings.

Fraternally,

A. J. DURGIN, D. D. G. M. 6th M. D.

SEVENTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my annual report as D. D. G. M. of the Seventh Masonic District.

My first official act was the granting of a dispensation to Sebacicook Lodge, No. 146, to appear in public June 27th, by attending church in commemoration of St. John's Day.

Previously to officially visiting any lodge, I attended the meeting for instruction at Bangor, held November 9th, by M. W. FRANK E. SLEEPER, Grand Lecturer, where the esoteric work was carefully reviewed, with much profit to myself and I trust to our district at large.

October 14th, by invitation of the W. Master, I publicly installed the officers of Quantabacook Lodge, assisted by O. W. RIPLEY as Grand Marshal. The ceremony of installation was attentively listened to and subsequent remarks by the brethren and visitors well received. Fine music was furnished by the village choir. We were then escorted to the banquet hall, where a nice supper prepared by the ladies was much enjoyed.

April 2d, I again visited their lodge for official examination. A goodly number of the brethren were present. There was no work before the lodge, but, as I had full confidence in their ability to perform the same, I did not require an exemplification but occupied the time discussing the work and lectures of the several degrees, in which the brethren manifested a deep interest. Examination of the records and finances showed that its officers were competent to keep and guard them. After close of lodge, by invitation of the W. M., we repaired to the hall of Good Templars, where supper was served and a social hour passed.

November 19th, I made my official visit to Liberty Lodge, No. 111. The work in the Master Mason's degree was the first done by the new officers, and, although some errors were observed, the brethren all manifested an earnest desire for the right and will doubtless soon achieve it. The records and finances are carefully guarded and the lodge is in a prosperous condition. Refreshments were served amidst truly masonic greetings.

January 5th, by invitation of Marsh River Lodge, No. 102, I installed the officers, assisted by Past D. D. JOHN H. GORDON as Grand Marshal, who retains his old-time proficiency and courtesy. The ceremony of installation and remarks by brethren were attentively listened to and much enjoyed. After closing we were invited to the dining hall, where we were greeted by the mothers, wives and daughters of the brethren and partook of a bountiful repast.

April 6th, I made my official visit, and witnessed work in the Master

Mason's degree, which was well and impressively performed. Records neatly kept and financial condition sound. Lunch was served in the hall, and a pleasant and I trust profitable evening passed.

January 13th, by request of Unity Lodge, No. 58, Thorndike, I publicly installed the officers, assisted by P. M. JOHN N. TILTON as Grand Marshal, after which we listened to a lecture by the Rev. Mr. TURRS, of Belfast, in which he gave a very interesting account of the building and destruction of "King Solomon's Temple," and its lasting influence upon architectural designs and ornamentation. The Stewards then announced refreshments ready, the brethren, with their ladies and friends, marched to the dining hall, where a nice banquet was waiting, to which we did ample justice and returned to our homes wiser and better for the evening's entertainment. This being my masonic home, I did not deem an official visit necessary. The officers are young men whose pride and zeal for the institution of Masonry will not allow their work to fall below the standard of previous years.

March 2d, agreeably to previous notice, I met with Central Lodge, No. 45, China, and witnessed an exemplification of First degree work. The new officers having had no work were somewhat embarrassed, but all were well disposed, willing and anxious to do their work correctly. The suggestions and corrections made were carefully noted and thankfully received. My visit was very pleasant and I trust profitable to the lodge.

March 3d, my official visit was made to Sebasticook Lodge, No. 146, Clinton. Lodge opened on M. M. degree. There was no work before them but the opening ceremony. My previous acquaintance with the Worshipful Master, and the knowledge that their three principal officers attended the convention at Bangor fully convinced me that any work would be done with proficiency. The records showed that their officers were prompt in attendance, and in disposing of the business before them, which was of a charitable nature, they manifested a truly masonic spirit.

March 8th. This was the second time I had appointed to visit Star in the West Lodge, at Unity, a severe storm preventing my first, which proved quite unfortunate for me, if not for the lodge, for upon this day many of the brethren were employed in storing their ice, and thus detained from the meeting, the W. M. with the rest; but Bro. CHARLES TAYLOR, though half a century old in Masonry, and suffering with lameness, climbed two flights of stairs to the lodge room, assumed the East, and presided over the meeting in a manner which showed that through all these years he had kept his light shining. As they had no work, the afternoon was spent in reviewing the ritual, and remarks by the brethren for the good of the Order. I found their books and finances well attended to, and the lodge in a prosperous condition.

April 1st, after a long and tiresome journey, though enlivened for the last ten miles by our genial brother, O. W. RIPLEY, we found ourselves at evening in the new hall of Hiram Abiff Lodge, v. D., at Washington. Though, as you are well aware, this lodge is under dispensation, and have not every thing to work with, yet in their expenditures they have exercised good judgment, and are very comfortably and conveniently situated. Their hall is newly fitted, its walls and ceiling nicely sheathed, and floors neatly carpeted. The windows are supplied with inside shutters, the furniture conveniently arranged, and when the ante-rooms and banquet hall are completed they will have a cozy masonic home. They were anticipating my visit, and gave me a truly masonic greeting. The work for the evening was the raising of two candidates, passed at the previous meeting, who demonstrated by their proficiency that they and their helpers were interested in the business they were then about. The first raising, which they did in their own way, was very well conducted, and the next, after a few suggestions, was well nigh perfect. The officers are brethren of ability, who, by their zeal and personal liberality, have kept the finances in a healthy condition. The Secretary is a young man of close observation, who, by punctual attendance, diligence and practice, will soon rank well with those of our other lodges, of whom this district may justly feel proud. After the raisings, refreshments were served, and I returned, with much love and respect for Hiram Abiff Lodge.

In closing, it is with pleasure I am able to report the lodges in harmony with each other, the brethren interested, and the social part of Masonry well observed and much enjoyed.

I thank you, Most Worshipful Master, for this honor, and tender the officers and brethren of this district, my sincere gratitude for their very cordial receptions, and the many courtesies shown me.

Fraternally yours,

ALBERT W. WARD, D. D. G. M. 7th M. D.

EIGHTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

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

I have visited officially all the lodges in this district, and the more accessible ones several times, and am pleased to note the usual harmonious and fraternal feeling that prevails in the district.

November 9th, I attended the convention in Bangor; received instruction from Grand Lecturer FRANK E. SLEEPER, which was both pleasant and profitable.

December 2d, after giving proper notice, I officially visited Island Lodge, No. 89, at Islesboro. Their being no work, the time was spent in studying the ritual, I giving them such instructions as I was able. I find the records in the hands of Bro. THOMAS R. WILLIAMS, who has proved himself fully competent, showing much care and neatness in their appearance. The dues are well collected. I was pleased to meet in this, his masonic home, Past D. D. G. M. GEORGE A. WARREN. Refreshments were furnished at the close.

December 7th, I officially visited King David's Lodge, No. 62, Lincolnville, at their stated meeting. Witnessed work on the E. A. degree, which was very well done, the officers showing much interest in the work. The lodge is in good condition, records well kept and the dues fairly well collected. I am under obligations to W. M. LESLIE D. AMES for courtesies extended. After the work, a bountiful supper was served in the banquet hall.

December 8th, I made my official visit to Excelsior Lodge, No. 151, Northport, at their stated meeting. Witnessed work on the M. M. degree, which was quite well done. I made corrections and such suggestions as I thought were needed. The records, in the hands of Past D. D. G. M. RODEL A. PACKARD, are correct and neat. Dues are well collected. I was pleased to meet in this, their masonic home, Past D. D. G. M.'s OSCAR HILLS and RODEL A. PACKARD. At the close, a nice collation was served in the banquet hall.

December 9th, by invitation, I publicly installed the officers of King David's Lodge, No. 62, Lincolnville, assisted by Past M. E. M. COLEMAN as Grand Marshal, in the presence of brethren, their ladies and friends. After the installation, we partook of a bountiful supper.

December 17th, by invitation, I publicly installed the officers of Excelsior Lodge, No. 151, Northport assisted by Past D. D. G. M. OSCAR HILLS as Marshal, after which refreshments were served and a pleasant evening enjoyed.

Mariners' Lodge, No. 68, at Searsport, is my masonic home. I have attended nearly all the meetings and witnessed work in all of the degrees. The work has been well done; the floor work excellent. W. M. L. W. WENTWORTH is a skilled craftsman and is well sustained by his officers. The records are still in the hands of Bro. ADAMS and are neatly and correctly kept.

January 3d, I visited Phoenix Lodge, No. 24, at Belfast. Although there was no exemplification of work, I feel justified in saying that this lodge is in a healthy masonic and financial condition. I was pleased to meet in this,

their masonic home, Past Grand Master HIRAM CHASE and Past D. D. G. M. GEO. E. JOHNSON; although Past Grand Master CHASE is eighty-three years old he attended this, the annual meeting of his lodge, assisted in electing the officers and made some very appropriate remarks to the brethren. Bro. JAMES PATTEE is still in charge of the records of the lodge and they are models of neatness.

January 4th, I made my official visit to Pownal Lodge, No. 119, Stockton, and witnessed work on the F. C. degree, which was done in a smooth and creditable manner. I made such corrections as I thought were needed, which were kindly received. This is the masonic home of W. ALBERT M. AMES, who was present. The records are finely kept and dues fairly well collected. The officers and members are interested in the work and the lodge is in good condition.

January 6th, I visited Timothy Chase Lodge, No. 126, Belfast. This was the annual meeting of the lodge. After the usual routine of business and election of officers, there were remarks from the brethren; questions asked and answered relative to masonic law and work. This lodge is in fine financial condition. The records of the lodge are in the hands of Bro. CHARLES E. JOHNSON, and are well kept and the dues promptly collected.

January 11th, assisted by Past Master ENOCH W. ROBBINS as Marshal, and R. W. Bro. O. H. FERNALD as Chaplain, I publicly installed the officers of Mariners' Lodge, No. 68, Searsport. A very large gathering of the craft and their friends was present. At the conclusion, we repaired to the banquet hall, where refreshments closed a pleasant evening.

January 12th, by invitation, I publicly installed the officers of Pownal Lodge, No. 119, assisted by Bro. FRANK BLANCHARD as Marshal. Although the traveling was bad and a stormy night, there was a large number present. After the ceremony and remarks of the brethren, a bountiful supper was served. A very enjoyable occasion.

February 8th, by invitation, I publicly installed the officers of Island Lodge, No. 89, at Islesboro, Past Master FRANK W. SHERMAN acting as Grand Marshal; after which refreshments were served and a short musical program rendered. I am indebted to Bros. JOSEPH and ERNEST SPRAGUE for courtesies extended.

February 10th, I called a convention of the lodges of the Eighth District at Belfast. Every lodge in the district was well represented. Convention called to order at 2 o'clock. King David's Lodge, No. 62, of Lincolnville, exemplified the First degree, and Excelsior Lodge, No. 151, of Northport, the Second; in both cases, the work was well done. The work was followed by remarks, questions and criticisms by the brethren. The convention was then called off for refreshments. Belfast lodges furnished an excellent supper for the visitors. The convention was again called to order at 8 o'clock, and

Mariners' Lodge, No. 68, of Searsport, proceeded to work the Third degree. They did their work in a very prompt and masterly manner. After the work, opportunity was again given for criticism. At 11 P. M. the lodge closed and refreshments were served to the brethren. The success of this convention is due, in a large measure, to the prompt and hearty response of the lodges when called upon, and especially to Phoenix and Timothy Chase Lodges for the courtesy and hospitality extended to the brethren. Delegations were present from nine lodges outside the district. I was pleased to meet D. D. G. M. LOVEJOY, of the Thirteenth District, on this occasion. This was one of the most enjoyable masonic meetings ever held in this district.

I have issued five Past Masters' diplomas during the year.

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,

JAMES E. WENTWORTH, *D. D. G. M. 5th M. D.*

Searsport, February 18, 1898.

NINTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my report as D. D. G. M. of the Ninth Masonic District. November 22d, with some trepidation I made my first official visit to St. Paul's Lodge, No. 82, Rockport. There was a large number of the members present, also large delegations from Rockland and Camden. The electric cars running from Camden through Rockport and Rockland to Thomaston, make it very convenient for the brethren of these places to visit each other, and I am pleased to report they frequently avail themselves of this privilege. The work this evening was on the Third degree, and was well done, the officers giving as nearly as possible a correct rendition of the ritual. The records, in the hands of Bro. COOPER, are systematically and neatly kept.

Dec. 28th, I visited Orient Lodge, No. 15, Thomaston. Found a large number of brethren present, including visitors from six sister lodges. The work was on the Third degree, and was of a very high standard. Although they have had only two candidates during the year, which gave them a small amount of actual work, yet on examining their records, I found that from the beginning of the year, up to the time our masonic lodges generally lie over during the summer months, they had held meetings regularly every

week; which no doubt accounts for the good work done this evening. This lodge is fortunate in having many Past Masters who continue to be active workers in the lodge. The records are a model of neatness.

January 11th, by invitation, I installed the officers of Rockland Lodge.

January 13th, by invitation, I publicly installed the officers of Eureka Lodge. The hall can accommodate a large number of people, and on this occasion was filled to overflowing by the members, their ladies and invited guests.

January 29th, I visited Knox Lodge, No. 189, South Thomaston. Although the evening was bitterly cold, the mercury being below zero, and ten miles of badly drifted road separating Tenant's Harbor from South Thomaston, twenty-two of my brethren accompanied me. There was also a large delegation from Rockland. The work was on the Third degree; the candidate was the only one they had had for the past year, and in view of the fact that a scarcity of actual work generally tends to a lack of interest and enthusiasm, I was very much surprised at the efficient manner in which the degree was conferred in spirit and ritual. Had the pleasure of meeting the W. M. at the Grand Lecturer's Convention in Rockland, which no doubt furnishes the key to the secret of the excellent work done this evening. The records, in the hands of Bro. BARTLETT, are neatly and correctly kept.

January 31st, I visited Rockland Lodge, No. 79, Rockland. This evening will be remembered as the beginning of the great snow storm that continued during the night and the following day, but in spite of the fury of the storm, a large number of the members were in attendance at the lodge room. The work was the M. M. degree, and was well done both in letter and spirit. The Master's part is especially worthy of mention, his work being rendered in the most perfect manner I have ever heard. Bro. MATHER devotes a great deal of time to his records; he is not only a good penman, but is an artist as well, devoting a page to the memory of every deceased brother, the name being enclosed or accompanied by a drawing of something symbolic of his calling or business while alive. Able and earnest men are in charge, and there cannot be any doubt of its future prosperity.

February 2d, I visited Moses Webster Lodge, No. 145, Vinalhaven. Had appointed to visit this lodge the night before, but was unable to do so on account of the storm, all communication by boat between Rockland and Vinalhaven being suspended. But as the island and mainland are now connected by telephone, was enabled to get in communication with the W. M., and requested him to postpone his meeting until the following evening, which he kindly consented to do. There was a good attendance, and in regard to the work, which was on the Third degree, I would say that Moses Webster Lodge still maintains its reputation in the front rank of the lodges in the Ninth District. The records, in the hands of Bro. CARVER, are neatly and

correctly kept. One feature in the records which particularly attracted my notice, was that at every meeting there is recorded a long list of Past Masters present, which shows that although these brethren have laid aside their badge of office, neither their interest nor their activity have been permitted to cease or grow less.

February 11th, I visited Amity Lodge, No. 6, Camden. This lodge is situated at a distance of twenty-two miles from my home. Had to drive fourteen miles of the distance by team, but twenty-four of my brethren of Eureka Lodge accompanied me. Met a very large number of brethren, twenty-seven lodges being represented. My predecessors in office have invariably reported Amity Lodge as doing good work, and I am pleased to report it as still maintaining the same high standard. The work was the M. M. degree and was performed in an excellent manner. Bro. WILSON gives a full and correct report of the proceedings of the lodge.

February 24th, I visited Union Lodge, No. 31, Union. This lodge is in a prosperous condition, great interest being manifested, and has done more actual work during the past year than any other lodge in the district. The officers are careful, intelligent and correct workers, strictly conforming to the ritual, and rendering the work in an impressive manner. The work was the M. M. degree on two candidates (brothers) bright young men, such material as will adorn our masonic temple. The records, in the hands of Bro. LUCAS, are neatly and correctly kept.

February 26th, I visited Eureka Lodge, No. 84, Tenant's Harbor. This being my home lodge, I had been looking forward to my official visit with a good deal of pleasure. The lodge is in a flourishing condition, owning a large, convenient and comfortable building, which was finished and occupied by the lodge January, 1894, and dedicated February of the same year by Grand Master BURBANK. The building and furniture cost nearly \$5,000, a large sum for a rural lodge of small membership, and that membership composed mostly of men of small means, to whom the burden of extra taxation (especially during these years of depression in business) meant a great deal. But thanks to the interest and loyalty of our members, the end of the present year will see the debt nearly wiped out, and when our lodge history is written up, as we expect to have done in the near future, the past four years will prove an interesting chapter. The present officers are interested, and the result is good work. The interest, the harmony, and the fraternal feeling that exists in the lodge at the present time, has never been exceeded at any time in its history. It is well with Eureka.

March 14th, I visited St. George Lodge, No. 16, Warren. This is the lodge that the brethren of the surrounding district like to visit, as its members are noted for being good entertainers, but owing to the extremely bad condition of the roads very few visitors ventured out. The distance

from my home to Warren is about fifteen miles, and it took four hours to cover the distance by team. The work was the M. M. degree, which was well done in letter and spirit. The records are neatly and correctly kept.

Aurora Lodge, No. 50, Rockland, is the only lodge in the district that I have not visited officially. They have not had any work during the past year, and at the suggestion of W. M. ST. CLAIR, I kept postponing my official visit, expecting they would have a candidate, but owing to scarlet fever in my family, I had to give up the idea of visiting them. I requested Bro. C. E. MESERVEY to send me a short report of the lodge, which is as follows: Aurora Lodge has done no work during the year. Communications have been held regularly, and the routine business transacted. The lodge has some invested funds, consisting of bank stock.

In conclusion, Most Worshipful, permit me to thank you for the honor conferred on me by my appointment, and the officers and brethren of the district for the uniform kindness and courtesy shown me during my visits among them.

J. M. SMITH, D. D. G. M. 9th M. D.

Tenant's Harbor, March 28, 1898.

TENTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I am pleased to report that all the lodges in the Tenth District are in a very flourishing condition, and that they show, almost without exception, gains over the preceeding 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 herewith submit my first annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Tenth Masonic District for the past year, with the assistance of Past D. D. G. M. WALTER E. CLARK, who visited Alna, King Solomon's and Riverside Lodges, as my time was limited after my appointment.

March 3d, I visited Bay View Lodge, No. 196, at East Boothbay, and witnessed work in M. M. degree. This is one of the best working lodges in the district, and is the home lodge of Past D. D. G. M. W. I. ADAMS, who is an interested member. Bro. EDW. WHITEHOUSE, W. M., is a fine ritualist. This is his third term as W. M. The work was nicely done, with only a few errors. The Senior Warden is one of the youngest members, and did his part well. The records are well kept. After adjournment, there was a fine lunch spread, of which we all partook, and spent some time in social talk, which made the whole visit a very pleasant occasion.

March 12th, I personally visited Anchor Lodge, No. 158, at South Bristol, and witnessed exemplification of work in M. M. degree. The Senior and Junior Wardens being absent, their stations were supplied by Past Masters, of which this lodge has goodly numbers. It being a stormy night there was not a large attendance. The exemplification of work was nicely done, and only a very few slips made. The records were finely kept. This lodge has not had any candidates for the year past, but I found the brothers all of good courage, and hoping for a good year to come. Refreshments at the close.

March 18th, I made my official visit to Seaside Lodge, No. 144, of Boothbay Harbor, which is my home lodge, and witnessed work in the M. M. degree, which was finely done; all the officers are deeply interested and well posted. This is Bro. LOUIS A. DUNTON's first term as Worshipful Master and we are very proud of the following he has, as all seem to be interested and give him a good attendance. The records are in the hands of Bro. HENRY S. PERKINS, who is just the man for the place. Remarks from visiting brethren, and banquet after adjournment.

March 30th, I visited Lincoln Lodge, No. 3, at Wiscasset, and witnessed work in M. M. degree. This lodge has been prosperous for the year past, having had quite a lot of work. The work was fairly well executed. W. M. CLARENCE A. PEASLEE is also High Priest in the chapter, and being a very busy man in his profession, had not committed all the work. He said he did not get the time to devote to it as he should. The office was urged upon him against his wishes. Bro. PATTERSON cannot be excelled as a Secretary; his records were correctly and neatly kept. Closed with a nice banquet.

April 6th, I was the official guest of Dresden Lodge, No. 103. Most of the regular officers being absent, there was no work or exemplification of work, but we had a very interesting meeting, talking over and discussing different parts of Masonry. I found the W. M. and some of the other brothers well posted masons; and they feel encouraged with their year's business. It was not generally known that I was to be present. Banquet and a social talk at close. I enjoyed meeting the brothers very much.

April 18th, I visited Bristol Lodge, No. 74, at Bristol, and witnessed work on two candidates in the F. C. degree, which was nicely done; no real errors and only a few slips noticed. W. M. ALBERT H. HUNTER is a fine presiding officer and in fact all the officers took their parts in good shape. The Junior Warden should be especially complimented for so young a mason. The records are very neat and are correctly kept. P. M. Bro. E. J. ERVINE cannot be bettered as a Secretary. I was cordially received and enjoyed the visit very much.

The following lodges were visited by P. D. D. G. M. W. E. CLARK, of Waldoboro, and he reports as follows:

“ March 16th, I visited Riverside Lodge, No. 135, at East Jefferson, and witnessed work exemplified in M. M. degree, which was done very nicely. The W. M., Bro. ALBERT E. JONES, is a good ritualist and is well assisted by the officers and members of his lodge. The records are neatly and correctly kept by Bro. JAMES H. BOND.

“ March 23d, I visited Alna Lodge, and witnessed work in the M. M. degree, which was very fine and shows that this lodge keeps up with the changes, and holds its reputation as a fine working lodge in its proper place. The records are in the hands of Bro. EDWARD E. PHILBROOK, and are neatly and correctly kept.

“ I did not make an official visit to King Solomon's Lodge, as this is my home lodge, and I am present at every meeting when at home. This lodge is a very fine working one and is in a prosperous condition.”

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, appreciation and application of these principles.

And now, Most Worshipful, in closing my labors as your representative, allow me to express to you my gratitude for the honor you have bestowed upon me; and to the officers and brethren of the several lodges in the Tenth District, for the very cordial receptions given me and the many courtesies extended me as D. D. G. Master.

Fraternally submitted,

WILLARD T. MARR, D. D. G. M. 10th M. D.

Boothbay Harbor, April 24, 1898.

ELEVENTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit my report as D. D. G. M. of the Eleventh Masonic District.

In September, I received an invitation from Bro. WM. E. TARR, W. M. elect of Morning Star Lodge, to install their officers, but circumstances over which I had no control prevented me from leaving home on the date appointed, which I very much regret.

October 16th, by invitation, I installed the officers of Monmouth Lodge, No. 110, in the presence of their ladies and friends. After the ceremonies,

an excellent supper was served in the banquet hall. A return was then made to the masonic hall, where the time was pleasantly spent in conversation, interspersed with music and recitations by local talent. I had the pleasure of meeting P. S. G. W. DANIEL BOYNTON, who ably assisted me as Grand Marshal.

I attended the convention at Portland conducted by Grand Lecturer SLEEPER. The instructions received from the recitation of the esoteric work at that time have greatly aided me in answering the numerous questions asked at my several visits. I would add my mite in praise of the good done by these conventions.

BRO. CHAS. B. ADAMS, W. M. elect of Bethlehem Lodge, sent me a very cordial invitation to install their officers on the evening of November 29th, and in the presence of the members and their friends to the number of 300 I performed the ceremonies, assisted by P. M. A. T. MURPHY as Grand Marshal, and Rev. JOHN GIBSON, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge. Music was furnished by a quartette from Augusta, and a very interesting address was given by the Rev. C. S. CUMMINGS. A collation was served in the large banquet hall. I had the honor and pleasure of meeting R. W. W. S. CHOATE, Deputy Grand Master.

The splendid sleighing on January 10th, facilitated my visit to Dirigo Lodge, No. 104, at Weeks' Mills, where I found thirty of the brethren present. The work was in the M. M. degree, and was well done considering the means at hand for its accomplishment. Records well kept by P. M. SPROUL. BRO. CLARK, the W. M., has a desire to thoroughly equip himself for the work, and after the lodge was closed we spent an hour in going over the ritual.

Saturday evening, March 5th, in company with twenty-five members of Temple Lodge, I made a visit to Monmouth Lodge, No. 110. As this was their stated meeting, their business was first attended to, and among the items was the balloting and accepting of five applications. The work in the M. M. degree was well done. Every officer knew what was required of him and was ready at the proper time. I was pleased to meet again P. S. G. W. BOYNTON, whose interest in Masonry is not lessened as the years increase in number. I also had the pleasure of meeting P. D. D. G. M. STARBIRD, of Litchfield. I found the records in good form and dues well collected. After the work a sumptuous banquet was enjoyed and a time spent in social conversation.

Hermon Lodge, No. 32, of Gardiner, held a special communication March 8th, for the purpose of allowing your representative to witness work in the M. M. degree. Before the work was commenced, the candidate was brought into the lodge, and with assistance of the Senior Warden passed an excellent examination in the F. C. degree. I have recommended this feature to

all the lodges in the district. The work, under the guidance of W. M. THOMAS A. JEWETT, was well rendered, and the officers showed an enthusiasm and readiness which is to be admired. With its present corps of officers Hermon Lodge will keep in the rank of the best working lodges. The records are still in the hands of P. M. JAMES M. LARRABEE, which is a guarantee of their safety. Banquet followed work, and remarks were made by several brothers.

Through mud and mire, on the evening of March 22d, I visited Augusta Lodge, No. 141, WESTON LEWIS, W. M., who conferred the M. M. degree in a creditable manner. A large number of members were present. The officers understood their various duties, and acquitted themselves with honor. Fine music was furnished by a male quartet, which added to the effectiveness of the work. A banquet closed the evening. Records full and in good form.

March 28th, Bethlehem Lodge, No. 35, at a special communication, pleasantly entertained your representative, and raised two candidates to the sublime degree of a M. M. in close conformity to the ritual. This is the home lodge of D. G. MASTER W. S. CHOATE, who was present and ably assisted in the work. Records neatly and correctly kept by Bro. JAMES E. BLANCHARD. A fine banquet supported us in our rough ride home. Bro. ADAMS has the welfare of his lodge at heart, and is making an effort for accuracy.

I have been unable to arrange for a visit to Kennebec Lodge, No. 5, as they have done no work this winter. I certainly hope next year will be more fruitful.

I was to visit Morning Star Lodge on April 5th, but owing to a snow storm and very muddy roads, I requested Bro. H. M. STARBIRD to make the visit. He reports that the officers have studied hard to make themselves familiar with the work and have exemplified the M. M. degree in a creditable manner. Records are correctly kept by Bro. GILBERT.

Temple Lodge has received no official visit, but I have been present at nearly every meeting, and in January installed the officers. While there has been very little work during the year, the officers have endeavored to faithfully execute their duties.

Most Worshipful, I greatly appreciate the honor you bestowed upon me by this appointment, coming, as it did, unsolicited. I wish to thank, through you, the brethren of the several lodges for their kindness and courtesy.

Fraternally submitted,

LEVI E. JONES, D. D. G. M. 11th M. D.

TWELFTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor of presenting my third annual report as D. D. G. M. of the Twelfth Masonic District.

February 5th, I visited Rural Lodge, No. 53, Sidney. There being no work, I only had opportunity to witness the opening and closing. This lodge seems to be in a prosperous condition, three applications being accepted at this meeting. The records are in good hands and are well kept. After lodge closed refreshments were served and a pleasant hour enjoyed.

February 22d, I visited Vassalboro Lodge, No. 54, North Vassalboro. There being no regular work, they exemplified the Third degree in a very correct and impressive manner. This was a special meeting, called at my request, but there were a goodly number present considering the bad traveling. The records are well kept. After lodge closed an oyster supper was served in the hall above.

March 4th, I visited Asylum Lodge, No. 133, Wayne. This was a special meeting. Witnessed work in the E. A. degree, which was very nicely done. This is Past D. D. G. M. Crosby's home lodge, and shows the effects of his instructions. And he showed his interest in the lodge by driving from Kent's Hill over bad roads to be present at this meeting. The records are well kept. After lodge closed, refreshments were served, to which ample justice was done.

March 5th, I visited Lafayette Lodge, No. 48, Readfield. Witnessed the conferring of the M. M. degree on two candidates, in a very correct and impressive manner. Previous to the conferring of the degree, the lodge was called off, the candidates were introduced, and one examined the other in the preceding degree. I venture to say that not one mason in ten could have asked or answered the questions as well as they. The records are well kept. This was a large and interesting meeting. After the lodge closed an oyster supper was served.

March 8th, I visited Vernon Valley Lodge, No. 99, Mt. Vernon. This was their stated meeting and they expected to have had work, but the candidate was called out of town on account of sickness, and so they exemplified the E. A. degree in a manner very complimentary to themselves. Bro. BURBANK still has charge of the books, and his twenty-five years' experience is all the guarantee I think that is needed that they are correctly kept. This lodge owns their hall, and in fact the whole building, which is two stories, with a dining hall below, where we enjoyed a fine banquet.

March 17th, I visited Neguemkeag Lodge, No. 166, Vassalboro. This lodge lost their hall and much of their furniture June 26th, in the fire which

swept nearly the whole village, but they have bought a half interest in the Odd Fellow's hall and have made such changes as were necessary, and I gave them permission to occupy the same. I think they are much better situated than before. I think there are not more than three better halls in this district. Besides this, they own a large lot on which they have erected a stable, and they have money in the treasury besides. They can do good work when it comes their way. Bro. ROLLINS still has charge of the books and they are well kept. After lodge closed, refreshments were served in the spacious hall below, to which ample justice was done.

March 19th, I visited Messalonskee Lodge, No. 113, Oakland. This was a special meeting and the traveling was very bad, but there was a large number present. The M. M. degree was conferred in an excellent manner. This lodge has had very little work the past year. Past D. D. G. M. CROWELL, has charge of the books and they are in good hands. After lodge closed light refreshments were served.

Waterville Lodge, No. 33, being my home lodge, I have deemed an official visit unnecessary, as I have been present at nearly every meeting for thirty years and know what kind of work they do. I think it will compare favorably with others in the district. This lodge has done more than an average amount of work the past year. The records are well kept.

November 9th, I attended Bro. SLEEPER's convention at Bangor, and wish more of the officers and brethren would attend these meetings, as in that way they are sure to get the correct work. I hope next year one of these meetings at least will be held where it will better accommodate us of the Kennebec Valley.

I have been obliged to break many engagements with lodges on account of storms and bad traveling, which has made it necessary to have some specials called, which I dislike to do and have not, except when it seemed absolutely necessary. It has been almost impossible to get to some of the lodges, but I have been well paid for the trouble by the kind and courteous manner in which I have invariably been received. Harmony and brotherly love seems to prevail throughout this district. Not one word of contention has ever come to my notice during my three years in office, which I think is very complimentary to the brethren.

And now, M. W., I wish through you to thank the officers and brethren in this district for their kind hospitality and many courtesies. They will be among the pleasantest memories of my life, and I bespeak for my successor the same kind treatment.

Allow me, also, to express to you my thanks for this my third appointment, hoping my successor will be better qualified to discharge the duties of the office than I have. Fraternaly submitted,

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

Waterville, March 31, 1898.

THIRTEENTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

In submitting to you my report of the lodges included in this masonic district, I have the pleasure of stating that *all* have been visited and a personal inspection has been given to *each*. Owing to the demands upon my time by reason of business the past winter, I was not able to visit all the lodges within the required time. I have endeavored to do my duty, and only regret my inability to do more in bringing Masonry to its proper standard in this jurisdiction.

I find, by lodge records, that during the past year the attendance at lodge meetings has been small, often times not enough present to fill the chairs. The officers as a rule, I think, make it a point to punctually attend each communication and endeavor to do their duty; but for lack of members to aid and assist them, discouragement creeps in, interest grows dull, and the outside impression is not favorable to the institution. If the brethren would only come to a realizing sense of how hard it is for the officers to do good work to empty benches, I am sure they would give that support which their presence would be sure to render.

Another thing, there is nothing like sociability in a lodge; try to make every brother feel at home, especially visitors. If a brother visits your lodge, introduce him to the brethren and make him feel that he is not a stranger in a strange place. Then will Masonry, with its many social advantages and inestimable work, be appreciated; brotherly love will prevail, and every moral and social virtue will cement us.

In several lodges, decided action has been taken in regard to delinquent members—a very unpleasant, but sometimes necessary duty. In my own lodge five were suspended for non-payment of dues, as a last resort, and I think it was the proper thing to do. If Masonry isn't worth from fifty cents to two dollars a year to a man, it is pretty conclusive evidence that the lodge has no use for him. Some seem to think that the obligation is all on one side, and, if they think of it all, that the payment of twenty cents a year to the Grand Lodge is a small matter, but that is a great mistake. I would not recommend the suspension of a brother for non-payment of dues so long as he showed a disposition to pay them, but when we know he can pay them just as well as not, he becomes a "*drone*" in the "*hive*" and unworthy of our protection as masons.

June 13, 1897, I granted a dispensation to Bingham Lodge, No. 199, at Bingham, to attend church in a body, a special service having been prepared for the occasion.

February 15th, I visited Carrabassett Lodge, No. 161, at Canaan, and

witnessed an exemplification of the work in the F. C. degree, which was very well done. The Master, Bro. SMITH, is an excellent ritualist, a smooth and easy worker, and a very pleasant man to meet, and it was very apparent that all that was needed was a little practice to make himself proficient. This lodge is not doing much work, but they own their hall, which is a very comfortable one, and among its members are many earnest, devoted masons, who appreciate the privileges and advantages of the Order, and work for the attainment of its highest good.

At this place, I was overtaken by the heaviest snow storm of the season, and for four days was unable to get out of town. Bro. Weymouth kindly invited me to his home, and furnished refreshments for man and beast through all of those long days, refusing to be remunerated for his hospitality, and insisting that I should visit him again next year. I want to extend my sincere thanks to this brother and his wife, for their kindly treatment of a "wayfaring man," and may they live long and "enjoy the happy reflections consequent on a well spent life, and die in the hope of a glorious immortality."

The records, if sufficient to be called such, were poorly and incorrectly kept, and if ever read in the lodge, I can hardly see how they could have been confirmed. Many important things are not made a record of at all, and the chirography is only equaled by the painful disregard of the memory of LINDLEY MURRAY. No minutes were taken on the evening of my official visit, and I learned that it was the practice of the Secretary to take them at some more "convenient time." There is no more convenient time, and no matter how unimportant the meeting may be, it should be made a matter of record then and there. There is no time like the present. I made such suggestions and corrections as the case seemed to demand, which were kindly received.

February 26th, visited Keystone Lodge, No. 80, at Solon. This lodge holds its communications in the afternoon, and it being the first time I was ever in a lodge which held its meetings in the daytime, it was, therefore, something new and novel to me. This was a special meeting called by me, and as they had no real candidate, the work was exemplified in the M. M. degree, being very well done. Although the traveling was very bad, a goodly number of the brethren were present and seemed to take a great interest in the work. The Senior Warden was unable to be present owing to the condition of the traveling.

They have the finest quarters of any lodge in the district, a large library, and their financial prospects are very brilliant; besides owning their hall, they have several thousand dollars at interest, and can well afford to place the dues at fifty cents a year. The brethren of Keystone Lodge have every reason to be proud of their masonic home, and peace and harmony seems

to prevail. I am of the opinion, however, that the members would exhibit more interest were the meetings of this lodge held in the evening instead of the afternoon. To say that the records are in the hands of Bro. LONGLEY, is tantamount to saying that they are neatly and correctly kept.

February 28th, visited Northern Star, No. 28, at North Anson. This is the oldest lodge, and next to Solon has the most beautiful lodge apartments in the district. Their membership numbers about ninety, and brotherly love and harmony prevail. The work for the evening was in the F. C. degree, and was rendered in a very creditable manner, the officers working smoothly and well, errors being few and of small moment. It appears to be the ambition of this lodge to do their work correctly, and in such a manner as to make a strong impression upon the candidate. The lodge is in a very prosperous condition, although they have had but little work this year. I made such corrections as the case seemed to demand, which were received with a good deal of interest, especially by the officers, who seemed not only willing but anxious to be correctly informed in the work. The records are in the hands of Bro. SIMMONS and are all right; for neatness, accuracy, penmanship and fullness of detail, the records of this lodge are not excelled by any Secretary in the district, and are worthy of imitation. Bro. SIMMONS must also be a good collector, for in looking over the records I noticed where one brother had been given credit for \$39!

March 1st, I visited Euclid Lodge, No. 194, at Madison. This was a special meeting called by me, and although I gave them sufficient notice of my visit, I am sorry to say it was not very satisfactory to me or complimentary to the lodge. There seems to be a lack of interest among the officers and members, as a very small number of the brethren were present, and all of the stations except the East and West had to be supplied by outsiders. The Junior Warden was absent for some unknown reason, and I was told that the Senior Deacon had company. If the officers of a lodge are not enough interested to be present at its meetings when it is possible to do so, it can't be expected that the brethren will turn out in very large numbers. So far as the brethren are concerned, your appearance at our regular meetings is earnestly solicited on all occasions when it does not interfere with your necessary vocations; and the officers should remember that a regular and punctual attendance is essentially necessary, if they would discharge the important duties of their office with fidelity. The lodge had a candidate for the degrees, but as he lived some little distance from the village, and being bad traveling, they were unable to do any work. So many of the officers being absent, they were also unable to exemplify the work in any one of the degrees. The W. M. therefore appointed a brother to recite the ritual, while I made such corrections as seemed necessary. The rest of the evening was spent in asking and answering questions, which I trust will re-

sult in mutual profit to all. I would recommend that the officers and brethren meet occasionally, recite the ritual and exemplify the work in the different degrees, before "*desire*" fails and the "grasshopper" becomes too great a burden. Examined the records, and made a few suggestions to the Secretary, which were kindly received. I must give Bro. RUSSELL the credit of being the first Secretary to make his return this year. He handed it to me on this occasion, together with the dues to the Grand Lodge. Conferred the P. M. degree on Bro. CHURCHILL, assisted by P. M. SIMMONS, of Northern Star, North Anson, as Marshal.

March 2d, visited Lebanon Lodge, No. 116, at South Norridgewock, and was cordially received by Bro. CARR. I examined the records and found them neatly and correctly kept. The Secretary having been sick for some time, was unable to be present. We hope that Bro. HARRINGTON's health may soon be restored, and that he may be a shining light to his lodge for many years to come. This lodge is not having much work at present, but is in a healthy condition, and the dues are well collected. Did not witness any work, but from the specimens of skill exhibited by the officers, have no doubt that this lodge can do good work. Bro. CARR is an excellent ritualist, and has the respect and co-operation of his officers and brethren. The evening was spent in reciting the ritual and asking and answering questions pertaining thereto. Having no one to vouch for me here, I had to pass an examination, and I would recommend that other lodges be more particular about admitting a stranger within their walls, even though he represents himself to be a D. D. G. M.

February 26th, I visited Bingham Lodge, No. 199, at Bingham. The lodge had no work at the time of my visit, but the work was exemplified in the Third degree. Bro. LANDER acted as candidate, and met with the several "*obstructions*" on the way with that courage and fortitude which seemed to indicate that he had traveled the road before. The work was not done in a very thorough manner, which is doubtless due to the want of proper instruction. I would suggest that the officers get together occasionally and pass lectures and exemplify the work in each one of the degrees, and thus familiarize themselves with the *new* work. The Senior Deacon is an earnest mason and took great interest in my criticism of the work.

Bingham Lodge, No. 199, has done more work the past year than any other lodge in this district, and judging from the Grand Lodge return, their motto seems to be, "Good work or none at all." They are very much in need of a hall, and with new and commodious quarters would come a revival of interest, and place No. 199 in the front ranks, where the brethren would be proud to see her.

I made a few suggestions to the Secretary, which he received with an evident desire that his duties might be properly performed. At this place I

had to stay over Sunday, and I wish to express my appreciation of the kind cordiality with which I was treated by the brethren. "May peace be within their walls and prosperity within their palaces."

March 7th, by invitation, I visited Somerset Lodge, No 34, at Skowhegan. This being the home of my predecessor, R. W. Bro. WING, I expected to see good work, and was not disappointed. I found this lodge under an entirely new administration, and *every* officer in his station. The Junior Warden was only made a mason last fall, but performed his work in the South with the precision of an old veteran. The F. C. degree was conferred upon two candidates in a very correct, impressive and interesting manner, the ritual being closely followed by each officer. The Senior Deacon in his lecture made but two mistakes, which, considering this was the first time he had ever worked the degree, was remarkable, to say the least. The work of Bro. THOMPSON in the East was very close to the standard ritual work. A very evident desire to have instruction in the ritual and masonic jurisprudence was manifested by both master and officers, which was gratified so far forth as I was able to do so. Many questions came up that I had never before been asked, and I answered them according to the best of my judgment.

I here saw a case where "suitable proficiency in the preceding degree" was thoroughly carried out. The candidates were brought into open lodge, and under the supervision of Bro. WING, passed one of the best examinations I have ever heard. I would recommend this practice in all lodges, only I should prefer to see the lodge opened on the degree in which the candidate is to be examined. The records are still in the hands of Bro. LAMBERT, the veteran Secretary, who has had twenty years' experience, and, therefore, needs no recommendation from me.

And now a word for Siloam Lodge, No. 92, at Fairfield, my masonic home. I shall report no visit as official, although I have attended nearly all its meetings and assisted in the work, in fact, being one of the officers in the lodge. I am proud to state that it is a good working lodge, and if modesty did not forbid should say that it is capable of working the degrees closer to the ritual than any other lodge in this district. The Master, not only from his resemblance to a certain Statesman from Maine, but also from his general bearing and knowledge of Parliamentary rules, is often referred to as the "Speaker of the House," which is sufficient evidence of his ability as a presiding officer.

By request of the W. M. and some of the brethren, I did intend to make Siloam Lodge an official visit and the time was set for March 11th. Speakers were invited for the occasion, a banquet was to be given at the hotel, and, in fact, quite a pleasant reception was planned in honor of your representative; but at the last moment the Great Architect of the Universe saw fit to

remove from our lodge a beloved brother, and, in consequence, the programme was indefinitely postponed. It could not be otherwise, for Bro. FORT was a true and noble man; no one could ever see his kindly smile, hear his welcome greeting, or feel the clasp of his hand, without knowing that he was good and true, and a mason thoroughly imbued with the principles of the institution. We shall miss his pleasant face and good counsel, but will try to be resigned to the will of Him who doeth all things well.

Again modesty forbids my saying anything about the records, other than to state that they are in the hands of a brother who is *supposed* to know how they should be kept.

In closing, I desire to make mention of the cordial and fraternal treatment which has been given me at the hands of the several lodges. In all cases they have seemed to accept my words of advice and criticism with a grateful and fraternal spirit. Finally, permit me to acknowledge the confidence and the honor conferred in appointing me to this office. I have fulfilled its duties to the best of my ability, and trust that my successor may be equally zealous, and better qualified to advance the interests of Freemasonry throughout the Thirteenth Masonic District.

HERMAN W. S. LOVEJOY, D. D. G. M. 13th M. D.

FOURTEENTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to present herewith my first annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Fourteenth Masonic District.

I have visited every lodge in my district once, and some of them a number of times, and find them very pleasantly situated, and in a prosperous condition.

May 15th, by request of Bro. WRIGHT, I visited Acacia Lodge, No. 121, at Durham, and witnessed work in the Master Mason's degree. The work was well done and the records well kept. I am under obligations to Bro. FENTON HAIGH, of Ancient York Lodge, who very kindly met me at the station at Lisbon Falls, and with a large delegation of his lodge accompanied me to Durham. Refreshments closed a very pleasant evening.

August 9th, I had the pleasure of visiting Ancient York Lodge, No. 155, at Lisbon Falls. On this occasion they worked the Master Mason's degree. Under the watchful care of W. M. FENTON HAIGH and his assistants this lodge has maintained the high standard to which it has attained in the past. The records are very neatly and correctly kept, dues well collected and at-

tendance large; average attendance for the year will compare with many larger lodges. After the work we enjoyed a fine banquet furnished by the ladies, which is sufficient proof of its quality.

October 4th, in company with twenty members of Village Lodge, I visited Richmond Lodge, No. 63, at Richmond. Work in the Master Mason's degree. At the close, I made such corrections as seemed necessary; the work was done in a very prompt and impressive manner. The records are in the hands of Bro. W. R. FAIRCLOUGH, which is a guarantee of their safety. Attendance good. Refreshments were served at the close of the meeting.

November 4th, I attended the convention for instruction in masonic work at Portland. It has been my good fortune to be present at several of these conventions, and I think if the officers of the different lodges would attend you would see a great improvement in the work.

November 23d, I was present at a meeting of United Lodge, No. 8, at Brunswick. The Master Mason's degree was conferred, which was very nearly correct. The attendance was large. I had the pleasure of listening to the finest lecture by W. M. Bro. HUTCHINSON that I ever heard from the East. The dues are well collected and records well kept, being in the hands of Bro. LEMUEL H. STOVER, who has been Secretary of this lodge for twenty-six consecutive years. At the close, a banquet was served, and a social hour enjoyed.

November 29th, I visited Freeport Lodge, No. 23, at Freeport, and inspected work in the Master Mason's degree, which was very well done. There was a good attendance, and the brethren were all interested in the work. The records were very nicely kept, and dues well collected. Refreshments were served in the banquet hall at the close.

January 28th, I visited Polar Star Lodge, No. 114, at Bath, and witnessed work in the F. C. and Master Mason's degrees. The work was done in a very pleasing manner. The attendance was large. I had the pleasure of meeting Past D. D. G. M. SETH T. SNIPE on this occasion. The records are in the hands of Bro. HERBERT D. MAXWELL, which is a voucher for their correctness. Refreshments at the close of the meeting.

January 29th, by invitation of W. M. PLUMMER, I again visited Ancient York Lodge, No. 155, at Libon Falls, and inspected the work in the Master Mason's degree. This visit was after the election of officers. Although the officers are young, I found the work well up to its usual standard. A delegation from United Lodge was present on this evening. At the close, a social hour was spent in the banquet hall.

March 1st, I met the officers of Richmond Lodge, No. 63, at Richmond, and exemplified the work in the M. M. degree.

March 14th, I officially visited Solar Lodge, No. 14, at Bath. Work in

the F. C. and M. M. degrees, which was done in a very prompt and impressive manner. I again had the pleasure of meeting Past D. D. G. M. SETH T. SNIPE. The records are very neatly kept by Bro. JOHN R. KNOWLTON, and dues well collected. Refreshments closed another pleasant evening.

I did not deem it necessary to officially visit my own lodge, as I have been present almost every meeting. Village Lodge, I am pleased to say is doing good work, the records correctly kept, and the brethren all interested in the work. April 6th, we entertained Richmond and Freeport Lodges and worked the Master Mason's degree. At the close a banquet was served.

In closing, allow me to extend my thanks to the officers and 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. Fraternal submitted,

ROBERT W. CARR, *D. D. G. M. 14th M. D.*

Bowdoinham, Me., April 27, 1898.

FIFTEENTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

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

I have visited every lodge in the district, nearly all of which are enjoying a good degree of prosperity. Peace and harmony prevail and the several lodges are receiving "proper instructions" from their officers.

With one exception, I have met the lodges at stated communications, and have witnessed work or exemplification of work in all but one instance.

I have made such recommendations and suggestions as seemed to me proper as to method of work, ritual and general conduct of lodge affairs.

My first official act was to grant a dispensation to Davis Lodge, No. 191, to attend divine service as a lodge, on St. John's Day, agreeably to an invitation of Rev. Bro. KEWLEY, of Strong.

October 8th, I publicly installed the officers of Franklin Lodge, No. 123, after which a banquet was enjoyed by the brethren, their families and a few invited guests.

February 8th, I visited Mystic Tie Lodge, at Weld. Witnessed the conferring of the F. C. degree. Every officer was present. The work was done in a very dignified and correct manner, from the reception to the charge, which must leave a lasting impression on the the mind of the candidate of

the importance of the business they were then about. This lodge maintains its high standard of ritualistic work. But few corrections or suggestions were necessary. It has the smallest membership of any in the district, but in enthusiasm and zeal it is the peer of the largest. The records are neatly and correctly kept by P. D. D. G. M. JONES, who takes a great interest in everything pertaining to Masonry. At the close a lunch was served, after which a social hour was enjoyed, and I have many pleasant recollections of my first official visit to Mystic Tie.

February 9th, I made my official visit to Wilton Lodge, No. 156. Not so large a number was present as I hoped to meet. Having no work, the Entered Apprentice degree was exemplified. The officers are young men and capable of doing the best work. A closer study of the ritual was recommended. This is the second largest lodge in the district, and should be satisfied only with the best work of which they are capable. The records are correctly kept by Bro. TREFETHEN and its affairs conducted on business principles.

March 2d, I visited Oriental Star Lodge, No. 21. The Entered Apprentice degree was exemplified in a creditable manner. This is the largest lodge in the district. New and elegant rooms, having all the modern improvements and conveniences, will soon be ready for occupancy. The brothers may take just pride in their new home, some of whom have been untiring in their labor and devotion to the Order, and have given freely of their time and talent. The business affairs of this lodge have been well managed, and after purchasing such furniture and paraphernalia as will be needed in its new quarters will have a neat sum to its credit. Bro. GEO. O. EUSTIS, the efficient Secretary, is a model officer and the records are full and complete.

March 3d, I visited Whitney Lodge, No. 167, and witnessed work in Entered Apprentice degree. The work was done in a very satisfactory manner. The officers have great interest in the work and are anxious to be exact. P. D. D. G. M. DURA BRADFORD was present and takes a great interest in the welfare of their lodge. The dues are well collected by the energetic and competent Secretary, Bro. DESHON. A banquet was served at the close of the lodge.

March 9th, I visited Blue Mountain Lodge, No. 67. A large delegation from Maine Lodge was present. The M. M. degree was conferred on three candidates. The work was done in a manner reflecting great credit on the Master and other officers of the lodge. This lodge has done the most work of any in the district. There are many good ritualists among its members, and there is evidence of "that noble contention or rather emulation of who best can work and best agree." Bro. DENNISON, the Secretary, is a careful and painstaking officer and the finances and records are safe in his hands. P. D. D. G. M. NOBLE was present and assisted in the work with his usual

dignity and earnestness. After work, a banquet was served, to which nearly one hundred masons, representing eighteen different lodges, did ample justice.

March 11th, I officially visited Davis Lodge, No. 191. Work was presented in the F. C. degree. There were two candidates. They came on foot six miles over roads impassable by teams, to be present that evening. If such zeal follows through life they will be valuable acquisitions to the lodge. The work was done in a pleasing and impressive manner. The Master is well supported by his officers, and they are anxious to do the best work possible. This lodge has had a very unpleasant matter to deal with the past year, but I have no doubt the brothers will do what is best for the lodge and for the best interests of Masonry. Bro. E. H. VAUGHAN, the Secretary, is a careful and efficient officer, and the records are correctly kept. A fine oyster supper was served in the banquet room.

March 30th, after three unsuccessful attempts to visit Mt. Bigelow Lodge, U. D., I finally reached them. They had but one day's notice of my visit. The heavy storm of February and severe weather of March caused me to cancel previous appointments with the W. M. This was a special meeting, and with the short notice mentioned, twenty members were present, some of them coming eleven miles. Such interest and zeal certainly deserves mention. I witnessed work in the F. C. degree, which was well done, taking into consideration all circumstances and the disadvantage under which they have labored. I found the records well kept and the lodge room safe. They will ask Grand Lodge for a charter at the annual communication, and I earnestly hope it may be granted them. They will make a strong plea, and I believe will convince Grand Lodge that the best interests of Masonry will be served by granting their request. A banquet and social hour were enjoyed at the Lake House at close of the lodge.

April 4th, I visited Maine Lodge, No. 20. Owing to the indisposition of the Master no work was presented. This lodge enjoys the reputation of being one of the best working lodges in the state. I was much disappointed not to see the present officers work the M. M. degree as I expected. I have no doubt they maintain the high standard of work which has always been their aim. Bro. F. W. BUTLER, the Secretary, is an energetic and active officer, and transacts such business as belongs to his office with precision and dispatch. I had the pleasure of meeting R. W. ENOCH O. GREENLEAF, J. G. Warden, who is a member of this lodge.

Franklin Lodge, No. 123, in my masonic home. I have not visited this lodge officially, but have been present at nearly every meeting during the year. Wor. Bro. MORRILL is serving his sixth year as Master, accepting the office the last two terms at the urgent request of the brothers. He has been faithful in the discharge of his duties, and when work is offered it will be well done.

And now, Most Worshipful, I wish to thank you for the honor conferred upon me; and also the brethren of the several lodges for their uniform kindness and courtesy extended to me in the discharge of my duties, and I close my labors as your representative with a higher appreciation of the beauties of Masonry and a warmer place in my heart for every member of the fraternity, wherever dispersed, and a sincere hope that I have been of some service to the fraternity.

Yours fraternally,

JAMES H. HOWES, *D. D. G. M. 15th M. D.*

New Sharon, Me., April 23, 1898.

SIXTEENTH DISTRICT

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

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

I have visited all the lodges in the district and have found them as a whole in good condition. The lodges are nearly all well officered, records well kept and the dues fairly collected.

August 11th, I visited Blazing Star Lodge, No. 30, Rumford Falls, and witnessed work in the E. A. degree; the work was very well done.

November 3d, by invitation, I again visited this lodge, at which time the M. M. degree was conferred on two candidates by P. M. JOSEPH E. SIMPSON in a very impressive manner, after which I privately installed the officers, assisted by P. M. JOSEPH E. SIMPSON as Marshal. Refreshments were served and a social hour enjoyed. The records of the lodge are in the hands of Bro. FRED A. PORTER. They are well-kept and the dues are promptly collected.

September 7th, I had the pleasure of meeting with King Hiram Lodge, No. 57, Dixfield. The work was in the M. M. degree, and was well done, although in some parts it differed from the revised work. The necessary corrections were made, which I think were well received. The officers manifested great interest in getting the correct work. This lodge is having a large amount of work, is in good financial condition, and the records well kept.

November 9th, I publicly installed the officers, assisted by Bro. J. M. HOLLAND as Marshal. Although it was a very stormy night there was a large number present including many ladies. Refreshments were served in the hall and a pleasant time enjoyed.

December 9th, I publicly installed the officers of Bethel Lodge, No. 97, assisted by P. J. G. W. GOODWIN R. WILEY as Grand Marshal. The fine music furnished added very much to the ceremony. A nice spread was given at the vestry of the Universalist Church by the ladies.

January 13th, I made an official visit to Bethel Lodge. The officers exemplified the E. A. work. This being the first work the new officers had attempted, some corrections were necessary. Past D. D. G. M. BILLINGS is still Secretary. With his assistance the officers will no doubt soon be in good working order.

January 5th, I visited Granite Lodge, No. 182, West Paris. Work was on the F. C. degree, and although not quite as well done as I would have liked to see, there is some excuse for it, as this lodge has had only two candidates in over two years. The officers are interested and should receive more encouragement from the members of the lodge.

January 31st, I made an official visit to Evening Star Lodge, No. 147, Buckfield. A severe storm was raging, very few were present, and the evening was spent in masonic study. The officers are well posted, records in good shape, dues fairly collected.

March 3d, I had a very pleasant meeting with Crooked River Lodge, No. 152, Bolster's Mills. Work was exemplified in M. M. degree in a creditable manner, showing that there is good interest in the lodge. The lodge is in good financial condition.

March 7th, I visited Oxford Lodge, No. 18, Norway, and witnessed work in M. M. degree, which was conferred in an impressive manner. There was a very large attendance of members and visitors from neighboring lodges. The records are still kept by Bro. SMITH, and are a neat and accurate record in every way. This lodge has added a large number of books to their valuable library in the past year. After the lodge was closed all enjoyed a fine banquet. Speeches were made by R. W. S. G. W. ALBERT S. KIMBALL and others. Music was enjoyed until a late hour.

March 8th, I attended the meeting of Paris Lodge, No. 94, South Paris. The lodge has an efficient board of officers, having good interest. The work was on F. C. degree, and needed few corrections. A social hour was enjoyed at refreshment.

Jefferson Lodge, No. 100, Bryant's Pond. I have attended nearly all the meetings for the past year. The lodge is in good condition, work well done, dues fairly collected.

I attended the Grand Lecturer's meeting at Portland, which I found very beneficial. I think more of the officers and members could attend with profit.

And now, Most Worshipful, I wish to thank you for the honor conferred by my appointment, and through you to heartily thank the officers and

brethren of this district, for the courtesy and hospitality accorded me as your representative on all occasions.

Fraternally yours,

ARTHUR C. RICKER, *D. D. G. M. 16th M. D.*

SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit herewith my second annual report as D. D. G. M. of the Seventeenth Masonic District. I have visited every lodge in this district once officially, and most of them several times, and am pleased to report them all in excellent condition, not so many initiates as last year, but nearly all holding their own.

June 5, 1897, I officially visited Deering Lodge, No. 183, and saw the Master Mason's degree worked to perfection, almost without the mistake of a word. I have several times spoken of the good work of Deering Lodge and see no further use of commenting upon it. I have long regarded it as one of the very best working lodges in this jurisdiction. True Masonry permeates its members both in and out of the lodge. The records are in the hands of Wor. Bro. F. E. CHASE, neatly and correctly kept and finances in good condition. The inspecting officer is always sure of a hearty and cordial welcome. After the work a banquet was served in Lewis Hall, after which there were speeches and a general good time.

On October 19th, I visited Hiram Lodge, No. 180. The work presented was the Entered Apprentice degree, which was well done. Records in good shape and lodge in excellent condition. Banquet after the work. This lodge contemplates erecting a masonic hall at Knightville in the near future, on the line of electric cars and very accessible. The land, I think, is already purchased.

November 4th, there was held in Masonic Hall, Portland, a D. D. Convention under the direction of R. W. Bro. F. E. SLEEPER. As the meeting was well advertised in the different lodges a large number of the brethren of this district attended, and were well repaid, as the whole ritual was gone over very carefully and many mistakes corrected. This is one of the most valuable meetings held in our district, the attendance constantly growing larger, and I hope it may long continue.

I visited that night, in company with several brethren from this city, Standish Lodge, No. 70, and witnessed work in the Entered Apprentice degree, which was surprisingly well done when we consider that up to this

year Standish Lodge has not initiated a candidate, having been for several years practically dead. But now, thanks to those energetic brethren who have taken it in hand, it is on the road to prosperity and bids fair to take its place among the best in the district. After the lodge closed, a bountiful supper was served in the Town Hall, which was partaken of by a large number of brethren. There were brethren from Temple and Warren Phillips Lodges, and all united in congratulations to Standish Lodge upon their success. The prosperity of this lodge, and the interest taken in it, is due to Wor. Bros. SWASEY, & W. RICH and their efficient Secretary in a great measure; and your representative wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to them and every member of Standish Lodge for courtesies received. Records in the hands of Bro. DRESSER, all right.

November 6th, I drove, in company with Wor. Bro. C. E. SNOW, to No. Windham and visited Presumpscot Lodge, No. 127. The work was the Entered Apprentice degree, which was fairly well done. Several of the officers were absent, so their places were filled by others. The attendance was small, even for that lodge, but the records and finances are all right and I hope for renewed interest in the future.

November 15th, I took part with the Grand Lodge in the dedication of the Masonic Hall at Biddeford. As this was under your direction I will only mention it, as you are well aware of the kindly manner in which we were received and the best judge of the events of that evening. To all who participated it was a very pleasant occasion.

January 6, 1898, was the occasion of Deering Lodge reception in their new hall. I had previously personally inspected the hall, which is well adapted for their use, and made some recommendations which were adopted. The members gathered at about 8 o'clock, and a reception was held lasting one hour; then they listened to a fine concert, followed by a history of the lodge by Wor. Bro. J. E. SAWYER, and after a few remarks by the D. D. G. M. adjourned to the banquet hall, where a delightful hour was passed. All present were delighted with the new quarters of the lodge, and wish them all the success their efforts deserve.

March 2d, I visited officially Ancient Land Mark Lodge, No. 17, Portland. There being no work, after the lodge was opened, Wor. Bro. FONES introduced something which he wished spoken of, and asked the D. D. G. M. to continue the subject further. I endeavored to do the subject justice and was listened to closely by a large number of brethren who were present. Their trouble is one which all lodges meet sooner or later, and which must be overcome by the good sense of its members, and I gave them what seemed to me suitable advice. The new officers are all interested in the work, hold frequent rehearsals, and if any work presents itself I believe will maintain the high standard which the lodge has always held in the past. This being

the largest lodge in the state as well as the wealthiest, it is unfortunate that anything has occurred to mar its usefulness or that of its members.

Tuesday evening, March 8th, I visited Harmony Lodge, No. 38, of Gorham. Hall well filled with members and visitors, principally from Standish Lodge, who had come by team to witness the work. The Entered Apprentice degree was worked in good shape; very few corrections necessary. Harmony Lodge has suffered this past year as most other lodges, on account of a lack of candidates due to hard times. They expect in the near future to again resume their numbers and are prepared to give the work in a careful and impressive manner. Records, in the hands of Wor. Bro. HARDING, correctly kept and finances in good condition, they owning their hall and sub-letting it to other societies. After the work, a banquet was served, and speeches followed from a majority of the brethren present. I was accompanied on this visit by Wor. Bro. E. G. JACKSON and Bros. PETERSON and KELLOUGH, and had the pleasure of meeting Wor. Bros. RICH and SHAW and Bro. DRESSER of Standish Lodge as well as Wor. Bro. MILLETT of Harmony Lodge.

Wednesday, March 9th, I officially visited Portland Lodge, No. 1, and was received in full form by the lodge. I was accompanied by R. W. Bros. W. N. HOWE, C. E. SNOW, H. N. MAXFIELD, Wor. Bros. YORK, WAITE, THOMPSON, BICKFORD, COSTELLO, JACKSON, GATLEY and ROBINSON. The work was the Master Mason degree, and it was rendered with an earnestness and closeness to the ritual that is hard to excel or improve. This lodge has had a very prosperous year, and the members are to be congratulated, upon the officers they have this year, who, while not excelling some the lodge has had in the past, are equal in their interest and attention to their duties to any who have filled their stations, and great credit should be given them for their good work. The records are in the hands of Bro. GEO. F. GOULD, are neatly and correctly kept, the dues well collected and finances showing a gain over last year. After the work a banquet was served in the banquet hall, at which a large number of the brethren partook, after which speeches were indulged in until a late hour.

Wednesday March 16th, I visited Atlantic Lodge, No. 81. The Master Mason degree was impressively conferred in the presence of a large number of brethren on three candidates. The work was well done and showed an improvement over that presented last year. This is the banner lodge for close collection of dues. At the time of my visit there had been collected almost two-thirds of this year's dues, a remarkable thing, for which credit should be given their efficient Secretary, Wor. Bro. C. D. SMITH. A banquet and social hour after the work.

On Tuesday evening, April 5th, I visited Casco Lodge, No. 36, at Yarmouth. The Entered Apprentice degree was the work presented and it was

well done; all the officers present and work began promptly. Records and finances about the same as last year. Lunch after work.

Warren Phillips Lodge, No. 186, was my next visit on Wednesday, April 6th, and here also the work was the Entered Apprentice degree, which went with a snap and promptness that was pleasant to see. Under Wor. Bro. CLINTON S. EASTMAN, this lodge, if it has a fair amount of work, will rank as one of the best in this district. The records and finances are now in the hands of brethren who will critically and carefully examine and keep them. Some suggestions were made in regard to them which I have no doubt will be followed with profit. There was a large number of visiting brethren, and a lunch was served at close of work.

I officially visited Temple Lodge, No. 86, at Westbrook, Wednesday evening, April 13th, in company with a delegation from the Portland lodges, and saw the Entered Apprentice degree worked in good shape on two candidates. This lodge is just holding its own, which is a good showing considering the fact that business is almost at a standstill in the city, and the amount which they donate to charity. A warm welcome awaits any representative of the Grand Lodge, and he is sure of the attention of the lodge in anything he may wish to say or recommend. After work a banquet was served and speeches followed until a late hour.

And now, in closing my report of my official duties, I desire to thank the officers and members of the several lodges in this jurisdiction for the uniform courtesy with which, without exception, I have been received, the promptness with which all my suggestions have been adopted, and the generous preparations which have been made for my entertainment upon my visits, all of which render my term as D. D. G. M. two of the pleasantest years of my masonic life; and to you, Most W. M., for the honor of this second appointment, I desire to return my most hearty thanks, and earnestly hope that my official acts may meet your approval.

Fraternally yours,

FRANKLIN R. REDLON, *D. D. G. M. 17th M. D.*

EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

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 Eighteenth Masonic District.

I am happy to be able to report that I have visited all the lodges in this district during the year. I find the affairs of the order in good condition throughout the district.

June 12th, I visited Oriental Lodge, No. 13, Bridgton, and witnessed work on M. M. degree. It was conferred in the clear, and impressive manner which is characteristic in this well governed lodge. Oriental is still shining with its usual luster. Has had its full share of candidates the past year. Non-payment of dues has been a prominent topic at the meetings of this lodge during the past year. Charges were duly filed against the most delinquent and several suspended for non-payment of dues, and the overhauling of the roll has had a tendency to awaken a better interest in lodge affairs and to increase the attendance of members, as I am informed since my visit. The loss of membership from this cause was fourteen, probably no real loss to the lodge. Harmony prevails among the brethren and the lodge is in good working condition. The records, in the hands of Bro. CHAPLIN, are in fine order.

November 4th, I attended the masonic convention at Portland conducted by W. Bro. FRANK E. SLEEPER. I cannot say too much in favor of these conventions. They are of inestimable value to the Deputies, and I sincerely hope they may be continued.

December 7th, I visited Mount Tir'em Lodge, No. 132, Waterford. It being their annual communication and choice of officers, I had an opportunity of seeing the business of the lodge transacted, which I consider very good. As there was no work, the remainder of the evening was spent in reciting the ritual and discussing the work. The records are full and well kept. Refreshments were served, which we all enjoyed.

December 9th, I visited Delta Lodge, No. 153, Lovell, and witnessed work on M. M. degree. 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. Records good.

April 2d, I visited Shepherd's River Lodge, No. 169, Brownfield. Witnessed an exemplification of work on the F. C. degree, which was in conformity to the Grand Lodge requirements, and considering the want of practice for some time past, was very well rendered. The records were well and neatly kept.

April 4th, I visited Pythagorean Lodge, No. 11, Fryeburg. (On account of unavoidable circumstances I was deprived of personally visiting this lodge last year). Witnessed work on M. M. degree. The candidate came in and passed a fine examination on the preceding degree, which speaks well for the party in charge of instruction. The officers were zealous, earnest and impressive in manner. The ritual was rendered correctly, as it appeared to be understood, but the understanding of it was not in accord with the rendition given by the Grand Lecturer. It would appear that this lodge needs to learn the ritual as it now is and not as it may have been prior to 1894.

The records are in good hands, being neatly and correctly kept. The dues are well collected.

April 6th, I visited Mount Moriah Lodge, No. 56, Denmark. Work exemplified, E. A. 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. There were some corrections which I made, but on the whole the work was well rendered.

Greenleaf Lodge, No. 117, is my own lodge, and as I am at all of the meetings (when not absent from home), I have endeavored to make corrections from time to time as the occasion required. Greenleaf Lodge has done a very good year's work. We have raised five candidates, and the lodge is in a good financial condition. There has been quite an amount of old dues collected the past year. There is not as much interest manifested by some of its members as I should like to see. The officers are doing good work, and if the brethren would attend a little better it would do much to encourage them and serve to keep up the interest Greenleaf Lodge has formerly maintained. Bro. GEORGE H. PARKER is another model Secretary, carefully looking after the financial condition of the lodge.

I received a very cordial invitation to be present with Delta, Mt. Tir'em, Shepherd's River and Greenleaf Lodges, at their installations, but as I was previously engaged to be absent from home most of the time during the winter, I was obliged to decline the invitations.

In closing this, my second annual report, I desire to thank you, Most Worshipful, for the confidence you reposed in me in appointing me to this most responsible position, which, although unsolicited, renders it none the less pleasant, and to the brethren of the several lodges of this district I am especially indebted for the fraternal kindness and courtesy which has attended me upon every occasion.

Fraternally submitted,

JAMES C. AYER, D. D. G. M. 18th M. D.

NINETEENTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my first annual report as D. D. G. M. for the Nineteenth Masonic District.

June 7th, I visited Dunlap Lodge, No. 47, and was cordially received by
8 G. L.

officers and brethren. Witnessed work in the M. M. degree, which was well done.

March 7th, I visited this lodge again, and found a new set of officers in the chairs. I was kindly received by all. The M. M. degree was conferred on a candidate in a very impressive manner. The officers are all young masons and well versed in the ritual. The records are in the hands of Bro. BEAUMONT and neatly kept.

October 7th, I visited Arion Lodge, No. 162. The lodge was opened on the M. M. degree in due and ancient form. I gave such instructions as I thought for the good of the craft, which I trust were kindly received. The lodge was closed, peace and harmony prevailing, and refreshments served, which all partook of with a good relish.

January 6th, I visited this lodge and installed its officers. I was pleased to notice a decided change for the better in the hall. The walls had on a fresh coat of paper, woodwork painted, ceiling whitened, and a new carpet on the floor, which added much to its appearance. I have not had the pleasure of witnessing work done by this lodge, but hope to before my term of office expires.

November 4th, I attended the convention held at Portland. The day was passed pleasantly by listening to the recital of the ritual, and much desired information gained. I only wish I could attend them oftener.

November 15th, I witnessed the dedication of Dunlap hall. It being the first time I had seen the ceremony performed, it gave me great pleasure.

December 6th, I visited York Lodge, No. 22. It being the annual meeting a goodly amount of business was transacted, after which the E. A. degree was conferred on a candidate in a pleasing manner.

February 26th, I visited this lodge a second time. Found a new line of officers in the chairs. The M. M. degree was conferred on three candidates in due form. The work was very well done. The records are in the hands of Bro. GEO. A. GILPATRICK, Past D. D. G. M., which is a sufficient guarantee of their being neatly and correctly kept.

December 17th, I visited Yorkshire Lodge, No. 179, and was kindly received by the brethren. This is the home lodge of Past D. D. G. M. WILLIAM B. LITTLEFIELD, who is an earnest worker, and no doubt a great support to his lodge. Witnessed the work in the M. M. degree, which was second to none in the district. Bro. WEBBER has had the governing of this lodge the past ten years, and he is well posted in masonic law and a good ritualist. If they follow his instructions they will not go astray.

December 29th, with the assistance of Bro. HALL as Marshal, I publicly installed the officers of Ocean Lodge, No. 142. A large number was present. Fine singing added very much to the ceremonies. Some very interesting remarks were made by the brethren, which were listened to with pleasure.

The lodge was closed and a bountiful collation served, to which all did justice. I witnessed work in this lodge last year, and as the same officers are in the chairs, I am confident they can do good work. The records are in the hands of Bro. **BURKER**.

January 21st, I installed the officers of Yorkshire Lodge, with the assistance of Bro. **WM. B. LITTLEFIELD** as Marshal. The installation was public and a large number was present. Fine singing was rendered by the Free Baptist choir, which added much to the beauty of the ceremonies. Some very interesting remarks were made by the brethren, to which all listened with pleasure. The lodge was closed and all repaired to the banquet hall, where a bountiful supper was spread, to which all did justice. The only regret was that public installations did not come oftener. The records are neatly kept by Bro. **DRAKE**.

January 17th, I visited St. John's Lodge, No. 51. The lodge was opened in the M. M. degree, with all elected officers in their stations. There were about one hundred brethren present. Witnessed work in the M. M. degree, which was very well done. The lodge was closed and refreshments served, to which all did justice, after which all repaired to the hall and listened to some very interesting remarks made by several of the brethren. The records, in the hands of Bro. **CHESLEY**, are neatly and correctly kept and finances carefully looked after. This lodge has done the most work of any in the district, having made twelve masons.

February 2d, I visited Saco Lodge, No. 9. With the assistance of one of the brethren, I installed the officers. Work was taken up in the M. M. degree and a brother was raised to the sublime degree of a M. M. The work was well done. Refreshment were served and a very pleasant hour was passed listening to remarks from the brethren. The records, in the hands of Bro. **GEO. A. EMERY**, are a model of neatness. Dues closely collected and finances carefully looked after.

February 8th, with the assistance of Bro. **W. F. WALKER** as Marshal, I publicly installed the officers of Arundel Lodge, No. 76. There were a goodly number present. Fine singing was rendered, which added much to the beauty of the ceremony. Refreshments were served, to which all did ample justice, and a pleasant time was enjoyed by all.

March 2d, I visited Naval Lodge, No. 184. Was pleased to meet with Bros. **HORACE MITCHELL** and **ISAAC N. HURD**, Past D. D. G. Masters. Naval is their home lodge, and no doubt much is due to them for the good reputation it holds. Witnessed work exemplified which was very well done. The W. M. is an earnest worker, and well supported by his officers. The records, in the hands of Bro. **GOODRICH** are carefully looked after.

March 8th, I was present at a stated meeting of St. Aspinquid Lodge and was kindly received by the brethren. Witnessed work in the M. M. degree,

which was well performed. The records, in the hands of Bro. PLAISTED, are a model of neatness. Dues closely collected and finances carefully looked after. The lodge was closed in due and ancient form, and all repaired to the town hall, where a fine oyster stew was served, which was very much relished.

Arundel, No. 76, being my home lodge, I have been present at most of its meetings and have witnessed work in the E. A. and M. M. degrees, which has been well done. The most of the officers are young in Masonry and are earnest workers, and I have no doubt that Arundel Lodge will hold its reputation of being among the first in the Nineteenth District for good work. The records, in the hands of Bro. F. B. PERKINS, are neatly and correctly kept. Dues closely collected and finances carefully looked after.

In conclusion, I will say that I have visited all the lodges in the district, and find them in good condition. I have been kindly received by officers and brethren, for which I wish to extend heartfelt thanks. And to you, M. W. Grand Master, for the honor conferred by appointing me D. D. G. M. for the Nineteenth District.

Fraternally yours,

ISAAC P. GOOCH, *D. D. G. M. 19th M. D.*

Kennebunkport, March 24, 1898.

TWENTIETH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor herewith to submit my first annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Twentieth Masonic District.

October 23d, by invitation, I publicly installed the officers of Forest Lodge, No. 148, at Springfield, assisted by Past Master R. SCRIBNER as Marshal. Fine music was furnished by the village choir, and a supper in the banquet hall below. A pleasant hour was spent socially.

December 4th, made my official visit at Pine Tree Lodge, No. 172, at Mat-tawamkeag. Attendance good. Work in the E. A. degree, which was very well done, especially that of the Senior Deacon in giving the lectures belonging to that degree. The records are kept by Past D. D. G. M. GEORGE W. SMITH. Bro. SMITH has been Secretary of this lodge about nineteen years, and, what is remarkable, has never been absent at a meeting. This lodge has a fine hall, well furnished, and is financially well situated.

December 21st, I installed the officers of Horeb Lodge, at Lincoln. This installation was public and attended by a large number, the hall and rooms

adjoining being packed solidly. I was ably assisted by Bro. RALPH SCRIBNER as Grand Marshal. Good music was furnished, and a fine banquet served at Gates Hotel, at the close of the installation.

January 1st, I publicly installed the officers of Pine Tree Lodge, at Mattawankeag. Good music and a supper was furnished.

March 1st, I made my official visit at Horeb Lodge, at Lincoln. On account of a mistake in the notice sent to me, this was a special meeting, called after I got there. Work in the M. M. degree. This work was especially well done, which shows that the brethren are always prepared. The condition of this, the oldest lodge in the district, is first class. The records are still in the hands of Bro. CHARLES F. PLUMLY, and are very neatly and correctly kept.

March 5th, I visited Baskahegan Lodge, No. 175, at Danforth. Witnessed work in the F. C. degree, which was done in a very creditable manner. For unavoidable reasons the candidate could not be present until ten o'clock, consequently the work was somewhat hurried. The brethren of this lodge are about to make quite extensive improvements in their hall, and when completed, will have one of the best masonic homes in the district. This lodge seems to be in a very prosperous condition. The records are neatly kept by Bro. D. C. PARKER.

Forest Lodge, at Springfield, I have not visited officially, it being my home lodge. This lodge has had no work for some time, but the brethren have improved the time in passing the lectures, and are bound to be prepared for work when it comes. The present officers are doing all they can for the improvement of the lodge. The records are in the hands of Bro. L. W. TRASK, and are kept in a neat and painstaking manner.

In my visits to the lodges of this district, I have found the officers and brethren wide awake, and much interest shown. I have been received in the most fraternal manner by the brethren, and the many courtesies extended to me will always be remembered with much pleasure.

The Grand Lecturer's meeting which I attended in Bangor was of great help to me, and I trust I have made some suggestions and corrections which will be of some benefit to the lodges in this district.

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. I also desire to thank you for the honor conferred by my appointment.

Fraternally submitted,

EDWIN A. REED, *D. D. G. M. 20th M. D.*

North Lee, April 22, 1898.

TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my second annual report as D. D. G. M. of the Twenty-first Masonic District.

I have this year witnessed work in the different degrees, in all the lodges of this district except one, and I find that taken together there has been a marked gain in the correct rendering of the ritual.

I notice that those lodges that send delegates to the Grand Lecturer's conventions need very few corrections from the District Deputy.

July 31st, I visited Tremont Lodge, No. 77, and witnessed work in the Master Mason's degree, Past Grand Master A. B. FARNHAM being present.

Saturday, October 2d, I officially visited this lodge. The Master Mason's degree was again worked, and more correctly than before.

Saturday, October 16th, I again visited this lodge and held a lodge for instruction, quite a number of the members being present and were very interested. Tremont Lodge is in good financial condition. The officers all young masons, with one or two exceptions, and officers and members are much interested in the welfare of the lodge.

Monday, November 1st, I granted permission to Bar Harbor Lodge, No. 185, to appear in public at the unveiling of the Soldiers' Monument at Bar Harbor.

November 9th, I attended the Grand Lecturer's Convention in Bangor. Two of the lodges of this district were represented, Felicity, No. 19, of Bucksport, and Rising Sun, No. 71, of Orland.

December 14th, I went to Bucksport according to notice given, but owing to the excitement there, due to the revival meetings of the evangelist, Rev. Mr. Gale, they could not get enough of the brethren together to hold a meeting. I conferred the P. M. degree on the Master elect, WILLIAM A. REMICK, went through the ritual with him, and was informed by him that the lodge was in good condition financially and otherwise.

December 15th, I officially visited Rising Sun Lodge, No. 71, at Orland. The Master Mason's degree was conferred in a manner that reflected great credit on the officers of the lodge. I was surprised at the gain made from last year, in the correct rendering of the ritual work, until I learned that one of the best working lodges of the district, Esoteric, of Ellsworth, had visited them, with a working team, and exemplified the work of the Master Mason's degree, for which they have my sincere thanks. Rising Sun Lodge carries a large amount of uncollected dues on its books. I instructed the Secretary to have them cleared up as soon as possible.

February 9th, visited Winter Harbor Lodge, No. 192, of Winter Harbor.

Fifteen members of Dayid A. Hooper Lodge, v. d., of Sullivan, accompanied me. The Master Mason's degree was conferred, the work being done in a very creditable manner, very few corrections being needed. The Master, BEDFORD E. TRACY, is young in Masonry, but from the way in which he conferred this, *his first degree*, gives promise that he will be what every lodge needs, a *good Master*. From an examination of the Secretary's books I found this lodge in good sound condition financially. A pleasant feature of the evening, was the presentation by the lodge, of a Past Master's jewel and collar to Past Master FREELAND R. BUNKER.

February 10th, visited David A. Hooper, v. d., at Sullivan. E. A. degree was conferred, after which the candidate retired and questions were asked and instructions given in all the degrees. The officers and members of this lodge are working together to build up a lodge that will be a credit to the fraternity.

February 17th, visited Esoteric Lodge, No. 159, of Ellsworth. Work in E. A. degree was perfect. M. S. SMITH is still Secretary. Records well kept, and finances carefully looked after. This lodge is one of the best working lodges in the district.

March 2d, visited Lygonia Lodge, No. 40. Witnessed work in *Fellow Craft's degree*, which was perfect. This is another excellent working lodge, and under its present Master, E. E. PARKER, bids fair to take the lead. JAMES E. PARSONS, its careful and efficient Secretary, looks well to its financial department, collects the dues and makes his reports promptly.

March 17th, visited Bar Harbor Lodge, No. 185, at Bar Harbor. Work in Fellow Craft's degree correctly rendered. Candidate was first examined in open lodge as to his proficiency in the E. A. degree. Bro. BENJ. L. HADLEY is still Secretary, and under his careful management the lodge is in excellent financial condition.

Mount Desert Lodge, No. 140, is my home lodge. MELVILLE L. ALLEN is now serving his fourth year as its Master, which in itself is evidence of his worth as a presiding officer. This lodge is doing quite an amount of work this spring. Officers and members alike are interested in bringing the work to the highest possible standard. The books are well kept and finances carefully looked after by Bro. LYMAN H. SOMES, Secretary.

And now, Most Worshipful, thanking you for the honor you conferred upon me by my appointment, and through you, the brethren throughout the district for their kindness and courtesy to me, I am, sir,

Very fraternally, your obedient servant,

EZRA G. MASON, D. D. G. M. 21st M. D.

Mount Desert, April 28, 1898.

TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my first annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Twenty-second Masonic District. In making this report, I feel constrained to say, that owing to the bad condition of the roads I have been unable to visit all of the lodges. My appointment as D. D. G. M. was to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of R. W. Bro. JOHN H. SHEPHERD. I was installed December 30, 1897, at Corinna, by R. W. Bro. SHEPHERD. In submitting this report, I feel that if I have failed to do my duty, it was through unavoidable circumstances. I can assure you that I have, so far as was possible, performed them to the best of my ability.

January 5th, I visited Pacific Lodge, No. 64, Exeter. This was a stated meeting, also the annual meeting. After the business was done, the lodge proceeded to elect the officers for the ensuing year. This is my masonic home and I attend all the meetings, and will only add that but few lodges in the district do better work or have better attendance. Our members are scattered, like all country lodges, but take pride in attending regular communications. The records are in the hands of Bro. DAVID E. KNIGHT, and are neatly and correctly kept. Financially, this lodge is in good condition.

January 11th, I publicly installed the officers of Pacific Lodge, No. 64, assisted by Bro. WARREN P. CLARK as Marshal. There were 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 prepared by the ladies of Garland Grange.

February 24th, I officially visited Meridian Splendor Lodge, No. 49, at a special meeting. On account of the roads being blocked with snow, the candidate did not arrive, and work was exemplified on the E. A. degree. Considering that this was the first work done since the officers were installed, it was done in a very impressive and instructive manner. Attendance small; records very neatly kept.

March 3d, I officially visited Archon Lodge, No. 139, East Dixmont, at a regular communication. Work was exemplified on the E. A. degree and was done in a very satisfactory manner, the officers and members showing a good interest in the work; records good.

March 4th, I visited Meridian Lodge, No. 125, Pittsfield. There was a fair attendance for a regular communication. Work was exemplified on the E. A. degree, which was done in a very satisfactory manner. The officers were all well posted and filled their stations with honor to themselves and credit to their lodge. Records well kept.

March 5th, I visited Parian Lodge, No. 160, Corinna. This was a regular communication with fair attendance. Work was exemplified on the E. A. degree, which was fairly done. As this was the first work done since the officers were installed, and as they were young masons, I considered it very good work with but few corrections needed. Records are very correctly kept.

March 8th, I visited Plymouth Lodge, No. 75, Plymouth. This was a stated meeting and I had the pleasure of witnessing work in the M. M. degree, which was fairly well done. There was a good attendance of the members and visiting brethren. Bro. JOHN ROGERS, one of the oldest members and a charter member of Pacific Lodge, was present, and made some very interesting remarks, which were well received and enjoyed by all. Records good.

I very much regret that I have been unable to visit Corinthian and Cambridge Lodges. I made two appointments for each lodge, and each time, there being very bad storms, I was unable to fulfill my appointment.

I desire, M. W., to thank you for my appointment and the honor conferred upon me, and the brethren for the courtesies extended to me as your representative. Fraternally yours,

GEORGE M. BOND, *D. D. G. M. 22d M. D.*

Stetson, April 10, 1898.

TWENTY-THIRD DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit herewith a report of the condition of the lodges in the Twenty-third Masonic District.

January 31st, I started to pay my official visit to Buxton Lodge, No. 115, at West Buxton. The air was full of flying snow flakes, disheartening several brothers who had intended to accompany me, and it was with some inward misgivings that I began the journey. I found, however, early indications that the lodge was expecting me. The lodge room was brilliantly lighted, a candidate was in waiting to receive the Third degree, and in spite of the storm there was a goodly attendance of the brethren. The work was done very effectively, all the officers making creditable records. P. D. D. G. M. FRANK H. HARGRAVES is the Worshipful Master, and all the lodges in the district are aware of his proficiency in the work. In this lodge are several aged members, among them Bro. BERRYMAN, who is a constant attendant

at the Grand Lodge sessions, and all of them take a great interest in the work. The records are beautifully kept by Bro. CYRIL P. HARMON. Refreshments were spread and enjoyed by all, and this was followed by a delightful entertainment. I shall always remember the cordial greeting of the members of this lodge, and have reason to remember the storm which tied up the railroads and stages so that it was two full days before I reached home, after the visit.

April 6th, I visited Fraternal Lodge, at Alfred, and found a pleasant gathering of the brothers. This lodge has not had much work during the year, owing to circumstances over which they have no control, there being no business in their village which will attract and keep the young men at home. Bro. OTIS R. WHICHER, the Worshipful Master, is very proficient in the work. The records are well kept by Bro. J. M. AKERS. The lodge has recently received an important accession to membership, Bro. JOHN S. DERBY, a P. D. D. G. M., having transferred his membership from Saco.

On the same date, April 6th, I sent P. D. D. G. M. CHARLES H. OGDEN to visit Day Spring Lodge, at West Newfield. The notice was short and Bro. OGDEN found but few members present. P. D. D. G. M. A. Q. MITCHELL is the Worshipful Master, and there is no fear but that under his able direction all candidates will be perfectly instructed in the work. The opening and closing of the lodge was well done. The records are well kept by Bro. GEORGE O. HANNAFORD, who has been Secretary for many years. One member of this lodge, Bro. Dr. ADAMS, has been a mason for seventy years, and though of course feeble, he is yet able to get around to a surprising extent. He was made a mason in Adoniram Lodge, Limington, January 20, 1828, which makes him the oldest mason in the state.

April 20th, I visited Preble Lodge, at Sanford, and witnessed the First degree worked in an excellent manner, although some of the officers were absent and *pro tem.* appointments were necessary. Bro. FRANK WILSON, the Worshipful Master, is very proficient in all branches of masonic work. The records are in the hands of Bro. JOSEPH LECKENBY, an interested and able Secretary, faithful in all the details of his office.

I have attended nearly all the communications of Springvale Lodge during the year. It is my home lodge, and I feel justly proud of the record it is making among the lodges in the district. We have raised nine candidates during the year, the same number raised by all the other lodges in the district taken together. The work is most efficiently done, Worshipful Master HARMON G. ALLEN having interested with himself an able corps of officers, who take a great interest in the work, and there is a generous rivalry as to proficiency in this line. Many of the communications have been attended by representatives of from eight to ten lodges, and the lodge is, it seems to me, doing a very creditable work in a missionary way. I have not been

able to visit the other lodges in the district, but know that they are in good hands.

I desire to extend my thanks to all the brethren for courtesies rendered, and to you, Most Worshipful for the honor of my appointment.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK H. DEXTER, D. D. G. M. 23d M. D.

TWENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR:—I have the honor to submit a brief report of the condition of the several lodges composing the Twenty-fourth Masonic District.

Without exception, all the lodges have capable and faithful officers; their financial condition good, with funds well invested. The interest and enthusiasm in Masonry in this district is well indicated by the fact that the year just closed has found the door opened to eighty initiates in the eight lodges, and although the strength of Masonry is not always to be estimated by the quantity of its work, in this case, at least, it is the fruits of careful and conservative discrimination.

A noticeable and commendable feature in nearly all the lodges is the care shown by the officers to observe uniformity in the matter of the proper masonic dress, *i. e.*, dark clothes, white gloves, etc., which add much to the refined dignity of the work, as well as exercising its influence upon the members, who are fast following the example set by their officers.

I am forced to observe, however, that some of the lodges are still dilatory in the preparation of their lodge histories, a matter to which I have previously called their attention. Some commenced their compilation some time since, but now seem to be indefinitely "called to refreshment and rest."

The enterprising but undue exertions which it was feared had been used in the past by some ultra-ambitious members to increase the amount of work in their lodges, I feel sure has now given place to a more thoughtful perusal of the ancient landmarks, and the old infallible masonic motto, "Seek and ye shall find," has again supplanted that of "seek to find."

Throughout the district strenuous efforts are being made to keep the dues well collected, and in general they are so done, but on account of the depression in business the Secretaries report more difficulty in collecting than formerly.

Sickness deprived me of the pleasure of greeting the hospitable brethren

of Cumberland, No. 12, New Gloucester, on the date fixed for my visit there, December 4th, but a most efficient representative was found in the person of R. W. Bro. EDWIN K. SMITH, who braved the severe storm of that day and was rewarded by a cordial fraternal greeting and an excellent rendering of the M. M. degree upon three candidates by this, the oldest lodge in the district, which has had a year of unusual activity for them. An elaborate banquet was served in an adjoining hall through the hospitality of the Ricker Brothers, of Poland Springs, who have recently been given masonic light in this lodge. Bro. SMITH reports the lodge in excellent condition financially, and in W. M. LORING, who has several times before filled the chair, the affairs of the lodge are in careful hands. The lodge is fortunate in still having the services of its veteran Secretary, Bro. GODING, whose records are models of neatness and accuracy.

December 18th, in company with that sterling mason and conscientious student, Bro. J. H. MERRILL, of Tranquil Lodge, I penetrated the gloom of a moonless night and emerged in the cosy sanctum of Nezinscot Lodge, No. 101, Turner, presided over by that careful and painstaking Master, Bro. DOWNING, who at once proceeded to work the E. A. degree upon two candidates in a manner which I admit was a surprise to me, and the few corrections and suggestions I found necessary to make were of an exceedingly minute nature. Bro. ANDREWS who for twenty-eight years has been the genial and efficient maker of records, reports a good financial condition, with dues fairly well paid. History in progress. I was pleased to meet here that zealous mason, R. W. Bro. FAULKNER, and six Past Masters of the lodge, some of whom had come a long distance to attend the meeting. A collation closed a most profitable and enjoyable visit.

January 31st, with the assistance of Bro. C. O. MORRELL as Grand Marshal, and R. W. Bro. WM. J. BURNHAM as Grand Chaplain, I installed the officers of Ashlar Lodge, No. 105, which ceremony was followed by work in M. M. degree by the newly installed officers.

I responded to a call, March 21st, to witness the conferring of the M. M. degree in Ashlar Lodge, No. 105, which verified my prediction of last year, inasmuch as the work was of the very best, and every detail was carried out with that care which showed the zealous interest of W. M. JUMPER and his studious assistants. The floor work of this lodge is a model and the ritual thoroughly understood. Ashlar Masonic quartet assisted very materially in the work by their appropriate and well rendered selections. Wor. Bro. F. I. MORRELL keeps a systematic and neat record book and reports a solid financial standing. Many calls for assistance have been received by the lodge during the past year, and its donations for the relief of its distressed brethren have been as commendable as it has been exhausting to its reserve fund. Many prominent brethren were present at this meeting, including

R. W. Bros. BURNHAM, SANDS and TALBOT, as well as twelve Past Masters, many of whom responded with eloquent masonic sentiments during the banquet which followed the work.

March 31st, desiring to note the progress of Masonry in Mechanic Falls, I called on Tyrian Lodge, No. 73, and found a waiting body of hospitable and zealous brethren, who, under the direction of W. M. WAYNE, conferred for their first time the M. M. degree upon two candidates. The work was well done, in some respects almost above criticism, and it is my opinion that could I witness the work later in the season, I should find little to criticise. What I have previously said in relation to the music rendered by the lodge quartet and the true masonic dignity in the work is still very apparent here. Records are kept by Bro. JEFFERIES, in his usual correct and business-like manner, and he is one of the model Secretaries in the matter of watching the arrearage list. Many prominent masons were present, and I noticed in the corps of assistants, Past Masters LIBBY, TUFTS and DWINAL, who are remembered as very proficient officers of the past. The evening closed with the social hour at refreshment.

Tranquil, No. 29, Auburn, desiring my presence on April 6th, I visited this model lodge (the mother lodge of the twin cities), and saw without question one of the most correct and impressive interpretations of the M. M. degree that I have ever seen in any lodge room in this district. The opening ceremony in full form was absolutely perfect in every detail, and throughout the work I found very little to warrant mention. This lodge is fortunate in having a brilliant line of officers, from Stewards to W. M. HUTCHINSON. This is the masonic home of many faces familiar to our Grand Lodge: R. W. Bros. ROAK, LORD and many Past Masters, among whom, also, the oldest Past Master of the lodge, Wor. Bro. MAXWELL, was present. At the banquet table very entertaining and instructive remarks were made by the Chaplain, Rev. Bro. H. R. ROSE, and others. The artistic handwriting of Bro. ATWOOD still adorns the records.

April 8th, the fates conspired to prevent me at the last moment from making my visit to Webster Lodge, No. 164, at Sabattus, and I issued a draft upon R. W. Bro. E. K. SMITH, which he very kindly honored and reported the lodge in good condition and doing the usual amount of work. The work, M. M. degree, was well done, considering the fact that the officers were working their first candidate, and as this is the home of that eminent ritualistic authority and Past Grand Master F. E. SLEEPER (who by the way lent a skillful hand in the work), there is assurance that this lodge will always give a good account of itself, as it has in the past. Wor. Bro. GEO. M. JORDAN is the esteemed Master and R. W. Bro. JUDSON BANGS a most efficient Secretary.

I have not visited Ancient Brothers', No. 178, officially, as I have not been

able to arrange a time convenient to both. This is the youngest lodge in the district and is in a flourishing condition. Wor. Bro. McCANN is well remembered as the efficient W. M. at the exemplification of the M. M. degree at the Grand Lodge last May. Bro. F. E. LUDDEN is Secretary. The financial standing is improving, as the lodge has had a large amount of work during the past year. P. S. G. W. PENLEY is the oldest Past Master and a constant attendant.

Of Rabboni Lodge, No. 150, I can only reiterate what I have previously said concerning its condition and the quality of its work. It being my own lodge, I have attended as a member and made such suggestions and corrections from time to time as seemed necessary, and I have no hesitancy in avouching for its proficiency. W. M. T. LLOYD PRATT is a sterling man and mason and has an able line of officers to support him. This lodge is honored by the membership of P. G. M. FESSENDEN I. DAY, whose untiring zeal and interest in Masonry is constantly felt in his wise counsel and ready service to the craft on all occasions. W. and Rev. Bro. SUMMERBELL, of the Grand Lodge, is Chaplain and a regular attendant. Records are kept by Bro. TURNER and are in good hands.

Most Worshipful sir, in closing the year's surveillance of the Twenty-fourth District, I desire to express to you my thanks for the honor conferred upon me and to assure you of having tried to merit the confidence you have reposed. I have endeavored to judge with candor, admonish with friendship and dispense true masonic light and knowledge to my less-informed brethren whenever possible. If I have been in a measure successful, then am I well repaid.

Again thanking you, I have the honor to be yours obediently,

FREDERICK G. PAYNE, *D. D. G. M. 24th M. D.*

Lewiston, April 16, 1898.

TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor of submitting to you my first report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Twenty-fifth Masonic District.

On November 9th, I attended the convention at Bangor, which was conducted by Grand Lecturer FRANK E. SLEEPER. There was a good number present, and I am sure all were greatly benefited.

March 2d, I visited Molunkus Lodge, No. 165, at Sherman Mills. There being no candidate, I conferred the P. M. degree on the Master, FREEMAN

C. HARRIS, after which a M. M. lodge was opened, and work exemplified in M. M. and E. A. degrees, which were fairly well done. "Molunkus" is the smallest lodge in the district, but is steadily growing. I examined the records kept by Bro. GOSNELL and found them neatly kept and well looked after.

March 3d, I visited Katahdin Lodge, No. 98, at Patten. Conferred the P. M. degree on W. M. JOHN JACKMAN, and witnessed work in M. M. degree, which was admirably done. The officers take a great interest in their work, and on this occasion the degree was worked nearly perfect.

March 12th, I visited Aroostook Lodge, No. 197, at Blaine. The roads being in a bad condition, the candidate did not appear, so the evening was spent in exemplifying the E. A. and M. M. degrees, which were well done. W. M. SAFFORD is a close ritualist, and is well supported by his officers. The books are correctly and neatly kept by Bro. JOHN M. RAMSEY.

Monument Lodge, No. 96, at Houlton, being my masonic home, I have attended most of its meetings, and I can say that the work done by this lodge is first class in every particular. We naturally feel very proud of our new home, and the officers and members take great pride in making the communications of interest.

In conclusion, I would say that the financial condition of all the lodges in this district is very satisfactory. The falling off in initiates the past two years is due to a general depression in financial and business matters; but the interest manifested by the craft has not suffered any in consequence.

I desire to thank the craft for the many kindnesses shown me, and you, Most Worshipful, for the honor you bestowed in appointing me your representative in this district.

Trusting that peace and harmony will ever prevail in the future as in the past, I beg to remain,

Fraternally and obediently yours,

J. FRANK BRYSON, D. D. G. M. 25th M. D.

Houlton, Me., April 12, 1898.

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Trustees of the Charity Fund.

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND,
TUESDAY, May 3, 1898.

The Trustees met in the Grand Master's office at 5 P. M.

Present—JOSEPH A. LOCKE, *President*,
WINFIELD S. CHOATE,
ALFRED S. KIMBALL,
ENOCH O. GREENLEAF,
STEPHEN BERRY, *Secretary*,
A. M. WETHERBEE,
CHAS. I. COLLAMORE.

The Secretary presented ninety-nine applications for aid, with a schedule of the same, which were referred to a committee of two.

The Grand Treasurer presented his report, which was referred to a Committee of Finance, as follows :

To the Trustees of the Charity Fund of the Grand Lodge.

Your Treasurer presents a synopsis of his account for the past year, as follows:

RECEIPTS.

	Cash balance as per last report,	\$1,107.88	
June 18.	“ from Portland Lodge, contribution for Mrs. Stevens, returned,	12.00	
July 2.	“ from City of Portland bond matured, ..	500.00	
1898.			
Feb. 24.	“ from City of Belfast bond,	1,000.00	
		\$2,619.88	

Cash income from investments:

Canal National Bank,	\$162.50	
Casco National Bank,	370.00	
First National Bank,	\$ 84.00	
National Traders Bank,	66.00	
Merchants National Bank,	75.00	
Westbrook Trust Company,	120.00	
City of Portland bonds,	75.00	
Town of Brunswick bond,	40.00	
Delaware Water Co. bond,	30.00	
Denver City Cable R. R. bond,	00.00	
Maine Central R. R. bond,	35.00	
City of Columbus school bond,	25.00	
Muncie Water Co. bond,	30.00	
Rockland Water Co. bonds,	75.00	
City of Belfast bond,	60.00	
Union Electric Co. bond,	60.00	
City of Saco bond,	10.00	
Maine Savings Bank,	83.06	
Portland Savings Bank,	84.04	
Augusta Savings Bank,	21.90	
Skowhegan Savings Bank,	18.89	
Waterville Savings Banks,	21.70	
Wiscasset Savings Bank,	22.06	
Saco and Biddeford Savings Inst.,	79.62	
Bath Savings Institution,	21.86	
Brunswick Savings Institution,	22.06	
Gardiner Savings Institution,	19.10	
Portland National Bank,	43.72	1,755.51
		<u>\$4,375.39</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

	Cash to beneficiaries,	\$1,308.00
May	“ for rent of safe,	10.00
July 2.	“ for City of Saco bond,	515.47
1898.		
Feb. 24.	“ 10 shares C. B. and Q. R. stock,	972.50
	Added to deposits in—	
	Maine Savings Bank,	83.06
	Portland Savings Bank,	84.04
	Augusta Savings Bank,	21.90
	Skowhegan Savings Bank,	18.89
	Waterville Savings Bank,	21.70

Wiscasset Savings Bank,.....	22.06	
Saco and Biddeford Institution,....	79.62	
Bath Savings Institution,.....	21.86	
Brunswick Savings Institution,....	22.06	
Gardiner Savings Institution.....	19.10	
Portland National Bank,.....	43.72	3,243.98
Cash on deposit,.....		1,131.41
		<u>\$4,375.39</u>

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
10 shares C. B. and Q. R. R.,.....	1,000.00
1 City of Portland bond,.....	1,000.00
1 Town of Brunswick bond,.....	1,000.00
1 City of Saco bond,.....	500.00
1 City of Columbus, O., bond,.....	500.00
1 Denver City Cable R. R. bond,.....	1,000.00
3 Rockland Water Co. bonds,.....	1,500.00
2 Union Electric Co. bonds,.....	1,000.00
1 Delaware Water bond,.....	500.00
1 Muncie Water bond,.....	500.00
1 Maine Central R. R. bond,.....	500.00

Cash on deposit in—

Maine Savings Bank,.....	2,139.66
Portland Savings Bank,.....	2,164.84
Augusta " ".....	564.88
Skowhegan Savings Bank,.....	554.78
Waterville " ".....	559.34
Wiscasset " ".....	568.66
Saco and Biddeford Savings Institution,...	2,051.18
Bath " ".....	563.06
Brunswick " ".....	568.66
Gardiner " ".....	560.30
Portland National Bank, savings deposit,..	1,126.14
	<u>\$31,871.50</u>

Respectfully submitted,

MARQUIS F. KING, *Grand Treasurer.*

The President appointed Bro. STEPHEN BERRY a Committee of Finance, who reported that he had examined the securities and accounts and had found them correct. Report accepted. The Grand Treasurer's report was then accepted.

Voted, That the bond of the Grand Treasurer be fixed at \$10,000.

Adjourned to 5 o'clock Wednesday afternoon.

WEDNESDAY, May 4, 1898.

Met in the Grand Master's office at 5 P. M.

Present—JOSEPH A. LOCKE, *President*,
WINFIELD S. CHOATE,
ENOCH O. GREENLEAF,
CHARLES I. COLLAMORE,
A. M. WETHERBEE,
FRANK E. SLEEPER,
EDWARD P. BURNHAM,
STEPHEN BERRY, *Secretary*.

The Committee on Applications for Aid reported a schedule which was accepted.

Voted, That one represent seven dollars.

Voted, That \$1,565 be appropriated to pay the schedule.

Voted, That the Grand Master, with the approval of the Finance Committee, be empowered to draw, in addition, the balance of the unappropriated income.

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.

1898.



JOSEPH A. LOCKE, Grand Master,	Ex-Officio.
WINFIELD S. CHOATE, Deputy Grand Master,	"
ELMER P. SPOFFORD, Senior Grand Warden,	"
MILLARD M. CASWELL, Junior Grand Warden,	"
STEPHEN BERRY, Rec. Grand Secretary,	"
CHAS. I. COLLAMORE,	elected May 5, 1896, for three years.
FESSENDEN I. DAY,	" " 5, " " " "
EDWARD P. BURNHAM,	" " 4, 1897, " " " "
ARCHIE L. TALBOT,	" " 4, " " " "
FRANK E. SLEEPER,	" " 3, 1898, " " " "
A. M. WETHERBEE,	" " 3, " " " "

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.]

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. [1898, p. 65.]

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. [1898, p. 66.]

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. [1898, p. 66.]

STANDING REGULATIONS.

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.]

32. *Resolved*, That, when the hour arrives for the election of the officers of the Grand Lodge, as is provided in the Constitution, the Grand Lodge shall go into an executive session for that purpose, and none but members of the Grand Lodge shall be present without the consent of the M. W. Grand Master in each case, and at the concluding of the election no further business shall be considered during the afternoon without unanimous consent. [1898, p. 68.]

22. Repealed 1898, p. 68.

List of Lodges by Districts.



DISTRICT NO. 1,

District Deputy Grand Master—HERBERT S. SLEEPER, Washburn.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 72 Pioneer, <i>Ashland.</i> | 170 Caribou, <i>Caribou.</i> |
| 112 Eastern Frontier, <i>Fort Fairfield.</i> | 193 Washburn, <i>Washburn.</i> |
| 130 Trinity, <i>Presque Isle.</i> | |

DISTRICT NO. 2.

District Deputy Grand Master—EVERETT H. FISHER, West Pembroke.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 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—GEORGE HARRIS FOSTER, Machias.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 Warren, <i>East Machias.</i> | 131 Lookout, <i>Cutler.</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—EDWARD F. DAVIES, 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 Eggmoggin, <i>Sedgwick.</i> | 195 Reliance, <i>Green's Landing.</i> |
| 171 Naskeag, <i>Brooklin.</i> | |

DISTRICT NO. 5.

District Deputy Grand Master—FRED H. SAVAGE, La Grange.

39 Penobscot, <i>Dexter</i> .	149 Doric, <i>Monson</i> .
44 Piscataquis, <i>Milo</i> .	163 Pleasant River, <i>Brownville</i> .
52 Mosaic, <i>Fozcroft</i> .	168 Composite, <i>La Grange</i> .
109 Mount Kineo, <i>Guilford</i> .	200 Columbia, <i>Greenville</i> .
124 Olive Branch, <i>Charleston</i> .	

DISTRICT NO. 6.

District Deputy Grand Master—FRED C. BARTON, Bradley.

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 Sebasticook, <i>Clinton</i> .
102 Marsh River, <i>Brooks</i> .	203 Mt. Olivet, <i>Washington</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—FRANK A. PETERSON, Rockland.

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—WILLARD T. MARR, Boothbay Harbor.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 3 Lincoln, <i>Wiscasset</i> . | 135 Riverside, <i>East Jefferson</i> . |
| 43 Alna, <i>Damariscotta</i> . | 144 Seaside, <i>Boothbay Harbor</i> . |
| 61 King Solomon's, <i>Waldoboro</i> . | 158 Anchor, <i>South Bristol</i> . |
| 74 Bristol, <i>Bristol</i> . | 196 Bay View, <i>East Boothbay</i> . |
| 103 Dresden, <i>Dresden</i> . | |

DISTRICT NO. 11.

District Deputy Grand Master—LEVI E. JONES, Winthrop.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 5 Kennebec, <i>Hallowell</i> . | 41 Morning Star, <i>Litchfield Corner</i> . |
| 25 Temple, <i>Winthrop</i> . | 104 Dirigo, <i>Weeks' Mills</i> . |
| 32 Hermon, <i>Gardiner</i> . | 110 Monmouth, <i>Monmouth</i> . |
| 35 Bethlehem, <i>Augusta</i> . | 141 Augusta, <i>Augusta</i> . |

DISTRICT NO. 12.

District Deputy Grand Master—JAMES H. WITHERELL, Oakland.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 33 Waterville, <i>Waterville</i> . | 99 Vernon Valley, <i>Mt. Vernon</i> . |
| 48 Lafayette, <i>Readfield</i> . | 118 Messalonskee, <i>Oakland</i> . |
| 53 Rural, <i>Sidney</i> . | 133 Asylum, <i>Wayne</i> . |
| 54 Vassalboro, <i>North Vassalboro</i> '. | 166 Neguemkeag, <i>Vassalboro</i> '. |

DISTRICT NO. 13.

District Deputy Grand Master—HERMAN W. S. LOVEJOY, Fairfield.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 28 Northern Star, <i>North Anson</i> . | 116 Lebanon, <i>Norridgewock</i> . |
| 34 Somerset, <i>Skowhegan</i> . | 161 Carrabassett, <i>Canaan</i> . |
| 80 Keystone, <i>Solon</i> . | 194 Euclid, <i>Madison</i> . |
| 92 Siloam, <i>Fairfield</i> . | 199 Bingham, <i>Bingham</i> . |

DISTRICT NO. 14.

District Deputy Grand Master—ROBERT W. CARR, Bowdoinham.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 8 United, <i>Brunswick</i> . | 63 Richmond, <i>Richmond</i> . |
| 14 Solar, <i>Bath</i> . | 114 Polar Star, <i>Bath</i> . |
| 23 Freeport, <i>Freeport</i> . | 121 Acacia, <i>Durham</i> . |
| 26 Village, <i>Bowdoinham</i> . | 155 Ancient York, <i>Lisbon Falls</i> . |

DISTRICT NO. 15.

District Deputy Grand Master—JAMES H. HOWES, New Sharon.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 20 Maine, <i>Farmington.</i> | 156 Wilton, <i>Wilton.</i> |
| 21 Oriental Star, <i>Livermore Falls.</i> | 167 Whitney, <i>Canton.</i> |
| 67 Blue Mountain, <i>Phillips.</i> | 191 Davis, <i>Strong.</i> |
| 123 Franklin, <i>New Sharon.</i> | 202 Mount Bigelow, <i>Flagstaff.</i> |
| 154 Mystic Tie, <i>Weld.</i> | |

DISTRICT NO. 16.

District Deputy Grand Master—ARTHUR C. RICKER, Bryant's Pond.

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| 18 Oxford, <i>Norway.</i> | 100 Jefferson, <i>Bryant's Pond.</i> |
| 30 Blazing Star, <i>Rumford Falls.</i> | 147 Evening Star, <i>Buckfield.</i> |
| 57 King Hiram, <i>Dixfield.</i> | 152 Crooked River, <i>Bolster's Mills.</i> |
| 94 Paris, <i>South Paris.</i> | 182 Granite, <i>West Paris.</i> |
| 97 Bethel, <i>Bethel.</i> | |

DISTRICT NO. 17.

District Deputy Grand Master—HARLAN P. BABB, Westbrook.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Portland, <i>Portland.</i> | 86 Temple, <i>Westbrook.</i> |
| 17 Ancient Land-Mark, <i>Portland.</i> | 127 Presumpscot, <i>North Wintham.</i> |
| 36 Casco, <i>Yarmouth.</i> | 180 Hiram, <i>South Portland.</i> |
| 38 Harmony, <i>Gorham.</i> | 183 Deering, <i>Deering.</i> |
| 70 Standish, <i>Standish.</i> | 186 Warren Phillips, <i>Cumb'd Mills.</i> |
| 81 Atlantic, <i>Portland.</i> | |

DISTRICT NO. 18.

District Deputy Grand Master—ISAAC F. JEWETT, Waterford.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 11 Pythagorean, <i>Fryeburg.</i> | 132 Mount Tire'm, <i>Waterford.</i> |
| 13 Oriental, <i>Bridgton.</i> | 153 Delta, <i>Lovell.</i> |
| 56 Mount Moriah, <i>Denmark.</i> | 169 Shepherd's River, <i>Brownfield.</i> |
| 117 Greenleaf, <i>Cornish.</i> | |

DISTRICT NO. 19.

District Deputy Grand Master—ISAAC P. GOOCH, Kennebunkport.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 9 Saco, <i>Saco.</i> | 142 Ocean, <i>Wells.</i> |
| 22 York, <i>Kennebunk.</i> | 162 Arion, <i>Goodwin's Mills.</i> |
| 47 Dunlap, <i>Biddeford.</i> | 179 Yorkshire, <i>North Berwick.</i> |
| 51 St. John's, <i>South Berwick.</i> | 184 Naval, <i>Kittery.</i> |
| 76 Arundel, <i>Kennebunkport.</i> | 198 St. Aspinquid, <i>York Village.</i> |

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—JAMES E. PARSONS, Ellsworth.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 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> . | 201 David A. Hooper, <i>West Sullivan</i> . |
| 140 Mount Desert, <i>Mount Desert</i> . | |

DISTRICT NO. 22.

District Deputy Grand Master—GEORGE M. BOND, Stetson.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 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—FRANK H. DEXTER, Springvale.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 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—GEORGE H. GODING, Lewiston Junction.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 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>Sabattus</i> . |
| 101 Nezinscot, <i>Turner</i> . | 178 Ancient Brothers', <i>Auburn</i> . |

DISTRICT NO. 25.

District Deputy Grand Master—J. FRANK BRYSON, Houlton.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 96 Monument, <i>Houlton</i> . | 165 Molunkus, <i>Sherman Mills</i> . |
| 98 Katahdin, <i>Patten</i> . | 197 Aroostook, <i>Blaine</i> . |

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,	"
" ALFRED S. KIMBALL,	Norway,	"
" 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,	"
" ENOCH O. GREENLEAF,	Farmington,	"

Officers of the Grand Lodge, 1898.

M. W.	JOSEPH A. LOCKE,	<i>Grand Master,</i>	Portland.
R. W.	WINFIELD S. CHOATE,	<i>Deputy Grand Master,</i>	Augusta.
"	ELMER P. SPOFFORD,	<i>Senior Grand Warden,</i>	Deer Isle.
"	MILLARD M. CASWELL,	<i>Junior Grand Warden,</i>	Bridgton.
"	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.
"	EVERETT H. FISHER,	" 2d "	W. Pembroke.
"	GEORGE H. FOSTER,	" 3d "	Machias.
"	EDWARD F. DAVIES,	" 4th "	Castine.
"	FRED H. SAVAGE,	" 5th "	La Grange.
"	FRED C. BARTON,	" 6th "	Bradley.
"	ALBERT W. WARD,	" 7th "	Thorndike.
"	JAMES E. WENTWORTH,	" 8th "	Searsport.
"	FRANK A. PETERSON,	" 9th "	Rockland.
"	WILLARD T. MARR,	" 10th "	Boothbay Har.
"	LEVI E. JONES,	" 11th "	Winthrop.
"	JAMES H. WITHERELL,	" 12th "	Oakland.
"	HERMAN W. S. LOVEJOY,	" 13th "	Fairfield.
"	ROBERT W. CARR,	" 14th "	Bowdoinham.
"	JAMES H. HOWES,	" 15th "	New Sharon.
"	ARTHUR C. RICKER,	" 16th "	Bryant's Pond.
"	HARLAN P. BABB,	" 17th "	Westbrook.
"	ISAAC F. JEWETT,	" 18th "	Waterford.
"	ISAAC P. GOOCH,	" 19th "	Kennebunkp't.
"	EDWIN A. REED,	" 20th "	North Lee.
"	JAMES E. PARSONS,	" 21st "	Ellsworth.
"	GEORGE M. BOND,	" 22d "	Stetson.
"	FRANK H. DEXTER,	" 23d "	Springvale.
"	GEORGE H. GODING,	" 24th "	Lewiston Junc.
"	J. FRANK BRYSON,	" 25th "	Houlton.
W. & Rev.	ELMER F. PEMBER,	<i>Grand Chaplain,</i>	Bangor.
"	JOHN R. CLIFFORD,	" "	Deering.
"	CHARLES A. HAYDEN,	" "	Augusta.
"	JOHN GIBSON,	" "	C. Elizabeth.
"	GEORGE M. HOWE,	" "	Lewiston.
W.	WM. J. BURNHAM,	<i>Grand Marshal,</i>	Lewiston.
"	HUGH R. CHAPLIN,	" <i>Senior Deacon,</i>	Bangor.
"	ERMON D. EASTMAN,	" <i>Junior Deacon,</i>	Portland.
"	JACOB R. STEWART,	" <i>Steward,</i>	Rockland.
"	CHARLES 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,	" "	Stockt'n Sp'gs.
M. W.	FRANK E. SLEEPER,	<i>Grand 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, 1898.

-
- Acacia, 121, Durham. Marcus W. Eveleth, m; William D. Trufant, sw; William W. Brown, jw; Everett L. Macomber, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 14
- Adoniram, 27, Limington. Samuel N. Small, m; Charles L. Cousins, sw; Lorenzo D. Spencer, jw; Hardy H. McKenney, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 23
- Alna, 43, Damariscotta. Isaac C. Stetson, m; Frank L. Smithwick, sw; Jesse H. Ogier, jw; Edward E. Philbrook, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Amity, 6, Camden. Wallace E. Easton, m; Alfred F. Beverage, sw; Edward S. Stearns, jw; Charles A. Wilson, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, October. 9
- Anchor, 158, South Bristol. Elliot P. Gamage, m; John F. French, sw; Eliphalet T. Farrar, jw; Walter H. McFarland, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Ancient Brothers', 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. George H. Owen, m; Winslow E. Howell, sw; Charles F. Tobie, jw; John S. Russell, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, December. 17
- Ancient York, 155, Lisbon Falls. Harry E. Plummer, m; Harry Doughty, sw; Walter 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 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. George H. Bourne, m; C. Ed. Meserve, sw; Charles S. Gilman, jw; Fordyce B. Perkins, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, February. 10
- 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; James M. Moulton, 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. Weston Lewis, m; Claude W. Townsend, sw; Charles W. Fletcher, jw; Fremont J. C. Little, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 11
- Aurora, 50, Rockland. Asa P. St. Clair, m; Clarence C. Cross, sw; Albert H. Newbert, jw; Lorenzo S. Robinson, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 9
- Bar Harbor, 185, Bar Harbor. Charles F. Paine, m; Frank O. Allen, sw; Joseph A. Stevens, jw; Benj. L. Hadley, s. Meeting third Thursday; election, December. 21
- Baskahegan, 175, Danforth. Leo H. Tuck, m; Martin Farriday, sw; C. M. Bither, jw; David C. Parker, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, August. 20
- Bay View, 196, East Boothbay. Edward Whitehouse, m; Clarence W. Hodgdon, sw; Henry B. McGunigle, 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. James H. Barrows, m; Curtis E. Abbott, sw; Newton E. Richardson, jw; Jarvis C. Billings, s. Meeting second Thursday; election, November. 16
- Bethlehem, 35, Augusta. Chas. B. Adams, m; Thomas H. Bodge, sw; James E. Kingsley, 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. Cyrus P. Eaton, m; R. Brookes, Stratton, sw; John J. Calhoun, jw; Fred A. Porter, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, October. 16
- Blue Mountain, 67, Phillips. Mason Parker, m; Daniel F. Field, sw; Burton A. Davenport, jw; Daniel L. Dennison, s. Meeting Wednesday week of full moon; election, September. 15
- Bristol, 74, Bristol Mills. Albert H. Hunter, m; Norris A. Miller, sw; Carl Z. Bailey, 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. Walter H. Ring, 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. Walter H. Smith, m; Alpheus Nason, sw; Abel P. Gleason, jw; Augustine Gleason, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, first Tuesday in October. 13
- Casco, 36, Yarmouth. David H. Bennett, m; Frank W. Bucknam, sw; Edwin M. White, jw; Monroe Stoddard, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, October. 17
- Central, 45, China. Gustavus J. Nelson, m; Everett B. Besse, sw; George L. Gilman, jw; Willis W. Washburn, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, September. 7
- Columbia, 200, Greenville. Lindley H. Folsom, m; Charles H. Sawyer, sw; George W. Brown, jw; Charles D. Shaw, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 5
- Composite, 168, LaGrange. Henry J. Bailey, Howland, m; Harry A. Fowles, sw; Perlie E. Speed, jw; Andrew H. Dyer, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, October. 5
- Corinthian, 95, Hartland. George M. Lancey, m; Edwin G. Varney, sw; Wilbert E. Dearborn, jw; Thomas A. Linn, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, August. 22
- Crescent, 78, Pembroke. Oscar I. Sinclair, m; Jesse L. Knowlton, sw; Aurelius C. Brown, jw; George W. Allan, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, December. 2

- Crooked River, 152, Bolster's Mills. Edward A. Wight, m; Jason B. Scribner, sw; Adna D. Pike, jw; Leander Dorman, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, January. 16
- Cumberland, 12, New Gloucester. Henry W. Loring, West Pownal, m; Frank W. Winter, Upper Gloucester, sw; Newell P. Haskell, jw; Geo. 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 B. Richardson, m; Oliver B. Small, sw; Harry E. Bell, jw; Edward H. Vaughan, s. Meeting Friday evening of week in which moon is full; election, September. 15
- Day Spring, 107, West Newfield. George E. Mitchell, 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. Charles W. Blake, m; Ernest L. Watkins, sw; Walter S. Coleman, 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. Chester M. Clark, m; Jonn A. Peva, sw; Joseph A. Banks, jw; Orrin F. Sproul, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, September. 11
- Doric, 149, Monson. Harold E. Morrill, m; Walter C. Jackson, sw; Edward P. Blanchard, 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; Oaks M. Palmer, 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. Everett M. Staples, m; Lytton E. Staples, sw; John F. Burnham, 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. Herbert W. Trafton, m; Chandler C. Harvey, sw; Charles H. Stevens, jw; Henry W. Perry, 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. William H. Dresser, m; Edgar P. Kelley, sw; Albert K. Cushman, jw; Melvin S. Smith, s. Meeting first Thursday; election, January. 21
- Euclid, 194, Madison. Nyron Churchill, m; Omer D. Ames, sw; Alson C. Walton, jw; Irvin L. Russell, s. Meeting first Monday; election, September. 13
- Eureka, 84, Tenant's Harbor. Walter H. Matthews, m; George C. Farrar, sw; Fred O. Bartlett, jw; George E. Allen, s. Meeting first Thursday; 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. Isaac Hills, m; Martin G. Black, sw; Fred B. Glidden, jw; Rodol A. Packard, s. Meeting Wednesday nearest full moon; election, December. 8
- Felicity, 19, Bucksport. William A. Remick, m; Howard F. Gilley, sw; Hiram J. Harriman, jw; Sewall L. Heywood, s. Meeting first Monday; election, December. 21
- Forest, 148, Springfield. Charles D. Chase, m; Herbert E. Murdock, sw; Hiram E. Stevens, 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; Fred W. Saunders, jw; James H. Howes, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, September. 15
- Fraternal, 55, Alfred. Otis R. Whicher, m; Edwin P. Ferguson, sw; James F. Littlefield, 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; Jas. H. Cobb, jw; Fred W. Libby, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 23
- Freeport, 23, Freeport. Freeman M. Grant, m; Charles W. Bennett, sw; Jacob W. Amick, jw; Winthrop C. Fogg, 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; Ezra B. Pike, sw; William O. Porter, jw; George H. Parker, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, December. 18

- Hancock, 4, Castine. C. Fred Jones, m; John C. M. Gardner, sw; J. Walter Weeks, 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. Thomas A. Jewett, m; William L. Powers, sw; Fred D. Loring, 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. Wallace C. Thibodeau, m; Frank R. Linton, sw; Daniel W. Ballantyne, jw; Charles F. Plumly, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, first Monday in December. 20
- Howard, 69, Winterport. Fred C. Atwood, m; Edwin Flement, sw; Minot S. Lowe, jw; John H. Baker, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, December. 6
- Ira Berry, 187, Bluehill. George G. Long, m; Otis Littlefield, sw; Thomas Grieve, jw; Frank A. Davis, s. Meeting third Monday; election, December. 4
- Island, 89, Islesboro'. Ernest L. Sprague, m; Joseph A. Sprague, sw; Edwin S. Preble, jw; Thomas R. Williams, North Islesboro', s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, February. 8
- Jefferson, 100, Bryant's Pond. James L. Bowker, m; James M. Day, sw; Charles H. Berry, jw; Alden Chase, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, September. 16
- Jonesport, 188, Jonesport. Nehemiah Guptill, m; Arthur L. Whiting, sw; Darius D. Kelley, jw; Clifton M. Rogers, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 3
- Katahdin, 98, Patten. John Jackman, m; Alonzo A. Porter, sw; Ferdie G. Huston, jw; Lorin B. Huston, s. Meeting Thursday on or preceding full moon; election, December. 25
- Kenduskeag, 137, Kenduskeag. Albert Hodsdon, m; Hosea B. Emery, sw; Daniel W. Parkhurst, jw; William C. Spratt, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 6
- Kennebec, 5, Hallowell. Lorenzo D. Merchant, m; John M. Robinson, sw; Fitz Morris Fish, jw; James J. Jones, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, November. 11

- Keystone, 80, Solon. Wright S. Cram, m; Jonah G. Spaulding, sw; William W. Jackman, 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; J. P. Vannah, 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; J. M. Bartlett, s. Meeting first Saturday; election, January. 9
- Lafayette, 48, Readfield. Frank A. Dow, m; Sewall 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 A. Ward, sw; Corydon E. Veasie, 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. Oren W. Ripley, South Montville, m; Winfield W. Lunt, Montville, sw; Percy Leman, Libertyville, jw; Ambrose P. Cargill, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, September. 7
- Lincoln, 3, Wiscasset. Clarence A. Peaslee, m; John C. Dickinson, sw; Joseph Call, jw; William D. Patterson, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Lookout, 131, Cutler. Hermetre 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. Elvert E. Parker, m; Howard W. Dunn, sw; Thomas L. Abbott, jw; James E. Parsons, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 21
- Lynde, 174, Hermon. Frank P. Whitaker, m; George E. Barnes, sw; Sanford A. Smith, jw; Charles N. Patten, Hermon Pond, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, December. 6
- Maine, 20, Farmington. George C. Purington, m; William M. Pratt, sw; Newell R. Knowlton, 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; Forrest K. Roberts, sw; David P. Curtis, jw; Elmer G. Roberts, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 7
- Mechanics', 66, Orono. Andrew M. Shaw, m; Robert M. Hutchinson, sw; Anson A. Powers, jw; Albert J. Durgin, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, December 27th. 6
- Meridian, 125, Pittsfield. Truman M. Griffin, m; Orin E. Libby, sw; Orville H. Drake, jw; Leon L. Libby, s. Meeting Friday evening on or before full moon; election, January. 22
- Meridian Splendor, 49, Newport. Percy L. Oakes, m; A. Leslie Oakes, sw; Wilson M. Stuart, 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; Orestes E. Crowell, s. Meeting on the first Saturday; election, December. 12
- Molunkus, 165, Sherman Mills. Freeman C. Harris, m; Daniel H. Perry, sw; Thomas T. Skidmore, jw; John Gosnell, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, October. 25
- Monmouth, 110, Monmouth. John M. Prescott, m; Horace S. Bent, sw; Fred K. Blake, jw; James A. Cunningham, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, September. 11
- Monument, 96, 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. William E. Tarr, m; Thomas T. Jenkins, sw; Geo. E. Ring, 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. James H. Patterson, m; Herbert W. Fifield, sw; Freeman L. Roberts, jw; Winfield S. Carver, s. Meeting second Tuesday; election, November. 9
- Mount Bigelow, 202, Flagstaff. Danville C. Durrell, Dead River, 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. Almon P. Pingree, m; Luther Trumbull, sw; Fred Sanborn, jw; Sidney T. Brown, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 18
- Mount Olivet, 203, Washington. Lindley M. Staples, m; Samuel P. Strickland, sw; Willis E. Deering, jw; W. M. Staples, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election September. 7
- Mount Tir'em, 132, Waterford. Warren V. Kneeland, m; Francis S. Packard, sw; George A. Miller, jw; Isaac F. Jewett, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 18
- Mystic, 65, Hampden. Charles W. Page, m; Sumner D. Greeley, sw; Fred A. Cole, jw; William H. Tribou, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, December. 6
- Mystic Tie, 154, Weld. Cleff Maxwell, m; Orletus Phillips, sw; Nathan G. Foster, jw; Lyman L. Jones, s. Meeting Tuesday of the week of full moon; election, December. 15
- Narraguagus, 88, Cherryfield. Arthur H. Bartlett, m; Phineas B. Guptill, sw; Edward C. Davis, 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. Harry W. Burdin, m; E. Herbert Cole, 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; Charles H. Brown, jw; Frank L. Buker, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 19

- Olive Branch, 124, Charleston. Frank H. Drummond, m; Geo. S. Walker, sw; C. Herbert Dyer, jw; Oscar L. Smith, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, December. 5
- Orient, 15, Thomaston. William H. Stackpole, m; George A. Moore, sw; Wm. A. Hastings, jw; Alanson O. Tobie, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 9
- Oriental, 13, Bridgton. Fred Wilby, m; John L. Meserve, sw; Walter L. Gray, jw; D. Eugene Chaplin, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, October. 18
- Oriental Star, 21, Livermore Falls. Chester H. Thurston, m; Charles H. Gibbs, sw; Ernest A. Goding, jw; George O. Eustis, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, June. 15
- Oxford, 18, Norway. Henry F. Favor, m; Lee M. Smith, sw; William J. Jones, 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. Oliver L. Jones, m; J. B. Ross, sw; G. B. Fisher, 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. Daniel Dolloff, m; Ernest E. Carr, sw; Allen Merrill, 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. Josiah F. Shedd, m; Virgil W. Hobbs, sw; William H. Bither, jw; George W. Smith, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, third Monday in December. 20
- Pioneer, 72, Ashland. George S. Orcutt, m; H. L. Dobson, sw; Frank A. Nason, jw; Whitefield B. Hallett, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 1
- Piscataquis, 44, Milo. Henry F. Daggett, m; Albert C. Cushman, sw; Percie M. Hamlin, jw; Albert W. Murray, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, September. 5
- Pleasant River, 163, Brownville. Elmer H. Poole, m; Walter G. Sherburne, sw; Erwin G. Ryder, 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; Alonzo Sawyer, jw; A. M. Sawyer, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, January. 3
- Plymouth, 75, Plymouth. Dana N. Gray, m, (died Dec. 2); L. Howard Gray, sw; Alonzo E. Feabody, jw; Walter G. Loud, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, September. 22
- Polar Star, 114, Bath. Eben J. Marston, m; Frank A. Palmer, sw; George M. Duley, jw; Herbert D. Maxwell, s. Meeting second Wednesday; election, March. 14
- Portland, 1, Portland. C. Fred Berry, m; George W. Sturgis, sw; Thomas E. McDonald, jw; George F. Gould, s. Meeting second Wednesday; election, November. 17
- Pownal, 119, Stockton Springs. Horace M. Griffin, m; Willard M. Berry, sw; Frank H. Cousens, jw; John M. La Folley, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 8
- Preble, 143, Sanford. Frank Wilson, m; Fred Hodgson, sw; Sidney H. Spinney, jw; Joseph Leckenby, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 23
- Presumpscot, 127, No. Windham. Frank H. Haskell, m; Winfield S. Allen, sw; Sumner C. Maxfield, jw; William H. Cram, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, December. 17
- Pythagorean, 11, Fryeburg. John L. Osgood, m; Dean A. Ballard, sw; Fred A. Holt, jw; Tobias L. Eastman, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 18
- Quantabacook, 129, Searsmont. Adelbert Millett, m; Charles H. Burgess, sw; Edwin R. Keene, North Appleton, jw; Loima C. Poor, s. Meeting first Saturday; election, October. 7
- Rabboni, 150, Lewiston. T. Lloyd Pratt, m; William B. Skelton, sw; Frank A. Conant, jw; George F. Turner, s. Meeting Wednesday after full moon; election, September. 24
- Reliance, 195, Stonington. Joseph H. Eaton, m; William McKenzie, sw; Paul T. Small, jw; Rollins Y. Stinson, s. Meeting first Saturday; election, December. 4
- Richmond, 63, Richmond. Wallace N. Price, m; Oscar P. Galusha, sw; Fernando A. Shepard, jw; William R. Fairclough, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, October. 14
- Rising Star, 177, Penobscot. Walter J. Creamer, m; Albert P. Leach, sw; Robert Bissett, jw; Benjamin H. Cushman, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, December. 4
- Rising Sun, 71, Orland. Ashur B. Hutchins, m; Enoch W. Harriman, sw; Edwin L. Jordan, jw; Frank E. Cotton, 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. Albert E. Jones, m; Wilber B. Tibbetts, sw; George A. Hoffses, jw; James H. Bond, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Rockland, 79, Rockland. Alexander A. Beaton, m; Charles A. Rose, sw; Edward W. Berry, jw; Albert I. Mather, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 9
- Rural, 53, Sidney. Sewall A. Clark, m; Frank Abbott, sw; Eugene H. Herrin, jw; James F. Warren, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, September. 12
- Saco, 9, Saco. Fred B. Wiggin, m; Freeland H. Oaks, sw; Joseph E. Cole, jw; George A. Emery, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 19
- Saint Andrew's, 83, Bangor. Frank A. Robinson, m; Edwin Lord, sw; Benj. B. Merrill, jw; Fred W. Adams, 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; William H. Keen, sw; Henry S. Pethick, jw; Stephen D. Morrell, s. Meeting first Monday; election, December, St. John's Day. 2
- Saint George, 16, Warren. John W. Dunbar, m; Mathew Allen, sw; Geo. Newcomb, 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, March. 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. Lewis A. Dunton, m; Dennis S. Wylie, sw; William O. Seavey, jw; Henry S. Perkins, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; 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; E. E. Gilpatrick, 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. George C. Thompson, m; Amos K. Butler, sw; Lawrence Cockburn, 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 H. Rich, m; William S. Thompson, sw; Lewis W. Moulton, jw; Charles F. Swasey, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, January. 17
- Star in the East, 60, Oldtown. Virgil E. Tucker, m; Albert H. Maddocks, sw; George F. Cathcart, 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; Everett W. Macomber, sw; Joseph H. Bates, jw; Frank I. Bishop, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 11
- Temple, 86, Westbrook. Ernest A. Bodge, m; George H. Knowlton, sw; Frederick W. Freeman, jw; Oliver A. Cobb, s. Meeting second Wednesday; election, December. 17
- Timothy Chase, 126, Belfast. Dayton F. Stephenson, m; Hiram L. Partridge, 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; James S. Fernald, 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; Leon S. Howe, jw; Rainsford J. Smith, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 1
- Tuscan, 106, Addison. Melvin L. Cleaves, m; Osmond A. Holmes, sw; Amos E. Tibbetts, jw; Amasa D. Tracy, Westcogus, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, December. 3

- Tryian, 73, Mechanic Falls. James W. Wayne, m; Winfield C. Dwinal, sw; M. C. B. Prince, jw; Lewin Jefferies, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, October. 24
- Union, 31, Union. George C. Hawes, m; E. S. Cummings, sw; William C. Morton, jw; Charles M. Lucas, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, December. 9
- United, 8, Brunswick. Gilbert M. Elliott, m; Henry C. Upton, sw; Clement M. Cobbett, jw; Lemuel H. Stover, s. Meeting second Tuesday; election, December. 14
- Unity, 58, Thorndike. Charles P. Hutchins, m; Phineas P. Shibles, sw; Daniel H. Clark, jw; John N. Tilton, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, January. 7
- Vassalboro,' 54, North Vassalboro'. Albert S. Priest, m; Matthew Hodges, sw; Charles E. Burgess, jw; Henry A. Ewer, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, September. 12
- Vernon Valley, 99, Mt. Vernon. Charles H. Severy, m; Orman F. French, 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. Hanscom, sw; Elmer E. Gardner, jw; Frank H. Wiswell, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December 27th. 3.
- Warren Phillips, 186, Cumberland Mills. Clinton S. Eastman, m; Frank H. Swan, sw; Elvin A. Leighton, jw; A. N. Waterhouse, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, October. 17
- Washburn, 193, Washburn. Calvin D. Carter, m; Jarvis B. Harris, sw; Robert W. Chapman, jw; Edward M. Hines, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 1
- Washington, 37, Lubec. Irving W. Case, m; John W. Edgecomb, sw; William Merriam, jw; William K. McBride, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, December. 2
- Waterville, 33, Waterville. Herbert M. Fuller, m; Calvin W. Gilman, sw; Frederick J. Arnold, jw; John A. Lang, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 12
- Webster, 164, Sabattus. George W. Jordan, m; Fred A. Richardson, sw; Alonzo M. Ray, jw; Judson Bangs, s. Meeting Thursday on or next before full moon; election, December. 24
- Whitney, 167, Canton. George H. Strout, m; Herbert V. Foster, sw; Asia F. Hayford, jw; Herbert J. DeShon, s. Meeting first Thursday; election, September. 15

- Wilton, 156, Wilton. Fred W. Allen, m; Daniel J. Norton, sw; Leon A. Bump, jw; Fred E. Trefethen, s. Meeting Wednesday week of full moon; election, September. 15
- Winter Harbor, 192, Winter Harbor. Bedford E. Tracy, m; Fred V. Joy, sw; Hoel H. Hanson, jw; B. Frank Sumner, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 21
- York, 22, Kennebunk. Charles H. Cole, m; ————, sw; William H. Titcomb, jw; George A. Gilpatric, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 19
- Yorkshire, 179, North Berwick. J. Wesley Webber, m; H. C. Lowden, sw; W. C. Dutch, jw; Brainerd S. Drake, s. Meeting last Friday; election, December. 19

ADDRESSES.

- JOSEPH A. LOCKE, *Grand Master*, - - - Portland, 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.
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The Eightieth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge will be held at Masonic Hall, Portland, Tuesday, May 2, 1899, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

Brethren Died during the Year,

FROM MARCH 1, 1897, TO MARCH 1, 1898.

THOSE MARKED * WERE RETURNED AS BURIED WITH MASONIC RITES.

- 1 Portland. Charles H. Chase, May; Anthony F. Ceballas, June 1; Calvin S. Evans, July 2; Freeman T. Merrill, July; Walter R. Johnson,* August 27; William H. Soule, Jan. 5; Willard A. Coggins, Jan. 10; William Chenery, Feb. 17.
- 2 Warren. George H. Caldwell,* June 27, at Melrose, Mass.—masonic funeral by lodge at Dedham, Mass.; Nelson J. Hall,* Sept. 17.
- 3 Lincoln. William G. Cunningham, Dec. 14.
- 4 Hancock. John M. Dennett, May 6; James H. Orcutt, Oct.; Isaac Perkins, Oct. 31.
- 5 Kennebec. Elhanan W. Whitcomb,* Past Master; Manley W. Boyd, June 28.
- 6 Amity. Isaac Loveland, April 18; Robert C. Duffy, Oct. 22.
- 8 United. James M. Dennett, Dec. 7.
- 9 Saco. Joseph L. Hobson, June 25; Wm. D. Burnham, Aug. 19; Charles L. Foss, Oct. 12.
- 10 Rising Virtue. Frederick M. Laughton, May 27; Sumner Laughton, Feb. 8.
- 11 Pythagorean. Amos C. Frye, Jan. 4.
- 12 Cumberland. Geo. W. Douglass,* April 3, in Los Angeles, Calif.—body brought home and buried by lodge; Otis C. Nelson,* April 19; Daniel Field,* July 4, in Oakland, Calif., aged 84 yrs. 7 mos.—masonic funeral by Oakland Lodge; Ephraim Hilton,* Aug. 19, aged 89 yrs. 7 mos.
- 13 Oriental. Frank A. Mitchell, Jan. 23.
- 14 Solar. Fred J. Parks, March 19; Joseph B. Weaver, May; Isaac W. Percy, June; James B. Percy, Aug.; Eben H. Grindell, Nov. 18; John P. W. Welch, Jan.; Henry C. Tarbox, Jan.

- 15 Orient. Erastus M. Howe, March 27; Thomas Walker, Jan. 16.
- 16 Saint George. Thelbert Spear, Oct. 27.
- 17 Ancient Landmark. George Haslet, Sept. 16, 1874; William H. True, Jr., June 9; Walter S. Hamlin,* Aug. 29; George E. Davis, Dec. 10; Anthony J. Sylvarah,* Dec. 19; William N. Davis, Jan. 12.
- 18 Oxford. Erastus Clark,* March 18; Albert H. Stuart, March 25; Geo. F. Andrews, Dec. 2; Albert E. Robinson,* Dec. 31; George H. Whitehouse, Feb. 25.
- 20 Maine. Nathaniel Smith, Jan. 11.
- 21 Oriental Star. Edmund Mitchell, April 14; Hartley S. Rich, April 14; Billings H. Ridley, Aug. 26; Lewis A. Farrar, Past Master, Sept. 17; John A. Rowell, Treasurer, Oct. 10; Geo. W. Burbank, Dec. 10.
- 22 York. William E. Towne, April 13; Orin Kimball, Past Master, Sept. 5; Oliver E. Lowell, Jan. 23.
- 23 Freeport. Winfield S. Noyes, Jan. 15.
- 24 Phoenix. Fred J. Durham, April 14; Timothy Thompson, April 25; James W. Frederick, June 5; Sanford H. Mathews, July 16; Chas. T. Richards, Oct. 18; Alonzo J. Harriman, Oct. 27; Robert H. Coombs, Nov. 9; Wilson Carter, Nov. 11; Geo. W. Burgess, Dec. 16; Percival C. Pierce, in Newman, Ga., Dec. 24; Augustus A. Hurd, Jan. 15; Franklin G. Ryan, lost at sea, Feb. 1; Charles Clark, Feb. 17.
- 25 Temple. George A. Towns, Dec. 9.
- 26 Village. Martin H. Bibber,* Feb. 8, aged 74.
- 27 Adoniram. Josiah E. Chase, Jan. 16.
- 29 Tranquil. Asa P. Moore,* May 5; Alvan Waterman, May 15; Edmond Libby,* July 4; George W. Bailey,* Nov. 12; Charles Dinsmore,* Dec. 28.
- 31 Union. Joel A. Walker,* June 13; Edwin L. Thompson,* June 17; Adelbert Stetson, September; Elijah D. Gushee,* Jan. 12.
- 32 Hermon. A. H. Potter, March 15; E. R. Protheroe, June 7; Benj. Gifford, October; Charles Osgood, Past Master, Nov. 5; G. P. H. Jewett, Nov. 8; E. G. Snow, Nov. 12; C. E. Wadsworth, Dec. 25; John H. Burnham, Jan. 16; Charles A. White, Jan. 16.
- 33 Waterville. Waldo G. Webber, April 19; George L. Robinson, July 3—long time Treasurer; Charles R. McFadden, Past Master, Aug. 7; Clark R. Caswell, Jan. 5.
- 34 Somerset. Charles A. Williams,* March 28; Amos C. Tobey, June 10; Albert M. Lyon, Jan. 2; Cecil J. Burrill, Jan. 7.
- 35 Bethlehem. Prentiss M. Fogler, March 21; Lewis B. Moore,* drowned in Kennebec River May 23; William H. Libby,* Aug. 12; Charles

- A. Price,* presiding Master at time of death Aug. 21; George H. Ramsell, Sept. 29; Orrin E. Ward,* Oct. 26; Lewis Tibbetts, Dec. 31; Cyrus A. Laughton,* Feb. 8; Stephen A. Russell, Feb. 13.
- 36 Casco. James C. Gannett, April 4, 1896; Elijah K. Morrill, Aug. 29, 1897.
- 38 Harmony. Edwin Libby, March 17; Wilbur F. Berry,* April 8; Geo. W. Lowell,* April 9.
- 39 Penobscot. Geo. W. Goff, Aug. 1; Frank E. Flanders, Sept. 11.
- 40 Lygonia. Edward W. Higgins, March 22; Lewis Friend,* April 14—Master in 1864, and Treasurer since 1873; John M. Whittaker,* July 3; Luther H. Springer,* Aug. 21; Thomas O. Tracey,* Nov. 4.
- 41 Morning Star. William S. Snow,* Sept. 26; Frank H. Leonard—not heard from for ten years and supposed to be dead.
- 43 Alna. James D. Genthner, March 15; Fred H. Hall, Aug. 2.
- 44 Piscataquis. Asa Carver, Aug. 3; James P. Kittredge.
- 45 Central. Josiah Harding, April 10; Otis B. Chase, July 17; Lorenzo Shorey,* at Lisbon Falls, Nov. 14.
- 46 Saint Croix. Geo. W. Averill, in Minnesota in 1896; William G. Anderson,* April 2; Willard B. King, April 2; Ernest W. Haycock, May 28; Joshua Thomas,* June 18; Solomon H. Jordan,* Oct. 1; Alex. Milligan, Oct. 4; Daniel M. Gardiner,* Oct. 6; Silas Waldron,* Jan. 11.
- 47 Dunlap. Oliver S. Whitney, March 19; Calvin A. Tarr, April 5; Frank F. Perkins, April 27; John M. Goodwin, June 1; Charles H. Leighton, June 4; William Hill, June 18; Levi T. Kilgore, Oct. 30; Joshua Moore, Dec. 28.
- 50 Aurora. I. Herbert Johnson,* at Owl's Head, March 6; John C. Dumont, March 13; John B. Porter, April 25; Josiah I. Brown,* at Brooksville, July 10—oldest member; Josiah Abbott,* July 14; Thomas W. Mank,* September 1st; J. Fred Hall,* P. M. and P. D. D. G. M., Nov. 1; Charles R. Cole, Dec. 20.
- 51 Saint John's. Harvey P. Carlton, June 10; Mark F. Wentworth, July 12; both worthy brothers.
- 52 Mosaic. William McComb, March 16; Llewellyn A. Lucas, July 13; Timothy L. Jamison, Oct. 1; Gilman Blood, Oct. 1; Levi O. Farnham, Oct. 31; Luther W. Stoddard, Jan. 10; William Jackson, Jan. 21.
- 53 Rural. Stephen R. Herrin,* April 12; Henry A. Hallett, Sept. 27; Bradford Sawtelle,* Nov. 12; Howard R. Bowman, Nov. 27.
- 54 Vassalboro'. Peter Williams, P. M. and P. D. D. G. M., May 31; John Nowell, Nov. 29.
- 56 Mount Moriah. William Haley, January.

- 57 King Hiram. Issachar L. Stockbridge, April 9; John F. Libby, Sept. 3; George S. Holman, Sept. 23; William W. Mitchell, Dec. 28.
- 60 Star in the East. Aaron E. Spencer, July; George A. Babb, Nov. 4.
- 61 King Solomon's. Cyrus C. Atwell, March 9, a charter member; James H. Stanwood,* Feb. 12.
- 62 King David's. Alfred D. Pendleton, October—was master of a coal barge, and lost, with all hands, in a collision off Point Judith.
- 63 Richmond. William R. Parks, May 8; Abiel Libby, Jan. 3—raised in 1850—Master in 1852, '54, '66, '67 and '82—always a zealous mason and valued townsman.
- 65 Mystic. Amasa K. Walker, May 27; A. H. Armstrong, Oct. 13; Albert A. Allen, Jan. 3; Harvey E. Atwood, Jan. 17; George N. Nickerson, Feb. 15.
- 66 Mechanics'. Alex. C. McIntosh, April.
- 67 Blue Mountain. Hiram E. Hinkley, March 21.
- 68 Mariners'. George A. Nichols, June 20—died and buried at sea; Aug. L. Larrabee,* Feb. 1—drowned in Gloucester harbor—body brought home and buried with masonic honors.
- 70 Standish. Jabez H. Hobson; Charles H. Dow, Aug. 29.
- 71 Rising Sun. Isaiah B. Connor, June 16; Luther T. Smith; Epps G. Gilley, March 29.
- 72 Pioneer. Charles L. Dunn, June 17; Charles W. Clayton, Oct. 16.
- 73 Tyrian. N. D. Haskell, April 22; S. A. Hawkes, Aug. 3; Alex. Robertson,* Sept. 6; Charles H. Caleh,* Nov. 5; A. C. Denison, Nov. 11; C. E. Stevens, Nov. 23; A. R. Giddings; S. A. Megquire,* Dec. 15; W. M. Brown, Jan. 3.
- 74 Bristol. John Butman; James E. Bradley,* Feb. 2.
- 75 Plymouth. Benj. G. Ferguson,* April 17; Orren Thorne,* May 24; Abel P. Jewett,* June 23; Job Crocker,* July 5; Dana N. Gray,* Past Master, Dec. 2.
- 77 Tremont. Nehemiah A. Harper,* March 13; John R. Rich, June; Daniel W. Manley.
- 79 Rockland. Elijah H. Wilson, March 5; John Freeman, April 25; Erasmus H. Cochran, May 23; John W. Whitman, Aug. 6—murdered at sea; William A. Tupper, Sept. 14; Willard Cates, Dec. 25.
- 80 Keystone. William H. Whitney, Nov. 26; Jotham S. Goodrich, Feb. 21.
- 81 Atlantic. George W. Green, March 19; Henry Kimball, May 18; Charles A. Rankin, June 10; Ellsworth M. Chandler, June 10; Edwin Boyden, Sept. 28; Alex. M. Parker, Nov. 24; Sylvester Marr, Jan. 1; Francis A. Waldron, Feb. 23.
- 82 Saint Paul's. Herbert H. Magner, August; Simeon J. Treat, Sept.; Robert Upham, Sept.

- 83 Saint Andrew's. Arlington B. Marston, Past Senior Grand Warden, May 6; George W. Knight, July 2; Thomas H. Wiggin, July 11; Richard V. Moore, Sept. 2; Charles H. Buswell, Oct. 7; William B. Dole, Oct. 23; Edwin N. Egery, Nov. 18.
- 84 Eureka. George W. Barter, charter member, Sept. 28; John A. Hobbs, May 2; John Morris, Dec. 28; Thomas W. Smalley, Feb. 29.
- 85 Star in the West. Levi J. Whitten, May 22; Paul Ames, July 27; Winslow Whittaker, Sept. 13; Richard Whitten, Sept. 26.
- 86 Temple. David M. Bean,* charter member, May 26, aged 71 yrs. 8 mos.; Daniel W. Knowlton, June 5, aged 65 yrs 7 mos.
- 87 Benevolent. DeWitt C. Johnson, April 22.
- 88 Narraguagus. George Strout, June.
- 89 Island. Daniel A. Hatch, April 5; Milton I. Whitecomb, May 2; both valued townsmen.
- 91 Harwood. Emerson E. Stoddard, Feb. 5; Raymond T. McCabe, Feb. 17.
- 92 Siloam. W. F. Moses; Fred A. McIntire, July 17.
- 93 Horeb. Addison P. Chesley, June 16, 1896, at Minneapolis, Minn.
- 94 Paris. Herbert W. Powers, Nov. 5.
- 95 Corinthian. Peleg G. Sanford, May 18; Samuel Kincaid, Oct. 21; Joel Richardson, Dec. 22.
- 96 Monument. Eugene A. Moody, March, at Aiken, S. C.
- 97 Bethel. Wallace Farwell, Oct. 21; C. A. Frost, out west some three years ago.
- 99 Vernon Valley. Peter Folsom, Sept. 27.
- 100 Jefferson. Abner H. Herrick,* April 14; Nathan M. Small,* May 24.
- 103 Dresden. Charles N. Moody, Oct. 20.
- 104 Dirigo. E. S. Bradstreet; Benjamin Clifford, April; David Malcolm, July; Levi Perkins, July.
- 105 Ashlar. Albert E. Frost, March 8; Thomas W. Wade, March 26; Frank L. Noble, March 29; Isaac G. Curtis, Past Master, in Somerville, Mass., of heart disease, Sept. 12, aged 67; Josiah P. Longley, Oct. 24.
- 106 Tuscan. William H. Allen, August; Oscar A. Curtis, suddenly by bursting of blood vessel, Sept. 24; John Wright, of consumption, Jan. 31.
- 107 Day Spring. Moses C. Dunnells, June 29—a worthy townsman, and a good mason.
- 109 Mount Kineo. John G. Fassett; Ansel Jackson; John M. Littlefield.
- 110 Monmouth. Charles O. Lord,* at Deering, Aug. 14; Oliver H. Frost,* Oct. 18.
- 111 Liberty. Dexter W. Bennett, March 22.

- 112 Eastern Frontier. Thomas H. Palmer, at Lubec, Oct. 4; Albion P Wellington, charter member, in California, in November.
- 113 Messalonskee. William O. Breck, in Bedford, Quebec, May 27, aged 45; Alfred Winslow,* Dec. 26, aged 84—a respected member and leading townsman.
- 114 Polar Star. Edward Poole, March 24; Geo. H. Nichols, April 22; Ebenezer A. Howard, Aug. 20; Charles Gibson, the last charter member, Sept. 8; Millard F. Marble, Nov. 9.
- 115 Buxton. Charles H. Harmon,* April 20.
- 116 Lebanon. William P. Winslow, March; Clare L. Holbrook, May 6.
- 117 Greenleaf. Oliver Murch, March 24; Leander E. Cram, Jan. 28.
- 121 Acacia. Orington B. Hunnewell, May.
- 122 Marine. John B. Webster, Sept. 9; George H. Howard, Jan. 1.
- 123 Franklin. Seth Pratt, June; John F. Pratt; Hosea S. Leighton, January.
- 124 Olive Branch. Isaac Libby.
- 126 Timothy Chase. Seth L. Milliken, April 18; William L. Littlefield, Oct.; Emery Robbins, Nov. 6; Lewis W. Pendleton, Jan. 12.
- 127 Presumpscot. John B. Jordan,* April 6; Charles O. Hawkes,* Dec. 25; John J. Williams, Feb. 12.
- 128 Eggmoggin. Prentice E. Stanley,* April 10; David F. Billings,* April 22; James A. Parker,* Sept. 27; Robert A. Friend; Andover Carter.
- 129 Quantabacook. Isaac A. Marriner,* Past Master and charter member, Nov. 8.
- 130 Trinity. Thomas H. Lowry,* Feb. 17; G. F. Burrell.
- 132 Mount Tir'em. Charles A. Flint,* April 12; Sylvanus W. Cobb,* at Durango, Colorado, June 3—buried by lodge there; Joel S. Plummer,* Feb. 13—had been Treasurer for fifteen consecutive years.
- 133 Asylum. Elisha D. Gould,* March 11; William H. Erskin,* Aug. 30; Woodbury S. Knapp,* Sept. 17; Charles S. Haynes,* Oct. 20; John M. Woodbury, at Old Orchard, Feb. 23.
- 137 Kenduskeag. Thomas J. Haines, a charter member, May 10.
- 138 Lewy's Island. William F. Bates, March 15.
- 139 Archon. Greenfield G. Bickford, Past Master, Dec. 23.
- 140 Mount Desert. Henry Tracy, Jan. 31, aged 81 yrs. 5 mos.
- 141 Augusta. Richard W. Black, March 25; Edwin L. Nash and Joseph M. Wight, accidentally drowned May 22; David B. Crosman, June 4; Greenleaf W. Ward; Harry D. Macomber, June 9; Charles B. Chick, Sept. 14; Alonzo W. Kimball, Oct. 16.
- 142 Ocean. Eber C. Freeman,* April 15.
- 144 Seaside. Arthur W. Tatner,* in Honduras, March 10, buried with

- masonic honors by two masons there; Edgar C. McClintock,* Past Master, June 14; Alden Blossom, charter member and first Secretary, Aug. 16.
- 145 Moses Webster. Freeman C. Carver,* March 21; Jerome Thomas, lost at sea in June; Hiram V. Lane,* Jan. 3.
- 146 Seabastcook. James L. Weymouth, of paralysis, March 8; John P. Billings, of heart failure, Aug. 17; David S. Wardwell, of consumption.
- 147 Evening Star. Cyrus S. Spaulding, July 3; Luther Turner, July 4; Sylvester E. Murdock, Nov. 7.
- 148 Forest. George M. Butterfield, July 27; Orrington Cushman, Dec. 6; James S. Richardson, Feb. 19.
- 149 Doric. Cladius B. Goodell,* June 3.
- 154 Mystic Tie. Jacob S. Jones, July 21. [Albert Storer, reported dead in 1896, is found to be living.]
- 155 Ancient York. Addison Slater, Jan. 6, 1895; Seward A. Parker, March 2, 1897; Thomas B. Fish, March 21; Eugene B. Earle, Nov. 26.
- 157 Cambridge. Emanuel Meands, June 27; John Russell,* Feb. 28.
- 159 Esoteric. John A. Cushman, May 18; Edward R. Jordan, Aug. 8; Francis A. Macomber, Past Master, Feb. 7; Bridgham Haynes, Feb. 11.
- 161 Carrabassett. George W. Johnson, March 3; Almander B. Penney, April 30; Lester Rowell.
- 162 Arion. George W. Grant, Sept. 8.
- 165 Molunkus. Ole Hanson, March 29.
- 172 Pine Tree. Oscar H. Libbey, dropped dead in the road at South Molunkus, June 19; Oscar M. Randall, Oct. 12.
- 173 Pleiades. Alvin Eldridge, at sea, date unknown.
- 175 Baskahegan. Edward E. Lord.
- 177 Rising Star. William S. Haney, Past Master, May 23; Elisha R. Bowden,* Past Master, and Past D. D. G. M., Aug. 7; Jerome Sillers,* Jan. 5.
- 180 Hiram. George F. Warren, March 16.
- 182 Granite. Hannibal McAlister, March 19.
- 183 Deering. Alpheus Alden, July 30.
- 185 Bar Harbor. James E. Berry,* April 12—the first man to receive a degree in the lodge; Elmer G. Brewer,* charter member, Sept. 18.
- 186 Warren Phillips. Calvin S. Walker, Jan. 8.
- 188 Jonesport. Newell Rumery, of heart disease, March 18, he was senior Past Master and a charter member; George W. Beal, of paralysis, March 31.

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- 194 Euclid. James M. Snell, March 2; Eri B. Taylor, Sept. 28; James Emery, Dec. 20.
- 195 Reliance. Thomas Knowlton, March 17; Edwin D. Gray, March 21.
- 199 Bingham. Joseph C. Webster, Jan. 28.
- 200 Columbia. Leonard Hilton, Dec. 10.

Grand Lodges and

GRAND LODGES.	GRAND MASTERS.
Alabama, Dec. 7, 1897,	James A. Bilbro, Gadsden.
Arizona, Nov. 9, 1897,	Joseph B. Creamer, Phoenix.
Arkansas, Nov. 16, 1897,	J. B. Baker, Melbourne.
British Columbia, June 17, 1897,	E. D. McLaren, Vancouver.
California, Oct. 12, 1897,	Thomas Flint, Jr., San Juan.
Canada, July 21, 1897,	William Gibson, Beamsville.
Cuba, March 25, 1894,	Segundo Alvarez, Havana.
Colorado, Sept. 21, 1897,	Cromwell Tucker, Denver.
Connecticut, Jan. 19, 1898,	Frank W. Havens, Hartford
Delaware, Oct. 6, 1897,	James E. Dutton, Seaford.
Dist. of Columbia, Nov. 10, 1897,	Samuel C. Palmer, Washington.
England, 1898,	Prince of Wales.
Florida, Jan. 18, 1898,	James M. Hilliard, Pensacola.
Georgia, Oct. 26, 1897,	James W. Taylor, Luthersville.
Idaho, Sept. 14, 1897,	George M. Waterhouse, Weiser.
Illinois, Oct. 5, 1897,	Edward Cook, Chicago.
Indiana, May 24, 1898,	Simeon S. Johnson, Jeffersonville.
Indian Territory, Aug. 10, 1897,	James A. Scott, Muskogee.
Iowa, June 7, 1898,	Crom Bowen, Des Moines.
Ireland, March 1, 1898,	Duke of Abercorn, Dublin.
Kansas, Feb. 16, 1898,	Maurice L. Stone, Wamego.
Kentucky, Oct. 19, 1897,	Reginald H. Thompson, Louisville.
Louisiana, Feb. 14, 1898,	A. C. Allen, Franklin.
Maine, May 3, 1898,	Joseph A. Locke, Portland.
Manitoba, June 9, 1897,	Thomas Robinson, Winnipeg.
Maryland, Nov. 16, 1897,	Thomas J. Shryock, Baltimore.
Massachusetts, Dec. 27, 1897,	Charles C. Hutchinson, Lowell.
Michigan, Jan. 25, 1898,	James Bradley, Port Huron.
Minnesota, Jan. 12, 1898,	Alonzo T. Stebbins, Rochester.
Mississippi, Feb. 10, 1898,	John M. Stone, Jackson.
Missouri, Oct. 19, 1897,	F. J. Tygard, Butler.
Montana, Sept. 15, 1897,	Edward C. Day, Helena.
Nebraska, June 16, 1897,	John B. Dinsmore, Sutton.

Addresses of Grand Officers.

GRAND SECRETARIES.
CHAIRMEN COM. CORRESPONDENCE.

Henry C. Armstrong, Montgomery.	Palmer J. Pillans, Belknap.
George J. Roskrige, Tucson.	Morris Goldwater, Prescott.
Fay Hempstead, Little Rock.	Sam. H. Davidson, Evening Shade.
Walter J. Quinlan, Victoria.	W. A. D. Smith, New Westminster.
George Johnson, San Francisco.	William A. Davies, San Francisco.
John J. Mason, Hamilton, Ont.	Henry Robertson, Collingwood.
José F. Pellon, Havana.	Francisco de P. Rodriguez, Havana.
Ed. C. Parmelee, Denver.	Lawrence N. Greenleaf, Denver.
John H. Barlow, Hartford.	John H. Barlow, Hartford.
Benjamin F. Bartram, Wilmington.	Lewis H. Jackson, Wilmington.
William R. Singleton, Washington.	William R. Singleton, Washington.
Edward Letchworth, London.	None.
Wilber P. Webster, Jacksonville.	William A. McLean, Jacksonville.
William A. Wolihin, Macon.	Whiteford S. Ramsay, Dublin.
Theophilus W. Randall, Boise.	Theophilus W. Randall, Boise.
Joseph H. C. Dill, Bloomington.	Joseph Robbins, Quincy.
William H. Smythe, Indianapolis.	Nicholas R. Ruckle, Indianapolis.
Joseph S. Murrow, Atoka.	Joseph S. Murrow, Atoka.
Theodore S. Parvin, Cedar Rapids.	James C. W. Coxe, Washington.
Henry E. Flavelle, Dublin.	None.
Albert K. Wilson, Topeka.	John C. Postlethwaite, Jewell City.
Henry B. Grant, Louisville.	William W. Clarke, Owensboro.
Richard Lambert, New Orleans.	Herman C. Duncan, Alexandria.
Stephen Berry, Portland.	Josiah H. Drummond, Portland.
William G. Scott, Winnipeg.	William G. Scott, Winnipeg.
Jacob H. Medairy, Baltimore.	Edward T. Schultz, Baltimore.
Sereno D. Nickerson, Boston.	None.
Jefferson S. Conover, Coldwater.	Jefferson S. Conover, Coldwater.
Thomas Montgomery, St. Paul.	Irving Todd, Hastings.
John L. Power, Jackson.	Andrew H. Barkley, Crawford.
John D. Vincil, St. Louis.	John D. Vincil, St. Louis.
Cornelius Hedges, Helena.	Cornelius Hedges, Helena.
William R. Bowen, Omaha.	William R. Bowen, Omaha.

GRAND LODGES.	GRAND MASTERS.
Nevada, June 14, 1898,	Matthew Kyle, Virginia City.
New Brunswick, Aug. 24, 1897,	Thomas Walker, St. John.
New Hampshire, May 18, 1898,	John McLane, Milford.
New Jersey, January 26, 1898,	Josiah W. Ewan, Mt. Holly.
New Mexico, Oct. 4, 1897,	John W. Poe, Roswell.
New South Wales, June, 1897,	Sir Joseph Palmer Abbott, Sydney.
New York, June 9, 1898,	William A. Sutherland, Rochester.
New Zealand, April 28, 1898,	Richard John Seddon, Wellington.
North Carolina, Jan. 11, 1898,	Walter E. Moore, Webster.
North Dakota, June 21, 1898,	George H. Keyes, Ellendale.
Nova Scotia, June 9, 1897,	Thomas B. Flint, Yarmouth.
Ohio, Oct. 20, 1897,	Nelson Williams, Hamilton.
Oklahoma, Feb. 9, 1897,	Albert W. Fisher, Norman.
Oregon, June 16, 1897,	W. H. Hobson, Salem.
Pennsylvania, Dec. 27, 1897,	William J. Kelley, Philadelphia.
Peru, 1898,	J. Arturo Ego Aguirre, Lima.
P. E. Island, June 24, 1897,	Leonard Morris, Summerside.
Quebec, Jan. 27, 1897,	E. T. D. Chambers, Quebec.
Rhode Island, May 16, 1898,	Cyrus M. Van Slyck, Providence.
Scotland, 1896,	Sir Charles Dalrymple, Newhailes.
South Australia, April 21, 1897,	S. J. Way, Adelaide.
South Carolina, Dec. 14, 1897,	Jacob T. Barron, Columbia.
South Dakota, June 8, 1897,	Albert W. Coe, Deadwood.
Tasmania, Jan. 28, 1897,	Charles E. Davies, Hobart.
Tennessee, Jan. 26, 1898,	William H. Bumpas, Nashville.
Texas, Dec. 7, 1897,	John L. Terrell, Terrell.
Utah, Jan. 18, 1898,	John F. Hardie, Salt Lake City.
Vermont, June 15, 1898,	Daniel N. Nicholson, Burlington.
Victoria, May 19, 1897,	Lord Brassey, Melbourne.
Virginia, Dec. 7, 1897,	R. T. W. Duke, Jr., Charlottesville.
Washington, June 8, 1897,	Archibald W. Frater, Snohomish.
West Virginia, Nov. 9, 1897,	S. N. Myers, Martinsburg.
Wisconsin, June 8, 1897,	Nathan C. Giffin, Fond du Lac.
Wyoming, Sept. 14, 1897,	E. P. Rohrbaugh, Cheyenne.

GRAND SECRETARIES.	CHAIRMAN COM. CORRESPONDENCE.
Chauncey N. Noteware, Carson.	A. D. Bird, 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.	John B. Trivett, Sydney.
Edward M. L. Ehlers, New York.	Jesse B. Anthony, Troy.
Rev. Wm. Ronaldson, Christchurch.	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.
Neil McKelvie, Summerside.	Kenneth J. Martin, Summerside.
John H. Isaacson, Montreal.	W. H. Whyte, Montreal.
Edwin Baker, Providence.	Henry W. Rugg, Providence.
D. Murray Lyon, Edinburg.	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, Little Rock.
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—JAMES R. SHEEHAN, Vinita.
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—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—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—
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, Collinsville.
Utah—WILLIAM THOMAS DALBY, Salt Lake City.
Vermont—ALBRO F. NICHOLS, St. Johnsbury.
Victoria—BENJAMIN DOUGHTY SMITH, Melbourne.
Virginia—CHARLES A. NESBITT, Richmond.
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—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—
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.
Virginia—WINFIELD S. CHOATE, Augusta.
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,	"	

* Recapitulation---1898. *

Lodges enrolled,	200
“ extinct,	8
“ working,	192
“ under dispensation,	3
“ chartered at communication 1898,	3
“ represented at communication 1898,	177
“ “ by proxy exclusively,	59
Number of representatives,	240
Lodges to make returns,	192
Making returns in time,	192
Initiated,	774
Raised,	768
Affiliated,	80
Re-instated,	54
Lodges v. d. and errors,	90
Total increase,	992
Dimitted,	169
Died,	407
Suspended for unmasonic conduct,	0
Expelled,	2
Lost membership by non-payment of dues,	318
Total decrease,	896
Net increase,	106
Members, March 1, 1898,	22,191
Grand Lodge Receipts,	\$9,075.03
“ “ Disbursements,	\$7,996.64
Amount of Charity Fund,	\$33,002.91

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Yours Fraternally
Joseph A. Locke.

GRAND LODGE OF MAINE.

1899

Eightieth Annual Communication.

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND,
Tuesday, May 2, 1899.

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. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,	Grand Master;
R. W. WINFIELD S. CHOATE,	Deputy Grand Master;
" ELMER P. SPOFFORD,	Senior Grand Warden;
" MILLEARD M. CASWELL,	Junior Grand Warden;
" MARQUIS F. KING,	Grand Treasurer;
" STEPHEN BERRY,	Grand Secretary;
" CHARLES D. SMITH,	Cor. Grand Secretary;
W. & P.-v. JOHN GIBSON,	Grand Chaplain;
W. WILLIAM J. BURNHAM,	" Marshal;
" FRANKLIN R. REDLON,	98 " Senior Deacon;
" ERMON D. EASTMAN,	" Junior Deacon;
" JACOB R. STEWART,	" Steward;
" CHARLES W. CROSBY,	" "
" EDWIN A. PORTER,	" "
" WILLIAM A. REMICK,	" "
" WILLIAM N. HOWE,	" Sword Bearer;
" WILLIAM O. FOX,	" Pursuivant;
" ALBERT M. AMES,	" "
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. JOHN GIBSON.

On motion of Bro. HORACE H. BURBANK,

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 this communication.

Bro. ARTHUR H. BERRY was appointed Assistant Grand Secretary.

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

The Grand Master then appointed the following

STANDING COMMITTEES.

On Doings of the Grand Officers.

HENRY R. TAYLOR, HORACE H. BURBANK, WILLIAM R. G. ESTES.

On the Pay Roll.

A. C. T. KING, ELVERT E. PARKER, WALTER S. GLIDDEN.

On Unfinished Business.

JOSEPH M. HAYES, ARCHIE L. TALBOT, CHARLES E. MESERVEY.

TRANSPORTATION.

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

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, }
 Tuesday, May 2, 1899. }

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your Committee on Transportation made the necessary arrangements with transportation lines, and all the lodges and members were notified of the terms.

Fraternally submitted,

STEPHEN BERRY,
 W. FREEMAN LORD, } Committee.
 CHARLES M. SLEEPER, }

CREDENTIALS.

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

IN GRAND LODGE OF MAINE, }
 MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 2, 1899. }

Your Committee on Credentials have attended to their duties, and ask leave to report that they find the lodges represented as follows:

- 1 *Portland*, by George W. Sturgis, M; Thomas E. McDonald, SW;
 Charles C. Berry, JW; C. Fred Berry, Proxy.
- 2 *Warren*, by Francis L. Talbot, M; Herbert Harris, Proxy.
- 3 *Lincoln*, by Charles E. Cowley, Proxy.
- 4 *Hancock*, by John F. Rea, M.
- 5 ——— *Kennebec*, not represented.
- 6 *Amity*, by Forest G. Currier, Proxy.
- 7 *Eastern*, by Walter F. Bradish, M.
- 8 *United*, by Gilbert M. Elliott, M; Henry C. Upton, SW.
- 9 *Saco*, by Ralph H. Burbank, Proxy.
- 10 *Rising Virtue*, by Fred C. Chalmers, JW.
- 11 *Pythagorean*, by Frank Sawtelle, Proxy.
- 12 *Cumberland*, by Henry W. Loring, M.
- 13 *Oriental*, John L. Meserve, M; Frank A. Webb, SW; David C. Saunders, JW.
- 14 *Solar*, by Walter S. Glidden, SW; W. Scott Shorey, Proxy.
- 15 *Orient*, by William H. Stackpole, SW; Edward G. Weston, Proxy.
- 16 *St. George*, by Oscar E. Starrett, Proxy.
- 17 *Ancient Landmark*, by George H. Owen, M; Winslow E. Howell, SW;
 Charles F. Tobie, JW; Fred E. Bickford, Proxy.
- 18 *Oxford*, by Lee M. Smith, M; Herman L. Bartlett, JW; George W. Holmes, Proxy.
- 19 *Felicity*, by William A. Remick, M.

- 20 *Maine*, by George C. Purinton, M; Enoch O. Greenleaf, Proxy.
- 21 *Oriental Star*, by Fred Raymond, Proxy.
- 22 *York*, by William Titcomb, SW.
- 23 *Freeport*, by Charles W. Bennett, M; Tim Pratt, JW; Freeman M. Grant, Proxy.
- 24 *Phœnix*, by Clifford J. Pattee, JW.
- 25 *Temple*, by Everett W. Macomber, M; Elliott Wood, SW.
- 26 *Village*, by Frank H. Purinton, Proxy.
- 27 *Adoniram*, by Frank M. Bradbury, Proxy.
- 28 *Northern Star*, by George L. Hovey, M.
- 29 *Tranquil*, by Albert E. Verrill, M; Murray B. Watson, JW; Elbridge G. Heath, Proxy.
- 30 *Blazing Star*, by Robert B. Stratton, M; Waldo Pettengill, Proxy.
- 31 *Union*, by George C. Hawes, M.
- 32 *Hermon*, by William L. Powers, M; Fred D. Loring, SW.
- 33 *Waterville*, by John M. Webber, M; James F. Hill, SW; Franklin Walker, Proxy.
- 34 *Somerset*, by Charles H. Gardner, M.
- 35 *Bethlehem*, by Thomas H. Bodge, M; James E. Kingsley, SW; Frederick W. Plaisted, Proxy.
- 36 *Casco*, by David H. Bennett, M; Edwin M. White, JW; Louis P. Pomeroy, Proxy.
- 37 *Washington*, by Irving W. Case, M; Alfred Small, Proxy.
- 38 *Harmony*, by Moses E. Little, M.
- 39 *Penobscot*, by Elmer A. Brewster, Proxy.
- 40 *Lygonia*, by Elvert E. Parker, M.
- 41 *Morning Star*, by William E. Tarr, M; Cyrus Kindrick, Proxy.
- 42 *Freedom*, by Autine W. Sawyer, M.
- 43 *Alna*, by Edward E. Philbrook, Proxy.
- 44 *Piscataquis*, by Martin L. Durgin, M; Abiel E. Leonard, Proxy.
- 45 *Central*, by Gustavus J. Nelson, M.
- 46 *St. Croix*, by Thomas S. Boles, Proxy.
- 47 *Dunlap*, by Lytton E. Staples, M.
- 48 *Lafayette*, by Sewall J. Hawes, M.
- 49 *Meridian Splendor*, by Albert L. Oakes, M; Austin I. Harvey, Proxy.
- 50 *Aurora*, by Clarence C. Cross, M; Albert H. Newbert, SW; Charles E. Meservey, Proxy.
- 51 *St. John's*, by Walter H. Downs, Proxy.
- 52 *Mosaic*, by William C. Woodbury, M.
- 53 *Rural*, by William P. Marble, JW; Nathan A. Benson, Proxy.
- 54 *Vassalboro*, by William S. Bradley, Proxy.
- 55 *Fraternal*, by James H. Littlefield, M; John M. Akers, Proxy.

- 56 ——— *Mount Moriah*, not represented.
- 57 *King Hiram*, by William M. Kidder, Proxy.
- 58 *Unity*, by Charles P. Hutchins, M.
- 59 *Mount Hope*,—*Charter surrendered, 1879.*
- 60 *Star in the East*, by Albert H. Maddocks, M; John H. Morrison,
Proxy.
- 61 *King Solomon's*, by George L. West, M; Albert M. Miller, Proxy.
- 62 *King David's*, by Alton E. Andrews, M; James W. Carver, Proxy.
- 63 *Richmond*, by Charles E. Tallman, Proxy.
- 64 ——— *Pacific*, not represented.
- 65 *Mystic*, by William H. Tribou, Proxy.
- 66 *Mechanic's*, by Robert M. Hutchinson, M.
- 67 *Blue Mountain*, by Mason Parker, M.
- 68 *Mariners'*, by Clifton Whittum, M.
- 69 *Howard*, by Edwin Flemant, M.
- 70 *Standish*, by Ralph W. E. Shaw, Proxy.
- 71 *Rising Sun*, by Asher B. Hutchins, M.
- 72 *Pioneer*, by Silas S. Gilman, Proxy.
- 73 *Tyrian*, by James W. Wayne, M; Oren H. Guptill, Proxy.
- 74 *Bristol*, by Calvin V. Robbins, Proxy.
- 75 *Plymouth*, by Walter G. Loud, M.
- 76 *Arundel*, by Joseph H. Jeffrey, Proxy.
- 77 *Tremont*, by Byron H. Mayo, M.
- 78 *Crescent*, by George W. Allan, Proxy.
- 79 *Rockland*, by Alexander A. Beaton, Proxy.
- 80 *Keystone*, by Wright S. Cram, M; Corydon Felker, Proxy.
- 81 *Atlantic*, by James E. Leighton, M; Fred H. Cobb, SW; Elihu H.
Rice, JW.
- 82 *St. Paul's*, by Perez B. Cooper, Proxy.
- 83 *St. Andrew's*, by Edwin Lord, SW; George M. Fletcher, Proxy.
- 84 *Eureka*, by Charles G. Crocker, Proxy.
- 85 *Star in the West*, by Lindley H. Mosher, Proxy.
- 86 *Temple*, by George H. Knowlton, M; Fred E. Burns, Proxy.
- 87 *Benevolent*, by John E. Winslow, M.
- 88 *Narraguagus*, by Phineas B. Guptill, SW.
- 89 *Island*, by Joseph A. Sprague, M; Edwin S. Preble, SW.
- 90 *Hiram Abiff*,—*Charter revoked 1868.*
- 91 *Harwood*, by Willis H. Allen, M.
- 92 *Siloam*, by Charles H. Crummett, JW.
- 93 *Horeb*, by Philip J. Mills, Proxy.
- 94 *Paris*, by A. C. Thomas King, Proxy.
- 95 *Corinthian*, by Calvin Blake, Proxy.

- 96 *Monument*, by Charles H. Fogg, M.
 97 *Bethel*, by Davis G. Lovejoy, Proxy.
 98 *Katahdin*, by John Jackman, M.
 99 *Vernon Valley*, by Melvin S. Gordon, SW.
 100 *Jefferson*, by James L. Bowker, M.
 101 *Nezinscot*, by Harry W. Burdin, M; E. Herbert Cole, SW.
 102 *Marsh River*, by Forrest K. Roberts, M.
 103 *Dresden*, by Wilbur F. Cate, Proxy.
 104 ————*Dirigo*, not represented.
 105 *Ashlar*, by Edward S. Stetson, M.
 106 *Tuscan*, by Melvin H. Cleaves, M; Osmond A. Holmes, SW.
 107 *Day Spring*, by Ai Q. Mitchell, M.
 108 *Relief*,—*Charter recalled 1894*.
 109 *Mount Kineo*, by Alexander F. Edes, M.
 110 *Monmouth*, by John M. Prescott, M.
 111 *Liberty*, by Oren W. Ripley, M.
 112 *Eastern Frontier*, by Herbert W. Trafton, M.
 113 *Messalonskee*, by Orestes E. Crowell, Proxy.
 114 *Polar Star*, by Eben J. Marston, M; John W. Ballou, Proxy.
 115 *Buxton*, by John Berryman, Proxy.
 116 *Lebanon*, by Corydon E. Veasie, SW.
 117 *Greenleaf*, by Ezra B. Pike, M; James C. Ayer, Proxy.
 118 ————*Drummond*, not represented.
 119 *Pownal*, by Albert M. Ames, Proxy.
 120 *Meduncook*,—*Charter surrendered, 1884*.
 121 *Acacia*, by Marcus W. Eveleth, M.
 122 *Marine*, by Frank A. Gross, M; John J. Spofford, Proxy.
 123 ————*Franklin*, not represented.
 124 *Olive Branch*, by Henry D. Worth, M.
 125 *Meridian*, by Orin E. Libby, M; Nelson C. Smith, Proxy.
 126 *Timothy Chase*, by S. Augustus Parker, Proxy.
 127 *Presumpscot*, by Frank H. Haskell, M.
 128 *Eggemoggin*, by Henry L. Morgan, M.
 129 *Quantabacook*, by Alanson G. Caswell, Proxy.
 130 *Trinity*, by Leon S. Howe, M.
 131 *Lookout*, by Forrest B. Stevens, M.
 132 *Mount Tir'em*, by Charles D. Morse, Proxy.
 133 *Asylum*, by Charles W. Crosby, Proxy.
 134 *Trojan*,—*Consolidated with Star in the West Lodge, No. 85, in 1888*.
 135 *Riverside*, by Wilbur B. Tibbetts, M.
 136 *Ionic*,—*Charter surrendered, 1882*.
 137 *Kenduskeag*, by F. Ernest Harvey, M.

- 138 *Lewy's Island*, by Fred A. Johnson, JW.
139 *Archon*, by Sumner J. Chadbourne, Proxy.
140 *Mount Desert*, by Clifford B. Richardson, SW; E. Webster French, Proxy.
141 *Augusta*, by Manning S. Campbell, Proxy.
142 *Ocean*, by Charles H. West, Proxy.
143 *Preble*, by Alonzo Leavitt, Proxy.
144 *Seaside*, by Oscar S. Yates, Proxy.
145 *Moses Webster*, by C. E. Boman, Proxy.
146 *Sebasticook*, by Willard W. Eastman, M; John H. McGorrill, Proxy.
147 *Evening Star*, by Alfred Cole, Proxy.
148 *Forest*, by Charles D. Chase, M.
149 *Doric*, by Walter C. Jackson, M; William A. Mills, JW; Albert W. Meserve, Proxy.
150 *Rabboni*, by T. Lloyd Pratt, M; Frank A. Conant, JW; Thomas H. Longley, Proxy.
151 *Excelsior*, by Rodel A. Packard, Proxy.
152 *Crooked River*, by Albion M. Hancock, Proxy.
153 *Delta*, by John A. Farrington, Proxy.
154 *Mystic Tie*, by Luke F. Chandler, Proxy.
155 *Ancient York*, by Harry E. Plummer, M; John A. Underwood, Proxy.
156 *Wilton*, by Daniel J. Norton, M.
157 ——— *Cambridge*, not represented.
158 ——— *Anchor*, not represented.
159 *Esoteric*, by Albert K. Cushman, SW.
160 *Parian*, by Joel C. Pease, Proxy.
161 *Carrabassett*, by Walter H. Smith, M.
162 ——— *Arion*, not represented.
163 *Pleasant River*, by Erwin G. Ryder, M.
164 *Webster*, by Frank E. Sleeper, Proxy.
165 *Molunkus*, by Freeman C. Harris, M.
166 *Neguemkeag*, by George D. Cook, SW.
167 *Whitney*, by Herbert J. DeShon, Proxy.
168 *Composite*, by Harry A. Fowles, M; Perley E. Speed, SW.
169 *Shepherd's River*, by Melville Gould, Proxy.
170 *Caribou*, by Albert J. Taylor, SW.
171 *Naskeag*, by Stephen E. McFarland, M.
172 *Pine Tree*, by John E. Clark, Proxy.
173 *Pleiades*, by Henry M. Leighton, Proxy.
174 *Lynde*, by George E. Barnes, M.
175 *Baskahegan*, by David C. Parker, Proxy.
176 *Palestine*,—*Consolidated with Dunlap, No. 47, March 19, 1875.*

M. W.	ALBRO E. CHASE,	- - - - -	P. G. M.
"	HENRY R. TAYLOR,	- - - - -	"
"	HORACE H. BURBANK,	- - - - -	"
R. W.	THADDEUS R. SIMONTON,	- - - - -	P. S. G. W.
"	SUMNER J. CHADBOURNE,	- - - - -	"
"	JOHN B. REDMAN,	- - - - -	"
"	JOSEPH M. HAYES,	- - - - -	"
"	LEANDER M. KENNISTON,	- - - - -	"
"	DANIEL P. BOYNTON,	- - - - -	"
"	GEORGE R. SHAW,	- - - - -	"
"	JOSEPH A. LOCKE,	- - - - -	"
"	HERBERT HARRIS,	- - - - -	"
"	WINFIELD S. CHOATE,	- - - - -	"
"	ALBERT S. PENLEY,	- - - - -	"
"	ALFRED S. KIMBALL,	- - - - -	"
"	JOHN W. BALLOU,	- - - - -	P. J. G. W.
"	A. M. WETHERBEE,	- - - - -	"
"	EDWIN HOWARD VOSE,	- - - - -	"
"	ARCHIE LEE TALBOT,	- - - - -	"
"	AUGUSTUS BAILEY,	- - - - -	"
"	ALGERNON M. ROAK,	- - - - -	"
"	EDMUND B. MALLET,	- - - - -	"
"	SAMUEL L. MILLER,	- - - - -	"
"	HOWARD D. SMITH,	- - - - -	"
"	WM. FREEMAN LORD,	- - - - -	"
"	GUSTAVUS H. CARGILL,	- - - - -	"
"	MOSES TAIT,	- - - - -	"
"	BENJAMIN L. HADLEY,	- - - - -	"
"	ENOCH O. GREENLEAF,	- - - - -	"

And Grand Officers as follows:

M. W.	JOSEPH A. LOCKE,	- - - - -	Grand Master.
R. W.	WINFIELD S. CHOATE,	- - - - -	Deputy Grand Master.
"	ELMER P. SPOFFORD,	- - - - -	Senior Grand Warden.
"	MILLARD M. CASWELL,	- - - - -	Junior Grand Warden.
"	MARQUIS F. KING,	- - - - -	Grand Treasurer.
"	STEPHEN BERRY,	- - - - -	Grand Secretary.
"	CHARLES D. SMITH,	- - - - -	Cor. Grand Secretary.
"	HERBERT S. SLEEPER,	- - - - -	D. D. G. M. 1st Dist.
"	EDWARD F. DAVIES,	- - - - -	" 4th "
"	FRED H. SAVAGE,	- - - - -	" 5th "
"	FRED C. BARTON,	- - - - -	" 6th "
"	ALBERT W. WARD,	- - - - -	" 7th "

R. W.	JAMES E. WENTWORTH, - - -	D. D. G. M.	8th Dist.
"	FRANK A. PETERSON, - - -	"	9th "
"	WILLARD T. MARR, - - -	"	10th "
"	LEVI E. JONES, - - -	"	11th "
"	JAMES H. WITHERELL, - - -	"	12th "
"	HERMAN W. S. LOVEJOY, - - -	"	13th "
"	ROBERT W. CARR, - - -	"	14th "
"	ARTHUR C. RICKER, - - -	"	16th "
"	HARLAN P. BABB, - - -	"	17th "
"	ISAAC F. JEWETT, - - -	"	18th "
"	ISAAC P. GOOCH, - - -	"	19th "
"	EDWIN A. REED, - - -	"	20th "
"	JAMES E. PARSONS, - - -	"	21st "
"	GEORGE M. BOND, - - -	"	22d "
"	FRANK H. DEXTER, - - -	"	23d "
"	GEORGE H. GODING, - - -	"	24th "
"	J. FRANK BRYSON, - - -	"	25th "
W. & Rev.	JOHN H. GIBSON, - - -	Grand	Chaplain.
W.	WILLIAM J. BURNHAM, - - -	"	Marshal.
"	ERMON D. EASTMAN, - - -	"	Junior Deacon.
"	JACOB R. STEWART, - - -	"	Steward.
"	CHARLES W. CROSBY, - - -	"	"
"	EDWIN A. PORTER, - - -	"	"
"	WILLIAM A. REMICK, - - -	"	"
"	WILLIAM N. HOWE, - - -	"	Sword Bearer.
"	WILLIAM O. FOX, - - -	"	Pursuivant.
"	ALBERT M. AMES, - - -	"	"
M. W.	FRANK E. SLEEPER, - - -	"	Lecturer.
W.	WALTER S. SMITH, - - -	"	Organist.
"	WARREN O. CARNEY, - - -	"	Tyler.

There are also present the following Grand Representatives from other Grand Lodges:

Alabama—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.	Dist. of Columbia—	STEPHEN BERRY.
Arizona—	AUGUSTUS BAILEY.	Florida—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.
Arkansas—	JOHN W. BALLOU.	Georgia—	" " "
British Columbia—		Idaho—	ALBRO E. CHASE.
	THADDEUS R. SIMONTON.	Illinois—	JOSEPH A. LOCKE.
California—	HENRY R. TAYLOR.	Indian Territory—	
Canada—	SUMNER J. CHADBOURNE.		JOSEPH M. HAYES.
Colorado—	FRANK E. SLEEPER.	Kansas—	ARCHIE LEE TALBOT.
Cuba—	E. HOWARD VOSE.	Louisiana—	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.

Manitoba—A. M. WETHERBEE.	North Carolina—WM. R. G. ESTES.
Maryland—SAMUEL L. MILLER.	North Dakota—ALGERNON M. ROAK.
Michigan—FESSENDEN I. DAY.	Nova Scotia—JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.
Minnesota—JOHN B. REDMAN.	Ohio—WILLIAM J. BURNHAM.
Mississippi—CHAS. I. COLLAMORE.	Oregon—MARQUIS F. KING.
Missouri—DANIEL P. BOYNTON.	Quebec—JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.
Montana—HENRY R. MILLETT.	Rhode Island—HORACE H. BURBANK.
Nebraska—EDWARD P. BURNHAM.	Texas—JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.
Nevada—LEANDER M. KENNISTON.	Utah—HIRAM CHASE.
N. Hampshire—HOWARD D. SMITH.	Vermont—GEORGE R. SHAW.
New Jersey—JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.	Virginia—WINFIELD S. CHOATE.
New York—MARQUIS F. KING.	West Virginia—ALBERT M. PENLEY.
New Zealand—HERBERT HARRIS.	Wisconsin—EDMUND B. MALLET.

Fraternally submitted,

WM. N. HOWE,	} Committee.
FRANCIS L. TALBOT,	
CHARLES E. SNOW,	

Voted, That the report of the Committee on Credentials be recommitted, and they be authorized to make additions and corrections, and that they make their final report at the opening of the session on Wednesday.

The Grand Master then read his

ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Officers and Brethren of the Grand Lodge:

It is my happy privilege, for the second time, to bid you welcome to our annual communication.

Like as the Mohammedans of old, in the splendid times of the Caliphs, turned their eyes towards Mecca, and went thither on their annual pilgrimages, so as the time draws nigh we look forward with pleasant anticipation to these annual communications and come hither with hearts overflowing with kindness and good will. We delight to meet those whom we have known for years, whom we have learned to love and respect, and these meetings grow dearer and dearer as the years roll by. We cordially welcome those coming for the first time, and trust that

this coming may be but the prelude to many years of usefulness in the cause we so much love, and of great benefit to themselves.

We have cause to rejoice, as masons, in the general prosperity of our Fraternity; as residents of this state, in the continued happiness of the people, the renewed business activity and in the new industries springing up here and there, causing a demand for labor and giving increased wages; and as citizens of this great country, in the momentous events transpiring during the year past, which under the guidance of the over-ruling hand of the Grand Architect of the Universe, whom we worship, has caused every other people and government on the face of the earth to proclaim us a Nation.

Twenty-nine years ago I first became a member of this Grand Lodge, as Senior Warden of Portland Lodge, No. 1. As I look around and in memory review the scenes of the past, I miss the benevolent faces of many who were then, and have since been, accustomed to meet here on these occasions, and who in their lives and actions illustrated the true principles of Masonry. Freeman Bradford, Oliver Gerrish, John H. Lynde, Moses Dodge, Henry H. Dickey, Arlington B. Marston, William H. Smith, Albert Moore, William Curtis, George E. Taylor, Noel B. Nutt, Stephen J. Young, Ira Berry, who was our Grand Secretary for thirty-six years, and many others, have passed from our vision into the more perfect life beyond. Their work here was well done, and they now enjoy the bliss of God's people in the "place prepared for them" from the foundation of the world.

"There is no Death! what seems so is transition;
This life of mortal breath
Is but a suburb of the life elysian,
Whose portal we call Death."

'Tis well, my brethren, before entering upon the active duties of the hour to pause in memory of the virtues and worth of the four hundred and nineteen members of our subordinate lodges who have entered the pearly gates of their eternal home, since last we met.

“Sweet is the memory of departed friends.
Like the mellow rays of the declining sun,
It falls tenderly, yet sadly, on the heart.”

We are thankful that the permanent membership of this Grand Lodge remains unbroken during the year. Not so, however, with many of our sister Grand Jurisdictions, with whom we would unite in paying the tribute of respect to their honored dead.

Obituaries of the following named Grand and Past Grand Officers have been received.

MONTANA.—Bro. James R. Boyce, Past Grand Master in 1872, died in Butte, April 23d, 1898, aged 80 years.

KANSAS.—Bro. Henry C. Cook, Past Grand Master in 1887, died at Kirksville, Mo., June 12th, 1898, aged 55 yrs. He was R. E. Grand Commander in 1886 and M. E. Grand High Priest in 1891.

Bro. John Moses Price, Past Grand Master, died at Price Villa, Atchison, Kansas, October 19th, 1898, aged 69 years. He was Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter, in 1873-74, and Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery in 1871.

NORTH DAKOTA.—Bro. William H. Best, Past Grand Master in 1895, departed this life May 3, 1898, aged 48 years. He was Grand Lecturer from 1890 to 1895.

Bro. Thomas F. Wilder, Past Senior Grand Warden of the territorial Grand Lodge of Dakota, died at Spokane, Washington, Oct. 25, 1898, aged 62 years.

VIRGINIA.—Bro. John Patterson Fitzgerald, Grand Master in 1894 and 1895, died June 10, 1898.

Bro. William Francis Drinkard, Past Grand Master, died at Richmond, July 11, 1898, aged 73 years.

Bro. John R. Purdie, Grand Master in 1844-46, died Nov. 10, 1898, aged 79 years.

COLORADO.—Bro. John W. Widderfield, Past Deputy Grand Master, died at Trinidad, Colorado, July 4, 1898, aged 72 yrs.

Bro. Francis L. Childs, Past Deputy Grand Master, died at Greeley, Sept. 27, 1898, aged 74 years.

Bro. Oren Harrison Henry, Past Grand Master and Past Grand High Priest, died at Denver, Colorado, Oct. 4th, 1898, aged 56.

Bro. George Edward Wyman, Past Grand Master and Past Grand Commander, died March 6, 1899, aged 51 years.

ALABAMA.—Bro. Henry Clay Tompkins, Past Grand Master, died at Montgomery, September 12, 1898, aged 56 years.

MISSISSIPPI.—Bro. William Gallatin Paxton, Past Grand Master and Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, died at Vicksburg, October 27, 1898.

FLORIDA.—Bro. A. E. Williams, Past Grand Warden in 1875, died September 13, 1898.

Bro. William A. McLean, 33°, Past Grand Master and Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter, and Grand Secretary from 1892 until his death, died August 22, 1898, aged 65 years.

Bro. Henry F. Stewart, Grand Master in 1867, passed away October 20, 1898.

TENNESSEE.—Bro. John Ridley Frizzell, Past Assistant Grand Secretary, died October 6, 1898. He assisted his father, John Frizzell, who was Grand Secretary for more than a quarter of a century.

Bro. Archælaus M. Hughes, the oldest Past Grand Master of the state, and for more than 60 years a member of the Grand Lodge, died October 27, 1898, aged 87 years.

NEBRASKA.—Bro. Robert C. Jordan, the first Grand Master of Nebraska, died at Omaha, January 9, 1899, aged 74.

ILLINOIS.—Bro. DeWitt Clinton Cregier, Grand Master in 1870 and 1871, died November 9, 1898, aged 69 years. Bro. Cregier served his lodge as Wor. Master eight years, and from time of his retirement as Grand Master up to the time of his death, was Chairman of the Committee on Jurisprudence of the Grand Lodge. He was Mayor of Chicago in 1889-1890, and a member of the Supreme Council 33° of the Northern Jurisdiction of the United States.

Bro. James Andrew Hawley, Grand Master in 1873-74, departed this life December 30, 1898, aged 68 years. Bro.

Hawley became a mason in 1856, and for more than forty years was a constant, consistent, and earnest worker in the masonic vineyard. Honored by election to the highest-offices in subordinate and Grand Lodge, Chapter, Council, and Commandery, he was never found wanting. In the Scottish Rite he was an active member of the Supreme Council 33° for Illinois. His genial manner, happy disposition, and kindness of heart, endeared him to all who knew him. A true friend and brother has gone.

OHIO.—Bro. Charles C. Kiefer, Past Grand Master, died March 12, 1899, at his home in Urbana, Ohio. Brother Kiefer was especially honored by the masons of Ohio, and had received from each of the various Grand Bodies in his jurisdiction, including Lodge, Chapter, Council and Grand Commandery, the highest token of their appreciation by being elected to preside over each. He was the Representative of this Grand Lodge near that of Ohio.

NOVA SCOTIA.—Bro. Lewis Johnstone, M. D., Grand Master for the years 1886 and 1887, died at his home in Stellarton, February 1st, in the 75th year of his age.

PENNSYLVANIA.—This morning I have received notice of the death of Bro. Joseph Eichbaum, 33°, Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania, who died at Pittsburg, April 15, 1899, aged 72 years. Without a moment's warning the call came, and he "passed to the bourne whence no traveler returns," but his whole life, in godly works and deeds, has been a preparation for his eternal home.

Two of our Representatives have died during the year:—Wor. Bro. Albert H. Cargill, of Connecticut, and R. W. John W. Murton, of Canada.

I have received no reports of their death except the bare announcement thereof.

AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS.

Amendments to By-Laws of the following named lodges have been approved during the year:

Unity Lodge, No. 58, at Thorndike; Deering Lodge, No. 183, at Deering; Oxford Lodge, No. 18, at Norway; Crooked River Lodge, No. 152, at Bolster's Mills.

DISPENSATIONS.

Granted dispensation to Amity Lodge, No. 6, Camden, to hold its regular meeting for transaction of business on the evening of July 27th instead of July 26th, as the officers of said lodge had been invited to exemplify the F. C. degree at the Masonic Convention to be holden in Rockland on the 26th.

Dispensation granted to Dresden Lodge, No. 103, Dresden Mills, to hold its annual meeting at the time of its regular stated meeting, on Nov. 21st, as a severe storm prevented the holding of the annual meeting on Oct. 26th.

Granted dispensation to Dirigo Lodge, to hold its regular meeting on Nov. 28th, the officers, by mistake in date of full moon, having omitted to call the same for Nov. 21st.

On January 13, 1899, dispensation was granted to Temple Lodge, No. 86, Cumberland Mills, to elect a Junior Warden at its next stated meeting, the Junior Warden elected having declined to be installed.

January 24, 1899, granted dispensation to Orient Lodge, No. 15, Thomaston, to elect a Secretary at its next regular or special meeting, the officer elected for that position having declined to serve.

February 13, 1899, dispensation was granted to Delta Lodge, No. 153, Lovell, to elect a Junior Warden, the officer elected to that position having left the state without installation.

DISPENSATION TO APPEAR IN PUBLIC.

Ten dispensations were granted to lodges to attend Divine service on June 26th, in observance of Saint John's Day, namely:

To Saint Paul's Lodge, No. 82, Rockport; Sebasticook Lodge, No. 146, Clinton; Penobscot Lodge, No. 39, Dexter; Lygonia

Lodge, No. 40, and Esoteric Lodge, No. 159, at Ellsworth; Bethlehem Lodge, No. 35, and Augusta Lodge, No. 141, at Augusta; Wilton Lodge, No. 156, Wilton; Bar Harbor Lodge, No. 185, Bar Harbor, and Asylum Lodge, No. 133, Wayne.

Dispensation was also granted Harmony Lodge, No. 38, at Gorham, to attend Divine service, Oct. 30, 1898, and to Ancient Landmark Lodge, No. 17, of Portland, to attend Divine service on Sunday, Dec. 10, 1898, it being also the memorial service of Thomas B. Merrill, a past officer of said lodge, who was lost on the steamer Portland.

DISPENSATION TO CONFER DEGREES.

For good and sufficient reasons, five dispensations to receive and act upon petitions in less than the usual time have been granted, namely:—

To Freeport Lodge, No. 23, at Freeport, twice; Orient Lodge, No. 15, Thomaston; Davis Lodge, No. 191, Strong; Sebacicook Lodge, No. 146, Clinton.

Three dispensations have been granted to receive applications where petitioners have lived within the jurisdiction of said lodge for six months but not resident a year within the state, viz:—

To Trinity Lodge, No. 130, Presque Isle; Temple Lodge, No. 25, Winthrop; Bethlehem Lodge, No. 35, Augusta.

I hesitated very much about granting the last three dispensations, and did not grant them until after the fullest investigation and entire satisfaction as to who the applicants were, and their character and standing in the community.

December 8, 1898, dispensation was granted to Hiram Lodge, No. 180, South Portland, to move to its new hall which it had recently erected.

WAIVER OF JURISDICTION.

At the request of Bethlehem Lodge, No. 35, Augusta, waiver of jurisdiction was courteously granted over Charles Henry Rowell, of Charleston, by consent of Henry Price Lodge, of

Charleston, and Aberdour Lodge, of Boston, with the approval of the M. W. Grand Master of Massachusetts.

At the request of United Lodge, No. 8, Brunswick, a dimit was granted by Louis Lodge, of Louisville, Ky., to Dr. Charles F. S. Lincoln, who had received the E. A. degree in that lodge, and waiver of jurisdiction over the F. C. and M. M. degrees, which was courteously approved by the M. W. Grand Master of Kentucky.

I wish to thank R. Wor. H. B. Grant, Grand Secretary of Kentucky, for his assistance in this matter.

At the request of Dirigo Lodge, No. 10, Weeks' Mills, waiver of jurisdiction over Mr. Philander P. Freeman was granted by Silver City Lodge, No. 13, of Silver City, Idaho, and courteously approved by the acting Grand Master of Idaho.

At the request of Horeb Lodge, No. 93, Lincoln, Hyde Park Lodge, Massachusetts, waived its jurisdiction over Mr. Clarence H. McDuffie, which was approved by the M. W. Grand Master of Massachusetts.

NEW LODGES CONSTITUTED.

July 15, 1898, Mount Olivet Lodge, No. 203, Washington, was regularly constituted and its officers publicly installed by the Grand Master, assisted by Wor. William J. Burnham, Grand Marshal, R. W. Bros. Samuel L. Miller, of Waldoboro, Frank A. Peterson and Jacob R. Stewart, of Rockland, Alden M. Wetherbee, of Warren, Leander M. Kenniston, of Camden, G. H. Cargill, of Liberty, and others.

July 29th, Mount Bigelow Lodge, No. 202, at Flagstaff, was regularly constituted, and its officers installed in public by your Grand Master, with the assistance of Wor. Bro. William J. Burnham, Grand Marshal, Charles B. Richardson, Nelson Walker, and a goodly number of the brethren from Davis Lodge at Strong.

August 5, 1898, David A. Hooper Lodge, No. 201, at West Sullivan, was regularly constituted, and its officers installed in

public by the Grand Master, who was assisted by R. W. Bros. Elmer P. Spofford, S. G. Warden, William J. Burnham, Grand Marshal, James E. Parsons, D. D. G. M. 21st District, John B. Redmond, P. S. Grand Warden, and others.

On each of these occasions a fine banquet followed the exercises, and at West Sullivan on the morning following the installation the officers and members of the Grand Lodge were taken on a buck-board ride down along the coast, and through Sorrento, which was very much enjoyed by all.

DEDICATION OF NEW HALLS AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

During the year I have dedicated three new halls.

On June 24, 1898, the new hall of Oriental Star Lodge, No. 21, at Livermore Falls, was dedicated. I was assisted on this occasion by R. Wor. Brothers M. M. Caswell, Junior Grand Warden, William J. Burnham, Grand Marshal, Enoch O. Greenleaf, P. J. G. Warden, Rev. and Wor. George M. Howe, Grand Chaplain, and many of the brethren from the surrounding lodges. A very large number were in attendance and the exercises were followed by a banquet, addresses and remarks by visiting and local members. A fine address was delivered by Rev. Charles A. Hayden, Grand Chaplain.

On Feb. 22d, the new hall of Webster Lodge, at Sabattus, was dedicated and its officers publicly installed by your Grand Master, assisted by R. Wor. Brothers M. M. Caswell, Junior Grand Warden, William J. Burnham, Grand Marshal, Rev. and Wor. George M. Howe, Grand Chaplain, and many of the brethren from Auburn and Lewiston. The exercises were followed by a fine concert, and later by an abundance of the good things to satisfy the inner man.

On Tuesday, March 28th, the new hall of Hermon Lodge, No. 32, at Gardiner, was publicly dedicated by the Grand Master, assisted by R. Wor. Brothers M. M. Caswell, J. Grand Warden, William J. Burnham, Grand Marshal, Alden M. Wetherbee, P.

J. Grand Warden, and Rev. George M. Howe, Grand Chaplain, William J. Landers, A. M. Spear, and others. The dedication was followed by a fine repast which all enjoyed.

Each of these three lodges have fine apartments, well fitted and adapted to the purposes to which they were dedicated, with sufficient ante-rooms and all necessary conveniences, and the brethren are to be congratulated upon the success and prosperity that attends them.

On the evening of Nov. 16, 1898, I publicly installed the officers of Blazing Star Lodge, No. 30, Rumford Falls, and on the evening of Jan. 2, 1899, publicly installed the officers of Solar Lodge, No. 14, at Bath. On each occasion there was a large attendance of members of the lodge, with their ladies and friends, and the exercises were followed by the usual banquet and other exercises. These lodges are prosperous and in most excellent condition.

I have been compelled, much to my regret, on account of business engagements and sickness, to decline several invitations to install officers of lodges, and I wish to thank the officers and members of each lodge, that I have visited, for the many courtesies extended.

CHARGES, ETC.

During the year I have received copies of charges, evidence, etc., in four trials where members of the lodges have been expelled, and have forwarded the papers to M. W. Charles I. Collamore, Chairman of Committee on Grievances and Appeals, namely :—

From Rabboni Lodge, No. 150, Lewiston, papers in the case of Danville B. Stevens; from Parian Lodge, No. 160, Corinna, papers in the case of Henry J. Seavey; from Euclid Lodge, No. 194, Madison, papers in the case of William H. Mace, expelled several years since; and from Lookout Lodge, No. 131, Cutler, papers in the case of Henry C. Warren.

COMPLAINTS.

Last January complaint was received from Somerset Lodge, No. 34, Skowhegan, stating that Carrabassett Lodge, No. 161, Canaan, had received the application of a person residing within its jurisdiction and conferred the E. A. degree upon him. Carrabassett Lodge being notified of the complaint immediately appointed a committee to confer with a similar committee from Somerset Lodge, which committee found that the applicant's actual residence was within the jurisdiction of Somerset Lodge, although he resided a part of each year within the jurisdiction of the other lodge. All question of ill-feeling between the two lodges has been removed, and the applicant must take the chances of obtaining waiver of jurisdiction from Somerset Lodge, although said lodge had voted to withdraw the complaint. (See Sections 94 and 95 of the Constitution.)

CONVENTIONS.

Conventions for instruction in masonic work have been holden under the direction of our Grand Lecturer, M. W. Frank E. Sleeper, as follows :

At Rockland, August 26, 1898.

At Houlton, September 16, 1898.

At Lewiston, September 27, 1898.

And at the earnest request of the brethren of the Seventh Masonic District, with my approval, the Grand Lecturer held another at Clinton, December 20, 1898.

The detailed reports of these conventions, with the exception of the one holden at Houlton, show that they were well attended, and of great benefit to those participating.

I append the report of the Grand Lecturer for your examination. Besides the above named, the masons of the Second and of the Twenty-first Masonic Districts have also held conventions. I have received no report of that holden in the Second District.

A most successful and instructive convention was holden by the masons of the Twenty-first District, at Ellsworth, on Wednesday, February 22d, at the call of, and under the direction of R. W. James E. Parsons, D. D. G. Master for that district. Every lodge in the district was well represented, and many came from other lodges. This was the first convention holden in this district, and every brother present was most enthusiastic at its result. I have heard frequent reports of its success and the great benefit received from several visitors who were present, and who stated to me that if they knew when the next was to be holden they should surely be present.

I cordially recommend these District Conventions. They bring together the officers and members of the different lodges, make them well acquainted with each other, create an *esprit de corps* that nothing else can produce, and redound to the general good of the craft. Allow me to call your attention to my report on this subject made a year since.

CONDITION OF THE CRAFT.

From the reports of the D. D. Grand Masters which I append, and from information received from our Grand Lecturer, and from masonic brethren throughout the State, I find that our lodges with very few exceptions are prosperous and in good condition, although there has been a slight falling off in the number of initiates from last year. Several causes apparently have produced this result; but I am of the opinion that the Fraternity was never stronger and more united in this State than at the present time. By reference to the report of the Committee on Returns we find that:—

710 Brethren have been initiated against 774 last year.

702 Brethren have been raised against 768 last year.

70 Brethren have been re-instated against 54 last year.

419 Brethren have died against 407 last year.

And we now have a membership of 22,165, a loss of 26.

From this report we find also that 271 have been suspended

from membership during the past year, 15 deprived of membership and 200 have dimitted.

These figures show that as a Fraternity we have in the past been a little careless in guarding the Tyler's door, for otherwise there would not be so many suspensions and so many asking dimits, although many of the latter are obtained by brethren who have moved away and joined lodges where they reside.

Arion Lodge, No. 162, at Goodwin's Mills, lost its lodge room, charter, records and all property by fire on the 9th of February, 1899. This is a great loss to the members of this lodge. I trust, however, they will not be discouraged. On March 13th I granted dispensation to Arion Lodge to continue to hold regular and special meetings and to do work in the same way and manner as though its charter had not been lost, until this session of the Grand Lodge. They will apply for a new charter.

DECISIONS.

I have been called upon to render quite a number of decisions during the year, not only upon masonic matters, but upon questions to be decided under the state law, including the residences of young men who left home, taxation of property, &c. The following are the only decisions I deem of sufficient importance to present :

Under the Constitution of this Grand Lodge every candidate who receives the third degree in a lodge thereby becomes a member of said lodge, and the Secretary shall record his name upon the roll of membership. [Constitution, Section 111.] I call attention to this decision, which I have given several times, as lodges in this state have been requested by lodges in Canada and in other states, as a matter of courtesy, to confer the second and third degrees for them upon parties who had received the E. A. degree in their several lodges.

In this state the P. M. degree is a part of the installation service of a Master; and while it ought to be conferred before or at the time of installation it may be conferred afterwards. The

District Deputy Grand Master should not furnish a Past Master's diploma until the recipient shall have received the Past Master's degree. Not having received it he is not entitled to sit in a lodge of Past Masters when the degree is conferred upon a new Master.

The by-laws of ———— Lodge provide "Any member may be exempt from dues for life by paying up arrearages of dues and a further sum of twenty dollars to the Secretary for the use of the lodge."

Question.—"Can this section of the by-law be repealed and make the members who availed themselves of said by-law, and who are known as life members, subject to the payment of dues from the time of the repeal of the by-law"?

Answer.—"Your by-laws provide a method for amendment, and under a strict technical construction, which would probably be given by the civil Courts, I doubt not it would be holden that on that by-law being repealed they would be liable to dues; but to do so would be an act of masonic injustice, and in my opinion a direct violation of what the members, so paying the \$20.00, considered at the time of its payment a masonic contract. In many of the lodges in this state the additional payment of \$20.00 would be considered a fair compensation for annual dues. When so paid it is the duty of the lodges to invest it and receive the income in place of the dues. This income might be a little less than the amount of the dues, which would be offset by the contingency of the brother's death. As this \$20.00 may properly be considered an equitable amount to be paid, I should consider it a breach of masonic faith to repeal this by-law, and make such brethren, who had paid, subject to dues, unless the same were returned or they gave their consent thereto. I should refuse my consent to such an amendment. Lodges should be careful how they make such provisions in their by-laws."

Question was asked: "If Temple Lodge, No. 86, and Warren Phillips Lodge, No. 186, have concurrent jurisdiction, now that Westbrook is a city?"

Answer.—"Under Section 94 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge every candidate must apply to the lodge in this state nearest his residence * * * * &c. As these two lodges are located in different parts of the city, I answer "No." The fact that Westbrook has now become a city makes no difference. The lodges hold the same jurisdiction they had before the City Government was organized.

I wish to call the attention of the Grand Lodge to the amendment of Section 94 of the Constitution as proposed at the last annual communication, and recommend its adoption. The annexation of Deering to Portland raises the question as to the jurisdiction of Deering Lodge and the so called city lodges in Portland. Whether or not Deering Lodge shall retain and be confined to the same jurisdiction that it had before the annexation should be decided at this communication.

When a Brother of a lodge has been elected an Honorary Member that election cannot be reconsidered.

Question.—"Is it contrary to masonic rules to initiate a Catholic into a masonic lodge?"

I answered in substance as follows: Masonry does not undertake to interfere with any man's religious belief, provided he believes in God, the Supreme Intelligence; but the Pope, and through him the Priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church, have denounced the masonic fraternity and forbidden any of its members joining the same. On this account, if the applicant is a Roman Catholic, I should deem it advisable not to receive his application. He may feel that the decree of the Pope should not control his private actions, that being a man he is entitled to join any organization he desires, and that he is not bound to the confessional; but on the other hand he takes a vow with us that he will not reveal our secrets. This vow brings him in direct conflict with his church, and it is a serious matter for a man born and brought up a Roman Catholic, even though he may have drifted away from his religious views, not to make confession when sickness and liability of death comes; and we ought not to allow a man to be placed in a position where he

will in the ordinary course of events prove faithless to his church or violate his vow.

I have been obliged to declare the election of a candidate to receive the degrees as irregular and to order a new ballot, because there were not sufficient ballots in the box for the brethren to use. And I wish to call the attention of Masters of lodges to the fact that at each stated meeting, before balloting begins upon an application, the proper officers should present the ballot box to the Master and let him see that everything is all right, including a sufficient number of ballots.

Section 117 of the Constitution reads as follows: "No lodge shall suspend or expel a member from the rights of Masonry for non-payment of dues. The penalty of such delinquency shall be forfeiture or suspension of membership; and that only after due trial, as other masonic misdemeanors." Under this section, when a brother is delinquent in his dues, after due trial he may be suspended from membership or deprived of membership. If deprived of membership he can only obtain the same again in the regular course of procedure. The greater number of lodges have been accustomed simply to suspend from membership (See report of Committee on Returns, which shows 271 suspensions, and only 15 deprived of membership); and under our by-laws, where a brother is suspended for non-payment of dues, upon payment of dues to the time of his suspension he is restored to all the privileges of Freemasonry and to membership in the lodge as though he had not been suspended, and without a vote of the lodge. This law has been taken advantage of in several cases where brethren, abundantly able to pay their dues, through indifference or some other reason have refused so to do, and finally been suspended; and after remaining out a number of years, until they thought it would be an advantage to them and for their pecuniary benefit to again become a member of the lodge for the financial assistance they might receive in sickness and distress, have then come in and paid their dues, and immediately called upon the lodge for assistance. A case has been called to my attention, where a young man, abundantly able

to pay his dues, more than twenty-five years since ceased payment. After his dues had run for eight years he was finally suspended, and now at this late day—some seventeen years afterwards—and when residing in another state, where he has been for many years, he applies to the lodge to support him, claiming he is unable so to do. Upon being informed that he was long since suspended for non-payment of dues, a friend of his steps forward and tenders the amount of the dues at time of suspension in order to throw his support on the lodge. Some limit of time should be established beyond which a member suspended for non-payment of dues cannot, by simply paying the amount of his dues to the time of his suspension, be restored to membership in the lodge without a vote of the lodge. I call your attention to this matter and trust that the Grand Lodge will place such a limit of time as shall seem proper. I would suggest the following:—

A member suspended for non-payment of dues, and who neglects for five years to pay the same, and thus restore himself to membership, shall not thereafter be admitted a member of the lodge except upon payment of said dues, and restoration to membership by a two-thirds vote of the lodge, on application presented for membership in the usual way.

If a brother is poor and unable to pay his dues, the lodge should remit them; but where a brother is able to pay his dues, and will not do it, whether he remains in the same place or moves to another state, he should not be allowed to shirk the responsibility of membership for many, many years until misfortune assails him, and then be permitted to restore himself to membership, and throw himself and family upon the lodge for support. Such men ought never to have been permitted to enter the lodge.

In this connection, in a case where a member of a lodge in this state had received assistance from another lodge and its members, I was requested to give an opinion whether they were responsible for the bill or not. I answered as follows:

“Masonic assistance is a matter of our own free will; at the same time every mason has agreed to extend the helping hand

to a distressed brother, so far as he can without injury to himself; but my own personal view is that when a member of a lodge falls into distress and needs assistance, and it is furnished him by others, upon whom he has no right to call except from the fact that they are masons, then if his own lodge is able to pay the bills, and they were furnished in good faith to relieve a brother's necessities, the lodge ought to pay them. I do not feel that a lodge has a right to receive Tom, Dick and Harry and everybody into its lodge, and then send them out into the world with its own certificate, and repudiate all its obligations in case they fall into distress. For this reason lodges should be careful and admit only those who are worthy and proper persons to be admitted. If they violate this rule then it is their duty, so far as they can, to recompense. It is not a legal obligation which can be enforced at law, but is a moral obligation which requires a man or a body of men, as a lodge, to do by others as they would wish they should be done by."

I call your attention to these matters as a reminder that our lodges should be more careful as to the quality and kind of men who are admitted. Better have fewer members, each a man, in the true sense of the word, than a great number with some decayed or rotten sticks thrown in. An organization is judged by its membership, and poor material gives no credit—it is an injury. No lodge should be dependent upon its "work" to keep up an interest. It is the companionship and converse of men who respect each other that gives strength and stability.

EXCHANGE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On recommendation of the M. W. Grand Masters of the following named jurisdictions, Representatives of this Grand Lodge have been appointed as follows :

December 28, 1898, R. W. Robert Stirton Thornton of Deloraine, near the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, our former Representative not having attended any communication of that Grand Lodge for several years.

February 6, 1899, R. W. Arthur C. Wheeler of Norwalk, near the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, in place of our former Representative, Albert H. Cargill, deceased.

March 16, 1899, R. W. Robert D. Haskins of Bismarck, near the Grand Lodge of North Dakota, our former Representative having dimitted from his lodge and ceased to hold membership in any lodge in that State.

April 5, 1899, R. W. Colin W. Postlethwaite of Toronto, near the Grand Lodge of Canada, in place of R. W. John W. Murton, deceased.

April 12, 1899, R. Wor. O. P. Sperra of Ravenna, near the Grand Lodge of Ohio, in place of M. Wor. C. C. Kiefer, deceased.

April 14, 1899, M. W. Nathan S. Woodward of Knoxville, near the Grand Lodge of Tennessee.

I have recommended for appointment as Representatives near this Grand Lodge for the following Grand Lodges, viz :

Febiuary 24, 1899, R. W. Alfred S. Kimball of Norway, for Peru.

Feb. 24, 1899, Wor. Ermon D. Eastman, of Portland for Oregon.

April 14, 1899, Wor. Hugh R. Chaplain of Bangor, for Tennessee.

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Last January I received from R. W. William Wente, our Representative near the Grand Lodge of Michigan, a very full and yet concise statement of the business transacted by the Grand Lodge of Michigan at its annual communication holden in the City of Port Huron, which report I file herewith.

During the few years last past quite a question has been raised as to the advisability of the appointment of Representatives near other Grand Lodges. I deem such appointments most important. We cannot have too many links connecting the several Grand Lodges of this and other countries. The advantage of it was clearly shown in the prompt manner in which our distinguished Representative near the Grand Lodge of Peru, R. W. Francisco L. Crosby, reported the action of that Grand Lodge in 1897 upon the removal of the Bible from its altars.

This report, from our Representative near the Grand Lodge of Michigan, furnished your Grand Master within a few days, concise and yet full information, as to the doings of the Grand Lodge of Michigan. If the Representatives of our several Grand Jurisdictions would pursue this same course it would be one of the strongest links uniting the Fraternity throughout the world. It evidently has not been done much in the past from the fact that our Representatives have not appreciated its importance. When any matter of importance arises affecting the general welfare of the Fraternity or of peculiar interest to the Grand Lodge represented, report should be made to the Grand Master at once.

In September, 1898, a notice was received from Hawaiian Lodge, No. 21, warning masons that it was useless to seek employment there at the present time, which notice I caused to be published in our Portland masonic papers, and herewith file the same.

CLANDESTINE LODGES IN OHIO.

Last October a communication was received from Ohio giving a list of clandestine lodges in that state, and requesting that all persons hailing from them should be excluded. In compliance with the comity existing between our several Grand Lodges, I immediately caused notice of the request, giving a list of the lodges, to be published in our two masonic papers in this city, thus reaching all the membership throughout the state. I append said communication and list of said lodges, that each lodge in the state may have the same for ready reference.

FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS.

On May 13, 1898, a communication was received from the Grande Oriente d'Italia, giving information and warning as to irregular proceedings of pretended masonic bodies in that country existing under name of Grande Oriente Italiano, which communication I file with this report.

October 18, 1898, A communication was received from the Supreme Council of Portugal, under date of September 24, 1898, relative to matters therein discussed, which communication is filed herewith.

January 21, 1899, a circular communication, marked official, was received from The United Grand Lodge of Mexico of Free and Accepted Masons, relative to Masonry in that country, which is filed with this report.

I think it better that these three communications should be referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence for examination and report, without any comments from your Grand Master.

GRAND LODGE OF PERU.

On the 9th of December, 1897, for reasons then stated, and as more fully explained in my report a year since, all masonic communication between this Grand Lodge, its subordinate lodges and members, and the Grand Lodge of Peru, its subordinate lodges and the members of its obedience, who continued to adhere to said Grand Lodge, under its constitution changed as it had been, was suspended.

At the quarterly session of the Grand Lodge of Peru, holden May 6, 1898, M. Wor. J. A. Ego Aguirre was elected Grand Master. A commission was immediately appointed "with the object of determining whether" the decree of Grand Master Dam of July 13, 1897, should remain in force or not. The commission made a full and thorough investigation of the questions involved, and submitted an exhaustive report to that Grand Lodge under date of May 31, 1898, expressing the opinion that the "Dam" decree of June 13, 1897, must be abrogated. I file a copy of the same.

This report was approved by the M. W. Grand Lodge, May 12, 1898, and a new decree in accordance therewith was issued. Afterwards the following communication was received by this Grand Lodge from M. W. J. A. Ego Aguirre, Grand Master, as follows :

LIMA, June 24, 1898.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine, Portland.

R. W. BRETHREN:—Having been installed as the M. W. Grand Master of this jurisdiction at the last annual communication, I appointed a committee to report on the decree about the Bible, of the ex-Grand Master DAM. The report was approved by the M. W. Grand Lodge at its quarterly communication held on the 12th inst., and a new decree revoking that of Bro. DAM was issued.

I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of the committee's report and of the decree restoring the Bible on the altar.

In consequence thereof, I request that the fraternal relations between our Grand Bodies may be re-established and cultivated as before.

With fraternal greetings, I remain very truly yours,

J. A. EGO AGUIRRE, *Grand Master.*

Within a day or two of its receipt, I received information which led me to fear that the Grand Lodge of Peru had exchanged Representatives with the so called Negro Grand Lodge of Ohio. Accordingly action was delayed, and I requested our R. W. Grand Secretary to correspond with our Representative, R. W. Francisco L. Crosby, and ascertain the true facts, to which reply was received that the body which exchanged Representatives with the negro Grand Lodge in Ohio was the former Supreme Council and not the present Grand Lodge, and that the present Grand Lodge has no entangling alliances. I append Bro. Crosby's letter, that the historical facts therein stated may never be lost. In the meantime sickness interfered, and it was not until February 20, 1899, that the following edict restoring fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Peru was issued:

GRAND LODGE OF MAINE, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER,

PORTLAND, February 20, 1899.

To the Brethren of the Obedience of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Maine:

Whereas, on the 9th day of December, A. D. 1897, all masonic communication was suspended between this Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Peru, their subordinate lodges and

members, owing to the fact that the Grand Lodge of Peru had excluded "The Great Light in Masonry" from its altar and the altars of its obedience; and

Whereas, the decree of said Grand Lodge of Peru removing the Bible from its altars has been abrogated, and upon report of a committee of said Grand Lodge, duly adopted, a decree has been issued, restoring the Bible to its altar and the altars of its subordinate bodies; and

Whereas, a communication has been received from Grand Master J. A. Ego-Aguirre, of said Grand Jurisdiction, confirming said action and requesting "that the fraternal relations between our Grand Bodies may be restored and cultivated as before";

Therefore, be it known, that the said decree of December 9, 1897, is hereby revoked, the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Peru is cordially recognized as a member of our universal brotherhood, and the fraternal relations heretofore existing between this Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge of Peru, their subordinate lodges and the members thereof, are hereby re-established.

Yours fraternally,

JOSEPH A. LOCKE, *Grand Master.*

Attest: STEPHEN BERRY, *Grand Secretary.*

On issuance of this decree I requested our R. W. Grand Secretary to send the following personal letter to M. Wor. J. A. Ego Aguirre, Grand Master, as follows :

GRAND LODGE OF MAINE, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND SECRETARY,

PORTLAND, February 25, 1899.

M. W. J. A. EGO AGUIRRE, *Grand Master, Lima, Peru :*

M. W. AND DEAR BROTHER :—I have the honor to transmit by this mail to your Grand Secretary the decree of M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE, Grand Master of Maine, re-establishing fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Peru.

He bids me further to express to you his great delight that the Grand Lodge of Peru has again placed itself in the line of Grand Lodges clinging to the old land-marks, and extends to you, personally, his congratulations upon your accession to the high and honorable position you now fill.

I also enclose herein a new commission for M. W. Bro. FRANCISCO L. CROSBY, as the Representative of the Grand Lodge of Maine near the Grand Lodge of Peru, which he begs you to deliver to Bro. CROSBY. He desires very much to re-appoint Bro. CROSBY to this position on account of the firm

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and manly stand taken by him when the former Grand Master attempted to swing the Grand Lodge into by and forbidden paths ; and he trusts that you will not feel that he has committed an act of discourtesy towards you in not asking the nomination of some other brother for the position.

If you have no strong preference, he would be pleased to nominate for appointment as your Representative near this Grand Lodge, R. W. Bro. ALFRED S. KIMBALL, of Norway, Past Senior Grand Warden, your former Representative holding another appointment.

Very respectfully and fraternally

Your obedient servant,

STEPHEN BERRY, *Grand Secretary.*

Thus, brethren, has chicanery, falsehood and wrong been obliged to yield to justice, truth and the right.

GRAND LODGE OF WASHINGTON.

For many years the governing Masonic Grand Bodies, not only of this country but throughout the world, have gradually been drawing nearer and nearer to each other, not only in the spirit of brotherly love and friendship, which especially characterizes the Fraternity, but in the laws and regulations established by each for the government of their subordinate bodies and the membership owing obedience thereto. One of these laws or doctrines, heretofore universally recognized, is that of "exclusive jurisdiction," or in other words, that when a Grand Lodge has once been established in a given State it should have exclusive jurisdiction in that State, and that there cannot be two Grand Governing Bodies in the same State, and that any so called masonic organization in such State, not yielding obedience to and recognized by the Grand Lodge, is not regular but clandestine. This doctrine has been repeatedly affirmed by this Grand Lodge, for it has sustained New York in its contention against the Grand Lodge of Hamburg, Quebec against the Grand Lodge of Canada, Louisiana against the Grand Orient of France, and most earnestly protested against the Grand Lodge of Ohio acknowledging any recognition of the so-called Negro Grand Lodge in that State. The comity existing between the several Grand Lodges

in this country has always held that a person hailing from such irregular or clandestine lodge in any state should not be recognized or received as a mason by any lodge in any other state. It was this comity between Grand Lodges that required me to publish in our masonic papers in this state the list of clandestine lodges in Ohio (heretofore spoken of), that no member of such lodges might gain admission into any of our lodges.

In the midst of this fraternity and while our Grand Lodges are gradually drawing nearer to each other in smaller matters of detail, such as perpetual jurisdiction, or how long a lodge shall hold jurisdiction over rejected candidates, like a thunder bolt out of a clear sky, came the report that the Grand Lodge of Washington had voted to recognize as regular masons certain persons who could trace their so-called masonic connection to a clandestine lodge in Massachusetts.

The proposition was so astounding that I refused to believe the rumor until I should see the report of its doings. Following is a copy of the resolutions adopted by the Grand Lodge of Washington :

“Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, Masonry is universal; and, without doubt, neither race nor color are among the tests proper to be applied to determine the fitness of a candidate for the degrees of Masonry.

“Resolved, That in view of recognized laws of the Masonic Institution, and of facts of history apparently well authenticated and worthy of full credence, this Grand Lodge does not see its way clear to deny or question the right of its constituent lodges, or of the members thereof, to recognize as brother masons, negroes who have been initiated in lodges which can trace their origin to Prince Hall Lodge, No. 459, organized under the warrant of our R. W. Brother THOMAS HOWARD, Earl of Effingham, Acting Grand Master, under the authority of H. R. H. HENRY FREDERICK, Duke of Cumberland, etc., Grand Master of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of F. & A. Masons in England, bearing date September 29, A. L. 5784, or to our R. W. Brother PRINCE HALL, Master of said lodge; and, in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, for the purpose of tracing such origin, the African Grand Lodge of Boston, organized in 1808—subsequently known as the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, the first African Grand Lodge of North America in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, organized in 1815,

and the Hiram Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, may justly be regarded as legitimate Masonic Grand Lodges.

“*Resolved*, That while this Grand Lodge recognizes no difference between brethren based upon race or color, yet it is not unmindful of the fact that the white and colored races in the United States have in many ways shown a preference to remain, in purely social matters, separate and apart. In view of this inclination of the two races—Masonry being pre-eminently a social Institution,—this Grand Lodge deems it to the best interest of Masonry to declare that if regular masons of African descent desire to establish within the State of Washington, lodges confined wholly or chiefly to brethren of their race, and shall establish such lodges strictly in accordance with the Landmarks of Masonry, and in accordance with Masonic Law as heretofore interpreted by masonic tribunals of their own race, and if such lodges shall in due time see fit in like manner to erect a Grand Lodge for the better administration of their affairs, this Grand Lodge, having more regard for the good of Masonry than for any mere technicality, will not regard the establishment of such lodges or Grand Lodge as an invasion of its jurisdiction, but as evincing a disposition to conform to its own ideas as to the best interests of the Craft under peculiar circumstances; and will ever extend to our colored brethren its sincere sympathy in every effort to promote the welfare of the Craft or inculcate the pure principles of our Art.

“*Resolved*, That the Grand Secretary be instructed to acknowledge receipt of the communication from GIDEON S. BAILEY and COX A. RIDEOUT, and forward to them a copy of the printed Proceedings of this annual communication of the Grand Lodge, as a response to said communication.”

This action of the Grand Lodge of Washington has received the severest condemnation. Several Grand Lodges have already suspended communication with it and its membership, and others have protested most earnestly against the action taken. As Representatives have not heretofore been appointed between this Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge of Washington, I thought it better to refer the whole matter to your wisdom and discretion. Afterwards I received from M. W. William H. Upton, Grand Master, a communication upon the matter, in which he says he presumes “that the construction given by the Grand Master of Washington to any law or resolution of Washington is a part of that law or resolution until reversed by said Grand Lodge”; and he claims:

“*First.*—The Grand Lodge of Washington has not recognized any negro Grand Lodge or expressed any intention of doing so; but it did adopt a report of a committee which declared that ‘no proposal to enter into relations with the negro Grand Lodge is involved.’

“*Second.*—The Grand Lodge of Washington has not repudiated the American doctrine of exclusive jurisdiction, but recognizes that the experiences of Massachusetts, New York, South Carolina and other jurisdictions wherein two Grand Lodges formerly existed, clearly show that it is not preferable that there should be but one Grand Lodge in any state in this Union.”

He claims that the third resolution related solely to their own internal affairs and says:

“We had our choice of two courses, we could charter lodges of negro masons, healing any that we found irregular, had we desired to do so, for the most rabid of our critics seemed not yet to have formally denied that we possess the exclusive right to decide, for ourselves, what masons and lodges within our territorial limits we will regard as regular” * * * *; “and so we adopted a *modus vivendi* that seemed to us, at the time, not wholly without merit. Inasmuch as we declared our purpose to tolerate no colored lodges except such as should be ‘established strictly in accordance with the landmarks of Masonry,’ I do not see how the legality of our action can be questioned, except by denying that, subject to the landmarks, the Grand Lodge of Washington ‘has supreme jurisdiction over all matters of Ancient Craft Masonry’ in this state, and has the sole right to decide what lodges in this state she will regard as regular.”

And that no injustice may be done him or the masons of his state, I file his full letter with this report that the committee may examine the same.

This letter I answered as follows:

GRAND LODGE OF MAINE, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER,
PORTLAND, February 20, 1899.

M. W. WILLIAM H. UPTON, *Grand Master of Masons,*
Walla Walla, Washington.

M. W. SIR AND DEAR BROTHER:—Sickness and an accumulation of professional matters, demanding attention, have prevented an early answer to your favor of January 4th. When first informed that the M. W. Grand

Lodge of Washington had declared that lodges of colored or negro masons, so called, in this country, that could trace their origin to Prince Hall Lodge or the African Lodge existing in Boston *were legitimate*, and that the members thereof *were entitled to brotherly recognition as masons*, I could not believe the truth of the allegation, for such an act, I felt, would deny to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts that exclusive territorial jurisdiction in that State which has heretofore been admitted by all regularly duly constituted Grand Lodges in this country and in Great Britain. Accordingly I decided to pay no attention to the matter until I should receive the report of the Proceedings of your Grand Lodge. I have since carefully examined the report of the committee adopted by the Grand Lodge of Washington, as appears on pages 50-60, Proceedings of 1898, and with a feeling of deep sadness, for I fear that either the M. W. Grand Lodge of Washington must rescind its action in that matter or be cut off from masonic communication with other Grand Lodges in this country. In the meanwhile your letter was received before I was able to attend to any business, and requires an answer.

You say (on page 2 of your letter) :

First.—"The Grand Lodge of Washington have not recognized any negro Grand Lodge, or expressed any intention of doing so." True it is has not for several negro Grand Lodges were mentioned; but the report of the committee does say (page 57) 'that persons initiated in so-called negro lodges which can trace their origin to Prince Hall, or Prince Hall Lodge, No. 459, are as fully entitled to the name of masons and to brotherly recognition as any other masons in the world,' and the report including these words was adopted. Certainly there cannot be any double meaning in these words quoted, and, when taken in connection with the resolutions recommended and adopted, is a recognition of these negro Grand Lodges or of any negro Grand Lodge that can trace its origin to Prince Hall. Your committee reports (page 51, referring to the two petitioners,) 'for what they really seek is recognition of the right of the bodies in which they were initiated to make masons.' I ask you frankly, how can I understand, notwithstanding your denial above stated, that your Grand Lodge *had not by its action recognized the right sought*. You say,

Second.—"The Grand Lodge of Washington has not repudiated the 'American doctrine of exclusive jurisdiction.'" In the report of Proceedings of your Grand Lodge (page 52) you state that "On March 6, 1775, an army lodge, warranted by the Grand Lodge of England" * * * "initiated Prince Hall and fourteen other colored men of Boston into the mysteries of Freemasonry." * * * "These fifteen brethren were probably authorized by the lodge which made them—according to the custom of the day—to assemble as a lodge. At least they did so, but it does not appear that they did any work until after they were regularly warranted." Your

report states that a warrant was issued to them September 29, 1784, as African Lodge, No. 459, with Prince Hall as Master, but not received until May 2, 1787, and that the lodge was organized four days later.

Right here is a fact your committee and the Grand Lodge of Washington have apparently overlooked. In 1773 the Provincial Grand Lodge of Massachusetts asserted its right to supreme control, and declared that "neither the lodge at Castle William, nor any other traveling lodge has any right to make masons of any citizens." This action by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, with which or its successor (established March 8, 1777) the Grand Lodges of Washington and Maine are in affiliation, precludes any admission on our part of the legitimacy or regular standing of any lodge or body of masons in the State of Massachusetts not recognized by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. Again, in 1797, the following was made a part of the constitution of that Grand Lodge: "The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts will not hold communication with, or admit as visitors, any masons residing in this state, who hold authority under, and acknowledge the supremacy of any foreign Grand Lodge." Afterwards, in 1797, Prince Hall "issued a license to thirteen black men, who had been made masons in England, to assemble and work as a lodge in Philadelphia; and another lodge was organized by his authority in Providence, R. I." "In 1808 these three lodges joined in forming the African Grand Lodge of Boston."

Is there any evidence anywhere to be found that Prince Hall possessed any authority whatever to issue such a license to these masons in Philadelphia? Certainly the charter, he and his associates received, gave no such authority, and he and the members of Prince Hall or African Lodge are *limited in authority by that charter*. If the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts had exclusive jurisdiction in Massachusetts, which you do not deny but admit, what standing, I pray you, had this African Lodge or the African Grand Lodge of Boston which was formed in 1808? None whatever. Said African Grand Lodge was illegitimate from the beginning and not legally organized.

Giving that due comity, recognized between nations and states and heretofore between all of the Grand Lodges in this country, to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, which you claim for your own state, under what principle of right and equity can the Grand Lodge of Washington recognize any lodge as "duly constituted" which receives its charter from or under said African Lodge, which is itself an illegitimate body. This is not a new question with us, for in 1876 M. W. Bro. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND made a very full and exhaustive report upon this subject to the Grand Lodge of Maine. [Proceedings 1876, pages 179 to 187.]

As to the construction to be put upon the language of the Grand Lodge of Washington and the report of its committee, the rule of law is clear and

precise, recognized throughout the world, that the ordinary meaning of the words used is to govern.

On page 4 of your letter you say: "I do not see how the *legality* of our action can be questioned, except by denying that, subject to the landmarks, the Grand Lodge of Washington has supreme jurisdiction over all matters of Ancient Craft Masonry in this state, and has the sole right to decide what lodges in this state she will regard as regular." Now my dear Brother, must you not in justice grant the same rights to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts which you have in this quotation claimed for your own Grand Lodge? That Grand Lodge has decided that Prince Hall had no right or authority to establish other Lodges; that the African Grand Lodge, afterwards organized within its jurisdiction by the African Lodge and the two lodges wrongfully warranted by him, was not regular. In view of these facts can the Grand Lodge of Washington consistently, having a due regard to the comity it owes to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, declare that a lodge established in Massachusetts under authority of Prince Hall or Prince Hall Lodge or the African Grand Lodge shall be called regular, even in Washington. I cannot believe you will hold to this position, your attention having been called to it. Until the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts shall recognize Price Hall Lodge and its offspring I do not see how any other Grand Lodge can consistently do so. It is better to rectify an error than persist in the wrong. We are all liable to err, and when we find that the consensus of opinion of our peers is against us it is our duty to yield to that opinion.

Trusting that the Grand Lodge of Washington at its next annual meeting will yield to the opinion of the other Grand Lodges in this country and withdraw from the position it has taken, I remain,

Yours Fraternally,

JOSEPH A. LOCKE, *Grand Master.*

I received a very gentlemanly reply to my letter, which I file with this report for the use of the committee.

I cannot believe that the members of the Grand Lodge of Washington will adhere to their former action when they understand fully what they have done. I presume the report of the committee was adopted without a serious discussion of the questions involved, as is too apt to be done when members of the committee hold high official positions and are well known. That the committee made a grievous error is evident.

We can but hope that the Grand Lodge of Washington may

receive full information of the result of its action as made known to the M. W. Grand Master, and hasten to correct it, that peace and harmony may again prevail and that said Grand Lodge, its subordinates and membership, be not cut off from masonic communication with their brethren throughout the country.

I do not recommend suspension of masonic communication. It is, however, our duty to protest against this action taken by the Grand Lodge of Washington. Let it be done firmly but kindly, extending the olive branch of peace with the hope it may be accepted and the error made be rectified. There are many, many true masons in Washington, who, I feel assured, will endeavor to have this wrong corrected.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF BRO. GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Communications have been received from the committee having in charge the commemoration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the death of Bro. George Washington, relative to the programme for masonic services on that occasion, and in regard to providing the ways and means for carrying out the same, which communications I file with this report for examination by the committee.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

I wish again to call your attention to the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence from the hand of M. W. Bro. Drummond. In it you will find discussed many questions of great interest to the fraternity, including the action taken by the Grand Lodge of Washington to which I have referred. Through those reports you will learn what other Grand Lodges are doing, and thus acquire a knowledge of Freemasonry throughout this country and the world. No mason in this state, who wishes to be well informed in masonic affairs and events, can afford not to examine it thoroughly.

Brethren:—I shall soon surrender the high trust with which your partiality first invested me two years since. I wish to thank you, one and all, officers and members, for courtesies extended and assistance rendered whenever opportunity offered, and especially am I under obligations to Wor. Bro. William J. Burnham, our Grand Marshal, whose assistance on all occasions has been most invaluable. I am also under obligations to M. W. Bro. Josiah H. Drummond, and to our Grand Recorder, Bro. Berry, for assistance courteously extended.

Seven years have I served you as an officer in this Grand Lodge. I have been highly honored, not only by office, but by your good will and confidence made manifest on all occasions. This to me is of priceless value. In return I have ever tried to do my whole duty. How well I have succeeded is for you to judge.

The memory of past events, not only in connection with this Grand Lodge, but also with the Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery, will furnish pleasant reminiscences to beguile away many an hour in the future when needing rest and recreation.

As masons, following the teachings of our Fraternity, may we ever be ready to extend

“An arm of aid to the weak,
 A friendly hand to the friendless;
 Kind words so short to speak,
 But whose echo is endless.
 The world is wide, these things are small—
 They may be nothing, but they are all.”

JOSEPH A. LOCKE, *Grand Master.*

GRAND LODGE OF MAINE.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND LECTURER,
 SABATTUS, ME., April 24, 1899.

To Most Worshipful JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of Masons in Maine.

Pursuant to your order, masonic conventions were held during the past

year at Rockland, Houlton and Lewiston; also a special convention at Clinton.

At Rockland, August 26, 1898, a very large and enthusiastic convention, and a departure in some respects from the usual character.

The forenoon was spent in carefully studying the work and lectures so far as time permitted.

Mt. Olivet Lodge, No. 203, exemplified the work of the E. A. degree, and Amity Lodge, No. 6, that of the F. C. degree during the afternoon, and Rockland Lodge, No. 79, that of M. M. in the evening. The work of Amity and Rockland Lodges was remarkably perfect, and would be a revelation to the majority of the lodges in our state. The work of all the lodges showed careful preparation, and great credit is due to R. W. Bro. PETERSON, D. D. G. M.

There were present 3 Permanent Members of the Grand Lodge, 5 D. D. G. M.'s, 16 Masters, 36 other officers, 21 Past Masters, 132 members, and 25 lodges were represented. The brethren of Rockland furnished a supper to the visitors, and in many respects this was one of the most successful conventions ever held in our state.

At Houlton, September 16, 1898. Although this convention was called especially for Aroostook and Northern Maine, the attendance was very small. Not a lodge in District No. 1 was represented. The D. D. G. M.'s of Districts No. 5, 20, and 25 were present, and counting those Deputies as Representatives, six lodges were represented. Those present were interested to learn, and the convention was profitable to them. All the work and lectures were carefully studied.

At Lewiston, September 27, 1898, was held a most successful convention, there being present a large number of Officers and Permanent Members of the Grand Lodge, twelve District Deputy Grand Masters, and the Representatives of twenty-seven lodges.

The work of all three degrees was carefully and systematically studied, and I think this meeting was in all respects as profitable a convention as I have ever attended.

In response to earnest and oft repeated requests from the brethren of the 7th district, a special convention was held at Clinton on Dec. 20, 1898.

The lodges in that district were well represented, and different lodges exemplified the work of the several degrees in a very creditable manner. I made such corrections and gave such instruction as seemed to be necessary and profitable, and I am assured that much good has resulted from that meeting. District Deputy Grand Master Ward is entitled to much credit for its inception and success.

I have been invited to attend several district conventions during the year, and would have gladly been present had not other duties prevented.

Yours fraternally,

FRANK E. SLEEPER, *Grand Lecturer.*

OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER,
Hamilton, Ohio, September 8, A. D. 1898, A. L. 5898.

BRETHREN:—The following Lodges, boasting obedience to a so-called Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, organized in opposition to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio, are irregular, clandestine and unmasonic:

Ahiman,	Newark.	Linton,	Cincinnati.
Alliance,	Alliance.	Massillon,	Massillon.
Alpha,	Cleveland.	Mt. Tabor,	Chillicothe.
Bismark,	Cincinnati.	Myrtle,	Mt. Vernon.
Brighton,	Cincinnati.	New England,	Worthington.
Columbia,	Columbus.	Olentangy,	Columbus.
Dumah,	Springfield.	Painesville,	Painesville.
Eureka,	Cincinnati.	Progress,	Cleveland.
Franklin,	Columbus.	Salem,	New Salem.
Gem City,	Dayton.	Scioto Valley,	Portsmouth.
Globe,	Toledo.	Surprise,	Olmstead Falls.
Hiram,	Canton.	Summit,	Akron.
Independence,	Youngstown.	Victor,	Cleveland.
Lessing,	Toledo.	Vinton,	Galloway.
Lincoln,	Toledo.	Washington,	Cincinnati.
Lincoln,	Cleveland.	West Mansfield,	West Mansfield.
Lincoln Goodale,	Columbus.		

Persons holding membership in any of said lodges, or allegiance to said pretended Grand Lodge, *must be excluded* from all regular lodges of masons.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the Grand Lodge on the day and year above written.

NELSON WILLIAMS, *Grand Master.*

Attest: J. H. BROMWELL, *Grand Secretary.*

LIMA, Sept. 14, 1898.

STEPHEN BERRY, Esq.,

Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Maine, Portland.

DEAR SIR AND BRO:—Your favor of Aug. 4th is at hand and its contents were a surprise to me.

Many years ago, in this revolutionary country, several members of the Supreme Council of the A. & A. Scotch Rite, to be able to work against said council when convenient, formed what they called the Grand Orient of Peru. Francisco Mariatigue was then Grand Commander, (I think 1863,) and his son of same name got up the revolution and called himself Grand

Master, taking with him almost all of the masonic bodies then existing. Bad management, arbitrary acts, &c., soon brought down said body and the lodges returned to the Supreme Council, except one foreign lodge in Callao, which being composed of Scotchmen, got a charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, from which beginning eleven lodges were formed under said Grand Lodge, and were governed directly by a Provincial Grand Lodge. The Grand Orient kept up an appearance of life, though it had none in reality, and never held any meetings nor had any subordinates, and was pronounced spurious by Council and Provincial Grand Lodge of Scotland. Arthur M. Wholey was called Grand Secretary and several were called Grand Masters. Said Wholey was an Englishman, a bad character, and when he died twelve years ago, the Grand Orient died with him.

As the Orient had no masonic connections anywhere, they took up with the spurious Supreme Council of the U. S. and the Negro Grand Lodges in two States. When the Grand Commander died, (Souza Ferreyra) twelve years ago, the Lieut. Grand Commander, finding that he would not be elected Grand Commander (Sanchez Silva), tried the old game of starting again the Grand Orient and gave a decree as acting Grand Commander, separating the symbolic Lodges from the council and placing them under the jurisdiction of said Orient, with the intention of becoming Grand Master and forcing the election in his favor as Grand Commander, when he would again kick over the Grand Orient as no longer of any use. The lodges, however, did not know what to do, there was no Grand Orient to go to: no Grand Master, Grand Secretary, or any other officer existed. In their trouble the idea arose to form a *real* Grand Lodge of Peru, free and independent and in the York Rite. This idea was seconded by the lodges of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the Provincial Grand Lodge declared its labors finished and returned its charter, and the true Grand Lodge of Peru was formed, which the Grand Lodge of Maine was the first to recognize, and which I had the honor to represent. Up to the Dam question, now happily finished, the Grand Lodge walked in the straight path of true masonry, and has never recognized or held intercourse with any spurious Grand Body, nor with the Grand Orient of France or Rome, and I trust and believe never will. I have received your proceedings; many thanks for same. With usual kind wishes and respects to the Grand Master and Brethren of Maine,

I am, Dear Sir and Brother,

Very sincerely and fraternally yours,

F. L. CROSBY.

The address and accompanying documents were referred to the Committee on the Doings of the Grand Officers.

GRAND TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Grand Treasurer submitted his annual report 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.

1898.		RECEIPTS.	
May 3.	By cash balance,	\$	5,926.95
June 17.	“ from Grand Secretary, charter Mount Bigelow Lodge,		30.00
	“ Charter David A. Hooper Lodge,		30.00
27.	“ Charter Mount Olivet Lodge,		30.00
	“ from Joseph A. Locke, Grand Master, dispensations to lodges at various dates,		18.00
	“ from District Deputy Grand Masters as follows:		
1899.			
Mar. 14.	Everett H. Fisher, 2d District,		148.00
16.	Edward F. Davis, 4th District,		172.40
	Frank A. Peterson, 9th District,		386.20
17.	Isaac P. Gooch, 19th District,		254.60
	Robert W. Carr, 14th District,		325.40
20.	Herman W. S. Lovejoy, 13th District,		218.40
21.	James E. Wentworth, 8th District,		150.00
23.	Isaac F. Jewett, 18th District,		165.00
24.	James E. Parsons, 21st District,		296.00
	Herbert S. Sleeper, 1st District,		128.20
	Edwin A. Reed, 20th District,		106.80
30.	Levi E. Jones, 11th District,		403.80
April 1.	Harlan P. Babb, 17th District,		540.20
	Fred H. Savage, 5th District,		269.40
4.	Albert W. Ward, 7th District,		157.60
13.	G. Harris Foster, 3d District,		182.00
	James H. Witherell, 12th District,		196.40
	Arthur C. Ricker, 16th District,		244.20
14.	James H. Howes, 15th District,		244.00
	Fred C. Barton, 6th District,		274.20
	George H. Goding, 24th District,		332.80
15.	J. Frank Bryson, 25th District,		107.60

1899.]

Grand Lodge of Maine.

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April 15.	George M. Bond, 22d District,	192.40
22.	Willard T. Marr, 10th District,	205.20
25.	Frank H. Dexter, 23d District,	159.00
26.	By cash from Stephen Berry, Grand Secretary, Reg- istrations, Diplomas, etc.,	6.68
	“ from Grand Chapter, 3-10 expense Grand Secretary's office,	144.55
	“ from Grand Commandery, 2-10 expense Gr. Secretary's office,	96.06
	“ interest on deposits,	44.24
		<hr/>
		\$12,186.28

1898.

DISBURSEMENTS.

May 5.	To cash paid orders Committee on Pay Roll,	\$ 2,085.36
11.	“ “ Miss Laughlin, clerk to Committee on Pay Roll,	10.00
	“ “ Walter S. Smith, Grand Organist,	10.00
20.	“ “ American Bank Note Co., Diplomas, ...	100.00
24.	“ “ Warren Lodge, 63 copies Lodge His- tory and postage,	51.22
July 19.	“ “ Miss Stetson, stenographer for Commit- tee on Correspondence,	37.50
28.	“ “ J. S. Conover, books for library,	13.00
	“ “ Smith and Sale, two bills for advertis- ing in Masonic Journal,	10.00
	“ “ A. D. Pearson, two bills for binding Pro- ceedings,	36.95
	“ “ Board Masonic Trustees, use of halls, ...	125.00
	“ “ Portland Savings Bank, rent of offices, ...	400.00
	“ “ Mrs. Norah O'Toole, care of offices, ...	56.00
	“ “ Warren O. Carney, Grand Tyler, ser- vices and expenses,	74.70
	“ “ Stephen Berry, Grand Secretary, salary, printing Proceedings,	500.00
	“ mailing Proceedings, postage, etc., ...	833.99
	“ printing circulars, envelopes, etc., ...	37.13
	“ printing letter heads, notices, edicts, etc.,	12.35
	“ mail and express,	23.80
	“ incidentals for office,	52.25
	“ “ Marquis F. King, Gr. Treasurer, salary, and surety bond,	25.83
	“ “ stamps, envelopes and expressage,	250.00
		5.50

July 28.	To cash paid Josiah H. Drummond, Chairman Committee on Foreign Correspondence, ..	100.00
"	" Joseph A. Locke, Gr. Master, expenses,	68.92
"	" D. D. Gr. Masters, expenses as follows :	
	Herbert S. Sleeper, 1st District,	13.50
	Everett H. Fisher, 2d District,	14.00
	G. Harris Foster, 3d District,	26.55
	Edward F. Davis, 4th District,	26.00
	Fred H. Savage, 5th District,	36.11
	Fred C. Barton, 6th District,	13.65
	Albert W. Ward, 7th District,	23.00
	James E. Wentworth, 8th District, ..	18.50
	Frank A. Peterson, 9th District,	18.78
	Willard T. Marr, 10th District,	33.90
	Levi E. Jones, 11th District,	22.15
	James H. Witherell, 12th District, ...	25.68
	Herman W. S. Lovejoy, 13th District, ..	33.60
	Robert W. Carr, 14th District,	11.70
	James H. Howes, 15th District,	31.95
	Arthur C. Ricker, 16th District,	23.70
	Harlan P. Babb, 17th District,	10.44
	Isaac F. Jewett, 18th District,	24.59
	Isaac P. Gooch, 19th District,	10.00
	Edwin A. Reed, 20th District,	20.95
	James E. Parsons, 21st District,	20.55
	George M. Bond, 22d District,	24.75
	Frank H. Dexter, 23d District,	
	George H. Goding, 24th District,	16.35
	J. Frank Bryson, 25th District,	10.25
"	" Frank E. Sleeper, Grand Lecturer, by vote of Grand Lodge,	25.00
	Expense Rockland Convention,	24.85
	Expense Houlton Convention,	34.70
	Expense Lewiston Convention,	7.90
	Expense Clinton Convention, (bal.) ...	5.50
	postage and expressage, .....	.92
	Total Expenditures,	\$5,529.02
	Balance to new account,	6,657.26
	Respectfully submitted,	\$12,186.28

MARQUIS F. KING, *Grand Treasurer.*

Referred to the Committee of Finance.

GRAND SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Grand Secretary reported as follows :

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 2, 1899.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The duties of Grand Secretary have been faithfully and promptly discharged during the past year.

No brother has registered during the past year, and but one remains upon the rolls.

One application has been received for a hospital free bed for an aged brother suffering with cancer on the lip. I advised the lodge to raise the necessary amount by contribution, as was done in another case, where I had the pleasure of seeing the brother at the hospital making an excellent recovery after a serious operation.

The returns show the great fatality of the gale of November 27th. Ancient Land-Mark, Casco and Naskeag Lodges each show a member lost on board the Steamer Portland, while nine others are reported lost in the same gale with other vessels. Aurora Lodge two (master mariners), King David's one, Rockland two, Island three (master mariners), and Pleiades one.

In the army two deaths are reported, Northern Star Lodge, its junior Warden, and Composite Lodge, a member.

None are reported lost in the navy although Maine is largely represented in that branch of the service.

I suggest to the lodges the importance of preserving their annual returns by binding. Next to the records, they are the most valuable property, and they show the yearly standing of the lodge in a way that the records do not. By keeping them in a separate place from the records, an additional safeguard against fire is secured. The cost of binding is trivial, and the frequent use of those in the Grand Lodge archives, where bound copies have been preserved for over thirty years, shows how interesting and valuable they are. Where copies have been lost they can be furnished at a small expense for copying. Fraternaly submitted,

STEPHEN BERRY, *Grand Secretary.*

Referred to the Committee on Doings of the Grand Officers.

JURISDICTION OF DEERING LODGE.

Bro. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Dispensation and Charters :

Voted, That the jurisdiction of Deering Lodge, No. 183, be, and remain until the further order of the Grand Lodge, as it was before the annexation of the City of Deering to the City of Portland.

RETURNS.

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

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, Tuesday, May 2, 1899.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your Committee on Returns would report that returns have been received from all the 195 chartered lodges.

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

	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
Initiated,	850.	831.	746.	774.	710
Raised,	823.	837.	721.	768.	702
Affiliated,	124.	137.	118.	80.	95
Re-instated,	52.	50.	59.	54.	70
Dimitted,	224.	209.	160.	169.	200
Died,	372.	366.	339.	407.	419
Suspended,	1.	0.	1.	0.	1
Expelled,	2.	3.	2.	2.	2
Susp. from membership, ..	207.	283.	224.	305.	271
Deprived of membership, ...	6.	22.	18.	13.	15
Number of members,	21,809.	21,953.	22,085.	22,191.	22,165
Rejected,	172.	222.	174.	196.	149

The initiations have decreased $8\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and the raised $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; the affiliations have increased $18\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. and the restorations 30 per cent.

The dimissions have increased $15\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the deaths 3 per cent.; the suspensions from membership have fallen off 11 per cent. The result is a loss in membership of 26. The death rate is nearly 19 to a thousand against $18\frac{1}{2}$ last year and $15\frac{1}{2}$ in 1897.

The accompanying abstract will show the work in detail.

Fraternally submitted,

STEPHEN BERRY,
MOSES TAIT,
JAMES H. WITHERELL,

} Committee.

ABSTRACT OF RETURNS, 1899.

Nos.	LOGGES.	Initiated.	Raised.	Affiliated.	Re-instated.	Dimitted.	Died.	Suspended.	Expelled.	N. P. Dues.		No. Members.	Rejected.
										Suspended.	D. of Mem.		
1	Portland.....	7	7	1	0	1	8	0	0	1	4	339	1
2	Warren.....	7	7	0	0	0	6	0	0	1	0	101	0
3	Lincoln.....	1	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	74	0
4	Hancock.....	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	79	0
5	Kennebec.....	4	3	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	152	0
6	Amity.....	5	6	2	0	2	1	0	0	4	0	190	0
7	Eastern.....	1	4	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	116	0
8	United.....	2	6	2	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	127	2
9	Saco.....	3	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	128	2
10	Rising Virtue.....	2	2	1	1	1	6	0	0	1	0	156	2
11	Pythagorean.....	2	3	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	91	0
12	Cumberland.....	7	8	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	71	1
13	Oriental.....	5	6	1	0	3	5	0	0	0	0	155	0
14	Solar.....	4	3	1	0	2	7	0	0	1	0	256	1
15	Orient.....	1	1	0	0	1	6	0	0	7	0	154	1
16	St. George.....	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	99	0
17	Ancient Landmark.....	5	4	1	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	440	5
18	Oxford.....	4	5	0	0	3	6	0	0	1	0	164	1
19	Felicity.....	0	2	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	101	2
20	Maine.....	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	113	1
21	Oriental Star.....	16	15	3	2	1	2	0	0	2	0	190	4
22	York.....	6	6	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	115	1
23	Freeport.....	8	6	0	0	4	4	0	0	4	0	136	1
24	Phoenix.....	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	155	0
25	Temple.....	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	79	0
26	Village.....	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	92	0
27	Adoniram.....	4	5	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	62	0
28	Northern Star.....	2	3	1	4	3	2	0	0	7	0	88	1
29	Tranquil.....	9	8	3	2	2	6	0	0	0	0	256	1
30	Blazing Star.....	11	12	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	155	2
31	Union.....	1	1	0	0	5	3	0	0	1	0	103	0
32	Hermon.....	16	15	3	0	1	5	0	0	6	0	333	4
33	Waterville.....	9	8	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	224	3
34	Somerset.....	4	5	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	170	0
35	Bethlehem.....	15	15	3	0	3	4	0	0	2	0	293	0
36	Casco.....	5	5	0	0	3	2	0	0	4	0	161	2
37	Washington.....	5	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	91	0
38	Harmony.....	3	2	0	1	3	2	0	0	9	0	126	0
39	Penobscot.....	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	143	1
40	Lygonia.....	4	6	0	1	4	7	0	0	14	0	213	0
41	Morning Star.....	1	1	0	0	2	3	0	0	5	0	104	0
42	Freedom.....	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	0
43	Alna.....	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	136	0
44	Piscataquis.....	2	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	109	1
45	Central.....	0	0	0	1	0	6	0	0	2	0	105	0
46	St. Croix.....	4	5	0	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	184	1
47	Dunlap.....	8	3	1	1	2	5	0	0	0	0	242	6
48	Lafayette.....	3	3	3	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	97	1
49	Meridian Splendor.....	6	5	3	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	85	0
50	Aurora.....	4	3	1	0	1	7	0	0	16	0	260	1
51	St. John's.....	6	7	0	0	2	3	0	0	2	0	103	1

Nos.	Lodges.	In.	R.	A.	R.	D.	D	S.	E.	N. P. S.	Dues. D.	Mem.	R.
52	Mosaic,.....	11	12	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	155	0
53	Rural,.....	6	10	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	0
54	Vassalboro,.....	1	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	3	0	53	0
55	Fraternal,.....	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	61	0
56	Mount Moriah,....	3	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	49	0
57	King Hiram,.....	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	95	0
58	Unity,.....	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	53	0
59	Mt. Hope, (ch. sur.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
60	Star in the East,...	7	10	0	3	0	3	0	0	3	0	173	3
61	King Solomon's,...	2	3	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	109	1
62	King David's,.....	1	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	81	0
63	Richmond,.....	5	6	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	126	2
64	Pacific,.....	2	2	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	103	0
65	Mystic,.....	2	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	113	2
66	Mechanics',.....	6	6	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	91	1
67	Blue Mountain,....	4	6	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	89	1
68	Mariners',.....	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	7	0	103	0
69	Howard,.....	3	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	9	0	100	0
70	Standish,.....	4	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	66	1
71	Rising Sun,.....	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	80	0
72	Pioneer,.....	7	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	76	0
73	Tyrian,.....	3	3	0	0	0	4	0	0	19	0	194	2
74	Bristol,.....	4	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	138	0
75	Plymouth,.....	3	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	65	0
76	Arundel,.....	3	4	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	61	0
77	Tremont,.....	4	3	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	138	0
78	Crescent,.....	2	2	0	0	0	5	0	0	6	0	102	0
79	Rockland,.....	2	3	0	10	2	8	0	0	5	0	243	0
80	Keystone,.....	0	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	100	1
81	Atlantic,.....	2	5	0	1	1	6	0	0	3	0	273	0
82	St. Paul's,.....	3	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	186	0
83	St. Andrew's,.....	7	7	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	213	2
84	Eureka,.....	8	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	108	4
85	Star in the West,...	1	1	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	93	0
86	Temple,.....	6	8	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	171	5
87	Benevolent,.....	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	8	0	53	0
88	Narraguagus,.....	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	94	0
89	Island,.....	5	5	0	0	2	8	0	0	0	0	69	0
90	H. Abiff, (ch. rev.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
91	Harwood,.....	1	1	2	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	167	0
92	Siloam,.....	6	6	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	147	0
93	Horeb,.....	2	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	4	0	115	3
94	Paris,.....	1	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	101	2
95	Corinthian,.....	6	6	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	80	0
96	Monument,.....	7	8	3	0	4	0	0	0	6	0	177	5
97	Bethel,.....	5	3	1	0	4	2	0	0	4	0	91	0
98	Katahdin,.....	5	5	0	2	1	2	0	0	2	0	86	0
99	Vernon Valley,....	2	3	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	1	85	0
100	Jefferson,.....	4	4	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	4	65	0
101	Nezinscot,.....	1	4	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	94	0
102	Marsh River,.....	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	71	1
103	Dresden,.....	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	46	0
104	Dirigo,.....	3	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	95	0
105	Ashlar,.....	7	11	1	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	278	1

Nos.	Lodges.	In.	R.	A.	R.	D.	D.	S.	E.	N. P. S.	Dues. D.	Mem.	R.
106	Tuscan.....	4	5	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	124	0
107	Day Spring.....	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	44	0
108	Relief, (ch. rec'd.).....												
109	Mount Kineo.....	4	3	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	157	1
110	Monmouth.....	10	10	3	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	104	0
111	Liberty.....	3	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	97	1
112	Eastern Frontier.....	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	108	0
113	Messalonskee.....	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	93	0
114	Polar Star.....	21	14	1	0	1	5	0	0	1	0	227	0
115	Buxton.....	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	94	0
116	Lebanon.....	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	76	0
117	Greenleaf.....	3	2	0	1	2	3	0	0	8	0	174	0
118	Drummond.....	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	0
119	Pownal.....	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	88	0
120	Meduncock, (ch. s).....												
121	Acacia.....	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	72	0
122	Marine.....	12	11	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	144	1
123	Franklin.....	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	73	0
124	Olive Branch.....	4	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	75	0
125	Meridian.....	8	8	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	132	4
126	Timothy Chase.....	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	121	0
127	Presumpscot.....	4	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	94	0
128	Eggemoggin.....	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	86	0
129	Quantabacook.....	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	3	0	86	0
130	Trinity.....	6	4	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	104	1
131	Lookout.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	33	0
132	Mount Tire'm.....	3	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	80	0
133	Asylum.....	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	55	2
134	Trojan, (consol'd).....												
135	Riverside.....	1	1	1	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	98	0
136	Ionic, (ch. sur.).....												
137	Kenduskeag.....	2	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	90	0
138	Lewy's Island.....	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	117	1
139	Archon.....	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	52	0
140	Mount Desert.....	7	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	117	0
141	Augusta.....	8	9	0	1	2	2	0	0	7	0	239	5
142	Ocean.....	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	47	0
143	Preble.....	3	3	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	78	2
144	Seaside.....	7	6	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	144	1
145	Moses Webster.....	3	3	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	0	198	1
146	Sebasticook.....	2	3	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	0	90	0
147	Evening Star.....	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	77	0
148	Forest.....	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	103	2
149	Doric.....	6	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	107	0
150	Rabboni.....	4	4	1	1	1	5	1	0	3	0	174	3
151	Excelsior.....	1	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	43	0
152	Crooked River.....	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	85	1
153	Delta.....	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	71	0
154	Mystic Tie.....	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	60	2
155	Ancient York.....	8	8	0	0	1	2	0	0	3	0	111	0
156	Wilton.....	5	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	122	0
157	Cambridge.....	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	69	0
158	Anchor.....	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	40	0
159	Esoteric.....	5	7	0	0	17	4	0	0	0	2	163	0

Nos.	Lodges.	In.	R.	A.	R.	D.	D.	S.	E.	N. P. Dues.		Mem.	R.
										S.	D.		
160	Parian,	3	2	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	86	0
161	Carrabassett,	5	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	89	0
162	Arion,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	0
163	Pleasant River, ...	6	6	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	103	3
164	Webster,	1	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	50	0
165	Molunkus,	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	59	0
166	Neguemekeag,	2	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	42	0
167	Whitney,	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	80	1
168	Composite,	7	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	63	0
169	Shepherd's River, ..	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	0
170	Caribou,	3	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	106	0
171	Naskeag,	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	63	0
172	Pine Tree,	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	129	2
173	Pleiades,	3	3	0	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	112	2
174	Lynde,	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	72	0
175	Baskahegan,	4	4	2	1	2	0	0	0	17	0	97	0
176	Palestine, (Con.) ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
177	Rising Star,	1	1	1	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	62	0
178	Ancient Brothers', ..	8	6	0	1	1	3	0	0	5	0	147	1
179	Yorkshire,	4	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	67	0
180	Hiram,	5	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	180	3
181	Reuel Washburn, ..	<i>Co</i>	<i>nso</i>	<i>lia</i>	<i>at</i>	<i>ed.</i>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
182	Granite,	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	78	1
183	Deering,	6	6	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	212	1
184	Naval,	2	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	3	0	73	0
185	Bar Harbor,	6	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	129	4
186	Warren Phillips, ..	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	159	0
187	Ira Berry,	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	58	2
188	Jonesport,	4	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	99	3
189	Knox,	5	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	0
190	Springvale,	14	13	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	89	5
191	Davis,	3	4	1	1	0	2	0	0	6	0	88	0
192	Winter Harbor, ...	3	3	0	0	3	1	0	0	2	0	91	0
193	Washburn,	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	0
194	Euclid,	4	4	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	97	1
195	Reliance,	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	130	2
196	Bay View,	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	61	0
197	Aroostook,	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	76	0
198	Saint Aspinquid, ..	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	0
199	Bingham,	4	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	75	3
200	Columbia,	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	35	0
201	David A. Hooper, ...	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	0
202	Mount Bigelow, ...	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0
203	Mount Olivet,	9	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	35	0
		710	702	95	70	200	419	1	2	271	15	22165	149

LIBRARY.

Bro. ALBRO E. CHASE presented the following report:

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 2, 1899.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The Committee on Library would report that during the year they have had bound thirty five-volumes of Proceedings and nine volumes of the Portland Masonic Journal.

They have purchased two quarto volumes of the History of Freemasonry in Michigan, at an expense of \$13.00, and volume 4 of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Reprint of Minutes, 1817-1822.

Your committee recommend that a sum not exceeding thirty dollars be placed at their disposal for the purchase of Proceedings and other masonic works of value.

Your committee would further recommend that power be given them to have bound such sets of Proceedings as may be completed during the year.

Fraternally submitted,

JOSEPH A. LOCKE, }
ALBRO E. CHASE, } *Committee.*
A. S. KIMBALL, }

Report accepted and recommendations adopted.

DOINGS OF THE GRAND OFFICERS.

Bro. HENRY R. TAYLOR reported as follows:

PORTLAND, May 2, 1899.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your Committee on Doings of the Grand Officers would report as follows:

We recommend that the reports of the D. D. Gr. Masters, the report of the Grand Lecturer and reports of District Conventions be referred to the Committee on Condition of the Fraternity.

That the decisions of the Grand Master be referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence.

That the communication received from Grande Oriente d'Italia, the "Supreme Council of Portugal" and from the "United Grand Lodge of Mexico" be referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence.

That so much of the Grand Master's report as relates to the Grand Lodge of Peru be referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence.

That so much of the Grand Master's report as refers to the Grand Lodge of Washington be referred to the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

That the communications received from the Grand Lodge of Virginia relative to the 100th anniversary of the death of Bro. GEORGE WASHINGTON be referred to a special committee to be appointed by the Grand Master.

That so much of the Grand Master's report, as refers to fixing a limit of time within which a member suspended from membership for non-payment

of dues must restore himself to membership, be referred to the Committee on "Masonic Jurisprudence."

Fraternally submitted,

H. R. TAYLOR, }
 H. H. BURBANK, } *Committee.*
 WM. R. G. ESTES, }

Report accepted and recommendations adopted.

The Grand Master appointed as a special committee on the observance of the 100th anniversary of the death of Bro. GEORGE WASHINGTON, Bros. EDWARD P. BURNHAM, HENRY R. TAYLOR and JAMES E. PARSONS.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

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

Voted, That on Wednesday, after the exemplification of the work, no business shall be transacted.

At 11.45 the Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment until 2 o'clock P. M.

FIRST DAY—AFTERNOON.

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, }
 TUESDAY, May 2, 1899. }

The Grand Lodge was called from refreshment to labor at two o'clock.

MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

Bro. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND reported as follows :

IN GRAND LODGE OF MAINE, May 2, 1899.

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, to which were referred the decisions of the M. W. Grand Master announced at the last Annual Communication, have considered the same and recommend that they be approved.

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

Report accepted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Voted, That the Committee on Pay-Roll be a Committee on Leave of Absence, with authority to excuse from further attendance any member of the Grand Lodge whose exigency was not anticipated prior to his coming to this meeting. The committee are further authorized to grant full mileage and per diem to those excused.

OBSERVANCE ANNIVERSARY DEATH OF WASHINGTON.

Bro. HENRY R. TAYLOR submitted the following:

PORTLAND, May 2, 1899.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

Your special committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand Master's correspondence as relates to observance of the "100th anniversary of the death of Bro. GEORGE WASHINGTON," hereby recommend that the M. W. Grand Master and Past Grand Master JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, each with power of substitution, be empowered to represent the Grand Lodge of Maine in the services appointed for December 14, 1899, at Alexandria and Mount Vernon.

We also recommend the appropriation of such sum not exceeding sixty dollars for each, be made by this Grand Lodge for defraying expenses of said representatives.

Fraternally submitted,

EDWARD P. BURNHAM, }
 HENRY R. TAYLOR, } *Committee.*
 JAMES E. PARSONS, }

Report accepted and recommendations adopted.

BELGIUM AND PORTUGAL.

Bro. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND reported the following:

IN GRAND LODGE OF MAINE, May 2, 1899.

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, to which were referred at the last annual communication, the requests of the Grand Orient of Belgium and the Grand Orient Lusitano Unido of Portugal for masonic recognition, ask leave to report:

That the Grand Orient of Belgium appears to be a Body independent of any superior, and exercising jurisdiction over Symbolic Masonry alone: that it has already been recognized by many of the Grand Lodges in the United States, as a regular Supreme Body governing Symbolic Masonry.

That they are not satisfied as to the *status* of the Grand Orient Lusitano Unido of Portugal.

They, therefore, recommend that the accompanying resolutions be adopted.

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

Resolved, That masonic recognition be extended to the Grand Orient of Belgium, and the Grand Master be requested to solicit masonic correspondence, and an interchange of Representatives with that Grand Body.

Voted, That it is inexpedient to consider further, at the present time, the request of the Grand Orient Lusitano Unido of Portugal.

Report accepted and resolutions adopted.

LIMITING GRAND LODGE SESSIONS.

BRO. A. M. WETHERBEE offered the following amendment to the Constitution :

That Article III, Sec. 3, of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Maine be amended by adding after (" at nine o'clock A. M. ") the words, " and continue in session until Wednesday following at six o'clock P. M., or until such time as the annual business shall have been finished and the newly elected officers installed."

So that the article III, Sec. 3 as amended shall read as follows:

" The annual communication of the Grand Lodge shall be holden in Portland, on the first Tuesday in May, at nine o'clock A. M., and continue in session until Wednesday following at six o'clock P. M., or until such time as the annual business shall have been finished, and the newly elected officers installed.

" Special communications may be called, as the Grand Lodge or Grand Master may direct."

After a brief discussion, the Grand Lodge refused to entertain the proposed amendment.

Three o'clock being the hour specified by the constitution for the election of Grand Officers, the Grand Master appointed the following committees to receive, sort and count votes:

I. LEANDER M. KENNISTON, JAMES E. PARSONS, SAMUEL L. MILLER.

II. HERBERT HARRIS, HOWARD D. SMITH, ENOCH O. GREENLEAF.

These committees having attended to their duties reported the election of

WINFIELD S. CHOATE,	<i>Grand Master,</i>	Augusta;
ALFRED S. KIMBALL,	<i>Deputy Grand Master,</i>	Norway;
WILLIAM J. BURNHAM,	<i>Senior Grand Warden,</i>	Lewiston;
FRANKLIN R. REDLON,	<i>Junior Grand Warden,</i>	Portland;
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 for three years—CHARLES I. COLLAMORE, Bangor; FESSENDEN I. DAY, Lewiston.

At 4.30 the Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment until 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon.

SECOND DAY—AFTERNOON.

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, }
 Wednesday, May 3, 1899. }

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

DISPENSATIONS AND CHARTERS.

Bro. ARCHIE L. TALBOT reported as follows :

IN GRAND LODGE, May 3, 1899.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

The Committee on Dispensation and Charters, to whom was referred the question of jurisdiction of Deering Lodge, No. 183, have carefully considered the same and recommend that the territorial jurisdiction of said lodge be, and remain until the further order of this Grand Lodge, as it was before the annexation of the city of Deering to the city of Portland.

The above is the only business that has been presented to this committee.

Respectfully submitted,

A. L. TALBOT,	} Committee.
E. B. MALLET, JR.,	
AUGUSTUS BAILEY,	

Report accepted, recommendations adopted and ordered incorporated with the standing regulations.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS.

Bro. CHARLES I. COLLAMORE presented the following report :

PORTLAND, May 3, 1899.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine.

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

In the case of Parian Lodge, No. 160, at Corinna, against Bro. HENRY J. SEAVEY, wherein Bro. HENRY J. SEAVEY was expelled from all the rights and benefits of Masonry, we recommend the passage of the following:

Resolved, That the doings of Parian Lodge, No. 160, in expelling Bro. HENRY J. SEAVEY from all the rights and benefits of Masonry, be approved and confirmed.

In the case of Euclid Lodge, No. 194, at Madison, against Bro. WILLIAM H. MACE, wherein Bro. WILLIAM H. MACE was expelled from all the rights and privileges of Masonry, we recommend the passage of the following:

Resolved, That the doings of Euclid Lodge, No. 194, in expelling Bro. WILLIAM H. MACE from all the rights and benefits of Masonry, be approved and confirmed.

In the case of Lookout Lodge, No. 131, at Cutler, against Bro. HENRY C. WARREN, wherein Bro. HENRY C. WARREN was expelled from all the rights and benefits of Masonry, we recommend the passage of the following:

Resolved, That the doings of Lookout Lodge, No. 131, in expelling Bro. HENRY C. WARREN from all the rights and benefits of Masonry, be approved and confirmed.

In the case of Rabboni Lodge, No. 150, at Lewiston, against Bro. DANVILLE B. STEVENS, wherein Bro. DANVILLE B. STEVENS was indefinitely suspended from all the rights and benefits of Masonry, your committee are of the opinion that this sentence is not a sufficient punishment for the offence, as shown and proven by the testimony. We therefore recommend the passage of the following:

Resolved, That the sentence of indefinite suspension of Bro. DANVILLE B. STEVENS, by Rabboni Lodge, No. 150, be set aside, and that Bro. DANVILLE B. STEVENS be hereby expelled from all the rights and benefits of Masonry.

Fraternally submitted,

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

Report accepted and recommendations adopted.

FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS.

Bro. ALBRO E. CHASE submitted the following:

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, May 3, 1899.

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, and properly vouched for, the records neatly written and extended in full, and the affairs of the Grand Lodge in good condition.

The receipts for the past year have been as follows:

May 3, 1898. Cash on hand,	\$5,926.95	
Cash receipts for the year,	6,259.33	
		\$12,186.28
The expenditures have been	\$5,529.02	
May 2, 1899. Cash on hand to new account,	6,657.26	
		\$12,186.28

The detailed account of the Charity Fund will be found in the report of the Grand Treasurer. The amount of the invested fund is \$32,306.01.

Your committee submit the following recommendations:

That for compensation for their services for the year ending May 1, 1900, there 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.

Fraternally submitted,

EDWARD P. BURNHAM,

ALBRO E. CHASE,

Committee of Finance.

Report accepted and recommendations adopted.

The report of the Grand Treasurer was then accepted.
 ed.

JURISPRUDENCE—PERU.

BRO. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND reported as follows :

IN GRAND LODGE OF MAINE, May 3, 1899.

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, to which was referred so much of the address of the M. W. Grand Master as relates to the Grand Lodge of Peru, ask leave to report:

That the documents submitted show that the Grand Lodge of Peru has rescinded the obnoxious decree, which caused the suspension of masonic intercourse with that Grand Body, by so decisive a vote as to afford the strongest grounds for belief that there is little danger of a revival. Grand Officers in sympathy with this action have also been elected.

This prompt return to the fundamental principals of Masonry will be hailed with joy by the craft the world over.

We recommend that the Edict issued by our M. W. Grand Master, resuming fraternal relations and his action in relation to exchange of Grand Representatives, be heartily approved.

Fraternally submitted,

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, }
 MARQUIS F. KING, } *Committee.*

Report accepted and recommendation adopted.

CREDENTIALS.

BRO. WILLIAM N. HOWE submitted the completed report of the Committee on Credentials, which was accepted.

EXEMPLIFICATION OF WORK.

An exemplification of the Third degree was then presented by a special lodge composed of brethren from the ninth district, Bro. ALEXANDER A. BEATON, of Rockland Lodge, acting as Master, and the Grand Lodge extended its thanks to the brethren for the excellent rendition.

At 4.25 the Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment until 9 o'clock Thursday morning.

 THIRD DAY—MORNING.

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND, }
 THURSDAY, May 4, 1899. }

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

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE—WASHINGTON.

Brother JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND submitted the following report:

IN GRAND LODGE OF MAINE, May 4, 1899.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence, to which was referred so much of the Grand Master's address as relates to the Grand Lodge of Washington, fraternally report:

That having discussed the matter in their general report, they have no occasion to discuss it further, as they find nothing in the correspondence between the M. W. Grand Master of Washington and our own M. W. Grand Master, to change or modify their views.

There are no organizations of the character involved, existing in Maine, so that the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington has been no actual invasion of our rights, and therefore we do not feel called upon to resort, at present at least, to extreme measures.

But inasmuch as the resolutions of the Grand Lodge of Washington expressly recognize the so-called Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and two similar organizations in Pennsylvania as "legitimate Masonic Grand Lodges," it is manifest that if the Grand Lodge of Washington persists in its course this Grand Lodge must ultimately stand by her sister Grand Lodges in support of legitimate Masonry, as such has invariably been done in the past.

But we have hopes that the Grand Lodge of Washington will listen to the unanimous voice of her sister Grand Lodges in the United States and remove the cause of offence.

We recommend the adoption of the accompanying resolutions.

Fraternally submitted,

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

Resolved, That the Grand Lodge of Maine again re-affirms the doctrine that every regular Grand Lodge has, *by inherent right*, exclusive jurisdiction within its own territory, and especially that no lawful lodge can be created or exist, and that no person can be made a regular mason in that territory save under its authority.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge of Washington, in adopting resolutions allowing its subordinates and the members of its obedience to recognize as regular masons, parties made in lodges in another jurisdiction held by the Grand Lodge of that jurisdiction to be irregular and clandestine, has infringed upon a law held by all other English-speaking Grand Lodges to be binding upon *all* Grand Lodges.

Resolved, That this Grand Lodge fraternally but most earnestly, requests the Grand Lodge of Washington to rescind those resolutions, to the end that the peace of the craft may be restored and the interests of legitimate Masonry subserved.

Report accepted and resolutions adopted. The Grand Secretary was ordered to send a copy to the Grand Lodge of Washington under seal, and copies to other Grand Lodges.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Bro. WILLIAM R. G. ESTES reported as follows :

IN GRAND LODGE OF MAINE, May 3, 1899.

The Committee on Amendments to the Constitution recommend the adoption of the amendments to Article XIV, Sec. 25, and also to Article I, Part Fourth, Sec. 127, relating to and limiting the power and duties of District Deputy Grand Masters, as proposed one year ago and found on pages 60 and 61 in the Proceedings of 1898.

H. H. BURBANK,	} <i>Committee.</i>
WM. R. ESTES,	
A. M. WETHERBEE,	

Report accepted, and recommendations unani-
mously adopted.

Bro. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, for the Committee on Jurisprudence, offered the following amendments to the Constitution:

ADD TO SECTION 117.

A brother suspended from membership for non-payment of dues will be restored by the payment or remission of the amount due at the time of his suspension, at any time within five years thereafter: but after that time he can be restored only upon his application and a two-thirds vote of the lodge, after payment or remission of the amount in arrears.

ADD TO SECTION 117.

A brother suspended from membership for non-payment of dues will be restored by the payment or remission of the amount due at the time of suspension, at any time within three years thereafter: but after that time, or if deprived of membership, he can regain it only by petition and unanimous ballot, as in other cases, after payment or remission of the amount in arrears.

ADD TO SECTION 117.

A brother suspended from membership for non-payment of dues will be restored by the payment or remission of the amount due at the time of suspension, at any time within five years thereafter: but after that time, or if deprived of membership, he can regain it only by petition and unanimous ballot as in other cases, after payment or remission of the amount in arrears.

The amendments were entertained and referred to the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution.

PORTUGAL.

BRO. DRUMMOND, for the Committee on Jurisprudence, further reported, that the subject of the Grand Orient of Portugal had already been reported upon, so that no further action was necessary, and the report was accepted.

Voted, That all matters referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, not already reported upon, be continued in their hands.

CONDITION OF THE FRATERNITY.

BRO. HOWARD D. SMITH presented the following report, which was accepted:

IN GRAND LODGE, May 4, 1899.

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 all the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters, and find that general prosperity prevails. We again call the attention of lodges to the importance of conducting the business of the lodge in a business-like way. The annual reports of the Treasurer and Secretary should show clearly *all* the financial transactions of the lodge, and these reports should invariably be spread in full upon the records. We are gratified to learn that the practice of examining in open lodge, candidates for advancement, is becoming more general. It is hoped that this practice will be observed by all the lodges.

We trust that all lodges will give their attention to that portion of the Grand Master's address relating to guarding well the outer door.

H. R. TAYLOR,	} Committee.
H. D. SMITH,	
ALBERT M. PENLEY,	

ARION LODGE.

Voted, That a copy of the charter of Arion Lodge, No. 162, be granted to that lodge without fee, in place of the one destroyed by fire, and that the dispensation be continued until the copy is furnished.

HISTORY.

BRO. SUMNER J. CHADBOURNE, for the Committee on History, reported that no histories had been received during the past year, and the report was accepted.

AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION--PROCEEDINGS.

BRO. HORACE H. BURBANK reported as follows :

IN GRAND LODGE, May 4, 1899.

The Committee on Amendments to the Constitution submit the following report:

We recommend the adoption of the amendment proposed last year (found on page 47 of printed proceedings 1898) relating to section 91 of constitution. Said section as amended will read:

"SEC. 91. Every lodge must preserve one copy of the printed proceedings in the hall, and when a volume is completed should bind it for the use of the lodge."

HORACE H. BURBANK,	}	<i>Committee.</i>
WM. R. G. ESTES,		
A. M. WETHERBEE,		

Report accepted, and amendment unanimously adopted.

PAY ROLL.

BRO. A. C. T. KING, for the Committee on Pay Roll, presented a schedule which was ordered paid.

INSTALLATION AND APPOINTMENTS.

Past Grand Master JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND was then called to the East, and Grand Master JOSEPH A. LOCKE presented his successor, M. Wor. WINFIELD S. CHOATE, who was installed, with prayer by the Rev. JOHN GIBSON, Grand Chaplain.

He announced the following appointments :

R. W.	CHARLES D. SMITH,	<i>Cor. Grand Secretary,</i>	Portland.
"	CYRUS W. HENDRIX,	<i>D. D. G. M. 1st Dist.,</i>	Caribou.
"	ALFRED SMALL,	" " 2d "	Lubec.
"	DAVID W. CAMPBELL,	" " 3d "	Cherryfield.
"	THEODORE A. SMITH,	" " 4th "	Sedgwick.
"	ALLEN P. CLARK,	" " 5th "	Foxcroft.
"	FRED C. BARTON,	" " 6th "	Bradley.
"	ADELBERT MILLETT,	" " 7th "	Searsmont.
"	S. AUGUSTUS PARKER,	" " 8th "	Belfast.
"	FRANK A. PETERSON,	" " 9th "	Rockland.
"	JOHN R. McDOUGAL,	" " 10th "	Boothbay Harbor.
"	CHARLES B. ADAMS,	" " 11th "	Augusta.
"	JAMES H. WITHERELL,	" " 12th "	Oakland.
"	GRANVILLE D. PERKINS,	" " 13th "	Madison.
"	FREEMAN M. GRANT,	" " 14th "	Freeport.
"	FRED RAYMOND,	" " 15th "	Livermore Falls.
"	JOSEPH W. SIMPSON,	" " 16th "	Rumford Falls.
"	ALBERT H. BURROUGHS,	" " 17th "	Westbrook.
"	ISAAC F. JEWETT,	" " 18th "	Waterford.
"	EVERETT M. STAPLES,	" " 19th "	Biddeford.
"	PHILIP J. MILLS,	" " 20th "	Lincoln.
"	CHARLES F. PAINE,	" " 21st "	Bar Harbor.
"	MILTON L. MERRILL,	" " 22d "	St. Albans.
"	FRANK WILSON,	" " 23d "	Sanford.
"	GEORGE H. GODING,	" " 24th "	Lewiston Junction.
"	J. FRANK BRYSON,	" " 25th "	Houlton.
W. & Rev.	ELMER F. PEMBER,	<i>Grand Chaplain,</i>	Bangor.
"	JOHN GIBSON,	" "	Cape Elizabeth.
"	GEORGE M. HOWE,	" "	Lewiston.
"	GEORGE F. DEGAN,	" "	Augusta.
"	JOSEPH B. SHEPHERD,	" "	Portland.
W.	ALBERT T. MURPHY,	" <i>Marshal,</i>	Augusta.
"	ERMON D. EASTMAN,	" <i>Senior Deacon,</i>	Portland.
"	CHARLES W. CROSBY,	" <i>Junior Deacon,</i>	Kent's Hill.
"	WILLIAM A. REMICK,	" <i>Steward,</i>	Bucksport.
"	JAMES E. KINGSLEY,	" "	Augusta.
"	ROBERT W. CARR,	" "	Bowdoinham.
"	ALBERT M. AMES,	" "	Stockton Springs.
"	WILLIAM N. HOWE,	" <i>Sword Bearer,</i>	Portland.
"	LEVI E. JONES,	" <i>Standard Bearer,</i>	Winthrop.
"	WILLIAM O. FOX,	" <i>Pursuivant,</i>	Portland.
"	WILLIAM L. POWERS,	" "	Gardiner.
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, elect and appointed, who were present, were then presented by Past Grand Master LOCKE, and were installed by Past Grand

Master DRUMMOND, and proclamation was made, after which the Grand Master assumed the East.

Bro. ALBRO E. CHASE presented the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Grand Lodge are returned to M. W. Past Grand Master JOSEPH A. LOCKE for the earnest, efficient and manly manner in which he has discharged the duties of Grand Master for the past two years.

The Grand Secretary was authorized to publish the portrait of Past Grand Master LOCKE in the Proceedings.

W. ERMON D. EASTMAN, attended by a delegation from Portland Lodge, then, in behalf of members of Portland Lodge, presented a Past Grand Master's jewel to Past Grand Master LOCKE, who accepted it with graceful thanks to the lodge.

The Grand Master announced the following

STANDING COMMITTEES.

On Credentials.

WM. N. HOWE, FRANCIS L. TALBOT, CHAS. B. ADAMS.

On Grievances and Appeals.

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

On Publication.

FESSENDEN I. DAY, W. SCOTT SHOREY, MANLY G. TRASK.

On History.

SUMNER J. CHADBOURNE, HORACE MITCHELL, JOSEPH A. LOCKE.

On Dispensations and Charters.

AUG. B. FARNHAM, ARCHIE L. TALBOT, EDMUND B. MALLET.

On Amendments to the Constitution.

HORACE H. BURBANK, 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.

W. S. CHOATE, (*ex-officio*) ALBRO E. CHASE, JOSEPH A. LOCKE.

On Transportation.

STEPHEN BERRY, W. FREEMAN LORD, CHAS. M. SLEEPER.

On Returns.

STEPHEN BERRY, MOSES TAIT, ELMER E. SPOFFORD.

The Grand Master ordered that Mount Olivet Lodge, No. 203, at Washington, be transferred from the Seventh to the Ninth District.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

BRO. ARCHIE L. TALBOT, for the Committee on Unfinished Business, reported that the business of the communication was completed, which report was accepted.

The minutes were read and approved, and at 11 o'clock the Grand Lodge was closed, prayer being offered by Grand Chaplain JOHN GIBSON.

Attest:



Stephen Berry

Grand Secretary.

The eighty-first Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge will be held at Masonic Hall, Portland, Tuesday, May 1, 1900, at 9 o'clock A. M.

REPORTS

OF

District · Deputy · Grand · Masters.

FIRST DISTRICT.

TO M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

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

I have made official visits to each lodge in my district during the year. I have installed all their officers except those of Pioneer Lodge. All the installations, with one exception, have been private, and have been attended by members of neighboring lodges, and each has been the occasion of many pleasant greetings.

December 24th, visited Pioneer Lodge, No. 72. This was a stated meeting. There was a good attendance of officers and members, and the M. M. degree was conferred. The officers of this lodge are young and interested in their work, and the lodge is in good condition financially.

January 5th, visited Caribou Lodge, No. 170. This was a regular meeting and the time fixed for installation, and by invitation I installed the officers into their respective stations. This is a good lodge and well officered. The records are in good hands and correctly kept.

January 23d, visited Trinity Lodge, No. 130, and by invitation installed the officers elect, and witnessed work in E. A. degree, which was done by the new officers in a very satisfactory manner.

January 25th, visited Eastern Frontier Lodge, No. 112, and by invitation installed the officers and witnessed work in E. A. degree. There was a large attendance of visiting brethren. The work was finely done, calling for very little criticism. On completion of the work remarks were made by a

number of the visitors. Refreshments were served and all enjoyed a pleasant and profitable evening.

I have attended nearly every meeting of Washburn Lodge, No. 193, of which I am a member, and have witnessed work in all of the degrees, and whenever occasion has occurred have made corrections and suggestions.

In conclusion, allow me to thank the officers and brethren of the several lodges in my district for the many courtesies extended to me during the past two years. I trust, and doubt not, they will receive my successor with that cordiality which has made my official duties so pleasant and agreeable. Fraternaly submitted.

HERBERT S. SLEEPER, *D. D. G. M. 1st M. D.*

SECOND DISTRICT.

TO M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit my first annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Second Masonic District.

I have visited every lodge in this district and witnessed work in each of them. It gives me pleasure to state that the lodges in this district perform the work quite uniformly. The records are correctly kept, and the lodges in quite prosperous condition.

June 8th, granted permission to Lewy's Island Lodge, No. 138, to appear in public at divine worship.

November 23d, visited Lewy's Island Lodge, No. 138, and witnessed work in Master Mason's degree. Officers' stations all filled and work well rendered. Records well and neatly kept by Bro. S. O. HOAR. Financial standing good.

February 8th, I visited Washington Lodge, No. 37. Work in Master Mason's degree. This lodge does excellent work. Very few delinquent members. Bro. WM. McBRIDE keeps the records correctly and neatly.

The eleventh annual convention of this district met with Crescent Lodge January 18, 1899. Large delegations from the lodges in this district were present; several other lodges were also represented. Convention called to order at 2 p. m. by R. W. E. H. FISHER, who stated the object of it, after which a lodge of Master Masons was opened in due form. Saint Croix Lodge exemplified the work in the E. A. degree. A few remarks and criticisms were made. The work was well performed. Crescent Lodge exemplified the work in the F. O. degree in an excellent manner. The convention then adjourned to the banquet room, where an excellent supper was served

by the ladies of the Methodist sewing circle, after which the convention was called to order and Washington Lodge, No. 37, exemplified the work in M. M. degree in a fine style. The attendance was 150. The brethren all agree that this convention was a success, as they have all been making the work uniform in the different lodges. The next convention will be held with Washington Lodge, Lubec.

February 18th, granted permission to Saint Croix Lodge to appear in public at divine worship.

February 20th, visited Saint Croix Lodge; work in M. M. degree, well performed. Lodge in good standing; records well kept by Past D. D. G. M. S. D. MORRELL.

February 27th, visited Eastern Lodge and witnessed work in the Master Mason's degree. This lodge does fine work, with Past D. D. G. M. BRADISH as W. M. Our venerable Bro. W. J. FISHER rendered good service in performing the work.

March 1st, Crescent Lodge worked the E. A. degree on the evening of this date, and I made this my official visit to them, it being my home lodge. The officers of this lodge take great interest in their work, which is rendered very near the ritual work. Records well kept by Bro. GEO. W. ALLAN.

April 16th, granted permission to Crescent Lodge to appear in public at divine worship, it being also a farewell sermon by Bro. E. S. GAHAN.

This concludes my official work.

Thanking you, Most Worshipful, for the honor, and also the brethren of the different lodges for the courtesy with which I have been received as your representative,

I am respectfully and fraternally yours,

EVERETT H. FISHER, *D. D. G. M. & M. D.*

W. Pembroke, April 29, 1899.

THIRD DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

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 Third Masonic District.

I have visited each lodge in the district this year, and as a whole they are prosperous. While I have found by the records of some of the lodges that the attendance was small, yet the officers were very generally in attendance. Work has been rather light the past year. I find that decided action has

been taken in regard to delinquent members in most of the lodges and some members have been suspended, a very unpleasant but necessary duty. The work that I witnessed of the different lodges was good—well up to the standard, and all of the meetings largely attended, very much better than last year.

January 28th, visited Tuscan, 106, Addison Point, and witnessed work in the third degree, which was very finely executed. There was a large attendance of its members, also a number from other lodges. I found by inspection of the records that they have made an increase over last year's membership. The financial condition of the lodge is good, and the records are neatly and correctly kept. Previously to the work, I installed the officers, who were the same as last year. After the close of the lodge a fine banquet was served.

January 31st, visited Jonesport Lodge, at Jonesport, and publicly installed its officers in the presence of a large number of the brethren and their friends, assisted by Bro. GEORGE F. MANSFIELD as Marshal and Bro. NEWPORT as Chaplain. Music was furnished by a select choir, adding much to the pleasure of the occasion. The lodge occupies a new and commodious hall, which they have recently finished, and in order to meet their obligations have deemed it necessary to increase their dues from one to two dollars per year. Such a change is apt to make it harder for the Secretary to collect, but he informs me that the members are adapting themselves to the change and it is much easier to collect than at first. They have a fine hall, well arranged, and judging from the spirit manifested they will soon be in good financial standing. I did not have the pleasure of witnessing their work this year, but remember with much pleasure that of last year, and have no doubt of their ability in that respect. A banquet was served at the close of the lodge and a social hour passed.

February 7th, visited Warren Lodge, No. 2, at East Machias. Witnessed work in the Second degree, which was above criticism. At the present time Warren is the model lodge of this district. Their candidates are examined in the degrees before advancement, and all their business is done in a thorough and business-like manner. Bro. TALBOT takes a great interest in the work, and is well supported by the officers and brethren. The lodge is in good financial standing and the records are neatly and correctly kept. Previously to the work, I installed the officers. After the close of the lodge, refreshments were served.

February 13th, visited Pleiades Lodge, 173, at Milbridge, in one of the most severe snow storms for years. It was utterly impossible for the brothers to get to the lodge from a distance. Those who lived in the vicinity of the lodge room were there, but not enough to do any work. I installed those of the officers who were present, and passed a very pleasant and enjoyable evening. The lodge is officered by some of the leading business

men of the town, and I have no doubt of its future prosperity. After closing an oyster supper was served.

February 14th, visited Narraguagus Lodge, Cherryfield. This is one of our best lodges. They have had very little work the past year. They have a very fine hall, well furnished, and a good set of officers who look after the interest of their lodge and are capable of doing good work. By invitation of the Master I installed the officers, assisted by F. A. CAMPBELL, Marshal, and Brother LOMBARD, Chaplain. Owing to the unpleasantness of the weather, the attendance was small. Lunch was served in the hall and a time spent in social conversation.

February 18th, made my official visit to Lookout Lodge, No. 131, Cutler. The lodge was well represented by its members and quite a large delegation from Warren and other lodges. I found a very great improvement in the spirit and interest manifested over last year. The officers are taking a decided interest and are anxious to do the best work possible, and if the same zeal continues, there is no doubt but that they will be successful. They not having work, after a short talk the doors were opened to the ladies and friends of the brethren, and I proceeded to install the officers, F. L. TALBOT assisting as Grand Marshal. I found the records in good form. The delinquent members are being looked after, and the lodge generally is in good condition. At the close, we repaired to the hall below, where refreshments were served, to which we all did ample justice.

March 6th, made my official visit to Harwood, my home lodge, it being the regular monthly meeting. We have been doing a very small amount of work the past year, but the outlook is brighter. We had two applications this evening. We also have a candidate who has taken two degrees. Our books are well kept, and the business well attended to. We have a committee who are authorized to settle with those who have fallen behind with their dues. The officers have been very prompt and regular in their attendance, but work is needed to bring in the members, and for the want of it the attendance has not been what we would like. After the regular monthly business I installed the officers.

And now, Most Worshipful, I thank you for the honor conferred upon me, and also the brethren of the several lodges for their courtesy and hospitality during my official visits.

Fraternally submitted,

G. HARRIS FOSTER, *D. D. G. M. 3d M. D.*

Machias, April 8, 1899.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor herewith to submit my second annual report as District Deputy Grand Master for the Fourth Masonic District. It gives me pleasure to report to you the harmonious and prosperous condition of the several lodges, except one, under my care. I have visited each lodge once during the year, and as a rule find them doing good work. The best working lodges are those whose officers attend the Grand Lodge and conventions of instruction. I have urged the necessity of Masters and Wardens attending the Grand Lodge in all my visits to lodges. Another very important question is that of dues. My instructions to Secretaries of lodges were to be governed strictly by their by-laws. This is of the utmost importance to the lodge and its members.

August 26th, I attended a convention for instruction at Rockland, called by M. W. FRANK E. SLEEPER, Grand Lecturer. It was very instructive. The three degrees were exemplified. First degree by Mt. Olivet, No. 203, Washington; Second degree by Amity, No. 6, Camden; Third degree by Rockland, No. 76, Rockland. A large number present; criticisms general. Correctors by the Grand Lecturer. Lodges represented from Fourth District, Hancock, No. 4, Castine, W. Master, Treasurer and Senior Warden; Ira Berry, No. 187, Bluehill, W. Master; Reliance, No. 195, Stonington, W. Master. I wish a large number had been present.

November 1st, I visited Marine Lodge, No. 122, Deer Isle. Work in the M. M. degree, which was performed in a very fine manner. This lodge has a fine hall, which adds much to the interest of its members. This is the home of R. W. ELMER P. SPOFFORD, S. G. W., who is always present with words of counsel and good cheer. I was received by officers and members very cordially, especially by W. M. J. J. SPOFFORD, who invited me to his home. This lodge is in a very prosperous condition; some sixty present.

November 2d, I visited Naskeag Lodge, No. 171, Brooklin. The interest in this lodge the past year was not up to former years. The business of the Master and Secretary called them out of town several months. I found that the records had not been written up and their regular meetings had not been kept up. This was a stated meeting; Senior Warden and seven members present; no work.

November 3d, I visited Eggemoggin Lodge, No. 128, Sedgwick. This was a special meeting, called by my request. Work exemplified in the Second degree by the officers in a fine manner. I found a good degree of interest manifested by the officers and members; they have expended two hundred dollars in beautifying their lodge room. This sum was paid by the mem-

bers. They have a fine masonic home and are doing good work. The records are in good hands, neat and correct.

November 5th, I visited Reliance Lodge, No. 195, Stonington. Work in the Second degree exemplified by the Senior Warden in a very excellent manner. The interest shown was the large numbers present at the meetings. The only fault I found was the large amount of uncollected dues. I advised the Secretary to at once reduce the list of non-paying members, as it adds no strength to the lodge. I was received very cordially and entertained by officers and members; records neat and correct.

November 17th, I visited Hancock Lodge, No. 4, Castine, and witnessed work in the third degree. The work was quite well done. W. M. C. FRED JONES is a devoted worker, and the lodge has improved under his care. The records are in the hands of P. M. C. H. HOOPER, who being an earnest and efficient worker, has placed the lodge in the front rank in collecting its dues. No member owes more than one year's dues, and only four or five, one year. This is a good record.

December 21st, I visited Rising Star Lodge, No. 179, Penobscot, and by invitation publicly installed the officers, assisted by Bro. F. S. PERKINS, P. M. of Hancock Lodge, as Grand Marshal. Interesting remarks were made by visiting brothers. After the lodge closed we were invited to the Grange Hall, where the ladies had prepared a beautiful supper, and entertained us with music. God bless the ladies! what could poor man do without them? Records neat, and correctly kept.

January 5th, by invitation, I installed the officers of Hancock Lodge, Castine, assisted by P. M. F. S. PERKINS as Grand Marshal. We expect to hear good reports from this lodge, as this is the fourth time Bro. JOHN F. REA has been called to the chair. His interest in Masonry leads us to believe that the building will grow in wisdom, strength and beauty.

February 20th, I visited Ira Berry Lodge, No. 187, Bluehill. The M. M. degree was conferred in a very fine manner. There were five lodges represented, namely: Lygonia, Ellsworth; Hancock, Castine; Eggemoggin, Sedgwick; Naskeag, Brooklin; and Rising Star, Penobscot. About 100 present. Remarks by visiting brothers. I had the pleasure of meeting R. W. District Deputy Grand Master JAMES E. PARSONS, of Ellsworth. The records are in good hands, neat and correct. After the lodge closed, the W. Master invited all present to the banquet room, where a baked bean supper was prepared by the Ladies, which was enjoyed by all.

In severing my official relations with the members of the Fourth Masonic District, I wish most sincerely to thank the officers and members of the several lodges for their kind and cordial greetings at all times. It will long be remembered as one of the pleasantest services of my life. Brethren, may we all live within the compass and the square.

And to you, Most Worshipful Grand Master, I cannot express my gratitude for your continued confidence in appointing me a second time as District Deputy of the Fourth Masonic District. Please accept my most sincere thanks for the honor you have conferred on me, trusting that the work performed by me shall add strength to the Masonic Temple.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

E. F. DAVIES, D. D. G. M. *4th M. D.*

Castine, March 6, 1899.

FIFTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

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 Fifth District.

Previously to officially visiting any lodge, I attended the meeting for instruction at Houlton, by M. W. FRANK E. SLEPPER, Grand Lecturer, where the esoteric work was carefully reviewed with much profit to myself.

October 27th, made my official visit to Mosaic Lodge, at Foxcroft. They conferred the Master Mason's degree on two candidates, which was finely done. Quite a large attendance; visiting brothers from Dexter and other lodges. Three applications received that night. This lodge is prospering, and in good hands. The records are neatly kept. A baked bean supper was served at refreshment, which made it a very enjoyable occasion.

November 21st, made my official visit to Doric Lodge, No. 149, held at Monson. Witnessed work in E. A. degree and M. M. degree, which was very fine. Had the pleasure of meeting P. D. D. G. M. ALBERT F. JACKSON. The records, in the hands of Bro. HAYNES, are very neatly kept. There was a good attendance. At the close all sat down to an oyster supper.

November 22d, visited Columbia Lodge, No. 200, at Greenville. This is a new lodge, and they not having any work the past year, could not make so good a showing as I should have liked. They exemplified the work in E. A. degree, which was done very well. They have a nice set of record books, which are well kept by Bro. SHAW.

September 23d, made an official visit to Olive Branch Lodge, Charleston. It came on stormy, so there was only a small attendance. Witnessed the opening and closing. They balloted on and accepted a candidate, so they will have work. The records are in good hands. Later I visited this lodge again and witnessed work on the Fellow Craft's and Master Mason's

degrees, which was finely done. I had the pleasure of meeting with P. D. D. G. M. THOMAS J. PEAKS, as this is his masonic home.

December 12th, by invitation, I visited Pleasant River Lodge, Brownville, and installed the officers, assisted by P. D. D. G. M. E. M. JOHNSTON as Marshal, and Bro. CURTIS as Chaplain. I found the new officers wide awake and zealous in the work. After the installation we repaired to Hotel Herrick, and partook of an oyster supper. I intended to visit this lodge again and witness work, but the opportunity did not present itself.

February 24th, made an official visit to Piscataquis Lodge, Milo. Witnessed work in Master Mason's degree, which was well done. This is a strong lodge. Dues well collected and records neatly kept in the hands of Bro. MURRAY.

February 25th, made an official visit to Mount Kineo Lodge, Guilford. Witnessed work in F. C. degree, which was well done. Secretary reported dues well collected.

Composite Lodge is my masonic home and I have made no official visit, but have been present at nearly every meeting. I am happy to state that the lodge is having a degree of prosperity such as it never had before. The officers and members are alive, and take great interest in the work. We are making an effort to collect the back dues and get out of debt, which we hope to see accomplished before long.

Most Worshipful, I greatly appreciate the honor you bestowed upon me by this appointment, coming as it did, unsolicited. I wish to thank, through you, the brethren of the several lodges for their kindness and courtesy.

Faternally submitted,

FRED H. SAVAGE, D. D. G. M. 5th M. D.

La Grange, April 10, 1899.

SIXTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit my first annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Sixth Masonic District.

There have been thirty-one initiations during the year by the nine lodges, a gain of eight over last year.

In August I attended the convention for instruction in masonic work, held at Rockland, by the Grand Lecturer. It was the largest and most interesting convention I ever attended, and must have been of great benefit to the craft.

October 14th, I publicly installed the officers of Star in the East Lodge, No. 60, at Oldtown, assisted by Wor. Bro. V. E. TUCKER, as Grand Marshal. There were present some two hundred. The services were interspersed with appropriate music by the Apollo Quartette of Bangor. At the close of the ceremonies we repaired to the banquet hall, where a fine banquet was served; after which we returned to the lodge room, and the quartette gave a concert, which was greatly enjoyed by all.

Star in the East, being my masonic home, and as I have been present at almost every meeting during the year, I deemed an official visit unnecessary. I believe the work of this lodge, both under the past and present officers, will compare very favorably with the lodges in this district. The officers are young men, and are very much interested in their work. This lodge has a good hall, and is in good condition financially. The records are in the hands of Wor. Bro. CHARLES A. DILLINGHAM, and are neatly and correctly kept. The dues are well collected.

December 24th, by invitation, I publicly installed the officers of Lynde Lodge, No. 174, at Hermon. I was assisted in the installation ceremonies by Wor. Bro. E. W. CHESLEY as Grand Marshal, and also by a fine choir. The hall was well filled with the brethren and friends.

The Eastern Star Chapter also installed their officers the same evening; the ceremonies were very interesting and very nicely performed. We then repaired to the banquet hall, where a fine supper was served, after which we returned to the lodge room, where a fine programme was presented, consisting of singing by the choir and individual members, and speaking by the brethren. This lodge owns its building, and is out of debt. The records are in good hands, and the dues well collected.

December 28th, I made an official visit to Kenduskeag Lodge, No. 137, at Kenduskeag, and witnessed work in the Master Mason's degree. This lodge has had but little work for the past few years and this was their first work on the Third degree for nearly two years; consequently the work as a whole was not up to that done by the lodges in this district, that have been favored with more work, although some of the parts were finely taken.

This lodge is in excellent financial condition, having a good sum in the treasury. The dues are promptly collected. The records, at the time of my visit, were in the hands of Bro. W. S. SPRATT, and were kept in a very *efficient* manner. The Past Master's degree was conferred on the Master elect. The lodge closed in due and ancient form, when all repaired to the hall below, where a fine banquet was served by the ladies.

January 3d, Carmel. Benevolent Lodge, No. 87. On the above date, I publicly installed the officers of this lodge, with Wor. Bro. GEORGE E. DODGE acting as Grand Marshal. The hall was filled to its utmost capacity with the brethren, their families and invited guests. The male quar-

tette and choir furnished good music, which added much to the enjoyment of the occasion. After the installation, an oyster supper was served in the hall below, to which all did ample justice. Returning to the lodge room, we had the pleasure of listening to a fine musical and literary entertainment, that had been carefully prepared, and also to speeches by the brethren. I did not have time to examine the records, but from my acquaintance with the Secretary, Bro. C. K. JOHNSON, I should not hesitate to say that they are kept in due and correct form, and he is looking well after the dues. I was accompanied by Bro. GEORGE F. KENT, of Belfast, and we were kindly cared for by Bro. LEWIS C. WHITTEN and wife at their pleasant home.

January 7th, I visited Mystic Lodge, No. 65, at Hampden, and by invitation installed their officers, assisted by Wor. Bro. W. W. EMERSON of that lodge as Grand Marshal. The installation was open to Master Masons and their families and there was a good attendance. A male quartette furnished good music during the ceremonies. The members of Mystic Lodge are great entertainers, and I was very sorry that on account of sickness I had to take the car for home as soon as the installation service was over.

January 12th, I made an official visit to Howard Lodge, No. 69, at Winterport, and by request, installed their officers, with Wor. Bro. AUGUSTUS I. MAYO, as Grand Marshal. The installation was private, after which an oyster supper was served. We then returned to the lodge room and passed an hour or two going over the work and some of the lectures, taking up such parts as I thought would be of the most benefit to the lodge. I found the officers of this lodge to be very good ritualists and very much interested in the work, and not afraid to ask questions of the D. D. G. M., when they had an opportunity. This lodge owns its building and has a small fund on hand. The records are well kept by Bro. J. H. BAKER, and he is looking after the dues.

January 18th, assisted by Wor. Bro. V. E. TUCKER, of Star in the East, as Grand Marshal, I installed the officers of Mechanics' Lodge, No. 66, at Orono. The installation was private. There were a goodly number of the brethren present. I had the pleasure of meeting Past D. D. G. M.'s DURGIN and MAYO at this their masonic home, and had their assistance in conferring the Past Master's degree on the Master elect. The lodge closed in due form and all repaired to the banquet hall, where a bountiful supper was served, and a social hour passed. I made an official visit to this lodge on March 1st, and witnessed the conferring of the Master Mason's degree on two candidates. In view of the fact that this was the first time the present officers had worked this degree, they did it in a very efficient manner. The candidates were conducted into open lodge, and passed one of the best examinations I ever heard, showing they *had made* "suitable proficiency in the preceding degrees." The past year has been a very prosperous one for

Mechanics' Lodge, and the members are to be congratulated on the amount of work done, the quality of the work, and the high standing of the candidates. There was a good attendance. This lodge has a good fund on hand. The records are well kept, being in the hands of Past D. D. G. M. A. J. DURGIN, who has served a number of years, and the dues are well collected. At the close, a nice collation was served in the banquet hall.

January 27th, by invitation of the Master elect, I installed the officers of St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 83, at Bangor, assisted by Wor. Bro. V. E. TUCKER as Grand Marshal. The installation was private, but there was a good attendance. The Apollo Quartette was present and furnished appropriate music during the services. This is the largest lodge in this district, having two hundred and thirteen members, and are in good financial condition, and the interest strong. The records are in good hands. The lodge closed in due and ancient form, and all partook of a fine banquet served in the spacious hall above, after which there were speeches by several brethren, and selections by the quartette which concluded a most enjoyable evening.

February 7th, with the assistance of Wor. Bro. V. E. TUCKER as Grand Marshal, I had the honor to install the officers of Rising Virtue Lodge, No. 10, at Bangor, in the presence of a large number of the brethren of this and other lodges. Fine music was rendered during the evening by the Apollo Quartette, which made the services very much more impressive. A fine banquet was served, after which we repaired to the rooms of the new Masonic Club, and passed a very pleasant hour in looking over these elegant rooms and in social intercourse.

On March 25th, I made my official visit to Mystic Lodge, No. 64, at Hampden. This was a stated communication, and after the routine business was done, the officers exemplified the Master Mason's degree, which was fairly well done. This lodge has not had much work for the past year. I made such criticisms and suggestions as seemed to me to be for the best interest of the lodge. The records are well kept. The dues are not as well collected as in most of the lodges in this district. Banquet at the close.

In conclusion, I thank you, Most Worshipful, for the honor conferred upon me by the appointment, and the officers and brethren of the several lodges, for courtesies extended. And I wish especially to thank Wor. Bro. V. E. TUCKER, of Oldtown, for assistance rendered me on many occasions.

Fraternally yours,

FRED C. BARTON, D. D. G. M., 6th M. D.

SEVENTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my annual report. It being my second term as D. D. Grand Master I do not deem it necessary to make special mention of each lodge, as their condition has not materially changed, but briefly note the work of the year and its results.

The Scythe of Time has cut the brittle thread which held many of our elder brethren here, returns showing that nineteen have passed to the Celestial lodge above. We are left in their places, but to fill them we feel we must be true masons.

“So we take the task assigned us,
This in view,
Some sweet eventide will find us
Resting, too.”

The lodge at Washington, U. D., was constituted on July 15th, as Mount Olivet Lodge, No. 203. I was very sorry that business prevented my attendance. The brothers informed me that the meeting was interesting and socially much enjoyed.

I attended the convention of the Grand Lecturer, at Lewiston, where I met a goodly number of brother Deputies, and acquired much valuable knowledge, which I found of benefit in my official visits, as many questions arose identical with those in the convention, which I was expected to answer. During these visits I advocated the advantage of holding a district convention, and having our Grand Lecturer present, so that, as the work was exemplified, the brethren might compare and criticize the same and get the correct version from standard authority. The brethren heartily acceded to my wishes, and the convention was holden December 20th, with Sebasticook Lodge at Clinton, which had generously offered to entertain.

The meeting was opened at 9.30 A. M. by Sebasticook Lodge, after which Marsh River Lodge, of Brooks, assumed the stations and worked the First degree in a very acceptable manner. Discussions followed, which occupied till the noon hour, when we were called to refreshment, where the Clinton brethren and their ladies proved their ability to entertain.

We re-assembled at 1.30, when the F. C. degree was exemplified by a volunteer lodge, followed by Unity Lodge, of Thorndike, working the M. M. degree. The work in all the degrees was creditably performed. The brethren were very courteous in their remarks and questions, which were answered by Bro. SLEEPER in his usual brief and gentlemanly manner. All were deeply interested, and every moment profitably occupied until 5.20, when we adjourned.

This was our first attempt at a convention and occasioned me much anxiety and some doubts for the result. But the fraternal spirit manifested throughout the day, the many courtesies shown me, and a unanimous vote to meet again in 1899, were very gratifying, and well paid for all my time and efforts to bring it about. I wish here to thank the brethren who promptly responded to my calls for work, and especially Bro. SLEEPER for his kind and able assistance; but to Bro. MCGORRILL, P. M. of Seabasticook Lodge, its members and their ladies, words do not express my gratitude, but I hope to some time help to return the favor.

In summarizing, I wish to say that I have visited each lodge once, and some several times, during the year, installed their officers when requested and enjoyed their banquets. I have found them as a whole, financially sound, well officered, and keeping good record of their work. In harmony with themselves, and at peace with each other. So that I trust nothing from us will prevent you from again reporting "Not a single complaint has been made to me in your Grand Jurisdiction."

In closing, I wish to thank the brethren of the district for their hearty support, and you, Most Worshipful, for your continued confidence, which I have tried to merit.

Fraternally yours,

ALBERT W. WARD, D. D. G. M. 7th M. D.

EIGHTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

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 Eighth Masonic District. The masonic year which has just closed, has been made sorrowful to the brethren in the Eighth District. Situated on the sea coast, the lodges have many mariners among their members, and the terrible storms of the past winter have thinned their ranks sadly.

August 26th, I attended the convention at Rockland, and was very much interested in the work of all three degrees, as presented by the lodges of the Ninth District, and the many questions from the brethren, and answers by Bro. SLEEPER, were of great benefit to all present.

December 28th, I visited Excelsior Lodge, No. 151, Northport, and witnessed work in the M. M. degree, which was done in a fine and impressive manner. The W. M., ISAAC HILLS, gives promise, from the way in which he conferred this degree for the first time, that he will make an excellent

Master. The records were neat and correctly kept, and the dues well collected.

December 29th, made my official visit to Island Lodge, No. 89, Isleboro. Witnessed work in M. M. degree. The work was very fine, all the officers performing their parts in an almost faultless manner, especially the W. Master and Senior Warden. I met six members of this lodge at the convention in Rockland, which explains the good interest manifested on this occasion. The records are a model of neatness, and the dues well collected.

December 30th, by invitation, I publicly installed the officers of Excelsior Lodge, No. 151, Northport, assisted by Past D. D. OSCAR HILLS as Grand Marshal, who retains his old time proficiency and courtesy. Fine singing was rendered by the village choir, which added much to the beauty of the ceremonies. Some very interesting remarks were made by the brethren and visitors present, to which all listened with pleasure. After the installation, a fine collation was served.

December 31st, by invitation, I publicly installed the officers of King David's Lodge, No. 62, Lincolnville, and also made it my official visit. I was assisted in the installation ceremonies by Past D. D. H. W. PERRY as Grand Marshal, and also by a fine choir. The records are neatly and correctly kept and the dues fairly collected. Although it was a very stormy night there were quite a large number present. After conclusion, we repaired to the banquet hall, where refreshments closed a pleasant evening.

January 18th, by invitation, I publicly installed the officers of Pownal Lodge, No. 119, Stockton Springs, accompanied by a full suite. I also made this my official visit. The members of this lodge have always taken much interest in the work. The records are well kept and the dues well collected. The services were interspersed with appropriate music by the village choir. After the installation we partook of a bountiful supper, and were then entertained by the local quartette, readings and recitations, until a late hour.

January 31st, I installed the officers of Mariner's Lodge, No. 68, Searsport, with the assistance of P. M. J. W. BLACK as Marshal. The installation was public and a large number were present. Fine singing was rendered by the village choir, which added much to the beauty of the ceremonies. Some very interesting remarks were made by Rev. H. W. NORRIS, and Rev. R. G. HARBUTT, to which all listened with pleasure. There was also a nice entertainment by local talent. The lodge closed and all repaired to the banquet hall, where a bountiful supper was enjoyed by all present.

March 6th, by invitation, I privately installed the officers of Phoenix Lodge, No. 24, Belfast, assisted by W. M. CLIFTON WHITTUM as Grand Marshal, and Bro. JAMES A. COLSON as Grand Chaplain, and also made this my official visit. The records are in hands of Bro. JAMES PATTEE, a thoroughly

competent Secretary. I was pleased to meet in this his masonic home, Past D. D. G. M. G. E. JOHNSON. Many calls for assistance have been received by this lodge during this past year, to which it has promptly responded. After the installation a fine oyster supper was served in the banquet room.

Mariners' Lodge, No. 68, Searsport, being my masonic home, I have attended most of its meetings, and I can say that the work done by this lodge is first-class in every particular. I find by the records that this lodge has met for the purpose of exemplifying the work twelve times this last year, the W. M., CLIFTON WHITTUM, having interested with himself an able corps of officers. The records are in the hands of Bro. ADAMS, an interested and able Secretary, faithful in all the details of the office.

In closing, it is with pleasure that I am able to report the lodges in harmony with each other. In my visits to the lodges of this district I have found the brethren interested in the work, and the social part of masonry well maintained.

I desire to extend my thanks to all the brethren for courtesies rendered, and to you, Most Worshipful, for the honor of my appointment.

Fraternally submitted,

JAMES E. WENTWORTH *D. D. G. M. 8th M. D.*

Searsport, March 21, 1899.

NINTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my report as D. D. G. M. of the Ninth Masonic District.

June 4th, I visited Knox Lodge, No. 189, at South Thomaston. Although one of the smallest in the district, I think the brethren are more interested in the work than in many larger lodges. Work was presented in the M. M. degree on three candidates, and was correctly and well done. The records are in fine condition.

August 26th, the masonic convention was called to order by M. W. Bro. FRANK E. SLEEPER, Grand Lecturer. The E. A. degree was exemplified by Mt. Olivet Lodge, No. 203, of Washington, the F. C. degree by Amity Lodge, of Camden, and the M. M. degree by Rockland Lodge, No. 79, of Rockland. Attendance—Permanent Members of Grand Lodge 3, District Deputies, 5, W. Masters 16, other officers of lodges 28, Past Masters 21, members 128, lodges represented 25.

September 6th, by order of M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE, I granted dispensation to Rockland Lodge, No. 79, to appear in public at the funeral of Bro.

RALPH R. ULMER. The funeral services were conducted under military honors, and the masonic burial service was performed by the lodge at the grave.

October 29th, visited Union Lodge, No. 31, of Union. Work was in the M. M. degree, which was done in a very correct manner. Called the W. Master's attention to the lodge dues, which were behind, and recommended that special effort be made to collect them. Records correctly kept.

November 1st, officially visited Rockland Lodge, No. 79. Work was presented in the M. M. degree, which was done in the most satisfactory manner, as Bro. BEATON is one of the best masonic workers in the district. Records a perfect model of neatness: dues well collected.

Nov. 12th, I officially visited my home lodge, Aurora, No. 50. The work was exemplified on the M. M. degree, and was well and correctly done. I called the attention to collection of dues which were behind. Records in good hands and correctly kept.

November 29th, I publicly installed the officers of Moses Webster Lodge, No. 145, of Vinalhaven, assisted by W. Bro. A. A. BEATON as Grand Marshal. The hall was crowded with members and invited guests, and there was a fine selection of music, recitations, speeches, &c.

December 6th, officially visited Orient Lodge, No. 15, of Thomaston. The M. M. degree was exemplified. I made some correction in the work, and also recommended that efforts should be made in collecting dues which were behind.

December 26th, I officially visited St. Paul's, No. 82 at Rockport. Work was presented in the F. C. degree and was fairly done. I made such corrections as I thought necessary. Records in good condition and dues well collected.

December 29th, by invitation, I publicly installed the officers of Union Lodge, of Union, assisted by W. Bro. C. E. MESERVEY as Grand Marshal. Music was furnished by the local choir. At the close a fine banquet was served.

January 10, 1899, by invitation, I installed the officers of Rockland Lodge, No. 79, assisted by the Past Master, Bro. A. A. BEATON, as Grand Marshal. After the installation a fine supper was served and a social hour spent.

January 14th, by invitation, I installed the officers of Knox Lodge, No. 189, South Thomaston, and also conferred the Past Master's degree.

January 17th, by request, I installed the officers of my home lodge, Aurora, No. 50, together with the officers of King Solomon's Temple R. A. Chapter. I was assisted by W. Brother J. R. STEWART as Grand Marshal. The music was furnished by the Rockland Choir, which is one of the finest.

February 7th, I officially visited Moses Webster Lodge, No. 145, Vinalhaven. Work was presented in the M. M. degree, which was rendered in a

manner highly creditable to the lodge. The records are in good hands and correctly kept; dues well collected. After the work, a fine collation was served.

February 10th, I made my official visit to Amity, No. 6, at Camden. Work was presented in the M. M. degree. The work was done in a very satisfactory and correct manner; in fact it was the best in the district. The records are well kept and the dues collected nearly to date.

February 18th, I officially visited Eureka Lodge, No. 86. Work was presented in the M. M. degree, which was performed by P. D. D. G. M. J. M. SMITH in a very pleasing and correct manner. The records are in fine condition. After the work, a fine banquet was served.

March 8th, I officially visited St. George Lodge, No. 16. The F. C. degree was exemplified, as the candidate was not able to be present. St. George Lodge has the name of doing good and correct work, and the officers proved the same. Records in good hands and dues well collected.

I have visited all the lodges in the district, and find the work correct, the records well kept, and the dues, with a few exceptions, well collected.

In conclusion, allow me, Most Worshipful, to thank you for the honor of my appointment as your representative. I have endeavored to attend to the duties of the office to the best of my ability.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

FRANK A. PETERSON, *D. D. G. M. 9th M. D.*

March 15, 1899.

TENTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

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

December 2d, by request, I installed the officers of Anchor Lodge, No. 158, at South Bristol, which was a very pleasant and profitable occasion. Refreshments at close.

On January 26th, by request, I publicly installed the officers of Lincoln Lodge, No. 3, at Wiscasset. A goodly attendance of brothers and their ladies were present. Some very fitting remarks were made by Bro. R. K. SEWALL and others, after which a fine oyster supper was served.

On January 5th, by request of my own lodge, Seaside, No. 144, I publicly installed their officers. Great interest was shown by having a full house of brothers and their ladies. A fine banquet was served at close of meeting.

On February 20th, I made my official visit to Bristol Lodge, Bristol 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 into the work. There were only a few corrections to be made. A fine supper was served in the hall below at close of meeting. Records were well kept.

March 9th, I visited Bay View Lodge at East Boothbay, and witnessed work on the M. M. degree with the S. W. in the East. The work was done in a very fine manner. The records, kept by Bro. VICTOR MONTGOMERY, are in excellent shape, and the dues are well collected. Refreshments after the meeting.

On March 22d, I went to Dresden Lodge to make my official visit. It being a little stormy only three of the brothers appeared. We sat around the stove for about an hour, and talked over masonic matters. I heard by way of the Secretary that they did not think I would be present on account of the storm. This lodge has not done much work for the year past.

On March 29th, I visited Alna Lodge, No. 43, at Damariscotta, and witnessed exemplification of work on the M. M. degree, which was well done. This Lodge has a very fine set of officers. The records, kept by Bro. E. E. PHILBROOK, Secretary, are in very fine shape. No work for the past year. A fine banquet after the lodge closed.

On March 30th I visited Lincoln Lodge, No. 3, and witnessed work in the F. C. degree, which was done in very fine shape. The officers have wonderfully improved in getting the work down fine since one year ago. Bro. WILLIAM D. PATTERSON, Secretary, keeps the neatest and best arranged records I ever saw. A fine oyster supper was served after the close of the meeting.

On April 7th, I visited King Solomon's Lodge, No. 61, at Waldoboro, where I was received with great respect and witnessed exemplification of work on the E. A. degree, which was finely done. Records well kept. The rooms under the lodge room of this lodge have lately been let for hotel purposes, which will make it very uncomfortable for the lodge, and I think unsafe to hold meetings in the old quarters above, and I should recommend a change of halls. Refreshments at close.

On March 13th, I visited Anchor Lodge, No. 158, and witnessed an exemplification of E. A. degree, which was very satisfactorily done. This lodge has lots of Past Masters, who are regular attendants at all of their meetings and ready to fill any vacancies. They have had no work for the past year. Records in good hands. Some brothers very much in arrears of dues.

Seaside Lodge, No. 144, is my home lodge. I have not deemed it necessary to make an official visit, and I esteem it a very great privilege to at-

tend its meetings. The same officers held over that served last year, except the J. W. This lodge has had a very prosperous year and is doing good work. All the officers are very much interested. The records are finely kept and the dues well collected.

I regret very much that I failed to make an appointment with Riverside Lodge, as I would very much have liked to make the brothers of that lodge a visit and to have made their acquaintance. I have learned that it has been a quiet year with them and I wish them good success in the future.

I find all the lodges in this district in good condition. Peace and harmony prevail, and the members appear interested in the welfare of the Order.

Allow me, Most Worshipful, to tender to you my heartfelt thanks for the honor conferred by re-appointment; also to the brethren of the several lodges for courtesies shown and assistance rendered. Hoping to be relieved from further duty as D. D. G. M., on account of pressing business relations in my store and steamboat agency, this is

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

WILLARD T. MARR, *D. D. G. M. 10th M. D.*

Boothbay Harbor, March 17, 1899.

ELEVENTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

In submitting my second report for the Eleventh Masonic District, I have to narrate a favorable and highly satisfactory condition of the fraternity within its limits. Harmony prevails, and the tongue and heart unite in promoting each other's welfare.

It has been my privilege to sit in all the lodges at least once. While I have not seen work in all the lodges, the three degrees have been exhibited. There is a strong desire in the officers of all the lodges to render correctly the ritual, that the valuable lessons may make a deep impression on the candidates.

Bethlehem Lodge presented the E. A. degree in a correct and pleasing manner. W. M. BODGE makes an excellent presiding officer, strictly adhering to the ancient landmarks, while Secretary BLANCHARD'S books maintain the record he has established.

The F. C. degree was worked by Augusta Lodge in close conformity to the ritual. W. M. TOWNSEND has made himself familiar with the duties of his office, and discharges them with fidelity. Records correctly kept by Bro. LITTLE.

W. M. MERCHANT conferred the M. M. degree on the occasion of my visit to Kennebec Lodge. The work was well done, very few errors being noted. Bro. JONES still has the care of the records.

Monmouth Lodge presented the E. A. degree. W. M. PRESCOTT'S re-election for a second term proves that he is well qualified for the position. Under Past Senior Grand Warden BOYNTON'S care, the work is always well done, especially the floor work.

The condition of the roads prevented me from inspecting the work of Morning Star Lodge on the date appointed.

Dirigo Lodge was visited at their stated meeting. As the candidate did not appear, I gave what instruction seemed necessary. Records safe in the hands of Brother SPROUL.

Hermon Lodge has built and furnished a beautiful and convenient hall with ante-rooms and all conveniences. I was glad to be present and witness the able and impressive ceremonies of the dedication. As the hall was not completed until late in the year, and the traveling was bad, I did not arrange for a visit to Hermon Lodge, believing W. M. POWERS a skillful artisan.

Temple Lodge has taken a new lease of life, having now more work than for many years. Its prospects are bright, its officers studious, and its work will compare favorably with other lodges.

I was invited to install the officers of Morning Star, Augusta, Temple, Kennebec and Monmouth Lodges. I complied with the requests so far as possible, and performed the ceremonies in the presence of the ladies and friends of Morning Star and Augusta Lodges.

Temple Lodge held a private installation.

At the appointed time I was at Kennebec Lodge, to find the W. M. elect sick and unable to be present.

A previous engagement prevented me from installing the officers of Monmouth Lodge on the date which they selected.

The P. M. degree has been conferred on four Masters and three diplomas given.

A healthy increase is noticeable in the membership and initiates, the number of initiates showing a twenty per cent increase over last year. The roll numbers 1,399 members, a gain of 222 in the last decade.

In closing my surveillance of the Eleventh District, permit me to return, through you, the appreciation which I feel for the courteous and kindly treatment both in the lodge and in the refreshments for the inner man which have met me on all my visitations. Most Worshipful, for the honor you have again conferred on me, I express my sincere thanks. If my official acts have met with your approval, and if I have added to the pros-

perity of the craft in the least, I shall feel repaid for the time spent in the work.

Fraternally submitted,

LEVI E. JONES, D. D. G. M. 11th M. D.

TWELFTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit my first report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Twelfth Masonic District.

September 27th, I attended Bro. SLEEPER'S lodge of instruction at Lewiston. There was a large attendance, and we came away fully realizing the importance of these lodges.

October 1st, I visited Lafayette Lodge, No. 48, Readfield. Work was exemplified in the M. M. degree. The excellent manner in which W. M. FRANK A. DOW and his brother officers performed their respective parts showed careful preparation. Made but few corrections. The records are well and neatly kept by Bro. E. A. MORGAN. This lodge is fortunate in having Past D. D. G. M. CROSBY and D. D. G. M. LOVEJOY of the Thirteenth District at their meetings so often. Opening and closing were well and correctly done. Attendance was good. After the lodge was closed, repaired to hall, where refreshments were served.

October 7th, by request, I publicly installed the officers of Rural Lodge, No. 53, Sidney, Past D. D. G. M. ORESTES E. CROWELL acting as Grand Marshal. After the installation ceremony we repaired to the hall, where over a hundred partook of an excellent supper.

October 8th, was invited to install the officers of Vassalboro Lodge, No. 54, but was unable to attend owing to sickness and bad weather.

October 20th, by invitation, I publicly installed the officers of Neguemkeag Lodge, No. 166, Vassalboro, Bro. W. B. MARRINER acting as Grand Marshal. There was a good attendance. Refreshments were served in the room below, and all enjoyed a pleasant time.

October 25th, I visited Asylum Lodge, No. 133, Wayne, and installed the officers, Bro. C. E. WING acting as Grand Marshal. As there was no work for the evening, I gave them such instruction as I could. The opening and closing were correctly done. The records, in the hands of Bro. J. M. MOULTON, are neatly and accurately kept. This being the home lodge of Past D. D. G. M. CROSBY, I was not disappointed in finding the officers well posted. W. M. F. L. CHENEY invited us to partake of refreshments after lodge closed.

November 24th, I visited Neguemkeag Lodge, No. 166. Owing to the sickness of Bro. CROSBY, Bro. E. G. JACKSON acted as W. M. Work was done in F. C. degree. Made a few corrections in the work, also gave them such instruction as I could in the E. A. and M. M. degrees. The records are carefully kept by Bro. D. ROLLINS. Refreshments were served in room below.

December 24th, I visited Rural Lodge, No. 53, Sidney. Work in the M. M. degree, which was impressively done. Made some corrections and suggestions, which were well received. The W. M., Bro. CLARK, is a zealous worker in the lodge. Harmony and peace prevail. The records are well kept by Bro. J. F. WARREN, who was detained at home by sickness, but sent his records for me to examine. This lodge is having considerable work this year and appears to be in a healthy state.

December 27th, I visited Vernon Vally Lodge, No. 99, Mt. Vernon. No work appearing, I had the officers go over parts of the three degrees. Made some corrections in the work. Bro. BURBANK is Secretary, having served over twenty years in that capacity, and his records are carefully and correctly kept. Bro. FRENCH had been recently installed W. M. I have no doubt he will soon become familiar with the work.

December 31st, installed the officers of Messalonskee Lodge, No. 113, Oakland, Past D. D. G. M. ORESTES E. CROWELL acting as Grand Marshal.

January 2, 1899, I visited Waterville Lodge, No. 33. They presented no work, as the candidate for the M. M. degree was sick and unable to be present. The opening and closing were correctly and impressively done, showing that Past D. D. G. M. WALKER has had a watchful care over their work. The newly-elected officers went over parts of the ritual with me.

January 7th, I visited Messalonskee Lodge, No. 113, which entertained Rural Lodge of Sydney, and worked the M. M. degree. The records are excellently kept and the lodge is in its usual good condition. It being my home lodge, and I being a constant attendant, I do not feel that it needs a more detailed report.

I wrote several times between August and January, to Vassalboro Lodge, No. 54, No. Vassalboro, to secure an appointment but failed to get one. I was therefore obliged to ask Bro. WALKER, Past D. D. G. M. 12th district, to visit the lodge for me. He visited it on January 24th. It was a very stormy night and but few members were present. It being the stated meeting, they opened, transacted the business and closed upon the M. M. degree. It was the intention of this lodge to exemplify the work of the Third degree, but the meagre attendance rendered this impossible. Bro. WALKER gave them some assistance in the ritual.

All the lodges of this district have been visited at least once, and in gen-

eral, I will give it as my opinion that they are in a creditable condition. One suggestion seem to me not out of place in this connection.

The visits of the D. D. G. M. should be primarily for helping and instructing the lodges which he visits. To secure this end work should be performed or exemplified in one or more degrees and carefully explained and corrected. I feel that in many cases the social entertainment of the visiting official receives more attention and is more carefully planned than the regular lodge room work. While no one enjoys prodigal entertainment any more than I, still, I do feel that this ought not to usurp the time which properly belongs to the lodge room work. Where both cannot be done satisfactorily, I hope to see the lodge receive its full share of attention, even if the entertainment has to be omitted.

In closing, allow me to thank you, Most Worshipful Sir, for the honor which you have conferred upon me. I wish also to thank the officers and members of the various lodges of this district for their uniformly courteous and fraternal greetings on the occasion of my meeting with them.

Fraternally submitted,

JAMES H. WITHERELL, *D. D. G. M. 12th M. D.*

THIRTEENTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

As District Deputy Grand Master of the Thirteenth Masonic District, I have the honor to submit my second annual report. I have visited all the lodges in this district and witnessed work, or an exemplification of it, in all the degrees, with one exception, Lebanon Lodge, at Norridgewock, which, on the whole, show a decided improvement over last year. With one exception, all the lodges have had work during the year, and I am pleased to report that peace and harmony prevail throughout this jurisdiction.

Some of the lodges have been disciplining their members for non-payment of dues. Part of them have since paid, and the result has been that others in arrears have paid up, and the overhauling of the roll has had, I think, a tendency to awaken a better interest in lodge affairs, and to increase the attendance of members. Active personal interest of its members in the welfare of a lodge is the best guarantee of future prosperity. There is no substitute for it. Let the brethren continue to manifest their faith in works, and their good intentions will be crowned with success.

June 8th, I granted a dispensation to Euclid Lodge, No. 194, at Madison,

to attend church in a body on St. John's Day. I have installed publicly and privately the officers of the following lodges: Euclid Lodge, No. 184, at Madison, September 19th; Lebanon Lodge, No. 116, at Norridgewock, September 27th; Siloam Lodge, No. 92, at Fairfield, January 5th; Northern Star Lodge, No. 28, at No. Anson, February 8th.

February 6th, I made my official visit to Euclid Lodge, No. 194, at Madison, and witnessed work in the Fellow Craft degree, which was well and very correctly done. There was a good attendance, and the officers and brethren were earnest in the work in which they were engaged. Having installed the officers of this lodge a short time before, I knew that every one was new in his position, and having had no chance for practice, I did not expect to see such a presentation of the work. With the present board of officers and the hearty co-operation of its members, I am satisfied that Euclid will make one of the best working lodges in the district. I know that some of the brethren were not very well satisfied with my report last year, but I could not conscientiously say anything more in their favor. I try to deal justly with every lodge, and if my report of each lodge was not all that the brethren would have it, it was as painful to me as to them to see it in print. I made a few corrections and suggestions, which were kindly received. I was cordially received by the officers and treated with the greatest respect by the brethren. The records are still in the hands of Bro. RUSSELL, and are neatly and correctly kept.

February 20th, I visited Somerset Lodge, No. 34, Skowhegan. This being their regular meeting, I was disappointed in not seeing a larger attendance of the brethren. The officers, however, were all in their respective stations, and the work, which was in the Entered Apprentice degree, was performed with that precision and snap which is characteristic of Somerset Lodge. Past Master CHAS. H. GARDNER has again been called to the East, and from the spirit and ability evinced on this occasion, I am convinced that the lodge has made a wise choice. With the exception of a slight misunderstanding over a matter of jurisdiction between this and Carrabassett Lodge, which I trust may soon be adjusted by the Grand Lodge satisfactorily to both parties, peace and harmony prevail. "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." I made a few corrections, which were received with an evident desire on the part of the officers to be correctly informed in regard to the standard ritualistic work of the Grand Lodge. The records are still in the hands of Bro. LAMBERT, who has long wielded the pen for Somerset Lodge, and are a model of that neatness and thoroughness which is very commendable.

Tuesday, February 21st, I made my official visit to Carrabassett Lodge, No. 161, of Canaan. This was their Stated Communication, and I was pleased to see so good an attendance. The officers and brethren were

earnest in their work, and peace and harmony prevail. After the regular business, the F. C. degree was conferred, and although the work was very well done, I think it might be improved upon by a little more practice and a closer following of the ritual. The S. D. being absent, the lecture was given by an old Past Master, Bro. GOWER, who, considering he had not reviewed it for a number of years, followed the ritual remarkably well. I think the lecture might be made much more impressive to the candidate if the S. D. would explain it to him from the chart. I made such corrections and suggestions as the case seemed to demand, all of which were kindly received. The records have changed hands since my visit a year ago, and show a decided improvement. A little cloud has arisen on the horizon from the direction of Somerset Lodge over a matter of jurisdiction, which I hope will soon disappear.

February 22d, I officially visited Keystone Lodge, No. 80, at Solon, and saw the work exemplified in the Entered Apprentice degree, which, although not quite up to the standard, was very well done. This lodge is not doing much work, and I was informed that it was almost impossible for a candidate to be accepted. It is to be hoped that no brother would exercise the power of the ballot to the detriment of masonry; personal prejudice should never influence a brother in casting his ballot, *and the result of that ballot should be safely lodged in the repository of faithful breasts.* "The vitality of Freemasonry is its mystery, which can only be conserved by its secrecy. Rive but a single link in the chain, and what is there to hold us together?" We cannot be too careful about these things. The records are still in the hands of Bro. LONGLEY, and are a model of neatness.

February 25th, I visited Bingham Lodge, No. 99, at Bingham, and was cordially received by the officers and brethren. They expected to have work in the Third degree, but owing to the condition of the roads the candidate was unable to be present, so the W. M. kindly consented to exemplify the work in the Fellow Craft degree. This lodge did more work last year than any other lodge in the district, but I am sorry to say that the *specimens of skill* exhibited on this occasion were not quite up to my expectations. I made such corrections and suggestions as seemed necessary, which were kindly received and from which I hope the lodge may profit. The officers should meet occasionally for rehearsals. Examined the records and found them in good hands. The dues are the best collected of any lodge in the district, which proves that the Secretary knows his duty and performs it fearlessly, for which he *ought* to be *rewarded*.

On Monday evening, February 27th, I visited Northern Star Lodge, No. 28, at North Anson, and witnessed work in the Master's degree. It was the first work of the new officers, but was rendered in a very correct and impressive manner. Having installed the officers a short time before, I did

not expect to see *perfect* work, but I am satisfied that with a very little practice, Northern Star Lodge will be able to present work as near the *standard* work of the Grand Lodge as any lodge in the 13th District. I was very much pleased to note the interest manifested by all the officers, in being correctly informed in everything pertaining to the ritual. The W. M. presides in the East with dignity and has the respect and co-operation of all the officers and brethren. Bro. HOVEY called on Past Master GOULD to give the lecture, who explained it to the candidate very impressively. A delegation of nine members from Bingham Lodge was present on this occasion, having driven *sixteen miles* in teams to witness the work and enjoy the hospitality of their sister lodge; which proves that the interest in masonry is not flagging in this section. Refreshments were served in the hall below at the proper time, and a very social time was enjoyed by all. Conferred the P. M. degree on Bro. HOVEY. The records are still in the custody of their efficient Secretary, Bro. SIMMONS, and are, as in years past, neat and correct. My visit here was the most pleasant one of the year.

February 28th, visited Lebanon Lodge, No. 116, at So. Norridgewock. This was a special meeting called by me, and was not very satisfactory to myself or complimentary to the lodge. The only officers present were the W. Master, Secretary, Senior Deacon and Tyler, two members and one visitor! This lodge, a year ago, was unable to exemplify the work in any one of the degrees on account of the absence of so many of the officers, and on this occasion were more crippled than before. They have not done any work the past year, or, in fact, for the past two or three years, to speak of, and I am afraid are losing their interest. However, the Master informed me that they expected work soon, and if I would visit them a little later, he would show me that Lebanon Lodge was not dead, but only sleeping. Amen! So mote it be! The evening was spent in reciting the ritual and in asking and answering questions. Examined the records and found them all right.

March 2d, I visited Siloam Lodge, No. 92, at Fairfield, and witnessed work in the F. C. degree, which reflected credit upon the officers, that of the W. Master deserving special mention. The reputation which this lodge has enjoyed in the past was fully sustained on this occasion. The prospects of this lodge are very brilliant at present, and the chosen theme and general chorus is for a new hall, of which they stand very much in need. Next to Somerset, it is the largest lodge in the district, and their present quarters are not large enough to accommodate them. The question of a new hall has been agitated in this lodge for years, but the brethren have never appeared so earnest, and there has been no decided move made until now. I sincerely trust their efforts may be crowned with success. Whether they get a new hall or not, there is one thing that should not be forgotten—a

new regalia throughout. The old one does very well in the hall, but is hardly presentable in public. The records are in the hands of Bro. CHAPMAN, a former Secretary, and are all right.

In closing my report, I desire to express, to you, Most Worshipful, thanks for the honor and trust conferred in appointing me a second time to this responsible office; and through you, to the brethren of the district with whom I have come in contact, for the friendly manner in which I have been received, and for the courtesy shown me while making my official visits.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

HERMAN W. S. LOVEJOY, *D. D. G. M. 13th M. D.*

Kent's Hill, March 17, 1899.

FOURTEENTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

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 am pleased to report that all of the lodges in the Fourteenth District are in good standing, and a majority of them show an improvement in the correctness of the work, as well as an increase in membership.

September 27th, I attended the convention for instruction in masonic work, at Lewiston; there was a good attendance, and the interest manifested is conclusive evidence that these conventions are of the utmost importance to perfect us in the ritual. While my district was well represented, I have made it a point at the time of my official visits, to impress them with the important fact of attending at least one convention each year.

January 10th, I had the pleasure of being present at the regular meeting of United Lodge, No. 8, Brunswick. I installed a part of the officers who were not present the night of the installation, and witnessed work in the M. M. degree. This lodge is doing very good work; the attendance is good and the officers and members manifest an interest in the work. The records are still in the hands of Bro. LEMUEL H. STOVER, whose many years of service as Secretary is a voucher for their correctness, he having been Secretary twenty-seven consecutive years. It was very gratifying to me to have the pleasure of meeting P. D. D. G. M. FRANK C. WHITHOUSE of Topsham on this occasion. After the work, we closed a very pleasant evening with a supper in the banquet hall.

January 24th, by invitation, I visited Acacia Lodge, No. 121, Durham, and installed their officers. The night was very stormy, but there was a

very good attendance. After the installation, refreshments were served, and an hour was spent in discussing points of interest to the craft. This is a small lodge, but they own the building they occupy and have quite a charity fund. Their records are neat and well kept, and although they have not done any work this year, the records show a good attendance. I am under obligation to Bro. STROUT, S. D. of the lodge, who very kindly invited me to his pleasant home, and took fine care of me, driving me to Lisbon Falls in season to take my train in the morning.

February 20th, I officially visited Richmond Lodge, No. 63, Richmond. Work in the E. A. degree. Taking into consideration that they expected to work the M. M. degree, the work was very well done. The records are fine and show a good attendance. Dues well collected, and the lodge in a flourishing condition, with an increased amount of work.

February 25th, accompanied by a few members of Village Lodge, I visited Ancient York Lodge, No. 155, Lisbon Falls. The work in the M. M. degree was rendered in a very prompt and impressive manner. There was a large attendance. Members all interested, dues well collected, records neat and correctly kept. After the lodge closed, the ladies of the Eastern Star furnished us with a beautiful supper, and were present to see that it was well served.

March 27th, I was present at the regular communication of Freeport Lodge, No. 23, Freeport. The lodge worked two candidates in the M. M. degree. The work was conferred in a very pleasing manner. The records show by the attendance, that the brethren are interested, and they all seemed to express a willingness to be instructed that they might be as perfect in the ritual as possible. Bro. FOGG still has charge of the records, which is sufficient evidence of their correctness. The dues are well collected, the lodge own their building, and have quite a charity fund, with a future prospect of quite a large amount of work. After the work, we adjourned to the refreshment hall and enjoyed a fine oyster supper.

April 3, I was very pleasantly entertained by Solar Lodge, No. 14, Bath. The work in the M. M. degree was conferred in a very correct and impressive manner. The attendance was large. The records are in the hands of Bro. ALBERT L. STROUT, and for neatness, accuracy and penmanship, they are hard to excel and are worthy of imitation. The dues are well collected, and the lodge in good financial standing. At the close, the inner man was refreshed, and a social hour spent. I had the pleasure of meeting P. D. D. G. M. SETH T. SHEPER on this occasion.

I did not have an opportunity to visit Polar Star Lodge, No. 114, Bath, but see by the returns that they have initiated twenty-one candidates this year, making it the banner lodge in the Fourteenth District, in this respect, and I have no doubt that under the watchful eye of W. M. MARSTON, who

is always present at our conventions for instruction in masonic work, Polar Star Lodge is doing fine work. I regret very much that I did not have an opportunity to visit it.

I did not deem it necessary to make an official visit to Village Lodge, No. 26, Bowdoinham, it being my home lodge, for the records will show that I have been present at every meeting. I am pleased to report the lodge in fine working order, and records in good shape. We have done but very little work the last year, but the future looks bright, as we had quite a number of petitions presented at our last meeting. The brethren are all interested and signify a desire to perfect themselves in the work.

As I close my report, it is pleasing to me to be able to report an improvement in the correctness of the work in this district, very marked in some lodges. The lodges are all very pleasantly situated, in good financial standing, and brotherly love prevails.

I wish to thank you, Most Worshipful, for this second honor, and the officers and brethren of the different lodges for the courtesies extended, and the cordial manner in which they have always received me.

Fraternally submitted,

ROBERT W. CARR, *D. D. G. M. 14th M. D.*

Bowdoinham, April 6, 1899.

FIFTEENTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my second annual report of the condition of the lodges in the Fifteenth Masonic District.

It is with pleasure I can again report that I have visited every lodge in the district and witnessed work or exemplification of work in each lodge. They are all in excellent condition, and are approaching nearer the ideal in ritual and floor work, and we hope in application of the teachings of Masonry to every day life.

I attended the convention for teaching the work, held in Lewiston in September by Grand Lecturer SLEEPER. Only those who attend such conventions can appreciate the benefit to be received by those who wish to perfect themselves in the ritual of Masonry.

June 19th, I granted a dispensation to Davis Lodge, No. 191, to attend divine service as a lodge, agreeably to the invitation of Rev. Bro. MILLS.

January 23d, I officially visited Maine Lodge, No. 20, at Farmington. Their elegant and commodious rooms were filled to overflowing with vis-

iting brethren who had been invited to share their hospitality. A most enjoyable and profitable evening was spent. The cordial reception given the visitors, and the many expressions of pleasure from the guests shows what can be accomplished in a social way by a lodge when inclined to entertain the neighboring brethren. Work was on the M. M. degree and was well rendered; careful attention being given to the floor work as well as ritual. Bro PURINGTON, the Master, is well supported by his officers and the degree was conferred in a dignified and impressive manner. The earnest attention and perfect stillness of so large a body of men during the whole ceremony impresses the thoughtful with the fact that beneath the forms and ceremonies are great truths which appeal to the hearts of all good masons. At the close of the lodge a fine banquet was served, to which about one hundred and forty masons did ample justice.

February 21st, I visited Mystic Tie Lodge, No. 154, at Weld. Work in the E. A. degree was exemplified. This lodge has had no work for the past year, but the ritual and floor work was done in a manner which reflects great credit on the lodge and testifies to the faithfulness of the officers. P. D. D. G. M. JONES still has charge of the records. Refreshments were served at close of the lodge.

February 22d, I made my official visit to Oriental Star Lodge at Livermore Falls. Their new and beautiful hall was well filled with their own members, which indicates that there is no lack of interest among the members of this lodge. Two candidates were given the M. M. degree. The ritual was not quite so closely followed by all the officers as I expected in a lodge where they had had so much work, having initiated sixteen members during the year. Yet on the whole, there was but little chance for criticism. They are enjoying a period of great prosperity and are exercising great care in the choice of material. I noted that every officer was present. I had the pleasure of meeting P. D. D. G. M. R. C. BOOTHE, who still takes an active interest in his lodge. Refreshments were served in the banquet hall and a social hour enjoyed with the brethren.

February 23d was the date of my visit to Whitney Lodge, No. 167, at Canton. This was a special meeting. As they had no work the F. C. degree was exemplified in a satisfactory manner. But few corrections or suggestions were necessary. It is a pleasure to visit a lodge where the brethren are so desirous of information and take so great interest in the work. Bro. DESMON, the Secretary, was detained at home by sickness, and also P. D. D. G. M. DURA BRADFORD, both of whom I had hoped to meet. A lunch was much enjoyed after the lodge was closed.

March 10th, I visited Wilton Lodge, No. 156, at Wilton. The M. M. degree was conferred in a manner which does much credit to the officers. This lodge has made marked improvement in its work the past year. I

found it necessary to criticise some parts of the work in the second section of the degree. If those who take part in that beautiful drama could fully realize what it is intended to teach and enter into the *true* spirit of the occasion there would be less cause for unfavorable criticism in our lodges when working this degree.

March 28th, I officially visited Davis Lodge, No. 191, at Strong. This was a special meeting. The work was the Third degree. I was much pleased with the way in which it was done. Although the ritual was not perfectly rendered, I have never seen the degree conferred in a more dignified and impressive manner. This lodge is in a prosperous condition, the brethren much interested, and they are having a good amount of work. I was pleased to meet several brethren from Kingfield, who came by special train to attend the lodge. A banquet and social hour concluded the evening's enjoyment.

March 29th, I visited Blue Mountain Lodge, No. 67, at Phillips. A number of the officers live at Rangeley, and were expected by special train. The train started in due season, but on account of a snow blockade did not arrive at Phillips until two o'clock the next morning, so the W. Master was obliged to fill the Wardens' stations from the floor, as well as some of the minor places. The Entered Apprentice degree was conferred on one candidate. The work was done in excellent form. There was nothing in the work to indicate that the regular officers were not in their places. In this lodge are a number of Past Masters who keep thoroughly posted in the ritual, and are always ready to assist in the work. Refreshments served at the close, and an hour of social intercourse enjoyed by the brethren.

After a long journey through the northern woods, over roads nearly impassable from the heavy snow storms of the past winter, I reached Mount Bigelow Lodge, No. 202, at Flagstaff, and made my official visit Friday evening, March 31st. I found the brethren enthusiastic, and rejoicing that at last they have a lodge with its privileges within their reach. Having no work the Third degree was exemplified. The work moved along fairly well, but the ritual was not closely followed. Correct work cannot be expected in a new lodge, and especially where they have so few advantages of visitation. They have the material for a good working lodge, and no doubt will soon become proficient in the work. After the work, we repaired to the Lake House, where a fine supper was served by mine host DURRELL.

Franklin Lodge, No. 123, at New Sharon, is my masonic home. This lodge has had no work the past year, yet we believe that there are days of prosperity ahead for us. Wor. Bro. J. S. MOORE is well supported by his officers and will do good work when "occasion requires."

With the exception of Mt. Bigelow Lodge, the Secretaries are the same as

last year. The dues are promptly collected and the business affairs of the lodges are well arranged.

In closing, allow me, Most Worshipful, to thank you again for the honor conferred upon me by my appointment, and to express my appreciation of the uniform kindness and courtesy with which I have been received throughout the district.

Fraternally submitted,

JAMES H. HOWES, *D. D. G. M. 15th M. D.*

New Sharon, Me, April 24, 1899.

SIXTEENTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to present to you my second annual report as D D. G. M. of the Sixteenth Masonic District.

I have visited all the lodges in the district except one, and am pleased to report them in good condition with capable and interested officers, who have shown a desire to be correct in their work. There has been a slight decrease in membership during the year, death having invaded the ranks of nearly every lodge.

May 17th, Jefferson Lodge, No. 100, held a special meeting and conferred the M. M. degree on three candidates, the officers of three neighboring lodges taking part in the work, namely, Oxford, King Hiram and Granite. There were a large number of brethren present, including the W. M. and others of Tyrian Lodge of Mechanic Falls, and Bro. F. R. REDON of Portland. I think the meeting was very much enjoyed by all and that much benefit is derived by an interchange of visits between lodges. Refreshments were served, after which were speeches and a good time was enjoyed.

August 29th, I visited Evening Star Lodge, No. 147, Buckfield. The work was in the F. C. degree, and was fairly well done. Some necessary corrections were made. There was a good number present, and much interest shown. The records are in good order and dues are very well collected. I think every lodge should send a representative to Grand Lodge, and I hope Evening Star Lodge will not fail in this duty in the future.

September 6th, I made my official visit to King Hiram Lodge, No. 57, Dixfield. The work was in the E. A. degree, which was conferred in a very satisfactory manner, showing an improvement since my last visit. This lodge takes a great interest in Masonry, and is in a prosperous condition. Records well kept, dues fairly collected, financial condition all right.

October 18th, by invitation, I again visited this lodge and publicly installed the officers, assisted by Bro. J. M. FOLLAND as Marshal. The hall was filled with brethren, their families and friends. Refreshments were served in the hall. The remainder of the evening was passed in a social manner.

October 13th, I visited Bethel Lodge, No. 97, Bethel. Witnessed work in the F. C. degree; some corrections were made. This lodge is enjoying an era of prosperity; many fine young members are being taken into the lodge, much care being taken that they are worthy the honor. Records all right.

December 8th, I publicly installed the officers of Bethel Lodge, assisted by P. J. G. W. GOODWIN R. WILEY as Grand Marshal. After the ceremony all were invited to the vestry of the Universalist Church, where a very fine banquet was served. Speeches were in order after refreshments, and a very pleasant evening was passed.

Granite Lodge, No. 182, West Paris, I have visited several times during the year and have witnessed work in the E. A. and M. M. degrees. This lodge has had very little work for some time until within the past year, but the interest has been kept up. The lodge is now doing good work and new members are coming in. By good management, the lodge will soon own its hall. Records in fair shape, dues fairly collected.

February 8th, I made my official visit to Blazing Star Lodge, No. 30, Rumford Falls. Work was in the M. M. degree. Two candidates were raised. The work was done very fairly and the lecture was given in a very correct and impressive manner by the Worshipful Master. This lodge has been very prosperous since its removal to Rumford Falls, and is second in the district, having gained sixty-nine members since 1895. I found the records in the hands of Bro. FRED A. PORTER. They are a very neat set of records, which it is a pleasure to examine. Dues promptly collected. Refreshments after the work.

October 24th, by invitation, visited Oxford Lodge, No. 18, Norway, and installed their officers, assisted by Bro. GEORGE W. HOLMES as Grand Marshal. Refreshments were served and a good time enjoyed.

February 24th, I made my official visit to this lodge. The M. M. degree was conferred on two candidates. About twenty members of Jefferson Lodge, by invitation of Oxford Lodge, accompanied me. The officers of Jefferson Lodge raised one of the candidates. I was very much pleased with the work; it was given in a very smooth and impressive manner; all the officers are deeply interested and well posted. The meeting was very much enjoyed by the visiting brethren from Jefferson and other lodges, much benefit being derived from the meeting. Refreshments were served, after which all were entertained by speeches and music. This lodge has im-

proved its hall very much in the last year; they now have a very nicely lighted and ventilated hall, well adapted to masonic work. Bro. SMITH is unexcelled as a Secretary and the business methods of the lodge are above criticism.

March 21st, I visited Paris Lodge, No. 94, South Paris, and witnessed work in the M. M. degree. This being the first time the officers had conferred the M. M. degree, the work was not done as smoothly as I expected to see it. The officers are young men and are very much interested; I have no doubt they will soon be doing better work. Refreshments were served, after which an hour was spent in going over the work and lecture. Records in fair shape, dues very promptly collected.

March 23d, I attempted to visit Crooked River Lodge, No. 182, Bolster's Mills. I got as far as Norway, when I found the storm so severe that I did not continue my trip. This lodge has done no work the past year. I have learned that they are in about the same condition as when I last visited them.

I have attended nearly all the meetings of Jefferson Lodge, No. 100, it being my home lodge. The lodge is in good condition, and does good work, keeping up its past reputation in that respect. Records are still in the hands of Bro. ALDEN CHASE, and are well kept.

All the lodges in the district examine their candidates in open lodge before advancement.

In closing my report, I desire to thank the officers and members of the several lodges for the courtesy with which I have been received and entertained, and you, M. W., for the honor of my second appointment. Trusting that I may have been of some benefit to the Order,

I am fraternally yours,

ARTHUR C. RICKER, *D. D. G. M. 16th M. D.*

Bryant's Pond, April 17, 1899.

SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor to submit my annual report as D. D. G. M. of the Seventeenth Masonic District for your consideration.

My first official visit was to Deering Lodge, No. 183, on the evening of June 21st, on which occasion I was received in full form. I was accompanied by Wor. Bros. E. A. BODGE, and O. A. COBB, of Temple Lodge, Wor. Bro. O. L. COUSINS, of Warren Phillips Lodge, and several brethren from

the same lodges. The work presented was in the Master Mason's degree, which was conferred upon three candidates in the usual excellent manner characteristic of the officers of this lodge. The records are in the hands of Wor. Bro. CHASE, and I need not add that they are correctly kept and the dues well paid. I had the pleasure of meeting here Past R. W. Bros. F. R. REDLON, C. E. SNOW, MAXFIELD, CHASE and several other prominent masons. The attendance was large, and I enjoyed a very pleasant visit. Refreshments were served after the work.

I visited Harmony Lodge, No. 38, Gorham, October 26th, and was very cordially received by Wor. Master E. P. HANSON, his officers and members of the lodge. I was accompanied on this visit by Wor. Bros. F. W. BABB, E. A. BODGE and others. The work was in the Entered Apprentice degree, which was performed in an able manner. I offered a few suggestions, which I trust were received with brotherly kindness and I hope will be carried out. The attendance was not very large owing to a very bad storm. Refreshments were served after the work, followed by a very sociable hour with speeches and music. I had the pleasure of meeting here Wor. Bros. C. N. HAYES, SHACKFORD, REDLON, HARDING and several brethren from different lodges. This lodge is in good financial condition, owning the hall they occupy. The records, in the hands of Wor. Bro. HARDING, are correctly and neatly kept.

On September 27th I attended the convention for instruction in masonic work which was held at Lewiston, and I derived much pleasure as well as instruction from this visit, and if any of the many brethren present did not, I assure you that it was not the fault of the Grand Lecturer. I think that if the officers of the several lodges in this district would attend these conventions, there would be fewer errors in rendering the ritual than there is at present.

November 17th, I visited Standish Lodge, No. 70, and received a very cordial welcome, although they did not expect me on account of a very bad storm. I found the lodge in very good circumstances, both as regards finances and work. The work of the evening was the Master's degree and the manner of conferring the same must have made a very deep and lasting impression upon the candidate. I found the officers anxious to do good and correct work. The records are kept as they should be by the Secretary, Wor. Bro. SWASEY. Refreshments were served after the work, to which we all did justice. I had the pleasure of meeting at this visit Wor. Master G. H. OWEN, of Ancient Landmark Lodge, Wor. Bros. BURROWS, LIBBY, BEDGE, of Temple, Wor. Bros. CARL and COUSINS of Warren Phillips Lodge, as well as about twenty brethren from Westbrook. Standish Lodge probably has made greater strides in masonic circles than any other lodge in this district, as for a number of years it was practically dead, but owing

to the efforts of Wor. Bro. SWASEY and others it has been resuscitated and is now ready to take its place with its sister lodges.

I was requested to install the officers of Warren Phillips Lodge, No. 186, on the evening of Nov. 2d, but being unable to perform that duty that evening, I sent Wor. Bro. GEORGE B. SWETT, who reported as follows:

“ R. W. D. D. G. M. H. P. BABB.

“ I herewith submit the following report:

“ On November 2d, I attended the meeting of Warren Phillips Lodge, No. 186, as your representative, and with the assistance of Past Master O. L. COUSINS as Grand Marshal, installed the officers for the ensuing year. Nearly all of the officers are young in Masonry, but much interested, and I have no doubt that before the close of the term they will be able to do the work in a manner which will be a credit to themselves and to the lodge. There were a large number present, not only members of the home lodge, but quite a large number of visiting brethren. One thing was particularly gratifying to me, there were present several members who had not sat in the lodge for several years. I was very cordially received, and at the close the W. Master invited all present to the banquet room, where a fine collation was served and a social hour enjoyed

Yours fraternally,

GEORGE B. SWETT, P. M.,

Warren Phillips Lodge, No. 186.”

On Tuesday, December 6th, I visited Casco Lodge, No. 36, Yarmouth, where I was very pleasantly received by Wor. Master DAVID H. BENNETT and a large number of brethren. The work was in the Fellow Craft's degree, and was rendered in an excellent manner and very closely to the ritual. Bro. MONROE STODDARD keeps the records in a very neat and correct manner. The finances I found to be very well invested, they owning the building which contains the lodge room. After the work the lodge repaired to the banquet hall where a collation had been prepared, and after partaking of the same a very pleasant hour was enjoyed.

I visited Presumpscot Lodge, No. 127, on the evening of Dec. 24th, where I received a very cordial welcome from W. M. FRANK H. HASKELL and members of said lodge. This lodge has had a small amount of work this year, and on the occasion of my visit were somewhat handicapped by some of the officers being absent and their places filled by others. As this was their annual communication, I had an opportunity to witness their method of transacting business as well as witnessing mode of working the degree, which was the Master Mason's, and rendered in a satisfactory manner. An unusual incident occurred here which I never heard of, or saw before, viz: A brother performing the ceremony of raising upon his grandson. The

records are very nicely kept, and dues well collected. Finances also are good. An oyster supper was served at the close of the lodge.

On January 24th, I visited Hiram Lodge, No. 180, at South Portland, and although it was a stormy night there was a very large attendance. This was their first meeting in the new masonic hall, and the work of the evening was the Fellow Craft's degree. The brethren of Hiram Lodge are to be congratulated on their new home. This lodge has had quite a large amount of work during the past year, and as they received four applications for degrees that evening they bid fair to continue their average amount for the present. The work as performed by the officers was good, and very close to the ritual, and considering this was the first work of their new line it was rendered in a very satisfactory manner. *Wor. Bro. STEPHEN SCAMMAN*, the Secretary, keeps the records accurately, and the dues well collected. The funds of this lodge are very well invested in their new hall, which is a very good example for other lodges.

I visited Ancient Landmark Lodge, No. 17, Portland, February 1st, where I was received in full form and introduced by *Wor. Bro. CHARLES E. SNOW*. The work was in the Fellow Craft's degree, and although the lodge has had but a small amount of work lately, yet the officers performed their work in an excellent manner. The records, in the hands of *Bro. RUSSELL*, are very neatly and correctly kept. In regard to the finances this is the banner lodge, having the largest fund in this district. Also the largest membership in the state. At the close of the work an excellent banquet was served and partaken of by a very large number of brethren, after which there were some extra fine speeches by some *Rev. Brethren* and others. *Wor. Master GEORGE H. OWEN* and officers try hard to entertain a visiting officer and I may truthfully say that they succeed.

I visited Temple Lodge, No. 186, officially on the evening of the 8th of February. They were expecting work in the Entered Apprentice degree, but as there was a bad storm at the time, the candidates did not appear. As this is my home lodge, and attending most all the communications, I know that the officers perform their duties as they should, and do justice to themselves and lodge. This lodge is holding its own, notwithstanding the hard times in this city, and expending considerable money for charitable purposes. The records and finances are good and the dues well collected.

On March 1st I visited Warren Phillips Lodge, No. 186, at Cumberland Mills. I was received in full form and introduced by *Wor. Bro. O. L. COUSINS*. There was a good attendance and quite a number of visiting brethren from Portland, Deering and Temple Lodges. The work was the Entered Apprentice degree and was conferred upon three candidates in an able manner. I found the finances of this lodge in very good condition and the dues well collected. The records are neatly kept and show an inclination

on the part of the Secretary to be correct in every particular. This lodge is in a flourishing condition, with prospects of a prosperous year. A banquet was served after the work. I had the pleasure of meeting here Past R. W. D. D. MAXFIELD of Deering.

I enjoyed a very pleasant visit to Portland Lodge, No 1, on the evening of March 8th, where I was received with all the honors belonging to an officer of the Grand Lodge. This is the oldest lodge in the state and is in a very prosperous condition, both as regards finances and membership. I think the attendance here was the largest that I met with on my visits. I had the pleasure of meeting a large number of distinguished masons from other districts, as well as my own. I also had the pleasure of meeting (as you well know) the Grand Master. The work here was the Entered Apprentice degree and the officers performed their duties in an excellent manner, with both credit to themselves and to the lodge. The records, in the hands of Bro. GOULD, I found to be correctly kept.

After the work a banquet was served, followed by very interesting speeches on Masonry. Among the Fraternity in Portland are some very eloquent speakers; it is a great pleasure to listen to them and a mason must be very deeply impressed by so doing. I was very sorry to be obliged to leave before the company broke up, but it was unavoidable. This visit will be remembered by me as one of the pleasures of my term.

I made my last official visit to Atlantic Lodge, Portland, March 15th, and although there was a bad storm raging at the time I found about two hundred of the brethren assembled in the lodge room. The work presented was the Entered Apprentice degree and was conferred in a very able manner by the officers. I found the records here, as I have found them in many other lodges, in excellent condition, their finances good and the dues collected better than the average. A banquet was served after the work, followed by very interesting speeches. I must mention the music that was rendered during the opening and work, which must have made a very good impression upon the candidate.

I have visited all the lodges in this district officially, and quite a number of them on other occasions. I have found them in good condition, and working very close to the ritual, which shows they are wide awake and trying to do what is right. Every lodge obliges its candidates to "make suitable proficiency in the preceding degree" before they can be crafted or raised. I have been called upon to make very few corrections or suggestions.

In closing, I report with pleasure that harmony prevails in all the lodges so far as I could ascertain. This has been a very pleasant year to me, and I trust it has been to the brethren. And now, Most Worshipful Grand Master, I wish to thank you for the honor of my appointment, and to tender

my sincere regards and gratitude to the officers and brethren of this district for the many courtesies and greetings which I have received. I earnestly hope my official acts have met with your approval, and I will add that if the lodges in the other districts perform their work as correctly as in the Seventeenth, then the Grand Lodge may well be proud of the craft in Maine. Fraternally submitted,

HARLAN P. BABB, *D. D. G. M. 17th M. D.*

EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

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

September 27th, I attended the convention called for instruction by the Grand Lecturer at Lewiston, which has proved of great benefit in my masonic work. These conventions are of great value and should be well attended.

October 13th, I visited Delta Lodge, No. 153, at Lovell. As there was not any candidate, work was not exemplified, the brethren thinking that greater benefit would be secured by going over the ritual, the Master reciting, and I making such corrections as were found to be necessary, which I am pleased to say were few. The records are full and well kept by Bro. EDWIN L. BELL.

October 24th, I visited Pythagorean Lodge, No. 11, Fryeburg. There was no candidate, but a brother volunteered, and work was exemplified in the E. A. degree in good shape, very few errors being noticed, and those mostly "slips of the tongue," which in most cases were corrected by those who made them upon having their attention called to them. This is the oldest lodge in the district, and the members seem to intend to keep it up to its ancient standing. The records, in the hands of Bro. T. L. EASTMAN, show all the "ear marks" of a successful business man.

January 21st, I visited Oriental Lodge, No. 13, Bridgton. As this is the home lodge of J. G. WARDEN M. M. CASWELL, much was expected and our expectations were amply fulfilled in the manner that labor was performed in the M. M. degree, two candidates being raised. This was a very enjoyable occasion, as I had the pleasure of meeting several brethren from other lodges, among whom was Bro. GILMAN W. MARTIN, of Mt. Moriah Lodge, Denmark. The officers are young and painstaking, and I predict the same

success in the future as in the past. The records, in charge of Bro. CHAPLIN, are fine and correctly kept.

February 24th, I visited Greenleaf Lodge, No. 117, Cornish. Witnessed work in the F. C. degree, two candidates being passed to the middle chamber in a manner reflecting great credit upon the officers, who performed the labors in almost exact harmony with the ritual. The records are in the keeping of that veteran Secretary, Bro. GEO. H. PARKER, and are models of neatness.

February 25th, I visited Shepherd's River Lodge, No. 169, Brownfield. There being no candidate the evening was spent in discussing the ritual. This lodge shows by its proficiency in the ritual that when work comes to its doors it will be creditably done. The records are in good shape in the keeping of Bro. HUBERT F. FITCH.

Mt. Moriah Lodge, No. 56, Denmark, I have not been able to visit, circumstances over which I had no control preventing, but I have good reports of the lodge, and as I have met the Wor. Master and several of the brethren at lodges upon the occasion of official visits, I feel that the craft will not suffer for the want of instruction.

Mt. Tire'm, No. 132, my home lodge, I have not visited officially, thinking it unnecessary, as I have been present at nearly all the meetings. January 24th I publicly installed the officers in the presence of a good number of invited guests. This lodge has gained three members by initiation in the past year, and the work has been done in a manner that will compare favorably with any lodge in the district.

In closing, Most Worshipful, I desire to extend my thanks to the officers and brethren of the several lodges for the uniform courtesy with which I have been received, and to you, for the honor of my appointment.

Fraternally submitted,

ISAAC F. JEWETT, *D. D. G. M. 18th M. D.*

NINETEENTH DISTRICT.

TO M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the pleasure to submit my second annual report as D. D. G. M. of the Nineteenth District, F. and A. M.

June 22d, I visited Dunlap Lodge, at Biddeford. Witnessed the conferring the M. M. degree on three candidates, which was well done. After the lodge was closed, all repaired to the banquet room, where a bountiful collation

was served, to which all did ample justice. Some very interesting remarks were made by the brethren, which were listened to with much interest. The lodge is in good condition, and they are doing a goodly amount of work. The records, in the hands of Bro. DROWN, are neatly kept and the finances carefully looked after.

June 29th, I visited Ocean Lodge, at Wells Depot. Witnessed work in the M. M. degree. Bro. GETCHELL holds his own as a first-class worker, and is well supported by his officers. I enjoy visiting Ocean Lodge; there is so much freedom one feels perfectly at home. The records are kept by Bro. BEKER, who looks carefully after the finances.

November 5th, I visited Arion Lodge, at Goodwin's Mills; witnessed the F. C. degree exemplified, which was very well done. This lodge has not had any work for a number of years. They lost all they had this past winter. They are talking of building a new hall, which is something they are very much in need of. The records were in the hands of Bro. C. K. LITTLEFIELD.

September 27th, I was present at the convention held at Lewiston under the direction of R. W. Bro. SLEEPER, the Grand Lecturer. The day was pleasantly passed listening to the recitations of the ritual and much desired information was gained.

January 18th, I installed the officers of Ocean Lodge. The installation was public to masons and their families. On account of much sickness, there was a small number present; those who were there had a good time, as they always do at Ocean Lodge. I think they made a wise choice when they re-elected Bro. GETCHELL W. M., as he is a zealous worker and looks after the good of the craft.

January 20th, I installed the officers of Yorkshire Lodge, with the assistance of Bro. W. B. LITTLEFIELD as Marshal. The installation was public, and a goodly number were present. Fine singing added very much to the beauty of the ceremony. Some very interesting remarks were made by the brethren, and some pieces spoken by a young lady were listened to with much interest. I have not had the pleasure of seeing this lodge do work, but am convinced they can do good work when the time comes for it. The records, in the hands of Bro. DRAKE, are neatly and correctly kept, and the finances carefully looked after.

February 20th, I visited York Lodge and witnessed the work in the M. M. degree on three candidates, which was well done. This lodge has had a goodly amount of work the past year. The records are kept by Bro. GEO. A. GILPATRICK, who carefully looks after the finances of the lodge.

March 21st, I visited Saint Aspinquid Lodge. The lodge was opened on the M. M. degree. Peace and harmony prevail. There was no work to come before the lodge. I gave such instructions as I thought for the good

of the craft, which were kindly received. The records are in the hands of Bro. STEWART, who carefully looks after the finances of the lodge.

March 22d, I was present at the regular meeting of Naval Lodge. Two candidates received the E. A. degree, which was well performed, although some of the regular officers were absent. The records are neatly kept by Bro. LEVI GOODRICH, who has served in that capacity many years, which is a sufficient guarantee of his faithfulness.

April 5th, in company with Bro. JEFFERY, of Arundel Lodge, I visited Saco Lodge and witnessed work in the M. M. degree, which was very well done. The W. M. is a young mason and a good worker, and I have no doubt that Saco Lodge will stand among the first in the district. The records, kept by Bro. EMERY, are a model of neatness.

I have not visited Saint John's Lodge, at South Berwick, but as the same officers are in the chairs that were there when I visited last, I am positive they are doing good work. They have made a goodly number of masons the past year. The records are in the hands of Bro. E. A. CHESLEY, who carefully looks after the finances.

Arundel Lodge, No. 76, being my home lodge, I have been present at most of its meetings. Have witnessed work in the E. A., F. C. and M. M. degrees, which was very well done. The officers are all young masons and seem active, and I have no doubt they will do credit to themselves and the lodge. The records are in the hands of Bro. F. B. PERKINS, who carefully observes the proceedings of the lodge and makes a neat and correct record of the same. March 14th, with the assistance of Bro. W. F. WALKER, as Marshal, I publicly installed the officers of this lodge. About two hundred were present, and a very pleasant evening was passed. Fine singing added much to the beauty of the ceremony, and a bountiful collation was served to which all did justice.

In conclusion, I will say that I have visited most of the lodges in the district, and find them in very good condition and doing a fair amount of work. I have given such instructions as I thought for the good of the craft. I have been kindly received by officers and brethren of the different lodges, for which I wish to express heartfelt thanks. And to you, M. W. Grand Master, for the honor conferred by re-appointing me D. D. G. M. for the Nineteenth Masonic District.

Fraternally submitted,

ISAAC P. GOOCH, *D. D. G. M. 19th M. D.*

TWENTIETH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

In submitting to you my second annual report, I have the pleasure of stating that I have visited all the lodges in this district. Owing to sickness the past winter, I was unable to visit some of them as early as I would have liked. As a whole I have found them fairly prosperous. The attendance has been hardly up to what it should be; too many brethren are negligent about attending the meetings. We should remember that it is our duty to be at the meetings on all convenient occasions, thereby encouraging the officers in the discharge of their duties.

I visited Baskahegan Lodge, at Danforth, on September 24th. Work in the E. A. degree. There were quite a good number present, and the work very well performed. At the close of the work I installed the officers for the ensuing year. A banquet was served at the close. Since my visit here one year ago, the brethren have made great improvement in their hall and building, and now have a very nice masonic home. Bro. PARKER still has charge of the records and they show the lodge in good standing.

November 19th, I visited Pine Tree Lodge, at Mattawamkeag. Attendance was fairly good. Work on E. A. degree, after which I installed the officers. The officers in this lodge seem to be wide awake and enthusiastic. The records, by Bro. G. W. SMITH, are carefully kept.

March 21st, visited Horeb Lodge, at Lincoln. Horeb is the parent lodge in this district, Forest and Pine Tree being the offspring. There was no work the evening of my visit, but I was very cordially received by the brethren and a pleasant evening was spent socially. I was pleased to meet Past D. D. G. M. HARRISON PIPER, this being his home lodge. I examined the records kept by Bro. C. F. PLUMLY and found them neat and correct. They show that they have been doing good work the past year.

I attended the Grand Lecturer's meeting in Houlton on Sept. 16th and was surprised to see so small a number present. I received much benefit from the meeting and believe it the duty of all District Deputies to attend at least one, as they are thereby better qualified to inspect the work in the several lodges.

Forest Lodge, of Springfield, I have visited several times during the year, also installed the officers. They have had but little work, but have been hard at work on the lectures. The records are neatly and correctly kept by Brother L. W. TRASK.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the officers and brethren of the several lodges for the fraternal manner in which I have been received. I also wish

to thank you, Most Worshipful, for the honor of this my second appointment.

Faternally submitted,

EDWIN A. REED, *D. D. G. M. 20th M. D.*

No. Lee, March 28, 1899.

TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit the following as my report for the current masonic year in the Twenty-First District.

I have visited officially all the lodges in the district, and some of them more than once, and have witnessed work in nearly all of them, and am pleased to note the interest taken, and the general prosperity of the lodges.

August 5th, I attended the constitution of a new lodge at West Sullivan, the David A. Hooper Lodge, No. 201. I had visited them while working under a dispensation, and knew of their ability to entertain. It was a most enjoyable occasion.

December 1st, I visited Bar Harbor Lodge, No. 185, and witnessed work on the Master's degree, which was exceedingly well done. The ritual was closely followed. The W. M., Bro. CHARLES F. PAINE, having attended the Grand Lecturer's convention at Lewiston, had all the late corrections, and his part was well rendered.

December 22d, being in Bar Harbor, I again visited this lodge, and witnessed the conferring of the Master's degree. The work, as before, was well done. This lodge examines the candidate in the preceding degree before the open lodge, a practice that cannot fail of having a good effect, in that it makes well informed and therefore interested masons. This lodge has purchased a stereopticon and views for the degrees, the use of which makes the work more impressive and instructive. The records are still in the hands of Bro. HADLEY, and are as neatly and correctly kept as ever. The dues are well collected and the lodge is in a flourishing condition.

December 30th, I visited Mount Desert Lodge, No. 140. Here I also witnessed work on the Master's degree, Bro. MELVILLE L. ALLEN in the East. Bro. ALLEN is a thorough ritualist, and the work was very efficiently done, although some of his regular officers were absent. Here also the candidate was examined in open lodge as to his proficiency in the preceding degrees. The records are still in the hands of Bro. L. H. SOMES. The dues are well collected, and Bro. SOMES gave me the pleasing information that they should pay the balance of the mortgage on their hall this year.

The two lodges in Ellsworth I have not visited officially except for the purpose of installing their officers. I have been present, however, at nearly every meeting of my home lodge (Lygonia) for the past year, and know the work has been well done, Bro. PARKER well sustaining his reputation as a wise and accomplished Freemason. He has a good corps of officers and is ably supported. This lodge still maintains its excellent financial condition. I installed the officers on January 11th.

On January 12th, I installed the officers of Esoteric Lodge. This lodge has done little work since last spring, and none under the present officers. I have visited this lodge unofficially a number of times and know them to be well posted in the work and ritual. There are a large number of interested brethren in this lodge, and with work in the future, it will take its place as second to none in the conferring of the degrees. A change has been made in the office of Secretary, Bro. SMITH retiring and Bro. T. E. HALE succeeding him. Bro. HALE is a veteran in the masonic ranks, having held all the various offices in the lodge and was for several years its Wor. Master; and with his experience cannot fail to be an efficient Secretary.

January 17th, I visited Rising Sun Lodge, No. 71, at Orland. Here I again witnessed work in the Master's degree. The work was excellent. They followed the ritual which they had been taught very closely, but as it did not exactly conform to the correct ritual, I had some corrections to make, which were gladly received. Bro. HUTCHINS is a very efficient Master and rendered his part in a manner which was very impressive. I was glad to meet at this time, a number of the brethren from the neighboring lodges. I also made this the occasion to present Bro. HUTCHINS with his Past Master's diploma. The records are in the hands of a new Secretary, but one who gives promise of being an efficient officer. From the Treasurer, I learned that the lodge had nearly four hundred dollars in the treasury, and has no debts, for which they are to be congratulated.

January 28th, I again visited David A. Hooper Lodge, at West Sullivan, and witnessed the conferring of the Master's degree, which was very creditably done. Bro. CLAPHAM is a very painstaking Master and wants to get things just right. He has a good corps of officers, and with considerable work ahead I see nothing but prosperity for them. After the work I installed the officers elect and presented Bro. CLAPHAM with his Past Master's diploma.

On February 22d, a convention of the lodges in this district was held at Ellsworth. I had supposed that we might have present seventy-five, or if the weather was favorable possibly one hundred of the brethren. The day was very rainy and the traveling exceedingly bad, so you can judge of my surprise on entering the hall to find between two and three hundred of the brethren assembled. The convention was called to order at 2 P. M. and

duly opened in the Master's degree. After greeting the brethren, and stating the objects of the convention, I called on Wor. Bro. CHAS. F. PAINE, and Bar Harbor Lodge, to exemplify the Entered Apprentice degree. He called his lodge to order, a lodge of E. A. was duly opened, and the degree exemplified in a manner which merited the hearty applause which greeted him at the close of the work. Wor. Bro. E. F. CLAPHAM and the David A. Hooper Lodge were then called upon to exemplify the Fellow Craft degree. This was also given in a fine manner and they were vigorously applauded at the close. After questions and criticisms on the work in the degrees, the convention was called from labor to refreshment until evening. A banquet for the visiting brethren was served by Lygonia and Estoric Lodges in the banquet hall adjoining, which I think was truly enjoyed. Finding the lodge hall would be unable to accommodate the number who would be likely to be present in the evening, the Odd Fellows' lower hall was procured, and hastily fitted up for a lodge room, and at half past seven the convention was called from refreshment to labor again, the number present being estimated between four and five hundred. Worshipful Brother ELVERT E. PARKER, with a corps of officers selected from the two lodges in this city, then entered, and, opening his lodge, proceeded to exemplify the Master's degree, in which he was assisted by the Apollo Quartette of Bangor, who rendered a choral service during the degree, which added much to its impressiveness. The degree was conferred in a manner I have never seen excelled, even in Grand Lodge, and the brethren present were enthusiastic in its praise. After the degree, the convention was closed, and the brethren repaired to the banquet hall, when refreshments were again served, after which an informal meeting was held in the hall above, where there was singing by the quartette and speeches by a number of the brethren, and at a late hour the brethren dispersed, feeling that the convention was a grand success, and that a similar one should be held each year.

March 2d, I visited Tremont Lodge, No. 77, at Southwest Harbor. Here also the Master's degree was conferred, a large number of the brethren being present. This was the first time the present Master had conferred this degree, but the work was very good. Bro. MAYO, the new Master, has been absent for a number of years, so the ritual is a new thing to him, but I think he will make an excellent officer. The records are still in the hands of Bro. KEENE, which ensures their being neatly and correctly kept; the dues are also fairly well collected.

March 13th, I visited Felicity Lodge, No. 19, at Bucksport. Quite a number of the brethren were present at the meeting. This lodge has done very little work in the past year, so the interest is not as great as in some other of the lodges in the district. I met with a cordial reception, however,

and at my request, the Entered Apprentice degree was exemplified, the work being very well performed. After the work, parts of the ritual in the other degrees were gone through with, for the purpose of instruction. The books are still in the hands of Bro. HEYWOOD, and are neatly and correctly kept; the dues are well paid up, and the lodge has several hundred dollars in the Savings Bank on interest.

March 15th, I visited Winter Harbor Lodge, No. 192, at Winter Harbor, and witnessed the exemplification of the Entered Apprentice degree. Had I not been told it was an exemplification, I should have thought it actual work, as every detail was as carefully attended to as if it had been an actual candidate. The work was exceedingly well done, all the officers taking their parts in fine shape. Bro. SMALL, the W. M., although a young mason, has put in much time and hard study, and makes a most excellent Master. The Secretary was unavoidably absent, but his books were there. They have been well and faithfully kept in the past, and I have no doubt but that the new Secretary will faithfully perform his duty, his Grand Lodge report being the first one received. The lodge has no debts, and has about one hundred dollars in the bank on interest.

I have filled out and delivered six Past Master's diplomas, but I am informed that there are a number of the brethren in the district who are entitled to them, but have never received them, something which ought to be attended to.

In conclusion, I desire to thank the brethren of this district, for the hospitality shown, and for the uniform kindness and courtesy with which I have been received, and to assure them that the remembrance of the past masonic year will always be a pleasure and gratification to me. I also desire, Most Worshipful, to thank you for the honor conferred by my appointment.

Fraternally submitted,

JAMES E. PARSONS, *D. D. G. M. 21st M. D.*

Ellsworth, March 29, 1899.

TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor herewith to submit my second annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Twenty-Second Masonic District. I have this year witnessed work in the different degrees in all the lodges in the district, and I find that, taken together, there has been a marked gain in the correct rendering of the ritual.

My first official act was the granting of a dispensation to Meridian Lodge, No. 125, to appear in public June 27th, by attending church in commemoration of St. John's Day.

June 29th, I visited Corinthian Lodge, No. 95, Hartland, and witnessed work in the Master Mason's degree, which was well done, all the officers taking their parts in a very able and impressive manner. There was a large attendance of visiting brethren; thirty or more from Meridian Lodge, of Pittsfield, came on a special train, which made it a very interesting meeting. The records are very neatly and correctly kept. Corinthian Lodge has one of the finest masonic homes in this district. Banquet and social time at close of lodge.

July 28th, I officially visited Meridian Splendor Lodge, No. 49, Newport, at a regular meeting and witnessed work in the Master Mason's degree, which was rendered in a very able manner, the officers and members all showing a good interest in the work and a marked improvement over the work done last year. Records neatly kept.

September 27th, I made my official visit to Cambridge Lodge, No. 157, Cambridge, at a regular meeting. There being no work, the Worshipful Master exemplified the work in the Entered Apprentice degree. This being the first work done by the Master, I found it my duty to make several corrections, which were well received. Records well kept.

October 1st, by invitation of Parian Lodge, No. 160, Corinna, I publicly installed the officers, assisted by Past D. D. G. M. REED PACKARD as Grand Marshal. The ceremony of installation and remarks by the brethren were attentively listened to. After closing we were invited to the dining hall, where we were greeted by the wives of the brethren and partook of a bountiful repast.

November 24th, I made my official visit to Archon Lodge, No. 136, East Dixmont. By invitation of the Worshipful Master, I installed the officers, assisted by Bro. C. H. CHADBOURNE as Grand Marshal. After the installation, there being no work, lectures were passed. Records well kept; attendance small, as the night was very stormy.

January 26th, by invitation, I installed the officers of Meridian Splendor Lodge, No. 49, Newport. After the installation, refreshments were served in the hall.

January 31st, I publicly installed the officers of Pacific Lodge, No. 64, assisted by Bro. WARREN P. CLARK as Grand Marshal. The ceremonies of installation and remarks by the brethren were attentively listened to, and much enjoyed by all; after which we listened to an entertainment prepared by Bro. D. E. KNIGHT, of Garland, which was well received and appreciated by all present. After closing, we were invited to the dining hall, where we partook of a bountiful repast prepared by the ladies of Garland Grange.

February 3d, I officially visited Meridian Lodge, No. 125, Pittsfield, and installed the officers. There being work in the Entered Apprentice degree, the newly installed officers proceeded with the work in a very able and satisfactory manner. The officers were all well posted, and the ritual closely followed, so much so that I did not deem it necessary to make any corrections. The records are in good hands and are correctly kept.

February 3d, by request, I installed Bro. EDWARD A. PORTER as Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

February 21st, I officially visited Plymouth Lodge, No. 75, at Plymouth. Work was exemplified in the Entered Apprentice degree and corrections made. Records well kept.

March 25th, I officially visited Parian Lodge, No. 160. Work was exemplified in the Fellow Craft degree in a very able and satisfactory manner. The officers are all well posted, and a good degree of interest was shown in the work. The records are in good hands and are well kept.

In closing, allow me to extend my thanks to the officers and 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,

GEORGE M. BOND, *D. D. G. M. 22d M. D.*

Stetson, April 5, 1899.

TWENTY-THIRD DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor herewith to tender my second annual report as District Deputy Grand Master of the Twenty-third Masonic District, and it is with great pleasure that I assure you of the most satisfactory condition of affairs in the district. The lodges are working together in harmony, and there is a generous feeling of emulation among them as to which shall perform the work in the best manner, that is full of promise for the well-being of the order here in the years that are to come.

Adoniram Lodge, No. 27, of Limington, the oldest lodge in the district, has had an interesting revival of interest, as is manifested in their report. Four candidates have been initiated and the meetings have been attended with more interest than usual. The books are in the hands of HARDY H. MCKENNEY, a faithful and efficient Secretary, and the prospect for more work in the immediate future is excellent.

Freedom Lodge, No. 42, of Limerick, has also made a commendable gain in membership, having creditably performed the work on four candidates during the year. The loss of some of the industries of the town and the serious fire of this year have in some measure checked the work of this lodge and prevented a larger growth, while the removal of some of the members to other fields has also hindered growth, but the members are awake, the officers are taking great interest and the interests of masonry in this locality are in safe hands. The records of the lodge are still in the hands of FRED W. LIBBY, a faithful and efficient Secretary.

Fraternal Lodge, No. 55, of Alfred, has not made any growth during the past year, for the same reasons as explained in my previous report, viz: the lack of good material in a village or town where the young men have to go elsewhere to look for work, and some of the old members who go for the same reason seem constrained to take dimits. Other organizations are affected in the same way and to a greater degree. The lodge is well officered, and the books, in the hands of the veteran Secretary, Dr. J. M. AKERS, are faithfully kept.

Day Spring Lodge, No. 107, of West Newfield, suffers from the same causes as the preceding lodge. During the year they have lost the aged brother, Dr. ADAMS, of whom I spoke at some length last year. Worshipful Master A1 Q. MITCHELL still holds the gavel, and this is a guarantee that whatever of work comes to this lodge will be most faithfully done. The records are still in the hands of the veteran Secretary, G. O. HANNAFORD.

Buxton Lodge, No. 115, at West Buxton, is still the largest lodge in the district, and has a large force of brethren interested in the highest degree in the welfare and efficiency of the lodge. They have had some work, but five brethren have dimitted, which leaves the total of membership two less than last year. They have 94 members at the present time. No Secretary could be more faithful and capable than Bro. CYRIL P. HARMON, who has filled this position for many years.

Drummond Lodge, No. 118, at Parsonsfield, has exhibited a commendable growth and the interest bids fair to increase in consequence. The records are well kept by Bro. A. R. LEAVITT, whose years of experience have well fitted him for the position of Secretary.

Preble Lodge, No. 143, at Sanford, is in better condition at the present time than for many years, I think. A better feeling exists among the members and the prospects are better for work. I have visited this lodge twice and the meetings are interesting and enjoyable. Worshipful Master FRED S. HODGSON is thoroughly wide-awake and enthusiastic in the work. Past Master JOSEPH LECKENBY is a very efficient Secretary, and the records are made beautiful by his facile hands. The entire corps of officers are efficient

and interested, and with the assistance of several Past Masters, who are regular in their attendance, the prospects of the lodge are excellent.

Of Springvale Lodge, No. 190, at Springvale, my own home lodge, I can have only good words to say. The lodge has held twenty-four communications during the year, although they were called off during the months of July and August. I have been present at all of these, with one exception, and on that occasion I was out of town. I had the pleasure of reporting to you last year that this lodge had initiated nine candidates during that year, the same number initiated by all the other lodges in the district. It is a further pleasure for me to be able to say that we have done the same thing this year; the other lodges in the district have initiated fourteen members during the year, and we have again equaled them in this respect. How long we shall be able to keep this pace is of course a question, but I can assure you, Most Worshipful, that all this work has been done in the most efficient manner. Our meetings for work have been largely attended, sometimes by representatives of several lodges, and the work has always been done with a careful attention to detail that has elicited the heartiest commendation from visitors, official and otherwise. WILLIE F. FERGUSON has succeeded to the master's chair, but the officers associated with him have a deep interest in the work, and he is doing, with their assistance, all that a faithful master can do to keep the work fully up to the high standard already attained by this lodge. Past Masters ALLEN, OGDEN, HARRIS and HUTCHINS are ready to assist in any way, and the lodge owes a debt of gratitude to its past masters for assistance rendered.

The sickness of my clerk, long-continued, has hindered in some measure the work of visitation I had planned to do, but I am indebted to many brethren for courtesies kindly rendered.

With the deepest gratitude to you, Most Worshipful, for the honor of my appointment, this report is

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK H. DEXTER, *D. D. G. M. 23d M. D.*

TWENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I herewith submit my first annual report for the Twenty-Fourth Masonic District.

Having received my appointment as D. D. G. M. of this district from you, M. W., and not being present in Grand Lodge, I was installed in Cum-

berland Lodge, No. 12, on May 28th, by R. W. GEORGE W. PLUMMER, Past D. D. G. M., assisted by W. JOSEPH B. HAMMOND as Grand Marshal.

September 27th, attended the masonic convention at Lewiston, conducted by M. W. FRANK E. SLEEPER, Grand Lecturer, where I had the pleasure of meeting nearly one-half of the D. D. G. M.'s of the state. Nearly every lodge in the district was represented, and it must have resulted in much good.

On the evening of October 29th, I was present at the stated communication of Nezinscot Lodge, No. 101, at Turner. There being no work, the E. A. degree was exemplified in a very correct manner, all the officers being present and fully sustaining their parts.

The W. M., HARRY W. BURDIN, remarked to me in the course of conversation before the lodge was opened, that "he had not had a chance to open the lodge yet" so that the opening and work were a surprise to me. A delegation from Evening Star Lodge, No. 147, at Buckfield, were present, and from the remarks made, I should think that very cordial relations existed between the two lodges. The records are still in the hands of that veteran Secretary, W. Bro. SETH D. ANDREWS, and it is needless to say are *well kept*. The financial condition of the lodge is good, and although they have spent over five hundred dollars in repairing and remodeling their building, they still have a considerable surplus in the treasury. The second story of the building they have made into a reception room, or parlor, a banquet room, and kitchen, and have them all well furnished for their several purposes, giving them accommodations second to none of the country lodges which I have visited. An oyster supper was served in the banquet room, and a social hour was passed, with stories, reminiscent and otherwise, with fine flavored cigars.

November 24th, attended the stated communication of Tyrian Lodge, No. 73, at Mechanic Falls. The attendance was large, being fully equal to the seating capacity of the hall. At the close of the business routine, by request of W. JAMES W. WAYNE, I installed the officers, assisted by W. PRESCOTT R. CORB as Grand Marshal, at the close of which they proceeded to work the F. C. degree on one candidate, and considering that most of the officers were doing their first work in their several positions, it was well rendered. W. Bro. WAYNE is a good ritualist, with a fine clear voice, impressive manner, and is one of our best Masters. The records are still in the care of Bro. JEFFERIES, and show the lodge to be in good financial standing, and the dues fairly well collected. I called attention to the necessity of furnishing their history to Grand Lodge. At the close of the work a bountiful collation was served in the banquet room, and a social hour was spent, with fine music by the organist and members. They have an excellent organ, and Bro. GEORGE W. MOORE knows how to play it.

November 26th, by invitation of Wor. HENRY W. LORING, assisted by W. JOSEPH B. HAMMOND as Grand Marshal, and R. W. GEORGE W. PLUMMER as Grand Chaplain, I installed the the officers elect and appointed of Cumberland Lodge, No. 12, for the ensuing masonic year.

January 30th, I was present at a special communication of Webster Lodge, No. 164, at Sabattus, and witnessed work on the Master Mason's degree, upon one candidate. As this is the home of M. W. FRANK E. SLEEPER, Grand Lecturer, I had expected to see good work, and was not disappointed. The work was finely rendered, every officer sustaining his part with grace and ability. The Master for the past year, Wor. Bro. GEORGE W. JORDAN, presided, and Bro. FRED A. RICHARDSON, S. W. (W. M. elect) gave the lecture. The records, in the care of R. W. JUDSON BANGS, are accurate and neat, and show the lodge to be in a fairly prosperous condition. The meeting was in their new hall, which is commodious and well arranged, the tints of walls and furnishings harmonious and appropriate, and it will be a pleasant home for them many years to come. An oyster supper in the room below at the conclusion of the work.

March 6th, by invitation of W. EDWARD S. STETSON, Master of Ashlar Lodge, No. 105, Lewiston, I attended a special communication of this lodge and saw them work the E. A. degree. This was the first work the new officers had done, and as most of the appointed officers were taken from the floor without the usual rotation, I thought it was remarkably good. Appropriate music was rendered during the work by the quartette belonging to the lodge. The records are still looked after by W. Bro. FRED I. MORRELL, and are neat and well written, showing a good attendance at the meetings, with annual dues closely collected, and a strong financial condition. This lodge is now the largest in the district, with a membership of two hundred and seventy-eight. A fine collation awaited us in the armory at the close of the work in the lodge room.

March 13th, by appointment with W. WILLIAM E. CUTLER, Master of Ancient Brothers' Lodge, No. 178, at Auburn, I was present at a special communication and saw the Master Mason's degree conferred upon two candidates in a very satisfactory manner. All the officers were present, and sustained their several parts in a generally correct and impressive style; the work of the Senior Deacon, although but recently made a mason, was remarkable for its correctness, and but few corrections were necessary in any part of the work or lectures. The records by Bro. FOREST E. LUDDEN are in proper form, and show a good attendance throughout the year. They also show a sound financial condition and dues well collected. After closing the lodge, we repaired to the banquet room, where an elegant and bountiful collation tempted the appetites of the two hundred or more brethren present, followed by cigars, speeches and stories, until a late hour, and I

was reminded of a remark by a former D. D. G. M., "but to meet with good, warm-hearted brethren was a very pleasant occasion."

March 15th. By invitation of W. T. LLOYD PRATT, Master of Rabboni Lodge, No. 150, Lewiston, I attended a special communication this evening, and as they had no work at this time, they proceeded to exemplify the work of the third degree in a very fine manner, being as good, if not the best, that I have seen during the year. The Senior Deacon being detained by sickness, his place was ably filled by R. W. Bro. EDWIN K. SMITH, who contributed to the work his well known skill in all that pertains to the lodge room. This lodge has had no candidates this winter, but I failed to see any rust upon tools or intellects. The records are still in the hands of Bro. GEORGE F. TURNER, and are well written, in good form, and show the dues well collected, and finances in good condition. At the close of the work a banquet was served in the armory, to which all did ample justice, and at its close, cigars were lighted, and a social hour was passed with speeches, stories and songs. The homeward way was not so pleasant, however, a high wind, and drifting, sticky snowstorm, retarding my progress, and the small hours had come, when wet and uncomfortable I arrived at home.

March 29th, visited Tranquil Lodge, No. 29, at Auburn, at a special communication convened to work the F. C. degree. By some misunderstanding between the W. Master and Secretary, there was not time to fully notify the members, and being a stormy night, there was not the average number of the brethren present. The officers were all in their stations, however, and conferred the degree upon two candidates in a very satisfactory manner, considering that it was the first time they had worked it. While I do not consider this degree as a fair test of all the officers, I thought it my last opportunity to visit them, thinking that their stated communication in April would be too late to report. W. Bro. ALBERT E. VERRILL is a very graceful and easy presiding officer, with a fine voice, and well supported by a line of officers of dignity and merit. The records are still in the care of Bro. JAMES F. ARWOOD, and are simply *perfect*, showing a full attendance, and a good balance in the treasury. I had intended to visit Tranquil on March 22d, when an elaborate banquet was prepared, with some two hundred brethren present, but having taken a severe hoarse cold, coming from Rabboni, the week previous, I was forced to forego the pleasure it would have given me.

Cumberland Lodge, No. 12, at New Gloucester, I have not had time to visit officially. Being Secretary, my time has seemed to be fully occupied during the meetings, but I have offered such suggestions from time to time as seemed to me proper, which have been received in a kindly and fraternal spirit and acted upon by officers and brethren. W. HENRY W. LORING is serving his sixth term as Master, and is a very efficient presiding officer,

much interested in the work and general concerns of the lodge. The other officers are very proficient in their respective stations and places, being in their second year of service, and while lacking space in our lodge room for the elaborate floor work of our city lodges, we claim to make good masons with all needed instructions. For the past two years the lodge has been very prosperous, and at the present time the outlook is bright, and we hope it may continue, for Cumberland Lodge has had a long and honorable existence, and we should be very sorry to be obliged to surrender our charter, as many of us expected a few years ago. The dues are well collected and financial condition fair.

I have visited all the lodges in the district once, officially, (with the exception of my own) and some of them unofficially, and believe them all to be in a healthy and fairly prosperous condition. While not as much work has been done as last year, and for several causes there is a slight decrease in membership, I do not consider it any sign of decadence, but rather of more vigorous standing.

In conclusion, Most Worshipful, I wish to thank you most sincerely for the honor of my appointment as your representative in the Twenty-fourth District, the officers and brethren of the several lodges for their kindness and courtesy on every occasion, and the Secretaries for their promptness in making their returns.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE H. GODING, *D. D. G. M., 24th M. D.*

Lewiston Junction, April 8, 1899.

TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT.

To M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

I have the honor of submitting my second annual report as D. D. G. M. of the Twenty-fifth Masonic District.

On March 13th, I visited Aroostook Lodge, at Blaine. The night being stormy and the roads in bad condition, no candidate appeared, so the evening was spent in exemplifying work in the M. M. degree, which was very creditably done. Aroostook Lodge is in a very satisfactory condition, and the records are well kept by Bro. RAMSEY.

On March 28th, I visited Katahdin Lodge, at Patten. Witnessed work in the third degree, which was done in a manner that reflects great credit upon the Master and other officers. At "refreshment" all repaired to the supper room, where a bountiful supper was served by the ladies of the East-

ern Star. Katahdin Lodge is soon to have a new hall. Steps have already been taken in that direction, and the coming year will doubtless find them in larger and better quarters.

On March 15th, I attended the annual meeting of Monument Lodge, (my masonic home). At the proper time opened a lodge of Past Masters, and conferred the degree on Master elect, Bro. CHAS. H. FOGG, who with the other elected officers were subsequently installed by Past Master Bro. CHAS. P. TENNEY, in a very impressive manner.

On April 12th, I again visited Monument Lodge, and witnessed work in the E. A. degree which was done very nearly perfect, an excellent showing for the newly installed officers. Monument Lodge is in a very prosperous condition. Records are neatly and correctly kept by Bro. STERSON, who also looks well after the collecting of dues.

On April 25th, I visited Molunkus Lodge, at Sherman Mills, and am sorry to report that they have done no work in the past year, but their future looks brighter, as two candidates for degrees were elected at the above meeting. The evening was spent in a review of the ritualistic work, as it was impossible to reach either of the candidates.

In conclusion, I will say that the work throughout the district is uniform, harmony prevailing, and growth as steady as can be expected.

Again thanking you, Most Worshipful, for the honor of my appointment, I remain,

Fraternally yours,

J. FRANK BRYSON, *D. D. G. M., 25th M. D.*

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Trustees of the Charity Fund.

MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND,
TUESDAY, May 2, 1899.

The Trustees met in the Grand Master's office at 5 P. M.

Present—JOSEPH A. LOCKE, *President*.

WINFIELD S. CHOATE,
ELMER P. SPOFFORD,
MILLARD M. CASWELL,
STEPHEN BERRY, *Secretary*,
CHARLES I. COLLAMORE,
EDWARD P. BURNHAM,
ARCHIE L. TALBOT,
A. M. WETHERBEE.

Various brethren were heard in regard to applicants.

The Secretary presented ninety applications for aid, with a schedule of the same, which were referred to a committee of two. Adjourned till 5 o'clock Wednesday afternoon.

WEDNESDAY, May 3, 1899.

Met at 5 P. M. in the Grand Master's office.

Present—JOSEPH A. LOCKE, *President*.

WINFIELD S. CHOATE,

ELMER P. SPOFFORD,
 MILLARD M. CASWELL,
 STEPHEN BERRY, *Secretary*,
 CHARLES I. COLLAMORE,
 EDWARD P. BURNHAM,
 ARCHIE L. TALBOT,
 A. M. WETHERBEE.

The Committee on Applications for Aid reported a schedule which was accepted.

Voted, That one represent seven dollars.

Voted, That \$1,348 be appropriated to pay the schedule.

Voted, That the bond of the Grand Treasurer for \$10,000 be approved and placed in the charge of the Secretary.

The Grand Treasurer reported as follows :

To the Trustees of the Charity Fund of the Grand Lodge.

The subscriber reports, in brief, the transactions of his office for the past year as follows :

RECEIPTS.

	Cash balance as per last report,	\$1,131.41
June 2.	Rising Star Lodge returned, beneficiary having died,...	14.00
Aug. 23.	Crooked River Lodge returned, beneficiary having died,	14.00
	Cash income from investments,	1,663.01
	Unexpended balance returned by the Grand Master,...	96.00
		<u>\$2,918.42</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

	Cash to beneficiaries,	\$1,565.00
	Cash for rent of safe,	10.00
	Cash to new account,	1,343.42
		<u>\$2,918.42</u>

The Charity Fund consists of—

25 shares Canal National Bank Stock,	\$2,500.00
37 shares Casco National Bank Stock,	3,700.00
14 shares First National Bank Stock,	1,400.00
11 shares National Traders Bank Stock,	1,100.00
10 shares Merchants National Bank Stock,	750.00
20 shares Westbrook Trust Company,	2,000.00

10 shares C. B. and Q. R. R. Stock,	1,000.00
1 City of Portland bond,	1,000.00
1 Town of Brunswick bond,	1,000.00
1 City of Saco bond,	500.00
1 City of Columbus, O., bond,	500.00
2 Rockland Water Co. bonds,	1,500.00
2 Union Electric Co. bonds,	1,000.00
1 Delaware Water Co. bond,	500.00
1 Muncie Water Co. bond,	500.00
1 Maine Central R. R. bond,	500.00
2 Kennebec Light and Heat Co. bonds,	1,000.00
Cash on deposit in—	
Maine Savings Bank,	2,220.62
Portland Savings Bank,	2,246.76
Augusta Savings Bank,	586.24
Skowhegan Savings Bank,	574.34
Waterville Savings Bank,	581.92
Wiscasset Savings Bank,	591.62
Saco and Biddeford Savings Institution,	2,134.04
Bath Savings Institution,	585.80
Brunswick Savings Institution,	588.72
Gardiner Savings Institution,	580.07
Portland National Bank, savings department,	1,165.88
	\$32,306.01

Fraternally submitted,

MARQUIS F. KING, *Grand Treasurer.*

The report was referred to a Committee of Finance consisting of Bro. STEPHEN BERRY, who reported that he had examined the securities and bank books, and found them to agree with the account presented.

The report was then accepted.

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, Bro. EDWARD P. BURNHAM, and the Grand Secretary, or either two of them.

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.

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.

In Board of Trustees, Portland, May 3, 1899.

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, Bro. EDWARD P. BURNHAM, and the Grand Secretary, or either two of them.

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.

1899.



WINFIELD S. CHOATE, Grand Master,	Ex-Officio.
ALFRED S. KIMBALL, Deputy Grand Master,	“
WILLIAM J. BURNHAM, Senior Grand Warden,	“
FRANKLIN R. REDLON, Junior Grand Warden,	“
STEPHEN BERRY, Rec. Grand Secretary,	“
EDWARD P. BURNHAM, elected May 4, 1897, for three years.	
ARCHIE L. TALBOT,	“ “ 4, “ “ “ “
FRANK E. SLEEPER,	“ “ 3, 1898, “ “ “
A. M. WETHERBEE,	“ “ 3, “ “ “ “
CHARLES I. COLLAMORE,	“ “ 2, 1899, “ “ “
FESSENDEN I. DAY,	“ “ “ “ “ “ “

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.]

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. [1898, p. 65.]

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. [1898, p. 66.]

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. [1898, p. 66.]

Sec. 25. The District Deputy Grand Masters shall visit the several lodges in their respective districts, once at least in every year; preside in the same, when present; and shall inspect their by-laws, records and mode of working; but if unable to visit any lodge, they may appoint some suitable brother to perform that duty.

They shall communicate to the lodges all such edicts and regulations of the Grand Lodge, as may be received by them from the Recording Grand Secretary; shall receive and receipt for all dues to the Grand Lodge; receive the returns of the lodges, and make their remarks thereon.

They shall, on or before the first day of April in each year, make a report of their doings to the Grand Master; and they shall attend annually in the Grand Lodge; and they shall pay to the Grand Treasurer all moneys in their hands, or transmit the returns and money to the Grand Treasurer, on or before the fifteenth day of April. They shall be re-imbursed their expenses in visiting the lodges, their accounts being first examined and passed by the Committee of Finance.

Each District Deputy Grand Master, on receiving from the Grand Treasurer the jewel of his office, and the record of the district over which he is appointed, shall give a receipt to the Grand Treasurer, in substance as follows, viz:

“Whereas, I, ————, have been appointed and duly commissioned District Deputy Grand Master for the ———— Masonic District, and have received the collar and jewel appertaining to said office, and the book of records of said district, I

hereby promise to return the same at the expiration or revocation of my commission, to the Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Maine; and in default thereof, I promise to pay the Treasurer of said Grand Lodge the sum of fifty dollars."

[1899, p. 243.]

SEC. 127. No lodge shall form a public procession, funeral processions excepted, without permission from the Grand Master. 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. [1899, p. 243.]

SEC. 91. Every lodge must preserve one copy of the printed proceedings in the hall, and when a volume is completed should bind it for the use of the lodge. [1899, p. 245.]

Standing * Regulations,

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.

[1894, p. 57, *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. [1897, p. 222.]

32. *Resolved*, That, when the hour arrives for the election of the officers of the Grand Lodge, as is provided in the Constitution, the Grand Lodge shall go into an executive session for that purpose, and none but members of the Grand Lodge shall be present without the consent of the M. W. Grand Master in each case, and at the concluding of the election no further business shall be considered during the afternoon without unanimous consent. [1898, p. 68.]

22. Repealed 1898, p. 68.

33. *Voted*, That the jurisdiction of Deering Lodge, No. 183, be, and remain until the further order of the Grand Lodge, as it was before the annexation of the City of Deering to the City of Portland. [1899, p. 238.]

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,	Livernore,	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,	Skowhegan,	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.
43 Alna,	Alna,	Jan. 11, 1823.	Jan. 14, 1823.
44 Piscataquis,	Milo,	Oct. 9, 1823.	Oct. 28, 1823.

LODGE.	LOCATION.	DATE OF PRECEDENCE.	DATE OF CHARTER.
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 Mosiac,	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.
100 Jefferson,	Bryant's Pond,	Feb. 8, 1860.	May 3, 1860.
101 Nezinscot,	Turner,	March 1, 1860.	May 3, 1860.

LODGE.	LOCATION.	DATE OF PRECEDENCE.	DATE OF CHARTER.
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 Kineo,	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, 1764.
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 P'esumpscoot,	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 Sebastiecook,	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 Excelesior,	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.
157 Cambridge,	Cambridge,	May 5, 1870.	May 4, 1871.
158 Anchor,	South Bristol,	May 5, 1870.	May 4, 1871.

LODGE.	LOCATION.	DATE OF PRECEDENCE.	DATE OF CHARTER.
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,	Portland,	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.
201 David A. Hooper,	W. Sullivan,	June 3, 1897.	May 5, 1898.
202 Mount Bigelow,	Flagstaff,	June 19, 1897.	May 6, 1898.
203 Mount Olivet,	Washington,	Nov. 24, 1897.	May 7, 1898.

- NOTE. 59 Mt. Hope, charter surrendered 1879.
 90 Hiram Abiff, charter revoked 1868.
 108 Relief, charter revoked 1894.
 220 Meduncook, charter surrendered 1884.
 134 Trojan, consolidated with Star in the West, No. 85, in 1888.
 136 Ionic, charter surrendered 1882.
 176 Palesfine, consolidated with Dunlap, No. 47, in 1895.
 181 Reuel Washburn, consolidated with Oriental Star, No. 21, in 1892.

Lodges enrolled, 203; extinct, 8; working, 195.

List of Lodges by Districts.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

District Deputy Grand Master—CYRUS W. HENDRIX, Caribou.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 72 Pioneer, <i>Ashland.</i> | 170 Caribou, <i>Caribou.</i> |
| 112 Eastern Frontier, <i>Fort Fairfield.</i> | 193 Washburn, <i>Washburn.</i> |
| 130 Trinity, <i>Presque Isle.</i> | |

DISTRICT NO. 2.

District Deputy Grand Master—ALFRED SMALL, Lubec.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 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—DAVID W. CAMPBELL, Cherryfield.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 Warren, <i>East Machias.</i> | 131 Lookout, <i>Cutler.</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—THEODORE A. SMITH, Sedgwick.

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 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—ALLEN P. CLARK, Foxcroft.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 39 Penobscot, <i>Dexter</i> . | 149 Doric, <i>Monzon</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 Branch, <i>Charleston</i> . | |

DISTRICT NO. 6.

District Deputy Grand Master—FRED C. BARTON, Bradley.

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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—ADELBERT MILLETT, Searsmont.

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 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—S. AUGUSTUS PARKER, Belfast.

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|---|-------------------------------------|
| 27 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—FRANK A. PETERSON, Rockland.

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|--------------------------------|--|
| 6 Amity, <i>Camden</i> . | 82 St. Paul's, <i>Rockport</i> . |
| 15 Orient, <i>Thomaston</i> . | 84 Eureka, <i>Tenant's Harbor</i> . |
| 16 St. George, <i>Warren</i> . | 145 Moses Webster, <i>Vinalhaven</i> . |
| 31 Union, <i>Union</i> . | 184 Knox, <i>South Thomaston</i> . |
| 50 Aurora, <i>Rockland</i> . | 203 Mt. Olivet, <i>Washington</i> . |
| 79 Rockland, <i>Rockland</i> . | |

DISTRICT NO. 10.

District Deputy Grand Master—JOHN R. McDODGALL, Boothbay Harbor.

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| 3 Lincoln, <i>Wiscasset</i> . | 135 Riverside, <i>East Jefferson</i> . |
| 43 Alna, <i>Damariscotta</i> . | 144 Seaside, <i>Boothbay Harbor</i> . |
| 61 King Solomon's, <i>Waldoboro</i> . | 158 Anchor, <i>South Bristol</i> . |
| 74 Bristol, <i>Bristol</i> . | 196 Bay View, <i>East Boothbay</i> . |
| 103 Dresden, <i>Dresden</i> . | |

DISTRICT NO. 11.

District Deputy Grand Master—CHARLES B. ADAMS, Augusta.

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 5 Kennebec, <i>Hallowell</i> . | 41 Morning Star, <i>Litchfield Corner</i> . |
| 25 Temple, <i>Winthrop</i> . | 104 Dirigo, <i>Weeks' Mills</i> . |
| 32 Hermon, <i>Gardiner</i> . | 110 Monmouth, <i>Monmouth</i> . |
| 35 Bethlehem, <i>Augusta</i> . | 141 Augusta, <i>Augusta</i> . |

DISTRICT NO. 12.

District Deputy Grand Master—JAMES H. WITHERELL, Oakland.

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| 33 Waterville, <i>Waterville</i> . | 99 Vernon Valley, <i>Mt. Vernon</i> . |
| 48 Lafayette, <i>Readfield</i> . | 118 Messalonskee, <i>Oakland</i> . |
| 53 Rural, <i>Sidney</i> . | 133 Asylum, <i>Wayne</i> . |
| 54 Vassalboro', <i>North Vassalboro</i> . | 166 Neguemkeag, <i>Vassalboro'</i> . |

DISTRICT NO. 13.

District Deputy Grand Master—GRANVILLE D. PERKINS, Madison.

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|--|------------------------------------|
| 28 Northern Star, <i>North Anson</i> . | 116 Lebanon, <i>Norridgewock</i> . |
| 34 Somerset, <i>Skowhegan</i> . | 161 Carrabassett, <i>Canaan</i> . |
| 80 Keystone, <i>Solon</i> . | 194 Euclid, <i>Madison</i> . |
| 92 Siloam, <i>Fairfield</i> . | 199 Bingham, <i>Bingham</i> . |

DISTRICT NO. 14.

District Deputy Grand Master—FREEMAN M. GRANT, Freeport.

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|---------------------------------|---|
| 8 United, <i>Brunswick</i> . | 63 Richmond, <i>Richmond</i> . |
| 14 Solar, <i>Bath</i> . | 114 Polar Star, <i>Bath</i> . |
| 23 Freeport, <i>Freeport</i> . | 121 Acacia, <i>Durham</i> . |
| 26 Village, <i>Bowdoinham</i> . | 155 Ancient York, <i>Lisbon Falls</i> . |

DISTRICT NO. 15.

District Deputy Grand Master—FRED RAYMOND, Livermore Falls.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 20 Maine, <i>Farmington.</i> | 156 Wilton, <i>Wilton.</i> |
| 21 Oriental Star, <i>Livermore Falls.</i> | 167 Whitney, <i>Canton.</i> |
| 67 Blue Mountain, <i>Phillips.</i> | 191 Davis, <i>Strong.</i> |
| 123 Franklin, <i>New Sharon.</i> | 202 Mount Bigelow, <i>Flagstaff.</i> |
| 154 Mystic Tie, <i>Weld.</i> | |

DISTRICT NO. 16.

District Deputy Grand Master—JOSEPH W. SIMPSON, Rumford Falls.

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| 18 Oxford, <i>Norway.</i> | 100 Jefferson, <i>Bryant's Pond.</i> |
| 30 Blazing Star, <i>Rumford Falls.</i> | 147 Evening Star, <i>Buckfield.</i> |
| 57 King Hiram, <i>Dixfield.</i> | 152 Crooked River, <i>Bolster's Mills.</i> |
| 94 Paris, <i>South Paris.</i> | 182 Granite, <i>West Paris.</i> |
| 97 Bethel, <i>Bethel.</i> | |

DISTRICT NO. 17.

District Deputy Grand Master—ALBERT H. BURROUGHS, Westbrook.

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|--|---|
| 1 Portland, <i>Portland.</i> | 86 Temple, <i>Westbrook.</i> |
| 17 Ancient Land-Mark, <i>Portland.</i> | 127 Presumpscot, <i>North Wintham.</i> |
| 36 Casco, <i>Yarmouth.</i> | 180 Hiram, <i>South Portland.</i> |
| 38 Harmony, <i>Gorham.</i> | 183 Deering, <i>Portland.</i> |
| 70 Standish, <i>Standish.</i> | 186 Warren Phillips, <i>Cumb'd Mills.</i> |
| 81 Atlantic, <i>Portland.</i> | |

DISTRICT NO. 18.

District Deputy Grand Master—ISAAC F. JEWETT, Waterford.

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|----------------------------------|--|
| 11 Pythagorean, <i>Fryeburg.</i> | 132 Mount Tir'em, <i>Waterford.</i> |
| 13 Oriental, <i>Bridgton.</i> | 153 Delta, <i>Lowell.</i> |
| 56 Mount Moriah, <i>Denmark.</i> | 169 Shepherd's River, <i>Brownfield.</i> |
| 117 Greenleaf, <i>Cornish.</i> | |

DISTRICT. NO 19.

District Deputy Grand Master—EVERETT M. STAPLES, Biddeford.

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| 9 Saco, <i>Saco.</i> | 142 Ocean, <i>Wells.</i> |
| 22 York, <i>Kennebunk.</i> | 162 Arion, <i>Goodwin's Mills.</i> |
| 47 Dunlap, <i>Biddeford.</i> | 179 Yorkshire, <i>North Berwick.</i> |
| 51 St. John's, <i>South Berwick.</i> | 184 Naval, <i>Kittery.</i> |
| 76 Arundel, <i>Kennebunkport.</i> | 198 St. Aspinquid, <i>York Village.</i> |

DISTRICT NO. 20.

District Deputy Grand Master—PHILIP J. MILLS, Lincoln,

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 93 Horeb, <i>Lincoln.</i> | 172 Pine Tree, <i>Mattawankeag.</i> |
| 148 Forest, <i>Springfield.</i> | 175 Baskahegan, <i>Danforth.</i> |

DISTRICT NO. 21.

District Deputy Grand Master—CHARLES F. PAINE, Bar Harbor.

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| 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> | 201 David A. Hooper, <i>West Sullivan.</i> |
| 140 Mount Desert, <i>Mount Desert.</i> | |

DISTRICT NO. 22.

District Deputy Grand Master—MILTON L. MERRILL, St. Albans.

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|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 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—FRANK WILSON, Sanford.

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|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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—GEORGE H. GODING, Lewiston Junction.

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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>Sabattus.</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> |

PERMANENT MEMBERS.

M. W.	HIRAM CHASE,	Belfast,	P. G. M.
"	JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,	Portland,	"
"	WILLIAM P. PREBLE,	New Brighton, N. V.,	"
"	EDWARD P. BURNHAM,	Saco,	"
"	CHARLES I. COLLAMORE,	Bangor,	"
"	MARQUIS F. KING,	Portland,	"
"	WILLIAM R. G. ESTES,	Skowhegan,	"
"	FESSENDEN I. DAY,	Lewiston,	"
"	FRANK E. SLEEPER,	Sabattus,	"
"	ALBRO E. CHASE,	Portland,	"
"	HENRY R. TAYLOR,	Machias,	"
"	HORACE H. BURBANK,	Saco,	"
"	AUGUSTUS B. FARNHAM,	Bangor,	"
"	JOSEPH A. LOCKE,	Portland,	"
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,	"
"	HERBERT HARRIS,	East Machias,	"
"	WINFIELD S. CHOATE,	Augusta,	"
"	ALBERT M. PENLEY,	Auburn,	"
"	ALFRED S. KIMBALL,	Norway,	"
"	ELMER P. SPOFFORD,	Deer Isle,	"
"	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,	"
"	ENOCH O. GREENLEAF,	Farmington,	"
"	MILLARD M. CASWELL,	Bridgton,	"

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, 1899.

M. W.	WINFIELD S. CHOATE,	<i>Grand Master,</i>	Augusta.
R. W.	ALFRED S. KIMBALL,	<i>Deputy Grand Master,</i>	Norway.
"	WILLIAM J. BURNHAM,	<i>Senior Grand Warden,</i>	Lewiston.
"	FRANKLIN R. REDLON,	<i>Junior Grand Warden,</i>	Portland.
"	MARQUIS F. KING,	<i>Grand Treasurer,</i>	Portland.
"	STEPHEN BERRY,	<i>Grand Secretary,</i>	Portland.
"	CHARLES D. SMITH,	<i>Cor. Grand Secretary,</i>	Portland.
"	CYRUS W. HENDRIN,	<i>D. D. G. M. 1st Dist.,</i>	Caribou.
"	ALFRED SMALL,	" 2d "	Lubec.
"	DAVID W. CAMPBELL,	" 3d "	Cherryfield.
"	THEODORE A. SMITH,	" 4th "	Sedgwick.
"	ALLEN P. CLARK,	" 5th "	Foxcroft.
"	FRED C. BARTON,	" 6th "	Bradley.
"	ADELBERT MILLETT,	" 7th "	Searsmont.
"	S. AUGUSTUS PARKER,	" 8th "	Belfast.
"	FRANK A. PETERSON,	" 9th "	Rockland.
"	JOHN R. MCDUGALL,	" 10th "	Boothbay Harbor.
"	CHARLES B. ADAMS,	" 11th "	Augusta.
"	JAMES H. WITHERELL,	" 12th "	Oakland.
"	GRANVILLE D. PERKINS,	" 13th "	Madison.
"	FREEMAN M. GRANT,	" 14th "	Freeport.
"	FRED RAYMOND,	" 15th "	Livermore Falls.
"	JOSEPH W. SIMPSON,	" 16th "	Rumford Falls.
"	ALBERT H. BURROUGHS,	" 17th "	Westbrook.
"	ISAAC F. JEWETT,	" 18th "	Waterford.
"	EVERETT M. STAPLES,	" 19th "	Biddeford.
"	PHILIP J. MILLS,	" 20th "	Lincoln.
"	CHARLES F. PAINE,	" 21st "	Bar Harbor.
"	MILTON L. MERRILL,	" 22d "	St. Albans.
"	FRANK WILSON,	" 23d "	Sanford.
"	GEORGE H. GODING,	" 24th "	Lewiston Junction.
"	J. FRANK BRYSON,	" 25th "	Houlton.
W. & Rev.	ELMER F. PEMBER,	<i>Grand Chaplain,</i>	Bangor.
"	JOHN GIBSON,	" "	Cape Elizabeth.
"	GEORGE M. HOWE,	" "	Lewiston.
"	GEORGE F. DEGAN,	" "	Augusta.
"	JOSEPH B. SHEPHERD,	" "	Portland.
W.	ALBERT T. MURPHY,	" <i>Marshal,</i>	Augusta.
"	ERMON D. EASTMAN,	" <i>Senior Deacon,</i>	Portland.
"	CHARLES W. CROSBY,	" <i>Junior Deacon,</i>	Kent's Hill.
"	WILLIAM A. REMICK,	" <i>Steward,</i>	Bucksport.
"	JAMES E. KINGSLEY,	" "	Augusta.
"	ROBERT W. CARR,	" "	Bowdoinham.
"	ALBERT M. AMES,	" "	Stockton Springs.
"	WILLIAM N. HOWE,	" <i>Sword Bearer,</i>	Portland.
"	LEVI E. JONES,	" <i>Standard Bearer,</i>	Winthrop.
"	WILLIAM O. FOX,	" <i>Pursuivant,</i>	Portland.
"	WILLIAM L. POWERS,	" "	Gardiner.
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, 1899.

-
- Acacia, 121, Durham. Marcus W. Eveleth, m; William D. Trufant, sw; William W. Brown, jw; Everett L. Macomber, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 14
- Adoniram, 27, Limington. Charles L. Cousins, m; Ivory Smith, sw; Benjamin Small, jw; Hardy B. McKenney, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 23
- Alna, 43, Damariscotta. Frank L. Smithwick, m; George H. Larrabee, sw; Rupert B. Mathews, jw; Edward E. Philbrook, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Amity, 6, Camden. Alfred E. Beverage, m; Edward D. Harrington, sw; Samuel W. Coombs, jw; Charles A. Wilson, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, October. 9
- Anchor, 158, South Bristol. John F. French, m; John F. Hysom, sw; Eliphalet T. Farrar, jw; Walter H. McFarland, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Ancient Brothers', 178, Auburn. William E. Cutler, m; John R. Webber, sw; John G. McMurray, jw; Forest E. Ludden, s. Meeting Monday on or after full moon; election, October. 24
- Ancient Landmark, 17, Portland. George H. Owen, m; Winslow E. Howell, sw; Charles F. Tobie, jw; John S. Russell, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, December. 17
- Ancient York, 155, Lisbon Falls. Harry E. Plummer, m; Harry Doughty, sw; Irving L. Philbrook, jw; William Parkin, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, September. 14
- Archon, 139, East Dixmont. C. Hale Thurlough, Monroe, m; Fred L. O. Hussey, sw; Fred M. Johnston, jw; Benjamin F. Porter, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, October. 22

- Arion, 162, Goodwin's Mills. Henry P. Moody, m; J. Howard Hanson, sw; Ivory W. Murphy, jw; Cyrus K. Littlefield, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, November. 19
- Aroostook, 197, Blaine. Frank A. Luce, m; Wm. A. Beals, sw; Nelson E. Dorrity, jw; John M. Ramsey, s. Meeting Saturday on or after full moon; election, December. 25
- Arundel, 76, Kennebunkport. George H. Bourne, m; Charles S. Gilman, sw; W. Francis Goodwin, jw; Fordyce B. Perkins, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, February. 19
- Ashlar, 105, Lewiston. Edwin S. Stetson, m; Lewis V. Winship, sw; Roland L. Woodbury, jw; Fred I. Morrell, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, January. 24
- Asylum, 133, Wayne. Frederick L. Cheney, m; J. Frank Gordon, sw; Luther M. Norris, jw; B. Frank Bradford, s. Meeting Tuesday before full moon; election, September. 12
- Atlantic 81, Portland. James E. Leighton, m; Fred H. Cobb, sw; Elihu H. Rice, jw; Daniel W. Fox, s. Meeting third Wednesday; election, December. 17
- Augusta, 141, Augusta. Claude W. Townsend, m; Charles W. Fletcher, sw; Charles W. Stockman, jw; Fremont J. C. Little, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 11
- Aurora, 50, Rockland. Clarence C. Cross, m; Albert H. Newbert, sw; Warren L. Rhodes, jw; Lorenzo S. Robinson, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 9
- Bar Harbor, 185, Bar Harbor. Luther A. Leach, m; Samuel J. Clement, sw; Winslow E. Brann, jw; Benjamin L. Hadley, s. Meeting third Thursday; election, December. 21
- Baskahegan, 175, Danforth. Leo H. Tuck, m; Martin Farriday, sw; C. M. Bither, jw; David C. Parker, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, August. 20
- Bay View, 196, East Boothbay. C. Tyler Hodgdon, m; Frank Seavey, sw; George W. Gatchell, jw; Victor K. Montgomery, s. Meeting Thursday, on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Benevolent, 87, Carmel. John E. Winslow, m; Albert M. Day, sw; Chas. H. Blagden, jw; Camillus K. Johnson, s. Meeting Wednesday week of full moon; election, December 27th. 6
- Bethel, 97, Bethel. Curtis E. Abbott, m; Newton E. Richardson, sw; Arthur V. Barker, jw; Jarvis C. Billings, s. Meeting second Thursday; election, November. 16
- Bethlehem, 35, Augusta. Thomas H. Bodge, m; James E. Kingsley, sw; Waterman N. Redmond, jw; James E. Blanchard, s. Meeting first Monday; election, November. 11

- Bingham, 199, Bingham. Edwin O. Vittum, m; Samuel A. Smith, sw; David G. Bean, jw; George C. Eames, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, June. 13
- Blazing Star, 30, Rumford Falls. R. Brookes Straton, m; John J. Calboun, sw; Virgil A. Linnell, jw; Fred A. Porter, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, October. 16
- Blue Mountain, 67, Phillips. Mason Parker, m; Daniel F. Field, sw; Burton A. Davenport, jw; Daniel L. Dennison, s. Meeting Wednesday week of full moon; election, September. 15
- Bristol, 74, Bristol Mills. Albert H. Hunter, m; Carl Z. Bailey, sw; Artell Russell, jw; Edwin J. Ervine, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Buxton, 115, West Buxton. John H. Severance, m; John Meserve, sw; Howard M. Davis, jw; Cyril P. Harmon, s. Meeting Monday evening on or before full moon; election, January. 23
- Cambridge, 157, Cambridge. Walter H. Ring, m; Melvin W. Knowles, sw; J. C. Morrill, jw; J. B. LaBree, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 22
- Caribou, 170, Caribou. C. B. Margesson, m; Albert J. Taylor, sw; A. A. Garden, jw; Charles G. Littlefield, s. Meeting first Thursday; election, December. 1
- Carrabassett, 161, Canaan. Walter H. Smith, m; Alpheus Nason, sw; Abel P. Gleason, jw; Harry B. Harris, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, first Tuesday in October. 13
- Casco, 36, Yarmouth. David H. Bennett, m; Frank W. Bucknam, sw; Edwin M. White, jw; Monroe Stoddard, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, October. 17
- Central, 45, China. Gutavus J. Nelson, m; Everett B. Besse, sw; George L. Gilman, jw; Willis W. Washburn, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, September. 7
- Columbia, 200, Greenville. Lindley H. Folsom, m; Charles H. Sawyer, sw; George W. Brown, jw; Charles D. Shaw, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 5
- Composite, 168, LaGrange. Harry A. Fowles, m; Perley E. Speed, sw; Herbert J. Bantan, jw; Andrew H. Dyer, s. Meeting, Saturday, on or before full moon; election, October. 5
- Corinthian, 95, Hartland. Edwin G. Varney, m; L. H. Blanchard, sw; Fred Lucas, jw; Thomas A. Linn, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, August. 22
- Crescent, 78, Pembroke. Aurelius C. Brown, m; Alvra W. Leighton, sw; Herbert H. Best, jw; George W. Allan, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, December. 2

- Crooked River, 152, Bolster's Mills. Albion M. Hancock, m; Adna D. Pike, sw; James M. Meserve, jw; Leander Dorman, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, November. 16
- Cumberland, 12, New Gloucester. Henry W. Loring, West Pownal, m; Frank W. Winter, Upper Gloucester, sw; Newell P. Haskell, jw; Geo. Goding, Lewiston Junction, s. Meeting Saturday before full moon; election, November. 24
- David A. Hooper, 201, West Sullivan. Edwin F. Clapham, m; Gilbert F. Hooper, sw; Ernest C. Gordon, jw; Howard H. Havey, s. Meeting first Saturday; election, December. 21
- Davis, 191, Strong. Charles B. Richardson, m; Oscar Sweet, sw; Henry P. Churchill, jw; Edward H. Vaughan, s. Meeting Friday evening of week in which moon is full; election, September. 15
- Day Spring, 107, West Newfield. Ai Q. Mitchell, m; Everett E. Ham, sw; George H. Straw, jw; George O. Hannaford, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, September. 23
- Deering, 183, Portland. Ernest L. Watkins, m; Walter S. Coleman, sw; Silas B. Adams, jw; Francis E. Chase, Woodfords, s. Meeting second Monday; election, February. 17
- Delta, 153, Lovell. George W. Walker, m; James H. Walker, sw; George Marston, jw; Edward L. Bell, s. Meeting second Thursday; election, December. 18
- Dirigo, 104, Weeks' Mills. William S. Jones, m; John A. Peva, sw; Eugene C. Rowe, jw; Orrin F. Sproul, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, September. 11
- Doric, 149, Moulton. Walter C. Jackson, m; Edward P. Blanchard, sw; William A. Mills, jw; Edwin R. Haynes, s. Meeting Monday on or after full moon; election, December. 5
- Dresden, 103, Dresden Mills. Wilbur F. Cate, m; Linwood H. Dorr, sw; John S. Snow, jw; Nathaniel F. Leeman, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, October. 10
- Drummond, 118, Parsonsfield. Stephen E. Towle, m; Willie F. Edwards, sw; George G. Edwards, jw; Albert R. Leavitt, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, September. 23
- Dunlap, 47, Biddeford. Lytton E. Staples, m; John F. Burnham, sw; James H. Bradbury, jw; Nahum S. Drown, s, (box 205). Meeting first Monday; election, December. 19
- Eastern, 7, Eastport. Walter F. Bradish, m; Warren S. Kane, sw; Walter J. Gannett, jw; Wheeler C. Hawkes, s. Meeting first Monday; election, December 27th. 2
- Eastern Frontier, 112, Fort Fairfield. Herbert W. Trafton, m; Chandler C. Harvey, sw; Charles H. Stevens, jw; Henry W. Perry, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 1

- Eggemoggin, 128, Sedgwick. Henry L. Morgan, m; Henry A. Small, sw; Henry F. Smith, jw; Orrin P. Carter, s. Meeting second Monday; election, January. 4
- Esoteric, 159, Ellsworth. Edgar P. Kelley, m; Albert K. Cushman, sw; Herman E. Hill, jw; Thomas E. Hale, s. Meeting first Thursday; election, January. 21
- Euclid, 194, Madison. Omer D. Eames, m; Leonard O. Paine, sw; Samuel E. Remick, jw; Irvin L. Russell, s. Meeting first Monday; election, September. 13
- Eureka, 84, Tenant's Harbor. James M. Smith, m; Fred O. Bartlett, sw; Albion H. Andrews, jw; Henry F. Kalloch, s. Meeting first Thursday; election, January. 9
- Evening Star, 147, Buckfield. Aug. F. Cloutier, m; Washington Heald, sw; Horace A. Murch, jw; Alfred Cole, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, September. 16
- Excelsior, 151, Northport. Isaac Hills, m; Martin G. Black, sw; Mark D. Mendal, jw; Fred B. Glidden, s. Meeting Wednesday nearest full moon; election, December. 8
- Felicity, 19, Bucksport. William A. Remick, m; Howard F. Gilley, sw; Nash McKay, jw; Sewall L. Heywood, s. Meeting first Monday; election, December. 21
- Forest, 148, Springfield. Charles D. Chase, m; Herbert E. Murdock, sw; Hiram E. Stevens, jw; Lysander W. Trask, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, September. 20
- Franklin, 123, New Sharon. Jabez S. Mooers, m; Benj. F. Makepeace, sw; Manley H. Blaisdell, jw; James H. Howes, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, September. 15
- Fraternal, 55, Alfred. James F. Littlefield, m; John S. Derby, sw; Charles E. Lander, jw; John M. Akers, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, November. 23
- Freedom, 42, Limerick. John P. Fogg, m; Autine S. Sawyer, sw; Edwin Cobb, jw; Fred W. Libby, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 23
- Freeport, 23, Freeport. Charles W. Bennett, m; Benjamin Coffin, sw; Timothy Pratt, jw; Winthrop C. Fogg, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 14
- Granite, 182, West Paris. Benton L. Swift, m; Wm. C. Stearns, sw; Chas. F. Barden, jw; Peter C. Fickett, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, November. 16
- Greenleaf, 117, Cornish. Ezra B. Pike, m; Stephen Rounds, sw; William O. Porter, jw; George H. Parker, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, December. 18

- Hancock, 4, Castine. John F. Rea, m; J. Walter Weeks, sw; William A. Walker, jw; Charles H. Hooper, s. Meeting first Thursday; election, December. 4
- Harmony, 38, Gorham. Moses E. Little, m; Chas. E. Cobb, sw; Melville W. Cressey, jw; William P. F. Robie, s. Meeting Wednesday on or preceding full moon; election, December. 17
- Harwood, 91, Machias. Willis H. Allen, m; Loring B. Wilder, sw; Isaac S. Heaton, jw; Carl M. Hutchinson, s. Meeting first Monday; election, December 27th. 3
- Hermon, 32, Gardiner. William L. Powers, m; Fred D. Loring, sw; Henry A. Wood, jw; James M. Larrabee, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 11
- Hiram, 180, South Portland. Albert A. Cole, m; Frank I. Brown, sw; Edwin E. Heckbert, jw; Stephen Scamman, Knightville, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, November. 17
- Horeb, 93, Lincoln. Wallace C. Thibodeau, m; Frank R. Linton, sw; Daniel W. Ballantyne, jw; Charles F. Plumly, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, first Monday in December. 20
- Howard, 69, Winterport. Edwin Flemant, m; Joseph L. Eldridge, sw; Minot S. Lowe, jw; John H. Baker, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, December. 6
- Ira Berry, 187, Bluehill. Ithamar E. Stanley, m; Otis Littlefield, sw; Thos. Grieve, jw; Frank A. Davis, s. Meeting third Monday; election, December. 4
- Island, 89, Islesboro'. Joseph A. Sprague, m; Edward S. Preble, sw; William F. Keller, jw; Thomas R. Williams, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, February. 8
- Jefferson, 100, Bryant's Pond. James L. Bowker, m; James M. Day, sw; Charles H. Berry, jw; Alden Chase, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, September. 16
- Jonesport, 188, Jonesport. Arthur L. Whiting, m; Samuel B. Cummings, sw; Ralph T. Crowley, jw; Clifton M. Rogers, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 3
- Katahdin, 98, Patten. John Jackman, m; Alonzo A. Porter, sw; Ferdie G. Huston, jw; Lorin B. Huston, s. Meeting Thursday on or preceding full moon; election, December. 25
- Kenduskeag, 137, Kenduskeag. F. Ernest Harvey, m; Daniel W. Parkhurst, sw; Albert L. Spratt, jw; John H. Everett, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 6
- Kennebec, 5, Hallowell. John M. Robinson, m; Fitz Morris Fish, sw; Herbert C. Barrell, jw; Jas. J. Jones, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, November. 11

- Keystone, 80, Solon. Wright S. Cram, m; Jonah G. Spaulding, sw; William W. Jackman, jw; Perry S. Longley, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, third Wednesday of October. 13
- King David's, 62, Lincolnville. Alton E. Andrews, m; Oliver E. Keene, sw; Wilder P. Drinkwater, jw; Edward M. Coleman, s. Meeting Tuesday evening nearest full moon; election, December. 8
- King Hiram, 57, Dixfield. George D. Kidder, m; George W. Dockham, sw; Emerson W. Murch, jw; Charles L. Dillingham, s. Meeting Tuesday on or after full moon; election, October. 16
- King Solomon's, 61, Waldoboro. George L. Welt, m; John M. Richards, sw; Jefferson P. Vannah, jw; Clinton B. Stahl, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Knox, 189, South Thomaston. Milton E. Bassick, m; Aiden W. Butler, sw; Arthur Pierce, jw; J. M. Bartlett, s. Meeting first Saturday; election, January. 9
- Lafayette, 48, Readfield. Sewall J. Hawes, m; Elliott J. Beal, sw; Elsworth E. Peacock, jw; Ernest A. Morgan, s. Meeting first Saturday; election, February. 12
- Lebanon, 116, South Norridgewock. George O. Carr, m; Corydon E. Veasie, sw; Eben S. Miller, jw; Charles A. Ward, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, September. 13
- Lewy's Island, 138, Princeton. Leander R. Horsman, m; Theo. Morrison, sw; Fred A. Johnson, jw; Samuel O. Hoar, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, December, St. John's Day. 2
- Liberty, 111, Liberty. Oren W. Ripley, South Montville, m; Winfield W. Lunt, Montville, sw; Percy Leman, Libertyville, jw; Ambrose P. Cargill, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, September. 7
- Lincoln, 3, Wiscasset. Clarence A. Peaslee, m; John E. Dickinson, sw; Charles M. Leavitt, jw; William D. Patterson, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Lookout, 131, Cutler. Forest S. Stevens, m; Hermetre U. Davis, sw; Geo. O. Davis, jw; Lucius Davis, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, January. 3
- Lygonia, 40, Ellsworth. Elvert E. Parker, m; Howard W. Dunn, sw; Thomas L. Abbott, jw; James E. Parsons, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 21
- Lynde, 174, Hermon. George E. Barnes, m; Frank H. Jewell, sw; Sanford A. Smith, jw; J. Mellen Taylor, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, December. 6
- Maine, 20, Farmington. George C. Purington, m; William M. Pratt, sw; Newell R. Knowlton, jw; Frank W. Butler, s. Meeting Monday in week of full moon; election, October. 15

- Marine, 122, Deer Isle. Frank A. Gross, m; Eugene A. Gren, sw; Hudson H. Pressey, jw; Moses S. Joyce, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 4
- Mariner's, 68, Searsport. Clifton Whittemore, m; Edwin A. Sargent, sw; Fred M. Perkins, jw; Charles E. Adams, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, January. 8
- Marsh River, 102, Brooks. Forrest K. Roberts, m; Isaac Leathers, sw; Charles H. Irving, jw; Elmer G. Roberts, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 7
- Mechanics', 66, Orono. Robert M. Hutchinson, m; Anson A. Powers, sw; Nathan C. Grover, jw; Albert J. Durgin, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, December 27th. 6
- Meridian, 125, Pittsfield. Orin E. Libby, m; Orville H. Drake, sw; A. Lincoln Maxfield, jw; Leon L. Libby, s. Meeting Friday evening on or before full moon; election, January. 22
- Meridian Splendor, 49, Newport. A. Leslie Oakes, m; Wilson M. Stewart, sw; Frank W. Mathews, 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; Orestes E. Crowell, s. Meeting on the first Saturday; election, December. 12
- Molunkus, 165, Sherman Mills. Freeman C. Harris, m; Daniel H. Ferry, sw; Thomas T. Skidmore, jw; John Gosnell, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, October. 25
- Monmouth, 110, Monmouth. John M. Prescott, m; Horace S. Bent, sw; Fred K. Blake, jw; Harry E. Merrill, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, September. 11
- Monument, 96, Houlton. Charles H. Fogg, m; William W. McDonald, sw; Harry M. Cates, jw; Chas. E. F. Stetson, s. Meeting second Wednesday; election, September. 25
- Morning Star, 41, Litchfield Corners. William E. Tarr, m; Thomas T. Jenkins, sw; Geo. E. Ring, jw; Irving W. Gilbert, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, September. 11
- Mosaic, 52, Foxcroft. Wm. C. Woodbury, m; William M. Steward, sw; Ralph W. Hughes, jw; James T. Roberts, Dover, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, December. 5
- Moses Webster, 145, Vinalhaven. James H. Paterson, m; Herbert W. Field, sw; Freeman L. Roberts, jw; Winfield S. Carver, s. Meeting second Tuesday; election, November. 9
- Mount Bigelow, 202, Flagstaff. David A. Butler, m; Walter E. Hinds, sw; Grant Fuller, jw; Carlton W. Savage, s. Meeting second Saturday; election, September. 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. Alexander F. Edes, m; Fred Mellor, sw; George L. Barrows, jw; David Pearson, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, December. 5
- Mount Moriah, 56, Denmark. Ernest S. Gilman, m; Luther Trumbull, sw; Fred Sanborn, jw; Sidney T. Brown, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 18
- Mount Olivet, 203, Washington. Lindley M. Staples, m; Thomas Sukeforth, sw; Willis E. Deering, jw; William M. Staples, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, September. 9
- Mount Tir'em, 132, Waterford. Warren V. Kneeland, m; Francis S. Packard, sw; J. Melvin Bartlett, jw; Isaac F. Jewett, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 18
- Mystic, 65, Hampden. Charles W. Page, m; Sumner D. Greeley, sw; Fred A. Cole, jw; William H. Tribou, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, December. 6
- Mystic Tie, 154, Weld. Cleff Maxwell, m; Orletus Phillips, sw; Nathan G. Foster, jw; Lyman L. Jones, s. Meeting Tuesday of the week of full moon; election, December. 15
- Narraguagus, 88, Cherryfield. Arthur H. Bartlett, m; Phineas B. Guptill, sw; Edward C. Davis, jw; George G. Freeman, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before the full moon; election, January. 3
- Naskeag, 171, Brooklin. Stephen E. McFarland, m; John J. McDonald, sw; Adelbert P. Kane, jw; Henry S. Kane, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 4
- Naval, 184, Kittery. C. Clifford Muchmore, m; Henry I. Durgin, sw; Frank T. Clarkson, jw; Levi L. Goodrich, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, July. 19
- Negunkeag, 166, Vassalboro. Willis B. Crosby, m; George D. Cook, sw; George S. Perkins, jw; Daniel Rollins, Riverside, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, September. 12
- Nezinscot, 101, Turner. Harry W. Burdin, m; E. Herbert Cole, sw; Oliver A. Sprague, jw; Seth D. Andrews, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, June. 24
- Northern Star, 28, North Anson. George L. Hovey, m; James H. Stevens, sw; Herbert H. Marston, 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; Charles H. Brown, jw; Frank L. Buker, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 19

- Olive Branch, 124, Charleston. Henry D. Worth, m; John L. Herrick, sw; Wilbur R. Clark, jw; Oscar L. Smith, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, December. 5
- Orient, 15, Thomaston. George A. Moore, m; William H. Stackpole, sw; Edward C. Rollins, jw; James A. Levensaler, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 9
- Oriental, 13, Bridgton. John L. Meserve, m; Frank A. Webb, sw; David C. Saunders, jw; D. Eugene Chaplin, s; Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, October. 18
- Oriental Star, 21, Livermore Falls. Chester H. Thurston, m; Charles H. Gibbs, sw; Ernest A. Goding, jw; George O. Eustis, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, June. 15
- Oxford, 18, Norway. Lee M. Smith, m; William J. Jones, sw; Hermon L. Bartlett, jw; Howard D. Smith, s. Meeting Friday on or next before full moon; election, September. 16
- Pacific, 64, Exeter. Roswell C. Rich, m; Angus Delaney, sw; Arthur F. Buswell, jw; David E. Knight, Garland, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, January. 22
- Parian, 160, Corinna. Oliver L. Jones, m; A. R. Day, sw; G. B. Fisher, jw; George W. Nutter, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, September. 22
- Paris, 94, South Paris. William P. Morton, m; Albert D. Park, sw; Fred H. Evans, jw; Horatio Woodbury, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, at first stated meeting in year. 16
- Penobscot, 39, Dexter. John Martin, m; Frank J. Carsley, sw; William E. Robinson, jw; Chas. S. Hutchinson, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, at last stated meeting preceding 27th December. 5
- Phoenix, 24, Belfast. Upham A. Hoyt, m; Will G. Sawtelle, sw; Clifford J. Pattee, jw; James Pattee, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, January. 8
- Pine Tree, 172, Mattawankeag. Josiah F. Shedd, m; Virgil W. Hobbs, sw; William H. Bither, jw; George W. Smith, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, October. 20
- Pioneer, 72, Ashland. George S. Orcutt, m; H. L. Dobson, sw; George H. McNally, jw; Whitefield B. Hallett, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 1
- Piscataquis, 44, Milo. Martin L. Durgin, m; Albert C. Cushman, sw; Percie M. Hamlin, jw; Albert W. Murray, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, September. 5
- Pleasant River, 163, Brownville. Erwin G. Ryder, m; Austin W. Sherburne, sw; George W. McClain, Henderson, jw; Ezekiel L. Chase, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, November. 5

- Pleiades, 173, Milbridge. J. A. Walling, m; Warren Sawyer, sw; Jasper Wyman, jw; Ansel M. Sawyer, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, January. 3
- Plymouth, 75, Plymouth. Walter G. Loud, m; Alonzo E. Peabody, sw; Samuel A. Parkhurst, jw; William H. Condon, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, September. 22
- Polar Star, 114, Bath. Eben J. Marston, m; Frank A. Palmer, sw; Geo. M. Duley, jw; Herbert D. Maxwell, s. Meeting second Wednesday; election, March. 14
- Portland, 1, Portland. George W. Sturgis, m; Thomas E. McDonald, sw; Charles C. Berry, jw; George F. Gould, s. Meeting second Wednesday; election, November. 17
- Pownal, 119, Stockton Springs. Horace M. Griffin, m; Samuel French, sw; John E. Lancaster, jw; John M. La Folley, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 8
- Preble, 143, Sanford. Fred Hodgson, m; Sam Jagger, sw; Edmund F. Low, jw; Joseph Leckenby, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 23
- Presumpscot, 127, North Windham. Frank H. Haskell, m; Winfield S. Allen, sw; William C. Noyes, jw; William H. Cram, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, December. 17
- Pythagorean, 11, Fryeburg. John L. Osgood, m; Dean A. Ballard, sw; Frank A. Hill, jw; Tobias L. Eastman, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 18
- Quantabacook, 129, Searsmont. Charles H. Burgess, m; Edwin R. Keene, North Appleton, sw; James L. Bean, jw; Loima C. Poor, s. Meeting first Saturday; election, October. 7
- Rabboni, 150, Lewiston. T. Lloyd Pratt, m; Wm. B. Skelton, sw; Frank A. Conant, jw; George F. Turner, s. Meeting Wednesday after full moon; election, September. 24
- Reliance, 195, Stonington. Joseph H. Eaton, m; William McKenzie, sw; Paul T. Small, jw; Rollins Y. Stinson, s. Meeting first Saturday; election, December. 4
- Richmond, 63, Richmond. Wallace N. Price, m; Fernando A. Shepard, sw; Harry K. Stinson, jw; William R. Fairclough, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, October. 14
- Rising Star, 177, Penobscot. George E. Parsons, m; Fred B. Mitchell, sw; Freeman N. Bowden, jw; Benj. H. Cushman, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, December. 4
- Rising Sun, 71, Orland. Ashur B. Hutchins, m; Enoch W. Harriman, sw; Edwin L. Jordan, jw; Seth R. Hutchins, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, December. 21

- Rising Virtue, 10, Bangor. Charles J. Wardley, m; Frank J. Cole, sw; Fred C. Chalmers, jw; John H. Kerr, s. Meeting last Tuesday; election, December. 6
- Riverside, 135, East Jefferson. Wilber B. Tibbetts, m; George A. Hoffses, sw; F. W. Bowden, jw; W. A. Jackson, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Rockland, 79, Rockland. Edward W. Berry, m; Henry J. Keating, sw; Clarence E. Daniels, jw; Albert I. Mather, s. Meeting first Tuesday; election, January. 9
- Rural, 53, Sidney. Sewall A. Clark, m; Eugene H. Herrin, sw; William P. Marble, jw; James F. Warren, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, September. 12
- Saco, 9, Saco. Philip C. Tapley, m; Joseph E. Cole, sw; George E. Morrison, jw; George A. Emery, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 19
- Saint Andrew's, 83, Bangor. Frank A. Robinson, m; Edwin Lord, sw; Benj. B. Merrill, jw; Fred W. Adams, s. Meeting last Friday; election, December. 6
- Saint Aspinquid, 198, York Village. Charles L. Bowden, m; George N. Thompson, sw; Daniel A. Stevens, jw; John C. Stewart, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, September. 19
- Saint Croix, 46, Calais. William H. Keen, m; Henry S. Pethick, sw; Charles B. Collins, jw; Stephen D. Morrell, s. Meeting first Monday; election, December, St. John's Day. 2
- Saint George, 16, Warren. R. O. Wade, m; Matthew Allen, sw; Geo. J. Newcomb, 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; Frank Beaver, jw; Edward A. Chelsey, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, March. 19
- Saint Paul's, 82, Rockport. Lorin A. Brewster, m; Joseph F. Shepherd, sw; Fred E. Sylvester, jw; Perez B. Cooper, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, October. 9
- Seaside, 144, Boothbay Harbor. Lewis A. Dunton, m; Dennis S. Wylie, sw; Woodbury Marson, jw; Henry S. Perkins, s. Meeting Friday on or before full moon; election, December. 10
- Sebasticook, 146, Clinton. Willard W. Eastman, m; Lewis K. Austin, sw; George A. Bingham, jw; Ruel W. Gerald, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, October. 7
- Shepherd's River, 169, Brownfield. James R. Hill, m; Fred A. Thayer, sw; Elsworth E. Gilpatrick, 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; Chas. H. Crummett, jw; George M. Chapman, s. Meeting first Thursday; election, December. 13
- Solar, 14, Bath. Langdon T. Snipe, m; Walter S. Glidden, sw; John Scott, jw; Albert L. Strout, s. Meeting first Monday; election, December. 14
- Somerset, 34, Skowhegan. Charles H. Gardner, m; William R. Elliott, sw; Lawrence Cockburn, jw; Charles M. Lambert, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, January. 13
- Springvale, 190, Springvale. Willie F. Ferguson, m; George H. Drew, sw; Herbert Smith, jw; Frank H. Dexter, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 23
- Standish, 70, Standish. William S. Thompson, m; Lewis W. Moulton, sw; Edward W. Dolloff, jw; Parker F. Paine, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, January. 17
- Star in the East, 60, Oldtown. Albert H. Maddocks, m; George F. Cathcart, sw; Harry E. Reed, jw; Charles A. Dillingham, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, September. 6
- Star in the West, 85, Unity. George R. Mosher, m; W. J. Getchell, sw; G. A. Stevens, jw; E. D. Chase, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, December. 7
- Temple, 25, Winthrop. Everett W. Macomber, m; Elliot Wood, sw; Horace A. Keyes, jw; J. Ewan McIlroy, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 11
- Temple, 86, Westbrook. George H. Knowlton, m; Frederick W. Freeman, sw; Abner L. Hawkes, jw; Oliver A. Cobb, s. Meeting second Wednesday; election, December. 17
- Timothy Chase, 126, Belfast. James H. Howes, m; Hiram L. Partridge, sw; John W. Knight, jw; Charles E. Johnson, s. Meeting first Thursday; election, January. 8
- Tranquil, 29, Auburn. Albert E. Verrill, m; Lavator O. Morse, sw; Murray B. Watson, jw; James F. Atwood, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, January. 24
- Tremont, 77, South West Harbor. Byron H. Mayo, m; Franklin S. Doliver, sw; James S. Fernald, jw; William R. Keene, Manset, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, December. 21
- Trinity, 130, Presque Isle. Leon S. Howe, m; Rufus F. Stowe, sw; J. L. Wellington, jw; Rainsford J. Smith, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 1
- Tuscan, 106, Addison Point. Melvin L. Cleaves, m; Osmond A. Holmes, sw; Amos E. Tibbetts, jw; Amasa D. Tracy, Westcogus, s. Meeting Saturday on or before full moon; election, December. 3

- Tyrian, 73, Mechanic Falls. James W. Wayne, m; M. C. B. Prince, sw; M. W. Morrill, jw; Lewin Jefferies, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, October. 24
- Union, 31, Union. George C. Hawes, m; Ethel S. Cummings, sw; William C. Morton, sw; Charles M. Lucas, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, December. 9
- United, 8, Brunswick. Gilbert M. Elliott, m; Henry C. Upton, sw; Fred H. Wilson, jw; Lemuel H. Stover, s. Meeting second Tuesday; election, December. 14
- Unity, 58, Thorndike. Charles P. Hutchins, m; Phineas P. Shibles, sw; Daniel H. Clark, jw; John N. Tilton, s. Meeting Thursday on or before full moon; election, September. 7
- Vassalboro', 54, North Vassalboro'. Albert S. Priest, m; Chas H. Lightbody, sw; John M. Cates, jw; Henry A. Ewer, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, September. 12
- Vernon Valley, 99, Mt. Vernon. Orman F. French, m; Melvin S. Gordon, sw; Irving R. Bradley, jw; Silas Burbank, s. Meeting Tuesday on or before full moon; election, November. 12
- Village, 26, Bowdoinham. Franklin K. Jack, m; William W. Brown, sw; William H. Gould, jw; Henry E. Cornish, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, October. 14
- Warren, 2, East Machias. Francis L. Talbot, m; Millard H. Wiswell, sw; Elmer E. Gardner, jw; Frank H. Wiswell, s. Meeting Tuesday or before full moon; election, December 27th. 3
- Warren Phillips, 186, Cumberland Mills. Elvin A. Leighton, m; Albert L. Parker, sw; K. S. Raymond, jw; Almon N. Waterhouse, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, October. 17
- Washburn, 193, Washburn. Calvin D. Carter, m; Jarvis B. Harris, sw; Robert W. Chapman, jw; Edward M. Hines, s. Meeting Wednesday on or before full moon; election, December. 1
- Washington, 37, Lubec. Irving W. Case, m; John W. Edgecomb, sw; William Merriman, jw; William K. McBride, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, December. 2
- Waterville, 33, Waterville. John M. Webber, m; J. Fred Hill, sw; Frederick J. Arnold, jw; John A. Lang, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 12
- Webster, 164, Sabattus. Fred A. Richardson, m; William H. Wright, sw; John F. Hirst, jw; Judson Bangs, s. Meeting Thursday on or next before full moon; election, December. 24
- Whitney, 167, Canton. George H. Strout, m; Herbert V. Foster, sw; Asia F. Hayford, jw; Herbert J. DeShon, s. Meeting first Thursday; election, September. 15

- Wilton, 156, Wilton. Daniel J. Norton, m; Leon A. Bump, sw; John W. Miller, jw; Fred E. Trefethen, s. Meeting Wednesday week of full moon; election, September. 15
- Winter Harbor, 192, Winter Harbor. A. E. Small, m; Charles E. Grover, sw; Charles L. Cablin, jw; George R. Tracy, s. Meeting first Wednesday; election, January. 21
- York, 22, Kennebunk. Charles H. Cole, m; William Titcomb, sw; Charles R. Littlefield, jw; George A. Gilpatric, s. Meeting Monday on or before full moon; election, December. 19
- Yorkshire, 179, North Berwick. Charles W. Goodwin, m; W. C. Dutch, sw; Alna L. Getchell, jw; Brainerd S. Drake, s. Meeting last Friday; election, December. 19

ADDRESSES.

- WINFIELD S. CHOATE, *Grand Master*, - - Augusta, 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.

Brethren Died during the Year,

FROM MARCH 1, 1895, TO MARCH 1, 1899.

THOSE MARKED * WERE RETURNED AS BURIED WITH MASONIC RITES.

- 1 Portland. Convers O. Leach, April 24; Frank E. Lovell, Aug. 5; Joseph C. Moxcey, Aug. 9; John D. Mantle, Aug. 15; Isaac Phillips, Nov. 27; Edwin R. Hamlin, Jan. 10; Henry C. Lovell, Feb. 2.
- 2 Warren. William Johnson, April 7, 1897, at Snug^{*} Harbor, Staten Island, N. Y.; Sylvanus S. Hall, Aug. 21; James F. T. Greenwood,* Oct. 17; Austin Harris,* Jan. 7; William E. Cooper,* Jan. 16; Solomon Hall, Feb. 7, at Dorchester, Mass.
- 3 Lincoln. Joseph Call, Sept. 21; Levi S. Heal, Oct. 4.
- 5 Kennebec. Elias S. Thayer, Nov. 28, in Florida; Thomas Leigh, Dec. 28.
- 6 Amity. Ruel Philbrook, Dec. 30, in New York.
- 7 Eastern. Noel B. Nutt, May 10; Edward R. Bowman, Oct. 21; John M. Jonah, Nov. 5; Samuel Campbell, Jan. 9; Moses Prescott, Feb. 9.
- 8 United. Horace R. Coombs, lost at sea; Asa K. Simpson; Charles Crossman, Jan. 4; Frank H. Purinton, Jan. 16; John W. Causland, Feb. 2.
- 9 Saco. Joseph H. Libby, March 27.
- 10 Rising Virtue. George W. Getchell, May 9; Samuel B. Gilman, May 22; James N. Clark, Aug. 27; Leonard B. Smith, Dec. 17—U. S. Consul at Curaçoa many years, died there in office; Sumner C. Paine, December 21, at Ashville, N. C.—Lieut. in the U. S. Navy; Joseph E. Merritt, Dec. 27.
- 11 Pythagorean. John Locke, April 26; Eugene Hill, May 25.
- 12 Cumberland. Freeman H. Morse,* June 24; Frank P. Goff, Nov. 18, in Boston, Mass.

- 13 Oriental. Isaac G. Meserve, March 18; Frank B. Wiggin, July 19; Della A. Stevens, July 19; Will Potter Babb, Dec.; Lewis Smith, Jan. 5.
- 14 Solar. Jerry Shannon, April 6; Isaac Butler, April 7; Arthur A. Kehail, May 10, at Westport, Me.; David W. Stover, Oct. 21, at Bangor; David C. Rogers, Nov. 9, at Phippsburg; Francis W. Weeks, Dec. 31, at Lynn, Mass., killed by R. R. train; Dexter W. Berry, Jan. 6, at Saco.
- 15 Orient. C. E. Libby; George W. Masters; Robert Crosby, Oct. 29; Edwin Walsh, Nov. 10; Henry C. Levensaler, Jan. 4; Edward K. O'Brien, Jan. 15.
- 16 St. George. Charles D. Bowley, May 8; Judson McCallum, May 10.
- 17 Ancient Landmark. William H. Tanner, April 6; Wesley P. Dutton, July 21; William H. Foster, Aug. 9; Amos E. Howell, Sept. 15—raised Oct. 7, 1846, a member 51 years and 11 months; Dexter W. Kensell, Sept. 21; Alexander B. Stevenson; Nov. 4; Thomas B. Merrill, Nov. 27—Past Master—lost at sea on steamer Portland, of which he was Chief Engineer; Augustus P. Fuller, Jan. 11—raised April 2, 1846, a member 52 years, 4 months; Sivilian C. Oakes, Jan. 25, in South America, master of brig James H. Hamlen.
- 18 Oxford. Moses H. Harriman,* Oct. 16; William E. Austin,* Nov. 13; George P. Rowe, Dec. 30; D. Webster Beal,* Feb. 18; Nathaniel G. Frost,* Feb. 22; Jonathan Roberts, in Massachusetts.
- 19 Felicity. Sewall P. Ayer, June 22, in Kewanee, Ill.; Austin Saunders, Jan. 15; Elbridge G. Rolfe, Feb. 25, at Hurricane Island.
- 21 Oriental Star. Augustus Leland, July 7, 1896; Alvin Record, Aug. 20.
- 22 York. William Downing, Dec. 6, son of Isaac Downing, P. S. G. Warden.
- 23 Freeport. John G. Pierce, March 10; Albert W. Clark, Oct. 10; David D. Spear, Jan. 21; Almond G. Rogers, Feb. 6.
- 24 Phoenix. Charles Baker, March 4; Albion K. Pierce, April 2; George W. Purrington, September, at Houlton; Jerome Stephenson, Nov. 12; Frank B. Mathews, Nov. 29; David Hodgdon, Dec. 18, at Phoenix, Arizona; Jacob G. Cook, Jan., in Boston.
- 25 Temple. Albion P. Snow, Oct. 24.
- 26 Village. Charles E. Sewell, March.
- 27 Adoniram. Robert H. Brackett, June 16; William G. Lord, Aug. 28.
- 28 Northern Star. Asa Parlin, May 18; Walter W. Poore,* J. Warden, Aug. 5, at Chickamauga Park, Lytle, Ga.—remains brought to North Anson, where services were held at the Universalist Church, followed by services by Northern Star Lodge, then taken to Sebago, by friends and delegates of the lodge, and there buried with masonic honors.

- 29 Tranquil. Lewis O'Brion,* April 9; William S. Young, April 12; Joseph W. Perkins, July 22; Horatio G. Garcelon,* Aug. 13; Jeremiah Dingley, Jr., Feb. 12; Nelson H. Alden,* Feb. 13.
- 30 Blazing Star. John Thomas, July 18, killed at Riley while working on log landing.
- 31 Union. Almond Thompson,* March 27; Thaddeus Hastings,* Aug. 11; Moses Robinson.
- 32 Hermon. Porter Walbridge, Sept. 30, killed by railroad train; Alphonso Coss, Dec. 27; Orison Hill, Jan. 16; Henry M. Foster, Feb. 10; Isaac D. Sayborn, an honorary member.
- 33 Waterville. Hiram P. Cousins, April 23; Reuben Foster, Past Master, Oct. 12; Edmund F. Webb, Past Master, Dec. 7.
- 34 Somerset. Simon D. Sayward,* Dec. 8; Benjamin P. Pearson, Dec. 22, in San Diego, Cal.; John A. Colby,* Jan. 22.
- 35 Bethlehem. Frederick Cony, March 13; Ira K. Russell, Oct. 8; Artemus Glidden,* Dec. 28; Rodney L. Fogg, Feb. 14.
- 36 Casco. Thomas Reddick, March 19; E. Dudley Freeman, Nov. 27, lost on the steamer Portland.
- 37 Washington. Charles H. Clark, Oct. 11.
- 38 Harmony. Frank R. Morrison, July 19; Charles W. Paine.
- 39 Penobscot. Joseph F. Withnal, June 19; Albert H. Bradbury, Jan. 30.
- 40 Lygonia. Antonio F. Smith,* April 22; John Hutchins,* April 24; Albert L. Penney, July 7; Charles Smith, Aug. 13, died and buried at sea; George C. Lynam,* Nov. 27; George W. Hudson; Charles Joy, Aug. 2, 1896.
- 41 Morning Star. Thos. Holmes,* May 11; Eli Merriman, Oct. 24; Ezekiel Ware,* Nov. 17.
- 43 Alna. Alfred W. Elliott, Dec. 12; John A. Parker,* Jan. 23.
- 44 Piscataquis. Charles F. Davis, Sept. 18.
- 45 Central. Fred E. McQuillen,* March 18; Moses W. Newbert, May 6; Charles W. Coombs,* July 1; John M. Ridlon, Oct. 27; Amasa Taylor, Past Master, Nov. 17; Josiah Main, Feb. 15.
- 46 St. Croix. Charles D. Hill, April 30; William Grierson,* May 7; John J. Fleming, May 7, by railroad accident in Minnesota; James New,* June 3; Ernst T. Lee,* Aug. 22; Willard Lane, Dec. 10; Charles R. Farrell,* Jan. 6; William R. Kerr,* Jan. 9, in Denver, Colorado; Oliver P. Treat,* Feb. 3.
- 47 Dunlap. Elbridge G. Stevens, March 26; James Etchells, May 6; Henry Goldthwaite, June 8; Henry A. Wales, July 10; George F. Goodwin, Past Master, Aug. 28.

- 48 Lafayette. A. F. Chase, Oct. 20; Charles P. Greeley, Nov. 20; Jerry P. Johnson, Feb. 1.
- 50 Aurora. George W. Cochran,* May 1; Zenas O. Bragg,* May 8; Ephraim J. Ulmer,* Aug. 2; Erastus P. Bragg,* Sept. 10; Alphonso A. Duncan, and Lars Nelson, lost in the great storm of Nov. 27th with their vessels and crews—both were master mariners, and highly esteemed; William Norton, April 17, 1888, at Matinicus Island.
- 51 Saint John's. Edward F. Safford, Oct. 16; Albert Goodwin, Nov. 18; Herbert Lord, Dec. 12.
- 52 Mosaic. Marcell W. Hall, Sept. 14.
- 54 Vassalboro. Charles Jepson, Jan. 15.
- 55 Fraternal. Howard Frost.
- 56 Mount Moriah. Eimore E. Swan, June 20; David M. Haley, date unknown.
- 58 Unity. Ralph J. Wiggin, May 9; Wm. F. White, Jan. 29.
- 60 Star in the East. Ephraim Sawyer,* April; Arthur G. Brawn,* June 25; Calvin B. Hilton, January.
- 61 King Solomon's. Jesse K. Willett, April 27; William B. Ludwig, Sept. 30; Charles A. Keene, Nov. 27.
- 62 King David's. Daniel L. Frohock, March 27; George W. Howe, Nov. 27—lost in the barge Delaware in Boston Bay.
- 64 Pacific. Cyrus Towle, May 24, at Williamsport, Penn.; John S. Knight, July 4; Chas. E. Merriam, Feb. 2; John Q. Adams, about three years ago.
- 65 Mystic. John Phillips, April 14; Gardner Hunting, Jan. 12.
- 66 Mechanic's. Charles Buffum, March 19—Born in 1820, served in both branches of Legislature, President of the Senate, and member of Council three terms.
- 67 Blue Mountain. Willard Towle, Past Master, April 7.
- 69 Howard. Elijah Gatchell, September 6, at China, Me.; Wellington M. Howes, Oct. 4, at Havana, Cuba.
- 70 Standish. Edwin White, 1899.
- 72 Pioneer. James A. Flint, July 5.
- 73 Tyrian. Edmund L. Bailey,* March 17; Marshall Jordan, March 29; George W. Currier,* May 20; Rev. W. B. Bartlett, July 3.
- 74 Bristol. William Geyer,* Feb. 7.
- 75 Plymouth. Daniel G. Ferguson, out of the State, date unknown.
- 76 Arundel. Charles M. Cilley, May 27; Daniel Goodwin, Feb. 10.
- 77 Tremont. William P. Lunt, June.
- 78 Crescent. Willam A. Frost, April 1; Daniel Laughton, April 8; Wm.

- B. Hatch, July 6; Nathaniel C. Brown, October 30; Nathaniel E. Brown, Jan. 12.
- 79 Rockland. Robert Geyer, March 9; Lincoln Snow, June 4; Ralph R. Ulmer, Sept. 4; Nelson P. Spear, Oct. 20; Henry Jenkins, Past Master, Oct. 25; James P. Stamp, Nov. 27, lost at sea; George W. Beals, Nov. 27, lost at sea; Elijah Hall, Dec. 26.
- 80 Keystone. Albert F. Decker, April 12; Samuel W. Buker, April 19; Lyman Grant, July 16; Fred G. Manson, Oct. 19; Leslie M. Davis, Jan. 27; John A. Drury, Feb. 4.
- 81 Atlantic. Charles E. Hartshorn, March 2; John E. Welch, March 20; Lorenzo D. M. Swett, July 26, the first candidate raised in Atlantic Lodge, on Nov. 21, 1855, a former member of Congress; Freeman Greenough,* Sept. 17; Edward Tomlinson, Oct. 10; Edward H. Smith,* Feb. 18.
- 82 Saint Paul's. Joseph W. Thorndike, Sept. 15.
- 83 Saint Andrew's. George F. Gould, April 3; Messenger F. Eldridge, June 18; Jesse A. Fairbanks, Sept. 22; Daniel H. Fernald, Dec. 15.
- 84 Eureka. Thaddeus Wallace, Sept. 23.
- 85 Star in the West. Mial Dodge, May 2; Eben Thompson, June 29; William McGray, Nov. 1; E. V. Towle, Nov. 24.
- 86 Temple. Isaac F. Quinby, April 7, aged 79 yrs. 10 mos.; Edward B. Phinney, Oct. 7, aged 70 yrs. 1 mo. 19 days.
- 87 Benevolent. Daniel B. Small,* July 16.
- 88 Narraguagus. Albert G. Church, Nov., 1897; Charles J. Milliken, Oct., 1898.
- 89 Island. J. L. S. Coombs and James C. Scott, master mariners, lost at sea in February, 1898; John S. Warren, Aug. 16; Nelson Kimball, Henry P. Hatch, Isaac H. Herrick, all three master mariners, lost in Provincetown harbor in great gale of Nov. 27; Stephen Babbidge, Dec. 2; Emory F. Williams, Jan. 8.
- 91 Harwood. Sanford Burnham, Oct. 16; Eben S. Hayward, Jan. 16.
- 92 Siloam. Edward T. Cook; Josiah F. Foye, March 11; Charles Fogg, Nov. 18; John F. Kenrick, Jan. 24.
- 93 Horeb. Frank E. Drake, Jan. 26.
- 94 Paris. Thomas J. Whitehead, Dec. 21; William C. Little, Jan. 6; Herbert L. Maxim, Feb. 19.
- 95 Corinthian. Edwin A. Bean, April 13; John O. Rowell, Jan. 9.
- 97 Bethel. Henry Farwell, June 15. George W. Haskell.
- 98 Katahdin. Spencer W. Young, 1898; Samuel Waters, Jan. 8.
- 99 Vernon Valley. Benj. F. Mitchell, Past Master of Relief Lodge, July 31; Lewis D. French, Oct. 25.

- 100 Jefferson. Rufus K. Dunham,* Past Master, March 6; Charles H. Day, Feb. 26, in Massachusetts; James W. Beck, Jan., in Massachusetts.
- 101 Nezinscot. Morrill E. Briggs, Jan. 3, at his home in Brockton, Mass.
- 102 Marsh River. Frank H. Webber, supposed lost at sea in June; Benj. Rowe, Nov. 9.
- 103 Dresden. William G. Tarr, April 15.
- 104 Dirigo. Jacob N. Hanson, April; Charles B. Bassett, November.
- 105 Ashlar. John G. Cook, Aug. 6, in Chicago; Joseph H. Day, Aug. 9; Ham Brooks, Aug. 14; Charles F. Churchill, in Melrose; Joseph P. Gill, in New York City; Nelson Dingley, Jr., Jan. 13, in Washington, D. C.
- 106 Tuscan. Edmund C. Merritt, July 24; John H. Austin, Aug. 15.
- 107 Day Spring. Stephen Adams, Nov. 5, aged 94—a charter member, having been made in Adoniram Lodge, Limington, in 1828, seventy years ago. He was a physician.
- 109 Mount Kineo. Jotham S. Works; Joseph D. Martin, Oct. 12; Daniel W. Hussey, Feb. 21.
- 110 Monmouth. Otis K. Prescott,* May 23; William B. Sumner,* Jan. 9.
- 114 Polar Star. Michael P. Anderson, lost at sea; Dennis Kelly, July 9; Grant Nichols, Nov. 19; David O. Foye, Nov. 26; Dennis Roberts, Nov. 27.
- 116 Lebanon. Charles A. Harrington, May 13; Henry Whiting, Jan. 29.
- 117 Greenleaf. Austin N. Durgin, June 24; Fred T. Flint, July 25; John T. Pike, Nov. 10.
- 119 Pownal. John M. Ames, Dec. 13.
- 121 Acacia. Augustine Allen, March 8.
- 122 Marine. Sargent Bray, April 11; Levi B. Crockett, Aug. 1; Peter H. Mills, Nov. 2; Austin D. Haskell, Secretary, Nov. 10, Edwin Haskell, Feb. 5.
- 123 Franklin. Jabez P. Nevins,* June 21—buried by Euclid Lodge, No. 194, Madison.
- 124 Olive Branch. Frank L. Beal,* April; T. Roscoe Wentworth, Jan. 28.
- 125 Meridian. Ethan E. Maxwell, July 31; Eben Richardson, Jan. 14.
- 126 Timothy Chase. Frank A. Patterson, Nov. 27; Henry L. Kilgore, Dec. 4.
- 127 Presumpscot. Durea L. Bailey,* Dec. 26.
- 128 Eggemoggin. Nathaniel Grindle; Kendall K. Herrick, Oct. 17, at Carenas.
- 129 Quantabacook. Ithel Pease.
- 130 Trinity. George W. Mosher,* Oct. 18.
- 133 Asylum. William Folsom, Jan. 20.

- 135 Riverside. Benjamin F. Bowden, March; H. H. Hibbert, August.
- 136 Kenduskeag. Horace Pendexter, June 19, a member for thirty years; William C. Spratt, Jan. 19, Secretary for sixteen years.
- 138 Lewey's Island. Nathaniel S. Fenlason, August 22.
- 140 Mount Desert. Ferdinand Nelson, lost at sea, date unknown.
- 141 Augusta. James H. Weever, July 13, at Bridgewater, Mass., buried at Waterville; Joseph H. Wall, Aug. 22.
- 142 Ocean. Almon Hatch, May 9; Oren G. Jones,* Feb. 4.
- 143 Preble. James Thompson, March 20; Stephen A. Wright, Aug. 7.
- 145 Moses Webster. Joseph S. Conant, March 2; Hiram Doyle, June 18.
- 146 Sebacook. George A. Spearin, April 23; Alpheus Rowell, Aug. 31; Edmond Parkman, Sept. 1.
- 147 Evening Star. Henry A. Stetson, at North Berwick, May 23, a clergyman; John F. De Costa, at Rumford Falls, June 3, a physician.
- 148 Forest. Gardner Cornforth, April 29; Edgar M. Jones, Jan. 9.
- 149 Doric. Elmer D. Sibley, at Bangor, Dec. 22; Henry Blackstone,* Jan. 11, buried at Blanchard, by Doric Lodge.
- 150 Rabboni. John Garner, March 7; Silas W. Cook, June; Fred E. Stuart, August; Moses Jacobs, August; Fred Kelley, Dec. 26.
- 151 Excelsior. Oscar Chapman, May 31; Austin E. Drinkwater, Aug. 11; Samuel W. Bullock, Aug. 25, drowned at Fort Point.
- 152 Crooked River. Augustus P. Trafton, Feb. 21, at Newark, N. J., aged 50, a charter member; George M. Chaplin, June 11, at Portland, aged 39 yrs. 1 month; Edward Bray, Dec. 14, at Harrison, aged 67 yrs. 1 month.
- 153 Delta. Spencer K. Parker, Jan. 14; James E. Farrington, Jan. 26.
- 154 Mystic Tie. Melvin L. Winter,* July 2.
- 155 Ancient York. Albert J. Small, June 26; George Turnbull, Jan. 31.
- 156 Wilton. John H. Card, Dec. 17, killed by accident in Boston, Mass.
- 157 Cambridge. B. M. Arno; Elisha Knowles; Nathaniel Hooper.
- 158 Anchor. Joseph W. Farrar, March 12, aged 84, the oldest mason in Bristol, having been made in Bristol Lodge in 1858; John Farrar, Jan. 12, aged 74, a charter member and a true and faithful mason.
- 159 Estoric. Thomas H. Donnell, Aug. 15, 1897; Edward E. Roberts, April 3, 1898, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Albert F. Reeves, July 15; Sullivan D. Wiggin, Jan. 20.
- 160 Parian. W. S. Allen, Aug. 1; A. B. Dearborn, Dec. 24; J. S. Burrill, Dec. 25.
- 165 Molunkus. George W. Webber, June 24.
- 166 Neguemkeag. William Bellmore, April 20, aged 79, a charter member.
- 168 Composite. Samuel O. Dinsmore, Dec. 14; Olo C. Weatherwax, died in the army, date unknown.

- 170 Caribou. C. B. Roberts, Oct. 12; S. W. Collins, Feb. 14.
- 171 Naskeag. Wilfred Freethey, May 8; Rodney S. Blake, Nov. 27, on board steamer Portland.
- 172 Pine Tree. Samuel W. Moore,* Aug. 30, a Past Master.
- 173 Pleiades. James A. Leighton, lost at sea in November gale; Aaron F. Ward, Jan. 16.
- 177 Rising Star. Leroy Blodgett,* Sept. 11; John P. Stover,* Dec. 22; Porter M. Staples, Jan. 25.
- 178 Ancient Brothers'. R. E. Chamberlin, August, George H. Bryant; Edwin T. Stevens, February.
- 179 Yorkshire. Charles W. Greenleaf,* Oct. 11.
- 182 Granite. Marshall N. Stearns, May 20.
- 183 Deering. Pelatiah H. Whitehouse,* March 4; William H. McDuffee, lost at sea in schooner David Torrey, about March 30; Oscar P. Rogers,* Nov. 4.
- 184 Naval. James E. Chase, March 30, aged 58; Ephraim C. Spinney, July 8, aged 77, charter member.
- 186 Warren Phillips. Charles A. Lord, Nov. 26.
- 188 Jonesport. Jerome W. Peasley, May 19.
- 190 Springvale. George W. Hatch,* March 24, a Past Master.
- 191 Davis. Hiram Hackett, June 1; George Z. Higgins, Dec. 11.
- 192 Winter Harbor. H. H. Sargent, March 30.
- 194 Euclid. Lewis M. Rogers, April 10.
- 196 Bay View. George W. Brightman,* Nov. 1.
- 199 Bingham. Omar Clark, Oct. 31.
- 200 Columbia. Charles Davison, Nov. 24; Oliver E. Mansell, Nov. 30.
- 203 Mount Olivet. Benjamin P. Upham, March 21, aged 86, an honorary member.

Grand Lodges and

GRAND LODGES.	GRAND MASTERS.
Alabama, Dec. 6, 1898,	B. Dudley Williams, Oxford.
Arizona, Nov. 15, 1898,	Anthony A. Johns, Prescott.
Arkansas, Nov. 15, 1898,	Robert M. Smith, Hot Springs.
Belgium,	Henri Bergé, Brussels.
British Columbia, June 23, 1898,	David Wilson, Victoria.
California, Oct. 11, 1898,	Frank M. Angellotti, San Rafael.
Canada, July 20, 1898,	E. T. Malone, Toronto.
Cuba, March 26, 1899,	Juan B. Hernandez Barriero, Havana.
Colorado, Sept. 20, 1898,	Horace T. DeLong, Grand Junction.
Connecticut, Jan. 18, 1899,	George G. McNall, Greenwich.
Delaware, Oct. 5, 1898,	J. Harmer Rile, Wilmington,
Dist. of Columbia, Nov. 9, 1898,	John H. Small, Jr., Washington.
England, 1899,	Prince of Wales.
Florida, Jan. 17, 1899.	Silas B. Wright, DeLand.
Georgia, Oct. 25, 1898,	W. A. Davis, Macon.
Idaho, Sept. 13, 1898,	George H. Storer, Idaho Falls.
Illinois, Oct. 4, 1898,	Edward Cook, Chicago.
Indiana, May 23, 1899,	William Geake, Fort Wayne.
Indian Territory, Aug. 9, 1898,	Henry C. Nash, Antlers.
Iowa, June 6, 1899,	Thomas Lambert, Sabula.
Ireland, March 1, 1899,	Duke of Abercorn, Dublin.
Kansas, Feb. 15, 1899,	Henry C. Loomis, Winfield.
Kentucky, Oct. 18, 1898,	James E. Wilhelm, Paducah.
Louisiana, Feb. 13, 1899,	A. C. Allen, Franklin.
Maine, May 2, 1899,	Winfield S. Choate, Augusta.
Manitoba, June 8, 1898,	George B. Murphy, Moosomin, Assa.
Maryland, Nov. 15, 1898.	Thomas J. Shryock, Baltimore.
Massachusetts, Dec. 27, 1898.	Charles C. Hutchinson, Lowell.
Michigan, Jan. 24, 1899,	Frank T. Lodge, Detroit.
Minnesota, Jan. 11, 1899,	Alonzo T. Stebbins, Rochester.
Mississippi, Feb. 9, 1899,	William Starling, Natchez.
Missouri, Oct. 18, 1898,	Ethelbert F. Allen, Kansas City.
Montana, Sept. 14, 1898,	Charles W. Pomeroy, Kalispell.
Nebraska, June 15, 1898.	Frank H. Young, Omaha.

Addresses of Grand Officers.

GRAND SECRETARIES.

Henry C. Armstrong, Montgomery.
 George J. Roskruege, Tucson.
 Fay Hempstead, Little Rock.
 Rian-Nedgrot, Brussels.
 Walter J. Quinlan, Nelson.
 George Johnson, San Francisco.
 John J. Mason, Hamilton, Ont.
 Aurelio Miranda, Havana.
 Ed. C. Parmelee, Denver.
 John H. Barlow, Hartford.
 Benjamin F. Bartram, Wilmington.
 William R. Singleton, Washington.
 Edward Letchworth, London.
 Wilber P. Webster, Jacksonville.
 William A. Wolihin, Macon.
 Theophilus W. Randall, Boise.
 Joseph H. C. Dill, Bloomington.
 William H. Smythe, Indianapolis.
 Joseph S. Murrow, Atoka.
 Theodore S. Parvin, Cedar Rapids.
 Henry E. Flavelle, Dublin.
 Albert K. Wilson, Topeka.
 Henry B. Grant, Louisville.
 Richard Lambert, New Orleans.
 Stephen Berry, Portland.
 William G. Scott, Winnepeg.
 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.

CHAIRMEN COM. CORRESPONDENCE.

William Y. Titcomb, Anniston.
 Morris Goldwater, Prescott.
 Frank Hill, Little Rock.
 None.
 W. A. D. Smith, New Westminster.
 William A. Davies, San Francisco.
 Henry Robertson, Collingwood.
 Francisco de P. Rodriguez, Havana.
 Lawrence N. Greenleaf, Denver.
 John H. Barlow, Hartford.
 Lewis Jackson, Wilmington.
 William R. Singleton, Washington.
 None.
 Samuel Paseo, Monticello.
 Whiteford S. Ramsay, Dublin.
 Fred G. Mock, Nampa.
 Joseph Robbins, Quincy.
 Nicholas R. Ruckle, Indianapolis.
 Joseph S. Murrow, Atoka.
 James C. W. Coxe, Washington.
 None.
 John C. Postlethwaite, Jewell City.
 James W. Staton, Brooksville.
 Herman C. Duncan, Alexandria.
 Josiah H. Drummond, Portland.
 William G. Scott, Winnepeg.
 Edward T. Schultz, Baltimore.
 None.
 Jefferson S. Conover, Coldwater.
 Irving Todd, Hastings.
 Andrew H. Barkley, Crawford.
 John D. Vincil, St. Louis.
 Cornelius Hedges, Helena.

GRAND LODGES.

GRAND MASTERS.

Nevada, June 14, 1898,
 New Brunswick, Aug. 23, 1898,
 New Hampshire, May 17, 1899,
 New Jersey, January 25, 1899,
 New Mexico, Oct. 3, 1898,
 New South Wales, June 8, 1898.
 New York, June 8, 1899,
 New Zealand, April 28, 1898,
 North Carolina, Jan. 10, 1899,
 North Dakota, June 21, 1898,
 Nova Scotia, June 8, 1898.
 Ohio, Oct. 19, 1898,
 Oklahoma, Feb. 14, 1899,
 Oregon, June 15, 1898,
 Pennsylvania, Dec. 27, 1898,
 Peru, 1898,
 P. E. Island, June 24, 1898,
 Quebec, Jan. 26, 1898,
 Rhode Island, May 15, 1899,
 Scotland, 1899,
 South Australia, April 20, 1898,
 South Carolina, Dec. 13, 1898,
 South Dakota, June 14, 1898,
 Tasmania, Jan. 28, 1897,
 Tennessee, Jan. 25, 1899,
 Texas, Dec. 6, 1898,
 Utah, Jan. 17, 1899,
 Vermont, June 15, 1898,
 Victoria, Dec. 21, 1898,
 Virginia, Dec. 6, 1898,
 Washington, June 14, 1898,
 West Virginia, Nov. 15, 1898,
 Wisconsin, June 14, 1898,
 Wyoming, Sept. 14, 1898,

Matthew Kyle, Virginia City.
 Thomas Walker, St. John.
 John McLane, Milford.
 Josiah W. Ewan, Mt. Holly.
 Robert C. Stewart, Socorro.
 Sir Joseph Palmer Abbott, Sydney.
 Wright D. Pownall,
 Richard John Seddon, Wellington.
 Richard J. Noble, Selma.
 George H. Keyes, Ellendale.
 Thomas B. Flint, Yarmouth.
 E. C. Gulliford, Cleveland.
 William L. Eagleton, Pawnee.
 John B. Cleland, Portland.
 Henry W. Williams, Philadelphia.
 J. Arturo Ego-Aguirre, Lima.
 Leonard Morris, Summerside.
 E. T. D. Chambers, Quebec.
 Milton Livsey, Providence.
 Lord Saltoun, Philorth, Fraserburgh.
 S. J. Way, Adelaide.
 Bartlett J. Witherspoon, Lancaster.
 Louis G. Levoy, Webster.
 Charles E. Davies, Hobart.
 Joseph H. Bullock, Paris.
 Samuel R. Hamilton, Farmersville.
 James D. Murdoch, Park City.
 Daniel N. Nicholson, Burlington.
 Lord Brassey, Melbourne.
 R. T. W. Duke, Jr., Charlottesville.
 William H. Upton, Seattle.
 Joseph Hall, Wheeling.
 James G. Monahan, Darlington.
 J. M. Rumsey, Jr., Rawlins.

GRAND SECRETARIES.

CHAIRMEN COM. CORRESPONDENCE.

Chauncey N. Noteware, Carson.	A. D. Bird, 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.	John B. Trivett, Sydney.
Edward M. L. Ehlers, New York.	Jesse B. Anthony, Utica.
Rev. Wm. Ronaldson, Christchurch.	C. A. C. Hardy, Christchurch.
John C. Drewry, Raleigh.	John A. Collins, Enfield.
Frank J. Thompson, Fargo.	Frank J. Thompson, Fargo.
Hon. William Ross, Halifax.	W. Ernest Thompson, Halifax.
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.	None.
Neil McKelvie, Summerside.	Neil McKelvie, Summerside.
John H. Isaacson, Montreal.	W. H. Whyte, Montreal.
Edwin Baker, Providence.	Henry W. Rugg, Providence.
D. Murray Lyon, Edinburg.	None.
J. H. Cunningham, Adelaide.	None.
Charles Inglesby, Charleston.	Charles Inglesby, Charleston.
George A. Pettigrew, Flandreau.	William Blatt, Yankton.
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.	J. W. Eggleston, Richmond.
Thomas M. Reed, Olympia.	Thomas M. Reed, Olympia.
George W. Atkinson, Charleston.	George W. Atkinson, Charleston.
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.
British Columbia—E. D. McLAREN, Vancouver.
California—NATHAN W. SPAULDING, Oakland.
Canada—COLIN W. POSTLETHWAITE, Toronto.
Colorado—EDWARD C. PARMELEE, Denver.
Cuba—AURELIO MIRANDA, Havana.
Connecticut—ARTHUR C. WHEELER, Norwalk.
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—JAMES R. SHEEHAN, Vinita.
Kansas—DAVID B. FULLER, Eureka.
Louisiana—SAMUEL M. TODD, New Orleans.
Manitoba—ROBERT STIRTON THORNTON, Deloraine.
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—JOHN STARR DEWOLF CHIPMAN, St. Stephen.
New Hampshire—EDWARD GUSTINE, Keene.
New Jersey—JAMES S. AITKIN, Trenton.
New Mexico—ALPHEUS A. KEEN, Albuquerque.
New York—WILLIAM H. SMITH, Schenectady.
New Zealand—JOHN JOYCE, Lyttleton.
North Carolina—DAVID BELL, Enfield.
North Dakota—ROBERT D. HOSKINS, Bismarck.
Nova Scotia—JOHN W. RUHLAND, Halifax.
Ohio—O. P. SPERRA, Ravenna.
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.
Tennessee—NATHAN S. WOODWARD, Knoxville.
Texas—T. W. HUDSON, Collinsville.
Utah—WILLIAM THOMAS DALBY, Salt Lake City.
Vermont—ALBRO F. NICHOLS, St. Johnsbury.
Victoria—BENJAMIN DOUGHTY SMITH, Melbourne.
Virginia—CHARLES A. NESBITT, Richmond.
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. SIMONSON, 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, Watton.
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 H. ROAK, Auburn.
Nova Scotia—JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Portland.
Ohio—WILLIAM J. BURNHAM, Lewiston.
Oregon—ERMON D. EASTMAN, Portland.
Peru—ALFRED S. KIMBALL, Norway.
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.
Tennessee—HUGH R. CHAPLIN, Bangor.
Texas—JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Portland.
Utah—HIRAM CHASE, Belfast.
Vermont—GEORGE R. SHAW, Portland.
Victoria—GOODWIN R. WILEY, Bethel.
Virginia—WINFIELD S. CHOATE, Augusta.
West Virginia—ALBERT M. PENLEY, Auburn.
Wisconsin—EDMUND B. MALLET, Freeport.

— OFFICERS —

OF THE

GRAND LODGE OF MAINE,

FROM ITS ORGANIZATION TO 1899.

GRAND MASTERS.

William King, 1820, '21.*	Hiram Chase, 1858, '59.
Simon Greenleaf, 1822, '23.*	Josiah H. Drummond, '60-'62.
William Swan, 1824, '25.*	William P. Preble, 1863-'65.
Charles Fox, 1826, '27.*	Timothy J. Murray, 1866-'68.*
Samuel Fessenden, 1828, '29.*	John H. Lynde, 1869-'71.*
Robert P. Dunlap, 1830, '31.*	David Cargill, 1872-'74.*
Nathaniel Coffin, 1832-'34.*	Albert Moore, 1875, '76.*
Renel Washburn, 1835-37.*	Edward P. Burnham, '77, '78.
Abner B. Thompson, '38-'40.*	Charles I. Collamore, 1879, '80.
Hezekiah Williams, 1841.*	Marquis F. King, 1881, '82.
Thomas W. Smith, 1842-'44.*	William R. G. Estes, 1883, '84.
John T. Paine, 1845, '46.*	Fessenden I. Day, 1885, '86.
Alexander H. Putney, '47, '48.*	Frank E. Sleeper, 1887, '88.
Joseph C. Stevens, 1849, '50.*	Albro E. Chase, 1889, '90.
John C. Humphreys, '51, '52.*	Henry R. Taylor, 1891, '92.
Freeman Bradford, 1853.*	Horace H. Burbank, 1893, '94.
Timothy Chase, 1854.*	Augustus B. Farnham, 1895, '96.
John Miller, 1855.*	Joseph A. Locke, 1897, '98.
Jabez True, 1856.*	Winfield S. Choate, 1899.
Robert P. Dunlap, 1857.*	

* Deceased.

DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

Simon Greenleaf, 1820, '21.*	William P. Preble, 1860-1862.
William Swan, 1822, '23.*	John J. Bell, 1863.*
Charles Fox, 1824, '25.*	Timothy J. Murray, 1864, '65.*
Samuel Fessenden, 1826, '27.*	John H. Lynde, 1866-'68.*
Peleg Sprague, 1828-'30.*	David Cargill, 1869-'71.*
Nathaniel Coffin, 1831.*	Albert Moore, 1872-'74.*
Amos Nourse, 1832.*	Edward P. Burnham, '75, '76.
Reuel Washburn, 1833, '34.*	Charles I. Collamore, 1877, '78.
David C. Magoun, 1835-'37.*	Marquis F. King, 1879, '80.
Asaph R. Nichols, 1838-'43.*	William R. G. Estes, 1881, '82.
James L. Child, 1844.*	Fessenden I. Day, 1883, '84.
Asaph R. Nichols, 1845.*	Frank E. Sleeper, 1885, '86.
Elisha Harding, 1846.*	Albro E. Chase, 1887, '88.
Samuel L. Valentine, '47, '48.*	Henry R. Taylor, 1889, '90.
John C. Humphreys, '49, '50.*	Horace H. Burbank, 1891, '92.
Freeman Bradford, 1851, '52.*	Augustus B. Farnham, '93, '94.
Timothy Chase, 1853.*	Joseph A. Locke, 1895, '96.
Jabez True, 1854, 1855.*	Winfield S. Choate, 1897, '98.
Hiram Chase, 1856, '57.	Alfred S. Kimball, 1899.
Josiah H. Drummond, '58, '59.	

SENIOR GRAND WARDENS.

William Swan, 1820, 1821.*	Freeman Bradford, 1849, '50.*
Charles Fox, 1822, 1823.*	Timothy Chase, 1851, 1852.*
Samuel Fessenden, 1824, '25.*	Jabez True, 1853.*
George Thacher, Jr., '26, '27.*	Ezra B. French, 1854, 1855.*
Robert P. Dunlap, 1828, '29.*	Isaac Downing, 1856.*
Amos Nourse, 1830, 1831.*	William Allen, 1857.*
John L. Megquier, 1832-'34.*	Gustavus F. Sargent, 1858, '59.
Joel Miller, 1835-'37.*	John J. Bell, 1860, 1861.*
Thomas W. Smith, 1838-'41.*	David Bugbee, 1862.
John T. Paine, 1842-1844.*	Edmund B. Hinkley, 1863.*
Alexander H. Putney, '45, '46.*	Francis L. Talbot, 1864, 1865.*
John C. Humphreys, '47, '48.*	David Cargill, 1866-1868.*

Thaddeus R. Simonton, '69,'70.	Horace H. Burbank, 1887.
Albert Moore, 1871.*	Leander M. Kenniston, 1888.
Edward P. Burnham, 1872-74.	Manly G. Trask, 1889.
William O. Poor, 1875.*	Daniel P. Boynton, 1890.
Charles I. Collamore, 1876.	George R. Shaw, 1891.
Marquis F. King, 1877, 1878.	Augustus B. Farnham, 1892.
Sunmer J. Chadbourne, 1879.	Joseph A. Locke, 1893.
William R. G. Estes, 1880.	Herbert Harris, 1894.
John B. Redman, 1881.	Winfield S. Choate, 1895.
Arlington B. Marston, 1882.*	Albert M. Penley, 1896.
William H. Smith, 1883.*	Alfred S. Kimball, 1897.
Frank E. Sleeper, 1884.	Elmer P. Spofford, 1898.
Joseph M. Hayes, 1885.	William J. Burnham, 1899.
Albro E. Chase, 1886.	

JUNIOR GRAND WARDENS.

Nathaniel Coffin, 1820, 1821.*	William Kimball, 1855.*
Josiah W. Mitchell, 1822.*	William Allen, 1856.*
Samuel Fessenden, 1823.*	John Williams, 1857.*
George Thacher, Jr., '24, '25.*	Stephen B. Dockman, 1858.*
Robert P. Dunlap, 1826, 1827.*	Oliver Gerrish, 1859.*
Amos Nourse, 1828, 1829.*	Joseph Covell, 1860.*
Reuben Nason, 1830, 1831.*	Francis J. Day, 1861.*
David C. Magoun, 1832-'34.*	T. K. Osgood, 1862.*
Abner B. Thompson, '35-'37.*	F. Loring Talbot, 1863.*
Stephen Webber, 1838-'40.*	John H. Lynde, 1864, 1865.*
John T. Paine, 1841.*	Thaddeus R. Simonton, '66-'68.
Alexander H. Putney, '42-'44.*	John W. Ballou, 1869, 1870.
John C. Humphreys, '45, '46.*	Henry H. Dickey, 1871.*
Frye Hall, 1847.*	William O. Poor, 1872-1874.*
Joseph C. Stevens, 1848.*	Charles I. Collamore, 1875.
Stephen Webber, 1849.*	A. M. Wetherbee, 1876.
Timothy Chase, 1850.*	Sunmer J. Chadbourne, '77, '78.
William Somerby, 1851, '52.*	Edwin Howard Vose, 1879.
Thomas B. Johnston, '53, '54.*	Archie L. Talbot, 1880.

Fessenden I. Day, 1881.	Samuel L. Miller, 1891.
Charles W. Haney, 1882.*	Howard D. Smith, 1892.
Goodwin R. Wiley, 1883.	Wm. Freeman Lord, 1893.
Augustus Bailey, 1884.	Gustavus H. Cargill, 1894.
Henry R. Taylor, 1885.	Moses Tait, 1895.
Benjamin Ames, 1886.	Benjamin L. Hadley, 1896.
Wilford J. Fisher, 1887.	Enoch O. Greenleaf, 1897.
Samuel G. Davis, 1888.	Millard M. Caswell, 1898.
Algernon M. Roak, 1889.	Franklin R. Redlon, 1899.
E. B. Mallet, Jr., 1890.	

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 '99.

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-'99.
Charles Fox, 1845.*	

* Recapitulation---1899. *

Lodges enrolled,	203
" extinct,	8
" working,	195
" under dispensation,	0
" chartered at communication 1899,	0
" represented at communication 1899,	181
" " by proxy exclusively,	69
Number of representatives,	247
Lodges to make returns,	195
Making returns in time,	195
Initiated,	710
Raised,	702
Affiliated,	95
Re-instated,	70
Corrections,	15
Total increase,	—882
Dimitted,	200
Died,	419
Suspended for unmasonic conduct,	1
Expelled,	2
Lost membership by non-payment of dues,	286
Total decrease,	—908
Net decrease,	26
Members, March 1, 1899,	22,165
Grand Lodge Receipts,	\$7,950.34
" " Disbursements,	\$7,104.02
Amount of Charity Fund,	\$33,649.43

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② Appendix ②

REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE.

→ 1898 ←

*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 1898.

ALABAMA, 1897.

The Grand Master (JAMES A. BILBRO) in his address calls attention to the "increasing assaults" upon the Bible, and urges his brethren to "cling to our Bible with pure and steady devotion, and in our lives so exemplify its truth, that our daily testimony as to its divine authenticity and power will be beyond the ability of men to impeach."

He had addressed a letter to each of the lodges, asking questions, evidently relating to their moral condition. He had received answers from about half of them, and was able to say that a large majority of those heard from were in a very gratifying condition in respect to the inquiries made. But he had reason to believe that other lodges were amiss in enforcing proper discipline in respect to profanity and drunkenness.

He announces that a contract had been made for the erection of the Masonic Temple for the Grand Lodge in the City of Montgomery. We find from the report of a committee that the lot cost \$9,750, and the contract price of the Temple was \$28,000. As we understand it, the Grand Lodge had funds enough on hand to complete the Temple, except about \$10,000,

APP. 1 G. L.

which amount, or as much of it as might be needed, authority was given to borrow upon notes or bonds to be used by the Grand Lodge, and for the payment of which the faith of the Grand Lodge was pledged.

He had rendered fifty-nine decisions, and the Committee on Jurisprudence, wisely as we think, asked to be excused from reporting upon them at that communication and desired permission to do so at the next communication, which request the Grand Lodge granted.

Quite a number of the decisions are of a very important character, and on that account we propose to notice some of them.

1. He decided that the Grand Lodge has no right to make any suggestions as to the qualifications for membership in the Order known as the Eastern Star, and we hazard little in saying that the committee will agree with him.

2. He apparently states the provision of the Constitution of that Grand Lodge in relation to a candidate rejected in another jurisdiction and coming to reside afterwards in that state. After residing there one year, he may apply to the lodge but is required to state the fact of his rejection, and it is made the duty of the lodge before acting upon the petition, to correspond with the rejecting lodge to ascertain if any good and sufficient reason is known to that lodge why he should not be made a mason. If that lodge fails to reply, or after hearing from that lodge, the lodge, to which application is made, may proceed to dispose of the petition in precisely the same manner as if the candidate had never been rejected, and the Grand Master adds that if such "applicant should be duly elected and thereafter made a mason such making would be entirely legal." Considering that in a large number of jurisdictions, the contrary is held, and that a candidate so made would not be recognized as a mason, we think good faith requires that the candidate should be so informed.

3. He holds that if a candidate has received one or more degrees in another jurisdiction, he can receive the other degrees in Alabama only by a waiver of the jurisdiction by the foreign lodge and an election as in other cases; and that if such foreign lodge waives jurisdiction only upon condition that the fees shall be paid to it, that condition is utterly void and may be disregarded. We do not agree with this last conclusion, but hold that such waiver is entirely void.

4. Two decisions read together seem to us to be inconsistent, and one or the other of them wrong. He decided that in case of a member suspended for non-payment of dues, during such suspension the dues continue to accrue, but that no dues are to be paid to the Grand Lodge on account of such member. It seems to us that if he is enough of a member to be liable to dues, he is also enough of a member to make his lodge liable to the Grand Lodge for dues; but we do not think he is enough of a member for either.

5. He decided that a by-law of a lodge providing for filling the vacancy in any lodge office, except the first three, by election, is valid.

6. In that jurisdiction, as in ours, a lodge has a right to exclude a visiting brother at any time when his presence disturbs the peace and harmony of the lodge; and a Master's Lodge may be opened without opening a lodge on the lower degrees.

7. He decided in effect that a candidate is physically eligible, who does not have any infirmity which renders him "incapable of practicing and teaching our ritual."

8. He decides that a brother, who is in prison, may be tried for un-masonic conduct, and that in the case of a brother charged with a crime, it is not necessary to wait for the action of the courts before proceeding to try him by the lodge.

9. He holds that a lodge should take notice of such personal differences among its members as are calculated to mar the peace and harmony of the lodge, well adding, "nothing is so much calculated to impair the influence of the lodge for good as broils among its members."

10. We find that apparently in that jurisdiction a candidate may petition the lodge of his choice. But in such case, it is the duty of such lodge to write to the lodge nearest his residence, inquiring if they have ever refused him admission, or if they know of any just and sufficient reason why he should not be made a mason. Upon receiving an answer, whatever may be the nature of it, the lodge may proceed, unless the applicant had been rejected by the lodge of his residence. The reason given for the latter, is that if he had been rejected by the lodge of his residence, he cannot be made a mason without the consent of that lodge. It thus seems that the law of Alabama makes one rule for candidates rejected by its own lodges, and another rule for candidates rejected by a lodge in another jurisdiction.

11. One case is given by him, which illustrates in a painful degree the prevailing want of care in suspending brethren for non-payment of dues. A brother, for forty years a consistent member of the lodge, and, though living twenty miles from it, very punctual in attendance upon its communications, was suspended for non-payment of dues, and he died within a short time, under this suspension. It then transpired that poverty was the cause of his non-payment of dues and that illness had prevented his attendance upon the lodge for many months. The Grand Master held that after the brother's burial, the lodge might hold a suitable service in its hall and at the grave, and he went further, and decided that if the brother did not know he was in arrears for a time that would justify his suspension, he should have been buried with masonic honors, if he had requested it.

How a lodge can go back of a suspension for any cause and decide that the brother was innocent, and bury him with masonic honors, passes our

comprehension, and while we commend the spirit of the Grand Master in making this decision, we must dissent from its correctness. However, we cannot tell what we would have done if we had been in the Grand Master's place. We are not sure that we would not have advised the lodge to remit the dues and restore the brother to good standing, although he was dead, and then bury him with masonic honors. We believe that this is but one of many cases in which brethren have been suspended for the non-payment of dues, in utter violation—unconscious violation, we admit—of the fundamental principles and teachings of Freemasonry. It is a startling admonition to lodges to investigate every case carefully, give a brother the full benefit of any doubt, and not deprive him of his masonic standing, unless it appears affirmatively and clearly, that he is guilty of a wilful (or its equivalent) violation of our laws.

Of course, such a case cannot happen in Maine, where suspension from, or deprivation of, membership is the only penalty for non-payment of dues. Here the member's *masonic rights* are not taken away, and if the lodge should be satisfied that injustice, from a masonic standpoint, had been done, it would bury the brother with masonic honors, as it would have the lawful power to do.

The following is new to us:

12. "The proper masonic badge of mourning is a piece of blue ribbon partly covered by a piece of black ribbon narrower than the blue, so that both edges of the blue may be seen, and is worn on the left lappel of the coat or vest."

We confess, however, that it really seems to us quite appropriate: we should be glad to learn how long and how extensive a usage sanctions it.

He devotes quite a number of pages to a most eloquent appeal for the erection of a Masonic Home. In order to establish a basis for his appeal, he had written to all the lodges in the jurisdiction, with the object of ascertaining the number of indigent masons, widows and orphans in the jurisdiction who were needing assistance. He received a reply from two hundred and eighteen out of the three hundred and ninety. The result was that there were at least twenty Master Masons, fifty widows and one hundred orphans of deceased Master Masons in circumstances of need, who are not being properly supported by the lodges, nor the orphan children educated, because the brethren are not financially able to do the work as it ought to be done. However, he did not think it was advisable to take any other measures than to commence the creation of a fund for the purpose, and in accordance with his recommendation the Grand Lodge voted unanimously that a box should be placed upon the altar of the Grand Lodge and upon that of each subordinate lodge at every meeting, and the brethren requested to deposit such sum in it as they felt able to do, and that the sum should be

kept as a separate fund, transmitted to the Grand Treasurer, and kept by him in a special fund for the purpose of establishing a Masonic Home "at such times and under such regulations" as the Grand Lodge should thereafter determine.

An amendment to the Constitution was also proposed, placing the dues at one dollar, one-half of which should be added to the fund for the Masonic Home.

In passing, we note that we think we have discovered the reason why so many of the lodges fail to make returns in season to be reported at Grand Lodge. This amendment provides that the returns shall be made *before or on the first day of the session* of the Grand Lodge. We are surprised that our Alabama brethren have not already learned that by requiring the returns to be made in advance of the Grand Lodge at least a month, other Grand Lodges have succeeded in obtaining returns from all or most all of their lodges.

A communication was received from the Grand Orient of Italy in relation to the anti-masonic Congress, held at Trento in February, 1896, in which it was alleged that this Congress was held with the concurrence and favor of the Pope. BRO. PILLANS made a report in reference to this communication from which we take the following, in which our distinguished brother takes, according to our judgment, the precisely correct position, and states it in terms worthy to be written on the walls of every lodge room in the world:

"Masonry, as we understand it, seeks no man. It must be sought. Any effort at proselyting is strictly forbidden, and the candidate for its benefits, must apply of his 'own free will and accord.' He must be one of good moral character, charitably disposed, and the slave of no one. Masonry teaches the equality of all men, but insists upon a complete faith in the Supreme Being. It tolerates no religious tests, makes no enquiry into religious faiths, nor allows any meddling with politics to disturb the harmony of the lodge. It teaches charity to all mankind, and that its votaries should seek that which is good, avoiding evil, that each one may be true to his faith, to his neighbor, to himself and to his country. In short it endeavors to impress upon its members the injunction so oft repeated, but perhaps so little heeded, 'Love ye one another.'

"With the above as our guide we cannot enter into any combination, as against those who malign us. To these things we are accustomed."

* * * * *

"Masonry has for centuries pursued the even tenor of her way, and although, wronged by malice, denounced by bigots, tabooed by politics, she still holds that even tenor, nor is her influence on civilization less to-day, nor her members smaller than they were centuries ago. Let us then remain steadfast, holding fast to that which is good, and having an abiding faith in the goodness and mercies of God, hope that He will ere very long, give entire 'peace on earth and good will to man,' and continue to dispense that charity which we teach, and we may laugh at the storms that may assail us, confident as to the end.

"In reference to the acts of the Congress, most sincerely and reverently do

we repeat the words of our Savior while on the cross where He prayed, 'Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.'"

The following resolution in regard to the burial service was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That the decision of the M. W. Grand Master on the Burial Service be so modified that, in cases where it is reasonably impracticable and inconvenient to perform such service at the time of interment of a deceased brother, it may be done as soon thereafter as practicable; but that this resolution shall not warrant the wilful or careless neglect of performing the service at the time of the burial."

We have the impression that there has been a decision by our own Grand Lodge somewhat conflicting with this resolution.

During the session the corner stone of the new Temple was laid and P. G. M. GEORGE P. HARRISON delivered a historical address which we are sorry to say is not published in the Proceedings.

Quite a number of cases of discipline came before the committee, and we are sorry to see that in nearly all of them there were such defects that the proceedings were set aside. In most of the cases that course seems necessary, but in one or two of them we think that there was an undue degree of strictness required, and that the decision of the lodge might have been sustained on the ground that the respondent could not have been misled or injured by the want of technicality in the charges and specifications. It may be that the Code establishes a more precise method than we think is necessary. In one case the accused was charged with being more intimate with a Master Mason's daughter than becomes a mason. The committee truly say the word "intimacy" of itself implies nothing improper, but we submit that when the charge is of intimacy *unbecoming a mason*, a very material addition is made to it.

The committee, to which was referred last year the Wisconsin proposition, reported that after having given the proposed plan careful consideration they were constrained to recommend non-concurrence therein, and the report was adopted.

BRO. WILLIAM H. DINGLEY (a native of Maine and a "friend and companion of our youth") as Registrar, reported that he had continued the registry during the year, and the number of names already entered, was nearly 25,000. He also prepared a register of all the lodges that have existed in the state, which is printed in the Proceedings—an exceedingly valuable historical document.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 150) was presented, as it has been for more than thirty years, by our beloved and honored brother, PALMER J. PILLANS. It is usually said that as a man grows older he is apt to grow opinionated; but Bro. P., as he grows in years, seems to us to grow more and more in the spirit of Masonry, especially in the discussion of the views of brethren who hold views differing from his own.

We have one fault to find with his printer; the whole report, extracts and original matter, is printed alike, the extracts distinguished only by quotation marks, which are not always there. This may seem a small matter, but it is a very serious one, and this method of printing is a very serious draw back upon our brother's report, because it is made difficult to distinguish what he writes from what he quotes from others.

He is strongly opposed to the "written or printed ritual"; whether he means by those terms what we find some other brethren mean, or whether he includes in them the cipher we are not able to determine. As the latter has existed as long as the ritual has existed, and was used by Webb and others in his day, we do not so fully agree with him as we do if he refers to what his words seem to imply.

He is also opposed to affiliation fees; but thinks that a judicial use of a part of the funds of a lodge for social purposes is not an unpardonable offence.

His kind words of us, and his kinder wishes for us, coming from one who has "traveled the same rugged path and almost faltered by the way," are highly appreciated and will be always remembered.

ARKANSAS, 1897.

The Grand Master (C. C. AYERS) announces the death of Past Grand Master JAMES M. HARKEY, who had served the Grand Lodge long and faithfully; constant in his attendance upon its meetings and doing arduous service on committees; earnest and sincere in expressing his views, he had great influence in the management of the affairs of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master announced quite a number of decisions: one which was confirmed by the Grand Lodge, holds that the election to office of a brother in arrears for dues, although, as we understand it, not judicially declared by the Grand Lodge, is void.

The discipline of a member of an Arkansas lodge by a lodge in another jurisdiction was sustained; the Grand Lodge holding that the brother's redress is by appeal to the Grand Lodge of the jurisdiction in which he was convicted.

It was held that evidence of the use of vile and slanderous language against a brother, is not admissible at the trial on charges for an assault, except that the evidence may be given in mitigation of the punishment.

The decision evidently arose in a case in which a Past Grand Master was expelled by his lodge for an aggravated assault upon a brother mason. The Grand Lodge reduced the punishment from expulsion to suspension for three years, giving the lodge the power to restore within less time if it should see fit to do so. The assault was caused by repeated verbal attacks

upon the brother, of a very aggravating character to a man in his position. The imperfection of human law is such that it afforded the injured brother no adequate remedy, and thereupon he took the law into his own hands and inflicted the punishment which he deemed the offence deserved. Of course this was unlawful and unmasonic. He should have, at any rate, appealed to the lodge to punish the brother, and yet *men* are so human, and *masons* as well, that it is not very surprising that the injured brother should take the course which he did take.

In examining the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters we were very sorry to find that our old friend and beloved brother, GEORGE A. DAN-NELLY, had been seriously ill; but we are glad to find that he was present at the Grand Lodge, taking part with his usual zeal and earnestness.

We very greatly regret to find that the expectations of the Grand Lodge in relation to the Temple have not been fulfilled, and that it has become a very serious burden to the Grand Lodge, whose income has not been sufficient to pay the expenses and the interest upon the debt. Unfortunately the bonds are not held at home by members of the craft, but are held in New York, and immediately upon the default of the payment of interest, proceedings were commenced to foreclose the mortgage, and had it not been that three brethren came forward and advanced the money, the whole property would have been sold, and of course at an enormous sacrifice. We are not quite able to determine whether the members of the Grand Lodge gave up their mileage and per diem at that session or not. The resolution to appropriate \$3,000 for that purpose was rejected, and we trust it means that the \$3,000 was saved in the treasury to be appropriated upon the Temple debt.

Two brethren were tried by the Grand Lodge and convicted of engendering strife and insubordination and contempt of the Grand Lodge among the members of the lodge, to which they belonged, and were suspended.

We find that in these later days masons aggrieved by the action of masonic bodies are prone to discuss them out of those bodies, and to criticise sharply the proceedings, and even to go into the public newspapers with their grievances, especially those which are termed "masonic newspapers." All this is in violation of the usage and the law of Masonry, and while we regret that any cause for it should have arisen in Arkansas, we are glad that the Grand Lodge appreciated the situation and vindicated its dignity and its laws.

The Grand Lodge owns a scholarship in Galloway College and elected a young lady to it; the committee appointed to notify her, before the Grand Lodge was opened, escorted her into the hall accompanied by her mother and friends, and presented her to the Grand Lodge. She expressed her thanks "in a few well chosen words delivered with deep emotion." Re-

marks were made by the Grand Master and other brethren, and the Grand Secretary says that the occasion was a touching and interesting one. After the visitors had withdrawn the Grand Lodge resumed labor.

The Grand Lecturer introduced a resolution providing that when a brother should have received the M. M. degree he should not be permitted to vote, hold office in, or be dimitted from, such lodge until he should attain a satisfactory proficiency, and be examined in open lodge at a stated meeting. But the Grand Lodge wisely rejected it.

Upon the report of the committee, the Grand Lodge directed that whenever the Grand Master should make a decision or ruling such as would come before the committee he should transmit a copy thereof to the Masonic Trowel for publication, for the information of the committee. We do not think this is a wise resolution; very many others beside the committee will read the decision, and will assume that it is law, and if it should be disapproved, as we note quite a number of the decisions were, we think it would tend to confusion. In these days of typewriting it would be an easy matter for the Grand Master to put a copy of each decision in the hands of the members of the committee, without publishing them in a newspaper, a course which we think eminently wise and proper.

The Grand Lodge also stated the masonic law as to charity in very plain terms, viz: "It is the duty of every lodge and every mason to relieve the destitute widow and orphans, as far as able, and each lodge must judge for itself of its ability, and of the necessities of the claimant."

Upon the report of the Committee on Correspondence the Gran Dieta of Mexico was recognized.

The Grand Lodge concurred in an amendment providing that it should hold biennial communications until the Temple debt is paid; as we understand it, however, this requires another vote at the 1898 communication before it becomes a part of the Constitution. We had hoped that the Grand Lodge would be able to free itself from the Temple debt without resorting to this measure, but it is the best judge of what can be done under the circumstances, and certainly biennial sessions would be a much less evil than to be overwhelmed continually with a heavy debt, and in addition lose its Temple.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 86) was presented by Bro. A. B. GRACE, who undertook to write it at a very late date, and of course was greatly hurried, but in reading his report one would never suspect it.

He says he believes, but may be mistaken, that it is one of the landmarks of Masonry that a profane must petition the lodge in whose territorial jurisdiction he resides. He *is* mistaken in believing it to be a landmark, for it is an outgrowth of the doctrine of territorial jurisdiction, and that doctrine is not old enough to be a landmark, and moreover, the doctrine has not

been universally adopted even in this country. The whole matter is one for the legislation of Grand Lodges, and while the rule, which he advocates, is quite universal, it is not wholly so. It is a rule, not made for *lodges* but for the *fraternity*, upon the presumption that a man is best known in the lodge nearest to which he lives; and the idea that lodges have any inherent rights in the matter was never entertained, until comparatively recently, although it is of course a natural result of the rule. Lodges naturally come to think that it was made for their benefit *as against other lodges*, and one evil result has followed that the question of who shall receive the fee, has influenced and sometimes controlled in cases of a petition for a waiver, and lodges have gone so far as to make the payment of the fees a condition of the waiver, a thing that ought never to be permitted.

He has sound views in relation to the inspection of the charter by a visitor, concerning which so much nonsense has been written. Of course as a brother has not an absolute right to visit a lodge, he has no right to *demand* the inspection of the charter, but as masonic law accords to him the right to *ask* to visit a lodge it necessarily accords to him the right to *ask* to see the charter. It has sometimes been said that a visitor gains no information by seeing the charter; but this is not true in any sense, and is no reason at all for refusing the visitor the right to inspect it.

Under Canada he well says that the multiplication of weak lodges is a growing evil; it is a fact that the granting of a charter in the older jurisdictions is a matter of more importance and solemnity even, than in the newer jurisdictions where it seems that the granting of a charter or the revoking of one is considered a matter of no particular consequence.

He writes well in relation to the doctrine of physical qualifications, and so exactly states our views in forcible language, that we quote what he says:

“The writer has a profound respect and veneration for laws founded on reason, consecrated by age and representing the accumulated wisdom and experience of generations. He is also fully aware of the danger he incurs of being attacked on all sides by those conservative ‘Bourbons’ who ‘forget nothing and learn nothing’; who refuse to recognize the fact that the ‘world do move.’ Yet, in the face of all this, he ventures to assert that this ‘perfect man’ idea is being carried to a *reductio ad absurdum*. Common law is common sense, and there is a maxim of the common law to the effect that ‘when the reason for a rule ceases, the rule itself ceases also.’ There is a reason why a man who has lost an arm or a leg should not be made a mason. But there is absolutely none why a man otherwise—that is, morally and intellectually—qualified should be denied admission into our ranks because he is ‘shy’ a little finger, a great toe, or even a pair of ears. Just as well to refuse him because he is bald-headed or suffers from insomnia or rheumatism. In neither case is he a ‘perfect youth.’ In fact there never was but one perfect Man on earth. When ‘perfect’ comes to be understood to mean ‘qualified to comply with all the requirements of Freemasonry’ we shall enter upon an era of common sense and cease clinging to a shadow after the substance has departed.”

The only suggestion is, that his statement that "common law is common sense," while theoretically true, is practically difficult in its application because the question at once arises "whose common sense"? For it is every one's experience that what is common sense to one is arrant nonsense to another.

What he has written in relation to Sunday we do not quite agree in. When the laws of any state set apart a day as Sunday, for that reason, as good citizens, which masons ought always to be, we are bound to recognize the law: and we go further and hold that in communities in which the overwhelming sentiment is to observe Sunday, masons ought not to run counter to that sentiment. While we believe in the highest degree of toleration, we also hold that true toleration is not to offend unnecessarily the conscientious scruples of our neighbors, unless we are obliged to do so, because those scruples are in opposition to the views and beliefs of the mass of the community.

Under Idaho he discusses a decision that we must have overlooked, otherwise we should have joined with him in his "earnest dissent and protest." He understands the decision to have been made that the Master of the lodge may exclude any member upon the objection of another member. This law applies to *visitors*, and it seems as if our good brother must be mistaken in the import of the decision. However, our eyes are not so keen as they once were, and it is quite likely that we did not observe it. He well says, "subject to the sole condition that the brother deport himself in a decent and orderly manner, and conform to the usages of Masonry, we cannot comprehend where any Master would find authority for excluding him from his lodge in the interest of harmony."

He goes further than we can in relation to what makes a lodge. We agree that three Master Masons make a *ritualistic* lodge; but as the Grand Lodge creates the *business* lodge we hold that it may increase the requirements as to the number necessary to be present in order to do business. We agree that a lodge for ritualistic purposes cannot be opened unless at least three are present, and we think the true meaning of the ritual is *not less than three*, and that the limitation is in one direction only.

We find that in his section the Wardens, as well as the Master, have gavels. This is new to us: it seems to take away all the force of a part of the installation service of the Master. In "these parts," as long as our memory runs back, Wardens have truncheons—but never a gavel, unless presiding in the East.

The following is exceedingly timely:

"As we see it, lodges are simply the machinery by which a man is made a mason. He thereby becomes a member of the fraternity wheresoever dispersed about the habitable globe, and entitled to relief at the hands of any and every mason on the face of the earth. He is not simply a member of a certain lodge; he is one of a craft which is universal, and whose fraternal

charity knows no bounds and is not doled out with stinted hand upon any hope of 're-imburement.' Frauds there are and always have been since the days of Esau, and impostors there will always be, but, men and brethren, let us add no new conditions to our obligation of brotherly love and relief. Finding *him* worthy, let us freely extend aid so far as our brother's necessities may require and our ability permit; and this without conditions. Otherwise, to put it in plain English, we shall be compelled to lie every time we tell why it was that we sought to receive the honors of a Master Mason."

The following are his views upon a question, which we have frequently discussed:

"A man of confessedly high character and guilty of no wrong receives the degrees in a 'legally constituted and duly opened lodge of Master Masons,' and is then told that he is not a mason, but a profane! Pardon us for saying: Bosh! Common sense is common law in Masonry as everywhere else. In the civil courts the rule is long since settled, beyond all question, that where a court has jurisdiction of the subject-matter and of the parties in a controversy before it, its judgment, however erroneous in form or procedure, is conclusive on all parties to it until attacked and set aside, or reversed in a direct proceeding instituted for that purpose. It cannot be collaterally questioned. So in this case. The lodge undoubtedly has jurisdiction and power to make Master Masons. Mr. Absalom resided within its territorial jurisdiction and possessed all the necessary personal qualifications. The lodge *did* make, and declare him to be a Master Mason, in due form. Now, in a collateral proceeding, to which Bro. Absalom is not a party, and in which he has no right or opportunity to be heard and defend himself, the action of the lodge is declared void for a mere error in procedure, and Bro. Absalom is deprived of his rights and privileges as a mason. We cannot yield assent to any such proposition, for we believe it to be unsupported by law, and unfounded in principle. The lodge may deserve punishment for *its* conduct, but Bro. Absalom has acquired rights which even a Grand Master cannot arbitrarily take away."

Whether we should apply it in the case to which he applies it, we have not inquired: we may differ as to whether the lodge had jurisdiction or not. But the doctrine stated is sound; not because it is law in the civil courts, (for "Freemasonry is a law unto itself,") but because it is a rule growing out of "the eternal fitness of things."

We note in the Proceedings a circular from the Grand Master, dated January 10, 1898, withdrawing recognition of the Grand Lodge of Peru, and forbidding masonic intercourse with its adherents.

BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1897.

The Grand Master (ALEXANDER CHARLESON) delivered a brief address. He announced the deaths of two very prominent members of the Grand Lodge, HENRY F. HUISTERMAN, Past Grand Treasurer, and Past Grand Master MARCUS WOLFE, Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence. Bro. WOLFE had already given his Grand Lodge a high reputation in this department of masonic labor.

Of the condition of the craft the Grand Master says:

“Nothing has happened to mar the goodfellowship and brotherly love which should always characterize our beloved Order. Harmony prevails in every section of our jurisdiction.”

* * * * *

“The condition of the several lodges throughout the whole jurisdiction, as far as I can learn, is peaceful, prosperous and progressive.”

He decided that the test of physical qualification is the capability of “receiving and imparting the Ritual of Masonry.”

In that jurisdiction a candidate does not become a member of the lodge by receiving the third degree, and cannot be until he has made suitable proficiency and signed the by-laws. There is no limit of the time in which that must be done, and in the interim the party is not liable for dues. He wisely recommended a change, but the Grand Lodge did not adopt the proposed amendment, and wisely, too, as it seems to us, for, if we understand it, the proposition was to make the party enough of a member to pay dues, but not enough of a member for any other purpose! In Maine, formerly no candidate raised in the lodge became a member without an election as such; afterwards he could become a member only by signing the by-laws within a given time; afterwards our law was changed, and now any one who receives the M. M. degree in a lodge thereby becomes a member; we favored the change, and experience under the new law abundantly satisfies us that the present law is the wisest.

The Grand Master makes the following announcement, so creditable to the craft in that jurisdiction:

“I requested the V. W. Grand Secretary to issue a circular to the lodges requesting them to contribute a small sum of money towards the relief of the sufferers caused by the failure of the crops in India; and, as a result of that circular, the Grand Secretary reports having received and forwarded three hundred and fourteen dollars; and I take this opportunity of thanking the several lodges for their prompt response to the call for aid to suffering humanity.”

The reports of the Deputy Grand Master, and of the District Deputies, show that the lodges have had vigilant and able supervision, and that the lodges generally are doing good work, are managing their affairs wisely, and enjoying a good degree of prosperity. To this there was one exception; the District Deputy of one district, apparently following the example of his immediate predecessors, made no report, and apparently had made no visits.

The Grand Secretary well asks:

“May it not be possible that the great lack of zeal on the part of these officials (with one exception) to fulfill their duties is beginning to be felt and imitated by the lodges supposed to be under their care?”

He adds:

“This district has now five lodges, and had, until the creation of No. 6 District, eight lodges within its limits. From personal visits to a majority

of these lodges, I can say that they require supervision and advice in the execution of their work—something which they themselves say has not been given, and which at all times they are anxious to obtain. I would, therefore, respectfully recommend that if no brother can be found in the district who will perform these duties, an officer of the Grand Lodge be sent to give these lodges instruction, and properly install their officers."

The Grand Master was authorized to send a special Deputy to visit these lodges as many times as he deemed wise, and at the expense of the Grand Lodge.

One of the Deputies says:

"While visiting Victoria-Columbia Lodge on August 6th, I became aware of the fact that a visitor, who was without any accrediting papers, had been that evening imprudently vouched for by the examining committee. The wisdom of demanding from each intending visitor some documentary evidence to prove that he has been initiated in a regular lodge and is in good standing was clearly established by the nature of the reply received from the lodge from which the visitor in question hailed. I was informed under seal, that this brother had, on December 11, 1889, been suspended for N. P. D. The importance of this matter led me to issue a circular to each Worshipful Master, urging that even greater care than formerly be exercised in the admission of visitors for whom no brother can vouch, and who must therefore be examined. Mention was also made of the fact that while the various sections of the constitution dealing with the admission of visitors make no demand for proper vouchers of initiation or good standing, yet the production of such vouchers is a requirement almost universally exacted, and is one that in common prudence should be strictly observed. The secrets without the necessary papers, or the papers without the secrets, fail to prove the right to visit a lodge; both are clearly requisite."

The committee report upon this as follows, and the report was accepted:

"We concur in the action of the R. W. D. G. M. of No. 1 District with reference to visiting brethren, and would direct the attention of all Masters to No. 15 of the Ancient Charges as agreed to at their installation."

An address of congratulation was sent to Her Majesty, the Queen, upon the completion of the sixtieth year of her reign.

Among the appointments of Representatives announced, was that of E. D. McLAREN (now Grand Master), as Representative of our Grand Lodge.

The "Wisconsin proposition," after full discussion, was rejected.

The V. W. Grand Chaplain (J. A. LOGAN) preached a beautiful sermon before the Grand Lodge from the text "And upon top of the pillars was lily work," showing that in Masonry strength and beauty are combined.

The Report on Correspondence (153 pp.) was presented by Bros. W. A. DEWOLF SMITH and A. R. MILNE. The introduction indicates that both participated in the work, but there is nothing to indicate what part of the work either performed.

Of promotion in line, they well say:

"We would go further, and say that when elected or appointed to an office, unless he manifests a disposition to become familiar with the duties of that office, a brother has no right to expect promotion, and the brethren,

if they advance him, are probably doing an injustice to a more deserving brother."

Referring to a case in which a brother, who had been suspended for dues, paid his dues, but was then refused membership, they say:

"A lodge has no hesitation in taking the money of the unfortunate brother in arrears, and then calmly tells him that it wants nothing more to do with him. Because he has not been able, possibly on account of misfortune, to pay his indebtedness within the year, he may be, by a 'bare majority vote,' deprived of his masonic home, which can then only be regained by a 'unanimous vote.' We submit that this may be good law but poor justice. We also differ from the Grand Master on the universality of the unanimous ballot for affiliation. We are not certain that it is not a wise provision, but it is not universal. We, ourselves, know of a jurisdiction or two where it requires more than one black ball to exclude an applicant for affiliation."

Of course, he owed the lodge the money, and the payment of it would not entitle him to membership if he had been deprived of it; but the law is a very harsh one that allows a mere majority to deprive a member of what it takes a unanimous vote to regain. The committee assume that the brother was "unfortunate" in being in arrears: that ought not to be true; if he was in arrears, because of misfortune, he should not have been suspended; the assumption ought to be (though we admit the ground for it is not certain) that the brother became in arrears, because he wilfully refused to perform a duty that he was well able to perform.

They say:

"In this jurisdiction (British Columbia), the law provides that an unfavorable report by the committee or any member thereof, shall act as a rejection. This would seem to be a saving of time, for if any member of a committee is so satisfied of the unworthiness of a candidate as to sign an unfavorable report, he is morally certain to put a black ball into the ballot box if the matter comes to a vote."

The reason why a different course is pursued in other jurisdictions is, that the names of the committee are on record, and if a record is made that the report is unfavorable, the names of the objectors are on record, and the fact that they were such liable to be made public. The safest method is to omit from the record the character of the report and proceed to ballot. The committee should have all the protection possible in making such report as the case demands, without the fear of consequences.

They undertake to show how "unreasonable and unprofitable" the law of perpetual jurisdiction is, by citing an instance in which injustice was done through the working of two other foolish laws, existing, so far as we know, in only one jurisdiction, and for which the law of jurisdiction is no more responsible than the Declaration of Independence is.

The committee also say:

"Iowa is the only Grand Lodge met with so far which openly recognizes other than Blue Lodge Masonry. In the Grand Master's address we read,

' This Grand Lodge many years ago recognized the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templars of Iowa, and now by express provision of law, holds fraternal relations with each of said bodies.' "

Every Grand Lodge in the United States (save possibly a few of the new ones), do the same thing, and have done it ever since they were Grand Lodges.

We wish they would require their printer to adopt more generally the style which he used in the review of Maine—distinguishing the extracts from the original matter. We refer them to what we have written upon this in our review of Arkansas.

In their review of Maine, *they* say, and *he* (but which we cannot tell) says:

" 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.

" I notice that Maine, in its report on Foreign Correspondence, usually styles British Columbia as British America.

" I would recommend that the chairman look up his geography, and it will be found that British Columbia is only a portion of British America, and although we are very lofty in our own estimation, still we have not obtained that status, with all our gold and silver mines and other vast resources. We are not yet troubled with excessive vanity, and are truly happy and contented with the good name of ' British Columbia,' a Province of the great Dominion of Canada.

" Correct your heading, Bro. Drummond, and write ' British Columbia,' and we will not then waste time in tracing our place in the index of your interesting review."

This is the only instance, in this report, that we have found in which " I " is used by the writer when referring to himself, and it may be that the first two paragraphs are statements of our views instead of those of the writer.

But we must take issue with our brother upon his statement in the next paragraph: not " usually "; oh, no; for the first and only time in over thirty years. It is true that the heading of that particular review, and in the printer's head line (twice in all) it is " British America "; but in all our statistical tables, and in our *Index* to the report it is " British Columbia "; the Index cannot have misled him. We are somewhat disposed to have our printer share the blame, for he does not intend to let any of us print nonsense, and we have always greatly relied upon him in this direction. However, we are too much attached to " British Columbia " to give her any other name, even twice, and we shall not be likely to offend again!

He also thinks our review is " one year behind time." How so? Our

Grand Lodge meets in May, and his in June, and how we can review before *May* (we are now writing early in March) what he does in *June*, to say nothing of waiting for it to be printed and get here (usually in November), is more than we can tell! The "difference in time" will not account for it, for that is the wrong way! It is evident that our blunder in calling our brother's Grand Lodge "out of her name," has badly "mixed" him! However, we hope he has fully recovered ere this, for we were all right in our 1897 report.

He says that we are in error in embracing British Columbia among the jurisdictions in which a Past Master may preside in a lodge in the absence of the Master and Wardens. He cites from the Constitution to prove his statement. What he cites refers to *calling meetings*, and not to presiding in meetings already called, and so does not touch the point. He fails to find any prohibition in the constitution; that being so, the "Old Regulations" govern, and when the question arises we shall expect that the decision will be in accordance with those Regulations and the usage of the Mother Grand Lodge.

We are not sure but that we ought to withdraw our apology for the misnomer; for we find that in their table of Grand Lodges, in which they give the "Date of Organization and Meeting of Grand Lodges," over sixty in number, *they leave out Maine entirely!*

CALIFORNIA, 1897.

The Grand Master (WILLIAM THOMAS LUCAS) had an exceedingly sad duty to perform; one that rarely falls to the lot of a Grand Master. He announced the deaths of three of his predecessors, Past Grand Masters ALVAH RUSSELL CONKLIN, CLAY WEBSTER TAYLOR and NATHANIEL GREENE CURTIS.

The Grand Lodge had held a memorial service to the three. While Bros. CONKLIN and TAYLOR have performed great service for the craft, yet Bro. CURTIS was best known out of that jurisdiction. He had been a member of the Grand Lodge forty-five years, Grand Master four years, and a member of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence for many years previous to his death. In the latter capacity he did much to shape the jurisprudence of his Grand Lodge, and his reports were studied throughout all the other jurisdictions. They were marked by courtesy, research and ability, but gave the result of his own convictions—convictions not easily formed, but strongly held; and yet he was always ready to listen to, and to study carefully, the arguments of those who held opposite views, and no pride of opinion prevented his being convinced of their correctness. The craft everywhere

will sympathize with the brethren of California in the great loss which they have sustained during the past year.

The Grand Master announces that the spurious French lodge formed in that jurisdiction had ceased to exist. All who had received the degrees in a regularly constituted lodge were healed and took a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of California.

The Grand Master had given permission to a lodge to decorate its altar with the American flag. He did it, being in a "patriotic mood," and without giving the matter serious thought. However, subsequent consideration satisfied him that he erred in granting the request.

In relation to physical qualifications he says:

"I might say here, brethren, that it appears to me that our regulations with reference to physical qualifications are too exclusive, when we come to compare them with those of other and older jurisdictions. Is he a sound man? Can he receive and impart the knowledge of the craft? The internal soundness or unsoundness of an applicant is of far more importance to the craft than some slight injury or blemish."

Among his decisions was one allowing lodges to continue the use of a "printed folder" sent to the members of the lodge prior to each stated meeting. The folder contained an epitome of the business that would be brought before the lodge, together with the names, residence and occupation of the candidates for whom the lodge would ballot. While this practice has some things to commend it, if the question were a new one we should have very grave doubts as to its propriety; but the usage has become so extensive, and continued so long, that it has probably come to stay.

In giving an account of his correspondence in an effort to have money refunded that had been "expended for the benefit of indigent members," he says:

"First—With the Grand Master of Maine with reference to charity furnished a member of a lodge in that jurisdiction by the Masonic Board of Relief of San Diego. The Grand Master absolutely refused to do anything in the matter."

The Grand Master unconsciously describes the result of the California doctrine upon this question. It is a "benefit," not *charity*, and the system, if carried to its logical results, would degenerate into the system of benefits and dues practiced by other societies in this country. We cannot think, however, that our Grand Master's reply was so curt as the statement we have quoted, would imply. We have no doubt that our Grand Master wrote in effect that Maine adhered to the doctrine of Masonic charity, and had not yet adopted the system of dues and benefits.

The Committee on Ritual made a report recommending the creation of a permanent Committee on Ritual, who should be custodians and censors of the text of the work. The committee well say:

“The population of this jurisdiction is eminently cosmopolitan, being made up of people from all parts of the habitable earth, and comprising masons from almost every known jurisdiction. It is no matter of wonder that among such a people the peculiarities which have intruded themselves into other jurisdictions should assert themselves here, nor that some departures from the ancient text and some crudities and inconsistencies should have had birth on our soil. All masons desire the preservation of the ancient work, and bear loyal adherence to those ceremonials and forms of teaching and impressing the grand moral lessons of Masonry which were inspired by lofty wisdom, and which have been sanctified by centuries.

“Innovation and modern invention have at all times been unpopular in the masonic lodge, and your committee, in its review of the work, has not assumed to lay unkind hands upon a single fragment of the honored structure, but wherever we have discovered a palpable innovation we have, for the purposes of this report, condemned it and thrown it out.”

In coming to their conclusion they made “extended research into the work of the second section of the third degree as taught and practiced in eastern jurisdictions and adopted so much thereof as will make the work of this jurisdiction conform thereto.”

The Grand Lodge adopted the recommendation of the committee, and appointed a Committee on Ritual, who should be the custodians of the work, and whose decision upon any point pertaining thereto, should be final and conclusive—the committee to hold office during life, or at the pleasure of the Grand Lodge. The work presented by the committee was exemplified before the Grand Lodge upon actual candidates, and a resolution was presented that the work as exemplified be adopted as the work of the jurisdiction; but the resolution did not prevail, and the consideration of the matter was postponed until the next annual communication.

The Grand Lecturer made a full report. He had visited various parts of the state and held Lodges of Instruction, and apparently with great success and benefit to the craft.

The San Francisco Board of Relief acknowledge the receipt of forty-five dollars from Blazing Star Lodge, forty dollars from Eastern Lodge, and thirty dollars from Orient Lodge in this state, “money refunded by sundry lodges and brethren of other jurisdictions.” In their disbursements they note seventy dollars expended in two cases from Maine. The San Diego report expended one hundred and twenty dollars in one case from Maine, no further particulars being given.

The Grand Lodge sanctioned the burial, by cremation or otherwise, of a deceased brother, with masonic honors.

It is also decided that a person who has lost one eye and wears a glass eye, but is in all other respects qualified, is disqualified from receiving the degrees of Masonry in this state. This comes nearest to answering our “spectacles question,” of anything we have seen; for of course the Grand Lodge will follow the inevitable logic of this decision, and hold that a candidate, who has to wear spectacles, cannot be admitted.

A zealous brother, basing it upon the difference of the work in the different jurisdictions, offered a resolution for the appointment of a committee to confer with other Grand Lodges with a view to establishing a Supreme Grand Lodge to meet once in three years, "for the uniformity of the work throughout the United States"; but the committee decided that the plan of the resolution was in violation of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, and recommended that it be not adopted, and it was not.

The Grand Lodge ordered that the practice of decorating the altar with the American flag be discontinued.

In relation to the powers of the Grand Lodge, the Committee on Jurisprudence quoted the following provision from the Constitution of their Grand Lodge, which we most earnestly commend to the attention of the brethren who hold that the lodges are superior to the *Grand Lodge*:

"Its legislative powers extend to every case of legislation not expressly delegated by itself to the lodges; and the Constitution and Regulations, which it has an inalienable right to adopt and promulgate at its own convenience, and to alter, amend or repeal at its own pleasure, under limitations therein imposed, are final and binding upon all lodges and masons within its jurisdiction, until so altered, amended or repealed."

This is the most accurate and succinct statement of the correct law, that we have ever seen.

The decision that a lodge has no authority to use its funds to pay assessments on a life insurance policy, was approved.

We find that the committee took a conservative view of the question in relation to the folders, and the Grand Lodge adopted their recommendation, and we confess that we are very glad that it did so. The committee say:

"The law requires that the notification shall be sent to the lodges, not to the brethren. When lodges, or officers of lodges, begin to take liberties with the law, they are liable to become law-breakers. We respectfully recommend that the lodges in question be required to conform to the constitutional requirement in such a manner as to avoid just criticism for publishing and distributing information which should not be communicated to the profane. We concur with the Grand Master in his decision that no masonic precedent is violated in sending out a printed folder, but add the restriction that the names of the applicants for the degrees must not be printed and dispersed in such folders. Neither should such names, when posted on bulletin boards, be exposed to public view, except during the times of the meeting of the masonic lodges in whose halls the names are posted."

One case occasioned considerable discussion. A lodge elected a candidate and conferred two degrees upon him. He then having changed his residence, applied to another lodge for the Master's degree, and consent was given, but upon the ballot the candidate was rejected; it was held that thereupon the jurisdiction of the rejecting lodge ceased. Such lodge could not receive another petition without a new waiver, nor could it lawfully consent that the fellow craft might petition another lodge; but the

original lodge still continued to have jurisdiction. This result was reached under the provisions of the Constitution of that Grand Lodge. We believe that it has been held otherwise in Maine. We believe that it has been held that when a lodge waives jurisdiction over a candidate, who has received a part of the degrees in favor of another lodge, that waiver is final if the other lodge acts, and in any event the candidate becomes the "work" of the latter lodge.

Resolutions were adopted requiring all Boards of Relief and lodges in making their annual reports, to submit a full and detailed statement of all cases, in which moneys have been expended in aid of non-affiliated masons, their widows and orphans, and of sojourning masons of other jurisdictions, their widows and orphans; and also a report of all sums that may have been refunded to said Boards of Relief or lodges.

The following resolution was offered:

Resolved, That hereafter at all masonic funerals, the Worshipful Master of the lodge performing such funeral ceremony, shall be authorized, at the cemetery, to call the lodge off until its next meeting, where, before opening for the business of such meeting, the lodge so called off shall be closed in due and legal form."

But the Committee on Jurisprudence reported against its adoption, and their report was accepted. No reasons are given for or against the resolution; whether the mover did not understand that by masonic usage a lodge may be declared closed by the Master without any ceremony, or whether it is an instance of ritualism run mad we cannot determine. At any rate the disposition of the resolution was wise.

The Trustees of the Home submitted a report apparently showing an expenditure of over \$60,000 in all towards the Home, and the Grand Lodge at their request, gave \$20,000 to be paid upon the completion and acceptance of the building.

The committee found that the records of the French lodge under dispensation contain matter which ought not to be written, and a resolution was adopted providing for the re-writing of the records under the supervision of some brother appointed by the Grand Master, and that when thus re-written the original book should be transmitted to the Grand Secretary and by him destroyed; and that, these conditions being complied with, a charter should issue.

An effort was made to prevent the publication to the world of the names of the recipients of masonic charity, and the names of parties subjected to discipline, but it failed, the committee remarking that this was a matter that could be well left to the discretion of the craft.

We think that there are cases in which the good name of the Institution demands that the expulsion of a man, who has been publicly known as a mason, should also be published.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 128) is signed by the whole committee but is evidently the work of Bro. WILLIAM A. DAVIES. As usual it is an exceedingly full, though concise, abstract of the Proceedings reviewed, with occasional pertinent comments.

We are greatly gratified to find in his Conclusion a tribute to the memory of Bro. PEREZ SNELL, who resided in California during the last twenty years of his life. He was involved in a conflict between the Rites in Louisiana, and was expelled by one faction, but illegally, as the masonic world has almost universally held ever since. But Bro. SNELL's sensitive nature prevented his seeking masonic association upon his settlement in California; later, however, he was active in the Scottish Rite acting under authority from Bro. PIKE. Bro. DAVIES reproduces a notice of "this grand old man and mason," published at the time of his death in 1869, which we desire also to place on the records of our Grand Lodge:

"A good old man has gone. On Monday last Doctor Perez Snell was borne to his last resting place in the masonic burial ground. Few men have ever lived among us more universally respected and esteemed than Doctor Snell. He was born in the State of Vermont on the 19th day of September, 1783; fought at Lundy's Lane under General Scott; was for a number of years in the Medical College at New Orleans; had traveled extensively in his own and in foreign countries, and was a man of great learning and scientific attainments. He came to California in 1850, and resided in Sonora from that time until his death, except for a few months in 1856, when he returned to visit his aged mother in his native state. During the time he resided in Sonora he devoted his time chiefly to scientific pursuits, and collected a large and valuable cabinet of curiosities and geological specimens. He did not entirely neglect the practice of his profession, though he did not seek or desire to engage in it. Many a poor sufferer has found relief from his charitable hand. He was ever ready by night or day to minister to the afflicted. He was first and foremost in every public work and duty, and though in his eighty-seventh year he took a zealous interest in everything for the public good. His step was as firm and elastic as that of a man in middle life. He was the friend of the children and delighted to add to their pleasures and enjoyments. As a geologist and man of science he had few equals and no superior in the state. He believed in the great 'I am,' and loved to meditate on his works; beyond that he sought not to penetrate the mystery.

"He was probably the oldest mason in the United States, having been sixty-five years a mason, and was Inspector-General of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America. He lived and died an honest man, the noblest work of God."

He quotes quite largely from the doings of our Grand Lodge, but without comment, except that referring to our criticism upon the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence in relation to rejected candidates, he says:

"We are impressed with the belief that the importance of this question has not been recognized. We think an unselfish consideration of the matter by representative masons—brethren willing to yield to the will of the majority for the harmony of the whole—would virtually establish such action as would be well adapted to the interests of the whole fraternity."

He seems a little surprised at our statement that we can remember when lodges possessed a power of making masons at sight, and that the law taking away the power, was deemed an invasion of the powers of the lodges under the old usages of the craft. Such was the law of the Grand Lodge of Maine till after we entered the Grand Lodge, and the following extract from the by-laws of American Union Lodge, the pioneer lodge in the northwest, will show that the practice prevailed in that lodge.

“ART. 3. In order to preserve the credit of the craft, and the harmony of Masonry in general, no candidate shall be made in this lodge unless his character is well avouched by one or more of the brothers present. Every brother proposing a candidate shall stand up and address the Master, and at the same time shall deposit four dollars as advance towards his making, into the hands of the Secretary, and if he is accepted shall be in part of his making; if he is not accepted it shall be returned, and if he is accepted and does not attend it shall be forfeited for the use of the lodge, casualties excepted.

“ART. 4. No candidate shall be made on the lodge night he is proposed, unless it shall appear that he is under such circumstances that he cannot with convenience attend the next lodge night, in which case it shall be submitted to the lodge. But this rule may be dispensed at discretion of the lodge.

“ART. 5. Every candidate proposed shall stand on the minutes until the next Entered Apprentice Lodge night after he is proposed, and then shall be balloted for; if one negative only shall appear then he shall have the benefit of a second ballot, and if one negative shall still appear he shall have the benefit of a third ballot, and if a negative still appear, the candidate shall then be dismissed and his money refunded; provided, this by-law does not annul the provision made in the immediate foregoing article.”

However, as we stated, the power was abused by introducing into the fraternity unfit persons, who would have been rejected, had the present system prevailed, and the law gradually changed.

We feel inclined to renew the wish that Bro. DAVIES would make his report a little longer by giving his own views in relation to some of the mooted questions of the day.

CANADA, 1897.

As usual, quite a number of special communications were held for the laying of corner stones and other public masonic ceremonies.

At the annual communication, the Grand Lodge was welcomed by the Mayor and a deputation of Masters from the local lodges and the Grand Master made a fitting response.

Of the condition of the craft the Grand Master (WILLIAM GIBSON) says:

“I have great pleasure in referring to the condition of the craft within the jurisdiction, to be able to say from personal visits in every portion of the Province, as well as from authentic information derived from the District Deputy Grand Masters, that our noble craft was never in a healthier condition than at the present time. On the Register of Grand Lodge there are 357 lodges (the perfect number.) It would indeed be marvelous if every

one were in a flourishing state, and still more marvelous if in a membership of 24,000 every member was a model of what a mason should be. It is, however, most gratifying to know that, generally, the lodges are in a flourishing condition, and that very rarely a member, by his life and conduct, brings discredit upon the fraternity. As a rule the lodges are prosperous and successfully doing the work for which they were established, and the members are living up to their professions."

He was happy to announce that the finances of the Grand Lodge were in admirable condition. The "capital account" had reached nearly \$95,000, and the income of the Grand Lodge for the previous year was nearly \$21,000, and nearly \$10,000 of that was spent for benevolence, and yet a surplus of over \$3,000 was left to be carried to the capital account.

He gave a very brief account of his official acts, which were of no special interest except to the parties concerned.

Bro. MASON, the Grand Secretary, has taken command of the "Canadian Bisley Rifle Team," and the Grand Master granted him leave of absence, the first holiday that he has taken during his twenty-eight years of service as Grand Secretary. How he had obtained "his excellent skill as a rifleman" is not stated, but the Grand Master felt great confidence that in representing the Canadian riflemen "in the old land" he would reflect honor upon Canada.

Bro. MURRAY attended to the duties of Grand Secretary during his absence, and was assisted at the meeting of the Grand Lodge by Bro. R. I. GUNN. Why he did not go off with the riflemen is not stated.

We are very greatly grieved to learn of the illness of Past Grand Master DANIEL SPRY, and we join with the Grand Master in his regrets at that brother's absence from the Grand Lodge.

Later intelligence brings the still sadder news of Bro. SPRY's death. He had been active in all the departments of masonic labor, and his death is a heavy loss to the craft as well as a sore affliction to all who knew him.

As usual heretofore, the reports of the District Deputies take up a very large space in these Proceedings, over two hundred pages. Of course, it will be impossible to review these reports in detail, and it becomes quite unnecessary when we read the report of the Committee on the Condition of Masonry. Every one of the eighteen Deputies made a report with a tabulated statement; and 348 of the lodges had been visited, many of them twice, and some of them four or five times, leaving only *nine* that had not been visited.

The committee well say:

"After a careful perusal of the district reports and the tabulated statements, the Board are of opinion that each of the D. D. G. Masters has faith-

fully discharged the duties of his office, and is deserving of the hearty thanks of Grand Lodge. Too much credit cannot be given to these zealous and painstaking officers. Many officers having very extended districts, with little railway facilities, are compelled to submit to many discomforts while paying their official visitations, traveling long distances, over bad roads, in inclement weather. The brethren, in their comfortable lodge rooms, who look forward with pleasure to the entertaining and instructive evening of the annual official visit, have little idea of the valuable time actually consumed in the journey to and from them."

In that jurisdiction the expenses of the Deputies are paid by the lodges which they visit, and if the lodges do not pay them, the Deputies appear to lose them; one Deputy suggested that the matter was becoming one of considerable embarrassment. Wealthy brethren, acting as Deputies, made no demand for their expenses, and the tendency was that no one, but those who could afford to pay their own expenses, could accept the appointment: and a brother raised the question that the Grand Lodge ought to pay the expenses, but the committee reported against it.

There has undoubtedly been an improvement in the work. Secretaries are paying more attention to the accurate performance of the duties of their office, including the collection of dues, and great care is exercised in the examination of visitors. One Deputy was refused admittance, until he had been examined by the "Board of Trial" and vouched for as a Master Mason. We do not believe that this should be allowed; it would be an easy pretext to prevent a visitation, and some method should be taken so that when an official presents himself at a lodge which he has a right to visit and inspect, even to taking command of the lodge, he should not be prevented from the discharge of his duties.

The committee in the conclusion of their report make the following recommendations:

"1st. That D. D. G. Masters shall hold Lodges of Instruction in their respective districts.

"2d. That D. D. G. Masters shall visit the lodges in their districts.

"3d. That D. D. G. Masters shall make an honest effort to collect from the lodges of their districts the amount of their traveling expenses.

"4th. That Installing Masters shall refuse to install officers until after they have been examined and vouched for as well skilled.

"5th. That Secretaries shall make an increased effort to collect arrearages of dues, and collect dues promptly in the future.

"6th. That Secretaries shall notify the D. D. G. Masters of every lodge meeting and the work to be done.

"7th. That Secretaries shall make regular returns twice in each year to the Grand Secretary, and that this shall be done whether the lodge can at the same time forward the amount due or not.

"8th. That Secretaries shall furnish to the D. D. G. Masters all information required by the tabulated statement in time for these officers to complete their reports at least fourteen days before the meeting of Grand Lodge, as required by the constitution.

"9th. That special effort be made in every lodge to get every non-affiliated mason in its jurisdiction of good character to join the lodge.

"10th. That each Master shall see that the property of his lodge is insured against loss by fire.

"11th. That all should see that electioneering for office is discounted."

Almost all of which is applicable in this jurisdiction.

The following recommendation of the board in relation to the resolution of our Grand Lodge, concerning the rejection of candidates, was adopted:

"The board, while they appreciate the effort of that Grand Lodge to obtain uniform legislation in relation to the admission of rejected candidates, feel that it would at present be undesirable to amend our constitution, which at present provides that rejected candidates cannot be balloted for within twelve months."

We regret that this Grand Lodge should thus indorse the idea that *one year* is sufficient time in which a lodge can gain a sufficient knowledge of a rejected candidate, coming from another jurisdiction, to enable them to determine upon his fitness to be made a mason.

The Committee on the Asylum Fund "reported progress" but really very little progress; and upon their recommendation the committee was continued with authority to issue a circular in relation to the proposed plan.

The Report on Correspondence (116 pp.) was again presented by Bro. HENRY ROBERTSON. He still adheres to his plan of giving a brief abstract of the Proceedings reviewed, with *very few* comments.

Of the resolution of our Grand Lodge in relation to rejected candidates, he says: "it is a step in the right direction, and if the term were made one year in place of five we could agree." This carries us back to the other question to which we would like to have our brother's reply. Is one year a sufficient time for the observation of a stranger coming from another jurisdiction, who has been rejected in that jurisdiction, to determine his fitness for admission into Masonry? We think this involves a matter which has not been sufficiently considered by the craft in other jurisdictions.

COLORADO, 1897.

The Grand Master (GEORGE W. ROWE) was absent on account of illness, and his address was read by Past Grand Master JAMES H. PEABODY. Of the condition of the craft he says:

"It is a pleasure to report that, judging by the correspondence I have from different lodges throughout the jurisdiction, the craft is still in a fair state of prosperity, notwithstanding hard times continue. I believe the growth in membership in the past year has exceeded that of the former, and the returns from lodges show an increase of about 170 in membership. The Grand Secretary informs me that the returns from lodges have come in promptly and in a very satisfactory condition."

The Grand Master, Grand High Priest and Grand Commander had joined

in a circular "boycotting" printed "keys" which had been offered for sale in that jurisdiction.

He had been called upon to determine whether a mason hailing under the Grand Dieta of Mexico can be admitted to visit a lodge. He decided that, while he had no question of the legality of the Gran Dieta, yet, inasmuch as it had not been recognized by his Grand Lodge, such visitor could not be admitted.

It seems that in that jurisdiction the question of guilt or innocence at a masonic trial is determined by secret ballot, and in a case in which the ballots gave out so that the members afterwards voting had no choice of ballots, it was held that the proceedings were illegal and should be set aside.

A candidate for admission to a lodge made a material misrepresentation in his application, which was not discovered until he had been elected Junior Warden. Thereupon he was requested to decline and promised that he would, but afterwards recanted and was installed. The Grand Master directed the filing of charges against him. Charges were filed and the Master of the lodge summoned the Grand Master to be present at the trial because he had ordered the charges filed!

The proceedings in relation to this matter were quite voluminous, but a large minority of the lodge—large enough to prevent any punishment being inflicted, although the accused pleaded guilty—continued to stand by the brother, and the result was that the Grand Master suspended its charter and the Grand Lodge revoked it.

A man who had been expelled in Iowa, and had been the means of a lodge's losing its charter in that state, went to Colorado and petitioned for membership in a lodge, and was elected a member of the lodge. It coming to the Grand Master's knowledge that the party had been suspended and then expelled in Iowa, he ordered charges filed, alleging that he had applied to visit a lodge when he was a suspended mason, and knew that he was a suspended mason, and that when he made his application to the lodge for membership he was an expelled mason and knew he was expelled. But while the evidence was conclusive upon this point the lodge by a vote of thirty-two to two refused to convict him. The matter went to the Grand Lodge, which promptly revoked the charter of the lodge. We suspect from some facts stated that he was expelled in Iowa under the law against the "Cerneaus," and the lodge probably adopted his view that his expulsion was illegal.

The Committee on the Washington memorial reported that the Grand Lodge of Virginia would take charge of the celebration, and the other Grand Lodges very generally would co-operate. The Grand Lodge of Colorado first proposed this celebration, but recognizing the propriety of the Grand

Lodge of Virginia's taking charge of it, promptly and cheerfully yielded to that Grand Lodge.

The Report on Correspondence (155 pages) was presented by Bro. LAWRENCE N. GREENLEAF. With a very complete abstract of the Proceedings reviewed, he mingles interesting and instructive comments.

In regard to suspension for non-payment of dues, he says:

"In our view, if a brother pays the indebtedness to his lodge, for the non-payment of which he was suspended, he is justly entitled to re-instatement. When the lodge refuses to re-instate, it commits a greater offence against Masonry than the offending brother, for it resorts to double dealing. It takes advantage of a suspension for one offence to punish him for another of an entirely different nature, and for which he has no opportunity for defence. It is a travesty upon masonic justice. If, during the period of his suspension, he has committed any masonic offence, let charges be preferred and he be tried, and, if found guilty, punished accordingly. The law of that jurisdiction was evidently framed with a view to provide a remedy for just such cases, but there are kinks in it which able masonic jurists will find difficulty in straightening. For instance, a lodge refuses to re-instate a suspended mason, and he becomes by that act a *non-affiliate*. In other words, the vote that denies him good standing in his own lodge confers it upon him in the fraternity at large."

So far as this would apply to Maine we do not concur. In Maine there are two courses which may be taken with members who do not pay their dues. The first is suspension from membership; when that is done payment of dues, up to the time of suspension, re-instates the brother. The other course is to deprive him of membership, and the law then is that he cannot join that lodge or any other until the dues up to the time when he was deprived of membership, are either remitted or paid. The payment of the dues is the payment of a just debt, and when he is deprived of membership for his neglect to pay them the result is what he knew, and foresaw and accepted. He, therefore, has no more claim to re-instatement than he has to be made a member of any other lodge.

While we are inclined to hold that Bro. GREENLEAF is correct in relation to restoration for non-payment of dues we can go no further. If a mason has been indefinitely suspended *for un-masonic conduct*, and he applies for restoration, we hold that the lodge not only may take, but is *bound* to take, notice of his conduct during the term of his suspension, and while if his conduct had been good the lodge might be justified in restoring him, we hold that if his conduct has been bad it is the duty of the lodge not to restore him.

Inasmuch as we do not believe in suspending from all masonic rights for non-payment of dues we have no occasion to discuss the other matters involved in our quotation.

He holds that allowing Insurance and Aid Associations to use the word "*masonic*" is a manifest departure from the plan and purpose of Masonry,

and he believes that these societies cannot be grafted upon the parent stock of Masonry without disastrous consequences later.

We fully agree with him in the following, and we, too, have bestowed much thought upon the question:

“The more thought we have bestowed upon those twin perplexities—‘non-affiliation’ and ‘non-payment of dues’—the more thoroughly convinced are we that there has been an over-indulgence in legislation in these matters from which no good has resulted to compensate for the actual injury done to the spirit of fraternity by the infusion of worldly methods of business thrift. On the matter of ‘non-payment of dues’ and excessive penalties therefor, we expressed our opinion in last year’s report. We have serious doubts whether ‘non-affiliation is cause for discipline,’ as set forth in our by-law, and it is extremely questionable whether it could be enforced should charges be made in accordance with the strict letter thereof. For instance, we have known of non-affiliates of unblemished character, and occupying high official positions in the community, who, for some real or fancied wrong suffered at the hands of brethren, took their dimits and never darkened the portals of a lodge again. Under the Colorado law they are chargeable with an offence and subject to discipline, for Masonry is no respecter of persons, and if the law applies to one, it applies to all, without any exception. The law is virtually a dead letter, so far as the enforcement of the clause cited is concerned. The remainder of the section is not open to serious objection.”

He might well have added in our judgment that this law is a “departure from the plan and purpose of Masonry,” and more than that, an absolute violation of the landmarks of the Institution.

In his review of Maine he says :

“In regard to the 1746 edition of the constitution, the surmise of Bro. Drummond is correct, for we have information from Bro. W. J. Hughan that another publisher took the copies left unsold of the 1738 edition, and in 1746 printed a fresh title page, the body of the volume remaining identically the same. Bro. Hughan further says: ‘It is not true that the Grand Lodge ever withdrew its sanction. Bro. G. is quite correct in accepting it as genuine and official.’

“Thus one after another of the barriers interposed by those who contend for the ‘modern theory’ are disposed of, and those of us who are firm in our advocacy of the antiquity of Masonry are thereby stimulated to push forward the work of investigation and inquiry.”

“We commend to Bro. D. the careful perusal of ‘A Defence of Masonry, 1730,’ and ‘Brother Euclid’s letter,’ in the back part of the book of constitutions possessed by him, as affording strong evidence that the essential features of Masonry at that period were not greatly at variance with those as now understood and practiced.”

The original statement that the Grand Lodge withdrew its sanction from the 1738 Constitution was an inference of some one, from the manner in which the edition of 1746 was printed. We notice that some one, we have forgotten who, has raised some question in regard to the 1738 edition ; but that was not the edition concerning which the question arose, it was the 1746 edition.

We have read the “Defence of Masonry” to which he alludes with much

interest, as bearing upon masonic law and usage at that time, and as the foundation of masonic law at the present time. We know it is flippantly said by those, who ought to understand that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, that these old usages, etc., have nothing at all to do with Masonry now: but fortunately their saying so does not make it so. The old laws, read in the light of the usage at the time, as well as of subsequent usage, can be relied upon very much more safely than the construction of those laws which young readers place upon them, without knowing anything about, or without regarding, contemporaneous and subsequent usage.

He gives a digest of the decisions of other Grand Lodges as usual, and while they are of great interest to the masonic student, we doubt their utility for the brethren of one's own jurisdiction.

In his conclusion he says:

"It is apparent that neither the Wisconsin relief proposition nor the Maine resolutions concerning rejected material will be adopted generally.

"Whatever our opinion as to the merits of these two propositions, the motive that inspired them was a move in the right direction—that of uniformity. If any institution should have settled laws and principles of action, it should be that of Masonry. Coming down to us from the remote past with the accretions of centuries of experience, and with a symbolism largely its own interpreter, we have permitted its original simplicity to become obscured until the present complex and contradictory system is the result, and every Grand Jurisdiction has become a law unto itself.

"While no objection might be urged against such supremacy in matters of minor or local importance, we maintain that the essential or basic laws and regulations of the craft should be universal in their application. We therefore welcome any overtures on the part of Grand Lodges that look in this direction, until the desideratum shall be attained."

So far as the Maine resolutions are concerned we have more faith; several Grand Lodges have already adopted them and will stand by them. Masonic law is not the growth of a day or a year or of a good many years, and while the action of some Grand Lodges will be adverse to establishing a uniform rule in relation to the subject matter of those resolutions, they are already beginning to perceive the necessity for such a rule, and we are firm in the conviction that the ultimate result is only a question of time. What is it that has been said in relation to him who "waits?"

CONNECTICUT, 1898.

An excellent portrait of Bro. GEORGE A. KIES, the retiring Grand Master, is given.

The Grand Secretary was appointed the Committee on Credentials, and immediately reported a list of the Masters and Wardens of all the lodges, starring those not present: the report was accepted, but "kept open for additions and corrections." A column is left for Proxies, and we note that

each one present was proxy for a particular officer and not for the lodge, as with us.

Grand Master KIES reported that the Grand Officers elect, not present for installation at the preceding communication, had been installed by brethren appointed by him for that purpose.

One of the Deputies recommended reform in the following particulars:

“First, a lack of punctuality in opening the lodge, which can be overcome by habitual promptness, to the moment, on the part of every officer, and the determination of the Master to call the brethren to order at the exact hour specified in the by-laws. Second, a laxity in collecting the dues, hundreds of dollars being the sum of arrears in some single lodges, most of it being owed by brethren who are amply able to pay. To this I would add the reminder that nothing is more conducive to a determination on the part of many brethren to definitely cease paying dues than to allow them to fall into arrears. He also recommends that smoking be confined to the ante-rooms and banquet hall. It has always seemed to me that smoking or any trivial behavior within a lodge room, which has been solemnly dedicated to masonry, constitutes in itself a lack of respect for the Institution. He also urges that more care be taken to make sure that candidates for advancement have made suitable proficiency in the preceding degrees.”

He had himself visited quite a number of lodges, with the usual good results, in one case witnessing the conferring of the third degree in German. Of this he says:

“The work, which was an almost exact translation from our standard, was performed with dignity, and in a way calculated to deeply impress the candidate.”

He had granted a dispensation to re-ballot upon a rejected application, “there being strong evidence of a mistake because of a defective ballot-box.”

He had granted a dispensation to lodges to appear in public on St. John’s Day. We have always unnerstood that no dispensation is necessary in such cases: but probably the dispensation is required by the enacted law of the Grand Lodge.

Of dispensations, in general, he says:

“I have felt constrained to deny many applications for dispensations, among them one asking permission for a lodge to appear in regalia at the funeral of a deceased brother, a Commandery of Knights Templar to perform the obsequies. This would have been in direct contravention of Particular Regulations, section 9, paragraph 11. Although myself a member and admirer of the Order of Knights Templar, I am of the opinion that such applications should be invariably refused, as should (except in extreme cases) all requests for dispensations which involve even a temporary abrogation of any of our laws and regulations. These being founded upon sound principles, their spirit should be obeyed and upheld. My official experience convinces me that by far too many requests for dispensations are made.”

The original purpose of dispensations was to give relief in particular cases in which the “laws and regulations” operate, to a greater or less degree, to the injury of the craft. Human laws are necessarily imperfect, and often

are an impediment instead of an aid; it was deemed safe to entrust the power to Grand Masters as possessing the necessary wisdom to use it for the benefit of the craft. We hold, therefore, that each case should be decided upon its own merits, without hesitation on account of the abrogation of the laws and regulations, for the granting of dispensations is as much a part of the laws and regulations as any particular law or regulation is.

The Grand Master well says:

“Masonic duties and functions are of two kinds, namely, those which can be performed by an individual brother, and those which can be carried out only by a lodge regularly convened as such. While the non-affiliate, so long as he remains in good standing otherwise, can claim the former, he is not entitled to any of the benefits dispensed by the lodge as an organization, having voluntarily cut himself off from such by his own acts. Masonic burial being a lodge function, it can be claimed only in the case of one who at the time of his death was a Master Mason in good standing and regularly affiliated with some lodge.”

Burial by the lodge cannot be *claimed* by a non-affiliate but may be *requested*, and the lodge may grant his request if it sees fit. Cases have happened in which a brother has died after dimitting from one lodge and while his petition was pending before another.

We find that these views were endorsed by the Grand Lodge:

“The Committee on Jurisprudence respectfully report that they have examined the decision of the Grand Master and recommend that it be approved, as occasions may arise where through no fault of the brother, he may be non-affiliated at the time of his death and a lodge might wish to bury him with masonic honors, we would recommend the passage of the following resolution:

“*Resolved*, That lodges may, in their discretion, perform the burial service in case of a non-affiliated mason who may be such without any culpable neglect on his part.”

There was an appeal case before the Grand Lodge, in which the commission reported in favor of reversing the decision of the lodge and acquitting the respondent. There was a division in the Grand Lodge, but after full discussion, the report was adopted by a vote of 165 to 78.

Of this case, the Grand Master says:

“And, brethren, in connection with this case, it seems to me that, aside from the technical question as to the guilt or innocence of the defendant, the even more momentous question is inevitably suggested: Can Freemasonry be used, under any circumstances, as a cloak to conceal crime, or to procure immunity to the perpetrators thereof? Our answer is, unqualifiedly, NO.”

We cannot believe that those, who voted in the negative, held opposite views. If so, it would have been a sad day for Masonry, if they had succeeded.

He urges the brethren to relax no efforts until the invested fund of the Masonic Home shall yield a sufficient income to pay its running expenses.

This Grand Lodge has been fortunate in relation to the ritual question.

It adopted a "Standard Work" thirty years ago, and has taken no action since. But now disputes are beginning to arise as to what that work was. He recommended the appointment of a Committee on Ritual. This led to the adoption of the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the Most Worshipful Grand Master be required annually to appoint a Standing Committee of three on Ritual, to whom all questions regarding the ritual shall be referred, and whose decision shall be final until reversed by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge."

The following is exceedingly timely and refers to an evil that is becoming of appalling magnitude:

"The publishing in newspapers of matters which should not be mentioned outside of the lodge is a great and apparently growing evil. Even if any good could thereby be accomplished, and if the practice were not contrary to the letter and spirit of our obligations, it would still be one of doubtful propriety. But when we consider the fact that in most instances it can serve no purpose except to pander to a morbid craving for sensationalism and only brings our beloved Institution into disrepute, language fails to adequately express the contempt and detestation which should be felt for any mason who, either directly or indirectly, aids and abets this usage. If any masonic offender should be severely disciplined, it is certainly he who publishes lodge transactions to the world, especially when by so doing he airs soiled linen in public. There is another aspect to this question. Supposing that the items published may seem harmless in themselves, where shall the line be drawn? Discussion may follow, which would lead to further and further disclosure. This latter must soon reach a point which even the most thoughtless recognizes as one beyond which he cannot go without violating his vows. Thus the advantage of the argument is left with the adversary, and the value of 'those truly masonic virtues, silence and circumspection,' is again disastrously taught by experience."

This is emphasized by the following charge filed in the Grand Lodge:

"That the said _____ did, on the 25th day of December, 1895, cause to be published in the Hartford Daily Courant, a newspaper published in Hartford, an account of secret proceedings held before said Hartford Lodge and a committee thereof, in the trial of charges preferred against him, the said _____, and did furnish to said newspaper, for publication, a verbatim copy of the charges, summons, reply, report of Commissioners, and remonstrance in said case, and did furnish and cause to be furnished to said paper a detailed account of the proceedings before said Commissioners, in violation of his masonic oath and in violation of his duties and obligations as a mason, and tending to the scandal and disgrace of the masonic fraternity."

The charge was entertained; the accused ordered to answer; and the Grand Master directed to appoint a Commission to take the evidence and report it with their findings at the next stated communication of the Grand Lodge.

We shall watch this case with much interest. Already the almost insane and very dangerous competition among newspapers to be the first to "give the news" is reaching our masonic periodicals in many cases, and they are opening their columns to matters in utter violation of masonic usage, law

and *obligation*. We have noticed in many instances strictures upon the proceedings of Grand Lodges which ought to have subjected their authors to expulsion.

Years ago a permanent member of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts committed a similar offence—and died an expelled mason. In New York, some years since, meetings of masons were held to discuss and criticise measures pending in the Grand Lodge, and they were promptly suppressed: and as we remember, some, who persisted, were disciplined by the Grand Lodge.

We have noticed, with relief, that some of our masonic newspapers have become conscious of the evil and have published articles deprecating and objecting to the practice, and we trust that all will appreciate the “fitness of things” and “set their faces” against the continuance of this very serious evil.

Deprecating the occasional misuse of the ballot, the Grand Master adds:

“On the other hand, I fully believe in the soundness of the maxim that ‘the lodge, and not the candidate, should have the benefit of any doubt.’ On the principle that an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure, it is surely preferable that the admission of even a worthy candidate should be delayed rather than to run the least risk of adding even one undeserving member to the fraternity. The making of masons is not, in my opinion, the main object of the institution.”

We have had reason to believe, that candidates, who have been admitted with misgivings, have caused the most of the dissensions in our lodges: in fact, we have never known an instance in which a candidate, universally recognized as fit to be made a mason, has been the cause of dissension: some have afterwards “gone wrong,” but have not stirred up strife in the lodge.

The Grand Secretary notes the growth of the library, acknowledging the receipt of “a fine quarto volume of T. Otis Paine’s rare work, “Solomon’s Temples.”

He refers to the Peru matter and adds:

“The body which was the Grand Lodge of Peru has attempted to accomplish that which is not within the power of any man or body of men to do. In laying violent and profane hands upon the great light in Masonry, it has attempted to change the plan and very groundwork of the institution, and, by striking out one of its most vital landmarks, has forfeited the respect of all true masons. That Grand Body has been accorded recognition by our Grand Lodge, and I recommend that said recognition be promptly rescinded and that the commission of Bro. Casimiro Medina as our representative near that Grand Lodge be revoked. There is no representative near our Grand Lodge.”

The Grand Lodge adopted the following:

“WHEREAS, The Grand Master of Masons in Peru has issued an edict ‘that on all masonic altars the Bible shall be removed and replaced by the Constitution of the Order of Freemasonry, and that in all rituals the word

“Bible” shall be stricken out and the words, “The constitution of the Grand Lodge of Peru” used in its place.’

“WHEREAS, That in so doing he has removed the Great Light, one of the necessary constituents of every regular lodge, from the altar of Freemasonry in violation of its ancient landmarks.

“Resolved, That this Grand Lodge suspends masonic intercourse with the Grand Lodge of Peru and requires the same of all lodges and masons in this jurisdiction during the continuance of said edict.

“Resolved, That a duly attested copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Grand Lodge of Peru.

“Resolved, That the commission of Bro. Casimiro Medina as our representative near the Grand Lodge of Peru be revoked.”

The following resolutions were adopted:

“Resolved, That, in view of the large expense which Franklin Lodge, No. 56, of Bristol, has been to for masonic charity within a short time past, the sum of two hundred dollars due to the Grand Lodge be and the same hereby is remitted.

“Resolved, That this Grand Lodge will pay one-half of the expenses incurred for the care of Bro. Pettibone (a member of said Franklin Lodge, now an inmate of the Hartford hospital), to the extent of three dollars per week, until such time as a suitable infirmary shall be provided at the Home in Wallingford, for the accommodation of such cases: and further provided that Franklin Lodge shall pay the remaining half of such expenses unless relieved therefrom by direction of the Grand Master.”

Three-quarters of the dues of another lodge were remitted in view of the large amount paid out by it in charity.

The *per capita* tax of one dollar was continued, one-quarter of which to go to the Charity Fund for the Masonic Home.

At the roll call just before closing, every lodge was represented, except two whose representatives had been excused a few minutes before to “catch the train.” We should like to see a similar sight in our own Grand Lodge just for once, but as it would delay very many another day, we never expect to witness it.

The Report on Correspondence (163 pp.) was presented by Bro. JOHN H. BARLOW.

He favors the “illustration of the emblems by the stereopticon and the wearing of costume by the officers in certain portions of the work,” as he thinks “they serve to make the work more impressive and secure better attendance from the members.”

Our observation in “the higher degrees” has led us to the contrary opinion so far as the *impressiveness* is concerned; the attention is directed to the *spectacular* and diverted from the lessons intended to be taught. Fire works are splendid, *but they teach nothing.*

He quotes from Colorado, the resolution offered by Bro. PARMELEE (which we intended to notice, but find we failed to do so), which was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence and not reported upon:

“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.”

And adds, “If the right exists at all, it is the prerogative of the Grand Master, by virtue of his office, and would not be affected by legislation.” We shall look with interest for the report of the Colorado committee.

He evidently concurs in the growing tendency to prohibit the use of the word “masonic” by masons in business enterprises, although restricted to members who are masons and formed for mutual aid or insurance.

Referring to the effect of rejections, he says: “We believe that the regulation of each jurisdiction should be respected and enforced by sister jurisdictions, and thus all difficulties be avoided.”

DELAWARE, 1897.

A portrait of the retiring Grand Master (J. PAUL LUKENS) is given as a frontispiece.

Two special communications were held to lay corner stones: the ceremonies were performed by the Grand Lodge, *open as such*.

It seems that this Grand Lodge has provided dinners during its sessions. The Grand Master found that fully one-third of those, who attended the dinner, were not in the hall even once during the session of the Grand Lodge. As the annual expenses of the Grand Lodge exceeded its income, he directed that only members of the Grand Lodge and guests from other jurisdictions should be admitted to the dinner. We like the idea of having the members of the Grand Lodge eat together once at least during its session; but probably the old-fashioned method of selling tickets to all except invited guests is the best method of providing for the expense.

He recommended the establishment of three Lodges of Instruction, which should meet monthly, one in each of the principal cities; and his recommendation was adopted.

One interesting question was decided. A motion was made in a lodge that a committee be appointed to prepare resolutions concerning a certain matter, entertained by the Master and adopted by the lodge, and the committee appointed. But the Master later being of the opinion that the matter was not of a masonic character, directed the Secretary to expunge all in relation to the matter from the minutes. He did so; and the minutes, as thus amended, were read and approved at the next meeting of the lodge, without comment. When the committee offered its report, the Master ruled it out of order, and, thereupon, an appeal was taken from his decision.

The Grand Master decided:

“The action of the W. M. in causing the minutes of the lodge to be expunged of a portion of the business transacted, is irregular and contrary to masonic law.

“A motion duly made, seconded and entertained by the W. M., with the consent and sanction of the lodge, the minutes of the lodge must contain all relating to such motion and action, and that at a following communication the resolutions should have been approved or disapproved by the lodge and judged by their masonic merits; all of which procedure should also be recorded upon the minutes of the lodge.”

His decision was approved by the Grand Lodge.

It will be noticed that the usage in Delaware differs from that in Maine, in that, with us the “minutes” are read at the close of each meeting and approved by the lodge; they are then extended upon the record by the Secretary, and the *recor*i** is read at the next meeting, and confirmed by the lodge. We are not prepared to admit that, under the law and usage in Maine, this decision would be correct. We have a very strong impression that the Master has the power to direct that a motion regularly adopted shall be omitted from the record on account of afterwards discovering that it was in violation of the law of the Grand Lodge, or of general masonic law, subject only to an appeal from his decision that the vote was contrary to superior law. However, the question is a new one to us, and we have not now time to examine it. The Delaware decision goes upon the ground that the actual proceedings of the lodge must be recorded; but we presume that is not intended to decide that proceedings “not proper to be written” must be recorded.

The Grand Master decided that an objection to the advancement of a candidate by one not a member of the lodge does not constitute a bar to conferring the other degrees if the lodge so decides: the report to approve the decision was opposed, but was adopted.

The Committee on Masonic Home reported that action at present is inexpedient, and the report was adopted; \$100 was appropriated for the support of two masons in the “Minquadale Home.”

The Report on Correspondence (80 pp.) was presented by Bro. Lewis H. JACKSON: concise abstract with brief comments.

In his review of Arkansas, he says:

“The subject of the proper manner of wearing the apron in the several degrees was presented, and it was expressed to be the sense of the Grand Lodge that hereafter the apron be worn as set forth in the General Ahiman Rezon, by Daniel Sickles. And furthermore, that it is proper that the apron should be worn in this manner in each degree, at all lodge meetings, whether degrees are being conferred at the time or not. To all of which we assent.”

And in his review of Indiana:

“The Committee on Jurisprudence submitted a report on the following question which had been referred to them: ‘In opening and closing the lodge, where do the knocks begin,—in the South or in the East?’ The commit-

tee reported in favor of the South, which was adopted by the Grand Lodge. That, we believe, is in accordance with the usage in Delaware, but if we remember rightly more than thirty years ago, in Maryland, they began in the East, and for obvious reasons we think that the correct practice. Orders are communicated from East to West and thence to the South, and the signals for the opening and closing of labor should follow the same course. Those used in degree work have a different reason for their reverse order."

We certainly agree with him; but may find reason to change our opinion when we come to review Indiana.

Referring to our report last year, he says:

"He wonders, however, what is done in Delaware when the Master dies, inasmuch as Wardens cannot by our resolutions confer degrees unless they are actual Past Masters. He says:

"It would seem that there must be a new election, or if the S. W. succeeds to the office, he must be installed and receive the Past Master's degree."

"The so-called degree causes much trouble. We leave it to those who legislate to meet the difficulty. The resolution, we believe, provides that a Past Master may be called in to confer the degrees.

"Bro. Drummond quotes freely from our review of correspondence and without adverse comment, except that in one instance, concerning public installations, he seems not to appreciate our objection to the difference between the performance of masonic functions before the public which *must necessarily* be so done, (such as funeral services and laying of corner-stones) and that which *need not* be so done, the public installation of lodge officers. We cannot conceive the propriety of deliberately *inviting* and *admitting* the public to the lodge room to participate in a masonic function. However, we long ago 'agreed to disagree' on that subject."

We suspect that he agrees with us that the "resolution" should be amended so as to have the law in consonance with that of almost every other Grand Lodge in the world.

As to public installations, we now understand that it is a question of *policy* and not of law. But does not his argument go too far? We are under no obligation to lay corner stones; then, if his argument about public installations has force, why should we not decline to perform any public ceremony?

Of the necessity of being Warden before one can be Master, he says:

"This is in accord with general usage, and the rule of the ancient regulations, but we think there are exceptions where some elasticity would work more to the advantage of the lodge and the good of Masonry if the best qualified member could be made eligible without the necessity of rotation in office. We have known the thing to be done by dispensation of the Grand Master, without service as Warden."

Our Grand Lodge decided that the rule is not a "*landmark*," but a *regulation*; so we have the elasticity of which our brother speaks, and it works well.

He says:

"He concurs in our comment last year that the 'brightest and most impressive worker should confer the degrees.'" We will add that *he should* be

the Worshipful Master. The reason we objected to the Junior Warden conferring the *first* degree is because we regard first impressions as of very grave importance, and we believe very few such tyros as J. W.'s generally are, do the work impressively, however well they may know it. We have seen the incongruity of a beardless youth scarcely over 21 years conferring the degree on a mature man of learning and refinement in such a manner that disgust was inevitable."

Years ago we were called upon to install as Grand Chaplain, a brother of about double our age, of high standing as a man, and a minister, and the incongruity of the situation almost overcame us; and we *think* that it occurred to him also; at any rate, as we invested him with his jewel and in place of the charge, added only, "we shall look to you to point to Heaven and lead the way," he flashed upon us a look of half surprise, followed by a smile for an instant, and then, as if appreciating the appeal made to him, the tears came to his eyes as he whispered, in a tone audible only to us, "God helping me."

In his review of Vermont, he says:

"We believe in the ceremonies of installation, and the title of Past Master after due service rendered, but nothing in the nature of a *degree*,—that is a myth, an innovation, a piece of concocted nonsense, unworthy the dignity of Masonry. We beg pardon, we express our personal opinion only; the Grand Lodge of Delaware, like the Grand Lodge of Vermont, authorizes the ceremonies as a degree, and henceforth we have no more to say on the subject."

After all, isn't this merely a question of the use of the word "degree"? In Pennsylvania, they have precisely what we have elsewhere, but they do not call it a "degree." But it is convenient to call a part of the ceremony of installation a "degree," and it is quite generally called so. As long as it is called so, generally, and we all understand what it means, we see no objection to its use. Usage fixes the meaning of words in spite of the scholar, whose province is to record the meaning which usage gives.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1897.

At the semi-annual communication, the Committee on Jurisprudence submitted an able report in relation to the resolutions of our Grand Lodge concerning rejected candidates.

Incidentally, also, the committee considered the question of the effect of an objection after ballot, and the conclusion which they reached was to recommend a change in the law which made such an objection effectual until withdrawn or the objector ceased to be a member of the lodge, so that hereafter such an objection, if not withdrawn within six months, shall have the same effect as a rejection by ballot. This recommendation was adopted by the Grand Lodge. The law differs from ours, in that while with us such an ob-

jection operates at once as a rejection, and the candidate can be admitted only upon a new petition filed after the expiration of the required time, in that jurisdiction, if the objection is withdrawn within six months, the candidate may be admitted at once upon his old petition.

The committee regard the other question as one of the highest importance, and say it is evident that the danger of serious complications will continue to exist until some uniform rule is adopted.

The committee correctly conclude that the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction cannot be proved to be a landmark. Of course, before permanent lodges had an existence, from the very nature of things, the doctrine could not exist: it is an outgrowth of the creation of *chartered* lodges and permanent in their character. The doctrine is a result of masonic usage recognized by Grand Lodge regulations, and almost everywhere recognized as a legitimate subject for Grand Lodge legislation.

In one respect, the committee, in our judgment, came to an utterly erroneous conclusion; and if their position is correct there was not the slightest need of legislation upon the question submitted. They deny that a rejection has any force outside of the jurisdiction in which it happened.

They say:

“If one is regularly made in a legally-constituted lodge, working under a charter from a recognized Grand Lodge, and in accordance with the law of its jurisdiction, he is not a clandestinely-made mason, even though his making was not in accordance with the law of some other Grand Lodge; at least, so it seems to your committee.”

They preface this with a statement of the law which prevails in Massachusetts (as they say, but which also prevails in Maine, Pennsylvania and numerous other jurisdictions), that a rejected candidate, made elsewhere without the proper consent, is “a clandestine mason,” adding:

“It can readily be seen how it would very naturally offend the dignity of any recognized Grand Lodge to have a mason regularly made by, and a member of, a legally-constituted lodge under its jurisdiction branded as a *clandestine mason* by the governing body of another masonic jurisdiction. We fail to see how such a constitutional provision can be considered consistent with masonic law or usage.”

The committee lose sight of the other consideration that it more naturally offends the dignity of any Grand Lodge to have a man, who has been found by it unfit to be made a mason, go away and return and claim admission into its lodges, and be kept out only by a member's objecting (as he might do in case of *any* visitor), and what is infinitely worse, have the right to *demand* of the masons of its obedience the performance towards himself of the duties which individual masons owe to each other. A Grand Lodge would fail in one of the most important of its duties, if it did not protect its lodges and its masons in such circumstances.

The committee quote the ancient charge:

“None shall discover envy at the prosperity of a brother, nor supplant him, nor put him out of his work if he is able 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 drafts of him that began it.”

And add:

“It also governs the lodges in the sense of giving to every lodge the right to perpetual jurisdiction over the candidates upon whom it has conferred one or two degrees. This right we believe is universally conceded. But we cannot see in this old charge any application to lodges as to their rejected material. It applies to work already commenced; and in the case of rejection there is a refusal on the part of the lodge to do the work in that particular case. And if another lodge, under another jurisdiction, and in accordance with its laws, sees fit to accept the candidate and confer the degrees upon him, it cannot be said with reason that it supplanted the rejecting lodge and put it ‘out of its work.’”

We do not believe that this applies to lodges at all; for the reason that there were no such things as lodges to which it could apply till long after this charge became law. The application of it, to work *commenced*, has no other foundation than the application of a correct principle in a new case. It has been so applied to work already commenced only in the same manner in which it has been applied to rejected candidates—by masonic usage and masonic legislation. We greatly regret to find that the committee adopt the utterly erroneous doctrine as to what a rejection means, viz: “That the lodge declines to do the work in that particular case.” We should doubt that they really mean this, were it not for what they say later. If there has been anything emphatically taught in Masonry, it is that the ballot is upon the question of the fitness of the applicant to be made a mason, and that if any mason is governed by any other motive in his ballot, he violates his duty as a mason, and *commits a crime against Masonry*, all the more heinous because there is no danger of detection and punishment.

The proposition of the committee that “if one is regularly made in a legally constituted lodge, working under a charter from a recognized Grand Lodge, and in accordance with the law of its jurisdictions, he is not a clandestinely-made mason” has exceptions. In order to save question as to the meaning of words, we take the affirmative form of the proposition, “he is a lawful mason.” We hold, and it is generally admitted, that if a candidate is *absolutely ineligible to be made a mason*, he cannot be a lawful mason, wherever or however made. For example, we have found no one, who ventures to hold, that if a Grand Lodge should allow its lodges to make masons of expelled masons, they would be lawful masons. This admitted, necessarily admits exceptions to the rule; that admitted, the next question is, what are the exceptions. We believe that we have correctly stated the principle upon which they are based—ineligibility. An expelled mason has received a *status* which makes him ineligible, save by the action of the lodge or Grand Lodge, which gave him that *status*. Down to within a few years,

no question has been made that the *status* received through a rejection, attaches to the party precisely as *expulsion* does, and makes him ineligible, without the action of the rejecting lodge, precisely as *expulsion* does. The argument that the laws of a Grand Lodge can have no operation outside of their own territory, specious as it is, is fallacious and unsound: this is shown by the effect given to suspensions and expulsions; if applied as its supporters would apply it, it becomes a regular boomerang. Let us see; by the laws, say, of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, a man rejected in Maine and made a mason by one of its lodges, without consent of the rejecting lodge, is a lawful mason; but the laws of that Grand Lodge have no extra-territorial force; therefore he is a lawful mason in the District of Columbia, *and nowhere else!*

There is another exception to the rule stated by the committee, practically prevailing in almost all the jurisdictions in this country, and that is, if a resident in one Grand Jurisdiction goes into another and is made a mason without the proper consent, he will not be recognized at home; and what is curious, and would be laughable were it not so serious a matter, several of the Grand Lodges, which are most rampant to have their own action in relation to the validity of their work in accepting the rejected candidates of other jurisdictions, are most strenuous in enforcing this rule of theirs!

Some of the Grand Lodges, which deny the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction, admit practically, but probably unconsciously (and, therefore, the admission has all the more weight), the correctness of that doctrine: they do not allow a lodge to receive the petition of a man rejected by *one of their own lodges* without its consent, but *do* allow the reception of a petition of a candidate rejected by an *outside* lodge without any such consent! Some, which had this law several years, upon having their attention called to this, have changed the law; but their practical admission had been made.

We regret to find that the committee base an argument upon the statement that worthy candidates are sometimes rejected, endorsing a statement that when a candidate has been proposed by two members and inquiry been made into his character by three others well known, and he has been approved by them, but is rejected, "the chances are five to one, that the candidate is worthy, but there is a personal objection on the part of one member of the lodge to his being made a member of that particular masonic family."

If this is correct, the law of the secret and unanimous ballot is a disgrace to Masonry: and if it is allowed to remain, it will be a disgrace to masons. The argument of the committee, based upon this statement, is more of an argument against the secret ballot, than against evading its effect.

The committee conclude:

"For these reasons your committee are not in favor of 'perpetual jurisdiction' over rejected material. Nor can we admit the right of any Grand

Lodge to expect that its own regulations regarding the admission of rejected candidates into its subordinate lodges should be operative within the territory of another Grand Lodge whose laws are different.

“As has been said, it is universally conceded that each Grand Lodge is sovereign within its own territory, and can rightfully enact laws that are not contrary to the fundamental principles of Masonry for the government of subordinate lodges, but it cannot make these laws operative within the territory of another Grand Lodge.

“It may not be possible to bring about ‘uniform legislation by the several Grand Lodges in relation to the reception of petitions of rejected candidates,’ but it seems to your committee that the legislation proposed by the Grand Lodge of Maine is open to as few objections as any that could be devised for that purpose, and it is to be hoped that concurrent action upon the part of the other Grand Lodges will settle forever the vexed question of the right and proper claim to be made by a lodge as to its jurisdiction over its rejected material.”

It is equally true that Grand Lodges have no power to enact law contrary to the fundamental principles of Masonry, and if they do, such laws are void. The committee, by inference, admit this, but they seem to us to overlook the fact that the question of the admission of a profane is not his admission into a particular lodge, or among the masons of a particular jurisdiction, but *into the fraternity* the world over, and that all matters relating to the admission of candidates are governed, not by such regulations as any Grand Lodge sees fit to enact, but by those very “fundamental principles of Masonry,” controlling what would otherwise be within the province of each Grand Lodge to determine.

The committee recommended that the by-law in reference to this matter be amended so as to read as follows:

“Nor shall the petition for initiation of any candidate who has been rejected by another lodge be received until one year after such rejection has expired, and if such rejection has occurred within five years of the date of said petition it shall be received only by consent of two-thirds of the members present of the lodge which rejected him, if it be in existence.”

By what vote, or in what manner, the required consent shall be given is within the discretion of every Grand Lodge. The by-law, therefore, is all right and we believe will be construed to include all rejections, whether within that jurisdiction or without. The only trouble is the concession made by the committee that the rejected candidates may go elsewhere, receive the degrees, return and be *entitled* to masonic recognition.

We regret very greatly to learn of the long and very severe illness of the venerable Grand Secretary, Bro. SINGLETON, but are glad that he could be present, if only for a few minutes, and receive the honors and heartfelt wishes of the brethren.

At a former meeting, the judgment of acquittal of a lodge was reversed and the party expelled by the Grand Lodge; a question having arisen as to the power of the Grand Lodge in such a case, the matter was referred to a committee, which reported at this session that the power of the Grand Lodge

to so act was sustained by precedents, and the report was accepted. But the Grand Lodge reconsidered the vote of expulsion, had the testimony read and suspended the accused for three years.

In the record of a special communication to lay the corner stone of the Washington Hebrew Temple, we find the following:

“A very large audience was in attendance upon the main floor of the temple. Among them were the President of the United States, William McKinley, and all the members of his Cabinet, except the Secretary of the Treasury, who was absent from the city; also Commissioner Wight of the District of Columbia, and several pastors of different Protestant churches.”

We are rejoiced to find our Bro. SINGLETON present at the annual communication, and apparently as active as any of the young brethren.

The Grand Master (MATTHEW TRIMBLE) delivered a comparatively brief address, giving a concise, business-like account of his official action.

We learn from his address that if a member of a lodge is “dropped for non-payment of dues” and does not pay up within a year, he becomes a non-affiliate and not entitled to visit any lodge *more than once* before taking measures to become an affiliate.

He reported a case in which a petitioner stated in his petition that he had never applied to any lodge, but it afterwards appeared that he had been rejected by a Colorado lodge five years before. By direction of the Grand Master, charges were preferred against him and he was suspended, but for what time is not stated. And the Grand Secretary of Colorado was notified of this action.

He says:

“During the past year it has been my great pleasure to participate in the ceremony of placing in position the chief corner stones of three public buildings, and on each occasion, through the courtesy of Potomac Lodge, I had the honor of wielding the historic gavel used by our illustrious brother, the first President of the United States, George Washington, when he laid the corner stone of our National Capitol in 1793, with masonic ceremonies, and on which occasion President Washington acted as Grand Master on the invitation of the Grand Masters of Virginia and Maryland.”

We are very glad to note that the Grand Lodge ordered a reprint of the Proceedings from 1811 to 1860—not wholly a “reprint,” because those for quite a portion of the period have never been printed at all.

The matter of chief interest before the Grand Lodge is the proposed erection of a Masonic Temple in aid of which a fair is to be held. We do not find sufficient details to enable us to state what progress has been made.

The Report on Correspondence (133 pp.) was presented by Bro. WILLIAM R. SINGLETON, as for many years heretofore.

We learn that in that jurisdiction a lodge is not allowed to request of another lodge a waiver of jurisdiction; but if a waiver is required, the candidate must present it with his petition.

In his review of Iowa, he refers to the denial of RICHARD E. CHISM, of Mexico, that he has not been legally expelled from Masonry, *because he was not a member of the lodge which expelled him*. If that is the only reason, all the Grand Lodges in the United States will hold that he was legally expelled, as we have no doubt he was.

In regard to public masonic ceremonies, he says:

“If Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts are to be present, except at funerals, certainly the lodge should be open in Entered Apprentice degree. We referred to the old books in our possession wherein at all public ceremonies, funerals included, provision was made for Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts in line. At that time all business was transacted in the lodge of Entered Apprentices, as is the case *now* everywhere except in the United States. Inasmuch as we now transact business in the Third degree or a lodge of Master Masons, his suggestion that public ceremonies should be also in the Third degree, we see but one objection, and that is the exclusion of all but Master Masons.”

Under the heading “Maine,” he says:

“We have before us the proceedings of this Grand Lodge at its seventy-seventh annual communication, held at Portland May 5, 6 and 7, 1896, which was received by us September 2, 1896, and why it was not reviewed in our report of that year ‘no fellow can find out.’ It is a mystery to the writer how the volume got out of its appropriate place and afterward came into view, for we find it in its place for review in the year 1897; and inasmuch as we shall soon receive the proceedings for the current year, we cannot spend much time in the present review as most of the subject-matters are quite old.”

He did receive the Proceedings of 1897, and devotes several pages to a review of them, giving a pretty full abstract.

In reference to the rights of lodges to admit candidates, and in reply to our remarks last year, he says:

“We consent to the *wisdom* of this law, which may be made so by a Grand Lodge constitutional provision, but in the absence of such provision we think Bro. Drummond’s own reasoning will show that the lodges control the matter entirely.

“We do not remember having intimated that territorial jurisdiction of a lodge *ever* existed until more than half a century after 1721. We do not believe that even then the European Grand Lodges entertained the proposition. Our idea was and is that material for lodge work can only belong to the lodges where the same is taken up, and, as we have expressed elsewhere, that a man could be made a mason wherever he might, for the time being, find it convenient to apply for the privilege; the lodge being the *judge* of his qualification. The *term* of residence was never considered then nor now in any European or South American lodge. It is purely United States Masonry, as Bro. Drummond says, *he* ‘assisted in the Grand Lodge of Maine in establishing the law.’

“We may be mistaken, yet in view of our examination of the question we still believe the right to make a mason in any lodge was an inherent right before the Grand Lodge of 1717 had an existence—how otherwise could masons be made prior to the chartering of lodges?

“He is correct in saying that ‘a Grand Lodge may prescribe such rules as it pleases in relation to the waiver of jurisdiction in favor of another

lodge,' which at once admits the *right*, as we claim. He is also correct, 'that if the waiver is for a lodge in another jurisdiction, *it is a wise* requirement to have the papers pass through the hands of the Grand Officers; but that does not change the *rights* of the lodges."

Even if it is admitted that lodges, under the ancient law, could admit any candidate who applied, that gave them no *rights* in relation to candidates, *who did not apply to them*, so that when Grand Lodges adopted the plan of territorial jurisdiction, the lodges had no rights *in profanes*, and they could be allowed by the Grand Lodge to apply anywhere, without infringing upon the rights of lodges, inherent or otherwise; and this was the question under discussion. It follows that the Grand Lodge, which created territorial jurisdiction of lodges over profanes, may also provide the conditions under which a candidate may apply to another lodge and may require the consent of the lodge or not, as it sees fit.

Referring to a decision of a Grand Master that a lodge could not attend church on St. John's Day in masonic clothing, even by dispensation, he well says:

"The festivals of the two patron saints of Masonry, by the ancient brethren were strictly enjoined to be observed; and when we were a young mason in Missouri, nearly all of the lodges in that jurisdiction did observe the 24th of June and 27th of December by going to some church in procession, in regalia, without thinking for a moment of any 'ostentatious display.'"

* * * * *

"The Committee on Jurisprudence, in their report, sustained the Grand Master in his refusal to permit a lodge, as such, to attend divine service on St. John's Day, 'being in accordance with former rulings of the Grand Lodge, wherein it has been held that no lodge shall appear in public as masons except for the purpose of performing masonic labor.'

"But this was performing masonic labor just as much as going to a church and listening to a preacher performing the usual burial services and delivering a funeral discourse. See all the old masonic books *passim*."

We are profoundly grateful that our brother has so fully recovered from his illness: if we needed proof of it, we find it in this report.

FLORIDA, 1898.

The Proceedings contain an excellent likeness of the late Bro. DEWITT CLINTON DAWKINS, Past Grand Master, and Grand Secretary for nearly twenty-five years. To be sure, the white beard and hair make him look more venerable than in the days when we knew him, but the expression of the face is the same, and we are very glad indeed to find this memorial of a brother mason whom we esteemed very highly.

The Grand Lodge held a special meeting to lay the corner stone of a masonic temple; the ceremonies were performed by the Grand Lodge, which opened, marched to the place, laid the corner stone, returned to the hall and closed.

The Grand Master (JAMES M. HILLIARD) delivered a business-like address, showing that he had been active, zealous and faithful in ably administering the affairs of the craft.

He had had occasion during the year to give the subject of District Deputy Grand Masters much thought, and the result was that if the brethren would recommend for the office Deputies who would discharge their duties faithfully, it would relieve the Grand Master of many difficulties which he is called upon to meet. He complains that while some of the District Deputies had acted promptly and discharged their duties in a satisfactory manner, some had been very indifferent. One difficulty was the expenses, and it was his opinion that some action should be taken by the Grand Lodge to relieve the lodges from the burden of defraying the expenses of the visitations, especially when the Deputy is sent to perform some particular service, as he had found it necessary to do during the year.

The reports of the Deputies show that some of them had visited the lodges and some had not. This leaves us to repeat again the observation which has been found many times in our reports, that a system of visitation by representatives of the Grand Lodge, at the expense of the Grand Lodge, is absolutely necessary for the welfare of the lodges.

Difficulties had arisen in one lodge, and he sent a committee to harmonize them, and after much effort they seemed to have succeeded; but in a little while the troubles broke out again, and reached such a climax that the Grand Lodge was of the opinion that the only remedy was to revoke the charter, and it accordingly did so. From the statement of the case it would seem that it ought to have gone further, and disciplined some of the leading spirits in fomenting the dissensions. The Secretary had a very strange idea of his duties. Instead of recording what was done in the lodge he undertook to record what was said in the lodge, with occasional conversations that were held out of it! He seemed to think that he was a sensational newspaper reporter and that his record was to be the report of a political convention rather than the record of the action of a lodge. The lodge was an old one and named for the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, an honored mason, and in addition to the sorrow that we feel at the extinction of a lodge, is also the regret that so honored a name should be involved in it.

The Grand Master made many decisions, most of which depended upon local law. We note that he decided (and the Grand Lodge approved the decision) that a candidate who has been elected to receive the first degree in another state and has not received it, still is the work of the first lodge, unless, under the law of that jurisdiction, the election lapses after a given time, as is the case in many jurisdictions.

The Grand Master had made a large number of visitations, having enthusiastic meetings, with undoubted benefit to all concerned.

One pleasant incident, tinged with sadness, was the presentation by the widow of the late Grand Secretary, ALBERT J. RUSSELL, of a book containing a biographical sketch of her late husband. The speeches of presentation and reply pay a high tribute to the memory of that honored brother.

The Grand Lodge heartily approved of the plan of holding district meetings throughout the state, to be called by the District Deputy Grand Masters.

The Committee on Correspondence presented a very brief report, referring to the action of the Grand Lodge of Maine and New York, in forbidding masonic intercourse with the Grand Lodge of Peru and the members of its obedience. While cordially approving the action of those Grand Lodges they nevertheless deemed it proper to await the reception of *official* intelligence before acting, deeming it premature to sever fraternal relations upon information obtained at second hand.

The following resolution was adopted:

“The funeral services, when performed, should take place at the time of the interment or at an early day thereafter; but when it is omitted on account of unfavorable circumstances, a lodge of sorrow may be held by the bereaved lodge in its lodge room.”

An attempt had been made to abolish the office of District Deputy Grand Master, but it failed.

Several lodges petitioned for a remission of dues, but the Grand Lodge granted further time in which to make payment, instead of remitting them. Several lodges also petitioned that the temple assessment, as it is called, should be suspended, but the committee say:

“Last year, after mature deliberation, the Grand Lodge found it necessary and deemed it best to continue this assessment for another period of five years. It is true that in many localities the heavy hand of misfortune has fallen with crushing force upon our people, and, if possible, this committee would gladly recommend this Grand Body to lighten the burdens of its members, but sound judgment and good business sense unite to warn us against any legislation calculated in the remotest degree to endanger the prompt payment of the interest on our bonded indebtedness, and which would retard the early retirement of such bonds as our trustees may be able to induce the holders to part with, thus lessening the interest burden and hastening the happy time when all our obligations will have been discharged and the masonic fraternity of Florida be occupying a home that is at once the admiration of visitors and the subject of just pride to our own members, free from all incumbrance.

“Anthony Lodge, No. 87, had failed to send up all its dues, claiming that the Grand Lodge had no power to make an assessment of fifty cents for the five years following such action without the consent of the particular lodges. Such a contention on the part of a particular lodge is, in the opinion of your committee, absolutely untenable, and if tolerated for a moment, would inevitably lead to the disintegration and destruction of the Grand Lodge. Upon reflection and consultation the representative of Anthony Lodge, No.

87, has receded from the unwarrantable position, and has paid the full arrears to the Grand Secretary and withdrawn from this committee the communication upon the subject. We, therefore, recommend that the Grand Secretary enroll Anthony Lodge, No. 87, among the number of lodges having regular returns, and that its representative be placed on the pay-roll."

We trust that the increasing prosperity of this Grand Lodge, evidenced in the Proceedings before us, will continue, and that it is only a question of brief time when the extra assessments may be discontinued and still the Grand Lodge keep free from the burden of a debt, a burden more destructive than almost any other that it can be called upon to bear.

GEORGIA, 1897.

The Grand Master (JAMES W. TAYLOR) after a very eloquent introduction, comes to a sad duty, that of announcing the death of the Grand Secretary ANDREW M. WOLIHIN. Brother WOLIHIN has been for over forty years a prominent factor in the Masonry of Georgia. He had been Grand Secretary since 1885, for which position he was peculiarly fitted, especially as he was deeply devoted to Masonry and had, to a high degree, the characteristics which fit a man for that office. The tributes which were paid to his memory by the Grand Master and the brethren of the Grand Lodge were well earned, and we are glad for the sake of those, who shall come after him, that these memorials have been placed on record.

The Grand Master had not been called upon to make as many important decisions as his predecessors; and those, which he did announce, were the affirmation of well settled principles or else dependent upon local law. The following is correct, but we can scarcely imagine how a cause could arise which should call for a decision of this character:

"A mason is not required to divulge the proceedings of the Grand Jury while serving as such, though a brother be indicted. Masonry should not conflict with the laws of the land."

We find that in that jurisdiction an expelled mason can be restored to his masonic privileges only by action of the Grand Lodge, and restoration by the subordinate lodge does not restore him until its action is confirmed by the Grand Lodge. He also announced a decision that no lodge can entertain the application of a candidate who has been rejected in another lodge; but the Committee on Jurisprudence were of the opinion that the by-laws of the Grand Lodge do not "rigidly bind this jurisdiction to the doctrine of such perpetual jurisdiction over rejected material," saying:

"Taking the section as an entirety there are therein conditions which, in the opinion of your committee, modify very materially the ruling of the Grand Master given above. As pertinent to this question, your committee beg leave to present here in this connection the points presented in an appeal from the decision of the Most Worshipful Grand Master upon this point,

and upon which case the ruling was most likely made. Your committee do not propose to decide upon the question presented in the appeal, thinking it best that the Grand Lodge decide the question itself."

The facts of the particular case are then presented and a proposition was made to amend the by-law to read as follows:

"No candidate whose application may be rejected in any lodge, shall make a second petition to that lodge until after the lapse of one year from the time of such rejection. Nor shall his petition be entertained by any other lodge which shall have received notice of his rejection until after the expiration of one year from the time of such rejection."

The Grand Lodge adopted the by-law, and ordered further that every petitioner should be required to state whether or not he had previously applied to any other lodge, and been rejected within twelve months. We do not think that the by-laws of the Grand Lodge, as they previously existed, had any provision in them relating to this matter, and no decision in relation to it was cited, although the committee says that the Grand Lodge did not hold to perpetual jurisdiction.

The Grand Master had visited a large number of lodges, and his report upon them shows that the results were highly beneficial. He congratulated the Grand Lodge upon the prosperity of Masonry in the jurisdiction "financially, intellectually, morally and socially," and bases upon this fact some very earnest exhortations to the brethren for united effort and increased interest in the discharge of their masonic duties, closing his address as follows:

"As masons we are taught to live a different life. We have time and opportunity for meditation, and the worship of Israel's God. Time to bestow in relieving the distresses of a brother, time for our usual vocations, and the mason that does not utilize this time profitably is unworthy the high calling, and should renounce the cause and get out of the way, for his presence in our assemblies is but a clog to the advancement of all the virtues taught in our Order. We are to live for those who come after us. Some one lived and acted for us. Can we not live and act for those that are to come and take our places when we shall have served our time and gone hence.

"Generations unborn are to profit by our having lived, and the example we leave will tend to either elevate or lower the standard of moral character and integrity of those that come after us.

"Life is but a book given to us at birth, filled up with pure white pages without spot or blemish in which to record our every act, and as the days come and go the pages are turned and the book closed, and whatsoever is inscribed therein will stand unrevealed until eternity discloses it, and if defaced by any blot of unfaithfulness, it cannot be recalled. How cautious then should be every act of ours that is recorded in this book of life whose pages are exposed as recorded to the scrutiny of the world.

"Brethren, arouse from your lethargy if any possess you. The battle of life is on and no laggards are wanted. Every mason is expected to do his whole duty in this great struggle.

"Buckle on the armour of brotherly love, faith, hope and charity, and go forth to the rescue, redeem your fellowmen from vice, ignorance, crime and dissipation, and elevate him by virtuous example to the position for which

God created him, and when life's cares are over, and you are gathered to your fathers the world will be better by your having lived in it, and you will have filled the mission for which you were sent."

A set of resolutions was presented reciting that under a decision of the Supreme Court orders had been issued to the tax collectors of the state to demand the payment of the taxes of all masonic lodges for the last twenty years. It recites further that if such levy is enforced it will practically destroy the lodges, and proposing that a memorial be presented to the General Assembly for a relief. The matter was referred to a special committee. The committee reported that in their judgment the most satisfactory results could be secured by the lodges appearing before the proper authorities and laying the facts before them.

We have read again the memorial services to Bro. WOLIHIN and we attempted to extract from them, but unless we quote the whole we cannot well quote any, and will therefore only add the resolutions that were adopted:

"*Resolved*, That in honor of our beloved brother, Right Worshipful Andrew M. Wolihin, and to perpetuate his memory, each mason present deposit on the altar of this Grand Lodge such sum as he in his heart purposeth—the aggregate to be expended in erecting, in the name of the masons in Georgia, a monument to that brother now gone before, Andrew M. Wolihin.

"*Resolved*, That a monument committee of three be appointed, of which Past Grand Master John P. Shannon shall be chairman, and the money raised at this session be turned over to said committee.

"*Resolved*, That the Masters of the subordinate lodges in this jurisdiction be made a sub-committee to solicit contributions from their several lodges for this monument fund, and the money so collected shall be turned over to said committee."

The Committee on the Revision of the Constitution submitted a report that 2,000 copies had been printed and recommended that one copy be delivered to each Representative in the Grand Lodge, two copies be sent to each subordinate lodge and the remainder retained in the office for future use.

A most interesting communication was received from Past Grand Master SAMUEL D. IRVIN. He was unable to be present, but as it was the *fiftieth* anniversary of his entrance into the Grand Lodge as a member, he wisely celebrated it by sending in this communication of an exceedingly valuable historical character. The following resolution was presented in relation to this letter by Past Grand Master JAMES M. MOBLEY, who was not present in 1847 but had been present the previous year as a member of the Grand Lodge. We doubt if there is any parallel in any Grand Lodge in this country:

"*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Grand Lodge are hereby tendered to Most Worshipful Samuel D. Irvin, Past Grand Master, for the interesting historic communication this day received and read. And the Grand Lodge tenders their sincere sympathy to him in his affliction, which prevented his

attendance on this Grand Lodge, with the hope that he will soon recover and live long to bless mankind.

“*Resolved further*, That said letter be published with the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge, together with the resolutions, and that the Secretary furnish him with a copy of the same.”

The Committee on General Welfare reported upon a resolution referred to them as follows:

“**WHEREAS**, It is learned that members of the order in Atlanta, have undertaken the publication of a newspaper to be known as *The Craftsman*, devoted to the cause of Freemasonry; and,

“**WHEREAS**, Such a laudable enterprise deserves, and should receive our encouragement and support; be it,

“*Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge of Georgia extend to the publishers of the *Craftsman* an expression of our hearty good wishes for the success of the paper, and assurance of our co-operation and support in their efforts to promote the welfare of Freemasonry.

“We note with pleasure this indication of a growing interest in Masonry and masonic publications, and heartily recommend the adoption of this resolution.”

But the record is, “on vote being taken this section was stricken.”

An attempt was made to reduce the mileage from ten cents to five cents, in view of the financial condition of the Grand Lodge, but while the proposition received a large majority it lacked a few votes of the necessary two-thirds. The yeas and nays were taken and the names of the brethren voting in the affirmative and in the negative are given—the first instance of the kind that we have ever noticed, although we have frequently seen the details of a vote by lodges given.

An application was made by the Grand Orient of Portugal for fraternal recognition. The Grand Secretary was directed to investigate the matter and report at the next annual communication. A large number of brethren were reported as having been “charged, tried and sentenced for non-payment of dues,” and the committee recommended that the sentence of the several lodges be carried into effect “and that the said members by this Grand Lodge be expelled.”

A resolution was adopted making the District Deputies the “duly constituted exponents of masonic work in this jurisdiction.”

The following resolution in relation to Masonry in Mexico was adopted:

“*Resolved*, That the Most Worshipful Grand Master of this Grand Lodge be instructed to make careful investigation concerning Masonry in the Republic of Mexico, and should he find a Grand Lodge there in strict accord with this Grand Lodge, that he notify the Grand Lodge of Mexico, so in accord with us, that we will fraternize with it, and that the Grand Master afterwards notify each of the lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction of his action in the premises.”

The following resolution was also adopted:

“*Resolved*, That the several lodges in this state, in their discretion, shall be allowed to hold Memorial Exercises over their dead, after the burial of

the body, at such time and in such manner as may be deemed most suitable and appropriate.”

We have always supposed that lodges have the right to hold memorial services, but we judge that this resolution contemplates something further than the usual resolutions and tributes to the memory of the dead.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 90) was presented by Bro. WILLIAM S. RAMSAY.

He gives a concise abstract of the Proceedings reviewed with occasional comments. We regret to say that he had not received Maine for 1897, and as those for 1896 were reviewed the year before, he could only announce the fact.

Referring to a decision in which a Grand Master ordered a new ballot in consequence of a member casting a black ball by mistake, he says:

“We cannot see how this result could be brought about without exposing the secrecy of the ballot, which is unmasonic, no matter what the pretext may be for the exposure. A mistake of this kind is very unfortunate, but no remedy is provided against it and nothing can justify an exposure of the ballot after the result is declared.”

We think we raised this same question in a similar case and inquired how it was known that the particular member cast the black ball, and we fully agree with Bro. RAMSAY.

Referring to non-payment of dues, he says:

“In Georgia, if he fails to pay dues he is suspended for one year; if he is indifferent at the end of two years he is recommended for expulsion. He can have his dues remitted if he is unable to pay, but if able and he is found willing to shift the whole burden of support and charity upon the other members of the lodge he is not only a drone but a dead weight, and the lodge is fully justified in ridding itself of such an incubus.”

We have always maintained that this punishment is unduly severe. Non-payment of dues for two years results in *expulsion*, while for very numerous offences against the moral law and masonic law, members are merely *suspended*. We object most earnestly to the idea that non-payment of dues is a greater masonic offence than moral turpitude.

Of a decision in Idaho, which we in some inexplicable manner failed to notice last year, he says:

“He decided, also, that one member of a lodge may object to sitting in lodge with another member. We wonder by what process that law was evolved? We always thought that one member has equal rights with another to everything to which he is entitled by membership, until deprived of that right by due process of law. A brother feeling aggrieved may lay his case before the lodge, or, if a masonic offence is committed, prefer charges, or withdraw from the hall by permission of the Master, but to *object* to sitting in the lodge room with a brother, for reasons he keeps to himself, is an absurdity.”

In his review of Indiana, he says:

“The Committee on Jurisprudence reported that the knocks in opening and closing the lodge should always begin at the South, arguing from the ‘unwritten law’ of Masonry, most convincingly to any attentive reader that it is entirely appropriate that the knocks should begin at the *South*. King Solomon placed guards ‘at the South, West and East gates.’ The Master Builder of the Temple met resistance at these gates in the same order, each stroke of the gavel a reminder that integrity is of greater moment than life, and that such courage and fortitude becomes a victory over even death itself. This is also the order in Rob. Morris’ *Mnemonics*, which every intelligent mason may consult for himself. p. 26.”

We have already in this report stated our disbelief in the right of the Wardens to use gavels except when presiding in the East, whether under masonic law or masonic usage, and we doubt very gravely the correctness of commencing in the South when the lodge is opened. The knocks are in a nature of an order from the Master, and we hold that he should give the order for them by beginning himself, and after they are completed seating the lodge by the usual signal.

In the *work* there is no such reason for the order in which they are to be given, and there is a reason, and a good one, for beginning in the South.

In regard to a suggestion for assessing dues according to the pecuniary ability of the members, he well says:

“His suggestion for a remedy against the increasing army of non-affiliates is unique. He proposes to make annual dues proportionate to the financial ability of the members. In other words, to destroy the equality of the membership, which any plan of this kind would practically do. If you destroy the idea of *equality* in Masonry, you destroy at one fell blow the adherent power of this institution and delegate to the rich the entire work. Payment of dues ought not to be regarded a *duty* but a *privilege*. Every lodge in the world exempts its members ‘who are unable to pay.’ The world has never had any other organization in which equality was as fully accorded to its every member as in Masonry. It has been its proud boast during the centuries of its existence.”

However, the proposition is so impracticable in its nature that it will not command much attention.

Of the Maine resolutions, he says:

“This is a proposition to secure uniform action of the Grand Lodges as to the dealing with rejected material. Maine proposes that, after five years, applicants be released and left free to apply for membership elsewhere. Many favor the very harsh and unreasonable law of perpetual jurisdiction, but a majority favor the resolution, some of them suggesting only one year as the limit. We would be glad to copy the resolutions and the arguments on both sides, but we have already extended this report beyond our usual limits.”

We hope his Grand Lodge will give the matter consideration, for nothing can be more certain than that the future is full of danger growing out of this very matter. If any one has doubts, let him read the Proceedings of the Grand Lodges of Indiana and Pennsylvania for the past year or two. The only reason why we have not already seen more of it, is merely because

Grand Lodges have not had the courage of their convictions, as Indiana has had, and have chosen to keep silent in similar circumstances.

In relation to Masonry in Mexico, he says:

“Our Grand Lodges have been much perplexed as to the *status* of Masonry in Mexico, the Gran Dieta Symbolica having applied for recognition. During the first term of the administration of Grand Master John S. Davidson we made full investigation, and reported adverse to recognition, not because the lodges of Mexico were instituted by the A. and A. Scottish Rite, because very many of the jurisdictions we recognize owe their existence to the same origin, but because charges were made that women were admitted to membership and held office; lodges of women were constituted; the Bible was excluded from the altars, and general irregularities.”

He then adds that in consequence of the personal investigations of Bro. PARVIN, of Iowa, and believing that the evils spoken of in the paragraph we have quoted, have ceased, he was ready to extend the courtesy of recognition to the Gran Dieta; but we believe that the Grand Lodge took no action.

He devotes a couple of pages to the anti-masonic Congress and to some of the utterances of the fanatics who support it. We believe, as we have already stated, that the best answer to all such matters is contemptuous silence. However, we are glad that he wrote what he did for the sake of the following—the conclusion of his remarks upon this subject:

“Masonry has lived amid the stoutest opposition in the past. It will continue to live as long as the necessities of man require comfort in trouble, solace in sorrow, help in need, or direction in doubt. It is no *society*. It is an *INSTITUTION*, founded upon the broad principles of humanity, benevolence and truth, with no aim but the elevation of the race, no object but the dissemination of light and no end but the alleviation of misery. It has by its own inherent principles gone from conquest to victory, until it has belted the globe with a girdle of light and will continue until under the benediction of God she shall have accomplished her sublime mission of love and peace; the avowed champion of intellectual liberty and the restorer of civilization.”

Since these Proceedings were published, we have received the sad news of the death of Bro. WILLIAM ABRAM LOVE, Past Deputy Grand Master. In 1896, he was absent from the Grand Lodge on account of illness, but in 1897, he was present in Grand Lodge, active as usual, and we had hoped that he had fully recovered. He was Chairman of the Committee on the Memorial Tribute to Brother WOLFIN—one of rare eloquence and beauty, and now at the next session the same duty must be performed for him. Bro. LOVE was held in the highest esteem for his ability, his devotion to Masonry and his high character in all the relations of life, and his death comes to all the craft, as it does to us, with a sense of a great personal loss.

IDAHO, 1897.

The frontispiece is a portrait of the retiring Grand Master, FRED G. MOCK. He gives an account of his official acts, with various criticisms and recommendations. He decided that the election of an applicant as a member, makes him a member without his signing the by-laws. That depends upon the by-laws themselves; if they provide that he must be elected and sign the by-laws, he is not a member, according to the decision of our Grand Lodge, until he does sign them.

We also learn from his decision that a member of an Idaho lodge, establishing a residence in another jurisdiction, is entitled to withdraw from the Idaho lodge at will.

In answer to a question in relation to physical qualification, he says:

“If a man can make all signs correctly, would not become a charge on the lodge, and is not barred by some particular section of our laws, he is eligible. The lodge to be the judge.”

We learn that the minimum fee for conferring the degrees is fifty dollars. There was a strong and earnest effort, made in accordance with his recommendation, to reduce the fee for lodges in farming communities, but it failed.

He had visited every lodge in the jurisdiction, and of them says:

“During these visits I examined the records of every lodge as thoroughly as it was possible for me to do so. With very few exceptions I found everything regular and in due form, and in these instances congratulated the lodge and its officers. But in some of our lodges I found that little or no regard had been paid to the Grand Lodge laws or instructions, and in some cases found irregularities on the pages of their records, even up to date. This work has been a great satisfaction to those whose records have been kept in proper form, but those that had not been so kept have been straightened out, so far as possible, and the offenders caused no little uneasiness. Some of the officers who have wronged their brethren have received their just dues, and others I am informed will follow as quickly as possible. These officers whose transactions would not bear the light of day thought I was exceeding my authority; that even the Grand Master had no right to examine the private records of any officer without special instructions from the Grand Lodge. I have referred all such to page 14, Grand Lodge by-laws. But I am sure much good will result from these investigations, and if the lodges will follow closely the instructions I have given them there will be less confusion and fewer empty treasuries. In doing this work I did not look upon the lodges or officers with suspicion, but did it because I felt it to be a part of my official duty.”

What he means by his strictures upon the officers we cannot even guess at, Yankee as we are, and we have thought of it a good deal.

In his address he was very severe upon the brethren who refuse to receive the adopted work, relying upon work which they had previously learned, and he warns those present that they were to be held responsible for the work of their respective lodges.

He censured one lodge very sharply for spending fifty dollars on one oc-

casian and seventy-one dollars on another occasion for a brass band at funerals, although the lodge was at the time badly in debt, and he well says:

“ I thought this a useless expenditure, and so informed the lodge when this fact was discovered. If a lodge has plenty of money and can hire bands to accompany the remains of every brother to its final resting-place, all well and good, but there should be no distinction. If it requires a band to waft the spirit of a departed brother to the Supreme Grand Lodge above, so few have received this send-off that the attendance will be so much larger near by that all will feel more at home with this latter gathering.

“ Pay due respect to the memory of departed brethren, but if you have money to spare give it to the widow and orphans.”

He has a good word to say for the Eastern Star:

“ To the ladies of the Eastern Star throughout the jurisdiction, I can only say God bless them. ‘ Life at best is not very long. A few more sighs or smiles, a few more tears, some pleasures, much pain, cloud, and darkness, hasty greetings, abrupt farewells, and our little play of life is over.’ We need the assistance of the ladies, so let us encourage the growth of the Eastern Star.”

In the report of the Grand Secretary we find the following:

“ I herewith submit a communication from the Grand Lodge of Maine, through Right Worshipful Bro. George W. Richards, Grand Representative of Maine near the Grand Lodge of Idaho, which was received too late to be reported at our last annual communication. This is a plan for jurisdiction over rejected candidates, the Grand Lodge of Maine advocating a jurisdiction of five years over them, which, from our point of view, is a step towards perpetual jurisdiction.”

Our worthy brother cannot have even read the papers, or he would have seen at once that the step proposed by Maine is a step, and a long one, *from* perpetual jurisdiction, in fact a proposition to abolish that doctrine entirely. It does not appear that the resolutions were really presented to the Grand Lodge, but the committee content themselves with saying that this statement of the Grand Secretary requires no action. Of course the Grand Lodge is under no obligation whatever to consider these resolutions, but we had hoped that there would be a disposition to get rid of a danger that is threatening the harmony of the craft, sufficient to consider the propositions—not because they come from our Grand Lodge, but upon their own merits.

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand applied for recognition and it was accorded.

We find the following report:

“ Your special committee appointed at the last session of this Grand Lodge to consider the matter of authority to discipline in lodges under dispensation, and to report thereon the first day of this session, respectfully report that we have given the matter earnest and careful consideration; that lodges under dispensation ought not to be authorized to discipline members; that the present regulations of our Grand Lodge are wise and ample for all purposes. We therefore recommend that no change be made in our laws and regulations on this subject.”

We do not know what those laws and regulations are, but in almost all other jurisdictions it has been found necessary to give lodges v. d. the power of discipline. Cases have occurred in which offenders went free, simply because the body v. d. had no power of discipline.

The committee appointed the year before, on non-affiliates, made a report recommending the adoption of the following resolutions, and they were adopted:

“*Resolved*, That it is the duty of every mason residing within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge to be a member of some masonic lodge, either within or without the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

“*Resolved*, That every mason residing within this jurisdiction holding a dimit shall, within six months from this date, present his petition for membership in some lodge within this jurisdiction, and on failure so to do, or to pay dues according to the by-laws of the lodge nearest his residence, the Master of the lodge within whose jurisdiction such offending brother, if known, resides shall order the Junior Warden of his lodge to prefer charges against such unaffiliated brother of unmasonic conduct in not so presenting his petition for membership, and such proceedings shall be had as provided for in trials for unmasonic conduct, and if no sufficient excuse shall be shown for such failure to affiliate, and the offending brother be found guilty, he shall be expelled from the order.”

The committee go back and cite the Ancient Charges and construe them as an injunction that every mason must belong to a chartered lodge.

Inasmuch as there was no such thing as a chartered lodge until long after these Ancient Charges became law, it is readily seen that they do not touch the matter at all. Lodges were then held by a Master summoning the masons together, and it was the duty of the mason, when so summoned, to attend the lodge; but there was no such thing as membership in the lodge till after 1717. The same is true of the landmark which affirms the necessity of masons to “congregate in lodges.” In a word, all the laws previous to 1717 relate to *attending* a lodge and not to being a member of one. Masonic usage from the earliest times before 1717 and long afterwards, justifies the assertion that it is a landmark of Freemasonry, that a man may be a mason, and a *regular* mason, without being a member of a lodge, and if he chooses to forego the privileges peculiar to a lodge he has a right to do so; and we hold the resolutions of the Grand Lodge of Idaho upon this subject to be in contravention of the landmarks of Freemasonry, and an innovation which no man or set of men have the rightful power to make.

In the olden time it was deemed a *privilege* to belong to a lodge, and the law is to be read from that standpoint and not from the standpoint of the present times, when, instead of a privilege, it is tacitly admitted to be a *burden*—tacitly admitted by the very adoption of such resolutions as these which we have quoted.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence notice the situation of matters in Mexico and conclude that it is not best to have anything to do with Mex-

ican Masonry at the present, a conclusion that seems to be a wise one, considering that it is almost impossible to form a judgment as to what the truth is, in the face of the conflicting statements which continue to come to us from that jurisdiction.

The committee also notice the anti-masonic Congress, but say they are inclined to laugh rather than to be alarmed, and come to the conclusion that no action is required, but that the wise course is to let them run their way.

In addition to the portrait of the Grand Master, we find also the portrait of Past Grand Master JONAS W. BROWN, whose face is so much like that of a Maine man that it seems to us as if we must have met Bro. BROWN, and that of Past Grand Master CHARLES HIMROD.

The Report on Correspondence (78 pp.) was presented by Bro. CHARLES C. STEVENSON, who submitted his tenth report—a brief synopsis of the Proceedings with occasional pertinent comments.

Referring to the California law that none but members in good standing whose dues are paid can vote at an election or be eligible to office, he well says:

“ We have always been of the opinion that the right to vote was one of the rights of a member and mason, and that the rights and privileges of a mason could not be taken away from him except by due trial and conviction. We believe that our Idaho law is much more in harmony with the true spirit of Masonry.”

In reply to Bro. ROBBINS he says a word for the Eastern Star:

“ No, Bro. Robbins, the ladies of the Eastern Star will never ‘ take the Grand Lodge fully under their jurisdiction,’ but they are generous and kind enough to assist their husbands, brothers, and fathers to entertain the visiting brethren while in the city, and the brethren are courteous and gallant enough to allow them to do so. Much valuable aid has come from the Eastern Star.”

In his review of Maine he thus speaks in relation to ciphers:

“ We agree with Bro. Pillans, of Alabama, that our instructions received at the very door of Freemasonry obligated us not to do this very thing which Bro. Drummond justifies because he is of the opinion that ‘ there is a qualifying clause in the law.’ It is a masonic crime to betray the lodge and divulge its secrets, and the brother perpetrating such a crime by issuing ciphers is morally as guilty, even if saved by a saving or qualifying clause, as the murderer snatched from the gallows because venue had not been alleged in the indictment. We do not believe in technicalities in Masonry, and if a mason violates his solemn word of honor, as many of them are doing in this cipher business, we do not hesitate to state that he ought to be speedily and energetically kicked out. Nor should we attempt to justify our own wrong-doing by proving that Webb, or any one else, had done the same thing years and years ago.

“ We sometimes become so incensed at this constant and deliberate violation of masonic teachings and principles that we almost favor the cutting off of fraternal intercourse with those Grand Lodges which publish, use, or encourage the use of these enemies of our fraternity.”

No one will attempt to question that it is a masonic crime to "betray the lodge" or divulge its secrets, but the difficulty with our brother's reasoning is that ciphers do not betray the lodge or divulge the secrets; that is, the original cipher and so far as we know those which are generally used; and there is the very, point and where "the qualifying clause" comes in; the crime is not in *making* a cipher but in *divulging* the secrets, and if a cipher does not divulge the secrets, it is not a violation of a masonic law. This point the opponents of the use of ciphers entirely overlook, and on that account their arguments do not amount to anything. The idea that we should attempt to justify the production and use of anything that would divulge masonic secrets, is simply absurd, and when our brethren who are opposed to ciphers will come down and discuss the real question at issue, their arguments may be of some avail, but until then let them hold their tongues about the "violation of obligations." Bro. STEVENSON brings the point, that we have been trying to make, squarely to the front, and really admits that if ciphers do not divulge the secrets of Masonry they are not prohibited. Our good brother must not deem that we have any feeling in this matter because we speak so earnestly, but we have been endeavoring for several years to get the opponents of ciphers to tell whether they hold that the *production* of them is the offence or *divulging* the secrets of Masonry, and none of them have met the issue.

It is with sorrow far too great for expression, that we have just learned that since the close of the Grand Lodge, Bro. STEVENSON has "gone over to the majority." This news raises the question whether we will not revise what we have written, but we conclude not to do so, for we believe that Bro. STEVENSON, if he had lived, would have read what we have written in the spirit in which it is written.

In our report in 1896 we alluded to the excellence of the reports which he has produced, little dreaming that the last one would come so soon. He was a very earnest man and as earnest a mason as he was a man, and his death is a severe loss not only to the brethren of Idaho but to the craft everywhere; during the ten years in which he has prepared these reports, he had come to seem to us like an intimate friend and we feel his death as a great personal loss.

ILLINOIS, 1897.

A portrait of the retiring Grand Master (OWEN SCOTT) is given as a frontispiece.

Among the fraternal dead, whose deaths he announces, is Past Grand Master JEROME R. GORIN: he was Grand Master in 1866 and 1867 and has

served the craft earnestly and faithfully since. He retired on the evening of September 1st, in apparently his usual health, but in the morning he was found "sleeping the sleep that on earth knows no waking." After a noble life of nearly four score years, he "has gone to reap the reward of the faithful."

During the year one charter had been restored, one surrendered and two lodges consolidated.

Of the reports of the District Deputies, the Grand Master says:

"It will be a source of profit to read carefully the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters to be printed in the proceedings. Their work has been well done, and they preserve the thanks of the craft for their efficient and unremunerated services."

An amendment to the constitution had been submitted to the lodges and adopted, whereby the Grand Lodge may change the limits of the districts at any time: as the law stood the districts could be changed only once in ten years.

Of District Meetings, he says:

"Excellent meetings have been held in different localities, and the direct advantages from these gatherings are plainly seen. Renewed zeal and greater knowledge of law and work have led to higher conceptions of the fraternity and better standards for the future."

He had issued a circular to the Deputies, giving them instructions as to the matters to which they should give attention and a similar circular to the lodges. These instructions are similar to those usually given to Deputies in Maine, except that in Illinois these officers do not teach the work. It has always seemed to us, that this double system is unnecessary and needlessly expensive.

He suspended the charter of one lodge; in giving an account of it he says:

"The time has come when lodges should learn that obedience to the laws of this Grand Lodge are a pre-requisite to their continuance. Too great anxiety for numbers and too much consideration for swelling the balance in the treasury are fruitful causes of unworthy material being received."

We commend this to the attention of the brethren who are practically advocating the abolition of the secret and unanimous ballot.

The Grand Master says further:

"After a suspension for two months, M. W. Bro. Goddard, as my proxy, did, on September 13th, restore the charter to this lodge. This was done after sufficient evidence of repentance and full assurances of officers and members that they would, in the future, cheerfully conform to the constitution, laws, and edicts of this Grand Lodge.

"Ravenswood Lodge is composed of intelligent and devoted masons and their lapse from the true path was through over-zeal rather than intention. I have no doubt that in the future this lodge will be loyal and true."

"Over-zeal" may be as dangerous to Masonry as willful violation of its laws.

He gives another case of a similar character:

“One of the greatest tendencies toward violating the law by lodges is in connection with the ballot. Too great anxiety for members leads to wrong. In Waukegan Lodge, No. 78, the Senior Warden, as acting Master, permitted five ballots to be taken on a petition for the degrees. On each of the first four ballots a black ball was cast. On the fifth ballot, after several members had retired, no black ball appeared and the candidate was declared duly elected.”

* * * * *

“Because of this flagrant and open violation of the law, I suspended the Senior Warden from office for sixty days, or at the pleasure of the Grand Lodge or Grand Master.”

The Grand Master exercised a power, which Grand Masters in many jurisdictions possess, but the exercise of which has been vehemently criticised by brethren who base their ideas of *masonic* law upon the civil law:

“The evidence having fully sustained the charges, I did on the 2d day of December, 1896, depose the Worshipful Master of said lodge from office, and suspend him from all the rights and privileges of Masonry until this session of the Grand Lodge. I submit papers and documents herewith.”

The Grand Lodge sustained the Grand Master and apparently expelled the offender; we say apparently, because its action is given as follows:

“In the case of the complaint made against the Worshipful Master of Locust Lodge, No. 623, very similar as a whole and in detail to the case of Chapel Hill next preceding, and for same reasons therein briefly submitted, your committee regards it as coming within the authority of the law quoted, and subject to like consideration, except that your committee in this case recommends that the Worshipful Master of Locust Lodge No. 623, referred to, be ——— from all the rights and privileges of Freemasonry.”

While we fully concur in holding that in cases coming before the Grand Lodge, no more than the result should be published in its Proceedings, we hold, as already stated, that the *result* should be, except possibly in special cases. When a man, known in the community as a mason, commits so grave an offence as to call for his expulsion, the good name of Masonry demands that the expulsion should be made as public as he has made his conduct.

Of “Life Membership,” he says:

“Renewed evidences have come to me that the perils of life membership were not overdrawn in my report last year. Many lodges suffering from the blight of a privilege membership have repealed their laws, and have striven to reduce the bad effects to the minimum. This Grand Lodge can not, with safety, do less than pass the amendment suggested by the Committee on Jurisprudence.”

In former times, the tendency spoken of in the following existed in this section of the country, but at present and for some years past, the brethren have understood and appreciated the correct doctrine:

“Frequent questions have come to me regarding the appearance of lodges in public. In all such cases information has been given that no lodge can take part in any parade or other public demonstration except when perform-

ing a masonic duty, unless by special dispensation of the Grand Master. These proper occasions are in burying the fraternal dead, public installation of officers, laying corner stones, dedicating masonic halls, etc. No masonic lodge can properly be seen in public merely for show or to help others make a show. Lodges cannot act as escort to any other body, whether that other organization be composed in part or wholly of masons. The frequency with which this question has been raised must serve as an apology for stating some long-established and well-known principles underlying the fraternity."

In this connection, we give the following, in relation to a matter which we have already noticed; the evil is a growing one, and a result of the competition among newspaper reporters to be "the first to give the news." The danger arising from this competition is being powerfully illustrated as we are writing, and causes deep regret that the civil law cannot reach the offenders as the masonic law did in this instance:

"The increasing practice of lodges and brethren in publishing the doings of masonic bodies is an evil. It is not uncommon to find the newspapers announcing the details of masonic meetings. When they do so some mason divulges the secrets he is bound by his obligations to keep. Not long since a Chicago daily paper published nearly a column of matter pertaining to a masonic transaction. It could not have done so except on information given by masons. It did a great injustice to the brethren who were interested in the matter and to the fraternity. If the brother who gave out the facts could be known there would be good ground for discipline.

"In another case a cashier of a bank answered an inquiry from a business house by stating that the man whose standing was asked for had been expelled from the masonic lodge. The bank official was an active member, and participated in the proceedings by which the brother was disciplined. The person to whom the information was given was not a mason. I ordered charges preferred against this man, who would prostitute his Masonry for business purposes, or would wreak his vengeance on a man he disliked. He was tried by his lodge and suspended. Brethren should realize that Masonry does not ask publicity; she does her work with becoming modesty. Her left hand does not know what her right hand doeth. In this silent obtrusiveness is the strength of our great fraternity."

We understand from his address that when a lodge is organized it becomes at once under the law of the state a "body corporate," and that all the existing lodges are corporations "by the act incorporating the Grand Lodge and constituent lodges.

Of the condition of the craft, he says:

"Generally it may be said that harmony has prevailed throughout our Grand Jurisdiction. Few things have occurred except those most pleasing and satisfactory. The stagnation in business has had a telling effect on our growth. More suspensions for non-payment of dues in consequence of the hard times as well as a smaller number able to petition for admission, have served to cut down somewhat the gain of last year. There has been, however, a healthy increase in membership. Notwithstanding the unfavorable economic and industrial conditions prevalent, Masonry was never in better condition than it is to-day. There were never so many who were willing to sacrifice their ease and comfort in devotion to the craft."

The following amendment to the constitution, in relation to Life Membership, was lost, although the Grand Master had urged its adoption:

“Lodges may provide by law for the grade of life membership, to which their *own members only* shall be eligible, upon the payment of a fee by such member or members of not less than \$75 in a single payment. ‘*Life membership*’ shall not be acquired in any other manner. Any brother availing himself of these provisions shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of common membership, and be subject to all the provisions of lodge and Grand Lodge by-laws and regulations; *provided*, however, nothing herein shall be construed to in any manner affect any right acquired by brethren of the constituent lodges by virtue of any pre-existing law or regulation of said lodges.”

And the following was adopted:

“*Resolved*, That we consider it unwise to recommend to constituent lodges the adoption of any form or system of life membership.”

As we understand it, this leaves the whole matter with the lodges.

Probably the proposed amendment was deemed to be a practical abolition of life-membership. A system of life-membership, *graded according to age*, would be beneficial to a lodge, *provided* (and “there’s the rub”) that the lodge would spend no more of the fund annually than the amount of the annual dues.

The following request for recognition by the Grand Lodge of Egypt was referred to the Committee on Correspondence for report at the next session. We give it as information, upon which our Grand Lodge may be called upon to act:

“CAIRO, Feb. 27, 1897.

“*Honorable Owen Scott, Most Worshipful Grand Master M. W. Grand Lodge of Illinois, U. S. A., Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.*

DEAR SIR AND M. W. BROTHER: The M. W. National Grand Lodge of Egypt, being a Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, composed of the Worshipful Masters and Wardens of its constituent lodges, and none others, and owing allegiance to no other body of any name whatsoever; being desirous of cultivating amicable relations with other governing Grand Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons, fraternally asks masonic recognition of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Illinois, U. S. A., of Free and Accepted Masons, to an exchange of Representatives, the better to cultivate the spirit of brotherly love and friendship so earnestly taught in all our symbolic lodges.

“The National Grand Lodge of Egypt was regularly organized in the year 1876, by lodges of Free and Accepted Masons which taught and do now teach the English ritual as found in the work of the Mother Grand Lodge of England, presided over by H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, M. W. Grand Master of all English Freemasons. This fact can be best verified by that distinguished Freemason of England, R. W. Bro. William J. Hughan, an honorary Past Grand Senior Warden of this Grand Lodge, by Bro. H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught, also an honorary Past Grand Senior Warden, and your own Past Grand Master, the honorable Gen. John C. Smith, who is the honorary Past Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge of Egypt, and has frequently visited our Grand and Constituent Lodges.

“By reason of the close and fraternal relationship which has arisen between the Egyptian and Illinois Freemasons, having its origin in the visitation of our Egyptian brethren to the Illinois lodges during the world-famed Chicago Exposition of 1893, and the return visits of traveling brethren from Illinois to our Egyptian lodges, we seem nearer the Grand Lodge of Illinois than any other American Grand Lodge, and for these reasons we

first ask of you the masonic recognition so cheerfully accorded us by the Mother Grand Lodge of England, in 1876, and all other Grand Lodges in Europe of which we have asked that masonic courtesy.

"I am, M. W. Grand Master, sincerely and fraternally yours,
"Grand Master IDRAS."

The following amendment to the by-laws was proposed, and lies over a year:

"Every petition for the degrees shall, in addition to the questions and statements herein prescribed, bear upon its face the following question, viz: Masonry, not being a benefit society, have you seriously considered whether your circumstances will enable you to support the institution?"

The suggestion deserves serious consideration, especially in those jurisdictions in which delinquents are suspended from all masonic rights.

The Committee on Jurisprudence say:

"The views of the Grand Master, expressed under head of 'Too Much Publicity,' are fully concurred in by your committee and are commended to the carefully consideration and strict observance of the lodges and individual craftsmen everywhere, whose attention is called to the fact that 'too much publicity' of lodge affairs is a masonic offence and therefore a subject of discipline."

As we understand the report of this committee, a secret objection after ballot and before initiation, is a bar for a year, and then may be renewed, and so on indefinitely. The law that makes such an objection equivalent to a rejection by ballot, no more and no less, is the simplest and safest.

The Report on Correspondence (314 pp.) was presented by Bro. JOSEPH ROBBINS.

We copy from his Introduction the following in relation to the "Wisconsin proposition":

"Two subjects have to a greater or less extent engaged the attention of a larger number of Grand Lodges than any other during the period covered by our review—masonic relief and jurisdiction over rejected candidates.

"The attention given the first of these subjects by many Grand Lodges has been largely perfunctory, extended under the constraint of courtesy imposed by the action of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin in resubmitting its proposition giving the almoner of relief to the distressed a lien first upon his lodge if it be able, and if not, then upon the Grand Lodge chartering it for the amount judged by the almoner to be requisite to relieve present necessities. The result has been that the topic has been before nearly every Grand Lodge, either as an original question or upon reconsideration, but its interest as a living proposition in nearly every Grand Lodge had been discounted either by previous action of the body or by the general knowledge that it was already practically dead.

"The general consensus had not only been overwhelmingly against it, but on such fundamental grounds as to leave no hope—or fear—of a change of front. The manner in which it has been handled by most Grand Lodges leaves no doubt of their being safely grounded in the charitable faith which reflects the primary engagements of the craft. There was need of the reassurance which the response to this overture has given. The open advocacy of re-imbusement for so-called charity; the legislation against non-affiliates—prompted by and reflecting the theory that the right to relief in

distress (as well as other masonic rights) is contingent upon cash contributions and not upon the possession of the masonic status; the toleration of the use by business enterprises variously called mutual benefit, benevolent, indemnity, or insurance associations of the prefix 'masons' or 'masonic,' and the fact that in one or two instances Grand Lodges had taken the initiative in organizing associations so named, and other outcroppings from a common commercial root, all showed that Masonry was being honey-combed by its environment of imitative societies, from which its ranks were largely recruited, and yet nobody knew how much.

"It still remains true that so long as Masonry is environed by numberless such societies, formed for the most part on the basis of fixed benefits contingent on stated contributions, and in which a cessation of payments works a forfeiture of membership, so long will there be abundant reason for watchful apprehension. But that the pendulum has *begun* to swing in the opposite direction is attested not alone by the response to the Wisconsin circular; it is shown by the fact (of which these pages bear evidence) that the craft is beginning to get restive over the prostitution of the masonic name by insurance societies in various guise. The initiative taken by the Grand Lodge of Illinois in forbidding by positive enactment that which is so plainly antagonistic to all the teachings of Masonry that no such legislation ought to have been necessary, has precipitated an inquiry all along the line, which promises to make an end of this use of Masonry and the masonic name which has always been a menace and a scandal.

"In this connection we have been struck with the wisdom of the Grand Lodge of Victoria, which requires from the petitioner for the degrees his signature to a question substantially as follows in the form of petition which its lodges are required to use: 'Freemasonry not being a benefit society, have you reflected whether your financial condition will enable you to support it?'"

The following statement in relation to the "Maine Resolutions" concerning rejected candidates, we commend to the careful consideration of our brethren:

"The discussion which ensued on the attempt of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi to formulate a general consensus of Grand Lodges on the question of jurisdiction over rejected candidates, has been opened afresh by an overture from the Grand Lodge of Maine, essaying the same thing. The Maine proposition steers clear of the apparent danger of sanctioning a tampering with the secrecy of the ballot, which predestined the failure of its Mississippi forerunner, and as it is much simpler in statement and suggests a common standing-ground, with perhaps as nearly an equal sacrifice of preconceived opinions as can be reached, stands a much better chance of becoming the basis of ultimate agreement.

"The prospect of agreement seems remote enough at present, each Grand Lodge being wedded to its own view and statement of the law; but the discussion has been profitable, it being now advanced to a stage where the subsidiary question whether a wrong-doer may repent, or an unfit candidate outgrow his unfitness, has been relegated to its properly subordinate place as one having been already generally answered in the affirmative by the provision of law which permits a second petition after the lapse of a certain period of time, and one whose intrusion ought not to obscure the main points in the debate. It has profitably brought out the fact, too—thanks to the lucid exposition of Bro. Drummond—that the implication or outright assertion that candidates are generally rejected from unworthy motives, really impugns the law of the ballot itself; for, as he well says: 'if the effect of the operation of the law of the secret and unanimous ballot is such as to justify an evasion of that effect, the law itself is faulty,' and therefore, 'the

argument is the entering wedge for the abrogation of the secret and unanimous ballot, or for the entire evasion of its effect.'

"As the minor questions fade into the background after having thus served their turn of bringing out the deeper ones, the conclusion widens that the matter is one that should be approached for settlement from the masonic side, rather than in the interest of the candidate, whose rejection has, after all, left him shorn of no right or immunity or eligibility which he possessed as a citizen or as a factor in the life of the community in which he dwells. In other words, the welfare of the institution and the integrity of the principles ingrained in its structure are paramount. Actual experience with differing regulations has demonstrated that regulations which may be satisfactory to one Grand Lodge and to the craft within its jurisdiction, but which in interjurisdictional relations practically deny the validity of the acts of lodges in other jurisdictions, cannot long endure without serious danger of the disruption of fraternal relations.

"As this danger becomes recognized, reflection says at once that the question whether a candidate was justly or unjustly rejected aforesaid sinks into such comparative insignificance that it had better wait than jeopard the peace of the fraternity. That it is coming to be clearly seen that there must first be an agreement between Grand Lodges that the validity of the acts of the lodges of each in conferring or denying the masonic status agreeably to the regulations of the governing bodies shall be fully recognized on either hand, before there can be a meeting in such temper as may give promise of modifying those regulations, is shown by the action of the Grand Lodge of New York, which has only recently abandoned—within its own territory—what it confesses was the 'old usage' of perpetual jurisdiction. Upon a perfectly clean slate—for its constitution is silent on the extra-jurisdictional relations of the question—it has voluntarily elected to write, that until a uniform agreement is reached by Grand Lodges upon this subject, it 'must be governed by the laws of the Grand Lodge under whose authority the candidate was rejected.'

"The recognition by a strong jurisdiction like New York of this principle as being only a just requirement of inter-jurisdictional comity, is an example that ought not to be lost upon smaller and correspondingly waspish Grand Lodges."

This is a conclusive answer in a matter concerning which much has been written:

"We agree with the committee that no one has a right to *inquire* how a member voted, but if a member not only violates the law against disclosing his vote, but in so doing also discloses his motives, it is no invasion of the sanctity of the ballot if the members who have had this knowledge forced upon them inquire whether the avowed motives and their resultant act unfit the offender for their society."

There is not, as some assume, anything in this to induce efforts to discover who threw the black ball; but some men are so constituted that they cannot help boasting of their own infamy, and when they do, let them take the consequences.

The following touches upon another point, upon which much, closely approaching to nonsense, has been written:

"The Grand Lodge concurred, thus furnishing another illustration of the fact that, as a rule, however much Grand Lodges may deny the dispensing powers to the Grand Master, yet whenever a real emergency arises and the Grand Master meets it by the exercise of extra constitutional authority, his

action is sustained. It is true that the Grand Master's act in this case was formally disapproved but its lawfulness was admitted by confirming the validity of the business done under it, the Grand Lodge having no more power under the anti-prerogative theory to violate its own recognized law than the Grand Master."

He says: "It is the common law of Masonry that the lodge is competent to decide whether it will confer the degrees at the request of another recognized lodge." We would be glad to know how old a usage can be found to sustain this. It has always seemed to us one of those things that cannot be delegated, if we consider the ritual and the surroundings. Does it not take away, practically, the right of objection?

The wisdom of the following is more apparent with the experience of each passing year:

"There is no more reason why Grand Lodges should have tolerated trading on the masonic name by life insurance organizations than by any other reputable business enterprise. Indeed, there are stronger reasons why it should be forbidden to them, because in most lines of business the mason of ordinary intelligence would say at once that there could not be any authoritative masonic guarantee behind the enterprise; while in this direction it is to be remembered that there are large numbers of masons who being also members of so-called fraternal associations, created for the express purpose of doing an insurance business, and therefore predisposed to fall in with the implied if not direct suggestion that in this line there is an added guarantee in the name. To attempt to engraft the insurance feature upon the institution itself is revolutionary, and Grand Lodges in permitting the seeming have been derelict in their duty. That duty is not supervision, but prohibition; and we are more relieved than we can tell that Illinois has finally led the way to that end."

But it is of no use; we cannot go over this report *seriatim*; we have neither time nor space, for it would take all the time and all the space we should have for our whole report.

So we pass to Maine, shutting our eyes to all that intervenes.

Maine does not allow dual membership, even "if one leg of the duality is in another Grand Jurisdiction." See Proc. of 1897, p. 230. The question arose because the party interested did not present a dimit.

Speaking of Grand Master FARNHAM's address, he says:

"A volume of masonic duty is compressed into a line when the Grand Master says, in the conclusion of his address: '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.'"

He quotes the "Hart case" and adds:

"We have copied this extraordinary proceeding in full because it is likely to be appealed to as a precedent, and because it is not likely that the skill shown in so drawing the argumentative charges that they shall, as far as possible, justify this wide a departure from masonic usage, will be often equalled.

"We have not time now to discuss this matter fully, and for this reason we reproduce here the argument of Bro. Drummond in justification of the

method of procedure adopted, found in his review of Alabama, beginning with his statement of a case there occurring which he holds sanctions his view, that we may preserve it in accessible form for future reference."

Then he quotes our statement of the Alabama case and adds:

"We do not think that the Alabama decision quite fits the Maine case, or that it fully covers the dangerous possibilities involved in the practical application of the dictum that '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.'

"In the Alabama case, the Grand Lodge exercised only the appellate jurisdiction for which it finds full warrant in the charges of a Freemason, while in Maine the Grand Lodge assumed original jurisdiction, for which, as it seems to us, the paramount law affords no justification. In the Alabama case, too, the accused forfeited his bond to escape not arrest but incarceration, he having been already arrested and therefore fully informed that a crime had been committed and that he was charged with it, which takes it out of the category of entirely possible cases where a man's disappearance might be simply coincident with a crime of which he knew nothing—not even that it had been committed—but it would still inevitably place him under suspicion of guilt.

"The report of the able committee quoted by Bro. Drummond, strongly as it is put, loses something of its force as applicable in support of the Maine procedure when it is remembered that it comes from a body that is not under the constraint of an immemorial law."

His exceptions are not valid. The Grand Lodge of Maine, in common with many others, has always exercised the right of "original jurisdiction." The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts has gone still further: it has adopted the system of Trial Commissioners appointed by the Grand Lodge, to whom charges are referred and by whom they are tried, and who report directly to the Grand Lodge, which pronounces judgment in the case. There is no "immemorial constraint" in the matter.

In the Alabama cases, he says there was an actual arrest, and, therefore, the party was "fully informed that a crime had been committed, and that he was charged with it": if our brother had read the charges more carefully, he would have seen that the Maine case is still stronger, for the party was arrested in *Baltimore* upon papers charging him with the crime and alleging that he had absconded, but on account of a technical failure in the papers, he could not be held, and before the papers could be amended he disappeared and could not be found again! Wasn't he "fully informed that a crime had been committed and that he was charged with it"?

Nor is the suggestion that the "report of the able committee" "loses something of its force," "because it comes from a body not under the control of an immemorial law" of any force, when it is also remembered that it announces general propositions of masonic law and was made by eminent jurists in their respective Grand Lodges.

But it is said that it is dangerous. But how much more so, than the usual course in such cases? The fact of absconding after the commission, or alleged

commission, of an offence, must be clearly proved. Of course, giving no notice at all is no more dangerous than pretending to give a notice that cannot possibly reach the accused. The old method was to leave a notice at the last known residence, although it is well known that that is no longer his residence, and that he will never get the notice. In both cases, the proceedings must be in entire good faith and the facts clearly proved: in the one case, it is proved that the whereabouts of the party are unknown, and, therefore, notice is left *where he used to live*; in the other case it is proved that he has absconded and his whereabouts is unknown, and no attempt is made to give notice: what is the difference?

But we have seen somewhere a quotation from some writer purporting to be a criticism upon this case under the heading, "THE LATEST NOVELTY IN MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE," and attributing the invention of this "novelty" to us! It probably was a novelty *to the writer*, who evidently belongs to the class that, in their own conceit, "know it all," and when anything, that they do not know, comes along, it is either false or a "novelty." But we are not entitled to the honor attributed to us. The report of the committee (and we were not a member of it) to which we referred and extracts from which we made in a former report which Bro. ROBBINS quotes, was made and published before the Hart case was heard of. An equivalent provision is in the constitution of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and has been there for twenty years at least, and how much longer we have not looked to ascertain. In Maine, notice is required to be given only when the residence of the accused is known, and that has been the law since 1849, when the first provisions for masonic trials were made by our Grand Lodge. In fact, an examination of our Proceedings and of the histories of our old lodges shows that the requirement of formal charges first came in with the revival after the Morgan times, when the old usages had been forgotten and the new generation of masons naturally carried their ideas of civil law into masonic law. In the early days of our lodges, there was no such thing as a masonic trial: if complaint was made against a member, a committee was appointed to visit the accused if practicable, examine into the matter and report to the lodge, and upon their oral report the matter was disposed of by resolution. We have reason to believe that this was the usual course in the neighboring jurisdictions.

We have looked into the earlier constitutions of a few of the other Grand Lodges in reference to this question of notice.

In *Pennsylvania*, as late as 1878, the Trial Committee was required to give notice, but if after reasonable effort, and the lapse of a certain period of time, they should find that they could not do so, they were to proceed *ex parte*.

Georgia, 1878. "If the residence of the accused be unknown to the

lodge, or he shall refuse or neglect to appear, the trial may be had *ex parte*."

Texas, 1886. "If the Tiler cannot find the accused so as to serve him with notice of the charges, he shall make inquiry as to the cause of his absence and make brief return of the facts to the lodge, which shall be recorded: and if it shall appear that the accused is a fugitive from justice, or secretes himself to avoid being notified, then the lodge may proceed with the trial, (1856, p. 274.)"

Kentucky, 1893. "Any mason, guilty of unmasonic conduct, who shall abscond so that due notice of charges and specifications cannot be served upon him, shall be proceeded with as though present, allowing him three months' time to make his appearance."

We think we have gone far enough to satisfy those, who have courteously criticized the action of our Grand Lodge, that we are at least in good company, and to make those who have attempted sarcasm upon us personally, for our share in that action, realize that

"A little learning is a dangerous thing."

But to return to the report of Bro. ROBBINS:

He quotes with approbation the propositions of our Grand Lodge in relation to the "Wisconsin proposition," putting the fourth in Italics. "4. Masonic relief is never purchased or sold, and, therefore, never creates a debt."

In relation to the power of the Grand Master in cases of discipline, he thus explains:

"With us this law is not interpreted just as he understands it. The Grand Master's final decision may be reprimand, suspension, or deposition from office, or suspension from all the rights and benefits of Masonry; but if the latter, the deprivation cannot on his fiat extend beyond the recess. He may, however, cite him to appear before the Grand Lodge, where, under the provisions of the amended law, he can be personally heard in his own defence, to be dealt with as the wisdom of that body shall direct. Or if the charges or complaint involve unmasonic conduct (as distinguished from official misconduct) the Grand Master may—as will be seen by section 3, which should be read in connection with the section quoted by Bro. Drummond—depose him from office and thus bring him within the disciplinary powers of his lodge and thus to speedy trial."

This is very nearly the same law that we have in Maine, except that we are not sure that in Illinois the Grand Master can suspend the party during the recess (that is, till the Grand Lodge meets), and also cite him for final trial by the Grand Lodge.

He thinks well of our Maine regulation, which requires a candidate to be personally present in the jurisdiction of the lodge six of the twelve months before the presentation of his petition, as obviating complications which frequently arise.

He has heretofore severely attacked the A. and A. Rite as causing dissensions in Masonry, and when we pointed out that history shows that men

have caused dissensions and not rites, while substantially admitting this, he insists that "High Riteism" is peculiarly calculated to lead men into mischief, saying:

"In 1894 Bro. Drummond chided us as not being quite fair when we said that in his account of the Scottish Rite war of 1860—given in his review of Illinois in 1891—he had unconsciously borne testimony to the mischief-making capacity of High Riteism, a capacity which we credited to the fact that each Sovereign Grand Inspector General is a sort of dynastic protoplasm, having within himself the promise and potency of empire, and liable at any moment to sprout into a Supreme Council possessing full imperial powers and attributes."

Now we have never studied medicine and are not familiar with medical terms, and are not sure what disease he means, but we have been acquainted with all the brethren whom he denominates "High Ritters," for nearly forty years, and if they, or any one of them, had had such a dreadful disease we must have known it, and we can assure him, that we never discovered the least symptom of anything so "by ordinair"!

He adds more in a similar line, which we have not room to quote further than this:

"Where a man is admitted to have the inalienable right to proclaim himself imperator, it is manifestly much easier to start a revolution than it is where he must first convince a goodly number of the rank and file that their interests as well as his point in that direction."

This is too ridiculous to treat seriously, but he seems to be in earnest, so we will further assure him that the Scottish Rite is *governed by laws*, and his understanding in this respect is utterly erroneous.

Nor is his further statement correct in relation to "broils" which have "rent the Scottish Rite." Since 1867, there has been no broil in the Scottish Rite; imposters have claimed to be in it, when they were not, and he has no more right to class them as members of the Scottish Rite, than he has to say that there are broils among the Ohio masons because there are clandestine lodges there, nor that the masons of various other states are in broils because there are clandestine lodges there. In his own state there are numerous associations which call themselves masonic lodges, but they are held to be clandestine by his own Grand Lodge, which has provisions in its constitution and laws which would cause the punishment of any mason, who should join one of them, or recognize their members as masons; and we are not aware that our brother has ever raised his voice or used his pen in denunciation of those laws.

He asks:

"Now, can a Grand Lodge, thus constrained by the fundamental law, make a definition of Masonry, which shall permit a portion or all of the members of the lodge, to practice as *Masonry*, in bodies which it does not create, something other than the Masonry of the original definition?"

That depends upon whose definition it is; if the "definition" is erroneous, the answer is "Yes," and further than that, the Grand Lodge is the only tribunal which can determine what the original definition of Masonry is. Our brother's argument comes back to the same result, which we have before discussed, and that is that he claims the right practically for the individual mason to overrule the decision of his Grand Lodge as to what the "original definition of Masonry" is.

He quotes the following from our report:

"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 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."

And adds:

"One should not look a gift horse in the mouth, and so we do not stop to inquire whether it is from the necessities of the argument or from choice that he is at last found on tenable ground. The fact that we so largely agree with him in the foregoing is one of the chief reasons why we have vigorously condemned the action which he has defended, by which certain Grand Lodges, in recognizing other bodies within their respective territories as 'regularly and duly constituted masonic bodies,' have tied their own hands."

We are not "*at last* on tenable ground." The doctrine in the quotation is what we have been maintaining in all this discussion, and we are very glad to have him "*at last*" make the admission which he makes. Nor has there been any "*tying of hands*"; if the Grand Chapter places itself within the supposed case in our quotation, there is no impediment whatever to the Grand Lodges putting it under the ban.

He devotes some ten pages to a rejoinder to our reply to his position, that only masons of the York Rite are regular masons. We insisted, that from the beginning Grand Lodges have recognized universally masons of other Rites as regular masons, and as *mere illustrations* cited some notable instances; among them, Lafayette, Louisiana and Cuba. Apparently assuming that the instances which we named are all that are to be found in masonic history, he spends much space in an effort to break their force.

The moment that it is remembered that these are only a few of very many instances, the force of his argument is utterly destroyed:

"It does not lie in anybody's mouth to say that because forty Grand Lodges have done an unconscious wrong, that any one of them is to be constrained by the plea of general usage to do what in the face of greater light

becomes a conscious wrong. Time was when it was generally taken for granted that Grand Orients were regular masonic bodies, properly recognizable by sovereign and independent Grand Lodges, and many Grand Lodges in this country, including New York, either formally or tacitly entered into fraternal relations with them. But usage did not prevent the Grand Lodge of New York, when the structure and composition of these bodies became better understood, from cutting off the whole brood, as it did in 1871, by the adoption of the following, reported by the Committee on Jurisprudence:

“The question of the recognition of our correspondence with the *regular*, disputed, doubtful, or spurious bodies called Grand Orients, discussed by the M. W. Grand Master, has been considered by your committee, and for reasons stated by the Grand Master, it is recommended that such recognition and correspondence cease.

“Nor did usage prevent the other Grand Lodges of the country from generally following the lead of New York in this matter, either directly or by the assertion of the principle upon which the action of that Grand Lodge was predicated, so that in a few years the policy of letting Grand Orients alone became general.”

He tells the truth, but *not the whole truth*; New York and other Grand Lodges did decline to have “*masonic correspondence*,” that is, exchange of representatives, with Grand Orients, even if regular, because they include Bodies other than Grand Lodges; but while doing that, all (except Illinois and one or two others)—and this is fatal to his argument—recognize the masons of the obedience of those Grand Orients *as regular masons*.

In questioning our statement, that the late Bro. GURNEY was the author of the doctrine for which he contends, he calls attention to the fact that in Louisiana during the controversy there, the regularity of the masons of one body was denied, but there is not a tittle of evidence, so far as we have ever seen, that it was on the ground of Rites.

The action in Louisiana was well considered, and was in effect a decision of all the Masonic Grand Bodies then existing, that the contention of Bro. ROBBINS is erroneous.

He says further:

“Bro. Drummond and others who maintain that the Gran Dieta and other bodies not of Grand Lodge parentage are recognizable as Free and Accepted Masonry, now find no escape from his statement of the effect of attempts to make innovations in Masonry but by setting up the plea of usage against principle and assuming that as between the two even axioms must go to the wall.”

* * * * *

“When the craft becomes fully apprized of these facts, no ‘usage’ based upon fiction inconsistent with them can prevent the general recognition of the inevitable conclusion that whatever in the alleged Masonry of the world is antagonistic to the Masonry thus defined and bounded, has come of ‘dissent from the original plan’ and not from independent birth, and that bodies built on it are the unmistakable offspring of vain attempts to make innovations in the body of Masonry, whose predestined discomfiture is so strongly put by Bro. Drummond in the statement which we here repeat as being worthy to be written in letters of gold: ‘*No man or body of men can make innovations in Masonry. To attempt this does not change Masonry, BUT PUTS THOSE WHO MAKE THE ATTEMPT OUTSIDE OF THE PALE OF THE INSTITUTION.*’”

We have set up no "usage against principle,"; we deny the correctness of what he claims to be "principle" and as *proof* of the correctness of our position cite the early, universal and long-continued usage of the craft as evidence. He holds one way, but the craft have always held the other way, and the nearly contemporaneous construction continued without dissent till Bro. GURNEY's time is conclusive that his way is wrong.

We stand by his concluding words as strongly as ever, and if they are of so much force as he says, they should admonish him all the more as to the effect of the innovation which he is seeking to introduce into Masonry.

INDIANA, 1897.

The frontispiece is a portrait of Bro. MASON J. NIBLACK, the incoming Grand Master, and opposite is a cut of the masonic hall existing from 1848 to 1875, which will remind Portland people of our "Old City Hall."

The Grand Master (SIMEON P. GILLETT) delivered an address covering an immense number of routine official acts and bringing to the attention of the Grand Lodge a large variety of matters requiring its action. He commences with the mention of the dead of other jurisdictions and at his close of that part of the address he paused, and the Grand Chaplain offered a beautiful and appropriate invocation.

Passing over matters of routine we come to the following:

"November 12, 1896, I received from the Grand Master of New York a request to recall the commission of Bro. Joseph R. Short, Jr., as Representative of this Grand Lodge, and to appoint Bro. Joseph P. Abel in his stead. Bro. Short has held the office for some twenty-three years, is a worthy mason against whom no complaint can be urged, other than that he is growing old. Not feeling justified in removing a faithful servant without cause, I informed the Grand Master of New York that I would gladly comply with his request, if Bro. Short should resign his commission. Nothing further has been heard in the matter."

The Grand Lodge approved his action.

We regret that the system of Grand Representation should be the cause of anything like irritation. There is no reason for it in the system, and we hope that the sentiment of the craft will be so unanimous that there will be no occasion for any differences growing out of the exchange of Representatives. We have feared that Grand Masters have taken it upon themselves to use the position to compliment some of their personal friends, and when that gets to be the basis upon which Grand Representatives are appointed, if it ever does, the system will have ceased to be useful and will deserve abolition.

We note in his address quite a number of cases of invasion of jurisdiction, and the prominent feature in them all is apparently the fees. We regret

very greatly to see a tendency among lodges to make the fee the great thing in relation to the admission of candidates.

The following is something new:

“The Christian Church at Fort Wayne, the corner-stone of which was laid by Past Grand Master O'Rourke, desiring to put in a stained-glass window in which the design used should be the 'Three Great Lights of Masonry,' I was asked if there was any objection.

“I replied that I saw no objection; on the contrary, I considered it a beautiful expression of their respect for the fraternity, and their recognition of the intimate relationship, or nearness of the church and Masonry.

“I authorized the lodge at Fort Wayne to grant the request.”

The Grand Lodge approved the action of the Grand Master and expressed appreciation of the compliment paid to Masonry.

He devotes considerable space to the question of the preparation of the history of the Grand Lodge. Brother McDONALD, who had been the historian, had declined to act longer, but as he is peculiarly fitted for the work and had carried it along to quite an extent, there was a very strong feeling that he should be continued, and the Grand Lodge re-elected him historian and made provision for the payment of his expenses and satisfactory compensation. We believe that a work of this kind will be of great value, provided it is thoroughly and properly done, and it often happens that the man best qualified for the work cannot afford the necessary time for it without compensation. We believe now that we shall have a work that will be valuable to the craft and a credit to the Grand Lodge of Indiana.

He gives quite a number of decisions, among them the following:

“1. Can a lodge receive the petition of a candidate one month and four days before he is twenty-one (21) years of age; one month later ballot on his case, and if elected, call a special meeting four days later and initiate him on the occasion of his twenty-first birth-day.

“*Answer.* Section 50, General Regulations, says: 'Lodges are prohibited from initiating any candidate who is under twenty-one years of age.' This forbids the initiation of a minor, but it does not forbid the preparation of the material to be at the proper time adjusted by the Master Mason. My answer is yes, but under no circumstances can the first degree be conferred before the candidate is of full age.”

This was approved by the Committee on Jurisprudence, Bro. LONG dissenting, but the Grand Lodge adopted the report. We are with Bro. LONG fully, for if there is anything that is a landmark in Freemasonry it is that whoever undertakes to do anything in Freemasonry, must be a *man* entitled to act for himself without control by anybody, and under the old laws and usages a minor can no more petition for initiation than he can be initiated. The matter does not rest on the general regulations of any Grand Lodge but upon a law binding upon masons everywhere.

In relation to funerals he says:

“5. I have been frequently asked whether a masonic lodge in charge of the funeral of a brother could invite or permit other societies so desiring, or

when requested by the family of the deceased, to join in the procession, perform their ceremonies and appoint pall-bearers. My reply was, that in this matter, I believe that masons were grossly misrepresented, that other organizations could, and it was proper that they should be so permitted, being assigned place in advance of the lodge; that they might appoint pall-bearers to be known as honorary pall-bearers; that they might perform their service over the body, but they could not be permitted to lower it; that the active pall-bearers must be masons; and after the lodge takes charge of the burial, it must be completed without interference or interposition on the part of any other organized society."

While we are quite willing that a masonic lodge should attend a funeral as mourners *as a lodge*, we are coming more and more to think that there should be but one service besides the church service, and if the church service is of such a character that the masonic service would be a duplicate of it we would not have the masonic service performed.

Grand Secretary SMYTHE announces that the last Proceedings of the Grand Lodge contained the portraits of forty-one of the forty-seven Past Grand Masters, and that during the year he had obtained two more. There was a prospect of obtaining two of the other four but no prospect of obtaining those of the other two.

He announced that if the Grand Lodge favored it he would prepare and publish, on his own account, a digest of the decisions of the Grand Lodge, referring alphabetically to the General Regulations. The Grand Lodge highly approved it, and by an unanimous vote requested him to proceed with the work.

Several of the Grand Representatives were presented and received, and made very appropriate remarks, making the occasion one of a good deal of interest.

We notice that the Committee on By-Laws say that the Secretary should say "Meeting" and not "Communication"; and as we understand it "Stated Meeting" rather than "Regular Meeting" and "Called Meeting" rather than "Special Meeting." The old term was "Communication" and "Regular" rather than "Stated," but, for a reason entirely fallacious, the old "regular" was dropped and "stated" put in its place, a word that will not be found in the old records of our old lodges.

The Committee on Grievances had a good many matters before them and we are pleased to see an inclination to hold proceedings valid unless they are *substantially* defective.

A very large amount of routine business was transacted; an effort was made for substituting "dropping from the rolls" for "suspension for non-payment of dues," but it was defeated.

Bro. THOMAS B. LONG submitted a report in answer to the following question:

“In opening and closing the lodge, where do the knocks begin,—in the south or in the east? Where is the law, regulation, or ruling to be found determining this point?”

We have already referred to the action upon this, and dissented from the conclusion to which they came. The committee seem to us to utterly ignore the distinction between the purposes of the knocks. Those in opening and closing are in the nature of orders, and we marvel that the committee did not remember that while the junior officers are called on first, yet when orders go from the East they go to the West first and then to the South, and it seems to us entirely incongruous that the Junior Warden should do any act *amounting to an order*, for which his authority does not come through the Senior Warden.

On the Report of the Committee on Jurisprudence the Grand Lodge of New Zealand was recognized.

An attempt was made to modify the regulation of the Grand Lodge in relation to the use of intoxicating liquors, but the committee reported that in their judgment the proposed amendment “would work incalculable harm to the cause of Freemasonry,” and their recommendation was adopted.

The following from the report of the same committee was also adopted, and beyond question it states the correct doctrine:

“It is perfectly competent for the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, or of any other Grand Jurisdiction, to revoke or withdraw its commission to its Grand Representative near any other Grand Lodge for non-attendance at the Grand Lodge to which he is accredited for any certain period, and for any cause it may deem sufficient in obedience to its laws and regulations. But such Grand Lodge has no power to revoke or withdraw a commission which it has not issued. It may make complaint to the Grand Lodge that issued the commission to the representative, and ask to have such commission revoked because of the failure of its representative to actually be present at the meetings of the Grand Lodge to which he is accredited and discharge the duties of his trust; and in that way, in a proper case, the commission might be revoked.”

In relation to the Wisconsin proposition the Grand Lodge reaffirmed its former conclusion as follows:

“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.”

The Report on Correspondence (158 pp.) was submitted by Bro. NICHOLAS R. RUCKLE. He gives quite a full abstract of the Proceedings, with frequent valuable comments. Of course we agree with the following fully, and we give it as the expression of an able *business man* as well as a mason:

“This proposition, like that from Wisconsin, is charity grown wild. No one, as an individual or as a mason, as a lodge or as an association of lodges, has the right to incur for any person or mason, or society of masons, any

indebtedness or obligation to pay, be it great or small, without obtaining explicit consent, however meritorious the object, or however great and sublime the benevolence. If it is demanded that masons shall be entitled to relief at the expense of their particular lodges, at the option of other lodges or persons, it will necessitate the raising of the fees and the annual dues to an amount that will pay annuities and pensions. Very few of the lodges in the country, or in the smaller towns, assess annual dues to exceed the sum of the actual expenses year by year. In cases of distress brethren are provided for by the personal aid and assistance of their fellows. The members expect to profit only by masonic fellowship and brotherly love in their daily walks. And nowhere are the bonds of Masonry stronger and brighter than in the better class of the small lodges. When a member of such a lodge becomes sick or distressed away from home, the lodge has no funds from which to repay the amount expended for the relief of the brother.

"If Masonry is to resolve itself into an accumulation of immense Grand Lodge Charity Funds, then there must be paid at initiations, such equitable sums, as will, with the accumulations, be sufficient to provide relief for all members who may apply. This will be indeed a great benevolent institution, with all the abuses and all the benefits that grow from great charities, but it will not be the Masonry of the Ancient Landmarks."

His remarks in relation to country lodges is most emphatically true in New England.

Of the social feature of our meetings, he well says:

"He says that the opening of the way to the use of lodge funds for the cultivation of the social feature has not proven the boon to lodges that was expected, and that the brethren who can be induced to attend only by offering a premium to their appetites are of but little value to the lodge. In the army the 'coffee coolers' sometimes turned out to be a good reserve, and we have found it better for brethren to come to lodge for a cup of coffee and a cigar, than to stay away altogether."

In his review of Maine he gives a very full statement of the report in relation to rejections and to the Wisconsin proposition, stating it quite strongly but without comment. But while he has abbreviated the former considerably, he really gives the strength of the argument and almost leads us to believe that he agrees in it.

He quotes our criticisms of some of the acts of his Grand Lodge, favorable or unfavorable, with great impartiality. He rather "takes us" in the following:

"In the matter of dress, the committee say that the nearer it conforms to that of a gentleman, the more likely it will be to impress the candidate with the high character of the institution.

"The matters of dress and music were referred to a special committee for consideration, which made a very sensible report, saying that a masonic degree should not be turned into a concert, and that the time available for a degree does not give an opportunity for much addition to the prescribed ritual; that vocal music interpolates words into the ritual which are often incongruous; to many brethren music is a discomfort by want of appreciation."

We leave this report with regret, but we have used up all our space.

INDIAN TERRITORY, 1897.

An emergent communication was held in which the corner stone of a new lodge building was laid by the Grand Lodge.

At the annual communication at Ardmore, in the Chickasaw Nation, a very beautiful address of welcome was made and an equally appropriate response. The closing paragraph of the latter is very suggestive; paraphrasing the greeting of the Saxon to the Dane, the orator said:

“Choctaws and Chickasaws and Cherokees and Creeks are we,
But all of us masons in our welcome to thee!”

The Grand Master (SILAS ARMSTRONG) in his opening, earnestly exhorted the brethren to acquire masonic knowledge and to adhere to the ancient customs and usages, allowing none of the new innovations to “obscure their vision and conceal from them the old landmarks.”

In relation to the condition of Masonry in that jurisdiction, he says:

“I am pleased to be able to report that Masonry in this jurisdiction is in a very prosperous condition. The supervision of the craft by the Grand Master is necessarily of a general character. In the absence of any special system of official visitations, which it seems impracticable to inaugurate on account of the large expense it would impose on the Grand Lodge, it is difficult to keep in touch with all of the lodges in this jurisdiction. While this is true, my official correspondence has been very large indeed. I am satisfied that it is best to insist upon the lodges settling their own difficulties in so far as they can possibly do so. It makes them more independent and self-reliant. It forces upon them a better knowledge of masonic law and the application of law. With the exception of one instance, I am pleased to report that with the assistance of brethren I have been successful in harmonizing all differences among the craft that came to my knowledge. This exception is in the Chickasaw District. I have ordered the D. D. G. M. of that district to investigate and report the particulars of this difficulty at this session of the Grand Lodge.”

We are very glad to read the following, and we hope that there will be no occasion in the future for any such proceedings:

“I have the honor and pleasure to report that the strained relations existing between the Grand Lodge of New York and the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory, on account of our Grand Representative, Bro. A. B. Price, has been amicably and harmoniously settled. Early in June our Grand Secretary received a letter from the Grand Secretary of New York saying that the M. W. Grand Master of New York would be pleased to renew correspondence with us, and that if the Grand Master of the Indian Territory would reappoint Bro. A. B. Price as our Grand Representative he would be recognized and would resume his old place. I was very much pleased to send a commission to Bro. A. B. Price as our Grand Representative near the Grand Lodge of New York, which he received just in time for the meeting of that Grand Body, and was received and recognized as our Grand Representative. I am also pleased to inform you that the Grand Master of New York, in a very complimentary letter, reappointed Bro. J. S. Murrow as their Grand Representative near Indian Territory.

“Bro. A. B. Price, having in contemplation a trip across the ocean, I sent to him a letter of commendation directed to masons in England and on the continent of Europe.

“A request of the M. W. Grand Master of Missouri that a change be made in our Grand Representative near that Grand Lodge was, after mutual explanations, withdrawn.”

We think that if a Grand Representative is enough of a mason to be recognized by a Grand Master as such, and is in good standing, no personal feelings on the part of the Grand Master should induce him to ask for a change of Representatives. We are not saying that such was the case in this or any other instance, but there seems to be a feeling that if a Representative from another jurisdiction is not personally acceptable to the Grand Master, it is his privilege to request a change; but we think a Grand Master sets a very bad example of the spirit of fraternity among masons, if he allows himself to be governed by any such consideration.

The Grand Master had granted dispensations for ten new lodges; all, or nearly all, of which received charters.

He had granted a dispensation to bury a non-affiliate who had always been a zealous mason and whose non-affiliation was not voluntary. We think that any law that prevents a lodge from burying a worthy mason, although he is a non-affiliate, ought to be repealed.

We note that under the constitution of this Grand Lodge ten petitioners are required in order to form a new lodge; and we judge from a decision of the Grand Master that ten members must be present to transact business; for he ruled that a ballot for a candidate, in which only seven votes appeared, was void, as the by-laws require “that at least ten ballots must appear in the box.” He decided also that masonic jurisdiction must conform to political jurisdiction.

He held also that, while in that jurisdiction only a Master Mason can receive a dimit, yet as the law of Kentucky authorizes lodges to issue a dimit to a F. C., such a one may apply to a lodge in that jurisdiction for the other degrees without any further action on the part of the lodge in Kentucky.

We are glad to see that he appreciates the importance of investigating the character of those who apply for admission; in this connection we notice that there were 109 rejections during the year, being nearly one-third of the number of applications. He says:

“There is such a thing as Masonry becoming too popular. Let us be careful about the personnel of our membership let us guard the ballot box with the same jealous care that characterized our fathers and not be too eager to increase our membership, without regard to the kind of material taken from the quarries.”

We are inclined to think also that the following is well timed.

“Judging from the remarks of other Grand Masters, I was induced to believe that I would be greatly annoyed by the volume of correspondence involved in administering affairs connected with the office of Grand Master. On the contrary I am pleased to say that I have found my official corre-

spondence a source of enjoyment and profit. I have received and answered a great many letters from subordinate lodges and elsewhere, and I acknowledge with gratitude the kind consideration extended to me by all the brethren."

Even if the law may be found in the books, it very frequently happens that a brother does not know where to find it, and we question the wisdom of criticisms upon seeking information from the Grand Master.

A statement of the financial affairs of the Grand Lodge was sent out, by which we find that the expenses are close up to the income; in fact, that at the beginning of the session of the Grand Lodge there would not be a dollar in the treasury except so far as received from the dues in the current year, which ought to be applied to the current year's expenses. In consequence we regret to say that the Report on Correspondence was omitted.

The Grand Secretary says that only one lodge had failed to make returns, and in one letter it is stated that the representative of the lodge informed him that he had mailed the returns with a Post Office order for the dues in ample season; but it appears that it had not been received.

Two reports were made by the Committee on Grievances. We regret to find what we think is an undue degree of strictness in the requirements of the committee, especially in relation to the matters upon which no question seems to have been made at the time of the trial. While we agree that reasonable particularity should be made in the specifications, yet when they charge generally a mason with offences, and the accused goes to trial without objecting to them or without demanding a further specification, we hold that he waives those objections, and that no injustice is done in the premises.

However, in both these cases the decision was reversed on the ground that the evidence did not sustain the charges; and in this respect there is, as we think, an undue degree of strictness in the requirements stated by the committee. Masonic trials are not held by Judges specially qualified for the purpose, nor is it presumed that the proceedings will be conducted with the accuracy and strictness that a trained lawyer would use in a criminal court; but it is expected that the investigation will be made by intelligent men unskilled in legal proceedings, but whose methods of *arriving at the truth*, taking into consideration the relations which they bear to the accused, may be superior to those in courts in which the relations and surrounding circumstances are entirely different.

The Committee on Education reported against any effort in relation to a Masonic Home: the lodges report payment for the education of sixteen orphan children, and the Grand Lodge wisely directed efforts to be made in this direction, to the extent of the ability of the lodges.

The Grand Secretary was a Committee on Returns, and his report is well worthy of examination by Secretaries, and by all who have to do with

making or examining returns. He notes whether the names are given in full or not, and while the report is very concise it contains a good many very valuable hints.

Of the returns of one lodge, he says:

“Correct, neat and plainly written, but some names were badly spelled. ‘John Benjamond’ I took to be Benjamin. Calip Martin I changed to Caleb Martin. To change the spelling of names is risky, however. There is no standard for the spelling of names.”

If any one does not see much force in this let him collect genealogical statistics for a little while, and he will appreciate it!

Bro. MURROW states our “frame of mind” in relation to the Gran Dieta, with precise accuracy:

“The recognition of the Grand Dieta of Mexico is about the liveliest topic among the Western Grand Lodges. That illustrious and worthy mason, Bro. T. S. Parvin, of Iowa, is the champion of the Mexican Grand Lodge. Your correspondent confesses that his reading on this subject has not been sufficiently careful to justify a conclusion in his own mind as to the merits of the case. The impression made by such reading as has been given incline your committee to the opinion that the Grand Dieta of Mexico is the most legitimate and reliable body of Ancient Craft Masonry in our Sister Republic. Your committee, however, is not prepared to recommend recognition at this time.”

When we come to the report of the Committee on Usage we find the statement that the by-laws require that at least *seven* ballots must appear in the box; the Grand Master said *ten*, but we apprehend that the latter is a clerical error, and the statement by the committee correct.

The by-laws were amended to read as follows:

“No lodge nor any mason shall appear in masonic clothing in any public procession or at any public place or meeting except for the burial of a brother or on St. John’s Days, without a dispensation from the Grand Master.”

Owing to the financial condition of the Grand Lodge, there was no Report on Correspondence, and it was voted not to have one in 1898. In this connection we note, that seventy-five pages are devoted to returns of lodges, costing as much as *one hundred and fifty* pages of correspondence, and, so far as our observation goes, and so far as the information received from jurisdictions, which have, in times past, adopted the same course, goes, these lists are of no value whatever.

IOWA, 1897.

There is so much in this volume that it is utterly impossible to undertake to go through it, and notice all matters of interest, and therefore we shall refer only to what we deem the most important; and that is a very difficult matter to settle.

We have a portrait of the incoming Grand Master, ALMON RALPH DEWEY, with a brief biographical sketch by Bro. COXE.

The Grand Master (GEORGE W. BALL) in the opening of his address says, and at this writing (April 23d), it is very interesting reading:

“While other nations have suffered the horrors and devastations of war; while we have seen the heroic struggle for liberty of the Cubans against their Spanish foes, still continuing, to be ultimately, as we hope, crowned with success; while we have seen an ancient Christian nation, celebrated in song and story for the valor and heroism of its sons, within a few short weeks overpowered and conquered by the Moslem sword, while the surrounding nations of Europe, calling themselves also Christian, by mutual agreement stood idly by and permitted the perpetration of this dastardly outrage upon civilization, we have been fortunately at peace with all the world, and have formed no entangling alliances, nor entered into any national controversies likely to destroy the fraternal relations now existing between our own and other nations.”

He announces the death of the veteran Grand Tyler, THEODORE SCHREINER, who had filled that office for thirty-eight years, and was probably acquainted with more masons in Iowa than any other brother. He was buried by the Grand Lodge, and his funeral was very largely attended by masons from all over the State.

The Grand Master had granted six dispensations for new lodges, and had constituted the ten lodges which were chartered last year. He appreciates very highly that the chartering of a lodge is an act of a good deal of importance, and investigated every case very fully, “keeping in view the good of the fraternity at large, the adjacent lodges and the petitioners”—the true rule which ought to govern in all such cases.

He had one case which occasionally happens. Whether there was a dissension in the lodge, does not appear: but for some reason, for more than twelve years every candidate had been rejected. The brethren, who were desirous of seeing Masonry prosper, determined to surrender the charter. That was done, and afterwards a dispensation granted to nineteen brethren, who at once commenced work, and everything indicates that the lodge will be a flourishing one.

The Grand Master says that this is not the only instance in which complaints have been made of similar conduct by some members of a lodge, and he well says:

“I am aware that each member of a lodge has the absolute right to vote according to his own judgment on every petition for the degrees, or for membership, and that such right cannot be questioned nor can the fact as to how he voted be inquired into; but it is not intended that this masonic right should be misused by narrow-minded or evil-disposed persons, who sometimes, unfortunately, become members of the order, to such an extent as to retard the progress or destroy the prosperity of the lodge of which they may be members, and such conduct deserves the severest censure.”

In all human probability the members, who took this course, were men

who, if a thorough investigation had been made and the members balloted with reference to the interests of the fraternity, would never have been admitted.

He discusses somewhat at length the Wisconsin proposition, stating the correct doctrine very forcibly:

“This proposition, it seems to me, is not based upon any principle taught in Freemasonry. We are taught to relieve the distressed and to dispense charity, but nowhere in the teachings of Freemasonry can there be found a line or a precept teaching us that relief of the distressed is made compulsory upon the members of the order, or that the re-imbusement of those masons or lodges furnishing such relief should be made compulsory upon any lodge, subordinate or Grand. That charity which one mason exercises toward another, when he furnishes him means of relieving his distress, is and must be purely voluntary; when it ceases to be voluntary then it is no longer charity, but is changed into the form of a debt which one mason owes another, or which one lodge owes to its members, and the collection of which may be enforced in the method provided by the Wisconsin law. When such a law is adopted the masonic fraternity loses its character as a purely charitable and benevolent organization, and assumes the character of an insurance company. It is not necessary that it should do this. Those who are afraid to rely for relief in case of distress upon masonic charity, as it has been exercised for ages past, would better join some mutual or fraternal insurance organization, where, by paying a certain sum, they can be assured of assistance in case they are overtaken by sickness or other disability.

“I am opposed to the plan for another reason, and that is that it is wholly unnecessary. It is true that there are many cases where lodges have paid out money to relieve the distress of brethren who are not their members and have never had the money returned. But if they believe in the teachings of the institution of Freemasonry they should pay it out without the hope of having it returned; and the fact that they do pay it out under the existing method is sufficient proof that they do believe in the teachings of the order, and that they are willing to furnish relief to distressed brethren, their widows and orphans, without the hope or expectation of being re-imbursed for such service. There are few cases, I am confident, where a worthy distressed brother is unable to receive such assistance as his needs may require, and as the brethren among whom he may be thrown, whether members of his own lodge or not, are able to furnish. No such case ever came to my knowledge.”

His Grand Lodge has a Grand Charity Fund and they had used it in three cases arising in Wisconsin. In one case the Wisconsin lodge had expended \$135 in the caring and burial of an Iowa brother, but his lodge, it was found, was wholly unable to meet the claim; so the trustees of the fund, after striking out eight dollars paid a band for music at the funeral, paid the balance. He says further:

“I believe that the law as it now stands is sufficient to meet all proper demands, and believe that the re-imbusement of all sums expended by other lodges or other persons for relief of a member of an Iowa lodge should be left wholly to the discretion of the Iowa lodge of which he is a member, and in case such lodge is unable to make such re-imbusement it should be left to the discretion of the Grand Lodge and its trustees.”

He devotes some space to the statistics, etc., which were omitted from the Proceedings of 1895 and urges that they be continued, well saying that the information is invaluable to the masonic student and to the masons of Iowa, worth many times the cost of its publication.

We have frequently adverted to the fact that contests have arisen between different lodges on questions of jurisdiction of candidates on account of the fee, and have always held that that is a consideration which ought not to enter into the case. In Iowa, however, they have a plan which would tend to make lodges careful; at any rate, they not only have to lose the fee but are mulcted in a penalty besides. As the penalty, however, goes to the injured lodge, it makes lodges very sharp to look after other lodges, which have interfered with their jurisdiction, and claims are frequently made in very doubtful cases; in fact, in two cases that were before the Grand Lodge, the decision was against the claimant. We believe that when a lodge acts in good faith, though erroneously, the pecuniary question ought not to be raised.

The following relates to a matter that is being discussed quite generally:

“A more difficult matter to determine has arisen in cases where a masonic lodge desires to attend the funeral of a deceased brother when some other order or body has charge of and conducts the funeral ceremonies. I received a request from the Worshipful Master of Pioneer Lodge, No. 22, on the 3d of April last, asking permission for said lodge to attend the funeral ceremonies of a deceased brother in a body without paraphernalia, they to take no part in the funeral ceremonies, which were to be performed by the Knights of Pythias. I held in this case that the lodge could not appear and attend the funeral in a body under these circumstances. The deceased in this case was a prominent citizen, a mason, and a warm friend of mine, and I would have been glad to have granted the request if I could have persuaded myself that I could lawfully have done so; but in accordance with my understanding of the masonic law a masonic lodge can only attend a funeral of a deceased brother in a body when the funeral ceremony is conducted by the lodge itself. While I feel satisfied that my decision in this case was correct, yet the question is an important one, and in order that there may be an authoritative decision of this Grand Lodge upon the question I recommend that this question be referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, and that the committee be instructed to report as to how far other bodies may join in masonic funeral processions as escort or otherwise, and what part, if any, they may take in the ceremonies when the funeral is conducted by a masonic lodge, and whether a masonic lodge can attend the funeral of a deceased brother in a body when the ceremonies are not conducted by such lodge.”

We do not quite understand this, or else we do not agree with a part of it. We believe there is no masonic law or usage which prevents the members of a lodge of masons from marching together at a masonic funeral, provided the lodge is not opened and the brethren clothed as masons. We do not quite understand whether the lodge was proposed to be opened in this case, and the brethren attend *as a lodge* without clothing, a thing which under no circumstances whatever do we think should be done.

The Grand Lodge, upon the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence, approved the decision of the Grand Master; but we hold that there is a wide distinction between a meeting of the members of a lodge and the meeting of a lodge.

The resolutions of our Grand Lodge were presented by the Grand Master and referred to the committee, from whose report we learn that in Iowa a rejected candidate cannot apply anywhere within less than six months, but that after that time, he can apply precisely the same as if he had never been rejected. Evidently the committee did not feel willing to give up their own law and usage, even for the sake of uniformity.

The Grand Master announces the death of the wife of Grand Secretary PARVIN, after more than fifty-three years of wedded life. Bro. PARVIN himself, in his report, refers to his affliction and pays a tribute to his wife which evidently comes from the heart, and which we believe from personal acquaintance with her was well deserved.

The report of the Grand Secretary is, as usual, of considerable length but full of interest throughout; and his report as Librarian, embellished by a photograph of himself taken in his office, is worthy of the attention of all masonic students; but it is impossible for us in the space at hand to review either of these reports as we desire. There is only one question that we have in relation to the library, and that is in relation to the policy of going outside of masonic and kindred works. Books accumulate so rapidly in these times that a library of a public character can be carried on only by a municipality, or a corporation which can command large amounts of money. The collection of books is of no particular value, unless they can be used; and to use them requires a force of librarians that only the organizations which we have named, can support.

The Grand Secretary also submitted a report in relation to Mexican Masonry. It does not, however, cover the point which has troubled us, and that is as to the number of Grand Lodges and lodges under its authority. We give no weight to the assertions of RICHARD E. CHISM (who, according to his own statement, is a legally expelled mason), because we believe from what we know of what he has published and of his conduct towards the General Grand Chapter and the Grand Encampment, that the "truth is not in him." In this connection we desire to express our regret that a masonic newspaper of high standing in this country, has opened its columns to his effusions.

The Grand Lodge adopted the following report and resolutions presented by the special committee to which the matter was referred:

"Your special committee, to whom was referred the question of the recognition of the Gran Dieta Simbolica of Mexico, discussed in the annual address of the Grand Master, and also more fully in the report on Mexican Masonry by Grand Secretary Parvin, have carefully considered the subject

embraced in these papers, and in view of the facts set forth can see no reason why the Grand Lodge of Iowa should not follow the usual custom of extending the right-hand of fellowship to this Grand Body of our sister republic, and we recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

“Resolved, That the Grand Lodge of Iowa hereby recognizes the *Gran Dieta Simbolica* of Mexico as an independent, sovereign, Grand Masonic Body, exercising sole jurisdiction over the three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry in Mexico, and will exchange fraternal courtesies therewith; and—

“Further, That all masons in Mexico hailing from lodges or Grand Lodges not in affiliation with said *Gran Dieta Simbolica* be denied admission to our lodges.”

The Grand Lodge, through the report of its committee, fully indorsed the views of the Grand Master in relation to the Wisconsin proposition.

We note from the report of the committee on his address that he also announced the deaths of the wife of Past Grand Treasurer L. C. BLANCHARD as well as of the wife of Bro. Parvin. Upon the recommendation of the committee these announcements were referred to a special committee, who prepared and presented exceedingly beautiful tributes to the memory of these ladies.

The Grand Lodge considered the question of prohibiting the use of the word “masonic” by business enterprises; but the committee reported that, while believing that the word should not be used, it is not within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge but is controlled by the civil law. This may be so, theoretically, but we believe that if the Grand Lodge should prohibit the masons of its obedience from using the word in business enterprises, and should punish them for doing so, even if they availed themselves of the civil law for the purpose, it would practically break up the use and abuse of the word.

The following amendment to the constitution was adopted, so far as could be done at one session, and goes over for final action next year:

“The Grand Lodge shall, by appropriate legislation, secure to every non-affiliated Master Mason of good moral character and good masonic standing, residing in this Grand Jurisdiction, the right of petitioning for membership in the lodge of his local jurisdiction, after timely residence therein, upon such terms and conditions as will best subserve the honor of the craft and promote and maintain harmony and good-fellowship in such local lodge.”

The law in relation to dimission, affiliation and the *status* of non-affiliated masons was revised, and provisions in relation thereto adopted at considerable length. The following is the law in relation to a dimitted mason:

“He shall, after one year from the date of his dimit, have no other claim upon masonic charity than have the needy and deserving who are not and never have been masons, nor be permitted to walk in masonic processions, nor receive masonic burial, but shall still be subject to masonic discipline, and remain under those obligations which can never be repudiated not laid aside.”

We have asked before, but have never received any answer to the ques-

tion, how it happens that the Grand Lodge can absolve its members from those obligations which "can never be repudiated nor laid aside," and yet hold individual masons not members, bound by that law. The sentence which we have quoted is in our judgment an actual repudiation by the Grand Lodge, on its part and on the members of its obedience, of the obligations which in the same breath it says can never be repudiated nor laid aside. We would like to know the course of reasoning by which the committee, who formulated this law, would justify their course.

We note another limitation of what we have been in the habit of supposing under the usages of Masonry to be a right inherent in every mason, to wit: to choose the lodge of which he will be a member, if it will accept him, by requiring him to apply to the nearest lodge, unless that lodge shall consent by a two-thirds vote for him to apply elsewhere; nor can he apply elsewhere in cases of which two or more lodges have concurrent jurisdiction without such consent of all those lodges.

Iowa used to stand very firmly for the rights of masons as against the pecuniary fever which is threatening the institution, and we greatly regret that her Grand Lodge seems to give countenance to the idea that the main duty of a mason is to pay dues.

The following resolution was adopted, and we shall look for the report of that committee with much interest:

Resolved, That the Grand Master appoint a committee of three to thoroughly investigate the methods used in other Grand Jurisdictions to impart instruction in the ritual, to report at the next session of this Grand Lodge, and to then suggest such amendments to and changes in our present laws as will, in their opinion, tend to promote greater proficiency in the ritual among the members of the subordinate lodges."

The Grand Secretary reprints from the North American Review an article upon secret societies in America, in which the author states that the membership of secret fraternal orders in this country in December, 1896, was 5,400,000, and making allowance for some men belonging to more than one Order, concludes that every fifth, or possibly every eighth man, one meets, is identified with some fraternal organization. This does not include labor organizations or secret military Orders nor College Fraternities, etc.

The author undertakes to estimate the amount of money given by these Orders to beneficiaries, but he says that large amounts are expended of which no account is kept; and in relation to Masonry he says:

"Take, for instance, one body, the masonic, which may be considered typical of all. In connection with each lodge there is a relief committee whose duties are done with delicacy, whose acts are performed in tender and sympathetic secrecy. These committees ascertain the needs of those members who are facing hard fortune, aid them with money, with clothing, with provisions; or, if possible, secure positions for future bread-winning. No record is kept in any form for the public eye of these private beneficences. Indeed, in some cases, not even the names of the members of the

committee itself are known to the other members of the lodge to which they belong."

* * * * *

"It should be stated that, as there is no general Grand Lodge of the masonic order, and as no reports are made from the lodges to any superior body, the amount of money contributed in public beneficences by this Order has been in some measure estimated from the best general information obtainable."

In an accompanying table he gives the masonic membership as 750,000, and the amount paid \$90,000,000. We cannot reproduce the whole article, but it is one well worth the study of every mason. We think, however, that the estimates of the writer are probably exaggerated. He undertakes to give in the table the amount paid out in the United States from the organization of each society, and the total estimate is about \$650,000,000.

The Proceedings also contain a very interesting article on the Iowa Masonic Library, by Bro. Henry W. Rugg, reprinted from the Freemasons, Repository and adorned with cuts.

The Grand Secretary also gives an article on the anti-Masonic Congress, taken from the Report on Correspondence of the Grand Lodge of New York for 1897, to which we probably shall refer in our review of New York; but we cannot help remarking in passing that we regret that the subject should be dignified by any notice, either by the Grand Lodge of New York or by any other masons.

The Report on Correspondence (179 pages) includes a very valuable index of the various matters noticed in it. We believe our Grand Secretary inaugurated this plan as applied to the volume, which is made up in part of two or three reports paged consecutively, which we think is preferable to giving an index of each report. This report is presented, as heretofore, by Bro. J. C. W. Cox.

He discusses the question of the recognition of the Gran Dieta considerably, and is in very much the same frame of mind as we are; possibly not for the same reasons, but his conclusion is that prudence requires further investigation and examination. He says that nothing has come to his knowledge during the year to change the convictions which he expressed the year previous, but on the contrary he says they have been confirmed by new and wholly unsupported evidence, "which brings to our mind Paul's characterization of the people of Crete in his day." We very greatly regret that he does not give this evidence. In his conclusion he says that some of his statements in the report now under consideration "have been challenged and characterized as unwarranted and untrue, unsupported by a single word of reliable evidence," and he adds:

"We recognize the right of dissent from our views, but do not concede the courtesy of this indictment nor plead guilty thereto. On the contrary, we have written no line that will not stand the test of most rigid investiga-

tion. We are in possession of the proofs for every statement of our own which has been challenged. We value our own good name too highly to rest easily under a charge of dishonesty or evasion; we value the institution of Freemasonry too highly to knowingly abate one jot or tittle from what we believe to be legitimate standards and rightful claims. We have no personal interests at stake in this matter; we have no personal ends to serve—no personal grievances to settle—no enemies to punish nor friends to reward; we purpose to serve only truth, which 'is mighty above all things and beareth the victory.' We have counselled judicious delay in the matter of the recognition of the Gran Dieta. Some cherished friends have thought that we were unduly conservative; others, whose good opinion we also prize, have heartily endorsed our views. We are not unduly depressed by the one nor elated by the other. We must be true to our own convictions. These have not materially changed within the past twelve-month. We believe that nothing will be jeopardized by delay and further and fuller investigation, both as to the history and practices of the Gran Dieta. We believe that much will be jeopardized by present and premature action. We shall make no hurtful mistake by inaction; we may make a serious and irreparable mistake by undue haste. Here we stand; we can do no otherwise."

This is the correct doctrine as to the duty of the writers of these reports, not only in relation to this subject, but in relation to all others; and it may be taken as the rule that should be followed implicitly.

Of the resolutions of our Grand Lodge in relation to rejections, he says:

"The question of perpetual or limited jurisdiction over candidates comes forward anew in an overture from Maine which appears fair and reasonable, but which does not meet the views of either the conservatives or the progressives, and therefore fails of general endorsement."

In his review of Alabama he dissents from a decision that a vote may be reconsidered at the communication next succeeding the one at which it was adopted, and also from the proposition that this particular question is one which lodges have the right to regulate in their by-laws; but in this section of the country both rules have prevailed for a long time, and we think we are safe in saying have always prevailed; and it seems to us that when a by-law making such a provision has been approved by the Grand Lodge it certainly is valid.

He also says that it appears to him that a decision that Masters of lodges "cannot permit members to vouch for visiting brethren unless they have sat in lodge with them" is the correct rule. This is contrary to the usage universally prevailing in this section, from the time we were made a mason until this time, and while it may be an error on the side of caution, we think the limitation is not justified by masonic usage or masonic law. For instance, if a brother has sat in a lodge with another brother, and he comes to a third brother and vouches for the second brother, he comes absolutely within the rule of "lawful information": nor do we believe that the right of a brother to examine another and determine for himself whether he is a mason or not can lawfully be abridged.

He holds as we do, that the installing officer should absolutely refuse to

install a man who is frequently drunk, and if such charges are made and not admitted, we hold that the installing officer should either make an examination himself or report to the Grand Master for him to order such course as he deems proper. This has been done in Maine. Whether the installing officer would have the right to "direct" the lodge to file charges against him depends upon who the installing officer is.

He does not concur with the extremists in regard to the use of ciphers, and of them he says:

"And we are 'equally certain' that the proposed remedy will not prove a panacea. Human memory is fallable. There is but one guarantee of accuracy. If our 'Blue Hen' brethren do not at once perceive what that is, we will cheerfully respond to any personal inquiries on the subject."

He discusses somewhat the *casus belli* between Indiana and Pennsylvania, in which he suggests that our Indiana brethren had not acted with prudence or really with courtesy, and that masonic comity is not likely to be promoted by the course which they have seen fit to take. We expressed similar views in our review of the same Proceedings last year.

Speaking of the refusal or permission by a Grand Master to bury a non-affiliate, Bro. COXE well says:

"The refusal may have been timely and wise in the particular case, but we regard the reasons given therefor to be utterly beneath the standard of masonic charity and kindly consideration which should be maintained, and to have the taint of commercialism which the multitudinous insurance and benefit orders have made but too common."

In his review of Maine he says the address of Grand Master FARNHAM is "a well written paper and marks the skilled craftsman and accomplished leader."

Quoting this statement of the Deputy of the First District, viz: "I believe that if every candidate were required to pass examination in open lodge it would result in more earnest and better masons," he adds, "we are sure of that."

He says we asked him "several and sundry questions" bearing upon the perfection doctrine, and says he is at a loss to know why we did it. We have not the Proceedings of 1896 before us and cannot enlighten him, but we are very glad to find that he is not a "perfectionist," and, therefore, there was no occasion to ask him the question. He says:

"We are not of the 'perfectionist' school, nor do we believe in the *literal* application in all cases of the language of the ancient charges to applicants for admission into the secrets of speculative Masonry. The wearisome insistence on *physical* perfection as a *sine qua non* for the degrees has no support from us beyond the ability to give and receive the secrets, provided the intellectual and moral stature is all right. The loss of a finger-nail or of an eye-lash is nothing to us. Let those split hairs who will, if they find pleasure or profit therein."

This reminds us that as the annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Iowa comes in June there is always one report of ours between the report which he reviews, and the one we are writing. We regret it, but the time for holding the session of the two Grand Lodges probably is most convenient to the masons of the respective jurisdictions.

Quoting from the Proceedings of Mississippi the report of a committee, in which it is stated that the great dangers to Masonry are the admission of unfit candidates and the adoption of the laws, usages and customs of the numerous modern societies, he well adds:

“The report goes on to instance the demand in some quarters for per capita representation in Grand Lodge, the proposal to deprive Past Grand Officers of their vote, and the covert advocacy of a Supreme Tribunal, with the not improbable outcome that the Committee on Jurisprudence may become a sort of Court of Errors and Appeals. The note of warning is not amiss; some may think the utterance premature and the dangers largely imaginary, but we do not so read between the lines. The tendency to ‘modernize’ Masonry is a real tendency, and the plea that ours is ‘a progressive institution’ is made to stand sponsor for some things which wise men will do well to challenge. ‘Forewarned is forearmed.’ It is easy to call conservatism cowardice, and to insist that they are ‘old fogies’ who stand against the new ideas and plans; but facility in calling names is not a test of loyalty to truth, nor are they the safest and wisest leaders who insist on ‘progress’ without reference to well-established principles and historic and venerable landmarks. Personally we thank the committee for their frank and manly utterance; we believe it to be both timely and wise.”

We are beginning to think that applying the term “old foggy” to a mason is about as great a compliment as can be paid to a mason in these days, and we are perfectly willing to be “counted in” with our brethren of Mississippi and our brother of Iowa.

He regrets the absence of an index from the Reports on Correspondence. As we have already expressed a preference for a plan pursued by our own Grand Secretary we desire to modify what we said by adding that the index is of great assistance to the writers of these reports, and, considering the manner in which they are usually printed and bound in volumes, an index to each report is almost a necessity: but looking at their permanent value, we prefer our Grand Secretary’s plan.

The remark with which we opened the review of Iowa applies to this report. There are many other points which we had marked for notice but which we must reluctantly pass by.

KANSAS, 1898.

We are deeply pained to learn from the address of the Grand Master, WILLIAM M. SHAVER, that the Senior Past Grand Master, JOHN M. PRICE, has been heavily afflicted. Mentally and physically a wreck; his property and means gone, and he dependent for support for himself and his faithful wife

upon the local lodges and the Grand Lodge. The Grand Master says that Bro. PRICE is mentally beyond the appreciation of the love of his brethren, but extends the heart and hand of sympathy to his devoted wife. The Grand Lodge continued to him a monthly allowance.

Of the Grand Lodge of Peru, the Grand Master says:

“In December the information reached me that the ‘Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the Republic of Peru,’ with which body our Grand Lodge is in fraternal correspondence, had changed its fundamental law by excluding the Holy Bible, the Great Light of Masonry, from its altar and the altars of all lodges under its obedience. By this act this Grand Lodge has written its decree of divorcement from Masonry, and is no longer a masonic body. As this information was obtained so close to this annual communication I did not deem it necessary to issue an edict relative to the matter.”

The Grand Lodge confirmed his action and withdrew all masonic recognition of, and communication or intercourse with, the so-called Grand Lodge of Peru and the lodges and members of its obedience.

We learn from his address that a committee to revise the constitution and by-laws had been appointed and had completed its labors. From the report of that committee, we find that the late brother, OWEN A. BASSETT, devoted much time during the latter years of his life in revising the laws and appending notes to them. The committee followed the same plan, in fact adopting many of his notes. We shall have occasion to refer to this later.

Several cases had happened in which the law in relation to the ballot had been violated, and thereupon the Grand Master says:

“In all three cases reported, and in some others of a similar character coming under my observation during the year, I found a feeling predominant of sympathy for the petitioner and prejudice towards the objecting member for presuming to interfere to prevent one being made a mason against whom ‘every one’ believed no objection but a personal one could be urged, and a determination prevailing to make the petitioner a mason, if it could be done legally. This is wrong in both principle and practice. A mason in good standing has the absolute right to close the door of his lodge against the entrance of any profane, and in the exercise of this right he is answerable only to his conscience and his God under the charge that he should act for the good of Masonry and not be controlled by prejudice. His objection may be a personal one—he has a right to have it, and may be perfectly justified in acting under it. Neither you nor I have any right to criticise or upbraid him for its exercise, and it is our duty to protect him in it as completely as in any other masonic right he may possess.”

What the Grand Master describes as the most aggravating case of the violation of law was the publication in one of the daily newspapers of a full account of a masonic trial, accompanied, of course, by a picture of the accused and by the accessories of a sensational newspaper story.

The Grand Master's great regret was that an investigation failed to locate the guilty brother, and it was done under such circumstances that the lodge could not be held responsible for it.

The Grand Master announced several decisions approved by the Grand Lodge, but as all except those dependent upon local law have already been passed upon by our Grand Lodge, we do not notice them.

An attempt was made by a member of one of the clandestine lodges in Ohio to visit one of the Kansas lodges, but he was informed that he could not be recognized.

The Grand Orator, W. F. KUHN, delivered a magnificent address upon the Fundamentals of Freemasonry. While it must all be read as a whole, to be appreciated fully, and while extracts from it fail to do it any sort of justice, we cannot resist the temptation to quote the following:

“Then when you ask me, What is the fundamental principle of Freemasonry? I would answer, Israel's altar,—Israel's God. Masonry's lineage is noble, her ancestry divine, the true aristocracy of the world. Her traditions and allegories, must, of necessity, be veiled with Jewish history, and her symbolism entwines, like rarest flowers and foliage, around the Temple of Israel's God.

“In this conception of the fundamental principle of Freemasonry, we have the Fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of Man. I wish to emphasize this point and declare that there cannot be, and never has been a system of morality recognizing ‘the Brotherhood of Man’ outside of the belief in a personal God; a system based upon the Fatherhood of God must kneel at the same altar at which ABRAHAM knelt.”

A special committee made a report on the incorporation of the Grand Lodge; they had sent out a circular to other Grand Lodges, and received replies from thirty-seven Grand Secretaries. A summary of the replies is thus stated, and the committee recommend that the whole matter be deferred, and their report was accepted:

“From the replies received it appears that many of the Grand Lodges which have incorporated have never exercised their powers. It is also noticeable that no complaints of consequence are made by either class. The experience of these Grand Lodges, extending as it does over a long period of years and under widely different circumstances, leads the committee to conclude that under the laws of this state this Grand Lodge will be safe to continue as it is, or it would be equally safe to incorporate. The subject of the incorporation of Grand Lodges has been the cause of able and prolonged discussions between our Foreign Correspondents, and has received much more attention than its importance deserves. Under existing laws, the bonds of our Grand Officers can be sued on in a court, and our securities can be foreclosed and collected.”

There is one consideration not noticed by the committee; the statutes and laws of the different states are different, and in some states an incorporation is indispensable for a body which has funds which it invests. It seems that such is not the case in Kansas.

Did space and time allow, we should be very glad to go over the constitution and by-laws quite minutely and refer to the notes, especially those of which Bro. BASSETT was the author, and we commend this code with its notes to all who have occasion to revise or amend constitutions.

We note that in the absence of the Grand Master, the Deputy and the Wardens, the old law remains and the Junior Past Grand Master present performs the duties of the Grand Master; but when it comes to a subordinate lodge the modern law is adopted, and apparently a lodge cannot be opened in the absence of its Master and Wardens.

Temporary officers have the same power for the time being as the officer whose place he fills when present.

Seven lodges must be represented to make a quorum, although it is stated that the provision is wholly arbitrary.

By the Constitution, the "Webb work" is made the work of the jurisdiction.

Lodges *u. d.*, contrary to the general practice in these days, have no other authority than to accept candidates and confer degrees.

No one can be Master of a lodge until he has been installed and served as Warden.

The lodge quorum is as fixed by the ritual for the different lodges; and a ritual lodge may be opened for *labor*, but no *business* shall be transacted unless there shall be present at least seven Master Masons, members of the lodge and entitled to vote therein. Under this provision, the ritual lodge may confer degrees.

In relation to rejected candidate the following is the provision:

"A petition for the Mysteries of Masonry shall show whether the applicant has previously petitioned another lodge, and if it appear that he has in this Grand Jurisdiction, and that more than six months have elapsed since his rejection, his application may be received. If it appear that such other lodge was without this Grand Jurisdiction, and is still working, he shall present with his petition a waiver of jurisdiction by such lodge."

To this is added the following note by Bro. BASSETT:

"The opinion of the writers on masonic law are not all in accord on the relation existing between a rejected candidate for the mysteries of Masonry and the lodge rejecting him. His status, however, depends largely upon the local law. Some Grand Lodges hold to the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction, the jurisdiction which follows a rejected candidate for life, without regard to the territory of his residence, so that he cannot afterward petition another lodge without the consent of the one first rejecting him, unless it shall have waived jurisdiction, or ceased to exist; other Grand Lodges hold that the candidate so rejected may after a certain time petition any other lodge, within whose territorial jurisdiction he may have gained a lawful residence. The provisions of the third clause are imposed to prevent controversy.—BASSETT."

And the following by the Committee on Revision of the Code:

"The last sentence of this by-law, is a distinct recognition of the Rule of Comity which should prevail between Grand Lodges. As before observed, that rule requires each to recognize and give full faith and credit to the acts of every other, provided the Ancient Constitutions be not infringed, the General Regulations not set aside, or the old landmarks removed.

Therefore, this Grand Lodge has in this section recognized the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction in a lodge which has once rejected a candidate in another Grand Jurisdiction, while by its laws it has denied the same privilege to its own lodges.—COM. REV., 1898.”

The last note is entitled “Rule of Comity”; that is unquestionably the correct rule.

The following is the provision in relation to re-imburements for money paid out for charity:

“Every affiliated Master Mason is entitled to masonic burial by his lodge, and at its expense, if circumstances require it; and a sojourner, who is an affiliated Master Mason, is entitled to masonic burial by the local lodge, and the same honor may be extended to non-affiliated Master Masons. When one lodge gives masonic burial to the member of another, and pays the funeral expenses, or any part thereof, no lawful claim for re-imburement exists in favor of the lodge making such expenditures.”

But space will not allow us to give a more extended review of this code and the notes, and we can only repeat what we have already said, that we commend it not only to all interested in preparing codes but also to all interested in masonic jurisprudence.

The Report on Correspondence (134 pp.) was submitted by Bro. JOHN C. POSTLETHWAITE. It is largely a brief and concise abstract, but frequently subjects are briefly discussed.

On the appearance of lodges in public, he says:

“We do not deem it appropriate for a lodge to appear in public procession on national memorial occasions. A lodge can pay its tribute to the memory of Washington privately in the lodge room, but should not appear in public. The writer believes in national holidays, and enters enthusiastically on the celebration of the anniversary of Washington’s birthday, and the anniversary of NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, but on these occasions the ceremonies and processions should be of that character that will admit of the humblest American citizen joining the ranks, and thereby pay tribute to the memory of the nation’s leaders and rulers as American citizens. Actuated only by a true and pure patriotism, ‘Old Glory,’ properly displayed, is more appropriate than lodge regalia.”

His Grand Lodge, however, voted to join with Virginia in the observance of the Centennial Anniversary of the death of Washington; but we agree with him in the main. However, we hold that if a lodge can properly pay a tribute to the memory of Washington privately in the lodge room, it may with equal propriety do so in public. He also opposes very strenuously the attendance of lodges at church, *as lodges*. The practice is a growing one, and did we not look beyond this country we should agree with him fully; but we find that the practice has existed out of the United States for many years both by lodges and Grand Lodges. For how many years the practice has prevailed we do not know, but considering the practice we are not prepared to say that it is in violation of masonic law.

In the review of Illinois, Bro. MILLER makes an extended reply to Bro.

ROBBINS in relation to Masonry in Mexico. Most of the questions noticed we consider to be settled against the contention of Bro. ROBBINS, and, therefore, shall not review this reply. We think, however, he takes too much notice of Chism, our opinion of whom we have already expressed in this report.

In this connection we will say that we have undertaken to obtain some statistics in relation to the number of Grand Lodges subordinate to the Gran Dieta, and the number of lodges subordinate to those lodges, and also will add that objection has been raised by some brother that the Gran Dieta cannot be recognized, because it has Grand Lodges under its jurisdiction; but upon examining the constitution we find that the Grand Lodges bear to the Gran Dieta almost precisely the same relation that the British Provincial Grand Lodges bear to the Grand Lodge of England, save that the Grand Lodges under the Dieta have somewhat greater powers than the Provincial Grand Lodges.

In his review of Maine he inquires why a dispensation is necessary to the brethren to hold a "Lodge of Instruction," adding:

"We have always supposed that it was the inalienable right of masons to receive all the light possible without imploring the 'powers that be' for the privilege."

A dispensation is required because such is our law: it does not allude to brethren getting together and instructing each other in Masonry, but to the holding of lodges precisely like the regular lodge meeting, save the absence of a charter. Some abuses grew up in this state by brethren meeting, clothing themselves as masons and opening a regular lodge with officers in their places, with their jewels, etc., and it was found necessary to regulate this last manner of proceeding and a law was framed accordingly.

He misapprehends, also, the decision in relation to the rights of unaffiliated masons. The decision is simply that he does not have the *right* to the privilege named, but no lodge is prevented from granting him the exercise of the privileges. The decision is simply that he cannot *demand* them as a matter of right.

He quotes our reply to Bro. MILLER in relation to masonic trials, and says it is worthy the consideration of all who love Masonry. We are glad that it has attracted his attention, and that by publishing the extract he has called the attention of the brethren of his jurisdiction to it; as we still regard the tendency to copy the technicalities of trials in court as threatening evil to the institution.

The printer is calling for "copy," and while we would be glad to go through this report further, we shall have to yield to the call.

been the custom in Maine when duplicate charters have been granted, as they sometimes have been.

The report of the committee upon the home shows that it is still going on in its career of abundant usefulness and commands the support and affection of the craft throughout the state.

A pleasant incident of the session was the reception of Bro. FREDERICK SPEED, Past Grand Master of Mississippi, who made one of his brief, beautiful speeches, which, by vote of the Grand Lodge, is published in the Proceedings.

The Report on Correspondence (104 pp.) was presented by Bro. W. W. CLARKE.

In his review of Alabama, he says:

“There can, we think, be no question that every Grand Lodge has the authority to prescribe the terms on which its subordinates may initiate masons. If, then, a lodge of a foreign jurisdiction initiate a profane over whom the Grand Lodge of his residence has absolutely no authority, and he be initiated according to the law of the jurisdiction where initiated, who can be heard to object? The Grand Lodge of Alabama may decree who its lodges may initiate, but, even barring the perpetual jurisdiction doctrine, it can hardly determine who the lodges of another jurisdiction may initiate.”

We do not assent to the first sentence of the quotation. There are certain laws which are binding on Grand Lodges, and for that reason we believe that the practice of the majority of Grand Lodges in refusing to recognize as a mason a resident within its own jurisdiction, who goes abroad and obtains the degrees, and then returns to his home, is right. In the nature of things, it would be wonderful if a man notoriously unfit to be made a mason, could thus be imposed upon the fraternity of his residence.

In his review of Arkansas, he says:

“Nor do we believe that the restrictions against lodges of one jurisdiction conferring degrees at the request of lodges of another jurisdiction generally obtains.”

He is correct, but nevertheless we believe that the practice is in violation not only of sound policy, but really of the fundamental rules in relation to the admission of members.

Of the rule in Delaware that only a Master or Past Master can confer degrees, he well says:

“We were not aware that it was questioned anywhere that in the absence of the Master the Senior Warden, and in the absence of both, the Junior Warden, succeeded to all the rights, and there devolved upon him all the duties of the Master. It seems, however, that a Warden can not confer a degree within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Delaware unless he be a Past Master.”

* * * * *

“The author of this report believes that any Master Mason who may be called to the chair by the Master may with propriety, and certainly with legality, confer the degrees of Masonry. Indeed, there seems to have been a time not very remote when all degrees were conferred by those who were

not Past Masters, unless the presiding over an occasional lodge made them such, nor acting Masters except for the brief time the occasional convocation lasted."

The usage in this section of the country from the earliest times has been in accordance with these views of Bro. CLARKE.

In relation to the granting of dimits, in his review of the report of Bro. MILLER, of Kansas, he says:

"His remarks in regard to the reconsideration by a lodge of its action in granting a dimit meets this writer's hearty endorsement, except that it does not, as he thinks, go quite far enough. He holds that a lodge may re-consider its action in granting a dimit at the same meeting at which the action was taken. Our contention is, that the very moment the dimit was granted—the moment the act was consummated—that moment the dimitted brother ceased to be a member of that lodge. The separation was complete. His membership had terminated. If present, from that moment he was a visitor. His membership was not suspended, nor in abeyance; it was at an end. During the remainder of that meeting he could not vote, and no other act implying membership could be performed by him. This being true, his restoration to membership could only be effected in the prescribed manner. Nor does this committee believe that the importance of the question of perpetual jurisdiction has, in any sense, been lost. So long as one Grand Lodge shall claim the right to project its legislation beyond its confines so long will it be a question of vital importance."

The trouble with the reasoning of our brother is that no vote is a complete, perfect vote until the time allowed under the by-laws for re-consideration has expired. The vote is, in parliamentary law, a conditional vote; that is that the dimit is granted unless this vote shall be re-considered within the time prescribed by the by-laws; and under the law, when there is such a provision in the by-laws, every vote is subject to it as much as if it was specifically so stated in the vote itself. If Bro. CLARKE will consider the matter, he will find that under his rule, in a vast majority of instances, there could be no re-consideration of the vote in cases in which, in all deliberative bodies, re-consideration is allowed.

In his review of New Hampshire he makes a quotation from the report of Bro. WAIT, which he endorses, and of which we shall have something to say when we come to review New Hampshire and to which we fraternally refer him.

In his review of Tennessee, referring to the Report of the Committee on Jurisprudence in relation to the Maine proposition regarding rejected candidates, he says, referring to himself:

"This committee fails to understand why a Grand Lodge should make a distinction between two classes of those living within its bounds—one of which has always so lived and the other, at some former period of life, lived within the jurisdiction of some other Grand Lodge. If five years, or three years, must elapse after rejection of one of the latter while living within another jurisdiction, then, by every consideration of right, require the same period to elapse after rejection of one of the former class."

KENTUCKY, 1897.

The frontispiece is a portrait of the retiring Grand Master, **ROBERT FRANCIS PEAK**.

In his address Bro. **PEAK** announces the death of two Past Grand Masters, **ELISHA S. FITCH** and **MYRAX J. WILLIAMS**. The former has been very active in the affairs of the Masonic Home and the Grand Lodge will feel his loss deeply.

In a decision, the Grand Master held that the provision against electioneering applies to nominating speeches, and that, therefore, they cannot be made. We agree with him fully, as our observation of the effect of nominating speeches does not incline us to favor allowing them.

The Gr. Master had refused to grant dispensations "to confer degrees out of time, to ballot at called meetings, and also to hold elections out of time," saying "because the same is beyond my authority under the constitution."

The Committee on Jurisprudence, in relation to these, report as follows:

"The refusal of the Grand Master to grant permission to confer degrees out of time is heartily commended. No such authority is vested in the Grand Master, nor can the Grand Lodge itself grant such permission without first amending its constitution."

It will be observed that nothing is said in regard to the dispensations to ballot at called meetings or to hold elections out of time. Of course we need not say that we do not agree either with the Grand Master or with the committee, except so far as the report of the latter relates to the Grand Lodge. That body can tie its hands in this respect by its constitution, but cannot in our judgment tie the hands of its Grand Master. We suspect that the committee, by stating the kind of dispensations that the Grand Master could not grant, did not care to take the ground that he has no authority to grant dispensations to hold elections out of time. Their silence, however, is perhaps wise, because it is manifest that if the Grand Master has the power to grant one kind of dispensations he has the power to grant the other.

The Grand Master finds himself obliged to say that great negligence exists in many of the lodges in relation to making returns and the payment of dues. There is no question whatever, but that this arises in part from the weight of the burden that has been imposed upon the lodges in aid of that most excellent Institution, the Masonic Home. In connection with this the report of the Committee on Finance is exceedingly interesting, but we have not space for reproducing it.

The committee having in charge the Centennial Fund, reported progress, but desired further time. It is an effort to raise \$50,000, and subscriptions to the amount of \$30,000 were reported.

Quite a number of dispensations for new lodges had been granted, several charters were revoked, and the surrenders of several others were accepted.

The report of the Committee on Library shows a fair degree of growth, and the character of the additions to the Library to be of the most valuable kind.

An interesting case, which was commenced last year, was before the Grand Lodge. There was some difficulty about the returns of the lodge, and as made, they showed gross violations of the law, and the committee last year reported in favor of citing the lodge to show cause why its charter should not be arrested; but at the instance of the representatives of the lodge, no action was taken upon the report, but the matter was continued until the next annual communication. In the meantime the committee say that,

“On February 5, 1897, Joppa Lodge issued and sent out ‘to the masonic brethren of the Grand Jurisdiction of Kentucky’ a printed circular of four pages, reviewing the whole question, and on *ex parte* statements, in some instances grossly inaccurate, attacked with great vigor the Grand Secretary of this Grand Lodge who was, in our opinion, as innocent of any misconduct as an unborn babe. The Grand Secretary’s connection with the affair consisted in referring the papers to the Jurisprudence Committee, as he was bound to do, since questions of masonic law were involved. If there was any other fault or mistake it was that of the Committee on Jurisprudence.’”

It turned out that most of the things, which were excepted to in the return of the lodge, were blunders of its Secretary; but in one instance a palpable violation of the law of the Grand Lodge had been committed.

In relation to the circulars, the committee say:

“The sending out of any such unauthorized circulars cannot be too severely reprehended.”

* * * * *

“We therefore recommend that the lodge be suffered to retain its charter, but be admonished not to issue any more circulars about cases pending in the Grand Lodge.”

We are glad to see this action, merciful as it was, because the besetting sin at the present day is a discussion of matters pending in masonic bodies by the issuing of circulars, but more especially by articles in so-called masonic newspapers.

The committee also report the following in relation to another question that frequently arises in other Grand Lodges:

“Your committee is of the opinion that a lodge can not have two charters under which it can work. In case of dissension in the lodge one faction might obtain possession of one charter, the other faction of the other, and each might assume to work in defiance of the other. We see no objection to the resolution if the certified copy be granted in lieu of the one defaced, that the latter be kept as an heirloom of the lodge, and the certified copy be treated as the only working charter. In case the resolution passes we think that the statement that this is the only working charter should appear on the face of the copy or be indorsed on it.”

One or the other of the charters should be so indorsed as to show the facts. Really, however, both charters should be indorsed, and we believe that has

This will not be pleasant reading for some who agree with him, for several Grand Lodges, which agree with him, have one law for candidates rejected by their own lodges, and another law for those rejected in another jurisdiction. The former can be received only by the consent of the rejecting lodge; the latter can be received the same as any other candidate, without the consent of anybody.

Whether the Grand Lodge of Tennessee has made one law for its own lodges and another for the lodges in another jurisdiction the report does not show, but it is a very different matter from the practice to which we have just alluded. We can readily understand that a Grand Lodge may require of a stranger coming into the jurisdiction, who has been rejected at his old home, a residence of a longer time than it would require of a candidate who has always lived in that jurisdiction and whose character may be presumed, therefore, to be better known; and therefore we do not agree with the last sentence of our quotation.

He also quotes from another correspondent the reference to the Hart case, which we have noticed in our review of Iowa, to which we refer him for his answer. We think he will discover that it is worth while to know something about what the usage and practice really have been before he endorses such statements.

In his review of Maine he criticises the decision of Grand Master FARNHAM as to the rights of a non-affiliated mason. The decision referred, as we have already explained, to the rights of an unaffiliated mason in reference to *lodge privileges*, but if it is to be construed that it applies to the relations of one mason to another we dissent from it as earnestly as Bro. CLARKE does.

In his review of our report, he says:

“So much of Bro. Drummond’s review of proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky for 1896, as deals with the correspondence report, is a labored and ineffectual effort to carry force of what he says we *call* our ‘third argument on the question of jurisdiction over rejected candidates.’ The best evidence that it is an argument, and a most conclusive one, is found in the fact that this able champion has given so much space in an effort to answer it, and in the further fact that his labors have proven so ineffectual. We are not in the habit of boasting of our work, but a victory over so redoubtable a champion, not only elates us but gives us increased confidence in our cause.”

If he had given the “effort” which he attributes to us instead of speaking of it as he does, it would not have been so safe for him. Did he feel that if he did not say that our reply was not conclusive that nobody would ever suspect such was the case? This statement, coming at this particular time, reminds us of statements which are coming “across the water”!

He cannot seem yet to understand that in almost all the Grand Lodges, the constitution of the Grand Lodge is a *limitation* upon its powers, precisely as the rules of deliberative bodies are limitations upon their powers,

when those powers are to be exercised by a mere majority of the members. We are not surprised at this because his own Grand Lodge is, as we understand it, based upon the modern plan that no amendments to its constitution can be made without being submitted to the lodges; and he assumes that this is the universal rule, whereas in fact it is the rule of *only a very few of the Grand Lodges in the United States* and is true of Grand Lodges *nowhere else in the world*. That it is a departure from the original plan of Masonry very few are bold enough to undertake to deny.

Now, then, in a deliberative assembly which has rules, if a proposition is made in conflict with those rules, the presiding officer will rule it out of order. In the case referred to, the Constitution of the Grand Lodge provided that *the particular amendment* should be proposed at one session, entertained by the Grand Lodge at that session, and finally acted upon at the next annual communication. There would seem to be no chance for a dispute that the particular amendment, after it has passed one stage and been adopted by one vote, cannot be amended thereafter. The Constitution of a Grand Lodge, limiting the methods in which it shall exercise its powers, is binding upon it, until it shall of its own motion change that Constitution.

In this connection, he says:

“Now, will our brother give, if he can, any other reason why the ruling of the Deputy Grand Master was correct, as he positively asserts it was, except that the Constitution of the Grand Lodge is its grant of power and every amendment thereto is a modification of its powers, and, having been submitted to the constituted lodges, can not be further changed except after a re-submission. Fatal admission!”

As we have already said, the Constitution, under which the ruling was made, never was “submitted to the chartered lodges,” but was made by the Grand Lodge, and could be changed without any such submission.

Right here we desire to call attention to the fact, that Bro. CLARKE seems to be unable to discriminate between the doctrine of “perpetual jurisdiction,” and the doctrine that the *status* given to a candidate by his rejection, is fixed by the laws of the jurisdiction in which the rejection was made, and follows him everywhere.

He is continually referring to us as an advocate of perpetual jurisdiction in the real sense of the term; that is to say, he does not limit his expression; whereas, if he had read the report of our committee to the Grand Lodge of Maine (as we do not believe he has done; because if he had he would not certainly be misrepresenting our position), he would have seen that his statement is incorrect. We do not believe, as we stated there, that perpetual jurisdiction is a landmark, and we also hold that inasmuch as all Grand Lodges, so far as we know, allow a rejected candidate to apply again, it follows conclusively that it is assumed that the candidate may become fit to be made a mason in spite of that rejection, and that while in former times,

the almost universal usage wrought no hardship, yet in these later days, when men leave their original home and pass their whole lives in another jurisdiction, the masons of the latter are better qualified than the old lodge to determine whether he is fit to be made a mason; but we have insisted that a longer residence should be required, in which to settle that question, than is required of one who never has been rejected, and, therefore, a longer period than one year should be allowed for that purpose. Moreover, we have held these views for a time long anterior to the service of Bro. CLARKE upon this committee; and, upon our motion, the rule was repealed in our Grand Lodge.

We are a good deal surprised to find the following:

“We submitted this proposition: A *Kentucky* lodge rejected a candidate, who had always lived in Kentucky; subsequently another *Kentucky* lodge made him a mason, acting in perfect conformity with the masonic law of *Kentucky*. Later he was elected Master of his lodge, and later still Grand Master. It will be observed that the rejecting lodge and the lodge that elected and enforced the degrees were *Kentucky* lodges. We then asked if he, the Grand Master of Kentucky, would be permitted to visit a lodge in Pennsylvania. This is Bro. Drummond's reply:

“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.”

“Bro. Drummond's admission is fatal; it is however, logical, because no other answer could be made unless the doctrine were abandoned. This, the writer of this report foresaw, and to reduce the adherents of this doctrine to this ridiculously absurd position he wrote it. It is unnecessary to argue the question further; the ablest defender of the doctrine has admitted himself out of court.”

We are surprised, because we never knowingly passed upon any such proposition. We do not find in Bro. CLARKE's review of Maine last year any such proposition; but we do find in our report of last year a statement, that Bro. CLARKE “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,” and asks if he would be allowed to visit in Pennsylvania, and we said “No.” In the case stated in the above extract there is “no violation of the law of jurisdiction.” We have always held that the whole matter of the proposition, as above stated, is within the law of every jurisdiction. If a Grand Lodge provides that a candidate over which it has jurisdiction is rejected by one of its lodges he may apply the next day to another lodge and be admitted, such person is a regular mason, not only in Kentucky but everywhere else; and the idea that holding to this view has anything to do with the making a mason of a candidate rejected by a lodge *in another jurisdiction* is simply ridiculous. The election of such a one as Grand Master would not change his *status*.

He submits to us two propositions as follows:

"1. The Grand Lodge of Maine is a government of enumerated powers, the *ipse dixit* of Bro. Drummond to the contrary notwithstanding.

"2. The Grand Lodge of Maine could not exist without constituted lodges, its permanent individual membership to the contrary notwithstanding."

In reply to the first we will say that he has evidently never read the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, which chartered the original Maine lodges, nor that of the Grand Lodge of Maine; he is evidently thinking of the Constitution of his own Grand Lodge. If he had read the former, he would never have submitted such an absurd statement.

The answer to the second proposition is that it is not true, and in proof of it we are able to say that the Grand Lodge of Maine has existed and has held sessions and done business, when it did not have a single active subordinate and no subordinate was represented in it; and by the terms of its Constitution even, there is no distinction between the members which make up the Grand Lodge, and if there are enough of either sort to open a lodge, the Grand Lodge may be opened and do business.

In Delaware, Wardens cannot under the Constitution of that Grand Lodge confer degrees, but Past Masters can. Referring to this law, he says:

"By the adoption of this resolution, it appears to us, an anomalous state of affairs exists. A Warden cannot confer a degree, but another, acting in a lodge, the legality of whose every act depends upon his presence, may do so. If the Warden were absent, or refused to open the lodge, the degree could not be conferred; being present he can authorize it to be conferred, but cannot confer it himself. We have always held the doctrine, *qui facit per alium facit per se*, but have never understood that the authority extended higher than its source."

When the law authorizes a certain party to do an act, but which must be preceded by some act by another person, the first party does not receive his authority from the other, but from the law, and, therefore, the maxim quoted has no application. For instance, in Maine, the Governor of the State is authorized by law to appoint parties to solemnize marriages, but the Governor himself has no such authority.

Referring to the law prevailing in Kentucky, that a Past Master can open a lodge in the absence of the Master and Wardens, he says it is a departure from the old law; in which statement he is utterly in error, as we have many times shown in former reports.

In his review of Maryland, referring to the report of Bro. SCHULTZ, he says:

"We remember to have seen it solemnly urged that the action of a lodge rejecting an applicant *rendered him unfit to be made a mason*. It now appears, however, from the statement of the learned committee of the Grand Lodge of Maine, that this is a mistake, and that those among whom one has lived, 'after a sufficient time, would become *the best judges of his fitness to be made a mason*,' from which we judge that the question of fitness is to be determined on each application for initiation, and is not a fixed *status*, de-

terminated by the rejecting lodge, a condition that could only be changed by that lodge. Well, we are glad to see the good brethren coming round, for we have always believed that if the rejecting lodge alone could change the condition of unfitness of any man, that it was grossly derelict if it did not hasten to do so meritorious an act, and thereby give to the world a good man instead of a bad one."

We never have happened to see it "solemnly urged" anywhere, that the action of a lodge rejecting an applicant "rendered him unfit to be made a mason," and we will be especially obliged to Bro. CLARKE to tell us when and by whom it was done. His inference, however, stated in the quotation, is utterly erroneous. We have stated elsewhere that he makes no distinction between the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction, and the entirely distinct doctrine that a rejection gives the candidate a *status* which he carries with him. If he will read very much of what is written by others upon this subject in the light of this distinction, he will save his associate correspondents the trouble of correcting so many of his errors.

An instance of this is given in his review of West Virginia. If he had only remembered that West Virginia has held to the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction, but was inclined to follow the example Maine set years before Bro. CLARKE commenced writing these reports, of limiting the effect of a rejection in its own jurisdiction to five years, and yet recognizing the *status* given to candidates rejected in another jurisdiction, as fixed by the laws of that jurisdiction, he would have seen no inconsistency in the action of the Grand Lodge of West Virginia.

In this latter discussion, he says that it is a mason's obligation that makes him a mason; and yet in the very case he puts, he must hold to that doctrine, no matter *by whom the obligation may be administered*, and no matter of how incapable of receiving the obligation the party taking it, may have been. The obligation makes a candidate a mason only when he is eligible to be made a mason and the obligation is administered by lawful authority, a limitation of which Bro. CLARKE continually loses sight.

LOUISIANA, 1898.

The Grand Master, ALBERT G. BRICE, refers feelingly and eloquently to the effect upon Masonry occasioned by the pestilence which had prevailed in his jurisdiction during the preceding year; and of the state of the Order he says:

"In times of great financial depression, Masonry does not flourish; accessions are limited; large numbers are unable to pay their dues; some dimit, some are suspended for non-payment of dues. The consequences that naturally flow from failure of crops, from the visitation of pestilence, and from loss of business, are not accurately determinable at all times; but the figures shown by the returns of lodges to date enable us to approximate with suffi-

cient certainty the outcome as affecting our numbers in this jurisdiction; and I am impressed that the result of the year's labor is favorable, considering the discouraging period through which we have passed."

He announces also the death of Past Grand Master JOHN QUINCY ADAMS FELLOWS, of whom we shall speak further before we close this report.

In relation to the action of the Grand Lodge of Peru, he well says:

"Esteeming the Bible as the source of truth in morals and religion, and believing it is a Book appertaining to no sect, but the gift of our common Father to all His children, surely no mason, however high his rank, and whatever his views as to the opinion of others, is not permitted to divest himself of the duty to keep and guard this Book as 'The Book of the Law' to himself and to his brethren—'an indispensable part of the furniture of every lodge'—a landmark—beyond the power of any man or body of men to remove from its place in the lodge."

And the Grand Lodge endorsed his views and his action: the committee says:

"As masons we have naught to do with the opinions of others in respect to the Holy Bible. But for us it is the revealed word of the Great Architect of the Universe, and all of our dogmas and morals, and the very bone and sinew of our rituals are derived therefrom and founded thereon, and this to such an extent that if what we have established from our examination and criticism thereof be expunged from our rituals and our laws nothing practically will remain—Masonry would cease to exist. The masons of Peru, by their action in this matter, have ceased to be masons in any proper sense. Having committed moral suicide we can no longer have fellowship with them. We append resolution which we ask may be adopted."

* * * * *

"Resolved, That the Grand Lodge of Peru having extinguished the Great Light upon its altars has ceased to be a true masonic body, and that the action of the Grand Master in respect to said Grand Lodge and its representatives be sustained and perpetuated. This action to remain in force until that Light shall be again rekindled."

And the resolution was adopted.

He made quite a number of decisions, largely dependent upon the Constitution and Regulations of his own Grand Lodge, and they appear to us to be in accordance with the general masonic law.

This reminds us that last year we criticised a report of the Committee on Jurisprudence, saying that we agree with the Grand Master rather than with the committee; but we have since learned that the action of the committee was based upon former decisions of the Grand Lodge, to which they deemed it necessary to adhere.

But the most vital question before the Grand Lodge was its financial condition. The Supreme Court of the United States had decided the "tax case" against the Grand Lodge, which involved judgments against the lodge to the amount of over \$26,000; but the Grand Master wisely concluded to apply to the authorities for a settlement of the matter upon an equitable basis, as the Grand Lodge had acted in entire good faith and in accordance

with the opinions of the Judges of the State Court. The representatives of the Grand Lodge were met in the same spirit, and after a full discussion of the matter both the state authorities and the city authorities recognized the equitable features of the case, and the result was a compromise for about \$14,000. Still, as the receipts had been running, the expenditure of this amount compelled the Grand Lodge to borrow money to make it good, and it was confronted at the time of its session with a prospect of a deficiency of over \$3,000 during the ensuing year.

A proposition was made to increase the *per capita* tax one dollar, but while the matter was under discussion the Grand Chapter, which held \$2,700 of the bonds of the Grand Lodge, made a donation of those bonds to the Grand Lodge, so that the special committee came to the conclusion that by raising the fee for each degree from \$1.00 to \$2.00, the receipts for the ensuing year would be sufficient to meet the necessary expenditures. The bonded debt of the Grand Lodge was \$60,000, and it became absolutely necessary that some provision should be made for a sinking fund to pay this, or at least a part of it, when it should become due.

We trust that the amount to be realized during the year will meet the expectations of the Grand Lodge, and that it will be able, without further increase of taxation, to meet its current obligations and commence a sinking fund for the redemption of its bonds.

We learn from the report of the efficient Grand Secretary, Bro. RICHARD LAMBERT, that nearly \$1100 had been raised and disbursed to sufferers by the drought which preceded the pestilence.

When the Masonic Temple was built, as we understand it, a law was passed exempting it from taxation as being used really for charitable purposes. Later on we regret to say that this law was repealed, and the Supreme Court of the United States has decided that the Legislature had a right to repeal that law and subject the Temple to taxation. This imposes upon the Temple an additional annual burden, which makes it questionable whether its earnings will be equal to its expenses.

In consequence of the death of Bro. FELLOWS, no Report on Correspondence was prepared and we believe our readers everywhere will thank us for devoting the space usually given to a review of that report to the tributes paid to Bro. FELLOWS.

The Grand Master, ALBERT G. BRICE, issued a circular from which we copy the following:

“It is with profound sorrow I announce the death of our beloved brother, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master John Quincy Adams Fellows.

“He closed his earthly career and passed into rest Sunday, November 28, 1897, in the seventy-third year of his age, and the forty-eighth of his masonic life.

“Although for weeks previously, it was apparent to his friends, his life

was gradually ebbing, yet when death came, it fell as an affliction upon the hearts of his brethren, producing profound sorrow.

"While we humbly bow to the decree of 'Our Father, who doeth all things well,' let us pause to give expression to the feeling of deep grief that has come upon us, and the great loss our beloved body has sustained.

"A splendid life has closed; its history is rounded to a period; the mortal has passed from our view; a soul has awakened into immortality—those who knew him here and loved him are left to mourn.

"We speak of him as we knew him—a man beloved, a brother never to be forgotten, a true friend, a wise counsellor, frank, generous, noble.

"In the death of Bro. Fellows our Order suffers a sad bereavement, and grief weaves for us the garments of sorrow, however fully we realize he died in the faith of that splendid immortality which awaits the good; in the faith that he has attained to a far richer reward—a home in the Supreme Lodge above.

"Bro. Fellows had passed the allotted span of three-score years and ten; but all the years of his manhood were fruitful in deeds of usefulness. He was a model in all the walks of life, exemplifying those moral qualities that distinguished the man and mason.

"Since his coming to Louisiana, in 1850, Bro. Fellows has been closely identified with the Masonic Order, where, perhaps, he was best known, although in his profession he was an able advocate, a safe counsellor and ranked among the leading members of the bar of Louisiana.

"His labors on earth are ended; but the influence of his learning and devotion to duty will long survive him.

"Owing to his distinguished position, and valued services to Masonry, at the request of his lodge the Grand Lodge was convened in special session and took charge of the funeral, and his remains were laid to rest with the solemn and impressive rites of the Order, in the presence of a large number of the brethren, and friends and relatives of the deceased.

"His usefulness to Masonry cannot be overestimated. He was called by his brethren to fill the highest and most responsible places in every branch of the fraternity, in all of which he served with fidelity, bringing to the discharge of the duties in each a mind well stored with masonic knowledge, joined with excellent executive ability.

"In no place in the Masonic Order have his labors been more fruitful of splendid results than in the interest of this Grand Lodge. In 1857, after the contentions in this body had been put to rest, Bro. Fellows prepared and presented a draft for a Constitution and General Regulations for the government of this Grand Body—the following year they were accepted and adopted as the fundamental law of the Order in this Grand Jurisdiction. Thirty-seven years of experience testify to the value of the work as framed by him, and it remains to-day a monument to his genius. As Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Law and Jurisprudence, on Foreign Correspondence, by his articles on the Ancient Landmarks, and on other subjects of great masonic interest, Bro. Fellows attained to an enviable distinction as a masonic writer and authority, not only in Louisiana, but in every Masonic Grand Jurisdiction throughout the world.

"Bro. Fellows was born at Topsham, Orange County, Vermont, April 3, 1825—thus, he was, at the day of his death, 72 years, 7 months and 25 days old. He was the fifth generation from Samuel Fellows, who came from England between 1635 and 1643, and settled in Massachusetts. His great grandfather fought under Washington in the Revolutionary War.

"It is said by an eminent writer, there is received an education which springs from religious ancestral stock that sinks into the brain and heart of the child and forms the basis of character in later years. A descendant in an unbroken line of Puritan stock that left England so early as 1643, our brother came of a race of men of sterling worth, of patriots, lovers of liberty,

and who believed in God and duty. So was moulded the child, so grew the man.

Bro. Fellows was a graduate of the University of Vermont and an Alumnus of the University of Louisiana (now Tulane University) Law Class of 1852.

"*His Masonic History.*—He was initiated in Rising Sun Lodge, No. 7, at Royalton, Vermont, November 29, 1849; passed December 26, 1849, and January 20, 1850, was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. In 1850 he removed to Louisiana and affiliated with Marion Lodge, No. 68 (now Perfect Union No. 1). He was its Junior and Senior Warden and was elected and served as its Worshipful Master during 1856 and 1857. In the Grand Lodge he was elected Grand Master in 1860—taken from the floor, when only thirty-five years of age. He succeeded himself in 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864 and 1865. During these years, the most critical, perhaps, in the history of the Grand Lodge, his executive powers were tested, and the result proved he was equal to the task confided to his keeping. He was the Grand Representative to this Grand East for California, Florida, Maryland, Mississippi and Vermont.

"*Capitular Masonry.*—He received the degrees of Capitular Masonry in Orleans Chapter (now Orleans-Delta) No. 1, in 1852; was Past Scribe in 1854; High Priest in 1855 and 1856. He was elected Grand King in 1855; in 1855, 1857 and 1858 he was Deputy Grand High Priest; and in 1859, Most Eminent Grand High Priest. In 1865 he was elected General Grand Scribe of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States.

"He was Grand Representative of this Grand Chapter for California, Mississippi, New York, Vermont and Wisconsin.

"*Council of Royal and Select Masters.*—In 1856 he was initiated in Louisiana Council, No. 2. In the Grand Council he served as Grand Principal Conductor of Work in 1856 and 1857; as Deputy Grand Master in 1865 and 1866; as Most Illustrious Grand Master in 1868. He was Grand Representative of the Grand Council of Illinois.

"*Templar Masonry.*—Bro. Fellows was knighted in Indivisible Commandery, No. 1, in 1856. He subsequently assisted to organize Orleans Commandery, No. 3, of which he became the first Eminent Commander—later this commandery was merged into Jacques de Molay, No. 2. In 1864 he was elected Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, and, in 1865, elected Right Eminent Grand Commander. In 1862 he was Grand Standard Bearer of the Grand Encampment of the United States' Knights Templar; in 1865 he was Grand Generalissimo; Deputy Grand Master in 1868; and, in 1871, at Baltimore, he was elected Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States and served until 1874. It was during his term as Grand Master of Knights Templar that the 'Order of the Grand Cross of the Temple' was founded in England, limited in its Constitution to thirty members. Sir Knight J. Q. A. Fellows was selected one of its members and received from the Prince of Wales (G. M.) the Star of the Order. He was the only member of this Order in the United States. The Prince of Wales, through his Grand Chancellor, in a communication, at that date, to Sir Knight Fellows, said:

"I rejoice to make more certain to you that the Prince of Wales, by his own motion and peculiar favor, has conferred upon you, his brother and Sir Knight, the insignia of the Grand Cross of the Order, in order that the bonds of fraternal love between the nations, *united in blood*, may be more thoroughly drawn together."

"Noble sentiment, expressive of good will for the people of this country—a manifestation of the universal spirit of Freemasonry.

"While Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, in 1860, Bro. Fellows unveiled the statue of Henry Clay that adorns Canal street, at the intersection of St. Charles and Royal streets.

He was Grand Representative to the Grand Commandery of Louisiana from Kansas, Minnesota, Vermont and Wisconsin.

"Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.—In 1856 Bro. Fellows received the degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite from the 4th to the 32d; in 1857 he was crowned Inspector General of the 33d degree, Southern Jurisdiction. In 1870 he was elected as an active member of the Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction, and became, for Louisiana and Mississippi, jointly with Bro. S. M. Todd, Inspector General of those states.

"We shall miss his presence, henceforth be deprived of his counsel; but let us imitate his virtues, so that when the end comes it may be said of us, as we do of him, 'the world was better by his living.'

"We bow low reverently to the will of God in this our bereavement.

"It is ordered that this memorial be read in all the lodges of this jurisdiction, at the first regular communication after its reception; and, as a token of respect to the memory of the deceased brother, that the Great Lights be draped in mourning for thirty days."

The Committee of the Grand Lodge made the following report:

"The special committee appointed to give expression to the feelings of the Grand Lodge at the demise of our esteemed and exalted brother, John Quincy Adams Fellows, submit this to make a permanent record of the virtue and merits of his life,—and of the evidence of our appreciation of it.

"The great masonic fraternity throughout the land knew and honored our departed brother.

"The lament over his grave has traversed Lodge-room and Temple, Asylum and Consistory, and from everywhere the voice telling of our loss and attesting our reverence for the dead has gone forth. It is on the records, and will there remain a lasting testimonial to his devotion as a mason and of our esteem for his manhood and his masonic virtues.

"But that this last tribute should be complete in itself—for the information and benefit of those who come after us, we should not deem it necessary to repeat what has been made known and placed on record in the official announcements of his death; the story of his life—the details of his masonic career, the work he has done—the services he has rendered. With this view we incorporate and make part hereof:

"'The Masonic History of the Deceased,' as given to the brethren of the Grand Jurisdiction by the M. W. Grand Master in his official announcement of his death, as follows:

"Bro. Fellows was born at Topsham, Orange County, Vermont, April 3, 1825—and passed to the Temple of Infinite on the Lord's Day, November 28, 1897, in this city of New Orleans, at the age of seventy-two years, seven months and twenty-five days.

"We have seen that he was made a mason on the 29th day of November, 1849—being then just a little over twenty-four years of age—showing that, practically, the whole of his life's struggle and the whole of his life's work, from the years of first manhood to the decline of his days, were accomplished under the inspiration of masonic thought and the guidance of masonic light.

"Of his services to Freemasonry it is not necessary to speak—the above record tells its own story. Nothing less than a perfect devotion—a sacrifice of every other study or pursuit, could have yielded such results. The history of it is told, therefore, when we say that his life, his appreciation of its dignity, its loftiness and mission were involved in his conception of the study and practice of the principles of Freemasonry. He was skilled in the knowledge of its laws; profound in the appreciation of its philosophy; exalted by his abiding faith in the fundamental logic on which it is erected—the belief in God and the immortality of the soul.

“His masonic writings, mainly consisting of his work as Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, are full of the true spirit of Masonry. A mason born, truly made in the heart ere ever that friendly and brotherly grasp welcomed him as an actual brother—to him the great faith in the brotherhood of man was a practical reality.

“We abstain from mere eulogy of words, and expressions of grief and sorrow pale in the presence of that which is both inexplicable and inevitable. It is ordained that

“All who live must die—
Passing through nature to eternity.”

“His distinguished personality and his earnest presence are impressed in our hearts. Though forever gone from our sight—we shall long seem to see them before us—urging the good of the fraternity, upholding the integrity of Freemasonry, expounding its humanity, expostulating against error, defending the truth.

“Bow in humble submission to the divine ordinance which has removed him from our midst—let us remember that the mission of our human existence is to come nearer God. Upward is the hope and the struggle, to cast sin off and vice and degrading passions, and attain the loftiness of the true, the pure, and the beautiful. In that struggle the memory of the good and the beautiful of those who have gone before us lights up our hope and guides in the difficult ascent.

“For that let the record be made:—let the living sanctify the dead and be themselves exalted by the consecration.

“Let him who has so let his light shine before man as to glorify God be forever a lesson and example.

“Let the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Louisiana, ever honor the memory of Bro. John Quincy Adams Fellows; let them ever cherish the human love which warmed his heart; ever remember with reverent recognition the service he rendered to Masonry and the zeal which made it a devotion, and let our incense of gratitude and brotherly love go to him through even the infinitude of the unknown—that he may bear witness to the spirits of the immortals of ‘how beautiful it is,’—even in this valley of darkness—over which hangs always the shadow death—‘for brethren to dwell together in unity.’”

Balustres were also issued by the presiding officers of other bodies, of which he was a member.

We regard the loss to genuine Masonry, by the death of Bro. FELLOWS, as a very serious one. For more than forty years he has been a masonic student and had supplemented the results of his studies by an experience that falls to the lot of but few. His qualities of mind and disposition and his outside studies and experience added wonderfully to his qualifications as a masonic jurist. He comprehended very fully the importance and necessity of reading the “Ancient Charges” and Old Regulations in the light of surrounding circumstances, and especially in the light of contemporaneous construction shown by the usage at the time and subsequently. He understood the law that, especially in Masonry, the usage at any particular time was evidence of the strongest character, and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, conclusive evidence that such had been the usage previously. It followed that he was conservative, anxious to preserve the ancient landmarks, but held at the same time that anything, save the landmarks and

fundamental principles, might be changed by the proper authority as experience might show the wisdom of such changes.

The Constitution of his Grand Lodge, drafted by him forty years ago and remaining, with a few amendments, still in force, shows something of his views of masonic jurisprudence as he had learned it—views which he continued to hold during his masonic life.

“The Grand Lodge ‘may make all laws and regulations necessary for the government of the lodges and brethren under its jurisdiction, and for the propagation and advancement of the true principles and work of Ancient Freemasonry, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution, the old charges of the Free and Accepted Masons of 1723,’ hereunto annexed, or the ancient usages, and landmarks of the Order.

“The Grand Master is invested with all the power and authority, and is entitled to all the privileges and prerogatives attached to his office by the ancient usages of the fraternity.”

The original Constitution consists of less than six printed pages, but the “By-Laws and General Regulations,” (the provisions of which are in many jurisdictions included in the Constitution) including subsequent amendments, require about twenty pages.

The Constitution can be amended only by a majority vote of the Grand Lodge and a subsequent vote of a majority of the lodges in the recess, or by “a majority vote of the Grand Lodge at the next annual communication.” But the “By-Laws and General Regulations” may be amended at any annual communication by a two-thirds vote.

The original code recognized the doctrine of “perpetual jurisdiction,” but in 1886, an amendment was adopted limiting the effect of a rejection to three years.

We give these provisions as indicating his views in relation to the basis of masonic law.

BRO. FELLOWS came into prominence in Louisiana soon after taking up his residence in New Orleans, in the troublous times that accompanied the re-organization of Masonry in that jurisdiction. His appointment to draft the Constitution and Regulations, the acceptance of his report in 1857, and the adoption of the code in 1858, substantially as reported by him, attest the high standing which he then had gained.

He acquired a national reputation in the General Grand Chapter in 1859, when he opposed the attempt to revolutionize that body. His speech on the questions at issue proved conclusively that the movers in that attempt were utterly erroneous in their understanding of the history of the organization and subsequent proceedings of that body; and while he was not able to defeat the whole of the proposed measures, he did succeed in defeating enough of them to enable that body to resume its former *status* whenever it shall see fit to do so.

Immediately afterwards Bro. FELLOWS was elected “from the floor” as

Grand Master of his Grand Lodge, and was re-elected in 1861 and till 1865, inclusive. During this critical period, he administered the affairs of the Grand Lodge and of the craft in a manner that commanded the respect of all.

Of his subsequent career, always active as a mason in all the departments of Masonry, something may be learned from the reports of this committee since 1865, when the writer first became a member of it.

We would gladly dwell longer upon the life and works of this dearly beloved brother, but time and space will not allow. It may be thought by some that we have already devoted too much space to them, but we believe that the history of the life of such a mason is the best possible lesson to the living. But we believe that our brethren in Maine will also pardon something, if need be, to us in the loss of a brother with whom we have had intimate relations for so many years.

Bro. FELLOWS was two years our senior and was made a mason the same year in which we first saw masonic light: held lodge offices contemporaneously with us in the same service: was elected Grand Master a few months before we were; and upon his retirement from the Grand East, we both commenced service upon the same committees in the Grand Lodge, to be continued until his death. While we have had many and earnest discussions, there has never been an unfraternal word, nor an unfraternal thought as we believe, during all these years. To all this have been added frequent personal correspondence and many personal meetings. We had the pleasure of meeting him at the Grand Encampment in Boston in 1895, and of serving upon the same committee with him, though his health was then so feeble that we had not expected him to be there. And one of his last (if not *the* last) masonic letters was received by us only a few weeks before his death.

While he was Grand Master, our Grand Secretary, IRA BERRY, was able, through the kindness of Bro. SAMUEL TODD (still living) to have our Grand Lodge Proceedings for 1861 and 1862 sent "through the lines" to the other Southern Grand Lodges, as stated in Bro. BERRY's report in 1863. This incident was the commencement of our personal correspondence with Bro. FELLOWS.

Is it a wonder, that when we commence writing about him we know not when to stop?

To him, the end of earthly life came as a welcome relief from severe physical suffering, borne with constant patience and courageous endurance: but beyond that, he had performed life's duties "as God gave him to see the right," and could lay down life's burden in the confident faith that he would enter that "spiritual temple not made with hands, but eternal and in the heavens."

To the craft, the loss in his death is a sore one, but we have the consolation that "though dead, his works shall live after him."

MANITOBA, 1897.

This Grand Lodge held two special communications, one to lay the corner stone of a Masonic Temple and the other to lay the corner stone of a public building. A full account of the ceremonies is given.

As we do not remember whether we have ever noted the practice of this Grand Lodge, we will say that the Grand Lodge was opened "in form" in one case and "in ample form" in the other, formed into procession and marched to the place where the corner stone was to be laid, where the ceremonies were performed, concluding with the public grand honors, after which the Grand Master delivered an address. The Grand Lodge then returned to the hall and was closed.

Another special communication was held to attend the funeral of Past Grand Master Bro. JOHN HEADLEY BELL. The Grand Lodge was opened in ample form, the masonic burial service performed and at its conclusion, the Grand Lodge returned to the Temple and was closed.

The address of the Grand Master (CORBETT LOCKE) is a very able and interesting document. He made one decision in relation to physical qualifications which we copy:

"To both of these I replied in effect that a man to be eligible to the degrees must be able to conform to all the ceremonies and practices of Masonry with his own natural person and that it appeared to me that the proposed candidates could not do this."

It will be noted that this decision holds that deficiencies cannot be supplied by artificial means.

In relation to the wearing of masonic regalia, he says:

"My immediate predecessor in the Grand East, in his address at the last communication of this Grand Lodge, stated that he had granted five dispensations 'to wear regalia at lectures and at social gatherings in lodge rooms where dancing was not carried on,' and in reference to this stated that his predecessor had refused dispensations 'to appear in regalia at balls or dancing parties' and that he had pursued the same course but asked for a finding of Grand Lodge policy as to this, as a firm rest from which his successor might rule. No finding was made by Grand Lodge and I would venture to repeat Most Worshipful Bro. Bell's request, and ask that this question be dealt with at this communication. I was then, and still am, unable to see why if regalia is properly worn at a lecture it may not be properly worn at a dancing party, but am of the opinion which I express with the greatest deference to those who have in the past thought and ruled otherwise, that it should not be worn at either, that regalia is for use when at work as masons performing a masonic function, and then only."

An effort was made to limit the wearing of masonic clothing to funerals,

attending public worship and laying corner stones, but the proposition was voted down and the Grand Lodge adopted the following:

“That it is the opinion of this Grand Lodge that no restrictions should be placed upon the exercise by the Grand Master of his prerogative to grant dispensations to wear regalia on public occasions.”

Under the head of “The Dead” we find the following:

“Before leaving this subject may I say to you that I have many times in my life been struck, not only as touching the obsequies of distinguished masons, but of others great and small in public life, when listening to or reading of the magnificent funeral orations, the flights of fancy and eloquent depicting of the life and doings of the deceased, words often, dare I say it, empty words of adulation showered upon the poor clay, for what? to please the living? to glorify the orator? Certainly of no benefit to the dead; how better far would it be if, while breath was in that body, while he was moving around and among us as a living reality, we had then said to him those kind words now so lavishly outpoured on his insensate clay, and done for him those kind acts which the possessor of such a character so richly merited.

“It is while our brother is with us that he needs our kind words and our kind acts; it is when he is fighting perhaps unequal foes that he needs our support and counsel, and our aid; they are of no avail to him lying dead; it is our living brothers to whom our debt is due, and if we must, as doubtless we should, comfort and sympathize with the mourners, don't let us make this an easy excuse for neglect of our duty to him who is mourned for; words are much, acts are more. Duty is ever present with us; do justly by the living, the dead must care for themselves, we can do nought for them, while he is with us help to bear him up over and beyond the rough places that it is the lot of all of us to travel, and over which because of our selfishness, because of our indifference, because of our neglect or forgetfulness of our vows, of our promises, so many of those of our own household are left to struggle alone and go under, overwhelmed in the rough sea of the daily struggle for existence.”

We most cordially concur in all that he says in relation to brotherly kindness to the living brother, but we dissent from his views in relation to the value of tributes to the worthy dead. Admitting that frequently these tributes are exaggerated, still we believe they are useful. The late Bro. PIRK condensed all that need be said upon this subject into a single line: “Eulogies of the dead are useful only as lessons to the living.”

The Grand Master calls attention to the sixtieth anniversary of the accession to the throne of Her Majesty, the Queen, and pays a loving tribute to her, and the Grand Lodge voted an Address on the occasion, worthy of it.

He also suggested an effort for a federation of the Canadian Grand Lodges somewhat after the pattern of the English Grand Lodge with its forty-six Provincial Grand Lodges; but the Grand Lodge deemed it unwise to take any action in that direction at the present time.

He also urged the laying of a special tax to obtain a fund for building and maintaining a masonic home, and the question of raising the *per capita* tax from fifty cents to seventy-five cents was submitted to the Grand Lodge, but was lost.

In relation to the Reports on Correspondence, the Grand Master in part said:

“These all emanated from Grand Lodges of the United States and display in most of them much masonic learning and research, and are most delightful and instructive reading. It must be that these reports entail a vast amount of labor, and the work necessarily is entrusted to some of the most capable men of the jurisdiction. Our committee hitherto has not attempted anything of the kind, but I am satisfied that great good would come to the brethren of this jurisdiction if something in the nature of the report referred to could be embodied in our annual proceedings; and in saying this I am aware that I am suggesting the imposition upon some of us of a serious undertaking, but we have, without doubt, in our midst members well capable of the work, and I hope the Grand Lodge will consider the practicability of arranging for such a report to be compiled and included in our annual proceedings, and that a half dozen copies be furnished to every lodge in this jurisdiction. We want more reading masons—to have this we must advance something to induce them to read—something to give them an appetite for research—and I know of no better means than by letting them see what is being done; what is being found out and discussed by the craft throughout the world.”

And in that connection he quotes the following and some other paragraphs from the address of the Grand Master of Arkansas, endorsing and emphasizing it:

“‘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 membership, 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 interests of our Order bring disgrace and reproach upon the craft.’”

In these days, when there is an effort to depart from the ways of our fathers in this respect, and to hold that the ballot upon a candidate means substantially nothing, we are glad to see this deliverance of the Grand Master of Arkansas, so often quoted and endorsed.

He states that there is a growing sentiment in France to reverse the action of the Grand Orient and to bring into the lodges of that Grand Body the recognition of the Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth, and he believes that if those, who are favoring this return to the original plan of Masonry; can be sustained by the influences of other Grand Bodies, they will succeed. Of course the masons throughout the world will be only too glad to give all the aid in their power in this direction.

The reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters, while concise, are still full, and give a very excellent idea of the condition of Masonry and of the lodges in their respective districts. The net increase in the membership during the year was two hundred and two, nearly nine per cent.

The report of the librarian shows a fine increase during the year and a library of which the Grand Lodge may well be proud.

The Committee on Jurisprudence, while holding that a brother can be a member of but one lodge in that jurisdiction, held that he may be a member of a lodge in that jurisdiction and also of a lodge in another jurisdiction.

The same question has arisen in other jurisdictions and the reverse has been held, which we think the correct doctrine.

A District Deputy had ruled that the presence of seven brethren was not necessary to open and conduct business in a York Rite lodge, but they reversed the ruling, saying:

“The Constitution provides that upon the petition of seven or more Master Masons a dispensation may be granted, and clearly intends that there must be that number to constitute a quorum.”

We do not think that the reason given is a valid one. In many jurisdictions, ten petitioners are required for a lodge u. d., and the idea is that there ought to be more than enough to open the lodge *on any degree*, and as some are liable to be absent, the number is made larger for that purpose. But beyond that there is another reason; it takes seven masons to make an E. A. lodge, and when a lodge starts under dispensation, it starts with only Master Masons as members; so, of course, in order to open an E. A. lodge the number must be seven.

We do not believe that it is a fair construction of a provision requiring seven Master Masons to be petitioners of a lodge u. d., that thereby the ritual law in relation to the composition of lodges is repealed. Strength is added to this view by the fact that in a large majority of the Constitutions of Grand Lodges it is expressly provided that seven members must be present to do certain kinds of business, in addition to the requirement that a dispensation for a lodge u. d. will not be granted to less than seven Master Masons.

We are glad to find that the Committee on the State of Masonry heartily endorse the views of the Grand Master as to “the more careful and guarded use of the ballot.”

The Committee on Correspondence say:

“Referring to that portion of the address of the M. W. Grand Master relating to a Report of Foreign Correspondence and review of the Proceedings of sister Grand Lodges, your committee heartily concur in the views therein expressed and would recommend that the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, for the ensuing year, be requested to arrange for such a report to be presented at the next session of Grand Lodge and that the same be printed—as an appendix to the Proceedings. Your committee also recommend that the necessary expenditure be authorized.”

Their report was accepted and their recommendation adopted, so that hereafter we shall expect to see a report from this Grand Lodge.

The Committee on Benevolence and Charity reported as follows in relation to the Wisconsin proposition, and their report was adopted:

“Your committee have had under careful consideration the proposal of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin in regard to reciprocal masonic charity. They cannot advise this Grand Lodge to fall in with those suggestions, and that for the following reasons:

“1. The proposal suggests that this Grand Lodge be drawn upon for absolute necessities, but there is no definition of what absolute necessities might be understood to mean; on this point there might be very considerable divergence of view between the lodge administering the charity and the Grand Lodge paying for it.

“2. It seems an unwise and quite unbusinesslike proceeding for any public body, administering what are practically trust funds, to give what would amount to a blank cheque to be filled up by another body over whose action it has no sort of control.

“3. Your committee feels that with the necessarily limited resources of a Grand Lodge numerically so small as ours, it would be specially unwise for us to take any action in this direction, or in any way to connect ourselves to a scheme whose possibilities of expense are entirely unknown to us.”

A proposition was made looking to the establishing of a fund for a Masonic Home or Hospital, but it was referred to the Committee on General Purposes to report some definite scheme at the next annual communication.

Since writing the above in relation to a quorum, we find that a proposition was made to amend the Constitution by adding the following:

“No lodge shall be opened in any degree unless seven Master Masons be present, nor shall any business be transacted, except conferring degrees, unless there be present seven members of the lodge.”

An amendment was moved to strike out the exception, but that was lost, and then the original motion was lost.

We are greatly pleased to see from the Proceedings that this Grand Lodge is administering the affairs of Masonry in that jurisdiction ably and intelligently, and that a high degree of prosperity prevails.

MARYLAND, 1897.

The Proceedings of the semi-annual and the annual communications come to us in one pamphlet.

We are glad to read the following:

“The M. W. Grand Master congratulated the Grand Lodge on the prosperous condition of the lodges in Maryland, and so far as he could learn the prospect was most encouraging to the craft, as the zeal and interest manifested by the members was unabated.”

We needed not this assurance, however, for what we saw last October, of the masons of Maryland, and especially those of Baltimore, we have no hesitation in saying that the Grand Master has understated the situation.

At the semi-annual communication, Bro. WILLIAM H. SHRYOCK, Past Grand Treasurer, was called to the East, and a Past Grand Treasurer's jewel presented to him in an eloquent speech by M. W. Bro. JOHN M.

CARTER. Bro. SHRYOCK made a fitting and beautiful reply; the only thing to be regretted in it is his statement that failing health compelled him to decline further service in the office which he had held for so many years to the universal acceptance of the craft.

At the annual communication, the Grand Master, THOMAS J. SHRYOCK, delivered an address in which the record makes him say that he gives a *resume* of his acts for the "twelve years" of his administration, but upon examining it, we find that it is limited really to the preceding twelve months. We find, however, that he had served twelve years; probably he had that part of his address omitted in the printed copy.

He says:

"During the past year, there gathered within our borders one of the most distinguished bodies of men and masons ever collected together within our state. I refer to the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States, a body of representative men, not only in masonic, but in all the walks of life, and indeed it was a most agreeable pleasure, on behalf of the masons of Maryland, to entertain them as well as it lay in our power to do. The committee appointed by the Grand Lodge performed their duty well, and did everything to uphold and maintain the reputation of this Grand Body. They acted in harmony with the committees of the other Grand Bodies, and I have, as your representative, received many letters of thanks from distinguished men all over the country, thanking the Grand Lodge and the brethren for the courtesies extended to them."

We endorse this with the uttermost emphasis in our power. It was an occasion which all, who were present, will remember to the last moment of their life, and the feature towering above all the rest, is the brotherly kindness and magnificent hospitality of the Maryland masons.

He says further, and we commend it to the careful attention of those of our brethren who are so much excited at the exercise of this prerogative:

"By virtue of the authority in me vested as your Grand Master, I convened an Emergency Lodge, and made, 'at sight,' His Excellency Lloyd Lowndes, Governor of Maryland, a mason. An erroneous idea has arisen in the minds of many of the fraternity as to the ceremony of making a mason 'at sight,' and, to erase this wrong, and perhaps damaging, impression, I deem it but proper to say that, in the making of a mason 'at sight' by the Grand Master, the candidate is required to pass through all the forms and ceremonies incident to the conferring of the Three degrees, in the same manner that an applicant does in applying to a subordinate lodge. The impression of some, that the Grand Master, by virtue of his authority, touches a man on the shoulder and creates him a mason, is entirely erroneous, and as I know that this impression does exist to a certain extent, I think it proper to here state, so the craft may understand it throughout our jurisdiction, that such is not the case. The making of a mason 'at sight' is one of the landmarks of the fraternity, the prerogative of the Grand Master, and I have on two occasions exercised that prerogative, as much for the purpose of not allowing it to become dormant as for any other reason."

We had the pleasure of making the personal acquaintance of Governor LOWNDES at the Centennial of the General Grand Chapter and sitting by his

side at the banquet, and we found him exceedingly interested in Masonry, with a very high opinion of its value to the world.

The pleasure of the review of these Proceedings is almost wholly taken away as we read the following:

“One of the saddest duties of my long term of office is to read to you a communication from Bro. Edward T. Schultz, who has for so many years acted as chairman of the Committee on Correspondence. I can assure you, when I read it, my heart went out in sympathy to our well-beloved brother, and I feel satisfied yours will also. He has been sorely afflicted by the Great Giver of all good for some wise and unforeseen reason, which is incomprehensible to us, but I have no doubt that you, with me, indulge the hope that it will not be as serious as our brother indicates his belief it will be. Bro. Schultz has been one of the most untiring, unselfish and devoted workers in this Grand Lodge for many years back; indeed, before many of us had seen the light of Freemasonry, and his record will live in the annals of this Grand Lodge as long as memory lasts. When all of us present have passed the Jordan of Death and others have taken our place in the ranks, the name of Schultz will still be upheld in remembrance; aye, in reverence, by those who come after us.”

While we knew that Bro. SCHULTZ was compelled to abandon the preparation of his report in consequence of the failure of his eye sight, we had hoped that it was but temporary and that he would soon again be able to instruct and delight us with his able reports. We have been associated with him and known him personally nearly thirty years, and in addition to our sorrow that so beloved a friend should be laboring under this great calamity we regard the loss of his services to the fraternity a reason for still greater sorrow. His touching letter will be read with great grief throughout the masonic world.

The address, delivered by Bro. JOHN M. CARTER before the Masonic Veteran Association in October last, is given in these Proceedings, he having repeated it, by request, before the Grand Lodge. For the reason that one cannot be in two places at the same time, we failed to hear it, and we are very glad, indeed, that it has been given permanent preservation by its being published in these Proceedings.

The Committee on the Grand Master's address say:

“It meets with our most hearty approval that the Grand Master has, in this address, made known to the craft just what is meant by making a ‘mason at sight,’ for this has been a matter not understood by the membership at large. The exercise of the prerogative of the Grand Master in making a ‘mason at sight’ being within his discretion, we deem it all important, however, that the brother so honored should immediately place himself under instructions and learn just what the forms and ceremonies truly mean.”

All their brethren will join with them in the following:

“We extend to Bro. Edward T. Schultz our sympathy in this hour of affliction, and pray Almighty God to restore him sufficient sight to permit his association with his brethren and continuing in the work which has

given him so much pleasure in the past, and we recommend that the request of Bro. Schultz, for permission to prepare a paper in the nature of reminiscences of records, etc., for publication, be granted."

We very greatly miss the Report on Correspondence, which it was hoped till the last moment would be furnished, and in explanation of this we find the following note from Bro. SCHULTZ, dated February 9, 1898, of a later date than the one referred to above.

"MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:

"Referring to your note of this date, I have to say that since the close of the Grand Lodge the condition of my health has been such as to render me unable to prepare the brief report I contemplated in my letter to Grand Master Shryock, even with the aid of a stenographer, so kindly tendered me by the Grand Lodge. I regret, therefore, that I will have no communication at this time to accompany the 1897 proceedings."

We very greatly regret to say that our advices since the date of this note, report no improvement in the condition of Bro. SCHULTZ, and again we tender him our warmest sympathy and regret his affliction, not only on his account, but on account of the craft universal.

MASSACHUSETTS, 1897.

These Proceedings, containing accounts of the centennial celebrations of several lodges, and of other exercises, prominent features of which were historical addresses, continue to be of unusual interest, even for those of our Mother Grand Lodge.

In the address at the centennial of St. Paul Lodge, we find the following taken from a contemporary newspaper:

"On Wednesday last [August 9th] St. Paul Lodge was consecrated, and its officers installed in ample form, at Groton, by the R. W. Samuel Dunn, Esq., D. G. M., assisted by the officers of the Grand Lodge. The ceremonies were performed in the Meeting-House, before a large assembly; of which the ladies formed a brilliant and beautiful part. The Rev. Br. Harris delivered a pertinent and pointed discourse on the occasion, and an ingenious Oration was pronounced by R. W. Br. Thomas, acting D. G. M. After the business was finished, the lodge which had proceeded in order from Richardson's tavern to the Meeting-House, repaired in like order to an arbour, where they partook of a liberal entertainment, and closed the day with festive hilarity, social greeting and deeds of benevolence. The clergy of the vicinity were guests and appeared gratified."

Public installations are thus shown to have become a settled usage as long ago as 1797.

Amendments to the Constitution were adopted "by a nearly unanimous vote," limiting the jurisdiction of lodges over rejected candidates to five years from the date of rejection in all cases.

But an amendment proposing to substitute "consent" for the "recom-

mendation," now required for release of jurisdiction over a candidate rejected within five years, was rejected, and wisely, as we think.

We note in passing, that in laying corner stones the Grand Lodge was opened, marched to the site of the proposed new building, laid the corner stone according to the customary ritual, marched back to the hall and then "closed in ample form."

We commend the action of the Grand Lodge in one case to the attention of those brethren, who have almost literally "gone into the air" over the Hart case.

Charges of gross unmasonic conduct were filed with the Commissioners against a brother, of whom it is said that "he removed from the Commonwealth some years ago, and his whereabouts are unknown to any of the members of "Monitor Lodge," of which he was a member; his wife and family were still at his old home, but he had not "for some years made known his whereabouts" to them. The Commissioners say:

"This case was heard by your Commissioners *ex parte* under the Grand Constitutions, and we find him guilty of conduct unbecoming a man and a mason, and recommend that he be expelled from all the rights and privileges of Masonry."

And the Grand Lodge at once expelled him. Another case, we commend to the special attention of Bros. WAIT and CLARKE. One of the charges was:

"Conspiring with others to deprive Mariners' Lodge of *its right and duty to decide as to the fitness of candidates, residing within its jurisdiction*, for admission into the masonic fraternity; advising persons desiring to become masons not to apply to Mariners' Lodge."

The *italics* are ours: the Commissioners entertained the charge, but decided that it was not supported by the evidence admissible under the specifications.

In the report in this case is an extract from CHARLES W. MOORE'S Magazine: if that magazine could be more studied by the masonic students of the day, the result would be beneficial to the craft, especially in correcting some of the erroneous notions that in these days are advanced as masonic law.

During the year, the Grand Lodge had lost from its permanent members, Past Grand Master OTIS E. WELD, and Past Grand Wardens BENJAMIN DEAN and WYZEMAN MASHALL, to whom worthy tributes were paid.

An amendment had been proposed limiting eligibility to certain Grand Offices to candidates, who should have been recommended in writing by at least ten members of the Grand Lodge and the recommendation filed with the Grand Secretary at least fourteen days before the election: and requiring the Grand Secretary to publish the nominations in the notices of the communication at which the election was to be held.

Of this amendment, the committee say:

“Your committee appointed to take into consideration the above proposed amendment beg leave to submit: That we have carefully considered the same in view of, and in the light of, the ancient forms and usages of Freemasonry, and especially those forms and usages which relate to the organization of the Grand Lodge, and we find that the adoption of this proposed amendment would produce a radical innovation thereof.

“We do not believe in introducing such political methods or actions into the Grand Lodge as would result from the proposed amendment, and while we firmly believe that this was not the purpose sought to be attained by the adoption of the proposed amendment, yet we fear that this would be the result. We should ‘dwell together in unity.’

“The adoption of this proposed amendment would allow a large number of candidates to be brought forward for each office; their names as contestants would go the whole fraternity, and we should witness the unseemly spectacle of a scramble for office under the latest and most approved methods of political warfare.

“Especially in its relation to the election of Most Worshipful Grand Master, we are sure that any brother who has the qualifications for this high office would not allow his name to be used under these methods, and go into such an open contest as this would invoke.

“For these and other reasons which must be obvious to brethren who carefully consider the subject, we respectfully report that the proposed amendment should not be adopted.”

The report was unanimously adopted. It is probable that the amendment was intended to prevent the making of secret attempts in favor of some one, who would not be likely to succeed if his candidacy was generally known. But we concur with the committee, that in such a body as the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, the proposed “remedy would be worse than the disease.” Political caucuses are sometimes “stolen,” but we do not believe that that Grand Lodge *can* be.

Among the various incidents related in the historical addresses is the following note made upon its record by a lodge in 1839, after discussing the expediency of resuming work:

“As we have a candidate ready to be made a mason, it was thought best to proceed with our work, as the excitement in regard to Masonry has subsided altogether, and the reason for our stopping work is done away, and the anti-masons are modified enough at the oppressive steps taken in regard to Masonry, and as we are a benevolent society, we will endeavor to use them with all the politeness we are capable of (or, rather, what they can bear), and proceed with our work.”

Referring again to the centennial celebrations, we desire to add, that the proceedings are not only valuable from the historic standpoint but also from the masonic view. The addresses may all be read with profit by any mason; especially is this true of those of Grand Master HUTCHINSON, who attended all such celebrations and had words of wise counsel to utter at every one of them. We are promised a centennial volume by at least two of the lodges.

When we come to his address at the end of the year, we find that he announced the deaths of three other prominent members of the Grand Lodge, besides Bros. WELD, DEAN and MARSHALL, viz: Past Grand Wardens Ed-

WARD AVERY, E. WATERS BURR, and WILLIAM H. CHESSMAN. Excellent portraits of BROS. WELD and DEAN are given, as well as a small profile of RICHARD MONTGOMERY, for whom Montgomery Lodge was named in 1797.

The Grand Master had made, including attendance at celebrations and on other occasions, a very large number of visitations, of which he gives a brief account. The results must have been exceedingly beneficial to the craft.

His statement in relation to the rebuilding of the Masonic Temple is of special interest to us in Maine. A loan of \$400,000, secured by mortgage, at three and three-fourths per cent. interest, for ten years, with the privilege of paying not exceeding \$40,000 a year, had been effected. A contract had been concluded for the erection of a fire-proof building, the interior frame to be of steel and the exterior walls of Hallowell granite, the whole to be completed by May 1, 1899, at a cost of \$386,853: to this must be added the apparatus for heating, lighting, &c., estimated to cost \$70,000.

“Fly swift around, ye wheels of time,
And bring the welcome day!”

BRO. CHARLES A. WELCH presented the Grand Lodge with a portrait of Past Grand Master GEORGE M. RANDALL, and the thanks of the Grand Lodge were presented “for this most welcome gift.”

The lodge of St. Andrew had added during the year \$500 to its fund in the hands of the trustees, thus increasing it to over \$2,000.

The appreciation of the services of the Grand Master were shown by his unanimous re-election, and the other Grand Officers were chosen “with almost entire unanimity.”

Nearly fifty pages are devoted to the sayings and doings at the Grand Feast—chiefly the “sayings,” for while it is evident that there were extensive “doings,” they make little show in the record.

But the “sayings” are well worth attentive reading: no one can read them without being entertained and instructed, and, moreover, having a better appreciation of masonic duty and of the mission of Masonry.

Among other things the Grand Master said:

“Brethren, I bid you all a most hearty welcome to our annual feast, and I invite you cheerfully, joyously and zealously to enter into the spirit of this occasion. It is well for us, at times, to forget the cares and employments of life, to meet in happy communion, and to do what we can to illustrate the social character of our institution. The Grand Lodge, during the past year, has been indulging in a great many festivities. It has assisted in the centennial celebrations of six or seven lodges, and the Grand Officers and other invited guests have, in a way peculiar to themselves, enjoyed to the full all of those occasions and the bounties which have been spread before them by their brethren.”

* * * * *

“But seriously, brethren, these centennials have been, as I believe, of great benefit not only to the lodges, but to the communities in which they are located. They have awakened an enthusiasm and a zeal among the older as well as among the younger members of our fraternity, and the

townspeople have vied with each other to make those occasions happy and notable.

“During all these centennials I have carried with me one thought, and that has been the continuity of our institution. It has been said that all things in life are transitory; that the idols to which one generation pays homage are deserted by the next; that the things which we revered but yesterday are to-day set aside,—forgotten,—insignificant; that the combinations which we make to-day are broken to-morrow.

“Now, this may be true; but, my brethren, when we find a human institution which has existed from generation to generation, we have reason to believe that it has for its foundation something broader than humanity. The traditions and history of our institution teach us that it is founded upon the truth and right; and, my brethren, because it is so founded, it stands to-day in all its vigor.

“There is nothing that can compare with it in age, except, perhaps, the works of nature. The same stars that stud the heavens to-night shone hundreds and hundreds of years ago; the same sun that lights our footsteps radiated its heat and diffused its light hundreds and hundreds of years ago. But think of the changes in all things else! Principalities and powers, kingdoms and empires, have risen and fallen in quick succession; but through it all, and as a witness to it all, our institution has pursued, calmly and quietly, its unbroken course, dispensing its benefactions upon all, and it stands to-day admired by everybody; and, brethren, it will be preserved and nurtured by the same powers and qualities which gave it birth.

“There is not a drop in your bay that was in it a year ago; yet it is the same beautiful, useful harbor now that it was then, doing its work day by day and hour by hour. So it is and so it will be with our fraternity. When you and I have ceased from active work here, and have passed beyond the veil which limits mortal sight, other hands and other hearts will take up the work which we bequeath to them and their successors after them; and in the far distant future this great institution which we represent, and which they will represent, will stand a monument of the zeal, fidelity and intelligence of generation after generation. Benedictions will encircle it, honor will be yielded to it, and veneration felt for the hallowed recollections it awakens.

“There are two days in the year of special interest to masons,—the twenty-fourth day of June and the twenty-seventh day of December. The one we celebrate as the birthday of St. John the Baptist, who as a zealous judge of morality and undaunted preacher of repentance obtained great celebrity. The other we observe as the anniversary of St. John the Evangelist, who was distinguished for his gentleness, humility and great energy. His gospel is especially important to masons, for he preached love, and his book contains all the fundamental doctrines of Freemasonry. I invite you to join with me in the first regular toast: To the memory of the holy Saints John.”

We had intended, for want of space to give the whole, to make no further extracts; but the following, from the remarks of R. W. Bro. CHARLES T. GALLAGHER, has so practical a turn and is of so serious importance, that we give it:

“I was reminded of these duties, of which it is not necessary for me to speak to this audience, by an unfortunate occurrence before our Board of Trials. I speak in all seriousness, Most Worshipful Grand Master, when I say that there is at times too much consideration given in electing to office in the lodge men who can do good work in the ritual of Masonry, without sufficient thought about their conduct as men and masons; without thinking

whether the lives and conduct of men nominated for office have conformed to the principles and teachings of Freemasonry.

"I speak of this now because the commissioners of trials, of which I am a member, have sat, within a few weeks, on a case where a high elected officer of a lodge had been twice sent to the Keeley cure within a few years to reform his habits. He was convicted by the commissioners, finally of gross and confirmed habits of intoxication, and he had been otherwise improper in his conduct. But the defence set up was, that he did good work in his position as an officer, and that was thought sufficient to be pleaded in extenuation, to meet the very serious charges that have been brought against him. The question of morality, and fitness of character for the office which he held, seemed to be lost sight of by himself and others, few in number be it said, who were interested in his case. There was no doubt about his bad habits; but it was claimed that being a good worker and not generally intoxicated while in the lodge, he should not be dealt with severely.

"When the question of good work is carried as far as that, to the enjoyment of good character in the community, it is going too far. We all enjoy good work, and when the ritual is finely rendered we admire it as magnificent, but we had rather feel that sincerity is back of it."

As heretofore, we earnestly commend to our brethren to read these Proceedings. Through the kindness of our Massachusetts brethren, they may be found not only in our masonic libraries, but in some of our public libraries.

MICHIGAN, 1898.

This is a magnificently printed volume of 650 pages; this statement of course is a sufficient reason for not going through it in detail. The volume contains the portraits of the retiring Grand Master, LOU B. WINSOR (whom we had the pleasure of meeting at Baltimore), of the Grand Secretary JEFFERSON S. CONOVER, of the Grand Treasurer WILLIAM WENTE, and of the Grand Lecturer ARTHUR M. CLARKE, together with a cut of the Michigan Masonic Home.

The large number of lodges and the extent of territory over which they are scattered call for an immense amount of official acts, and the past year was no exception, it requiring about seventy-two pages of the report to give the address of the Grand Master.

The Grand Lodge met at Grand Rapids, which has a lodge having the largest membership of any lodge in that jurisdiction and surpassed, the Grand Master says, in membership by only four lodges on American soil. Michigan now, he says, stands fifth in the list of Grand Lodges, preceded only by New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Of the work of the year, Grand Master WINSOR says:

"One of the ambitions of my life is realized to-day in being able to report to you that the past year has been a thoroughly prosperous one throughout this Grand Jurisdiction. The names of a large number of our best citizens in every community throughout the state have been added to our membership rolls.

"Our masonic workers have redoubled their efforts to present the beautiful lessons and teachings of our Order in an impressive manner.

“Our lodges have aspired to providing themselves with better homes; never were so many new hall and Temples dedicated to Masonry within our jurisdiction, in any one year as in the one last past, as you will discover when I report to you under that subject.

“In fact the true spirit of Freemasonry and masonic enthusiasm among its votaries never flourished to a greater extent, and it becomes our duty as the legislative body of the craft to so conduct our actions that this happy condition of affairs may long continue.

“Not a single serious event has occurred during the year to mar the steady growth and prosperity of our Order. Petty troubles, indeed, have occasionally arisen, as they always will, even in the best regulated families, and such we cannot expect to avoid until we assemble in the Grand Lodge above.”

It was stated last year that the Grand Orient of Spain threatened to make masons in Michigan; but nothing had been heard of it during the past year. The probability is that “subsequent proceedings have interested” the Spanish people to the extent that they have attempted nothing, even if it was ever really intended.

As showing the growth and prosperity of the craft, the Grand Master states that nineteen halls and Temples had been dedicated to Masonry during the year, eight of which were Masonic Temples owned by the fraternity.

He states further, that he had had three hundred and seventy-two questions on masonic law propounded to him during the year, but he found it necessary to report to the Grand Lodge less than thirty, as all the others were answered by reference to the law as previously established. His experience in this respect satisfies him that if means could be devised to educate the Masters of the lodges in the fundamental principles of masonic law and they would devote more attention to the study of the Blue Book, it would make a marked improvement in the conduct of lodge affairs.

By special examination of the records of two hundred and forty-seven lodges, he had found that not one of them during the year had caused the Constitution and Regulations to be read in the lodge, and he was satisfied that in some lodges this never had been done; and he pertinently asks:

“Why is it not just as essential that a Worshipful Master should be able to rule and govern his lodge according to the law, as that he should be able to confer the degrees according to the ritual?”

“And why is it not just as essential for this Grand Lodge to know that the Worshipful Masters are versed in the law, as that they have committed the masonic lectures according to the ritual?”

The special provision, which was not in the ancient laws and is not in the laws of a good many Grand Lodges, requiring the representation of a specific number of lodges to constitute a quorum, gave rise to one very interesting question, in answering which our brother was compelled to be a little misty, so to speak, in his decision.

In Michigan, as in Maine, it has been the custom to call meetings to constitute lodges, etc., “Special communications of the Grand Lodge,” but

probably in not one case out of ten would there be lodges enough represented to make a quorum within the terms of the Constitution. The Grand Secretary called the attention of the Grand Master to this fact and asked whether he should publish the records of these communications in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge, and the Grand Master replied, that while they did not seem to come within the strict terms of the Constitution, yet as it had always been the usage to print them as such, the Grand Secretary would continue to do so, until the Grand Lodge should determine whether it would give any different directions. This illustrates the unwisdom of departing from the old law in relation to Masonic Grand Bodies.

He had decided, and correctly too, we think, that if a man makes out a petition and hands it to a brother to be presented at the next communication of the lodge, but, before that communication is held, removes permanently from the jurisdiction, the lodge cannot receive and act upon the petition. He held that the *time of the reception of the petition* by the lodge is the time which must be taken as the test as to whether the lodge has jurisdiction over candidates.

A newspaper, whose editor was a Master Mason, in violation of the direction given him by the Master of his lodge, printed, as an item, that a certain individual took the first degree in that lodge on a certain night: inquiry was made of the Grand Master whether this constitutes a masonic offence, to which he replied:

“I do not think that the publishing of the item referred to constitutes a masonic offence. In these days of news gathering and general hustle of newspapers, the doings of lodges and all masonic bodies get into the papers. I noticed in the Detroit papers the other day that ‘General Alger is coming to Detroit to take the Consistory grades, April 16th.’ Personally I am not pleased with this tendency of having all of our masonic doings published to the world, but I am inclined to believe that it would be a difficult matter to exclude it by positive enactment.

“I do think, however, that it was exceedingly unbrotherly and unfraternal in the editor, being a Master Mason, not to comply with your request. It is possible if the lodge would make a request that he would heed the same.”

We hold that there is no need of a positive enactment to make this a masonic offence, and that under the law of Masonry, it *was* an offence, and we regret that the Grand Master did not so hold and that the Grand Lodge did not take further notice of it.

He had decided at a School of Instruction, that the Committee of Investigation should not report, either favorably or unfavorably, upon a petition, but merely report facts. But his attention was called to the fact that one of his predecessors had made a decision to the contrary, which he had overlooked.

He states the reasons for his decision and leaves the matter to the Grand

Lodge, and as the Grand Lodge approved all his decisions we suppose that the action amounts to a reversal of the preceding decision.

In other Jurisdictions the report is generally favorable or unfavorable, without details; but we have always held, and such is the rule generally prevailing, that the character of the report should not be recorded, and we find that the forms in Michigan sustain this same view.

He submits a case in which a man petitioned a lodge without any accompanying fee and was rejected. He afterwards petitioned another lodge, but the first lodge refused to release jurisdiction, and the question submitted to him was whether the first lodge acquired jurisdiction, considering the fact that no fee accompanied the petition, and his answer was as follows:

“Lodge B. violated masonic law when they received and acted upon the petition of Mr. A. for initiation without its being accompanied by the fee and are subject to discipline therefor, but Mr. A. having presented his petition to Lodge B. thereby gave them personal jurisdiction over him and he cannot profit by their violation of the law and afterwards apply to Lodge C. and have them act upon his petition without obtaining a release from Lodge B.”

The decision seems to us correct and that it is in line with our view, that when a man presents a petition to a lodge and the lodge acts upon it, he is bound by the result, whether the lodge had jurisdiction or not.

The Grand Master decided that the annual meeting of a lodge, at which the Senior Warden in the absence of the Master requested a Past Master to open a lodge, and took his station in the West, was illegal, and all the business done void. This is contrary to the practice in this section of the country: for it is a frequent thing in the absence of the Master for the Senior Warden to ask a Past Master to take the East, open the lodge and conduct the business. The old regulation was that while the Senior Warden succeeds to the Master in his absence he will ordinarily waive his privilege and call a Past Master to the chair: but the Grand Master decided that the business was illegal, that the officers elected and installed at that meeting could not hold their positions, but that another election, for which a dispensation was necessary must be held.

We presume that in Michigan a Senior Warden in the chair may call another brother to the chair to confer a degree, although this may not be so. If he can do that, we do not see any limit as to the time when he shall call the Past Master to the chair, and we believe the practice in this section is the better practice.

At the last annual communication resolutions were adopted by the Grand Lodge, as noted in our report last year, prohibiting the use of the words “masons” or “masonic,” etc., in connection with any private business enterprise. This action stirred up a commotion among parties who had been using these words in their business. The Grand Master says that while

he was heartily in accord with the spirit of the resolution so far as the end sought to be obtained, was concered, he was convinced after mature consideration, that in some cases they work an injury, and he suggested that the resolution was too sweeping in its scope and that action thereon should be reconsidered. In accordance with his views, the following amendment to the by-laws was proposed:

“*Provided*, That the Grand Master shall have power, upon proper application, to grant a license for the use of said terms, or any one of them, by any masonic publication, or by any mutual benefit association doing business with masons only in this jurisdiction, whenever, in his judgment, he shall deem it proper so to do. Such license so granted shall be indefinite as to time, and the Grand Master shall have power to revoke the same at his discretion.”

But of this the Committee on Jurisprudence well say:

“Your Committee on Jurisprudence to whom was referred the amendment to Sec. 48 of Grand Lodge By-Laws beg leave to report that the proposed amendment is designed to confer on the Grand Master, upon proper application to him, to grant a license for the use of said terms, or any one of them, by a masonic publication, or any mutual benefit association doing business with masons only, in this jurisdiction, whenever in his judgment he shall deem it proper so to do, for an indefinite time, and to revoke the same at his discretion. This proposed amendment virtually makes the Grand Master a Masonic Commissioner of Insurance and would give him authority to authorize certain insurance companies to use the word ‘Masons’ or ‘Masonic’ or ‘Free and Accepted Masons’ or of the letters ‘F. & A. M.’ in connection with their business.

“Your committee state, in their judgment, Grand Lodge has no power to go into the insurance business, and much less to confer upon the Grand Master the right to grant a license to any corporation or persons to use our name or names to traffic upon and do business for gain and to our detriment.”

They, therefore, recommended that the amendment should not be adopted, and after discussion the report of the committee was adopted and the amendment rejected.

We regret that there should be occasion for the following, which we take from the Grand Master’s address:

“I have noticed a tendency the last few years to introduce political methods in connection with our annual elections, which if continued, I am fearful, will not tend to preserve harmony among the craft and the general welfare of this Grand Lodge.

“It seems to me that masonic elections should be conducted upon a higher plane than that occupied by our political brethren.

“When headquarters are opened at the hotels by the various candidates, where cigars and refreshments are dispensed, and the public daily papers announce the names of the candidates and discuss their probabilities of election, we certainly bring our Grand Lodge elections down to a political level.”

And upon the recommendation of a committee the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted by the Grand Lodge:

“*Whereas*, The Grand Lodge of F. and A. M. of the State of Michigan strongly disapproves of the political form of campaigning for office in this

Grand Body, which has manifested itself in some of our elections of recent years, and that the methods to which our M. W. Grand Master alludes would certainly be highly censured should they ever be practiced in any of our constituent lodges, therefore be it

“*Resolved*, That this Grand Lodge frowns upon the sending out of letters, circulars or solicitations for support from delegates for any elective office in this Grand Body.

“That it is highly improper for a candidate, in hope of strengthening his canvass, to open headquarters in true political style.

“That delegates should write their own ballots for their choice on the slips which are passed by the tellers.

“That the purpose of the ballot is to give every delegate a perfectly free, private and uninfluenced expression for an honor which will then be worthily bestowed.”

In nearly all Grand Lodges, none but members are allowed to be present at the election, and least of all are brethren, not members, allowed to interfere with the election by circulating ballots among the brethren—a practice that in a few instances, which we have noticed, became an absolute nuisance.

The Grand Master’s summary of his action for the year is quite startling to one accustomed to our methods in Maine. He says:

“My year as Grand Master will always remain a pleasant memory to me. I have endeavored to give the duties of the office my best efforts. I have spent one hundred and fifty-nine (159) days during the year, away from home, in the prosecution of Grand Lodge affairs throughout the state; I have traveled ten thousand one hundred and seventy-one (10,171) miles, and written one thousand three hundred and eighteen (1,318) official letters.”

The Committee on Jurisprudence submitted a very long and carefully prepared report in relation to dimitted and non-affiliated masons. They had taken great pains to collect statistics, which are given in their report, and their report is an exceedingly valuable one, but we think that they went to the extreme in their proposed legislation, and, in a part of it, went outside of the limit beyond which no Grand Lodge has any rightful power to go, considering the obligations of its members.

The amendments were discussed at considerable length, but were finally referred to a special committee to report next year.

The report goes too far in making the pecuniary element the leading and controlling one in Masonry. With due deference to the committee, one arises from reading this report with the feeling that the committee assumed that the payment of dues is the first and highest duty of a mason.

The report of the Grand Secretary is, as usual, full of instruction, especially in its statistical portions.

He makes a very full and able report in relation to the state of affairs in the Grand Lodge of Peru. Grand Master DAM had been the representative of the Grand Lodge of Michigan near the Grand Lodge of Peru, and in former times made full and interesting reports, but had made none during the last two or three years, and the first information which Bro. CONOVER

had of the late proceedings in Peru was an item in the Masonic Token; whereupon he wrote to Bro. BERRY, who sent him a copy of the letter of Bro. CROSBY, as well as the edict of our Grand Master.

Bro. CONOVER also wrote to the Representative of their Grand Lodge and received a full reply, of which we should have availed ourselves in our report to our Grand Lodge, if we had known about it and had received the Proceedings in season: for we had what presumably was substantially the same thing in Spanish, whereas this was given in English. Upon his report the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

“Whereas, The Grand Lodge of Peru, by its action in abolishing the use of the Bible upon masonic altars, has deliberately severed the strongest link which bound it to Ancient Craft Masonry the world over and placed itself upon the level of the atheistic organizations of some of the countries of the old world, therefore,

“Resolved, That all recognition heretofore accorded to the Grand Lodge of Peru be and is hereby withdrawn, and the said Grand Lodge of Peru is declared to be an *atheistic* and *unmasonic body*, and all masonic intercourse between masons holding obedience to the Grand Lodge of Michigan and all persons owning allegiance to the aforesaid Grand Lodge of Peru is hereby interdicted and forbidden; but all brethren formerly under the obedience of the said Grand Lodge of Peru who shall renounce such allegiance, and all lodges in that jurisdiction that refuse to obey the decree before mentioned, but retain the use of the Bible upon their altars as the great masonic light, are excepted from the provisions of this edict and masonic communication may be continued with them as heretofore.

“Resolved, That the commission heretofore issued to Dr. Christian Dam, as the representative of the Grand Lodge of Michigan near the Grand Lodge of Peru, is hereby revoked.

“Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be directed to transmit a copy of this report and its accompanying resolutions to all the Grand Lodges with which we are in fraternal intercourse.”

Considerable space in this volume is devoted to the Michigan Masonic Home, which the Grand Lodge, in connection with the other Grand Bodies, have really taken charge of, although it is governed by a Board of Control. We should have said the four Grand Masonic Bodies of Michigan have taken charge of it and are represented upon the Board.

After quite a discussion, the Grand Lodge adopted an amendment to the by-laws, providing for a *per capita* tax of ten cents for the maintenance of the Home.

The report of the Grand Lecturer shows that he had been zealous and efficient in the discharge of the duties of his office, and taking all the reports together we are not surprised that the year had been a prosperous one for Freemasonry in that jurisdiction.

We copy the following in full, and we call the special attention of Bro. CLARKE, of Kentucky to it:

“Aberdeen Lodge conferred the degrees upon the rejected material of Mt. Vernon Lodge, without obtaining a release of jurisdiction, although it was fully informed of the fact that the proposed candidate had been re-

jected by Mt. Vernon Lodge. This action was taken on the ground that it did not recognize any right of perpetual jurisdiction on the part of the complaining lodge.

"It is intimated by the Grand Master of South Dakota, that the by-laws of his Grand Lodge are not very explicit as to rejected material of other Grand Jurisdictions.

"Whatever their rule may be, it is the opinion of your committee, that as a matter of fraternal comity, we are entitled to have our rule governing this question, recognized by other Grand Jurisdictions, and unless this can be accomplished, it would seem that all correspondence relating to such matters might as well cease with all Grand Jurisdictions who refuse to recognize the binding force of such a fraternal rule.

"It has been the universal practice of this Grand Jurisdiction to recognize and give full force and effect to the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of other Grand Jurisdictions, whenever they have been called to our attention, even though the action involved the waiving, for the time being, of some of our own regulations. Of course it will be understood that this only applies to cases where the rights of the complaining jurisdiction have been invaded as in the case under consideration. With the Rules and Regulations of other Grand Jurisdictions, made for their own government, we are not concerned, except to give them full recognition whenever demanded by the rule of fraternal comity herein invoked.

"Your committee expresses the hope that the Grand Jurisdiction of South Dakota, will not in the future, ignore the regulation which has so long obtained in this Grand Jurisdiction, giving to our constituent lodges perpetual jurisdiction over their rejected material, and that the friendly and fraternal relations which have ever existed between these two Grand Jurisdictions, may be continued. To this end, your committee recommend, that this matter, together with the correspondence already had, be referred to the representative of the Grand Lodge of Michigan near the Grand Lodge of South Dakota; that he bring the matter to the attention of the Grand Master of South Dakota, and request him to present the matter to his Grand Lodge for action."

And we also call the attention of brethren in all the jurisdictions to it, as illustrating the danger stated in the resolutions of our own Grand Lodge in relation to rejected candidates. We shall look with some interest to see what course the Grand Lodge of South Dakota will take in relation to it.

Unquestionably, if the candidate shall attempt to visit a lodge in Michigan, he will not be allowed to do so and he will not there be recognized as a mason. Whether he was so informed when he received the degrees, of course we do not know, but it seems to us that if it was a matter in the business world, it would be a questionable transaction to confer the degrees upon him without giving him the information.

The following amendments to the Grand Lodge Regulations were presented, supported by a very strong statement for the necessity of adopting them:

- "1st. That the minimum charge for the three degrees be not less than \$30.
- "2d. That the entire fee accompany the petition for initiation.
- "3d. That one ballot elect to all the degrees.
- "4th. That no lodge be permitted to charge less than \$2 annual dues."

In closing his remarks, he says:



“Do not condemn them ‘at sight,’ simply because it will make a very decided change in our present regulations, or because you think it will be of no benefit to your particular lodge, but consider them with reference to the entire craft, and come up to the next annual communication of this Grand Lodge prepared for deliberate, intelligent action.”

This is splendid advice, and it is quite applicable to the Maine resolutions in relation to rejected candidates, which were passed over by some Grand Lodges for the very reasons which, the brother says, should not influence the lodges in their action upon his propositions.

The Report on Correspondence (302 pp.) was presented by Bro. JEFFERSON S. CONOVER. It is, as heretofore has generally been the case in that jurisdiction, a careful abstract of the Proceedings with frequent and well selected extracts. We should be pleased to notice some of the comments, but we have given so much space to the Proceedings that we must forbear. In the commencement of this review of Michigan, we stated the impossibility of going through the whole volume and we have found our expectation confirmed. However, if we have the pleasure of writing the report another year, we will endeavor to limit what we have to say about the proceedings and give more attention to the last half of the book, which eminently deserves it.

MINNESOTA, 1898.

The Grand Master (JAMES F. LAWLESS) gives a concise account of his official action and brings various matters of interest before the Grand Lodge for its action.

Among the deaths announced by him was that of Bro. LUTHER ZOAN ROGERS, born in Brewer in this state in 1837; he went to Providence in childhood, then to Boston, and finally in 1857 to Waterville, Minn., then a wilderness, where he afterwards lived, being practically the father of the place. He is spoken of in the highest terms, as a man and a mason.

His only decision was the following:

“I hold it to be good masonic doctrine that a non-affiliated Master Mason may apply to any lodge for membership that will receive his petition; in other words, he has the right to select his own masonic home.”

The applicant was a resident in another Grand Jurisdiction. So far as our observation has extended, this used to be “good masonic doctrine” everywhere; but in the recent rush for the “almighty dollar,” some Grand Lodges require residents to apply for affiliation to some lodge in their own territory, and in one it has been proposed to require him to apply to the nearest lodge. The decision was approved by the Grand Lodge.

The petitioners for a new lodge, the creation of which would confessedly kill an old one, made charges against the old lodge, of the gravest character: the charges were denied; an investigation sustained the denial, save that

business had been done at meetings when less than the requisite number were present; the committee found other irregularities, and upon its recommendation the charter was arrested. The blotting out of the life of a lodge is so rare in Maine, that this action seems to us rather severe.

Two lodges had been consolidated, subject to the approval of the Grand Lodge, upon substantially the same procedure as provided in the Constitution of our Grand Lodge.

Having received the edict in relation to the Grand Lodge of Peru, issued by Grand Master LOCKE, and one issued subsequently by the Grand Master of New York, he heartily endorsed and commended the action thus taken. The Grand Lodge adopted resolutions similar to those adopted by others, as already stated in this report.

The Grand Master had visited the Grand Lodges of North Dakota and Manitoba, and of course was received in the most fraternal manner: in turn he had the pleasure of receiving the Grand Master of Wisconsin, who addressed the Grand Lodge in a very interesting manner.

Grand Secretary MONTGOMERY says:

“The index to the Grand Register was completed in May, and contains over 32,000 names. The register is fully written up to date, and Grand Lodge numbers attached. I have during the year examined the registers kept in several of the largest and oldest Grand Jurisdictions in the world, and have seen none so complete and practical as our own. By its use we can instantly detect and correct errors in the annual returns. It is the standard by which lodge registers are corrected. A number of these have been sent in and corrected during the year, and Grand Lodge numbers affixed, while thirty others, handed in to-day, now await correction. It is my earnest desire that all lodge registers should be so corrected as soon as possible.”

* * * * *

“With the information gained from the returns of 1897 added, the footings, up to Jan. 1, 1898, would be as follows:

“Joined at organization and since, 11,163; raised, 21,814; restored, 1,342. Total gains, 34,319. Withdrawn, 10,174; stricken from roll, 4,957; suspended, 129; expelled, 129; died, 2,814. Total losses, 18,203. Gains over losses, 16,116.

“These figures, while of great interest now, will be doubly so in the years to come. They include the sixteen lodges which have been stricken from our roll.”

The following report was adopted:

“The Grand Lodge of Minnesota has more than once made a matter of record its profound sense of the obligation of every mason and of every masonic body to relieve the distress of the needy, the suffering and the sorrowing. It has ever endeavored not only to inculcate but also to practice the grand principle that masonic charity should be circumscribed by no personal or territorial bounds, but that it should be as broad and generous as are the needs of suffering humanity. Charity, however, to be really effective, must be wisely and judiciously directed. When bestowed ignorantly and undeservedly its true purpose is defeated, and it pauperizes rather than elevates and blesses. We are therefore of opinion that all general petitions

for masonic aid, emanating from either within or without this Grand Jurisdiction, and designed for general circulation among the craft, should be discountenanced and forbidden. Whenever misfortune or disaster so serious as to call for more than local relief shall befall a brother or a lodge, application for aid should be made by and through the Grand Master, through whose hands should also pass contributions for the relief of such distress. We know of no other method by which such general applications can be intelligently weighed and relief apportioned to existing needs."

If it needed anything but common observation to show the wisdom of this action, the cases given by the Grand Master furnish it.

The following resolution was adopted as a substitute for the one offered by P. G. M. HENRY R. WELLS, the year before, and laid over for consideration; it now includes such organizations in other states. In that respect it goes further than the regulation of our Grand Lodge; and it is difficult to see why such an organization in another state should be allowed to do what one in our own state could not lawfully do.

"Resolved, That it shall be deemed unmasonic for any mason within this jurisdiction to hereafter become a member of any insurance company having or using masonic insignia or the term masonic, or referring to the masonic fraternity in its title, or using illustrations or representations of masonic emblems on its business cards, circulars or correspondence; and it shall be deemed unmasonic for any mason to hereafter solicit any person in this jurisdiction to become a member or beneficiary in any such organization using title or emblems indicated; *provided*, that this resolution shall not take effect until March 31, 1899."

The Committee on Returns say:

"One of the dangers which confront us lies in the constantly increasing list of members stricken from the roll. Fifty more were thus excommunicated than last year, while only fifty-three of those cut off in 1897 and former years were restored. In our opinion the cause of so much dead timber lies in the Secretaries, who have it also in their power to apply the remedy. If Secretaries would use as much diligence and energy in the collection of lodge dues as they do in their own business, there would be far fewer cases of longstanding delinquents. We urge that every effort be made to keep our lodge rolls intact, and that striking off be resorted to only in extreme cases."

This is as applicable in Maine as in Minnesota, and we trust our Secretaries will read it.

This interesting item is given:

"Bro. Thos. Montgomery, Grand Secretary, who had recently made a tour of Ireland, Scotland, and England, presented his credentials as Grand Representative of the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland. On behalf of said Grand Lodges, now for the first time represented at this Grand Lodge, he conveyed their fraternal greetings to the craft in Minnesota, and expressed a hope that the bond of fraternal union now happily existing between said Grand Lodges and the Grand Lodge of Minnesota would remain perpetually unbroken. A handsome Representative's jewel of gold accompanied the commission from Ireland. His commission from Scotland was handed him in person while in Edinburgh."

The oration by Bro. ROBERT C. HINE, Grand Orator, is able, interesting and instructive. We do not agree with him in some of his views, but we heartily endorse his conclusion, only adding, as one of the dangers, carelessness in the admission of candidates:

“Masonry had nothing to fear from opposition or oppression, social or political. These antagonisms have been met and overcome many times already, and can be as readily overcome again. Masonry has nothing to fear from ridicule or sarcasm. Its great danger which we should ever guard against is that which arises from the indifference of its members to its principles, precepts and teachings, and perhaps I may add the hesitancy of the lodges to discipline members for any breach of moral or masonic law.

“Guard against these, and although no one can foresee what shocks and whirlwinds Freemasonry may yet encounter in its onward march, what dark days and troublesome nights it may pass through, what misfortunes, persecutions and hostilities it may meet, yet we confidently predict that it will endure through it all and that under the protecting care of the Supreme Architect of the Universe, it will come forth strengthened, ennobled and victorious to become a blessing and benediction to all future ages.”

The Report on Correspondence (96 pp.) was presented by Bro. IRVING TODD. He gives a condensed abstract of the Proceedings reviewed.

We last year attributed his report to Bro. MONTGOMERY, and he says correctly, that we probably had the Grand Chapter in mind. This is not the first instance in which we have “mixed those babies up.” Luckily for us, however, the character of Bro. TODD’s report was such, that Bro. MONTGOMERY evidently did not feel hurt by our mistake.

We are glad to learn that what we stated was a natural inference from the report of a committee, that a rejected candidate is on an equal footing with other profanes in that jurisdiction, is not correct, though the proof is rather feeble, viz: that all candidates are required to state in their applications “whether or not a previous application has been made elsewhere.” What the result is, if a candidate says that he has been rejected elsewhere, does not appear; for aught that appears, if he says that he *has* been rejected, he stands precisely on the same footing, as if he says he *has not* been.

In his review of Maryland, he well says:

“Concurring fully in the above proposition, we hold that a lodge may be lawfully opened in the absence of the Master and Wardens under the authority of ancient usage, and that any proviso to the contrary is unwholly uncalled for, unnecessary, and conceived in the up-to-date notion of regulating masonic procedure exclusively by statute. The power of a Master to congregate his lodge is now limited by the by-laws, which fix the time and place of holding regular meetings. There is some excuse for this change, but none whatever for the other.”

And under “Michigan”:

“It is probably safe to say that nine out of ten who obtain the degrees outside of the jurisdiction in which they live could not pass the scrutiny of the ballot at home, where they are best known. The surest way to stop this reprehensible practice is to refuse recognition upon their return.”

Of Masonic Homes he says, and his test is the correct one:

“The Grand Lodge of Minnesota has no intention of building a Masonic Home, for the simple reason that its present method of affording relief is believed to be the better adapted to the needs of the jurisdiction. We are doing a maximum of good at a minimum cost, with nothing to gain and everything to lose by the change to a vastly more expensive system. Should our Mississippi brethren finally conclude that they are unable to build and maintain a Home, let them investigate the Minnesota plan.”

In his review of New York, he thus speaks of the “Maine proposition”:

“The Grand Master decided that a candidate previously rejected in another Grand Lodge Jurisdiction, and now a resident of New York, could not be initiated without first complying with the law of the jurisdiction in which he had been rejected. This is in line with our suggestion of last year, under the head of Maine, and seems to be the only practicable compromise. With New York in the lead, the question of uniform legislation is nearer a solution than possibly Bro. Drummond conceived when penning his five year proposition.”

Of Mexican Masonry, he says:

“The writer knows from personal observation that Toltec Lodge, in the City of Mexico, has the Holy Bible upon its altar and prohibits the making of a woman a mason, but he was unable to penetrate the veil of uncertainty and obscurity which envelops everything pertaining to the fraternity in our sister republic.”

This seems to indicate that he has visited a lodge of the obedience of the Gran Dieta; if so, he has practically recognized it.

He is strongly opposed to calling our fraternity an “Order”; but old and very extensive usage is against him; besides, we submit that he ignores meanings of the word “Order,” which usage (the only authority which gives meanings to words) has determined that it has.

As heretofore, the Proceedings of the Masonic Veterans' Association are published with those of the Grand Lodge, but paged separately, and also paged consecutively from those of the year before. The addresses are of a historical character, and, as is well stated in a note, “A complete file of these Proceedings in a few years will furnish each member with an authentic History of Minnesota Masonry.” The Association has over 250 active members and some twenty honorary members, one of which we have the great honor to be.

Why cannot Maine have a similar Association? The first need is to find some brother who has “passed the chairs” of subordinate bodies, and is not so much occupied by duties in the Grand Bodies, but that he has time to devote to the affairs of such an organization. Very much depends upon the President, who lays out the work and secures competent brethren to do it.

MISSISSIPPI, 1898.

BRO. POWER gives us a portrait of the retiring Grand Master, JOHN S. COBB.

M. W. BRO. COBB says:

"I fear I cannot claim credit even for having done what, that is all, I could. Owing to the wisdom and foresight of our forefathers in Masonry, in laying the foundations of the structure of our Grand Lodge—and the sound judgment and discretion of our fathers who so wisely builded thereon—and the indefatigable labors of our able and efficient chairman of the Law and Jurisprudence Committee, with his several associates, little is left the Grand Master save executive action; and it gives me great pleasure to state that the Mystic Trowel has been put to its own proper use of spreading the cement of Friendship and Brotherly Love, and has been so little perverted to the unholy purpose of digging out that cement from between the stones that comparatively little call has been made upon the Executive."

His brief but comprehensive reference to Bro. FELLOWS, will be echoed in every jurisdiction:

"Bro. Fellows was an eminent masonic jurist—the father of the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana; for years the chairman of the Law and Jurisprudence Committee and Foreign Correspondence, respectively. We claim the right to share the sorrow of our sister Grand Lodge in the loss of our beloved brother."

Of the yellow fever scourge, he says:

"On September 23d, after anxiously watching for days the gradual encroachment of the grim and unrelenting 'Yellow Jack,'—hoping and praying that the reports of the dread presence was a false alarm—all such hope having vanished, and feeling that the time for help had come, I wired Bro. J. L. Power, Grand Secretary, to appropriate \$100.00 of the Grand Lodge Charity Fund to the yellow fever sufferers and distribute according to his judgment of the needs of the several places. About this time our people throughout our own and sister jurisdictions began and continued to respond so promptly, cheerfully and so liberally by pouring in donations from all quarters, that an official appeal for aid was entirely unnecessary.

"For their noble, ample and voluntary generosity, let us return our sincere gratitude. And to our Heavenly Father, for deliverance from the dread destroyer, let us pause and offer thanksgiving and praise, [Grand Lodge was led in prayer by Rev. Bro. N. G. Augustus.]

"Our dearly beloved Grand Secretary also deserves our kindest remembrance and tenderest regard for his able, efficient and untiring services. If he had had half a chance, I think he would have gone into the thickest of the fight to nurse and succor the sufferers. I leave the details of the scourge to his report."

In this connection the Grand Secretary says:

"During September and October I received contributions from lodges of this and other orders and private citizens, for the relief of Edwards, Biloxi and other points—I would say Scranton; but editor Mayers of the Democrat-Star insists they didn't have yellow fever there. The Grand Master wired me, September 24th: 'Pro-rate \$100.00 from Charity Fund among stricken towns according to their needs.' A list of contributions received and dispersed will be prepared and appended to this report; and such unexpended balance as may be will be applied, through the Vicksburg Howard

Association, toward liquidating obligations to nurses employed by that Association, at Nitta Yuma. Bro. Paxton and I were in correspondence about this when he was taken sick. Bro. Blum, of Nitta Yuma, was among the first to send relief, through me, for Edwards. All of the towns afflicted were prompt in notifying the public when their needs were supplied. A Grand Representative in one of the extreme Northern States wanted to make an appeal for our people; but while he was cordially thanked, he was also informed that the emergency did not justify such a proceeding."

The Grand Master followed no iron rule in relation to granting dispensations, but granted or refused them according to the merits of each case; in our judgment he correctly appreciated the reason of his having that power and wisely exercised it.

Among the requests refused was one for a dispensation to enable the Grand Lecturer to exemplify the work upon a real candidate; of this Bro. COBB well says:

"Observation and information force the conclusion that the Grand Lecturer or any lecturer can instruct those who really desire to learn, equally as well (if not better) with an imaginary candidate as with a real one."

He approved the action of other Grand Lodges in relation to Peru, stating the true doctrine in forcible terms, and the Grand Lodge took corresponding action.

Of the laying of one corner stone, he says:

"July 21st, at the request of Pearl Lodge, No. 23, I appointed R. W. Bro. J. L. Power, Special Deputy to lay the corner stone of public school building at West Jackson. He reported that when everything was in readiness for the ceremonies, the stampede caused by the fever scare—which proved to be more than a mere scare—had begun; but notwithstanding all this, the Old Roman, true to his post and his trust, solitary and alone, proceeded to the place, and in the presence of ten or a dozen spectators, presented an abridged form of the ceremonies, deposited the copper casket, lowered the stone and made the proclamation. To the hypercritical this may appear 'grand, gloomy and peculiar,' but to all who know the man and the surroundings, it evinced a heroism worthy of our emulation."

To this must be added Bro. POWER's report:

"Your Grand Secretary was honored by the Grand Master with a commission to represent him at the laying of the corner stone of the new school building in West Jackson. An elaborate programme of speeches, music, etc., had been arranged, and an elegant copper box had been packed with records of the city, state and country generally; but on the day when all this was to take place, September 14th, a large majority of the people of Jackson were leaving town, and they didn't stand on the order of their going. But as the stone was very handsome, from a Georgia quarry, and the inscription declared that it was laid on that day by Grand Master Cobb, I went out there, and with the workmen and a few others as spectators, I laid the stone in the shortest form ever used on such an occasion. Some of the school patrons, after they got back, suggested that the ceremony still take place, but the stone was laid and it couldn't be any laider."

If Bro. POWER is directed, by competent authority, to do anything, any one, who supposes that he will be deterred from performing it, by danger from the yellow fever, "evidently don't know our family"!

Some fifteen years ago, at a time when the Grand Lodge was in a strait as to its financial condition, at Bro. Power's suggestion his salary was reduced: after the Grand Lodge got firmly on its feet again and the duties of his office had largely increased, the Grand Lodge by unanimous vote restored it, and he was paid several years accordingly; but during the past year what everybody had forgotten was discovered, *i. e.*, that his salary was fixed by the Constitution and the vote of the Grand Lodge was not an amendment of it. Now it so happens that our good Mississippi brethren hold substantially that all masonic power is derived from the Constitution, and that nothing can be done unless a warrant for it can be found in that instrument! However, they were equal to the emergency. Theory was all very good, but after all "necessity knows no law," especially when doing justice to Bro. Power was concerned. The committee say:

"Your committee, while of the opinion that the allowance was not made in conformity to the letter of the Constitution, think that it was so meritorious as to warrant the Grand Lodge in ignoring the fact, more especially as it was by the unanimous action of the Grand Lodge."

But lest it should be taken as a precedent, the committee reported resolutions amending the Constitution, (wisely leaving to the Grand Lodge the fixing of the salary from time to time as it shall see fit) and "the rules were suspended," and the amendment adopted. "The rules were suspended" is a phrase rather new to us in a masonic record; and we are not sure but that it is an exercise of the inherent power of a Grand Lodge, recognized scarcely anywhere, save in one jurisdiction (we think Pennsylvania, but are not sure) in which it is held that one Grand Lodge has no power, even by constitutional enactment, to limit the power of a succeeding Grand Lodge.

The committee on "State of the Craft" had sent out circulars to each lodge containing twenty-four questions. From the answers, the committee make up a brief, but very comprehensive report.

The condition of the lodges had improved; the visitations had been made; the observance of the annual festivals had not fallen into disuse, but the committee urge renewed effort in that direction; "most of the lodges still follow the ancient usage of having public installations"; peace and harmony generally prevail; discipline had been everywhere enforced, and the needy cared for; but there were quite a number of non affiliates residing in the vicinity of the lodges, and very few lodges have libraries, and masonic literature is not valued highly by the craft generally.

We learn from the report of the Grand Secretary, that while it had been suggested to the Managers of the Protestant Orphan Asylum, that in view of three other "orphanages" recently established, they turn over the work to them, but after "solemn and earnest deliberation," they determined to go

on, and hoped that the Grand Lodge would make its usual appropriation—and it did. He further states that, upon consideration, it had been deemed unwise to publish Bro. SPEED's Digest and the Text Book in one volume, as authorized the year before, and recommended that the Digest be printed by itself, and three copies furnished to each lodge, and copies be sold to individuals at actual cost. Bro. SPEED read a most interesting report in relation to the same matter, from which we take the following:

“Upon but one subject has there been any great number of changes made: that is in our Disciplinary Code. At first it was not thought necessary to have any laws on the subject of masonic offences. Masons were supposed to be actuated by such high principles of morality that there was no need for restraint by regulations and the Grand Lodge thought that no other tribunal than itself would be requisite, to dispose of the unworthy, but as the lodges prospered and grew, the outer door ceased to be guarded with the same scrupulous care and bad men entered; these it has been found necessary to restrain and a few simple rules were enacted; these have been construed so often, that the decisions based on them have grown into a volume, scarcely less technical than a criminal code and replete with all the learning of the courts; and a lodge trial has become something almost beyond the understanding of any but the trained and experienced lawyer; a thing to be shrunk from and avoided when possible, even at the expense of letting justice go unwhipped.”

* * * * *

“I trust, however, that as almost every phase of a lodge trial has now been adjudicated upon, and the result put in a practical shape for ascertainment, that there will not be any need for further instruction upon the subject. There certainly would not be, if the brethren would enter upon trials with the sole object of ascertaining the truth of an accusation impartially, and meeting out justice with an even hand, towards the accused and the craft. Let the unworthy be thrust out by all means, but at the same time taking the utmost care that none but the guilty are driven outside of the temple in disgrace. Surely in the ascertainment of a few simple facts and awarding justice between brethren, there is not much need for invoking technicalities—the desire to do right should enable a few honest men, zealous of their craft, to say whether a brother is guilty of such conduct as to render him unworthy of masonic association.”

Yes, and for that reason we hold that the technical rules that have been thrust into our code from the civil law should be abandoned, and masonic trials again be conducted in accordance with the suggestions of Bro. SPEED.

It was voted to publish the digest, and Bro. SPEED was appointed a committee to superintend its publication, and \$250 was appropriated as his compensation therefor.

As we go through the Proceedings we get into denser fog in relation to the amendment to the Constitution about the Grand Secretary's salary; as already seen, amendments were reported and adopted; now comes the report of a committee on the Grand Secretary's salary as follows:

“We, your committee, to which was referred that much of the M. W. Grand Master's report relating to the salary of the Grand Secretary, beg leave to report that we recommend the reference to the subordinate lodges

for action the constitutional amendment presented by the Committee on Law and Jurisprudence, to-wit:

“Section 6, Article 2, Constitution should read that the Grand Secretary shall receive in full compensation for his services an annual salary to be fixed from time to time by the Grand Lodge.

“That Section 7 of the Constitution be and the same is hereby abrogated.

“Further, That the action of the Grand Lodge in paying \$200.00 additional salary for the past several years as extra compensation for valuable services rendered by Grand Secretary Power, be and the same is hereby ratified and approved.”

This “report was submitted, and the rules being suspended, the Constitutional amendment, together with the report, was adopted.”

We cannot tell how the matter was left, but we hope that Bro. POWER got the salary!

The proposition to increase the *per capita* tax from twenty cents to fifty cents failed to receive a two-thirds vote, though receiving a small majority: but a special assessment of twenty-five cents *per capita* was ordered in aid of the Home Fund.

In this connection we notice a proposition for a Home, to be established by the joint action of the Masons, the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias of that state: we shall look for the result with much interest, for we do not believe there are many states in which three such Homes can be maintained. A committee was appointed to confer with similar committees from the other organizations.

While the Report of the Law Committee is shorter than usual and equally as interesting as ever, we are giving so much space to other matters, that we must forego the pleasure of a full review of it, and be content with a brief notice of a few matters.

It was decided that a man with an artificial leg below the knee, “who can locomote as well as most two legged men,” is ineligible; but that a man with legs a foot and a half long is eligible, the committee holding that “while legs cut a figure, their length does not.”

Here is another nut for the critics of the “Hart case” to crack:

“Question 7.—Is it a masonic offence to abscond to prevent arrest, by one charged with an offence against the laws of the land?”

“Answer.—If one secretes himself so that it is impossible to serve process of the courts upon him, when charged with a violation of law, in a matter involving a masonic offence, that in itself would constitute a masonic offence, but it would not be so if the matter were merely an avoidance of the service of process in a civil proceeding to enforce the collection of a debt or a lien upon property. Absconding in the face of a public charge, involving moral turpitude, is the equivalent of confessing guilt, and one who will not defend himself from degrading charges which have become notorious, brings reproach upon the craft from which it has a right to purge itself by the expulsion of the absconder. In such a case the evidence must show, beyond a reasonable doubt, that a crime has been committed and that the person absents himself, so that he cannot be reached, either by the process of the

court or the notice of the lodge, to appear and stand trial. Mere removal to another place, and when his whereabouts are known, is not absconding, as he may be given notice through the mail, under Rule 9; if, however, he evades notice, or if the Secretary, after diligent enquiry for four months, shall be unable to ascertain his residence, so that notice may be served upon him, he may be tried as if he had been regularly notified, under Rule 10."

The Grand Master granted a dispensation to elect a Treasurer to fill a vacancy, but the committee say that—

"Seems to be in conflict with Section 11 of the by-laws, which makes no provision for filling any vacancies except in the offices of Secretary and Tyler. All other vacancies should be filled by *pro tempore* appointments by the Master. We are unable to see the reason of the law as it stands, but the rule undoubtedly is that the mention of one thing in a statute is the exclusion of another, and provision having been made for filling a certain number of the offices caused by vacancies, the idea would seem to be that no other offices could be filled by an election except those mentioned."

While the rule stated is the correct one when the authority is given wholly by the statute, yet when the authority exists at common law, and the statute modifies it in particular cases, it does not affect the cases not enumerated: so in most jurisdictions, the practice and law are in accord with the action of the Grand Master.

BRO. SPEED delivered a beautiful eulogy upon BROS. BOLIVAR A. VAUGHAN, JOHN QUINCY ADAMS FELLOWS, ODEL SQUIER LONG and WILLIAM ABRAM LOVE, to whom pages in the Proceedings are dedicated with inscriptions prepared by Bro. SPEED.

He quotes from ROB MORRIS's "We meet upon the Level and part upon the Square," but from a new version as compared with the first draft: we presume the change was made by Bro. MORRIS: still we think the new version far inferior to the original, both in force and beauty.

The Report on Correspondence (108 pp.) was presented, as heretofore, by Rev. Bro. A. H. BARKLEY.

We regret to find the following note at the end of the report:

"The Reporter on Correspondence having indulged in some criticisms on the manner of preparing and submitting Law Reports, was given to understand by Grand Lodge, that the method of answering questions submitted to the Law Committee was entirely satisfactory to the Grand Lodge, unreservedly withdraws his 'Note of Warning' in review of Grand Lodge of Missouri and all other comments of a like character, and pleads guilty to a thoughtless invasion of the jurisdiction of another committee of Grand Lodge."

We regret it, because the implication is that this committee is bound to sustain its Grand Lodge, right or wrong. We do not think that what Bro. BARKLEY did, was *any* invasion of the jurisdiction of any other committee. We hold, and such is the general usage, that he may discuss the action of any Grand Lodge, his own among the rest. The other committees are to aid the Grand Lodge in the execution of its own laws and they present their

reports directly to it for its action: while the general report of this committee is never action upon, but is prepared for the information of the Grand Lodge and the craft, and one of its purposes is to compare our own laws with those of other jurisdictions, and another is, to sound the note of warning as to measures, at home or abroad, that threaten the welfare of the craft.

We give our views all the more readily, because we think that our good brother inadvertently wrote "Missouri" for "Maine" in his report.

The fact that the Grand Lodge was satisfied with its practice, was all the more a reason for calling attention to it, if the reporter, in the light of the practice in other jurisdictions, deems it erroneous.

We cannot help thinking that Bro. BARKLEY took the word of some one not authorized to speak for the Grand Lodge.

Bro. BARKLEY, in his introduction, gives a discussion of Masonry, that every one can read with great profit, especially those who flatter themselves that after a few years of study they have learned all there is to be learned. We earnestly commend the following to all masonic students of whatever age:

"Whatever our attainments may be, however far we may have progressed, we find ourselves standing at the very entrance of the gateway to knowledge, surrounded by mysteries so profound as to tax all our powers to their utmost limit in our endeavors to find out a *practical* solution thereof, yet in the midst of this profundity of thought the attractions are so great as to lead us on to a more patient and thorough investigation, if by any means we may derive the key by which to enter the great treasure-house of wisdom. Each step taken by the thoughtful mind only serves to widen the field of investigation and give zeal and activity to the mind, now wholly absorbed in the object of its pursuit.

"True Masonry is not susceptible of improvement. It is beautiful in all its proportions, perfect in all its parts, and like the temple after which it is fashioned, 'a superb model of excellence. It is finished and the several parts thereof,' so fitly joined together as to resemble more the handiwork of God than that of man.

"Fundamental principles and landmarks are sometimes held to be synonymous terms, and just here is where the trouble begins. This confounding of things, which are as wide apart as the poles, can result in naught else but confusion. Separation is essential to a correct understanding of the terms used. In ancient times, as well as at the present time, landmarks were used. Stones were set up for this purpose and the setting up of these was the work of men's hands. These stones, or whatever was in use for a long time, and permitted by those who set them up to remain to mark metes and bounds, were called ancient landmarks. These landmarks were the inventions of men, and used by them for a specific purpose, as the name indicates. They could be removed with and by the consent of all those who were interested in the setting of them up, when the purpose for which they were set up had been fulfilled and the necessity for their remaining had passed away, it was no violation of usage or law to remove them.

"Fundamental principles lie at the foundation of all truth and are neither subject to change or alteration. These principles are as eternal as the Being of God. To change one of them even in the slightest degree is to make the Truth a lie."

In his review of Maine he says:

“One Grand Tyler is sufficient to guard the entrance to the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, but it requires three assistants to stand on the watch-tower when the craft of the Grand Lodge of Maine are ‘congregated,’ to transact business. The sword in the hands of Bro. Henry Strauss is a sufficient guarantee that none but good and true masons will ever pass the portals of the lodge room, no matter how great the crowd may be.”

The same is true in Maine: but custom here has imposed upon the Grand Tyler duties to be performed during the session of the Grand Lodge when it is not at labor, and he must have help. Perhaps these “helps” should be called Assistant Stewards, but they aid so efficiently in promoting the convenience and comfort of the brethren that we cannot dispense with them, even if we have not fit names for them.

While his “Note of Warning” consisted of extracts from our report, fully endorsed by him, however, we find in his review of Missouri remarks at which the criticism was aimed: but we still think that even if it were certain that he had made a mistake, it was not best to tie his hands for the future by so sharp a criticism.

We are glad to find that he was re-appointed and still continues to be the reporter.

MISSOURI, 1897.

We have for a frontispiece the portrait of the retiring Grand Master, DORSEY A. JAMISON.

We notice by the address of Grand Master JAMISON that the Grand Treasurer gives a bond in \$30,000 and the Grand Secretary in \$25,000. We presume that the collections are all made by the Grand Secretary and paid over by the Grand Treasurer, so that the money goes through the hands of two brethren. In Maine the dues are paid to the Grand Treasurer without going through the hands of the Grand Secretary; duplicate returns, however, being sent to the Grand Secretary; after a trial of some length of this plan, we find it operates exceedingly well.

The Grand Master had had the usual large amount of matters come before him for investigation and examination, but they generally seem to be rather of local interest than otherwise.

Referring to the ritual, he says that he has been told that certain portions of it are optional, which he thinks is a defect and should be remedied, and recommends that a standing committee be appointed to report at the next annual communication such changes and corrections in the ritual as they may think proper for the action of the Grand Lodge.

He made a few decisions, but nearly all based upon the local law of that jurisdiction. The question was raised as to whether a resident, a subject of Great Britain, could be made a mason in Missouri; he ruled that he could

be. He made one ruling based upon local law which was reversed by the Grand Lodge. A dimitted mason has no right to be admitted to a lodge; charges were filed against such a one for unmasonic conduct and the Grand Master ruled that he could not be present at this trial, but if he appeared he must appear by counsel. The Grand Lodge held, however, that he was entitled to appear. We can scarcely understand how there could be any question that when a man *is cited to appear* before any lodge for trial, that nevertheless he cannot appear. A new trial was granted on account of this ruling. We will add that it is the law everywhere, so far as we know it, that if charges are filed against a suspended mason, he has the right to be present at the trial. All agree in this, but in some jurisdictions the trial is held while the lodge is called from labor to refreshment; but we deem this erroneous, and that the summoning of him for trial gives him the right to be present in the lodge and to be heard as long as the trial lasts.

A candidate failed to answer the first question put to him after being admitted to the lodge room. The Master ordered him to be returned to the ante-room and prohibited him from proceeding further, and the question was, what was his *status*, and the answer was that of a rejected candidate. This is the first instance where this precise question has been raised, so far as we know, but under the laws in relation to objections, the decision is clearly correct.

The Grand Master devotes several pages of his address to Mexican Masonry, and apparently favors, as the case now stands, the recognition of the Gran Dieta, but at any rate he thinks that the time has come when the Grand Lodge should either recognize or refuse to recognize that body. The matter was referred to a committee which is to report at the next annual communication. During the session the Grand Secretary, who is very vehemently opposed to recognition, was added to the committee.

He announces the deaths of Past Grand Masters SAMUEL H. SAUNDERS at the age of eighty-three, and GEORGE R. HUNT at the age of seventy-three. The former, until within a very few years of his death, attended at every communication of the Grand Lodge, and was a well known figure in Missouri Masonry.

The report of the Grand Secretary is a very concise, but very comprehensive statement of official acts. He mentions that the Proceedings were issued and were being mailed within three days after the close of the last session.

The Masonic Home, as usual, is the prominent feature in the Proceedings.

We find that there are more old people in the Home than boys, and a greater demand for homes for old people, and the Board was impressed with the necessity of making some change by which the old people can be re-

motely separated from the children. We can well understand the necessity of this, if children in Missouri are like children in Maine.

Various amendments to the by-laws were proposed, but as we understand, all go over to another year. One of them, proposed by Bros. WILLIAM F. KUHN and ALLEN McDOWELL, is as follows:

“*Physical Disqualifications.*—It is incompetent for any lodge in this jurisdiction to confer either of the three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry on any person whose physical defects are such as to prevent him from conforming literally to all the ceremonies of the several degrees; *provided*, that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to render anyone ineligible to the privileges of Masonry who can by the aid of artificial appliances conform to the necessary ceremonies.”

The proviso is the addition, and it will be seen that it brings the question of artificial appliances directly before the Grand Lodge.

The following resolution, presented by Bro. KUHN, was adopted:

“*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 1899.

“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.

“That this committee be instructed to report at the next annual communication as to probable amount to be expended to carry out the work contemplated.”

The work was exemplified in two degrees, and Memorial services held in honor of Bros. SAUNDERS and HUNT.

The Grand Master recommended that the expenses of District Deputy Grand Masters be paid by the Grand Lodge, but the committee reported against it, saying that always in the past the expenses had been paid by the lodges or by the Deputies themselves, and their report was adopted. Conditions have changed very greatly and the reason given by the committee is not a good one. The work of the District Deputy Grand Masters is absolutely essential to the proper administration of the affairs of the craft, and experience has shown, and we believe the same thing is true in Missouri, that the lodges which most need visiting are the ones which under their system do not get visited. Even if Missouri has a system of lecturers, it does not answer the purpose unless they clothe those lecturers with the power of visitation generally vested in District Deputies.

A lodge expelled a brother for using Masonry “in his own interests politically,” and the Grand Lodge sustained the action, as it ought to have done. The accused was guilty of using Masonry with a candidate *whose application was pending in his own lodge*. The committee well say:

“His presentation of political matters to the applicant under the circumstances shown in evidence, was unmasonic and calculated to give the latter an extremely erroneous idea of Masonry, and really to bring it into disrepute. We can not tolerate for a moment the use of Masonry as a means of political preferment or for political purposes.”

The following statement of the law agrees with our law in Maine, although the propriety of it is denied in a few jurisdictions:

“But while the lodge constitutes the trial court, its verdict is not only subject to review on appeal, but the Grand Lodge is fully authorized to review the case, not only as to the legal questions involved therein, but also as to the nature of the charge, the character of the proof, the probative force of the evidence, the defence alleged or shown, and the propriety and justice of the decision of the lodge. The Grand Lodge not only reviews the whole case, to affirm or reverse the judgment of the trial lodge, but it may disregard the proceedings, and render such judgment as the merits of the case demand.”

The Report on Correspondence (160 pp.) was presented as heretofore by Bro. JOHN D. VINCIL. He has started out, he says, every year with the idea of making a shorter report, but having reached the end of his twentieth report, he confesses a failure on that line.

We trust that if he discovers a means by which he can do it successfully, he will let the rest of us know. He has made one effort in this direction, and that is of writing it himself without making many extracts. That requires more labor and, we are satisfied, detracts from the interest and value of a report. We find there is much interest in what is *said* in our sister jurisdictions as well as in what is *done*. We like to give the reasons upon which action is taken. Again, it breaks up the sameness; a report made up of a brief abstract of statistical matters, or matters somewhat in the nature of statistics, is after all very much like reading a dictionary, although the brief items are sometimes accompanied by a brief comment.

In his review of Georgia, he asks what the moral difference is between selling liquor *without* a license or *with* a license. Of course, there is none; but selling liquor *without a license* is a violation of the law of the state and is, therefore, a masonic offence. While we believe that the craft ought to agree with Bro. VINCIL that selling liquor is immoral, and, therefore, a masonic offence, the position is one which has to be reached gradually, and the decision that selling liquor without a license is a masonic offence is a long step towards reaching his conclusion.

In his review of Iowa, he discusses Mexican Masonry to quite an extent. He makes a point that the Gran Dieta is a national body and we should not recognize it for that reason. We have already stated that we do not agree with him; we recognize the Grand Lodge of England, in which the same system practically prevails, except so far as names go, and we believe that that system is much better adapted for a country like Mexico than the system in the United States.

The masonic jurisdiction of each one of these Grand Lodges in Mexico is so small, that we deem it a lowering of the Grand Lodge system to have an independent Sovereign Grand Lodge in each one of the states; it would be a good deal like having a Grand Lodge in each one of the counties in Missouri.

We have noticed elsewhere that this question has been raised and we have given it much thought; and would much rather recognize a body having jurisdiction over all the states, acting through subordinate Grand Lodges, than to recognize the separate Grand Lodges. In fact there are not more than three of the states in Mexico in which we would be willing to recognize a Grand Lodge for these reasons; and even we doubt if more than one of them have really masonic material enough to support a Grand Lodge, and yet we would not deny them masonic privileges, and we see no better way than to have a general head for them all, and that the state Grand Lodges should really be like the Provincial Grand Lodges in England.

In his review of Maine, he speaks of the rapidity with which he gets out the Proceedings, saying that he issues them within a week after the close of the Grand Lodge. That means that nearly all the matter must be in type before the Grand Lodge meets. In Maine, neither the reports of the Deputies nor even of the Grand Master are presented in printing. In the summer but very few if any of our lodges meet, but take a recess from June till September. But we ought to say in justice to the Grand Secretary that last year was an exceptional instance and the delay was not on his account.

While we are writing we received the Proceedings of a Grand Commandery whose session closed on the 25th of May and the Proceedings were issued on the 27th and received by us on the 31st. Whether the Grand Recorder knew what was going to be done and had it all printed in advance or not, we do not know! But we prefer the greater degree of accuracy, which is obtained by the method followed in Maine.

Bro. VINCEL, in replying to some of our remarks in our review of the unmasonic legislation of Missouri concerning non-affiliated masons, apparently does not understand what we mean by law "superior to the Constitution of the Grand Lodge." In reply we would like to ask him whether the Constitution of his Grand Lodge makes him a mason, or something else makes him a mason; and if that "something else" is not a law superior to any Constitution which any Grand Lodge may adopt. And, therefore, whether the Grand Lodge, by its Constitution, can interfere with that "something else." At any rate, we hold that masons have certain duties from which they can be relieved by no legislation of any Grand Lodge.

He says the reason for cutting short "the front name" in the West is to save time and ink. We were not aware that our Western brethren are so very economical, as the last half of the reason would seem to imply: and as

to the first half, some have already learned that there is truth in the old motto, "Haste makes waste." And we think that a mason who has not time to *sign his name* to masonic documents, or to give it in masonic Proceedings, ought not to undertake to hold any masonic office.

In his review of Maryland, in reply to Bro. SCHULTZ, he says:

"I am surprised that such an astute writer as Bro. Schultz should give the poorest turn to an argument I ever met on the subject discussed; he said: 'Missouri, in such a case, may enact a law that an expelled mason, after a sojourn within its jurisdiction for twelve months, may be received into affiliation in a Missouri Lodge.' If Bro. Schultz can offer no stronger argument in favor of his favorite dogma of Perpetualism than to intimate that Missouri, with its record of 75 years of intelligent legislation and work, would admit an expelled mason into fraternity in any lodge in this jurisdiction, he had better throw up the sponge and abandon any defence of an indefensible position. I will say nothing as to the *imputation* that our Grand Lodge might perform such an illegal, unmasonic and outrageous act."

As Bro. SCHULTZ is incapacitated for replying and as we have used the same argument, we will say to our good Bro. VINCIL that he entirely mistakes the point of the argument. Bro. SCHULTZ's opponents had announced a proposition upon which they rely, the legal consequences of which gives to a Grand Lodge the power to make a mason rightfully of an expelled mason of another jurisdiction; and the point of the argument is that a proposition which results in that, is an utterly erroneous one as Bro. VINCIL admits by his criticism upon it, although he makes the admission unconsciously, so to speak.

But we are not prepared to admit Bro. VINCIL's conclusions; the time was when the suggestion that a Grand Lodge would allow one of its subordinates to make a mason of the rejected candidate of another jurisdiction, would have been as greatly and forcibly denounced; but upon the specious and false plea, that rejections are generally made from spite or some other unjust cause, that law has been overborne in very many of our Grand Jurisdictions.

Now, then, admitting that a Grand Lodge has the power to authorize its subordinates to make a mason of one who has been expelled in another jurisdiction, and given a case where it was claimed and believed that such expulsion was unjust, we are not prepared to say, and we hold that Bro. VINCIL is not competent to say, that the power would not be exercised. In fact, we would not risk Bro. VINCIL himself; if a wrong in his judgment had been done and he had the power to right it, we doubt if he would hesitate to do so. It is very dangerous to say that human beings having the power, the rightful power we mean, to do a certain act, will be restrained from doing it by considerations appealing simply to their courtesy.

We note that Bro. VINCIL is opposed to the exercise of the prerogative of the Grand Master for making masons at sight, and yet he classes it with the power "allowing degrees to be conferred out of time."

In the review of many who think as he does about the prerogative, this admission is entirely fatal to his position.

We are glad to notice the following in his review of South Carolina:

“Bro. Inglesby entered his dissent from the decision of Bro. Thomas, ‘that a petitioner for affiliation must be a resident of Missouri, in order to obtain membership in one of our lodges.’ I never have taken kindly to this doctrine, although the law governing the case is susceptible of such construction. We have masons in large numbers in Missouri, who retain their membership in lodges in other states. We recognize them as ‘Brethren beloved, fraternize with them in every way, and enjoy their presence in our masonic bodies. Recognizing them thus, it has always appeared to me that any mason desiring to have membership in a Missouri Lodge, yet whose residence is more convenient to him in another state, should be allowed to do so.”

In several places he claims that writers who have criticised, sharply, the law of Missouri in regard to non-affiliated masons, do not apparently understand what that law is, and he gives it as follows: “Wilful non-affiliation for one year works a forfeiture of masonic privileges in every respect, except the right to petition for membership.” This is precisely as we understand it, and this is the law that we had denounced, and now denounce, as utterly beyond the power of any Grand Lodge to rightfully enact.

As we have already intimated above, in spite of all Constitutions, there are certain duties of masons and rights of masons which cannot be taken away except by punishment for crime. But here “wilful non-affiliation,” without trial or judgment, in and of itself continued for one year, destroys all the masonic privileges of a mason. We admit that a non-affiliated mason has no claims upon lodge funds, or for many of the privileges which grow out of the lodge organization, but the nature of our Institution is such that there are relations between individual masons, that it is not in the power “of any man or set of men” to take away, except for cause and in the manner prescribed in the ancient usages of the Institution.

Here is a mason who is utterly unable to pay the affiliation fee, or even the dues, and, therefore, remains wilfully a non-affiliate, and yet remaining so for one year, although he may be upon a sick bed, supported by the charity of his neighbors, still he loses all “his masonic privileges”! Other instances might be put of the gross injustice of this law, even if it was not contrary to fundamental principles.

He thinks that South Carolina is alone in not allowing suspension from the rights of Masonry for non-payment of dues; but such is the law, and always has been, in Massachusetts, Maine and other Grand Lodges: and in very many jurisdictions the punishment for non-payment of dues is dropping from the roll, precisely as in South Carolina: and, as we believe, except in aggravated cases, it is the extent to which punishment for that offence, in cases in which it is an offence, should go.

We have given more space to this review than we intended, but we desire to quote the following in relation to physical qualifications:

“Of course, he and this writer do not view the subject of ‘physical disqualifications’ from the same standpoint. He says ‘that the Grand Lodge of South Carolina has always adhered to the physical qualification in its strictest sense, as declared by the landmark on that important subject.’ In that jurisdiction they have incorporated into their Constitution ‘that the candidates must be upright in body, not deformed at the time of making, but of hale and active limbs, organs and members, as a man ought to be.’ In the Charges of a Freemason, published by the Grand Lodge of England, in 1723, there is an expression that qualifies all declarations respecting the physical qualifications of a candidate. This requirement is that he must ‘be a perfect youth, having no maim or defect in his body that may render him INCAPABLE OF LEARNING THE ART.’

“The South Carolina doctrine is ‘that the loss of a toe, after initiation, prevents further advancement of a candidate.’ Does the loss of a toe, part of a finger on the left hand, slight defect in vision of one eye; with similar small physical imperfections, render an Entered Apprentice incapable of learning the art of speculative Masonry? I can not conceive of an apprentice in operative Masonry being disqualified to learn the Art, who had lost a little toe. My stenographer has given me a suggestion—that the loss of one or more teeth would be equally a disqualifying cause in the premises. I accept the suggestion, as such loss might impair mastication and prevent healthy digestion, thereby rendering the Apprentice incapable of learning the art of serving his Master with required vigor.”

We have been trying for several years to bring the attention of “the physical perfectionists” to this same point, but we have not been able. But Bro. VINCIL has so forcibly stated the matter, that if it is ignored further, it will be taken as an absolute confession that it cannot be answered.

MONTANA, 1897.

With these Proceedings comes a slip giving a list of Grand Lodge Proceedings wanted by the Library of Montana. Among the wants are the Proceedings of our Grand Lodge for 1855, 1856 and 1857. While on general principles we should urge that any brother, having a copy of these Proceedings which he can spare, should send it either to our Grand Secretary to be transmitted or to Bro. HEDGES, there is still another reason why we in Maine should do everything we can in this direction; and that is that Bro. HEDGES has taken great pains to supply not only our Grand Lodge library but the other masonic libraries of the state with the Proceedings of his Grand Lodge, and in fact with the Proceedings of all the masonic bodies of Montana.

We fear that he may have to wait until our Proceedings are reprinted, which we hope will be done within a short time now; but still it is quite probable that these originals may exist in some unexpected place and so be supplied to him.

We have in the Proceedings a fine portrait of CHARLES H. GOULD, the retiring Grand Master.

Special communications were held to lay corner stones and attend a funeral, and we notice that the usual practice of opening the Grand Lodge, performing the ceremonies by it *as such*, and then closing, was followed on this occasion. We notice this because, while so far as we have been able to learn, this has been the practice in all the jurisdictions except Pennsylvania, in one or two Grand Lodges there seems a disposition to depart from this practice.

The Constitution of this Grand Lodge provides that the annual communication shall not be opened nor any business transacted unless a majority of the chartered lodges are represented, and that no representative of any lodge shall be entitled to a seat until the dues of his lodge are paid. We have always held that, speaking technically, this provision can never be complied with, because the Grand Lodge cannot know officially that a majority of lodges are represented until the Grand Lodge itself has ascertained that fact; and we note that after the Grand Secretary had reported that all save one of the lodges had made returns and paid dues, the Grand Lodge was opened and then proceeded to ascertain if a quorum was present.

The only business transacted after opening was the appointment of a Committee on Credentials, when the Grand Lodge called off until that committee should make its report. We think that it would be better to strike out the restriction relating to the opening, in order that the Constitution may be complied with exactly.

Grand Master GOULD congratulates the Grand Lodge upon the circumstances in which they meet and also upon the history which the Grand Lodge had made during the third of a century of its existence.

He announced the very sudden death of Past Grand Master JOHN STEADMAN. Bro. STEADMAN was born in Hartland, in this state, February 11, 1836, but before attaining his majority he went to British Columbia and was there made a mason. Some ten years later, he removed to Montana, joined a lodge there, became its Master, and afterwards was Grand Warden, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Master of the Grand Lodge. He stood high in the estimation of the fraternity and of the public, and his memory was honored by a burial by the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master had been called upon to make but few decisions, and gives as a reason, the efficiency and perfection of the by-laws.

Among the Representatives near other Grand Lodges which had been appointed, is Bro. HENRY R. MILLETT, of Gorham, near the Grand Lodge of Maine. We note in passing that the appointee is announced as "H. R. MILLETT," and that Bro. HEDGES has the name in the same manner in his list of

Grand Representatives. Please, Bro. HEDGES, give the name of your Representative near us, so that we may know certainly who he is.

The Grand Master properly called the attention of the Grand Lodge to the fact that under their law, an objection is of greater force than a black ball, and recommended that a change should be made between an objection before initiation and an objection to advancement; and the Grand Lodge adopted his suggestion, making the law to correspond very nearly to the law in Maine, leaving, however, the objection in force for sixty days, but making it, at the end of that period, equivalent to an objection.

He speaks very highly of the Monitor which had been adopted; but he says that not enough had been sold to pay the cost of publication, and he urges the purchase of it by the brethren. It is quite surprising that in these days, when so much attention is paid to the ritual, that there is not a greater demand for the Monitor. But our brothers seem to get the idea that a cipher ritual is the great thing to be obtained.

In his address, under the title of "Misplaced Humor," he says:

"It is unfortunate for the craft that there are a few brethren who think they must be funny. They delight in approaching a candidate with remarks which in their perverted imagination are excruciatingly humorous. It is needless to repeat their catch phrases. None of them are new or original, but all of them are unmasonic, as they destroy in advance the beautiful lessons sought to be conveyed. The lectures and ceremonies of Freemasonry have been compiled by the best intellect and experience of the ages with an earnest and sincere desire to impress wise and important truths. To have their serious contemplation burlesqued by a thoughtless brother is embarrassing to candidates and distasteful to the craft in general. The degrees of Masonry are too earnest and by far too serious to be made the object of attempted witticisms."

There was a time when this was applicable in Maine, but so far as we can learn there is not much cause for it now. Of course, this sentiment of the Grand Master was very emphatically endorsed by the Grand Lodge.

He also reproves the "unnecessary concern" of some ardent brother who had been soliciting his friends to become masons, and calls attention to the fact that it is contrary to masonic usage.

The Grand Master had made a visit to a lodge in Nebraska at a time when a reception was given to the Grand Master of that jurisdiction. He was a little late, but was received with Grand Honors and cordially invited to a seat at the right of the Grand Master. What followed, we give in his own words:

"I suppose that when I was announced, my name did not catch the attention of some of the brethren, for immediately after I had received the salutations becoming the occasion, Past Grand Master and ex-Governor of Nebraska, Robert W. Furnas, peeped over his eye-glasses and said, 'Why, it is Charlie Gould!' His surprise was increased by the shout of laughter which went up. I immediately responded with 'Helloa, Bob!' which increased the merriment, and honors were easy. Work in the M. M. degree

was exemplified in such a manner as to excite the admiration of all present, especially the candidate, from whom no good thing was withheld. After labor we were called to refreshments in an adjoining banqueting hall, where ornately spread tables welcomed the hungry and thirsty, with all that could possibly be necessary for epicurean enjoyment. Rev. Bro. Butler acted as toast-master, and was a whole team, with a belligerent canine under the wagon. Stopping suddenly in a flight of oratory, he posed, as it were, on buoyant wings, and remarked, 'I am sure we all sympathize with the gallant Cubans in their heroic and desperate struggle for freedom.' 'You bet,' and similar expressions came from a hundred voices. 'Well,' exclaimed the speaker, 'I can assure you that I have positive information that Havana is on fire in a hundred places to-night.' Then followed thunders of applause, in which I took altogether too prominent a part, as subsequent events proved, for when the Reverend Brother, in his own inimitable way, and in an irresistibly funny drawl said, 'Havana cigars,' your Grand Master slid under the table and was extricated with difficulty to respond for Montana."

When the Grand Master announced the deaths in the jurisdiction he paused, called up the Grand Lodge, when the Grand Honors were given and a prayer offered by the Grand Chaplain.

We have noticed this in two or three other instances.

The Grand Master had been absent from the jurisdiction a part of the year, and the Deputy makes a report of his doings during that absence.

He reports the consolidation of two lodges and the organization of the consolidated lodge.

In one decision he calls his attention to the law of that jurisdiction that, when a candidate has been rejected by a lodge of that jurisdiction, as long as he resides within the territorial limits of that lodge he can be made a mason in another lodge only by its unanimous consent. But if he moves into the jurisdiction of another lodge, he can be made a mason by the consent of the rejecting lodge by a three-fourths vote.

Bro. HEDGES, in his Report on Correspondence, has devoted a good deal of space to an effort to maintain that when a candidate is rejected by a lodge, he is really *not* "rejected by a lodge" but by some of its members. We refer him to this decision of his Deputy Grand Master, which was approved by the Grand Lodge, as a complete answer to that portion of his report to which we have alluded. We would add, however, that Bro. HEDGES' previous writings are continually against him, because he has universally used the term "rejected by a lodge," thus stating the real fact of which he appears to have been unconscious when he was writing his report.

His report, as Grand Secretary, is brief, but as usual covers all the points necessary for presentation to the Grand Lodge. As our representative, Bro. HEDGES presented the resolutions of this Grand Lodge in relation to rejections, saying that they were "deserving of respectful consideration." They were referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, who reported the following recommendation, which was adopted:

“ Referring to the above communication and resolutions, we do not deem the latter consistent with the views of this Grand Lodge, and recommend that they be not adopted.”

We have no doubt that the resolutions received the most “ respectful ” consideration; but that is not the kind of consideration which we should like to have had them receive. The reason, given for the conclusion to which the committee arrived, shows conclusively that they did not consider at all the reason which prompted the attempt to have these or similar resolutions adopted. Like many other Grand Lodges, they found that they were not “ consistent with the views ” of that Grand Lodge, and gave no heed to the proposition that the purpose of them is to endeavor to secure the harmony of the craft in all the jurisdictions.

We do not believe the committee read the reasons given for them at all, because we know the masons of Montana so well that we fully believe that if they had understood the object of the resolutions they would not have given such a reason for rejecting them, but would have considered them carefully with reference to the harmony of the craft *out of* Montana as well as *in* Montana.

A resolution to authorize lodges to exempt from dues all members who have paid dues continuously for twenty-five years was offered, but defeated.

One decision was made which ought to call for a change in the law of that jurisdiction. A brother was appointed Master of a lodge *U. D.* and served until the lodge was constituted under the charter, was then installed as its first Master and served until the next annual election, when another brother was chosen in his place. The Grand Lodge decided that he was not a Past Master within the meaning of the Constitution entitled to vote in Grand Lodge.

When a brother has been lawfully installed as Master of a lodge, he has, according to masonic usage, done everything that is necessary to make him a Past Master when he goes out of the chair, unless his rank is taken away by discipline. This has been the universal usage of the craft; his installation as Master makes him by the mere lapse of time a Past Master, no matter whether he serves three months or ten years. This brother was installed and served till the end of his term. However, the length of his services was not the point upon which the case was decided: but under that decision, the charter Past Master of a lodge, no matter if he serves a full year, would not be entitled to vote in the Grand Lodge because the Constitution provides that only those who have been “ duly elected ” and actually presided as Master, are entitled to vote.

We presume this brother was named in the charter as Master of the lodge, and, therefore, the committee held was not “ duly elected. ” We think that this construction of those words is about the sharpest that we ever met in a masonic decision, and if such is the law of Montana, it ought to be changed.

We notice that a law of the Grand Lodge requires Secretaries in making their returns to give the full Christian and surname of each member and not merely the initials, and we notice that the returns are very largely made out in that way. But still the Secretaries, when they give something beyond the names of the members, fall back on the initials again. But we mention it to suggest that Secretaries would be more likely to comply with the rule if the Grand Lodge should set the example.

The Committee on Credentials, and in fact substantially all the committees, themselves violate this law which they impose upon the Secretaries of lodges, and in the Grand Lodge, more than anywhere else, such a provision ought to be enforced.

P. G. Master WILBUR F. SAUNDERS was present for the first time in many years, and was especially welcomed: he replied, referring to the difficulties which beset the early history of Masonry in that jurisdiction and incidentally refers to the part Masonry had indirectly in establishing and perpetuating law and order in that state. We have a pamphlet giving a history of that period, presented to us by P. G. Master LANGFORD, from which we find that while Masonry as an institution was not actively engaged, the actors were all masons and knew each other to be such. We need not say that we value that pamphlet very highly, not only on account of the source from which it came to us, but as an exceedingly valuable historical document.

The Grand Representatives were welcomed, and among others, Bro. CORNELIUS HEDGES spoke for Mexico, replying in a general way to the criticisms of his Grand Lodge for recognizing the Gran Dieta. All the facts, which we know as facts, agree with his statement.

The Grand Orient of Greece and Italy were also recognized.

Grand Master GOULD transmitted the Signet Ring to his successor in an address of much interest and beauty; and want of space alone prevents our copying his remarks in full.

This communication was the Silver Anniversary of the official life of Grand Secretary HEDGES, and resolutions of a fraternal and congratulatory character were adopted, directing the Grand Master to procure a suitable testimonial and present it to Bro. HEDGES. It was a fitting recognition of eminently deserving services.

A resolution of sympathy with P. G. Master JAMES R. BOYCE, SR., was adopted; but we have since learned that the venerable brother died on April 23, 1898, at the age of over eighty years. He had been a mason fifty-eight years, and as a man in all the relations of life, and as an active and devoted mason, he commanded the respect and affection of all his brethren.

The Report on Correspondence (173 pp.) was presented, as usual, by Bro. CORNELIUS HEDGES.

Since we commenced writing the review of this Grand Lodge, some proofs

from our printer have come in and we are amazed to find how largely in excess of our estimation is the length of our report, and we must make a desperate effort to make the remainder of it shorter.

We regret to find him using the arguments that inevitably point to the abolition of the secret and unanimous ballot, and he really seems to favor that. He says in his review of the Grand Lodge of England:

“What strikes an American Mason most strongly in the proceedings of this mother Grand Lodge, from whence all our Masonry is derived, is the entire absence of anything upon the subjects of ‘perpetual jurisdiction over rejected material,’ and physical disabilities of candidates. It is negative testimony, but of the strongest kind, which we have often called to the attention of those who claim ancient landmarks as authority for their position. Nor is the secret unanimous ballot any more a landmark. Another feature of English Masonry which we desire to bring to the notice of those who go so far in their opposition to the Wisconsin plan of relief as to claim that masonic charity is only an individual obligation, is the fact that contribution to the fund of benevolence is as obligatory as payment of dues with us for the support of lodge expenses.”

This certainly is opening the way for the abolition of the secret unanimous ballot, but it is precisely the position to which his argument drives him.

He states that some of the opponents of the Wisconsin plan of relief claim that masonic charity is only an individual obligation; we have never seen it so stated elsewhere, and we think that he is utterly in error. Wherever the lodge system prevails, whether in the United States or in England, the obligation upon its members to pay dues for charitable purposes is obligatory, and it is no more so in England than in Maine or Massachusetts: and it has been so from the first.

Our brother entirely mistakes the objection; the Wisconsin plan of relief undertakes to throw the whole burden upon lodges and *release the individual mason from the obligations which he is under to relieve a distressed brother*. The Wisconsin plan of relief is utterly at variance with the system pursued by the Grand Lodge of England. That taxes masons at a given rate, and uses those funds, as far as they will go, for the relief of the distressed in particular cases; but no where will our brother find that British Masonry undertakes to hold either that a distressed brother is entitled to his full support from the fraternity, or that the giving of relief in any case imposes any obligation whatever of a repayment by his lodge or anybody else, of the amount thus given. The reference to the Grand Lodge of England is exceedingly unfortunate as a support of the Wisconsin proposition.

In his review of Maine, referring to the question of rejections, he thinks that the diversity of opinion and practice is no more liable to breed dissension hereafter than heretofore. But even if it were so, is not that enough? He cannot have forgotten the “row” still on between Oregon and Washington; the sharp controversy between Indiana and Pennsylvania: the threat-

ened disruption of fraternal relations between Michigan and one of the Dakotas. But we believe that, if we all adhere to the old ways, there is much more danger of dissension in the future than in the past, because this practice has been commenced but recently. And the Grand Lodges, which pay no attention to the *status* of a candidate rejected in another jurisdiction, are beginning to feel that it is not quite the thing to make a mason of a man, and when he finds that he is not recognized in other jurisdictions and complains of it, to ignore his complaint.

He says that a candidate is not "rejected by the lodge," because it does not appear that he was rejected by a majority of its members: the number has nothing to do with it; under the law it is the act of the lodge, just as he has been reporting for twenty-five years. If accepted, the candidate is accepted *by the lodge*: and if rejected, he is rejected *by the lodge*, under the law: to say that a man who is rejected by a majority vote is rejected *by the lodge*, and that one who is rejected by less than a majority, is not rejected "by the lodge," but by some of its members, is too absurd an idea for Bro. HEDGES to conceive: he has taken it without due consideration, from some brethren who undertake to split hairs.

We greatly regret to find our brother arguing against the Maine resolutions on the ground that rejections are very often unjust. If there is any weight in this argument, Bro. HEDGES ought to seek to apply the proper remedy, by repealing the law relating to the secret and unanimous ballot.

However, Bro. HEDGES concluded that a five years' limitation is safer than a limitation for one year, and we really believe that Montana will respect the *status* of rejected candidates coming there from other jurisdictions.

The fact is that the limit of five years is a concession sought from Grand Lodges, which hold to perpetual jurisdiction: and the concession sought from other Grand Lodges is that they will respect the *status* given to a candidate by the law of the jurisdiction in which he was rejected. While we claim that for the protection of Masonry, the limit *should be* five years, yet that is a matter for the decision of each Grand Lodge.

Bro. HEDGES notices the "Hart case," and not only approves, but applauds the action of our Grand Lodge.

Upon a careful reading of his review of our report upon the Wisconsin proposition, we find that after all we are quite nearly in accord. We must have written carelessly, as he understands us to say that a masonic lodge is under no greater obligation to relieve one of its members than any other mason in good standing: whereas, one of the distinctions which we have always made between affiliated and unaffiliated masons, is that the latter has no claim upon lodge funds for relief: other things being equal, the member

has the greater right: but the claim of the two classes upon individual masons is the same. He adds:

“Not that we are willing to go to the other extreme and hold that a lodge is bound to relieve a brother beyond its reasonable ability, and even then much depends on the worthiness of the member. We think the relation of members in a lodge is a sort of family relation. Surely one is under greater obligations to aid a member of his own family than others not so related. And we believe universal masonic usage, which we recognize as law with Bro. Drummond, will sustain this proposition. And if a lodge is too weak or poor to provide for the necessities of its own members, we think there is ground for some claim upon its Grand Lodge for assistance. In this matter Masonry differs from all benefit societies, that in accordance with the obligation it promises to aid worthy brothers so far as their ability extends, and the necessities of the distressed demand. It is no hard and fast rule or for any specific amount. We repudiate as warmly as Bro. Drummond, that a member of a lodge by paying dues purchases any right to relief according to his own ideas of his necessities. The claim grows out of our mutual obligations and is therein defined. The necessity, or perhaps we might better say, the eminent propriety of having organized charity grows out of the need of investigating the worthiness of the applicant when a stranger, and the nature and extent of his necessities. This cannot be done by every member importuned for assistance, and if the applicant is found worthy and his necessities beyond the means of individual brothers, there should be a general relief fund to draw from. Our Grand Lodge has put itself on record as ready and willing to aid its subordinate lodges to the extent of its ability, to relieve the necessities of members beyond their ability. Whether it is best to enter into any agreement of this nature, as Wisconsin proposes, is not necessary to be determined. Our own sense of propriety and duty impose on us a greater obligation than any formal agreement.”

This is precisely the law and practice in Maine; and this differs from the Wisconsin proposition precisely as *charity* differs from a *legal debt*.

We have marked other matters in this splendid report, but having already outrun our space we must leave it.

NEBRASKA, 1897.

After “advance copies” of the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge had been mailed, the printing office was burned and the issuance of the Proceedings delayed, and—worse than that—the publication of the Report on Correspondence prevented.

The frontispiece is a fine engraved portrait of the retiring Grand Master, Bro. CHARLES J. PHELPS.

In his address, he says:

“Freemasonry within our borders and generally wheresoever dispersed is in a prosperous condition. While its fundamental principles and its landmarks are unchangeable, yet it is a progressive science. Masonic study and research, archeological discoveries, and the best thought of wise and good men given to the consideration of its ceremonies and symbols, afford an explanation of their connection with ancient religions and philosophy as well as with the accepted truth in our own day. It is the privilege of every

mason to realize this; but only by a study of its literature can one reap the full benefit of his privileges.”

He decided that a Master is bound by no law whatever to confer the degrees upon an unworthy candidate; if no one else objects, he should exercise his own prerogative. We do not see how such a case could arise, save as the result of the practice, and a pernicious one, as we deem it, of conferring the degrees at the request of, and for, another lodge; and this decision illustrates one of the dangers which we have pointed out.

We are glad to find that the Grand Lodge overruled decisions of the Grand Master, that in such cases the lodges concerned might arrange for a division of the fee. The truth is, as we believe, that in the vast majority of cases of this kind, the fee is the moving cause; if the law was that the lodge conferring the degrees should receive the whole fee, the number of cases of this kind would be very few, as in that event, the lodge might as well waive jurisdiction, as request another lodge to confer the degrees.

Two decisions illustrate the wisdom of allowing the Grand Master to dispense with cast iron laws, or the folly of making such laws. One was that a F. C., who cannot be present at a lodge meeting, cannot be balloted for upon the report of a committee appointed for that purpose, and the other was that officers installed on a day other than that fixed by the laws, were not legally installed; but the legality of their action was sustained upon the doctrine that they were officers *de facto*. Both of these cases also sustain the complaint that Grand Lodges are legislating too much.

The same may be properly said, we think, of a law prohibiting the granting of dimits, except for certain reasons, or sufficient reasons: which is practically nullified by the decision that the lodge cannot inquire into the truth of the reasons given, but if a sufficient reason is stated, the lodge must grant the dimit.

But none of these compare in importance with the following:

“23. *Question*.—We have three brothers who want to quit the fraternity on account of religious convictions. Is there any way we can grant them a dimit? *Answer*.—Brethren whose religious convictions interfere with their continuing members of a Freemason’s lodge should be permitted to dimit upon making their desire known, and a record of such dimissions should show the reason for granting the same. I think, however, that the lodge should submit the matter to the Grand Master, who, upon sufficient showing, would grant dispensations, for without it I doubt that the lodge, under our law, could grant such dimits.”

We are greatly shocked to find that this decision was *disapproved* by the Grand Lodge. The committee report a simple disapproval, giving no reasons. They probably agreed with the Grand Master, that the “Law of Freemasonry in Nebraska” in its terms does not recognize such a reason for asking a dimit, and that they do not agree that the Grand Master can give a dispensation in such a case.

For the sake of the Institution, we most earnestly protest against this decision. When we, as masons, stand between a sane man and his conscience and undertake to override his conscientious convictions, Freemasonry will go, and IT OUGHT TO GO. If a mason comes to believe conscientiously that continuing to be an active mason, does "interfere with his duty to God," he should be allowed to come as near withdrawing from us as the nature of the case admits: of course, a violation of his obligations would call for the termination of his masonic life by expulsion: but as long as he abstains from a violation of them, he ought not to be called upon to perform any masonic duties. We cannot believe that our Nebraska brethren really hold to the views which they have expressed, but we must think that their action was without due consideration.

The following decision as to artificial appliances was approved:

"32. A man who has lost a limb, although he uses an artificial one as flexible and perfect as it is possible to construct, cannot be made a mason without violating masonic law and disregarding a landmark in Masonry. It is not in the rightful power of the Grand Master to grant a dispensation in such a case, because it would be such an innovation as no man or body of men has the right to make."

The following shows that the *status* (for more than a year, and if there is a limit we have forgotten it) of a rejected candidate in Nebraska is the same as it is in Maine during the succeeding five years:

"Where a profane on August 5, 1895, petitioned to the lodge in whose jurisdiction he resided, and in September, 1895, was rejected, and in February, 1896, removed into the jurisdiction of another lodge, and in May, 1897, desires to petition again, he should petition the lodge in whose jurisdiction he resides. If he does so it will be the duty of the latter lodge to obtain a waiver of jurisdiction from the former lodge before proceeding further in the matter."

A lodge regularly elected its Master just before the preceding annual communication of the Grand Lodge; before he was installed charges were filed against him, which were pending when the Grand Lodge met: *the prosecutor* submitted a general query to the Grand Lodge (a practice that in our opinion should not be allowed) asking what course should be taken when objections are made to the installation of an elected officer of a lodge, and the reply was given, that it should be referred to the Grand Master for investigation and decision. However, in the particular case, the lodge tried the case and acquitted the Master: thereupon the complainant appealed, representation was made to the Grand Master by both parties that the good of the craft and especially of that lodge required an immediate decision of the matter, and the lodge, by unanimous vote, and both parties asked the intervention of the Grand Master. He decided to do so, saying:

"From the petition and the discussion aforesaid and the vote above mentioned, I found that the best interests of that lodge, its members, and the fraternity, would be conserved by complying with the request that I take

jurisdiction. Being also of the opinion that the Grand Master's duty is to exercise the prerogatives of his office when occasion requires, and that he has extraordinary powers, aside from those fixed by legislation, and that this case came within such powers, I took jurisdiction."

He appointed a time for a hearing, and in the mean time, both parties took testimony. When the hearing came on, the complainant objected that the Grand Master had no jurisdiction. But he exercised it, and sustained the action of the lodge. It was not till after his decision, that the action of the Grand Lodge came to his notice by the receipt of an advance copy of the Proceedings: in view of that decision, he mildly reprimands the complainant for contesting the matter contrary to that decision and without calling his attention to it. The Grand Lodge, of course, sustained his action.

He rebuked a lodge for issuing a circular criticising the action of the Grand Lodge or some of its officers, and the Grand Lodge endorsed the rebuke.

The Grand Master thus announces one of his official acts:

"My son, Harry E. Phelps, of Howell, Colfax county, Nebraska, desiring to be made a mason, I determined, after a careful review and consideration of masonic authorities, to exercise the prerogative, being satisfied beyond any question of doubt as to its existence, and on the 27th day of March, 1897, I called to my assistance our R. W. Bros. Frank H. Young, Grand Senior Warden, and William R. Bowen, Grand Secretary, W. Bro. Walter W. Wells, Master of Acacia Lodge, No. 34, and twenty-five other Master Masons, in the hall of Acacia Lodge, No. 34, at Schuyler, Nebraska; announced my purpose and declared that if no objection existed among the brethren present, I should proceed. No objection appearing, I called off, opened an Entered Apprentice Lodge, and, again declaring my purpose if no objection was made, caused the candidate to be made a mason; following which I opened a lodge of Fellow Crafts, and in like manner, with all the precautions taken in the preceding degree, passed him to the degree of a Fellow Craft Mason, and then resuming work on the Master Mason's degree, with like precaution raised him to the sublime degree of a Master Mason.

"The degrees were under my direction, in my presence, and with the assistance of the above-named brethren, fully exemplified.

"My son has since applied for and obtained membership in Acacia Lodge, No. 34, of Schuyler, Nebraska, of which I have been a member ever since my initiation into Freemasonry."

Concerning which the Committee on Jurisprudence made the following report:

"Without entering into a discussion of the question of whether or not the prerogative of making masons at sight ever inhered in the office of Grand Master, we are of the opinion that, by reason of our situation and masonic traditions, such prerogative does not inhere in the office of Grand Master in Nebraska. We therefore disapprove the action of the Grand Master in making his son, Harry E. Phelps, a mason at sight, as reported in his address. The Grand Master is the creature of the constitution of this Grand Lodge, and his prerogatives are defined and limited thereby."

As the Grand Master's successor had not been installed, a request was

made, in behalf of the Grand Master, that action be postponed till the next annual communication: but it was refused, and the report adopted.

Inquiry was then made as to the *status* of HARRY E. PHELPS: and the following report by the same committee was adopted:

“ Your Committee on Jurisprudence beg leave to report that in their opinion Harry E. Phelps is an irregularly made mason, and recommend that the Grand Master, in person or by proxy, be directed to go to Schuyler, as soon as convenient, and heal said Harry E. Phelps in due masonic manner, first requiring payment of the fees prescribed by the laws of the lodge within whose jurisdiction said Harry E. Phelps resided, for conferring of the three degrees of Masonry.”

We are surprised at these reports, especially at the ground taken in the first, because the opposite doctrine in special cases had already been affirmed by the committee and sustained by the Grand Lodge.

But we submit to our brethren of Nebraska, that while we are free to say that we deem it an act, injudicious and in exceedingly bad taste, by the Grand Master in exercising this prerogative *in favor of his own son*, that they have blundered in their treatment of this case, and have really affirmed the power of the Grand Master to do just what they undertake to say he cannot lawfully do.

We premise by saying that we do not find in the Constitution any provision authorizing the Grand Lodge to make masons; so far as the Constitution is concerned, the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge stand on the same level, and the power of making masons is vested in the lodges—*exclusively* vested in them under the construction given to that instrument by our Nebraska brethren.

The Grand Lodge decided that PHELPS was an “irregularly made mason” But what is an “irregularly made mason”? One made a mason *by competent authority*, but in an irregular manner. The Grand Lodge *undertook* to decide, that the Grand Master had no authority whatever to make his son a mason: that the proceedings had no more force or virtue, than if any other man had called together a number of masons and made *his* son a mason. The conclusion is inevitable, that at the end of the ceremonies, PHELPS was either a regular mason, or still a profane.

But if not a lawfully made mason, what power had the Grand Master to “heal” him? If a Grand Master has no power to make a mason, what power has he to “heal” one, not made? Will it be said that if a Grand Master make a man a mason and then he (or his successor) heal that man, he is *then* a mason? But is it said that the Grand Lodge authorized the healing? But where does the Grand Lodge find warrant for any more power in the matter than the Grand Master has? And do two *nothings* make *something* in Nebraska? It remains that PHELPS was a lawfully made mason by the Grand Master, or that he still is a profane. It is scarcely necessary for

us to say, that while we deprecate the exercise of this power in favor of his son, the Grand Master made him a mason under a law which the masons of Nebraska cannot contravene or control: and that the truth of this proposition was so inherent in their minds, that they unconsciously gave it the strongest kind of endorsement in their very attempt to deny its existence!

It is strange into what absurdities, this spirit of innovation will lead. A brother, who is quite wild on this subject, referred to this case with exultation. He is one of the last, (when in his sober senses, as he usually is) of the brethren in our whole circle of acquaintance, who would consciously do any one an injustice. But in a moment of temporary aberration, and evidently for the purpose of giving "an awful example," declared seriously in substance, that on account of this action of Grand Master PHELPS, his Grand Lodge was not willing to trust him longer to exercise the powers of Grand Master, and elected another brother as his successor!

The Grand Lodge commenced in 1895 paying the premiums upon the Life Insurance policy of a brother taken out for the benefit of his wife. It has already paid over \$2,200, including the amount necessary to redeem it from a previous assignment. The policy is assigned to the Grand Lodge as security for these payments.

The Grand Secretary (WILLIAM R. BOWEN) commences his report as follows:

"*Freemasons of Nebraska*:—Under your liberal appropriations I come after exactly twenty-five years in your service with my arms full; volumes 2, 3, and 4 of the second edition (not reprint) of our Grand Lodge are before you, volumes 3 and 4 being distributed here to save our lodges the cost of transportation by mail or express. Each Nebraska lodge now has a complete set of our proceedings up to and including 1886, which has for a decade been impossible because the first edition of several years (particularly 1857, 1872, 1878, and 1882) were entirely exhausted soon after issued.

"The indexes to the four volumes of the second edition afford complete and ready reference to the matters heard and determined by Grand Lodge, many of which are unknown to the craft in Nebraska because they lie buried in detached and unindexed pamphlets; the masonic student here finds an 'open sesame' in his research; the jurist may refer to the precedents so cherished by his class; the general reader may generally glean the matters that interest him; and each individual may find in the Index of Names reference to each page that records his presence, etc., on the floor of Grand Lodge."

We would like to copy further: but cannot, and will only say, that it has only been by years of patient waiting and unremitting labor and the utter ignoring of vacations, that this splendid result has been reached. The Grand Lodge showed its appreciation by the adoption of resolutions of a character that makes us wish that we could have been there and voted for them: they were unanimously adopted by a rising vote.

A letter was received from Past G. Master JORDAN, regretting that "infirmities consequent on advancing years" would prevent his attendance: a

suitable (and in this case that word means a great deal) response was sent to him by the Grand Lodge.

Bro. BOWEN gives his usual unsurpassable table of statistics. We used to wish that he would give a recapitulation in larger type: but now the report of the Committee on Returns gives that.

We are obliged to pass over, without further notice, the admirable oration of Bro. SAMUEL R. SMITH, Grand Orator.

The resolutions of our Grand Lodge, in relation to rejections, were presented by our Representative and referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, who were given further time for considering them.

Various amendments to the by-laws were presented, some of which, if adopted next year, will somewhat loosen the bonds which, as we think, now too tightly tie the hands of brethren and lodges.

NEVADA, 1897.

A special communication was held for laying a corner stone of a church, and another one for constituting a lodge. In both cases the services were performed by the Grand Lodge open as such.

The address of the Grand Master (ENOCH STROTHER) is rather a brief statement of his official action and decisions, but all that was necessary to give the Grand Lodge a clear understanding of the condition of the craft, and of the matters which would require its attention.

He endorses the Wisconsin proposition to a certain extent, saying that the subordinate lodges had always acted upon it, but that the Grand Lodge had no funds for relief purposes; for that reason, if no other, it would not be held responsible for anything further than to see that the subordinate lodges would carry out the doctrine. How they could be obliged to carry it out, when they were financially unable to do so, is not suggested.

He quotes at length the letter of the "Grand Master of Italian Masonry" in relation to the anti-masonic convention, which has been held in Rome. We have already expressed our opinion in relation to taking notice of that convention.

He had visited quite a number of the lodges, and at one met a chapter of the Eastern Star, which installed its officers in public the same evening that those of the lodge were installed. He seems to have had a pleasant time, but seems to think that the "Stars" are a "new departure, or a side show that claims to be more Masonry than Masonry itself." Of course this is an extravagant statement, but perhaps it was the result of the zeal which he witnessed in the particular organization that he met.

He refused a dispensation for a lodge to attend divine service on St. John's Day, saying that to grant the dispensation would be directly in conflict with the laws and ruling of the Grand Lodge. He says:

“Under said ruling, I must hold that members of a lodge, who desire to assemble for the sole purpose of attending religious services should not be permitted to wear their regalia on parade or at church or any distinguishing emblems of the fraternity. Religious instructions can be received without the accompaniment of such ostentatious displays by the fraternity.”

So far as relates to St. John's Day, it is in conflict with the almost immemorial custom in this section of the world.

He recommends that the Committee on Foreign Correspondence prepare a report, and that it be printed, saying that it is of very great importance to the fraternity.

The committee to which the Wisconsin proposition was referred, reported that the “Grand Lodge was not at present in a condition to enter upon the consideration of any change in our established modes of relief.”

The financial condition of the Grand Lodge was such that an assessment of fifty cents for each member was laid upon the lodges.

The Grand Lodge decided also, very sensibly, that the time of the installation of officers is within the discretion of the members of each lodge, without being required to ask for a special dispensation.

The Report on Correspondence (75 pp., including a digest of other Grand Lodges, copied from the report of Bro. GREENLEAF, of Colorado) was presented by Bro. A. D. BIRD. It is an excellent abstract of the Proceedings, comprehensive, but condensed into very brief space.

He notices the report of our committee in relation to rejected candidates and gives the resolutions, but we do not find that any action was taken in relation to them.

NEW BRUNSWICK, 1897.

The Grand Master (JULIUS T. WHITLOCK) in his address calls attention to the completion of the “sixtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady, Queen Victoria.”

He states that the relations with other Grand Lodges were fraternal: one case of invasion of jurisdiction occurred, in which it appeared that a man had received his first degree when his residence really was in New Brunswick. The matter, however, was amicably arranged, the Grand Master of Massachusetts giving a waiver of jurisdiction.

He notices the deaths of several members of the Grand Lodge, of whom Past Grand Master WILLIAM F. BUNTING was well known by many brethren in Maine. Bro. BUNTING was Provincial Grand Secretary until the organization of the Grand Lodge in 1867, when he became Grand Secretary, and continued in office until 1882, when he declined further service. He was then elected Deputy Grand Master, and the following year Grand Master. He was a fine ritualist, took great interest in the literature of the craft,

which he evinced by the publication of a "History of Freemasonry in New Brunswick," a work of great historic value. His zeal never diminished during his forty-five years of masonic life and constant service to the craft.

The Grand Master had made quite a number of visitations, and while we find that the increase of membership was small, still that there had been a fair increase, and apparently the lodges are in a fairly prosperous condition.

The Board of General Purposes considered the resolution in relation to rejected candidates, and adopted the following:

"Whereas, The principle of lodges having exclusive jurisdiction over rejected candidates for admission into the fraternity has not in the past prevailed in this jurisdiction; and

"Whereas, The provisions of our Constitution as to such rejected candidates have in the past been found to be satisfactory and sufficiently effective in guarding the interests of all parties; which provisions are as follows:

"When an applicant who has been rejected in one lodge in this jurisdiction shall, after the expiration of six months, make application to another lodge for admission to the fraternity, the application may be received, but no ballot shall be taken thereon until the former lodge shall have been notified and shall have given its consent by resolution, certified by the Master and Secretary. The members of the lodge whose consent is asked must, previous to any action thereon, be notified of such application."

"Therefore Resolved, That this Board cannot recommend Grand Lodge to make the change in our Constitution by adopting the resolution proposed by the Grand Lodge of Maine; and

"Further Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be directed to forward a copy of the resolution to the Grand Lodge of Maine."

This action covers all the grounds of the Maine resolutions except one, and that is, the Board did not pass upon the question as to whether the Grand Lodge will recognize the effect of a rejection made in another jurisdiction given to it by the laws of that jurisdiction. We have understood, however, that the practice of the Grand Lodge is to recognize such effect. That being so, the law of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick is such that there can be no occasion for any disturbance of fraternal relations growing out of this subject.

The Grand Lodge wisely resolved that while it was desirable to establish a Masonic Home for the Maritime Provinces, still that the establishment of the fund for the purpose should precede any other action to that end, and measures were taken to unite with the Grand Lodges in the establishment of such a fund.

A resolution was unanimously adopted looking to the establishment of closer fraternal relations between the Grand Lodges of the Maritime Provinces, and the matter was referred to the Grand Lodges, with a request that each appoint a committee, who should jointly promulgate a scheme for the closer union of these Grand Lodges, to report in 1898.

Quite a number of amendments to the Constitution were adopted, which had been considered and approved by the Board. Among them was one

giving the brother in the chair of a lodge the power to invite a Past Master of any other lodge to officiate and confer degrees, or perform any other ceremony.

The address to the Queen was adopted, ordered to be engrossed, suitably bound and transmitted to Her Majesty.

A charter was granted to a lodge which had been working under dispensation since November, 1896, under the name of Carlton Lodge.

No Report on Correspondence.

NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1897.

The semi-annual communication was held as usual, and the work exemplified in all the degrees. The attendance was very large, and the social features of the occasion must have been exceedingly enjoyable. The only business transacted was the presentation of the resolutions of our Grand Lodge, relating to rejections, by our representative, R. W. Bro. EDWARD GUSTINE, and their reference to the Committee on Jurisprudence.

At the annual communication, the Grand Master (HENRY A. MARSH), among other deaths, announces that of JEREMIAH DOW PARKER, of Belfast, in this state, who was a Past Dist. Dep. Gr. Master of that Grand Lodge, as well as Past Dep. Gr. Master of the Grand Council of R. & S. Masters of Massachusetts.

The Grand Master had had the usual amount of official duties to perform, but none of general interest. He gave a decision in relation to the rights of a Tyler, which seems to us to cover the whole ground:

"The Tyler's station being outside the door, he is not supposed to know what business is being transacted inside. If he desires to ballot on an application he should be relieved, if any brother is willing to relieve him, but no brother should be required to ballot if not present in the lodge when the report of the investigating committee is read, although, if a member, he may do so if he desires."

He reported the expulsion in Massachusetts of one Neal, who had been rejected by a lodge in New Hampshire but had applied to a lodge in Massachusetts, and in his application stated that he had never before applied for the degrees. As the residence of Neal could not be ascertained, the hearing was *ex parte*. (Another Hart case.)

He says:

"In response to a request from the Grand Lodge of Hungary, I appointed Rev. Bro. John Vannevar, a member of Eureka Lodge, as representative of this Grand Lodge on the occasion of the dedication of a Temple and celebration of millennial anniversary of Freemasonry at Budapest. Bro. Vannevar, in company with Rev. Bro. Perry Bush, representing the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, attended the celebration and dedication, which continued through several days. He reports that he was received with marked courtesy and entertained with lavish hospitality."

The report of Bro. VANNEVAR is exceedingly interesting, and we have no doubt that the presence of these two representatives was of great benefit to Masonry.

We commend the following from his address to the serious consideration of the brethren everywhere:

“ We will all honor Masonry more and more when we insist more and more that we care not what men may seem to be, but what they really are; for Masonry stands to-day, as it has ever stood, for integrity in time of corruption; for courage in the hour of peril, when hearts are faint; for charity as broad as the universe; for the gathering together of the whole human family into one universal brotherhood.

“ While this is a consummation devoutly to be wished, let every brother scrutinize critically such material as presents itself for membership at the door of the lodge. You will pardon me, I know, if I dwell on this point for a moment. The perpetuity and well-being of our Order depend absolutely on the quality of its membership and not on its numbers. The strength of a structure does not depend on its size, but rather upon the character and adjustment of its component parts. You may erect a Temple as high as the heavens; if the individual bricks, stones and blocks of marble have not been selected with due care, and have not been adjusted each to the individual place for which they were intended, then the Temple must fall. So, too, with our institution; if we admit into our ranks men whose characters are warped and twisted, we thereby weaken our structure.

“ Let us, then, my brothers, make fewer masons, if by so doing we make better ones.”

His address and the reports of other Grand Officers, especially those of the District Deputies, show that Masonry is prospering, and is continuing to have that slow, but solid growth that has been characteristic of that jurisdiction.

In a case sent back by the Grand Lodge for a new trial, the counsel for the prosecution stated that he had been unable to obtain sufficient evidence to convict the accused, and recommended that the complaint be dismissed, and the lodge so voted. The Grand Lodge approved its action. We hold this to be correct, although in another jurisdiction it was held to be erroneous.

In another case, the Grand Lodge set aside a sentence of suspension for one year, as being a grossly inadequate punishment of the offence, to which the accused pleaded guilty, and expelled him.

A petition for the restoration of a brother, expelled twenty years ago, supported by a unanimous vote of the lodge that expelled him, was presented: but it was decided that *reasons set out in the petition and in the transcript of the record of the lodge* were insufficient, and restoration was refused. So far as we know, the requirement upon which the case turned is peculiar to New Hampshire: ordinarily the reasons are given before the committee and such report thereon as seems necessary made to the Grand Lodge. However, this case was once before presented by the Grand Lodge and dismissed for want of sufficient reasons, so that he and the lodge knew the re-

quirements. Still, an examination of the report gives the impression that the petitioner might have truly made the statements which were necessary to bring his case within the rules stated by the committee.

The Committee on Jurisprudence reported against the "Maine Resolutions" and in favor of continuing the doctrine of "perpetual jurisdiction." The latter subject had been fully considered in 1896, and it was not necessary to consider it again: but as the Maine proposition did not involve the abolition of the rule, but proposed to fix a time limit, the committee did consider it, and came to the conclusion just stated, and their report was adopted.

The committee say:

"We see no good reason for fixing any time or consenting to relinquish jurisdiction over material which belongs to this Grand Lodge after a term of years; to be consistent, if there is sufficient cause for a modification of the rule, let it be changed and abolished without limit."

Right here is the fundamental error of the committee, as shown by *their own* law and the concensus of opinion and usage in all other jurisdictions.

Neither in New Hampshire nor anywhere else is the rejection final, or of *perpetual effect*. *Everywhere* the rejected candidate is allowed to petition again, in most jurisdictions now after a short interval, and as often as he pleases, as long as he lives.

Why is this allowed? And what does it mean? It would not be allowed, if the rejection was final: and therefore it means that the rejection is not final and that there is a reason for its not being final. What is the reason for its not being final? It can possibly be nothing else than that, although the candidate may not have been found fit to be a mason at that time, he may subsequently be found fit. But what is the masonic method everywhere of determining the fitness of a candidate? *By observation of his daily life and conversation*. In this observation, time is an absolutely necessary element. Of course, the length of this time differs in different cases, but almost all Grand Lodge have fixed a *minimum* time: New Hampshire requires one year. It inevitably follows, that it is the New Hampshire law (in common, however, with all other jurisdictions) that is "inconsistent," or else the committee are wrong. In addition to *time* for the observation of a rejected candidate there must be *opportunity* for it. That opportunity is possessed only by those among whom he resides—who are able to observe his "daily life and conversation." It goes without saying, that if he moves away from his old home, the residents there have no such opportunity, and that any action, which they may take, must be based upon information and not knowledge—information necessarily imperfect; a judgment thus formed is of very little value. The logic of the situation is that the decision of the question should be remitted to the lodge of his residence and that the action of the old lodge is a "delusion and a snare."

It is but just to the committee to say that they really base their action upon the proposition that the cases in which reason for the rejection of a candidate ceases after a time, are very rare. If this is a valid reason for rejecting the Maine proposition, it is equally a valid reason for changing the law and refusing to allow a rejected candidate to apply again under any circumstances, and it is evident that to be "consistent" the committee should have proposed a change in the law of their Grand Lodge.

We fully agree with the committee that it is not for the benefit of the craft to "have undesirable material within its organization"; and it is for that very reason that we contend that the decision of the question of fitness should be settled by those, who have the knowledge to enable them to decide it properly.

The committee say further:

"The time limit will also serve to introduce the vexed question as to residence, and the duration of time that may have elapsed after rejection. It would be likely to involve lodges in far more controversies with sister lodges, and the Grand Lodge with other Grand Lodges, than occur under the present rule."

As residence cuts no figure whatever in this proposition, the use of the word by the committee is evidently inadvertent. Inasmuch as the form of petitions now require a candidate to give the fact of a former rejection, there is no chance for any mistake, unless it is willful, and no more than there is now.

The committee have much to say about "contentions"—at the worst, *possible* contentions—but wholly ignore the very dangerous dissensions between Grand Lodges that have occurred and still exist. One would suppose from the tenor of this report, that this Grand Lodge, if one of its rejected candidates should go into another jurisdiction and be made a mason, would quietly accept the situation and allow its lodges and their members to recognize such person as a regular mason: but we rather think it would be found by him, that the New Hampshire practice would lead to serious contention!

Application was made by an initiate and member of Hidalgo Lodge, in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, chartered by the Gran Dieta of Mexico, and working in the English language only, and whose charter members were all made masons in the United States, for permission to visit lodges in New Hampshire. But it appearing, that this lodge and other lodges in the State of Chihuahua were of the obedience of a Grand Lodge which had declared its independence of the Gran Dieta, and was claiming exclusive and sovereign jurisdiction in that state, the application was denied: as was the request of that Grand Lodge for recognition.

It appeared that the cause of the rebellion of this and other Grand Lodges

was the decree of the Gran Dieta restoring the Bible to masonic altars. The committee say:

“That supreme body did not see fit to assert its authority over those revolting ‘Grand Lodges,’ but tacitly consented to their withdrawal, so that several of the state ‘Grand Lodges’ are now in rebellion against what has been recognized as the supreme authority of the country. This action was the direct consequence of the effort of the Gran Dieta Simbolica to establish proper regulations for the government of the whole craft, as we understand the situation.

“Now it happens that the ‘Grand Lodge of Chihuahua’ under whose jurisdiction the Washington Hidalgo Lodge is situated was one of those rebellious state ‘Grand Lodges,’ hence it will be seen that the ‘Chihuahua Grand Lodge’ and its subordinates are in rebellion upon the very ground that we as American Grand Lodges insist that the Gran Dieta Simbolica should place itself, and it would be one of the most ungracious and unjust things conceivable for the fraternity in our country to recognize the Grand Lodge of one of the Mexican States, which is in open rebellion against the Gran Dieta Simbolica, on account of the action which we have been insisting that Grand Body should take.”

This is an exceedingly important addition to our information concerning Masonry in Mexico, and presents the opposition to the Gran Dieta in a new light.

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand was recognized.

The Report on Correspondence (160 pp.) was presented by Bro. ALBERT S. WAIT.

While there are many matters ably discussed by him which we should be glad to notice, we find that he has devoted considerable space in undertaking to controvert some views which we have advanced in relation to the admission of profanes into the fraternity, the most important matter now receiving the attention of the craft, and as we regard his views as exceedingly dangerous to the welfare of the craft, we will first give our attention to them.

We had formerly stated that the rejection of a candidate is a judgment of the lodge, under the law of Masonry, that the candidate is not, at the time, fit to be made a mason.

He denies that it is a judgment: and starts out by showing how different it is from the judgment of a criminal court! He says there is no plaintiff or defendant: and the candidate is not acquitted or convicted. But even if we were to limit the meaning of the word “judgment” to the judgments of courts, our brother’s illustration fails: because courts render “*judgments*” in numerous cases when there is only one party to the record, and when the proceedings are upon petition. We shall refer to this again presently.

He says:

“But, from the very nature of the proceeding, it is to be regarded purely as an election, and not a judgment. The candidate is asking a favor, to be granted, not claiming a right to be adjudged. He places himself in respect to the lodge precisely as does a candidate for appointment to a civil office to

the appointing power. To illustrate: In our New Hampshire political system the appointments of office are made by the Governor, and a council consisting of five members, or, in other words, by the Governor with advice and consent of the council. A party desiring an appointment to an office usually presents a petition, more or less numerously signed by his friends, asking for his appointment. He succeeds or fails, according as he is fortunate or otherwise in obtaining the favor of the appointing power. We never heard the result called a judgment, in any judicial sense. Now, in Masonry, the fitness of a candidate to be a mason is by no means the only question to be considered upon his application. The harmony of the lodge and the welfare of the institution are, or ought to be, considered as well. The fact is, the personal sentiments of any brother towards the candidate are allowed to control his action."

To say that we are surprised, that such views should be stated by a brother educated in the Masonry of New England, is putting it very mildly. His illustration does not illustrate. If the Governor, when he comes to submit the matter to his Council, was required to say, "Gentlemen, under the law, the sole question for your decision is, 'Is this man fit for the position?'" his illustration would be more nearly applicable; and if the decision should be in the negative, the average man would say that it is a judgment of the council that the candidate is not fit for the position. The proceeding in courts nearly resembling the application of a candidate, is the petition of an alien for naturalization. Among the questions arising on such a petition is the fitness of the petitioner to be made a citizen; if that were the sole question presented, the proceeding would be precisely similar; as it is now, if the petitioner is admitted, it is a judgment of the court that he is fit to be a citizen; if the question of fitness was the only question involved (as it is in Masonry) the rejection of the petition would be a judgment of the court, that he is not fit to be made a citizen.

Apparently in these proceedings there is only one party; but really (as also in Masonry) there are two parties; in proceedings for naturalization, the petitioner is one party and the people, though not a party to the record, is the other party; so in Masonry, the petitioner is one party, and the craft the other party, whose welfare is the test of the decision.

But he says that as the rejection may be made by one member, it is not a "rejection by the lodge." This seems to us so absurd, that we can scarcely treat it seriously. He may as well say that an expulsion is not the act of the lodge, because it is made by a two-thirds vote of its members! When the law makes the acts of individuals the act of a body, it is the act of the body, no matter what the action of a part of its members may be; and if the act involves the decision of a question of fact, that decision is the judgment of the body, under the law governing it.

The last sentence of our quotation must have been inconsiderately written. Because a brother has the power to violate his solemn duty and for personal reasons, blackball a candidate, our brother has no right to say "that the

personal sentiments of any brother toward the candidate are allowed to control his action." The Judges of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire *have the power* to sell their decisions: but would it not be regarded as "rather steep" to assert that the laws of New Hampshire "allow" them to do so?

He returns to his proposition that a Grand Lodge cannot exist without constituent lodges. He thinks that from the precedents of Maine and Vermont no just rule can be deduced, on account of "the abnormal condition of the fraternity during that trying period": that is to say, action actually taken in a crisis, when the question practically arose, has no weight in determining what the law was. He is in error in assuming that the rule is "deduced" from these precedents: they merely go to prove what the rule then was and had always been.

He says we might have cited another precedent besides Maine and Vermont—a much more decisive precedent—that of Michigan, in which an attempt was made in 1841 to revive the old Grand Lodge and the attempt was universally and correctly pronounced ineffectual. He says:

"The anti-mason excitement having measurably passed away, the officers of four of the extinct lodges, with the last Junior Grand Warden and many of the late officers and members of the old Grand Lodge, held a meeting in June, 1841, and undertook to resuscitate and reorganize the Grand Lodge of Michigan."

There is only one trouble in this for him and his argument; *his statements are utterly erroneous*: the "last Junior Grand Warden" was *not* there: no other late officer of the old Grand Lodge was there; and so far as the record shows, no one who had ever been a member of the old Grand Lodge was there: in fact, no pretence was ever made that any Grand Officer who was "regularly elected and installed in 1832 (or at the last election, whether previous or subsequent to that date) authorized, approved or attended the meeting in June, 1841." In fact, there were not, so far as it appears, seven officers or permanent members of the old Grand Lodge living in Michigan in June, 1841. The movement was started by immigrant masons, who had never been members of a lodge in Michigan and was consummated by "delegates," who were not Masters or Wardens under the old Grand Lodges, but from lodges which had no legal existence! We refer our brother to the *Historical Sketch* by FOSTER PRATT, published by the Grand Lodge of Michigan in its Reprint of its Proceedings, pp. 42, &c., and the Proceedings of the Old Grand Lodge published in connection with it.

He says correctly:

"But we do not feel that it will be useful to pursue the argument further, especially as, upon the main question of whether there can be a legitimate Grand Lodge without the existence of constituent lodges, there appears to be, as there never has been among masons, aside from our brother of Maine, but one opinion."

But he assumes that that "opinion" is precisely the reverse of what it is and has been! This discussion arose from our deprecating the departure by some Grand Lodges from the old usage and law, in providing in their constitutions that the Grand Lodge cannot be opened without a quorum consisting of the representatives of a given number of lodges. The word "quorum" is a modern innovation in masonic constitutions and brought with it the doctrine for which Bro. WAIT is contending. The Grand Lodge of England has no such provision: few, if any, of her daughter Grand Lodges have adopted it; very many of the United States Grand Lodges have never adopted it: these Grand Lodges (New Hampshire among them) provide in their Constitutions who shall be members and that each member shall have one vote (save when he acts practically or actually as the proxy of an absent member), thus placing the powers of every member (save the Grand Master) upon an absolute equality: now, to say that *under such a Constitution*, the Grand Lodge cannot open and proceed to business unless a certain number of one particular class of its members are present, no matter how many others are present, is so utterly absurd, that we are almost ashamed to discuss it.

The fact is, however, that Bro. WAIT's views upon this subject are the outcome, perhaps natural, of his erroneous views as to the nature and powers of a Grand Lodge, and its relations to its subordinate lodges.

We had intended to copy his reasons for dissenting from a decision of the Grand Lodge of Ohio; that if a dimitted brother has lost his dimit, he is not entitled to a copy, or to a certificate that at a given date a dimit was issued to him, unless (in substance) it appears that since it was granted he has not been "unmasonic in his conduct," but have not space. We regard his reasons as absolutely conclusive.

NEW JERSEY, 1898.

Another big volume; the largest so far, having over six hundred and fifty pages, of which two hundred and thirty, however, are taken up with the returns of the lodges. We believe these returns are printed in New Jersey in the Proceedings at stated periods, but, according to our recollection, not every year.

The frontispiece is a very fine engraved portrait of the retiring Grand Master, GEORGE W. FORTMEYER. The book is also adorned with various cuts of the Masonic Home and its appurtenances, and one is taken at a reception of the Grand Lodge at the Home, or rather in front of it. That is, as the reception was to the Grand Lodge, we assume that the cut is intended to represent them, although the central figure is a lady. We at first thought

possibly she was one of the "Stars"; but as all the rest seem to be men, we judge that she was probably the Matron of the Home.

Grand Master FORTMEYER announces the death of P. G. Master ROBERT M. MOORE, who died February 12, 1897, in the prime of life and in the midst of his usefulness. He was a man "of strong personality and large attainments," and being a very earnest man was very active and influential in Masonry, to which he was devotedly attached. The loss by his death is not confined to New Jersey.

The Grand Master calls attention to the fact that as the state lies between New York and Pennsylvania, many occasions arise for masonic communication with those states. We think there is another reason for this, and that is very many of the residents of New Jersey do business in New York City or Philadelphia, which of course increases "unusual opportunities for the exercise of fraternal courtesy," of which the Grand Master speaks.

He had granted over forty requests from New York for waiver of jurisdiction and had denied eight, and in return New York had granted nine to New Jersey and denied none.

One case arose which threatened to disturb the harmony, but was disposed of in a very fraternal manner. A New York lodge initiated a candidate who had been rejected in a New Jersey lodge, and when the attention of the matter was called to the New York authorities, the Grand Secretary of New York replied that the matter had been investigated, and it was found that the New York lodge had not violated the New York law as it existed at the time the petition of the candidate was received. Thereupon the Grand Master of New Jersey issued his edict forbidding the masonic recognition of the candidate. Shortly after, he received a communication from the Grand Master of New York, frankly admitting the invasion of jurisdiction but requesting that the candidate be healed. The New Jersey lodge gave its consent promptly and the candidate was healed in the hall of the New Jersey lodge, and the Grand Master issued his edict recalling the one previously issued.

The Grand Master expressed his regret that he had been unable to visit many of the lodges, and we think that in such large jurisdictions, the duties of which in other respects consume so much of the time of the Grand Master, that he ought not to be expected to make many visitations.

He had been obliged to censure many lodges for dereliction of duty, but he was not severe in his discipline because in almost all the cases the fault arose from what he styles "customary negligence," which cause, he says, is the most perplexing one the Grand Master has to contend with, and repeats forcibly his suggestion of the year before as to the importance of a study of the Constitution, by-laws and digest, by the officers of subordinate lodges.

He had been called upon to pass upon the physical qualifications of thirty-seven candidates, and decided that twenty were eligible and seventeen disqualified. In relation to that he says:

“By the ancient regulations, a physical deformity operated against admission into the fraternity; but it must be borne in mind that this was at a time when *operative* and *speculative* masons were conjointly concerned in the government of the craft. To-day we practice in *speculative* Masonry alone, and while the law of this jurisdiction demands of a candidate ability to conform literally to all the requirements of ancient craft Masonry, I do not believe the letter of that law, or the spirit of our institution, will be violated if one with a slight defect, who is in every other respect worthy, voluntarily presents himself for initiation into our mysteries and is accepted, when such defects will not prevent him from meeting the *requirements of the ritual*, or doing the work of a mason. I have not put that construction on the law, in my decisions, which demands a microscopic investigation to discover a physical defect; but I have not considered that a person with a ‘cork-leg,’ or ‘only one eye,’ or a ‘deformity of body,’ or ‘without the fingers or any one of them of either hand,’ was qualified for admission.”

We do not see why he should class parties having only one eye among the disqualified, and why he is so strict in relation to the loss of a finger. We believe that the former are as much eligible as a man who is obliged to wear spectacles, at least, and really as eligible as anybody, provided he is able to see as most persons with only one eye, can see.

In spite of the depression of the times there had been a marked increase in the membership over previous years. Of this he well says, and we wish every mason throughout the whole fraternity could read it and appreciate it:

“This is most gratifying, but, at the same time, it has within it elements of danger. Anxiety on the part of the Worshipful Master and officers of the lodge to make a ‘record-breaking year’ is too apt to engender carelessness or indifference in a thorough scrutiny of the necessary qualifications of candidates, as imposed by the ancient laws and regulations of our fraternity, and too late, when an unworthy brother is discovered within the precincts of our Temple, sowing seeds of discord and disturbing the peace and harmony which should prevail, we deplore the imperfect work of the Investigating Committee, and the haste which characterized the acceptance of the candidate. Let me urge upon you the necessity of extreme caution and the exercise of a wise discretion in considering the petitions of applicants for the privileges of Masonry. As we are taught, let the internal and not the external qualifications of a man recommend him, and follow not the *ignis-fatuus* of *quantity* rather than *quality* in the building up, on a sure foundation, the welfare and prosperity of your lodge.”

He had granted a large number of dispensations, but none of them come within any rule that makes them of special interest.

The following we commend, and believe that some action in relation thereto will soon have to be taken:

“I deem it my duty at this time to mention a practice so entirely at variance with some of the cardinal virtues taught the craft, that it should receive most earnest consideration to the end that proper legislation may be enacted regarding it. Prudence commands this course. I refer to the publication of proceedings within the lodges, and which is becoming more than ever widespread, thereby violating the secrecy that should guard them. The profane have no shadow of right to a knowledge of transactions within the tyled lodge. Publication in newspapers, therefore, is not only of questionable propriety, but unmasonic, and of possible tendency to create confusion in

the craft. I refer particularly to allusions to the work in the conferring of degrees and details of style. Worshipful Masters should recognize the grave responsibilities which rest upon them concerning these things, and be careful not to give publicity to transactions and divulge information which should be sacred and guarded with inviolable secrecy. Freemasonry requires no factitious methods to bring her to the attention of the profane, and the seeker of her truths must come voluntarily, inspired by pure and unselfish motives."

In a most eloquent paragraph, which we will not quote, he enforces the masonic law that in exercising the privilege of the ballot, masons are bound to act "in the light of Honor, Truth and Justice," and that only the question of the fitness of the candidate to be made a mason should ever be allowed to influence a brother in balloting.

Brethren from New York were present in the Grand Lodge and received with the honors, and P. G. Master STEWART addressed the Grand Lodge in well chosen words.

We find that the full list of membership is published in accordance with a resolution adopted last year. It cost much labor, over a thousand of the names sent in being incorrect, and the total were over 16,500.

The Grand Secretary gives a statement showing that during the last ten years there had been substantially a uniform increase, that is to say, almost precisely the same per cent. each year, being about two and one-half per cent.

The Committee on Masonic Home made an exceedingly interesting report. They had taken measures to raise money before proceeding to make any expenditure; and during the year they were able to raise about \$28,000, with which they purchased the property. Only five lodges in the state failed to respond, and of a lodge which paid but five dollars, the committee say that "that contribution represents more self sacrifice than any other contribution on the list."

Upon the recommendation of the committee, the Grand Lodge set apart the Permanent Charity Fund and all future additions thereto for the support of the Home; levied an assessment of two dollars *per capita*, the avails of which to be applied to the establishment and equipment of the Home and any surplus to be added to the Permanent Fund; that each initiate should pay an extra fee of two dollars for the same purpose; that the rules be amended so that the wives of indigent masons should be admitted to the Home, and that until otherwise ordered by the Grand Lodge, the lodges should pay, in addition to the other dues, a *per capita* tax of thirty cents a member, to be used for the maintenance of the Home. We note that the lodges in the different districts had already paid in an average *per capita* of from fifty-nine cents to two dollars and twenty-six cents.

The deed had been taken of the premises, and in connection therewith, the title had been examined by Bro. HENRY S. HAINES and he makes a re-

port, with a map, which is printed in the Proceedings, of exceedingly great interest as an historical document, and it is expected that the New Jersey Historical Society will print this history of this title in their Proceedings.

The adoption of the report was moved by M. W. Bro. HENRY R. CANNON, who, in his remarks in connection therewith, states that he became a member of the Grand Lodge in the year 1855 and had attended every session since; that the subject of a Masonic Home was first brought to the attention of the Grand Lodge in 1855 and it was with great thanks to Almighty God that he moved to adopt the report of the committee. The motion was put and unanimously carried by a rising vote, whereupon, the Grand Lodge united in singing "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence submitted the following report in relation to a proposed amendment to the Constitution, prohibiting the craft from re-electing a brother to the office of Grand Master, and the report was adopted. We commend it earnestly to the attention of those who favor the modern doctrine in relation to the powers of Grand Lodges and Grand Masters:

"In the opinion of your committee, this proposed legislation is contrary to the landmarks of the fraternity. The Grand Master is the presiding officer of the Grand Lodge solely by virtue of his office; he is *not* the creature of the Grand Lodge; he is the Grand Master of Masons and not of the Grand Lodge, and is so installed.

"The office of Grand Master existed before the organization of the Grand Lodge and would continue to exist if the Grand Lodge should be dissolved. The craft may elect any brother Master Mason to the office of Grand Master and the Grand Lodge cannot limit their power so to do. As the office exists independently of the Grand Lodge, under the ancient landmarks, the Grand Lodge cannot in any way limit the choice of the brethren, and, therefore, in the opinion of your committee, the proposed amendment to the Constitution is contrary to the ancient landmarks of Freemasonry, and if adopted would be ineffectual for any purpose, and therefore your committee recommend that the proposed amendment to the Constitution, because contrary to the Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry, should not be entertained by the Grand Lodge."

P. G. Master HAMILTON WALLIS presented some resolutions in relation to the manner of conducting elections in the Grand Lodge, and prefaced them as follows:

"With your permission I will say a few words with reference to certain resolutions I am about to offer. Ever since I have been connected with the Grand Lodge I have been disgusted with the manner in which the election for Grand Officers is held. The Grand Lodge resolves itself into a mob, centered about the balloting table. It is undignified, and among any other set of men except masons it would be unsafe. I haven't the most remotest idea or suspicion even of anything wrong under the very favorable circumstances under which the ballot was taken; but, you know, Most Worshipful Sir, we pray not to be led into temptation, and it has seemed to me for a long time that it could be so arranged that the ballot could be taken much more satisfactorily and safely than at present."

The resolutions were discussed, but as the matter was a very important one, they were referred to a committee to report next year.

We have had occasion to remark before that the manner of conducting elections in almost every masonic body that we have attended for a good many years is obnoxious, to a certain extent, to these criticisms of Bro. WALLIS, and we notice, too, that in a very large number of them measures are being considered to remedy the evil. We have seen brethren, not members of the body, electioneering on the floor, passing from seat to seat utterly regardless of the orders of the presiding officer. However, there is no doubt, as the evil is appreciated, the proper remedy will be applied.

The Grand Lodge held one evening session for the purpose of exemplifying the work in the three degrees, and in the opening and closing ceremonies.

The following report was also adopted:

“Your Committee on Jurisprudence respectfully report upon the recommendation of the Grand Lodge of Maine that ‘the effect of a rejection should be limited to five years,’ that they see no good reason why any lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction should be called upon to surrender, after the lapse of any specified or limited time, its jurisdiction over rejected material.”

With due deference to our brethren, we think the *promotion of the harmony of the craft*, which has been so frequently disturbed, even in New Jersey, is an abundant reason for such surrender.

The Committee on the Home announced that the committee would greatly prefer that the assessments should be paid by voluntary gifts of the brethren, and the committee proposed to issue circulars to that effect. The Master of Oriental Lodge tendered the furnishing of one room complete in the Masonic Home at the lodge’s expense, only asking to have the room named Oriental room.

The Grand Lodge decided that a motion in a lodge, instructing its representatives to vote for or against a proposition pending before the Grand Lodge, would be out of order, and should not be entertained. It also decided, that as the regulations of the Grand Lodge do not require a subordinate lodge to include a Chaplain in its list of officers, in those lodges in which the by-laws provide for one, the place where he shall be stationed is to be designated by the Master of the lodge.

The publication of a new edition of the Manual of the Grand Lodge, under the supervision of the Grand Master, was authorized.

The Grand Lodge seems to have had an exceedingly harmonious and pleasant session, and when they came to singing the closing ode they were actually in that state of peace and harmony which the Grand Secretary notes in his closing paragraph.

The Report on Correspondence (154 pp.) was, as heretofore, presented by Bro. GEORGE B. EDWARDS. He does not believe in the sacredness of

masonic funds, but we judge that he would make an exception in the case of the charity fund of his own Grand Lodge; for making that exception proves the rule.

As heretofore, his report is very largely an abstract of the Proceedings.

In his review of California, he says:

“When California passed a law restraining its Grand Master from making a mason at sight, it gave significant testimony as to the existence of the prerogative inherent to the office of Grand Master. Bro. Davies will be pleased to be assured that not only is the sight-made mason a survivor, but he stands forth as a handsome specimen of work performed by an eminent artisan, a mason who would adorn any assembly of the fraternity.”

In his review of Idaho he says further:

“It is fallacious to presume that because this vast country is laid out masonically in state jurisdictions, which in themselves are sovereign, so far as laws and regulations are concerned relating to the individual craft within the constitutions and landmarks of the Order, that an assumption of interference with the rights and prerogatives, the fundamental principles of a world-wide fraternity should be permitted to involve the craft without protest, and the landmarks of the institution be jeopardized by the wanton departure of any single Grand Lodge, a mere unit of the whole, from the original design of Masonry. Jurisdictional lines are geographical only, there exists no exclusive ownership in Masonry anywhere. It belongs to the fraternity of the world, and a departure from the standard, within these United States or elsewhere, should be met with the same prompt denunciation and penal procedure that has made French Masonry a pariah in the latter part of the nineteenth century.”

This is eminently true; and it is instruction eminently needed in many quarters.

He endorses the Michigan decision, in preference to an opposite decision in Indiana, that a candidate must be twenty-one years old when his petition is received; and that it is not sufficient that he will be twenty-one when the time for his initiation should arrive. This agrees with views which we have already stated in this report.

In his review of Maine he says “masonic conservatism abounds in the East and in none of the Grand Lodges is it more pregnant than in the Grand Jurisdiction of Maine.” May our Grand Lodge always deserve to have this encomium.

Commenting on the remittance by Grand Master FARNHAM, of the amount that had been expended on a Maine member in another jurisdiction, he quotes the statement of Grand Master FARNHAM, “that the fact that the relief is afforded by an organized charity fund no more entitles it to reimbursement than the giving of relief by an individual mason entitles him to it,” and he adds in his sententious manner, “another disapproval of the doctrine of reverberatory charity.” The Wisconsin doctrine is thus fully described in two forcible words.

Referring to the Maine resolution in relation to rejected candidates, he says:

“The movement has not met with the success its importance demands, nor has the breadth of purpose, nor its national scope been always a factor in the councils of those to whom the matter has been referred before action by the Grand Lodges.”

He then quotes about one-half a page from our report of last year.

The review of the Proceedings this year shows that this movement has met with greater success than we had anticipated that it would at the outset. Every step which has been taken is a step towards the final result, and a step that will not be retraced; and we have more confidence than ever that the movement will result in a very large acquiescence in the proposition stated in those resolutions, and will diminish very greatly the number of cases liable to cause dissensions in the craft.

Replying to Bro. HEDGES, he says:

“Bro. Hedges excepts to the doctrine that rejection of a candidate by ballot is the decision of the lodge that he is unfit to be made a mason. The case is cited of eleven jurymen of one opinion and one other differing and a consequent defeated verdict. He will pardon if it is assumed that the cases are not congruent parallels. The jury fortifies its opinions by consideration of argument and debated evidence, and public estimate would probably be influenced by the judgment of the eleven. In masonics it is otherwise; there exists no public estimate, no consultation of the ballotants occurs. Balloting on candidacy is not an issue dependent upon numerical force or vague contingency; it is exclusively a unanimous necessity in one direction. It is an aggregation of individualisms which are only of equal power and effect when possessed of an affirmative character. Should but one of the ballots cast bear a negative quality, that single black-ball clouds the entire procedure, dominating all. From the secret character of the service the result is the expression of the lodge immediate and of the fraternity in its wider range.”

Referring to the making of a mason at sight by the Grand Master of Nebraska as already noticed, he says:

“*Disapproval* is an unknown quantity in Masonry. It is a midway path between approbation and censure—leading nowhere. Its application to the case in point is stultification. There is nothing in it to attach to the Grand Master or the Sight-made; its inertness of quality renders it valueless. The Sight-made is either a mason or he is not. If the former, then is he the peer of any, and he should not be disparaged. If the latter, he should have been so declared and bear the stamp of illegality. It is stated that ‘the Grand Master is the creature of the Constitution of this Grand Lodge, and his prerogatives are defined and limited thereby.’ Such being the case, the clause of enactment is in derogation of an office more ancient than any Grand Lodge. The malfeasance in office by this ‘creature of the Constitution’ implies the preferment of charges; instead of which from the inherent prerogative dogmatist’s view, the case assumes the character of *lèse majesté*. The Grand Master of Masons whom the craft has honored with the title of ‘Most Worshipful,’ is snubbed, and his son is a Master Mason in good standing, with none to say him nay as to his making.”

Bro. EDWARDS, while giving his usual careful abstract of the more important matters in the Proceedings, has added more of comment in this report than usual, and we would be glad to follow him further, but our space will not permit.

NEW MEXICO, 1897.

The Grand Secretary gives us a portrait of Bro. C. H. SPORLEDER, Grand Master in 1893 and 1894, and also that of Bro. J. J. KELLY, Grand Master in 1894 and 1895.

The Grand Master (CHARLES BOWMER) gives a concise account of his official action, regretting that he had been unable to make more visitations, as he was firmly convinced that those visitations are productive of much good.

He evidently had been industrious during the year, and his address shows that he disposed of the routine matters that came before him with intelligence and ability.

He refers to one case in which a brother, suspended in one of the lodges of that Grand Jurisdiction, claims that prior to his suspension for non-payment of dues, a complete fraternal recognition had not been given him by some of the members of that lodge and declares that on that account he had not paid his lodge dues. He makes an appeal to the Grand Lodge regarding his grievances, and the Grand Master submitted the papers to the Committee on Appeals without recommendation.

An amendment to the Constitution was submitted for the second time to the lodges for their consideration, and the Grand Secretary reports that ten lodges had voted in the affirmative, two in the negative and eight had taken no action. This illustrates, in our judgment, the impolicy of submitting amendments to the subordinate lodges. They are not very likely to understand the object of the amendments nor to consider them intelligently. Whereas in the Grand Lodge made up of the representatives of those lodges and of permanent members, whose experience entitles their opinions to weight and whose opinions *do* have weight with the brethren, the matter is intelligently discussed and a correct conclusion is much more likely to be reached, besides avoiding the dragging along of the proposition from year to year without any action. Several Grand Lodges, after trying this system have abandoned it, and as it is contrary to the original plan of Masonic government, we hope the other Grand Lodges in which it prevails will follow their example.

We are not sure, however, that the Grand Lodge has not reserved to itself the power to amend its own Constitution, for the following resolution was presented and adopted:

“*Resolved*, That the Committee (or a majority of it) on Revision of the Constitution and by-laws, prepare, within six months, a revised Constitution, by-laws and regulations for the government of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico and its subordinate lodges, and when prepared to have printed, or typewritten, or otherwise prepared, sufficient copies of the same for distribution to the subordinate lodges, in order that their representatives may be able, at the next annual communication, to amend and adopt them as may be found right and proper.”

Upon reading further, we find a report of a committee that eight of the lodges, though twice notified, had taken no action in relation to the amendments to which we have referred, and the following was adopted:

“We recommend that the Worshipful Masters of the several lodges which have failed to take action and report upon these matters, be censured and warned that such failure to obey the edicts of the Grand Lodge render them liable to discipline.”

We do not see but that upon the theory upon which these amendments are sent to subordinate lodges, it is a necessary consequence that the lodges have a right to act or not as they please, and that neglecting or declining to act is really a vote in the negative. It illustrates, however, the unsoundness of the theory. However, the Grand Lodge voted to try it a third time, and the Grand Master was directed to have a letter written in line with the report of the committee which we have quoted, and sent to all the lodges which failed to take action.

The complaint of the suspended brother above noted was acted upon by the committee, and their report that the decision of the lodge must be sustained upon the evidence presented, and that until the brother recovers his masonic standing by the payment of dues, the Grand Lodge cannot consider his complaint, and further, that if he pays his dues and the charges are again filed, the Grand Master appoint a committee to investigate the matter and report at the next annual communication, was adopted.

The Report on Correspondence (110 pp.) was presented by Bro. MAX. FROSR. As usual, he gives a concise abstract of the Proceedings, with occasional brief comments.

Quoting the decision from California that an applicant is not ineligible on account of a “suspicion of African taint in his blood,” he says that technically the decision is correct, but doubts its expediency at the present time. Of course it was necessary to decide the question correctly, and the question of expediency would undoubtedly be for the lodge to determine.

He discusses the Wisconsin proposition to quite an extent, but the following is his summary of the matter:

“We have here the following departures from masonic usage:

“First. Relief extended to a brother who is not destitute and has not asked for it.

“Second. A number of masons decide that a brother is worthy and destitute and extend him relief, after which they seek for re-imbusement.

“Third. A body of masons set forth the principle that it is the amount of dues that a brother pays which measures the extent to which masons will extend him assistance.

“Fourth. The Grand Master declares that a lodge must give assistance to its members, even though unable to do so.

“Fifth. That a lodge can recover from a brother the assistance rendered, even though he did not ask for it, and possibly did not need it.

“The Wisconsin plan of relief is not only unmasonic, but is inadequate to accomplish its purpose. Grand Lodges adopting it should go one step

further and ingraft the plan of the Odd Fellows, or some similar institution, founded and supported to meet the objections of those who were not satisfied with the masonic plan for relief. The masonic institution is founded upon the broadest possible lines of charity; it extends relief, when needed, in cases where the destitute individuals could not obtain a penny from beneficiary organizations, but it has no benefits. All true charity must be free, voluntary, given to the suffering because they need charity, without any thought of re-imbusement on the part of the person giving it. The writer is not insensible of the merits of the many beneficiary organizations founded in modern days, but their existence is only another argument for not ingrafting the same system into Masonry. All masons who desire systematic relief benefits should connect themselves with one of these excellent beneficiary organizations, and not endeavor to change the only institution founded upon the broadest lines of pure charity."

In connection with this he quotes the provisions of the regulations of our Grand Charity Fund for the information and guidance of the fraternity in New Mexico.

He refers to our remarks in relation to the District Deputy system, and says what we appreciate very fully, that the difficulty in inspection in New Mexico is very great, because the lodges are widely scattered and much time and expense are necessary to reach them all, and if a Deputy visits them once a year, he is doing well; and we think so too, and we think it is vastly to the credit of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico that they sustain the system as they do.

Referring to our exception last year, to the report of the committee criticising the Grand Master for granting a dispensation to confer degrees without waiting the statutory time, he says:

"We take the same view of the matter as Bro. Drummond. The substitute report was not what we desired, but it seemed to be all that we could obtain peaceably at that time and we accepted it, as it did not seem to be so sharp a criticism of the Grand Master as the original section of the report. In that particular case the brother benefited by the dispensation, had traveled 1,000 miles from his place of business in Mexico to receive the F. C. degree; after receiving it he made himself proficient, as it was not possible for him to wait one month and the journey back was long and expensive, and as there was no lodge convenient to him which we could request to confer on him the M. M., the request for a dispensation was made and very properly granted. In the Grand Lodge the question came up on the theory that the by-law of the Grand Lodge limiting the powers of the Grand Master to grant dispensations was contrary to the constitutions and usages of Masonry and should be repealed. The question came up so late in the session, and the diversity of opinion was so great that it seemed best to defer the matter to another time, hence the substitute."

From this we have hopes that this Grand Lodge will come into line with the older Grand Lodges and with the ancient masonic usage. In this direction, Bro. Frost is doing yeoman service.

In another portion of his report, he says:

"The Grand Master condemned in vigorous language the practice of printing as news in newspapers, matters of a masonic character. This prac-

tice is growing in this country and often so little discrimination is shown that it seems advisable to forbid the publication of anything masonic in the newspapers."

It would seem from the fact that this abuse is noticed by so many Grand Lodges, that really it extends almost all over the country, and the noticing of it unquestionably will ultimately bring about a remedy.

NEW YORK, 1897.

Elegant engraved portraits of the late Bro. JOHN J. GORMAN, Past Grand Treasurer, and Bro. JEROME E. MORSE adorn the Proceedings.

The Grand Master (JOHN STEWART) gives a very condensed statement of his official acts and brings other matters before the Grand Lodge for its action.

The new book of Constitutions had called for several decisions. In 1896 the Grand Lodge repealed the rule of perpetual jurisdiction and substituted a limit to one year, therefor. He decided, as we did in Maine, that the provision when adopted was retroactive, and applied to all rejections, no matter when made.

No provision was made in relation to parties rejected in other jurisdictions, but he ruled that candidates so rejected could not be initiated in New York without first complying with the law of the jurisdiction in which they were rejected.

He laid before the Grand Lodge the Wisconsin proposition, but without comment, although he stated that he had positive views in relation thereto.

He also submitted the Maine proposition, saying:

"The purpose of these resolutions is, as it appears to me, in the right direction, and if uniform legislation can be had by all the Grand Lodges, especially those of the United States, upon the subject to which the resolutions refer, the most perplexing of all questions which arise between Grand Lodges will be settled."

The year before he reported the disgraceful conduct of one of the lodges, and had hoped that a long time would elapse before there would be need of action in that direction; but he had before him a really worse case than that of the year before. It was discovered by a complaint made to him that a lodge in New York had accepted a candidate who resided in Pennsylvania, without the consent of the lodge in whose jurisdiction he resided; also a complaint that the lodge had made a mason of a man rejected in Massachusetts, who, at the time he applied to the New York lodge, was unquestionably a resident of Massachusetts. This caused an investigation, and of it he says:

"This investigation disclosed a laxity in the admission of candidates truly astounding. In addition to the two cases cited above, ten others were found, the candidate in each case having been initiated in the lodge in utter

disregard of all law and without proper scrutiny as to his qualifications for membership. Several of these had been previously rejected in neighboring states, which fact was not noted in their petitions for membership. All gave fictitious residence; several, entirely lost to common decency, gave a place of questionable repute for the purpose of establishing a domicile in this city.

“Upon a report made to me concerning the condition of affairs in the lodge, I directed the District Deputy Grand Master to prefer charges against the brethren who by trick and device, and doubtless the connivance of members thereof, were improperly initiated, passed, and raised. Commissioners were appointed, and in due course all, eleven in number, were expelled from the rights and privileges of Masonry.”

Thereupon came a petition from the Junior Warden and others requesting the arrest of the charter, but the Grand Master, hoping that at the election which was about to take place, officers would be elected who would properly administer the affairs of the lodge, delayed it, but his expectations were disappointed and he was compelled to arrest the charter.

In relation to this action he says, and we most earnestly commend to the brethren everywhere his words:

“Brethren, this laxity in the admission of candidates to our lodges in this city is a blot upon the escutcheon of Freemasonry. New York, the gateway of the Western world and within a few hours' travel of a number of Grand Lodge Jurisdictions, naturally becomes the rendezvous of the class of Bohemians for whom there should be no place in the craft. It is a fundamental principle of Freemasonry that every candidate who applies for admission should come under the tongue of good repute. Therefore if, by reason of the cosmopolitan character of this city, it is impossible in many instances to trace the life of a candidate, such candidate should have the door of Masonry firmly closed against him. The man who is worthy of membership in our fraternity, can readily furnish testimonials of his worthiness. The man who has not resided in our midst a sufficient length of time to enable the lodge he petitions for membership to submit his worthiness to the jury of the vicinage, should be treated as undesirable material for the temple we are striving to erect.”

In connection with his mention of the Board of Relief, he shows clearly his views in regard to the Wisconsin proposition, saying:

“I heartily commend the good work of this useful and diligent body of masons, who dispense charity to the deserving, and protect the craft from imposition; who give to the needy from all parts of the world, nor look for a return or reward, demonstrating that charity is the right of a mason, his widow and orphan, to demand, and the duty of his prosperous brother to bestow.

“We in New York do not recognize the right of a Board of Relief to file a bill of expenses incurred in the relief of a mason who is ‘a stranger in a strange land,’ nor to collect from a sister jurisdiction the funeral director's fee for the commitment of his poor remains to their last resting place.”

Recalling the fact that there is probably no other place in the world where so many poor and distressed masons from abroad are relieved, he adds:

“We relieve their affliction as a duty, a labor of love, yet never have we sought or suggested re-imbursement. In some of our sister jurisdictions there

would seem to exist a desire to adopt a system whereby each Grand Lodge would enforce the re-imbusement of moneys spent by their subordinate lodges or Boards of Relief in relieving the distress of a sojourning brother. We fear that the adoption of such a system would forever be a blight upon the name of Masonry. The well-known and prescribed duties masons owe to each other, the well-known and defined principles of our craft, demand that our gifts must be a free-will offering, emanating from a pure desire to perform these duties and uphold these principles. The very intimation of a return must be rejected with scorn as insulting to the high calling of our fraternity.

“If a lodge from a sister jurisdiction presents an account of expenditures incurred in the relief of one of our brethren, we would recommend that the lodge from which he hails make haste to discharge the debt, but never let it be said of the masons of this state that we sought return for relieving a brother in distress.”

We quote this with admiration and pride. Admiration that the largest masonic jurisdiction in the world adheres so tenaciously and at a great pecuniary expense, to the genuine doctrine of Freemasonry; with pride, to find so strong a support for the doctrine for which we have been earnestly contending ever since the question has been raised.

In relation to candidates rejected in other jurisdictions, he says:

“Our present law is silent upon the question of candidates rejected by sister Grand Lodge Jurisdictions, now resident of the State of New York. It seems to me, although perpetual jurisdiction has been abolished by this Grand Lodge, it is only fair and in that spirit of comity which should exist between Grand Lodges, to respect the laws of each other; therefore in all cases of applicants for initiation and membership in the lodges of this jurisdiction, previously rejected by lodges under the jurisdiction of Grand Lodges with which we are in fraternal relation, the law governing in such jurisdiction must be complied with before such candidate can be initiated in this jurisdiction.”

A very interesting account of the dedication of the Herkimer Monument is given in these Proceedings. We cannot give space for a notice of it, but parties interested in such matters, and especially those interested in history, will find it of very great interest and instruction.

A very large amount of space is given to the “Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund” in connection with the Masonic Home. We are very glad to find that the expectations of its friends have been more than realized, and that it is doing a vast amount of good in relieving distressed worthy brethren and those dependent upon them.

The Report of the Grand Librarian shows a continued growth of the Library and an increase of interest in it.

Brother PETER ROSS, the Historian, makes quite a long report, but recommends that nothing further shall be done in the way of Grand Lodge history for the present; that the great work of Bro. McCLENACHAN covers all in that particular direction that is deemed necessary at the present time. But he reminds the Grand Lodge that that brother contemplated a fifth

volume covering the history of the lodges. While Bro. Ross does not advise the Grand Lodge to enter at once upon the preparation of that volume, he does advise that it commence at once the collection of materials for that purpose, by sending out circulars to lodges calling for certain facts.

As usual, the reports of the Boards of Relief are of very great interest, and especially some of the details as to particular cases that came before them.

Upon the report of a committee a new division of the state was made into forty districts, a measure that seemed to be necessary in view of the very large number of lodges.

Memorial pages are inscribed, among others, to Bro. CHARLES T. McCLEACHAN and Bro. JOHN C. ROBINSON, veteran masons of the jurisdiction, neither of whom, however, we believe had held official position in the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge decided upon the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence that it is a strictly masonic purpose, within their Constitution, for a lodge to levy a special assessment to provide for the necessities of a worthy indigent brother in good and regular standing.

Of the Maine proposition, the same committee say, and their report was adopted:

“Your Committee on Jurisprudence have fully considered the communication from the Grand Lodge of Maine, urging ‘uniform legislation by the several Grand Lodges in relation to the admission of rejected candidates,’ and urging that the effect of a rejection shall be limited to five years, and that during that time the candidate should be allowed to petition only to the lodge which rejected him, except with the consent of such lodge.

“Our Grand Lodge, after due consideration, has recently abandoned the old usage of perpetual jurisdiction, and at the adoption of our Revised Constitution in 1896 fixed the limit at one year (Sec. 116).

“We are not prepared at this time to recommend an extension of that time to five years merely for the sake of uniformity, and until such uniform legislation is adopted, we must be governed by the laws of the Grand Lodge under whose authority the candidate was rejected.”

The action precisely meets the danger of dissensions among the Grand Lodges: and while we still think that one year is too short a time, when we consider the safety of the craft, for the observation of a candidate who has been once rejected, this action is a substantial adoption of the correct practice.

We quote the following in relation to healing, to which we desire to refer our Nebraska brethren:

“If this is intended to include those hailing from the clandestine lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Orient of France, this committee most emphatically dissent therefrom, and reiterate the position taken by this Grand Lodge in June, 1896, when they adopted the following:

“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.

"We see no reason for modification of the position then taken, but must reaffirm the same.

"Your committee do not believe that a clandestine mason can be *healed* by any Grand or Subordinate Lodge, but that he can heal himself by renouncing all connection with the clandestine body, and then, as pure as any other profane, he may petition, and, having passed a favorable ballot, be regularly initiated in a regular lodge. We know of no other way of his becoming a mason and becoming entitled to visit or acquire membership in any lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of New York."

A brother introduced some resolutions prohibiting the publication in the newspapers of the proceedings of a lodge, etc., but the committee say:

"That while we are entirely in accord with the spirit of the preamble, and deprecate the evils enumerated, yet we do not think any further legislation necessary, as your committee reported fully on this subject in 1895, and the Grand Lodge unanimously adopted their report, and expressed their disapproval of '*the publication in the newspapers of the proceedings of lodges, and that all such publications be refrained from and forbidden.*'"

Both of the latter reports were accepted by the Grand Lodge, and we need not say that, in our judgment, the action referred to in both is in accordance with masonic law and usage.

Very many matters of importance and interest were acted upon by the Grand Lodge and the temptation is very great to quote them for the information of our brethren, but our report has already extended far beyond the proportional limits which we had designed and we must withstand it.

The Report on Correspondence (218 pp.) was presented, as heretofore, by Bro. JOHN B. ANTHONY, but, as heretofore, we understand that the review of many of the Foreign Grand Lodges, especially those Proceedings which are not printed in English, was prepared by Bro. ERNEST RINGER.

While we have already written considerable about the use of the term "masonic" in business matters, the evil is getting to be so great that we emphasize our views by quoting the following from Bro. ANTHONY's report:

"We believe that a Grand Lodge should not have supervision over any Masonic Life Insurance Association or give it any indorsement. We also are opposed to any organization, even though composed exclusively of masons, being allowed to use the word 'masonic' as a part of its corporate name. Many of these associations are perfectly good, possibly established upon a correct basis, but others are subject to contingencies which are sure to render them worthless at the very time of life when most needed. This business should be eliminated from the sympathetic and fraternal, and be gauged by business principles solely. The experience of many is in the line noted by the Grand Master, viz., 'a compromise of forty per cent. of the policy,' and we opine that in many instances time will develop an utter inability to pay anything. For this reason we say the use of the name 'masonic' should be prohibited for insurance purposes equally with any trade."

In his review of Illinois, he replies at some length to the attack of Bro. ROBBINS upon the Grand Lodge of New York, for recognizing what all the

masons of the world have recognized, except a very few in this country and within a few years, and that is that the masons of the Scottish Rite, in countries where the York Rite does not exist, are genuine masons, and he decidedly rebukes Bro. ROBBINS for the personal and offensive tone of his remarks.

In his review of Indiana, he states the following proposition:

“Our position is (if we may repeat) that a mason made such in a regular lodge, in a regular manner—there having been no concealment of facts—strictly in accord with the Constitutions and laws of a Grand Lodge, conformable to the landmarks and usages of the fraternity, *is a mason*, and as such should be recognized wherever he may be.”

But in order to apply it to the case to which he does apply it, he must strike out the words “conformable to the landmarks and usages of the fraternity.”

In his review of Maine, he discusses at some length the Maine proposition in relation to rejected candidates. He agrees with us that the question submitted to the lodge is, is the candidate fit to be made a mason, and that the rejection is the decision of the lodge that the candidate is not at that time fit to be made a mason. He says further:

“We think it must be admitted that, until within the last half-century, the general usage was, that a rejected candidate could not be initiated in any other than the rejecting lodge, unless by its consent. A *resumé* of the provisions of the Constitutions of the several Grand Lodges shows that ‘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 only apply to the rejecting lodge.’”

This shows the reason why he ought to strike out from the proposition, which we have already quoted, the words which we said must be stricken out.

In relation to the time to which the effect of a rejection should be limited, or rather as he puts it, quoting from us, the time in which to determine the fitness of a man to be made a mason who comes from a distant place with a disability of a rejection upon him, he says:

“We have been inclined toward a term of three to five years, but we are not strenuous upon that period. We think an acquaintance of twelve months would be ample, especially when we take into consideration the fact that there is always the opportunity to ascertain from the lodge in which the original rejection occurred the previous character of the petitioner. The nature of the information thus obtained would at all times have a bearing.

“Growing out of the difference in the law of the several Grand Lodges, upon the duration of the act of rejection, lies the apprehension of the severance of fraternal relations and the disruption of the comity which should prevail between them. To maintain Freemasonry upon a broad and universal platform should be the aim of every one, and even the principle that a Grand Lodge is supreme within its jurisdiction, with full authority to enact laws for the government of those resident in its own territory, should not operate to prevent some uniformity of understanding.”

But he goes on to apply the principle which we have been quoting without any of the qualifications, saying:

“ We regard a person made a mason in a regular lodge, in a lawful manner, in accordance with the supreme law of any Grand Jurisdiction, as a regular mason. We do not understand that a rejected candidate ‘ *is absolutely ineligible,*’ for it is a status subject to qualification and limitation—the very thing aimed to be accomplished—and in no sense to be held as a landmark. The comparison of a rejected candidate with an expelled mason would appear to us rather a strained construction.”

We do not assent to the first sentence, and that is the proposition which has been at issue between us and others who agree with him in his views. It is true that a rejected candidate is not precisely the same as an expelled mason; but yet a principle, that would put both upon the same level of eligibility, certainly is erroneous so far as the expelled mason is concerned; and the first sentence in our last quotation is obnoxious to that objection and, therefore, the principle which he lays down does not justify his conclusion; but the question still remains, does the rejection under the laws and usages of Freemasonry give to the candidate a *status* which he has not only in that Jurisdiction but one that he carries with him wherever he goes. However, as, in spite of his argument, his Grand Lodge has recognized the correctness of our position, we will not discuss it further.

In his review of Maine he refers to our statement, that a provision of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of New York is in our view a serious and unmasonic departure from the old law and ancient usage of the craft. In explanation, we will say that we alluded only to the provision giving each lodge “ one vote for every additional fifty members of the lodge over the first fifty.” This provision finds no sanction in the law and practice of any other Grand Lodge in the world, so far as our information goes.

When the Grand Lodge system was formed, and the craft, as a whole, ceased to have a voice in the Grand Lodge, the Master and Wardens of the lodge were made their representative, and while soon after representation by proxy was allowed, still the proxy was to act only in the absence of the Master and Wardens. That this law of New York, therefore, is a serious departure from the old and universal usage is certain; and we regard it also as unmasonic, because it is in contravention to the principle upon which representation in Grand Lodges was allowed.

We remember, too, that this provision was adopted in New York during a heated controversy, and when New York had two Grand Lodges. We confess, however, that we were not aware that it was adopted as early as 1845, but as we have not time, at this writing to investigate the matter, we must assume that no error has been made in printing what our brother wrote in relation to this.

The other question, whether a Grand Lodge can limit the representation

of a lodge to one of those officers, is one that we considered very seriously many years ago; and while possibly it is an invasion of the *form* of the representation of a lodge, it is no invasion really of the principle. As we understand it, the officer, who does represent the lodge, casts the vote of the lodge, and we fully acquiesce in the necessity of reducing the make-up of a Grand Lodge, like that of New York, below what the number would be if each lodge was allowed to have present its three officers and a proxy in addition.

Upon another matter he says further:

“Upon another point, we have only to say that we are not convinced by the argument of our brother, that the *wrongful* act of a lodge thereby gives it any claim to a jurisdiction which it did not have originally.”

We agree with what he says so far as the lodge is concerned; but the question was not concerning the *rights of a lodge*, but the rights of the *fraternity*, as against a candidate who really, if not knowingly, undertook to get into it in an illegal manner. We believe that he should be held to the consequences, precisely the same as if the act of the lodge had been a legal one.

The review in this splendid report of the Foreign Grand Lodges is one of very great interest. It is impossible for us to copy or even notice it in detail, for the review of the Grand Lodges which come within our designation of Foreign Grand Lodges, etc., takes up over sixty pages in the report. But if our brethren desire to get some idea of Freemasonry on Continental Europe, they will find an examination of this report exceedingly useful. It would be very agreeable to us if we could spare the space to reprint the whole of it, but as it is, we can only refer our brethren to it and hope that they will give it an examination.

NORTH CAROLINA, 1898.

We have a portrait of P. G. Master ALFRED MARTIN, with a brief obituary notice. For over fifty years he was a mason and for nearly fifty years a prominent figure in the Masonry of that jurisdiction. He died September 1, 1897, leaving behind him the memory of an example which his brethren are very safe to follow.

The Grand Master, WALTER E. MOORE, submitted a brief address. He refers to the visit made for the first time to the Oxford Orphan Asylum, and speaks, and deservedly, too, in the highest terms of the aid that it has been to fatherless and motherless children and the immense amount of good that it has already done, and commends it most eloquently to the care of the Grand Lodge.

As to the condition of the craft, he says they have been doing well and Masonry has taken no backward step. But he says:

“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.

“Masonry never suffered for lack of numbers.”

He adds, further, that nine-tenths of the trouble in the subordinate lodges was caused, either directly or indirectly, by the use of intoxicating liquors, and he urgently advises that in passing upon the merits of candidates that that fact shall be carefully considered.

He refers to the edict of Grand Master LOCKE in relation to the Grand Lodge of Peru, and advises the Grand Lodge not to establish fraternal communication with that Grand Lodge until it shall reverse its action.

In addition to the death of P. G. Master ALFRED MARTIN, he also announces that of P. G. Master ELI FAUCETTE WATSON, who died October 9, 1897, a successful physician, a faithful and consistent Christian, a public spirited citizen and an active, energetic mason. He was respected and beloved by all his neighbors, and although reaching the age of eighty-seven years will be missed greatly in all the relations of life. Bro. P. J. G. Warden JAMES A. LEACH, a very regular attendant upon the sessions of the Grand Lodge, had also died during the year: his portrait, with a tribute to his memory, is published in the Proceedings.

He had received many applications during the year to approve of appeals for aid made by lodges, all of which he had declined to approve, until the Master of the lodge had answered certain questions, and with the result that he had declined to allow nearly all of them.

He decided that in case of the surrender of a charter of a lodge and its subsequent restoration, all the members at the time of the surrender would become members again when the charter was restored, unless they had become members of other lodges or ceased to be in good standing by discipline. That question is not very likely to arise in Maine, but we have the impression that in the few cases in which, in former days, charters were restored, they were given to certain persons named, and we are not sure whether persons not named, have been regarded as members or not.

He states one question in a manner that a little surprises us: a mason in a sister jurisdiction had been tried, convicted and expelled for gross un-masonic conduct, but afterwards removing into that jurisdiction, he *applied to be admitted to membership*; and the question was asked whether his masonic offence followed him into that jurisdiction. The Grand Master decided that it did, “and should follow him to the ends of the earth.” Whether he

had been restored, and the question was as to his fitness to be admitted a member, does not appear.

The Grand Secretary, JOHN C. DREWRY, reports that the code had been revised, in accordance with a vote of the Grand Lodge, and published. Whether it had been previously adopted or not, or whether any amendments were made or not, does not appear in his report, but it would seem that it is simply a revision without any change in the law: we have heard, however, that the law was amended, so that the reversal of a judgment of expulsion or suspension now leaves the party a member of his lodge.

The Masonic Orphan Asylum took up the attention of the Grand Lodge to quite an extent, and very deservedly; another building was needed and the ability of the friends of the institution to raise the money to build it was somewhat discussed, but ultimately B. N. DUKE, who had before made a large gift to the institution, made a proposition that he would give \$7,500, provided an equal amount should be raised elsewhere. The proposition was accepted by the Grand Lodge and measures were taken to secure the necessary subscriptions.

We last year rather criticised a decision of the Grand Lodge in relation to the right of a Master Mason to apply to any regular lodge for membership, wherein it was decided he must apply, as we remember it, to the nearest lodge. The matter was brought before the Grand Lodge this year; the approval of the decision was rescinded and the following adopted:

“That it is the opinion of this Grand Lodge and it so declares, that it is the right and privilege of a Master Mason who has received a dimit from his lodge to apply for membership to any regular lodge, and if rejected to apply to the same or any other lodge as often as he may be rejected.”

The Grand Orator, Bro. J. H. MILLS, was unable to be present, but sent in a brief address.

The Committee on Reprint reported that satisfactory arrangements had not been made and asked to be continued, and the Grand Lodge so voted.

As to the Wisconsin proposition, the committee report that there is much in it that commends itself to them, but the Grand Lodge was not in such a position as would justify it in accepting it at present. To do so, we think, would have very seriously crippled it in its efforts to support the Orphan Asylum.

A special communication was held on the 24th of June, at the Asylum Hall, where very interesting exercises took place. The addresses are not given, but undoubtedly the occasion was one of encouragement to all connected with the Asylum, and interesting to all others. The Report on Correspondence (95 pp.) was submitted by Bro. JOHN A. COLLINS. He notes in his introduction a few of the matters which are attracting the attention of the craft, giving a brief statement of the general action in relation to

them, but without discussion, save that he pays an eloquent tribute to the work of the Orphan Asylum. His comments are brief, and not so frequent as we would desire.

We are glad to notice that he agrees with us in relation to the anti-masonic manifestations, and pertinently inquires of those who are discussing them if they are not "wasting ammunition."

In another place, referring to the Council of Trent, he says:

"Don't bother, brother,—that last council only shows that *all* the fools ain't dead, no more."

He gives a brief *resumé* of the Proceedings of our Grand Lodge, but without comment.

NORTH DAKOTA, 1897.

We have a portrait of the retiring Grand Master, WILLIAM T. PERKINS, and also a cut of the "Grand Masters' Grand Lodge A. F. and A. M., North Dakota," which means the portrait of a group of seven brethren who have been or are Grand Masters of that jurisdiction. We do not know whether they have regularly organized, but the group picture is no less interesting whether that is so or not.

The Grand Master, WILLIAM T. PERKINS, delivered a brief address, in which he is obliged to say that he had not been able to perform the resolution which he made the year before of visiting all the lodges in the jurisdiction. However, this is in part attributed to the fact that he was compelled to be absent from the jurisdiction the largest part of the year and turn the administration of affairs over to the Deputy Grand Master.

Dispensations for two new lodges had been granted.

He decided that a person who has lost his thumb between the first and second joint, but has good use of what is left, is eligible. The decision does not state which hand was injured, but we assume that it was his right hand.

He decided that a waiver of jurisdiction can be granted only by secret and unanimous ballot. This is the rule in very many jurisdictions, but is so by affirmative enactment. Before that, in the older jurisdictions at any rate, the waiver was granted by a majority vote, on the ground that in all cases in which the Constitution does not otherwise provide, the action of the lodge is by a majority vote.

One of his lodges had complained that a lodge in Michigan had conferred the degrees upon a resident of North Dakota who was attending a Law School in Michigan, and within less than a year after he had been rejected by his home lodge. He feels sure that the Grand Master of Michigan would not knowingly countenance action of that kind, and he adds:

"While this Grand Lodge does not claim perpetual jurisdiction, yet from the unofficial statement of facts received by me, and under the laws of the

Grand Lodge of Michigan, the person in question is an irregularly made mason."

He says that the work of the year had not been up to expectation, and he thinks from the record of the weather bureau that Nature had entered into a conspiracy to produce "a general inclination of our people throughout the state to stay at their home firesides during the past winter."

The Deputy Grand Master had granted dispensations; among them three for public installation, and another for a lodge to appear as masons at divine service. Among his decisions is the following, which was approved by the Grand Lodge:

"That degree (of lameness) which prevents a candidate from communicating, receiving or performing all of the requirements of the several obligations, and lectures, or of passing through the various ceremonies, unaided by artificial means."

The efficient Grand Secretary, FRANK J. THOMPSON, submitted, as usual, a detailed report in relation to the various matters in his office.

The library had been considerably increased, but he had not catalogued it, as he had not determined the system that should be adopted; but was rather of the opinion that the system used in the ordinary public library is not exactly suitable. We have supposed that in a library of the ordinary size of a Grand Lodge Library as it is likely to be for a great many years to come, the old-fashioned system would be the most convenient and not too cumbersome. He, however, says that he has a catalogue which answers present purposes; he only means that he has not adopted a system which would make a "satisfactory public catalogue."

Agreeably to a resolution passed the year before, he had compiled the Constitution, by-laws, etc., of the Grand Lodge very carefully, but he found that there were some matters in it that should be examined, and upon his recommendation, the matter was referred to a committee, which reported later.

In relation to the finances of the Grand Lodge, he says that the receipts were somewhat less than the year before, although in the natural order of things they ought to be greater; but he had managed to get through the year and pay off some old indebtedness and pay the extra expense of making the Grand Lodge Register, and still have left a balance in the treasury with no debts to pay. He had made a good deal of progress with the Grand Lodge Register, but it is a matter of a good deal of labor and he did not expect to be able to finish it the next year, largely because the information came slowly.

On account of the financial condition of the Grand Lodge, he had not prepared a Report on Correspondence.

An exchange of Representatives had been made with the Grand Orient of

Greece; but nothing had been done in regard to an exchange with the Grand Orient of Italy.

We find by the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence that the Grand Lodge did not approve the decision of the Grand Master relating to loss of a part of the thumb. It appears by the report of the committee that we were right in our surmise that the decision related to the right hand: it would seem, however, from the statement of the case, that it came within the rule stated by the D. G. Master and approved by the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master decided that the by-law, that an election shall lapse if the candidate does not present himself for initiation within a reasonable time, does not apply when the delay is occasioned by the fault of the lodge. The committee reported in favor of reversing the decision, but the Grand Lodge sustained the Grand Master.

We are glad to note that the Committee on Grievances hold that it is the intent and purpose of masonic trials to deduce the truth from the evidence and not allow technicalities to prevail, when they do not prejudice the rights of either party.

A *per capita* tax of ten cents, to be continued for five years, was laid for the support of the library.

The by-laws were amended so that an application of a brother, suspended for non-payment of dues, may be acted upon at the stated meeting at which the application for restoration is made. Formerly such a petition had to lie over as in cases of suspension for unmasonic conduct.

The by-laws were amended, unwisely as we think, requiring the lodge in whose jurisdiction a member of another lodge commits an offence to file charges with the lodge of which he was a member, and assist in the trial before such lodge. After a careful observation of the matter of trials, we believe that the rule adopted in Maine is the wisest one; and that is that a member of a lodge is amenable to his own lodge for an offence committed anywhere, and is also amenable to the lodge in whose jurisdiction the offence is committed; and that the one of the two lodges, which first commences proceedings, shall thereby obtain jurisdiction in the particular case, to the exclusion of the other lodge.

We hope that the finances of this Grand Lodge will soon be in such condition that we may again have one of Bro. THOMPSON'S Reports on Correspondence. For while the Proceedings are of course of considerable interest, still they lack very much of what they used to have, when we used to hear from him annually.

NOVA SCOTIA, 1897.

Two Emergent Communications were held for laying corner stones.

The Grand Master, JOHN W. HUBBARD, delivered an address giving an

account of his official action and visitations, and while that jurisdiction is not a large one, he had been evidently one of the busiest of the Grand Masters during the year, and he is able to say the following in relation to the condition of the craft:

“The craft in this jurisdiction is in a healthy state. A new life appears to have been inspired during the year, and reports of advancement come from every section of the province. The Grand Lodge and the craft in general have a right to feel proud of the satisfactory condition of Freemasonry, which exists generally throughout this Grand Jurisdiction.”

There had been trouble in relation to the Master of one lodge, and the Grand Master sent a Deputy to visit the lodge and the matter seemed to be arranged, the Master agreeing to attend the meetings of the lodge and perform his duties; but he failed to do so, and the Grand Master was obliged to put the lodge into the hands of the Senior Warden and summon the Master to appear before the Grand Lodge to answer for his contumacious conduct.

He had visited *every lodge* in the jurisdiction, and we do not wonder that he was able to report so satisfactory a condition of the craft. It is stated that this was the first instance in that jurisdiction, in which the Grand Master had visited every lodge.

He notices the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen and advises that an address be forwarded, and while he was speaking of this all the brethren united in singing the national anthem.

He notices also the letter of the Grand Master of Italy in relation to the anti-masonic Congress, to which the Secretary made a very sensible reply, substantially that it was not of sufficient consequence for notice, well saying:

“There is no more notice taken here of the fulminations of the Trento Council than of the rise and fall of the tide in our harbor.”

The detailed report of the Grand Secretary shows a fairly good condition of the lodges; in fact, a very good condition of all save a very few; one he feared might be lost during the coming year.

The reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters show that they had been active and zealous in the performance of their duties, visiting the lodges and aiding the Grand Master and other Grand Officers in their visitations.

P. G. Master MACCOY presented the Grand Lodge with a large portrait of himself in full masonic regalia. The Grand Lodge thanked him by a unanimous vote and expressed the hope that other P. G. Masters and future Grand Masters would follow his example.

A fitting address to the Queen was presented, adopted and ordered to be engrossed and forwarded.

As we understand, masonic correspondence and an exchange of representatives was effected with the Grand Lodge of Hungary.

A meeting of a joint committee of the Grand Lodges of the Maritime Provinces was held to consider the subject of a Masonic Home. The com-

mittee came to the conclusion that such a Home was highly desirable but were of the opinion that the possession of a sufficient fund should precede any other action, and it was recommended to the various Grand Lodges to take measures to establish such a fund, and the Grand Lodge endorsed this action.

A communication from our Grand Lodge, concerning masonic rejections, had been presented to the Grand Master and by him referred to the Committee on Constitutions and Regulations, who thereupon made the following report, which was adopted:

“That whilst viewing with great respect the communication of our sister Grand Lodge regarding the position of rejected candidates, they see no good reason why this Grand Lodge should depart from the Constitution now in force in this jurisdiction, which we believe to be in strict accordance with ancient usage.”

An examination of the Constitution shows that the effect of a rejection is limited to six months, and apparently the rejected candidate must then apply to the lodge within whose jurisdiction he then lives. The time is so short, that probably no case in which a rejected candidate has been initiated within the time limited, has occurred.

But our Nova Scotia brethren have overlooked the main purpose of the Maine resolutions. This purpose will be suggested by the query, would a candidate rejected in another jurisdiction be received in Nova Scotia, without the consent of the rejecting lodge, within the time limited by the law of the other jurisdiction?

The Report on Correspondence (186 pp.) was prepared by Bros. THOMAS B. FLINT and CHARLES E. WILLETTS: the work of each is identified by his initials. The former retires from the committee for the present, by becoming Grand Master. We are gratified to know that our brother's masonic services are appreciated, and commend the good judgment of the craft in selecting him for their Chief.

In his review of Maine, referring to our discussion of the “Wisconsin proposition,” Bro. FLINT says:

“The conclusion to which he leads up is—that every mason is under equal obligation to every worthy brother to relieve his distress according to his necessity and his own ability, the sole claim of a distressed worthy brother for relief growing out of his *being a mason* and not out of *his having contributed to the funds of a particular lodge*. Again,—‘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. Masonic relief is never purchased or sold, therefore never creates a debt.’”

As heretofore, the reviews are almost wholly limited to full abstracts of the Proceedings reviewed, with appropriate extracts.

As we go through this report, we find reviews to which initials, other than those of the two brethren named, are subjoined: and we find from a

closing explanatory note by the Grand Secretary, that he had prepared some of the reviews after the session, and Bros. THOMAS MOWBRAY and W. ERNEST THOMPSON.

In relation to attending "Divine Worship," Bro. THOMPSON says:

"We can hardly follow our brethren in this as we look upon the service of God as one of the chief aims of the Order, and cannot but remark that the assembling of Grand Lodge to lay the corner stone of a church is more in the nature of an ostentatious display than the simply marching in procession to a church to worship God and listen to an address by a reverend brother of the Order who knowing the teachings of the craft would refrain from touching upon doctrines of a denominational character."

* * * * *

"This action is in line with the action of the Grand Lodge of Nevada also referred to in this report. In addition to what we have remarked in that connection we have to say that we cannot follow the reasoning of the committee. We admit the premises as to the members of the Order being of diverse faiths. Still all must believe in God and in the service and worship of God. It must be assumed that the sermon on such an occasion would be preached by a member of the craft and one who is familiar with its teachings. He would be false to those teachings should he introduce into his discourse anything of a denominational or sectarian character. Further it is not for the Grand Master or the committee to go behind the request of the lodge and say that it was not or might not have been the unanimous wish of the lodge. There does not appear to have been any protest from any member of Aberdeen Lodge and as the application was otherwise regular it must be taken that every member approved of the request. The building where masons might assemble for the time being to worship God in their own way loses, for that time as far as the brethren are concerned, its denominational character, and is simply a Temple erected to God, dedicated mayhap to His service by the craft itself. How can such a service be called a practice subversive of our boasted and liberal universality?"

Quoting the deliverance of the Grand Master of New Hampshire in relation to the necessity of more care in the admission of new members, Bro. FLINT adds:

"But here the Grand Master indicates a danger that appears to be not without foundation. The prosperity of the craft has a tendency to attract to it material that may not be of the best character for solid and substantial growth and progress. The lodge should not enter into unworthy competition with the other secret societies growing up around them. The outer door should be well guarded and great care taken to sustain the high character and good name of the institution."

OHIO, 1897.

A portrait of the retiring Grand Master, BARTON SMITH, is given—an excellent likeness.

Bro. SMITH was not able to be in attendance: but his address shows that he had been able to perform the other duties of his office with great prudence and ability.

The Master and Secretary of a lodge had refused to recognize an objection against a candidate on the ground that it was illegally presented: upon investigation, it was found that they misconstrued a decision of the Grand Lodge, and acted erroneously: they admitted their error, and were reprimanded: they then asked pardon of the lodge and of the objecting brother for their misuse of official power. He, thereupon, withdrew his objection, and the candidate was introduced and raised in the presence of the proxy of the Grand Master. Harmony was completely restored. We think praise is due to the erring officers for their truly masonic course after they discovered their error.

He had considered the question of allowing bodies of the Eastern Star to occupy lodge halls: he says:

“I do not find any of the difficulties arising which it was prophesied would follow the introduction of chapters of the Eastern Star. Their meetings, from the best information I can obtain, are little more than social gatherings of the masons and their families, and such sociability should, it seems to me, be encouraged and promoted. Where masonic sociability has been prevalent this Order has obtained little foothold, but where lodges have neglected to open their doors upon proper occasions for their families, a chapter of the Eastern Star seems to fill the place which the masons themselves have permitted to remain unoccupied.”

Still he thinks permission should be given only by the general concurrence of the lodge, and be revocable at pleasure by a majority vote of the lodge.

The committee say:

“While we affirm that the order or organization known as the Eastern Star is *not* a masonic organization, and should not be recognized as such by this Grand Body, yet being composed of Master Masons, their wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters, and as your committee believes the organization has already done and is capable of doing a vast amount of good by awakening a keener interest among the membership of our subordinate lodges, and believing that each lodge should be allowed the greatest amount and degree of latitude not inconsistent with the principles, groundwork and ancient landmarks of our Order.”

The Grand Lodge took action: but as we have not the Proceedings of 1896 before us, we cannot tell what it was. We think that the rule followed in our Grand Lodge, in giving the provision as amended, is the better one.

From the statement of the Grand Master, it would seem that the matter of objection after ballot has become decidedly complicated. The Grand Master takes up a page in small type in condensing the substance of several decisions into a statement of the law. It seems to us a roundabout method of abolishing the right of objection. The objection must be entered on the records of the lodge, *with the name of the objecting brother*. When this is done, it remains in force three years, if the objector lives and remains a member of the lodge. He says:

"When objections are presented or filed, a friend, or friends, of the candidate endeavor at once to force the objector to state his reasons. Failing in this, and sometimes in place of this, friends of the candidate visit the objector at his office, or waylay him on the street corner, and then report to the lodge their interpretation of what he said were the reasons for his objections, and the lodge proceeds promptly to vote them insufficient."

If the Grand Lodge will give to the objection of a member made privately to the Master, the same force as a rejection by ballot, all the trouble and complications will disappear.

Under the head of Conflict of Jurisdiction, he states that four cases are pending. Will Bro. HEDGES, of Montana, make a note for his next report?

A West Virginia lodge complained that one of its rejected candidates had been initiated in an Ohio lodge. The Grand Master found that when the candidate applied to the W. V. lodge he was a resident of Ohio and not of West Virginia, and, therefore, that the action was void.

But in two cases in Pennsylvania, and in one case of an Ohio lodge against a Kentucky lodge, the effect of a rejection is raised. Bro. SMITH well says:

"These cases bring clearly before our minds the difficult question which we must settle for ourselves. Before the amendment of Section 18, of our Code, we recognized and maintained perpetual jurisdiction, and therefore recognized the perpetual jurisdiction of others without question. We have reduced our own claim to jurisdiction, and the jurisdiction required within our own state to three years; but have we, by that act, in any way affected the jurisdiction of other Grand Lodges? I think not. It seems to me that, in the interests of harmony, the protection of fraternal fellowship, and especially under that comity which should exist between masonic Grand Lodges throughout the world, we should respect the jurisdiction of lodges within other Grand Jurisdictions in accordance with their laws. And, on the other hand, we ought as rigidly to maintain and stringently enforce our claims to jurisdiction in accordance with our laws.

"If a man within three years from the time he is rejected by an Ohio lodge, petitions a lodge in another jurisdiction, and is elected, and receives the degrees, he should be proclaimed a clandestine mason, and treated accordingly."

But we greatly regret, and are surprised to find that the Committee on Jurisprudence reported adversely, and their report was adopted.

Their argument upon the question of perpetual jurisdiction (except so far as it attacks the unanimous secret ballot by making the occasional abuse of it, a reason for preventing its operation, as far as possible) is sound, and we commend it to our brethren in New Hampshire.

When the committee came to the question of the effect of the rejection, they made the mistake of practically assuming that when a candidate applies for admission, it is for admission merely into an *Ohio* lodge, or to the obedience of the Grand Lodge of *Ohio*, and not into the world-wide *Fraternity* of Free and Accepted Masons. In such a fraternity there must be, from the very nature of the case, and in Masonry it is universally recognized that there are, laws of the fraternity, to which "Grand Lodge Sov-

ereignty" is subject. "Grand Lodge Sovereignty" is a pet phrase with many masons, whereas, in the full sense of that term, no such thing exists. The Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Ohio expressly limits the "Sovereignty" which it claims. The laws of no State, Nation or Grand Lodge have any direct extra-territorial force, and yet the effect of *acts done under those laws* is binding the world over, upon the principle, that the sovereignty of any State, Nation or Fraternity is subject to superior laws binding upon them all. The assumption of the committee, that giving every where, to an act in one jurisdiction, the effect given to it by the laws of that jurisdiction, is giving to those laws "extra-territorial effect," is utterly erroneous and really absurd.

If a mason is suspended in Maine for five years and goes to Ohio, his suspension *should* there be recognized precisely as it is in Maine; and when that precise question shall be presented to the committee they will so hold, and moreover will deem any doubt, that they would so, an insult to their intelligence and knowledge of masonic law. And yet, under this report and its adoption by the Grand Lodge, any lodge in Ohio may make masons of residents of that state *who have been expelled or suspended in any other jurisdiction*, so far as the law of Ohio is concerned. And worse than that, the argument of the committee against recognizing the effect of a rejection made elsewhere necessarily leads to that result. This doctrine has already borne fruit. In North Carolina, a mason, expelled in another jurisdiction, applied for membership in a lodge, which inquired of the Grand Master if his offence (the violation of the chastity of a Master Mason's daughter) followed him into that jurisdiction: the Grand Master replied in effect, that such a heinous offence did follow him there and "ought to follow him to the ends of the earth." The question of the right of the lodge to receive his petition was not asked or answered, so far as the record shows; but the sole question put and decided referred to his *fitness* to be made a mason.

We note also that the doctrine of "the comity of Grand Lodges" is mentioned in this connection, but erroneously. The doctrine of "comity" applies only to cases in which a state or Grand Lodge *has the right* to act either way according to its discretion, and not by force of a superior law. For instance, one state does not give "faith and credit" to the judicial records of another state on the doctrine of "comity," but because it is obliged to do so by the superior law—the constitution of the United States. But the assignment laws of the states afford an illustration of the operation of the doctrine of comity: under those laws, the title to all the property of the debtor, wherever situate, purports to pass to the assignee, but other states will give effect to the assignment as to property situate in their jurisdictions, or not, as they see fit, but usually, by comity, will give it effect, unless the interests of their own citizens will thereby be injuriously affected. But we

have never heard it claimed, and we do not think any one else ever did, that if property in the state at the time of the assignment, and becoming by virtue thereof and of the law, the property of the assignee, should be carried into another state, it ceased to be the property of the assignee, or remained his only by the comity of the latter state in giving extra territorial effect to the laws of the former! But it is universally admitted, that the *status* given to the title to such property under the law of the state, where the assignment was made and the property was situate, follows it everywhere.

Other illustrations might be given; but we have given enough to show that the proposition, that recognizing the effect of an act done in another state under its laws is giving those laws an "extra-territorial force," is utterly erroneous.

The Grand Master says that some driblets of the Cerneau litigation still remain. The three cases from Cleveland had been decided against the Cerneauites, but they had appealed to the Supreme Court.

In this connection, he says:

"Confidence operators are still fleecing the unwary. Under authority of a self-created Grand Lodge, so-called lodges are formed, and an expelled mason is eking out a precarious existence by pretending to confer the masonic degrees. His victims are usually those whose characters or habits prevent them from ever becoming masons; and if they think the show is worth the price of admission, we have no cause to complain; but it is our duty to give warning to those who are sought as victims that what they are buying bears no relation whatever to Masonry."

We find also the following:

"M. W. Bro. W. M. Cunningham called attention to the fact that statements had been published in the Columbus daily papers that there was a probability of a consolidation being effected between this Grand Lodge and the bogus so-called Grand Lodge of Ohio, presided over by one Justin Pinney, calling himself Grand Master; denounced all such statements as false, and made appropriate remarks by way of caution and admonition against allowing the members of said bogus Grand Lodge, and members holding allegiance to it, being given any recognition by the legitimate masons of Ohio."

The Report on Correspondence (336 pp.) was presented by Bro. WILLIAM M. CUNNINGHAM. It is a splendid account of the sayings and doings of importance in other jurisdictions, with carefully written comments based upon his familiarity with the ritual, symbolism and history of Masonry. It gives us a severe wrench to pass over the most of the many passages which we have marked for notice.

Referring to the Kelso Lodge records, he says:

"In the records mentioned, it is stated that Lodge Kelso, on June 17, 1754, laid the foundation-stone of the bridge over the Tweed at Kelso, with a full report of the Proceedings upon that occasion, in which it is stated that, after the usual corner-stone ceremonies, 'the brethren performed the honours of Masonry by giving three loud claps and huzzas. An 'anthem was played,' an address delivered, and when the ceremonies were through,

the whole procession 'returned in the same order, and in due form, with the right corner of their aprons tuck'd up.' ”

The following is of practical importance:

“In all Grand Jurisdictions where there are no clandestine or pretended lodges of so-called masons, the request to see a charter is probably not considered in the fraternal spirit that is due to its consideration. When the custom originated there were such bogus bodies, and there are such now in several Grand Jurisdictions. In Ohio it is claimed that there are twenty-seven spurious so-called masonic lodges, organized and fostered by disgruntled and expelled masons, and from which Ohio Cerneauism is said to receive its only support. The members of such bodies use every possible effort to deceive the careless or unwary mason, and it is their well-known boast or claim that they have succeeded in their deceptions concerning visitation.”

We would like to reproduce his reply to the statement of Bro. ROBBINS, of Illinois, that the “High Ritters” are responsible for printed ciphers. Bro. C. shows that the statement is “entirely without proof and doubtless without foundation.” We commend his discussion to all interested in this matter.

Replying to us in relation to this same subject, he says:

“In the same connection, under the head of Ohio, he asks for the views of the writer as to the *probable* construction placed upon the qualifying words, following the prohibitory clause, by Webb himself and his compeers. In reply, although as often hitherto stated, whilst opposed to the use of Cipher rituals, the writer concedes that Webb, and others since his time, doubtless believed and held that the cipher ‘came under the limitation of the prohibition;’ and, in justice to them, it is also proper to state that, within the recollection of the writer, over forty-five years ago such a construction was then placed upon it by at least some of the *old* instructors of that period.”

In his review of Maryland he devotes nearly five pages to the discussion of funeral Grand Honors and we commend it earnestly to our ritualists. Incidentally he refers to the battery, saying that it was in use in the Grand Lodge of Scotland at a very early date.

In his “conclusion” he feels obliged to notice a pamphlet issued by the bogus Grand Lodge; and in this connection he says:

“*First.* The statement that any single individual belonging to any one of their bogus lodges has ever been *healed* is untrue, as the Grand Lodge of Ohio holds that a clandestine mason *can not* be healed, as there is *nothing to heal*; but it does hold that an *irregularly* made mason may, under proper authority, be healed.”

It is true that many have renounced this bogus concern and been made masons in the regular way and upon payment of the usual fee.

It is claimed in this pamphlet that some of these bogus masons have visited regular lodges, and while the statement is probably false, our lodges should be on their guard when visitors from Ohio seek admission to our lodges. The pamphlet gives the names of the following, as lodges of the obedience

of the bogus Grand Lodge, and while several of them have an existence only on paper, it is safest to bear them in mind:

“Mt. Tabor, Chillicothe; Bismarek, Brighton, Eureka, Linton and Washington, of Cincinnati; Alpha, Progress, Victor and Lincoln, of Cleveland; Columbia, Franklin, Lincoln Goodale, and Olentangy, of Columbus; Gem City, Dayton; Vinton, Galloway; Myrtle, Mt. Vernon; Salem, New Salem; Ahiman, Newark; Surprise, Olmsted Falls; Scioto Valley, Portsmouth; Dumah, Springfield; Globe, Lessing, and Lincoln, of Toledo; West Mansfield, of West Mansfield; and New England, of Worthington.”

Bro. CUNNINGHAM thinks that Bro. ROBBINS of Illinois, and Bro. UPTON of Washington, will not feel very greatly honored or pleased at the manner in which their names are used in this pamphlet!

OKLAHOMA, 1897.

A portrait of the retiring Grand Master, HENRY RUCKER, is given.

They had had three special communications of the Grand Lodge to lay corner stones.

At the annual communication the Grand Master delivered a full and very able address. It shows that five lodges, chartered last year, had been constituted and he had issued dispensations for four other lodges, and had performed a large number of official acts.

But the great question taken up in his address, and really the one of most interest in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge, related to two lodges chartered by the Grand Lodge of Texas situated in Greer County. The Supreme Court of the United States had decided that Greer County was not within the bounds of the State of Texas, and an Act of Congress, subsequently passed, annexed it to the Territory of Oklahoma. The question arose, of course, what should become of those two lodges. While the parties in interest do not seem to have been aware of it, it is precisely the same question that formerly arose between Virginia and West Virginia, and it was treated in the same masonic spirit, in which the Grand Lodges of those two states treated their question.

There was considerable correspondence between the two Grand Masters, all in the spirit of fraternity and marked with a desire and intention to take such course as the law of Masonry required and as should be for the harmony of the craft.

A committee met and discussed the matter, and the result was that both lodges gave in their adhesion to the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma with the full consent and approval of the Grand Lodge of Texas. In the meantime, they were suffered to continue to work under the charters which they then held. There is one suggestion which will probably occur to some of the parties and will probably be carried out. The lodges surrendered their charters to

the Grand Lodge of Texas, and took new ones from the other Grand Lodge. The suggestion is, that in order to preserve the legal history of those lodges in their own archives, it would be a fitting thing that the Grand Lodge of Texas should properly endorse those charters and return them to the lodges to be kept for the purpose which we have stated.

He decided that a lodge under their by-laws has no power to remit the dues of a member simply because he is a minister, but if he was unable to pay his dues the lodge ought to remit them.

He states that one section of the Constitution ought to be expunged, because it is directly in conflict with the ancient regulations and a long established custom of the institution requiring secrecy and unanimity of ballot. We gather from what he says, that if a candidate is rejected by only one ballot, charges must be filed, and if they are not, another ballot may be had; and if there is no more than one black ball the candidate shall be declared elected. He believes that this is beyond the power of any Grand Lodge. A few years ago no one would have disputed him, but we shall not be surprised to find that his decision is adversely criticised.

He urgently urged that funds should be provided to pay the expense of visitation of the lodges by the Grand Master, and that the lodges ought not to be required to pay the expense, as many of them are too poor, and the Grand Master ought not to be expected to pay them, even if he should wait and be re-imbursed by the Grand Lodge. His point was that a fund should be appropriated in advance that might be used for that purpose.

He speaks at some length also in relation to non-affiliates, but suggests no practical remedy except the more extensive cultivation of the principles of Masonry: so that the brother should desire to join the lodge, and the members should allow him to do so, without allowing personal feeling to prevent it.

Upon the suggestion of the Grand Secretary, that the forms of the charters were not exactly what they should be under the circumstances, it was voted that the Illinois form should be adopted for future issues, and that new charters of the same form should be issued to all subordinate lodges. But the lodges chartered by the Grand Lodge of the Indian Territory were allowed to retain their charters; of course, we assume, after being properly endorsed. In our judgment, the most appropriate method would have been for those same charters to have been properly endorsed and delivered to the lodges as their warrants; in order that a continuous legal existence of those lodges, from their first organization, should be shown.

We desire again to express our high appreciation of the fraternal manner in which both Grand Lodges proceeded in arranging the jurisdiction over the two Texas Grand Lodges.

No Report on Correspondence.

OREGON, 1897.

We have portraits of the retiring Grand Master, PHILIP METSCHAM, and P. G. Masters JULIUS C. MORELAND, PHILIP S. MALCOLM and MORTON D. CLIFFORD.

Grand Master METSCHAM delivered an able address, in which he calls to mind the previous history of the Grand Lodge, and offers some pertinent observations in relation to the character of true Masonry.

He announces the death of P. G. Master JOSEPH NORTON DOLPH, who, since 1862, has been a conspicuous figure in the affairs of Oregon; an able lawyer, United States Senator for twelve years, an active and zealous mason, and a most useful citizen. We would like to quote the tribute to his memory, but the length of our report absolutely forbids it.

He rendered a large number of decisions, based, however, almost wholly upon local law, or being a repetition of decisions of general masonic law made elsewhere.

He had instituted new lodges, visited old ones, dedicated halls, and performed numerous masonic acts in the usual routine of business.

A controversy having arisen in a lodge, as to whether the Past Master of another lodge was entitled to be entered as a Past Master, on the records of a lodge which he should subsequently join, the Grand Master thought he should be, and recommended the adoption of a resolution confirming that view.

The Grand Librarian reports the arranging and cataloging of the Library and quite large additions to it. It is the joint Library of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, and he asks for an appropriation of one hundred dollars to assist in binding volumes on hand, and the purchase of new volumes for the ensuing year.

A resolution was adopted directing the Grand Secretary to notify the Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery and Bodies of the Scottish Rite, of all suspensions and expulsions by the lodges.

A large amount of routine business was transacted, but we notice none of general interest.

Bro. CICERO H. LEWIS, Deputy Grand Master, had died during the year, and an excellent tribute was paid to his memory, as well as that of Past Grand Master DOLPH.

The Report on Correspondence (170 pp.) was presented, as heretofore, by Bro. ROBERT CLOW.

In his review of Maine, he gives a large part of the report of the committee in relation to the Wisconsin proposition, as well as the whole report in relation to jurisdiction over rejected candidates. He gives it without comment in the same connection, but in his conclusion he says:

“On the subject of jurisdiction over rejected candidates, a specific proposition has been submitted by the Grand Lodge of Maine, which limits personal jurisdiction to five years. The proposition has been received with more favor than the rules proposed by the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, and there appears to be a better understanding among the Grand Lodges on the subject, and the discussion, with an exception here and there, has been more conciliatory and there seems to be a desire to settle the question on the basis of the Maine proposition or some other that will be satisfactory to all.”

There was no action upon it by the Grand Lodge; it will be remembered that the Grand Lodge of Oregon holds to the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction and had had a very serious controversy with the Grand Lodge of Washington, which holds to the opposite doctrine.

A few years ago a very remarkable report was submitted to the latter Grand Lodge, which we noticed at the time, and out of it has grown up a discussion between the committees, of a character which shows the dangers to which the present situation may lead us.

We commend the matter especially to Bro. HEDGES, of Montana, and to show the truth of our statement, we copy the following:

“To Bro. Upton was assigned Oregon for 1895, and he dishes us up in his characteristic style. He informs the Washington brethren that the writer of the Oregon report for 1895 is not only ignorant, but a very uncivil member of the dogmatic school. He commiserates the brethren of Oregon on the lack of information in the report, and by implication regrets the re-appointment of the chairman of the committee. Well, when the brother says we are ignorant he has added nothing to our stock of knowledge. Indeed, has told nothing new, nothing whatever; nor is his assumption at all edifying to his readers. It is of no importance beyond the fact that it flatters the brother's vanity to see and read in print his own bombastic production. We have been, as opportunity offered, a close student of Masonry for nearly forty years. We may not be apt, but have never boasted of our few acquirements. In fact, we are painfully aware of our own deficiency in masonic lore—‘not all are masters of the masonic system.’ Bro. Upton is a scholarly writer; in fact, he never loses an opportunity to inform his readers that he is college-bred (we are not). He is eloquent at times; at others intolerant, bigoted, sarcastic and unscrupulous. In verification of his possession of the latter quality, we quote what he says concerning our review of Ohio.

“The most conspicuous thing in Ohio in 1894—the one subject that permeated from cover to cover the proceedings he was reviewing—was the revolt against that unmasonic dogma, and its utter repudiation by that Grand Lodge. Past Grand Master Clow professes that all this escaped his observation, save in one particular. He deliberately tells the masons of Oregon that

“The Grand Lodge of Ohio has adhered to the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction over rejected candidates.”

“Now here is what we did say concerning the matter:

“The Grand Lodge of Ohio has adhered to the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction over rejected candidates. But the Grand Master makes a very exhaustive review of the subject, and recommends a modification of the rule. We note also that the Law Committee, with the concurrence of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, approves the rules formulated and brought forward on that subject by the Committee on Codification and brought

“Just what the rules presented by the Committee on Codification are, re

do not know, for the Committee on Code Revision submitted a report which was adopted and ordered published, but it does not appear in the record of proceedings.'

"Conceding this sagebrush philosopher's claim that he is an earnest masonic student, the personal malice exhibited in the above deliberate and wanton falsification of the record, to gratify a personal grudge he seems to hold against an individual he never saw, is conclusive evidence that he has yet one important masonic lesson to learn. Further, he may ascertain before he is much older that he adds nothing to his reputation as a mason by resorting to the disreputable practices of the ward politician."

PENNSYLVANIA, 1897.

We have, as usual, a cut of the Masonic Temple, and in addition fine portraits of the Grand Master, WILLIAM J. KELLEY, and P. G. Master PETER WILLIAMSON.

A Grand Lodge of Emergency was held, at which the Grand Officers all appear to have been present and at which thirty-six lodges were represented. The Grand Master stated that he called it for the purpose of exercising his prerogative by making masons at sight, and two gentlemen were introduced and received the three degrees in Masonry in order.

It occurs to us to inquire of some of the brethren who hold that the Grand Master has no such power, what course they would take if these brethren should visit their jurisdictions and apply for admission, or what they would have done if Bro. RICHARD VAUX, who was made a mason at sight by the Grand Master, had applied to visit in their jurisdiction in his lifetime.

A special committee on the lodges in the German Empire reported that there was nothing to prevent the masonic brethren connected with those lodges from visiting in Pennsylvania or brethren in Pennsylvania from visiting those lodges.

An address of congratulation to the Grand Lodge of England upon the very remarkable event celebrated "in honor of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Most Excellent Majesty, Victoria, Queen and Empress," also an address to the King of Sweden, Oscar II, congratulating him upon the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ascension to the throne of Sweden and Norway, and also of his installation as Protector and Grand Master of the Free and Accepted Masons of Sweden, were adopted.

P. G. Master Bro. MICHAEL ARNOLD addressed the Grand Lodge giving an account of his visit to the Grand Lodge of England, which was listened to with very great interest by the brethren.

A full statement of the financial affairs of the Grand Lodge and of the various charity funds was made, and they all appear to be in most excellent condition. In addition to cash on hand, the THOMAS R. PATTON fund now amounts to \$56,000.

One very interesting case was before the Grand Lodge. A man by birth a German with a long German name, had shortened it to "BERGER," and although he was confirmed and married under the long name, still he had used all his lifetime the shorter name; charges were filed against him for joining a lodge under an assumed name. The committee discussed the matter to considerable length, and found that in all his business matters from boyhood he had used the shorter name, and in fact the only exceptions to it were the ones noted above. But the committee say that a man has a right in good faith to change his name and is not obliged to continue to use the name of his father, and if he does change it in good faith it is no reason for discipline if he joins the fraternity under his new name. It is only when the name is adopted for purposes of deception that it becomes an offence, and we have grave doubts whether, if a man has changed his name at some previous time in his life for fraudulent reasons, but in good faith continues to use that name, and by giving it in his application does not do so with the intent to deceive the lodge, it is ground of discipline, especially if we concede the doctrine of the committee that a man has a right to change his name when he pleases.

The committee report that the third volume of the reprint had been published and it was hoped that it would increase the interest in the work, as it was probably more interesting than any of the preceding ones. Whether it is more interesting or not, it is of great interest and value, and the craft everywhere are under obligation to the Grand Lodge for the publication of these volumes and we hope it will be continued.

We had supposed that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania had absolutely abolished "the representative system, but we note that the address to the Grand Lodge of England in relation to the Queen was sent through Bro. THOMAS R. PATTON, as "Representative of the Grand Lodge of England near this Grand Lodge," and the reply of the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England is directed to Bro. PATTON, styling him "Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and Representative of the Grand Lodge of England."

One decision was made, showing, as we think, a peculiarity of the law of Pennsylvania, to wit: that a lodge can discipline only its own members; and in a case where a brother had resigned, and his resignation had been accepted, and charges were filed against him before the lodge and tried by it, the Grand Lodge set aside the proceedings on the ground that the lodge had no jurisdiction. However, the offender does not escape, for the Grand Lodge appointed a committee to try him upon the charges preferred before the lodge. We shall look with some interest for the result in the future Proceedings of the Grand Lodge. We say "with interest," because the proceeding is one which we hold that the Grand Lodge has full power to

take, although this is most strenuously denied by many masons at the present day, probably on account of their erroneous views as to the nature and powers of a Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master, in his address, states that that there had been an increase in the membership during the year of about 1,469, and a decrease of the debt of \$76,550, two very good showings. The increase of membership, in and of itself, is not always a subject for congratulation, but we believe the care exercised in the subordinates of this Grand Lodge in the selection of its material, warrants us in believing that this increase is valuable in quality as well as quantity.

Among the decisions rendered by him were the following:

- (1.) The Junior Warden can lawfully be elected to the station of Senior Warden to fill a vacancy.
- (2.) A man made a mason, while abroad on a visit, cannot be recognized as a mason in this jurisdiction.
- (3.) The place to try statutory offences is in the courts of law and not in a masonic lodge.

Remembering some former decisions of this Grand Lodge, we are in grave doubt as to the meaning of this. If it means that if a mason is guilty of gross immoral conduct, which is a violation of statute law as well as of the moral law, he cannot be tried by his lodge, we utterly dissent from it. The law of Masonry requires a mason to be guilty of no violation of the moral law, and if he is, we hold that it is a masonic offence, no matter how many statutes it may also be a violation of.

- (4.) In this jurisdiction an Entered Apprentice is a member of the lodge.
- (5.) "That we claim perpetual jurisdiction over all our rejected petitioners, our practice being, when other jurisdictions accept our rejected petitioners and confer the degrees upon them, to issue an edict forbidding masonic intercourse with such."
- (6.) When a rejected candidate applies to another lodge and masonic objection is made by the lodge nearest his residence, he still remains subject to the jurisdiction of the lodge which first rejected him.
- (7.) Objections to candidates must be made in open lodge.
- (8.) After a lodge has been opened, if the Master calls it off for a specified time, its functions are suspended during that time.

He had issued quite a number of edicts and in relation to one which we have heretofore discussed, he says:

"A number of edicts that I was compelled to issue caused me much painful thought.

"On one side the law commanded that I should do so. On the other side a painful consciousness possessed me that I was compelled to edict the wrong person.

"The petitioners who suffered in a number of instances by the above-mentioned edicts were the victims of officers who were either woefully ignorant or wilfully negligent of their duties, and I am free to say that, after my last

year's experience, and also after having given the subject profound consideration, that should cause arise during the coming year for me to be compelled to remove by edict a victim of the ignorance or negligence of the officers in charge of the lodge, I shall likely apply the drastic measure of edicting two, instead of one,—the petitioner, whom I must remove, and the officer who has led him into difficulty."

We still believe that a change should be made in the law, and that the Grand Master, if he finds there is no fraud on the part of the candidate, should heal him rather than declare him not to be a mason. Of course, if he was guilty of fraud, he ought to be expelled.

The Report on Correspondence (198 pp.) was presented by Bros. MICHAEL ARNOLD, S. KINGSTON McCAY, WILLIAM H. WHITTY, BUSHROD W. JAMES and CHARLES J. McCLARY. Each one indentified his review by his initials. Bro. ARNOLD wrote but little, but he "read and reviewed" the whole of it, and it is presented as the work of the whole committee. In their "Conclusion" they say:

"We have not attempted to engage in debate with any of the Grand Lodges, Grand Masters, or their committees. We have set down naught in malice, but have rather attempted to cull the masonic news for our own brethren, to whom we now submit it just as it is."

They, however, indulge in comments which are, at least, in the nature of arguments, and their readers will wish there were more. Will they allow a suggestion born of long experience? If their printer should be required to make a distinction in the matter of printing, between what they write and what they copy, their readers will find it easier to read and understand.

Bro. McCAY asks:

"How can it be a masonic offence and not a violation of the obligation? This troublesome question often leads to inconsistency of judgment."

This touches a question which we have already noticed. So we desire to ask our brother, if any violation of the moral law is not a masonic offence, although it may not be a violation of "a particular portion" of any obligation.

In his review of Arkansas, Bro. WHITTY asks:

"It is surprising to find pictured on page 91 of this report the manner of wearing the apron in the lodge in the First, Second and Third degrees. In the same report the Grand Master devotes page upon page in condemnation of printed rituals in cipher; and they are an abomination, but how is the inconsistency to be reconciled of immediately afterwards printing pictures of a part of the masonic secret art that could not so clearly be expressed in words?"

The same question occurred to us, but as we are held not to be quite orthodox in ritualistic matters, we refrained.

Bro. McCAY says:

"We believe what we teach, that the principles of Freemasonry were inculcated and practiced in the remotest ages of the world; that the ritual,

changed by the processes of time, differences in language, and altered conditions of society, is still in effect the ritual of the ancient craftsmen, and the whisperings heard when the workmen at the completion of the temple were called together and dismissed to travel in foreign parts are the whispers heard in the lodge-room at the present."

We do not agree with him in "it would appear that he who makes can unmake," when he applies it to an appointed officer of a lodge. While the Master appoints, the *law* "makes" the officer, and the Master cannot "unmake" him, save as the law expressly gives him authority: without that he cannot "unmake" an *appointed* officer any more than he can an *elected* officer.

Bro. ARNOLD reviews Indiana. It will be remembered that an Indiana lodge made a mason of a candidate rejected by a Pennsylvania lodge without its consent. The Grand Master of Pennsylvania issued an edict forbidding Pennsylvania masons from giving to the party masonic recognition. The Grand Master of Indiana criticised this action severely, and, as many of us thought, undignifiedly and even intemperately. We have looked with much interest for the reply. Bro. ARNOLD makes it, and so dispassionately and fraternally, but at the same time firmly, that he will command the admiration and respect of all, whether they agree with him or not.

After copying the address of the Grand Master and the report of the committee, Bro. ARNOLD discusses the question at some length. We would like to copy all he says, but we have space only for extracts:

"This calls up an old question, often discussed, as to which opinions may differ and will no doubt continue to differ. By some it is called the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction, and by others it is called the effect of a rejection. Much may be said on each side without convincing the other. The Indiana doctrine is that if a lodge receives a petition and elects (or, as we say, approves) him to receive the degrees, it holds jurisdiction over him (although he has not received the degrees), and no other lodge can receive his petition without the consent of the lodge that has acquired jurisdiction."

He quotes a decision of Indiana, and adds:

"But it presents this strange spectacle,—that an applicant who is approved by a lodge is held forever by it, while one who is rejected is not so held. This is at least plain if not altogether consistent. It does not, however, according to the Indiana doctrine, apply to lodges outside of the jurisdiction.

"The doctrine of other Grand Lodges is that if an applicant is rejected by a lodge he must have the objection removed by that lodge, and is not entitled to be approved in any other lodge in the same *or any other* jurisdiction without the consent of the rejecting lodge. This is called the effect of a rejection. A lodge having declared the applicant unworthy, its judgment in that respect is final and cannot be reviewed by any other lodge. This is also plain, and we think consistent. It would be a vain repetition to quote what has often been written on this subject. There being no superior authority to make the Grand Lodges agree on this subject, each must act upon its own judgment; but, and this is the important conclusion to be deduced, each has the right to act upon its own doctrine."

He admits that sometimes a worthy candidate is rejected, and that that is an evil.

He thus sums up:

“ The difficulty which has arisen between Indiana and Pennsylvania on this subject consists in the application, or rather the conflict, of the doctrines. By the Indiana doctrine an objection fades away in a given length of time, or by crossing a state line it becomes spent and has no more force. Pennsylvania denies this, hence the conflict. The mistake which our Indiana brethren make is in supposing that an applicant, by going out of the jurisdiction which rejected him, may be made a mason, return to the jurisdiction which rejected him, and demand full masonic recognition. A little thought will show how erroneous is this supposition. If a notorious evildoer were rejected by an Indiana lodge, and should go elsewhere and be initiated, would the Grand Master of Indiana say that such a person could demand masonic recognition in Indiana as a right? We think not. And that is all we claim,—all that G. Master Henderson, of Pennsylvania, asserted. If Grand Master O'Rourke, of Indiana, and his worthy successors will look into this matter dispassionately, they will see that Grand Master Henderson was consistent in his action, and was supported by the best masonic ethics. They have the power, and may take our rejected material, but they cannot send it back to us as duly accredited masons. That is the whole matter in a nutshell? ”

The committee intimated that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania did not sustain its Grand Master in its action, and Bro. ARNOLD thus replies:

“ Concerning the report of the Committee on Correspondence of the Grand Lodge of Indiana that the act of Grand Master Henderson is his act and his alone, we respectfully inform the committee that the Grand Master of Pennsylvania is really and actually the Grand Master. He is charged with maintaining the authority and dignity of the Grand Lodge. No Committee on the Doings of the Grand Master or other committee is appointed to revise and reverse his doings, as is too frequently done in other Grand Lodges. This is an important matter to be remembered. When the Grand Master of Pennsylvania acts, he acts by authority, and his authority is indisputable.”

If it were not so serious a matter, the position of Indiana would be food for merriment.

The committee wax eloquent at the presumption of Pennsylvania in expecting that she can exert extra-jurisdictional authority and then complain that Indiana is not allowed to do the same thing! She feels fearfully abused because Pennsylvania will not allow the laws of Indiana to force the rejected material of Pennsylvania into her masonic temple!

Bro. McCAY gives eight pages to an account of our sayings and doings in Maine, and Bro. ARNOLD adds an interesting note.

Referring to our new Grand Lodge clothing, Bro. McCAY says:

“ We would be glad to see the Grand Officers in their new togs, but whether they be old or new, shabby or genteel, we are quite assured that kind and honest hearts beat beneath them.”

Quoting our Grand Master's expression of thanks to our Grand Secretary, he adds:

“How glorious it is to have an intelligent and courteous Grand Secretary, not only in the interest of the Grand Master, but also for the benefit of the uninformed brethren who go to him for information and instruction!”

He quotes from the report in relation to rejected candidates, and adds:

“The foregoing resolutions present food for thought. We trust the differences regarding this most important subject now existing among the various Grand Lodges may in the near future be definitely settled, notwithstanding the decisions in the various jurisdictions are so widely divergent. In this and in all other matters pertaining to the craft there should be oneness of thought and unity of action.”

In view of the difficulty in the present situation, so forcibly stated by Bro. ARNOLD, we trust our brethren in Pennsylvania will endeavor to find a solution of the problem, that will secure harmony and make Masonry universal, instead of an institution bounded by state lines. We are not wedded to the plan suggested; but any action that will secure the result will have our most earnest support, and we know our Grand Lodge well enough to feel authorized to pledge it to the same thing.

Referring to the cultivation of the social relations, he says:

“There can be no doubt about that opinion, most agreeable in its suggestions, yet its practice should always be circumscribed by the proprieties. The hours for refreshment and entertainment must not be unduly extended, and the only objects in view, relaxation and more intimate social intercourse among the brethren.”

Of our remarks concerning the cipher, he says:

“We have to say regarding this excuse, that the cipher was intelligible to at least one person,—*him* who wrote it,—and the crime of that act cannot be evaded.

“The vitality of Freemasonry is its mystery, which can only be conserved by its secrecy. Rive but a single link in the chain, and what is there to hold us together?”

We were presenting no “excuse”; we were discussing the *law*. That the cipher is intelligible to the one who makes it is true; but what of that? Are the secrets of Freemasonry thereby “unlawfully obtained”? We agree with the last sentence fully, but in the matter under discussion there is no “riving” at all. This is also our reply to Bro. ARNOLD, who says:

“Concerning the cipher, it seems strange that one who has been obligated as a mason can write anything of Freemasonry which is intelligible to himself or any other person. But rituals are used in England, simply because they cannot prevent the use of them, as the writer of this was told. Rituals can be purchased directly opposite the Hall of the Grand Lodge from the publishers of the London *Freemason*. This is written simply to convey the fact, without expressing any opinion on it.”

Bro. ARNOLD having recently visited England, the following from his note appended to the review of Maine is of special interest:

“I am tempted to add to the foregoing about refreshments, that under the original ‘Plan of Freemasonry’ lodges were associations of congenial

brethren for social and convivial purposes. These were the words used by Right Worshipful Grand Master George M. Dallas (afterwards Vice-President of the United States) when he was arrested and taken to Harrisburg before an Inquisitorial Committee of the Legislature, which attempted to extort from him the secrets of Freemasonry. The minutes of the old lodges in this jurisdiction show that the brethren 'contributed' a six-pence each to pay for the cakes and ale, pipes, and other refreshments which were served in the lodge-room. Hence the calling off from labor to refreshment *in the lodge-room* and back again to labor. The meeting was held in a tavern, and sometimes the landlord was Master of the lodge for more years than any other member. This was to make sure that the refreshments would be provided. At the present time in some jurisdictions the landlord will not be admitted to membership, or if a member he will be expelled for being a landlord! At the present time more lodges meet in taverns in England than in halls or lodge-rooms owned by the lodges. Any one who has been there must have noticed this. The Grand Lodge of England owns the Freemasons' Tavern, which adjoins the Grand Lodge Hall. Work was not spun out to such an inordinate length that the brethren could not get to refreshment and home at a reasonable hour. English lodges do not have nor do they want many members. Fifty is about the average."

We have sometimes wondered whether the importance given to the social feature, by the English lodges does not interfere with the more important masonic duties, so far as the lodges are concerned.

In his review of Maryland, Bro. WHITTY discusses the views of Bro. SCHULTZ as expressed in his last report. As Bro. SCHULTZ is disabled from writing and even reading, by a sore affliction, and as we understand his views, and concur generally in them, we will answer for him.

Bro. WHITTY says:

"As might have been foreseen, the discussion as to what legitimate forms and ceremonies belonging to the initiate and secret world may attend the public assemblages of Freemasons on such occasions as corner-stone layings, funerals, etc., has resulted in a contention in the Grand Lodge of Maryland.

"This is one of the things that could just as well have been avoided. About the best possible way in masonic matters to insure 'uniformity,' which some of the unthinking are now making a new tocsin-call, is to let things alone. Almost every hue and cry raised for alleged 'uniformity' seems to have the effect of getting away from the sacred landmarks, and, by sowing the seeds of dissension and discord, tends more than anything else to create confusion in the craft."

That is just it, only our brother makes an erroneous application of it. To touch the precise point it is necessary to remind our brother that outside of Pennsylvania there has been from time immemorial one system of ceremonies for these occasions; and that *in* Pennsylvania there is now an entirely different system; how long it has prevailed there, we are not certain, but for the purpose of this discussion it may be assumed that it has prevailed since Dermott's day. The old system had prevailed in Maryland; but some zealous brethren were not content to follow our brother's advice to "let things alone," but undertook to introduce the Pennsylvania system: hence the "contention," as he calls it, though we have always understood it was

only a fraternal discussion. We met the masons of Maryland last October (on an occasion in which another Pennsylvania system prevents her masons from participating), and we found there no contention, unless it was concerning who could best work and best agree.

To prevent misapprehension, we desire to say here that no one regrets more than we do, the existence of different masonic systems of any kind, but as they do exist, we hold that, as is said in the report which we are reviewing, we will "agree to disagree," and that all shall be content in sustaining their own system and allow others to do the same without interference.

Our brother claims that the Pennsylvania system is a landmark: in a certain sense of that word, it may be so in Pennsylvania; in the same sense, the other system is a landmark everywhere else: the system, which our brother criticises, prevails everywhere else now, unless within a few years, the Pennsylvania system may have been partly introduced in some jurisdictions, though we know of none. When we say that it is a landmark in a "certain sense of the term," we mean that it is an immemorial usage of the craft.

In relation to another matter, he says:

"On this point it is hardly necessary to again quote the proof that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, from which the Grand Lodge of Maryland drew its masonic life, is the oldest Grand Lodge, by legitimate succession, in the United States. Some persons will not be convinced, and it is useless to attempt to convince them."

We do not propose to renew the discussion, but lest our silence should seem to give assent, we will add that so far as our information goes no one outside of Pennsylvania has as yet been "convinced," and if any one has been we should like to know who he is.

He refers Bro. SCHULTZ to the laying of a corner stone during the year, after the manner now used in Pennsylvania. Yes, it was so done, and, as we understand it, *for the first time in the history of the craft in Maryland.*

Bro. SCHULTZ refers to the Ahiman Rezons of Pennsylvania in support of his position; Bro. WHITTY undertakes to explain: but to us the "explanation does not explain."

As these provisions of the Ahiman Rezons are the chief reason why we are not satisfied that the present Pennsylvania system is the one formerly in use, we will state the matter briefly.

1. *Funerals.* Down to the edition published in 1878, the directions for a funeral accorded precisely with those in other Text Books and with the practice in Massachusetts, Maine, and all other jurisdictions in which we have attended such services. The Master summons his lodge: the brethren clothe themselves with the usual clothing of Master Masons: the officers and past officers wear their badges: they are met "in their lodge room," if it be possible; "open in due form"; form procession (composed of only Master

Masons); on arriving at the grave yard, they form around the grave; the services are performed; they return to the hall and "the lodge is closed with a blessing."

But in the Ahiman Rezon of 1878, the brethren appear in "masonic dress" (but not in "the usual clothing of Master Masons"), open a lodge, "confining the following service to the lodge room exclusively"; that performed, the Master then closes the lodge. They then form a procession; the Master in front, the Tyler in the rear, (reversing the order given in previous editions) and march to the grave; perform the ceremonies, "retire and be dismissed." In the later editions, the direction is "drop the evergreen in silence and retire."

2. *Laying Corner Stones.* "This ceremony must only be performed by the Grand Lodge in general communication": it "is opened, in the first degree, by the Grand Master": the procession is formed; marches to the place; the ceremonies are performed; "the procession returns to the place whence it set out and the Grand Lodge is closed with the usual formalities." This will be recognized by all as precisely what is done in the other Grand Jurisdictions.

But in 1878, how changed; nothing is said about opening the Grand Lodge; the Grand Master, Grand Officers and other members of the Grand Lodge form a procession; march to the place; the Grand Officers perform the ceremonies "and the Grand Lodge then returns to its place of meeting."

Nothing is said as to clothing nor any explanation made how the Grand Master and other members of the Grand Lodge get to be a Grand Lodge without opening. We have always been taught that the members of a lodge are not a lodge until it is opened; and so of the Grand Lodge.

3. *Dedication of Halls.* The Grand Lodge opens at another place, forms a procession (with the Grand Marshal on horseback), marches to the hall, dedicates it, returns to the place whence it set out, and "the Grand Lodge is closed in ample form." In these forms, it is said, "In all masonic processions, the brethren open to the right and left, as far as the Grand Tyler, and the Grand Officers and the *regalia* pass through; the brethren being uncovered." At the hall, the Grand Officers are proclaimed; a grand piece of music is performed; the bible is opened on the pedestal and the square and compasses laid thereon; an anthem is sung; the architect addresses the Grand Master; who replies to him; an ode in honor of Freemasonry is sung, "accompanied by the band"; the ceremonies of dedication then proceed; after the Grand Master makes the formal dedication to Freemasonry the Grand Chaplain strews wheat upon the lodge; "and the Grand Honors are given; and these are repeated after the wine is poured on and the oil sprinkled on. The ceremonies are closed by covering the lodge, when the Grand Honors are given, and the Grand Master retires to his chair. Music and

an address follow, when the procession is reformed, and after marching three times around the hall *with the lodge*, it “returns to the place whence it set out, where the laws of the Order are rehearsed and the Grand Lodge is closed in ample form.”

We need not give the present ceremonies in detail; it is sufficient to say that the Grand Lodge is not opened until after the Grand Officers reach the hall, have been proclaimed and the procession made; and that it is closed before the procession is formed and march around the lodge room. These ceremonies are manifestly private, just as, according to the directions in the old Ahiman Rezon, they were public. It will be noticed that those were almost an exact transcript of the ceremonies given by WEBB for the public dedication of halls.

4. *Constituting a Lodge.* Unlike the other cases, the brethren meet in the hall with open doors, while the Grand Officers meet in an adjoining room, come into the hall and open the Grand Lodge, perform the ceremonies and close in the hall. The old Ahiman Rezon, give no ceremonies for installation separate from those of constituting a lodge; so we are unable to tell what the proceedings would be if the Grand Lodge should install the officers of a lodge already constituted. As a lodge does not exist until it has been constituted, the ceremonies of constitution could not well be performed in any other manner. The present Ahiman Rezon has substantially the same.

In the present Ahiman Rezon is the following, quoted by Bro. SCHULTZ; italics ours:

“A lodge cannot participate in any public ceremony, *unless it so participates as a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.* If it appears *as a lodge*, all the members shall appear in masonic dress, the officers wearing their appropriate jewels and aprons, the other members white lambskin aprons. A lodge cannot appear in public without the permission of the Grand Master first had and obtained, on a statement made by the Master, of the purpose of the ceremony in public.”

Bro. SCHULTZ naturally assumes that *this means what it says*, and if so it is conclusive in support of his position. Bro. WHITTY thus replies:

“The very paragraph quoted from the Ahiman Rezon indicates that a lodge cannot do any masonic work in public. It cannot *appear* in public even, without the permission of the Grand Master.”

It cannot “appear” without his consent; this is conclusive that it may appear *with* his consent and that he can properly give his consent in some cases. Then, with that consent, it can “participate in a public ceremony” “*as a lodge.*” This is precisely what Bro. SCHULTZ claims and is absolutely conclusive in favor of his position.

But this is not all: it has not been, till comparatively recently, that this consent has been required. It was at first applied to the immediate vicinity of Philadelphia: other lodges were not thus restricted.

The next section provides that "when a lodge is called out to attend the funeral of a brother it must have precedence of all other associations and societies."

Returning to the section quoted; we have not yet had time to trace its history. A similar section is in the Ahiman Rezon of 1877: in that of 1894, the phraseology is changed; and changed again in 1895: the changes relate chiefly to the clothing; they suggest that there was doubt as to the wearing of masonic clothing by the brethren: in 1877, the members were required to wear aprons: in 1894, that was dropped out: in 1895, it was restored.

We have stated these matters at length, because it has seemed to us incredible, that the *practice* should not have conformed to the Ahiman Rezon before they were changed. Bro. WHITTY says:

"As for the ceremonies for laying the corner stone of a public building, they are carefully set forth in our Ahiman Rezon, pages 121 to 127, and, of course, there is nothing in it about opening or closing the Grand Lodge in the third or any other degree."

That is true of the present Ahiman Rezon and justifies that practice now: but the old Ahiman Rezon did require the Grand Lodge to be opened and closed and the only inference is that in practice it did so, and performed the ceremonies *as a Grand Lodge*.

The evolution of the Ahiman Rezon of Pennsylvania is an exceedingly interesting study. As shown above, the provisions of the older ones in relation to public ceremonies are in precise accord with those, then and now used in other jurisdictions, and not in accord with those now used in Pennsylvania. And in these respects the Ahiman Rezon has been changed to conform to the present practice. To this, there is one exception: it would seem that in making these changes, the section above quoted had been overlooked, as any one can see that it is in direct conflict with the theory which required the changes.

As we have already intimated, these provisions of the Ahiman Rezon have prevented us from accepting the statements of our Pennsylvania brethren, that the present practice of their Grand Lodge is the one that has always prevailed in that jurisdiction. Our doubts have been strengthened by their failure to account for these changes or to attempt it; or to explain why the practice should, in the earlier times, have been in conflict with the provisions of their Ahiman Rezon.

We want to get at the truth. That a lodge must be tyled when engaged in its secret work or its private business, all agree: but that it should not be tyled when engaged in public ceremonies, the law and practice of all the American Grand Lodges, from the time when there became an independent Grand Lodge, all agree, except Pennsylvania, and as to her, the question, in our mind, is still in doubt.

Bro. SCHULTZ having spoken of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts as "the oldest Grand Lodge on the American Continent," Bro. WHITTY says:

"Bro. Schultz is usually well informed, but he don't know which is the oldest Grand Lodge on the American Continent. We will tell him. It is the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania."

Although this is the second time that Bro. WHITTY gives this "information" to Bro. SCHULTZ, we very gravely suspect that that brother will hold that he now has no more *information* than he already had.

Bro. WHITTY says further:

"It is with some surprise we find Bro. Schultz shifting his conservative anchors when, in commenting on the resolution of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey prohibiting public installations of officers of lodges, he says—

"We fail to see wherein the installation of officers in public is contrary to the spirit and teachings of the fraternity."

"It is, nevertheless, Bro. Schultz; and if this violation of masonic secrecy is to be continued, it will be only a question of time when exemplifications of the ritual in public, at so much admission, will be the next innovation proposed."

With all seriousness and fraternal feelings, we would say to him that this illustrates the danger of writing about something of which the writer knows nothing. If he knew what public installations are, and always have been, he would not have spoken of the "violation of masonic secrecy" in connection therewith. We have before us the Ahiman Rezon of his Grand Lodge, published in 1825, and that contains *all the ceremonies* of a public installation *printed in full*, with scarcely any changes of phraseology. If there is any "violation of masonic secrecy" in public installations, our brother must lay the blame of it upon his own Grand Lodge for printing it, as well as upon us for reading what it printed.

We really believe that if our Pennsylvania brethren could witness a public installation, they would wholly change their views, and we *know* that they would be obliged to say that there is "no violation of masonic secrecy" in them.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, 1897.

Two special communications were held, one to attend the funeral of P. G. Secretary, BENJAMIN WILSON HIGGS, and the other to attend another funeral, undoubtedly that of P. G. Master JOHN WILLIAM MORRISON, although his name is not mentioned in the record of the special communication.

The Grand Master (JOHN L. THOMPSON) pays a tribute to the memory of Bros. MORRISON and HIGGS. The latter had been Grand Secretary for sixteen years, and the former had been a mason nearly fifty-five years.

He notices the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and at his suggestion the brethren rose and sang the national anthem.

He had visited the most of the lodges and found everything working in a satisfactory manner.

The Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund had not increased in accordance with his hopes, but he announced a donation of fifty dollars from Bro. BENJAMIN ROGERS.

The Grand Secretary's report is generally confined to routine matters, save that he had arranged the library and had nearly seven hundred volumes, representing over sixty Grand Lodges, some of them complete; and in addition nearly three hundred volumes in duplicate. He also acknowledges the receipt of various masonic periodicals, including the Masonic Token and Masonic Journal.

P. G. Master JOHN W. RUHLAND, of Nova Scotia, visited the Grand Lodge, was cordially welcomed and replied in a felicitous speech.

A committee was appointed to prepare and present a suitable address to the Queen.

The committee to confer with a joint committee from the other Grand Lodges, in relation to establishing a Home for the Maritime Provinces, made a report, and such action was taken as to give progress to the plan as well as to form a plan for a closer union of the lodges in that Province, and a letter was read from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, favoring a consolidation of the two Grand Lodges.

The other business transacted was of the usual routine character.

RHODE ISLAND, 1897.

A special communication was held October 15, 1896, to lay the corner stone of the new State House. The full ceremonies on the occasion are given, which were performed by the Grand Lodge. The address and oration upon the occasion are of very great historical value and interest, and worthy of a place in the history of Rhode Island, but of course it is impossible to give even an abstract of them in this report.

Another special communication was held April 15, 1897, to lay the corner stone of the new Masonic Temple that takes the place of the one recently destroyed by fire. As upon the other occasion, the addresses are of a very high order, both as to merit and interest, and this volume of the Proceedings may well be preserved for its historical contents alone.

The Grand Secretary reported that the preparations had been made for the publication of a pocket Monitor, and thereupon the following was adopted:

Ordered, That the R. W. Grand Secretary be and he is hereby directed to cause a pocket edition of the Trestleboard to be printed, containing the monitorial work of the three degrees and the ceremonies of official visita-

tion, and that he be permitted to insert in the text of the original edition such exoteric work as shall be proper to print, and such as shall be approved by the M. W. Grand Master."

The Grand Master (WILLIAM H. CRAWLEY) announces the deaths of P. D. G. Master GEORGE MOULTON CARPENTER, as well as that of Bro. JEROME B. BORDEN, who had been prominent in Masonry in New Jersey as well as in Rhode Island, but died in Somerset, Mass.

The Grand Master had the usual amount of routine business but none of general interest. He advises that the Constitution be revised, the entire edition on hand having been destroyed when the Temple was burned. He says further:

"The Grand Lodges of Maine and Massachusetts have, I am informed, changed their Constitution in relation of jurisdiction on rejected applicants, making a uniform limit of five (5) years. I believe it should be uniform throughout the New England jurisdictions. I ask your consideration of this subject. Our lodges now hold jurisdiction upon rejected applicants seven (7) years."

It was referred to a committee: but the committee asked for further time to consider that, among other matters.

The Grand Secretary announces that since the former communication he had published a new edition of the "Trestle-board" and that it was ready for immediate delivery.

A *per capita* tax of fifty cents was ordered for the ensuing year.

The report of the Library Committee recalls the sad fact that nearly all the library, together with the Proceedings of that Grand Lodge on hand, were destroyed, the few copies that were saved happening to be in the business office of the Grand Secretary, not in the building. He gives a large list of pamphlets and books received, making the grand total of over 3,300. He had made no requisition on other Grand Bodies, as it was desired to gather in first such as could be found in and about that state, and then he hopes to get reasonably complete files.

The committee on Grand Officers' reports suggest that it would be much to the advantage of the craft if the lodges, which intend to take a vacation in the summer, would provide for the same by changing their by-laws rather than each year be obliged to call on the Grand Master to issue dispensations for their benefit. Our Grand Lodge Constitution makes provision that lodges may, by vote, suspend their communications during the months of June, July and August.

A committee was appointed, in accordance with the recommendation of the Grand Master, to revise the Constitution and report in print at the next semi-annual communication.

Bro. GEORGE H. BURNHAM reports a good condition of the Webb monument and grounds; this reminds us that within a few weeks we have seen

in a public newspaper a more complete personal history of THOMAS SMITH WEBB than we have ever seen before.

The Committee on Reprint report that in consequence of the destruction of the old returns but little work had been done on the second volume during the past year and they request the usual appropriation, which was made. We hope, however, that the destruction of the returns will not prevent as full a reprint as otherwise could have been made.

The sword of the late Bro. GEORGE M. CARPENTER, which was originally the sword of Bro. THOMAS A. DOYLE, was presented to the Grand Lodge for the Grand Sword Bearer's use. It was presented by Bro. CARPENTER's brother and executor, with the consent of the family of Bro. DOYLE. The thanks of the Grand Lodge were tendered for the gift.

A special communication of the Grand Lodge was held for visiting the lodge in which the Grand Master was made a mason, and of which he had been Master. He presented the lodge with an elegant set of Great Lights, suitably inscribed and encased, and with the assistance of the Grand Officers they were consecrated by brief ceremonies given in the Proceedings.

No Report on Correspondence.

SOUTH CAROLINA, 1897.

Several special communications were held to lay corner stones and the ceremonies were performed by the Grand Lodge.

At the annual communication the Grand Master (JACOB T. BARRON) says of the condition of the craft:

"In my judgment, based on personal observation and the opinions of the District Deputy Grand Masters, I think the general condition of the craft is fairly good. I am gratified to say that in many lodges there exists an intelligent appreciation of Masonry, and a satisfactory enthusiasm and activity in the work of the Order. In some they seem to be 'holding their own,' and to be entirely satisfied with that degree of success. Other lodges are too weak numerically, and the constant struggle for a bare existence discourages the members and deters good men from seeking masonic light. And, finally, there are some lodges which should be prosperous, and yet are no credit to themselves or to this Grand Lodge."

He hopes that some of the drawbacks will soon be removed by the beneficial effects of a uniform secret work, the new code of laws and the personal attention paid to the lodges by the District Deputy Grand Masters. Unless there exists a peculiar state of affairs, this hope ought to be realized; but he thinks there are some of the lodges in which a "change of officers and the infusion of some new blood would work astonishingly satisfactory results": in other cases he says the lodges change their officers too frequently. He urges them to avoid extremes.

The District Deputy Grand Masters had very faithfully performed their

work, in fact in a manner heretofore unknown in that state. If experience in other jurisdictions is worth anything, we predict still further good results in South Carolina.

He had visited eleven lodges and performed a large number of official acts, and had rendered some decisions.

We fear that he has laid himself open to the sharp criticisms of masons of the "progressive" stamp by "making a mason at sight," or rather conferring the Master's degree at sight upon a fellow craft. He visited the lodge for the purpose of exemplifying the work, and while the weather was inclement there was a large assembly of masons coming from the whole region round about. A candidate was in readiness and was expected to be in attendance, but illness kept him at home. Finally, he concluded to exercise his prerogative, and took the fellow craft of another lodge, who had not been elected to receive the Master Mason's degree, and conferred that degree upon him "at sight." Very many of us will hold that he acted very wisely, and certainly within his powers.

The Board of Masonic Relief had done splendid service during the year.

He had been obliged to refuse approval of the initiation of candidates, whom he believed to be eligible, were it not for the strict provision of their Constitution, and in this connection he says:

"I recommend that Article III of the Constitution be so amended as not to require physical perfection in all cases, but to permit the Grand Master to grant his dispensation to receive such candidates as in his judgment can literally comply with all the requirements of the ritual.

"There seems to have been an erroneous impression prevailing in this state, that physical perfection is one of the landmarks of the fraternity. Such is not the case. This 'perfect youth fad' is not in touch with the spirit of Masonry, as generally interpreted and understood throughout the world, and I am convinced that the sooner we pay less attention to physical qualifications and attach more importance to intellectual and moral qualifications, the better it will be for the prosperity of the craft and the good of mankind. Again, an opportunity will thus be given for members of E. A.'s and F. C.'s, who have been stopped for slight defects, to receive more light in Masonry, and the opportunity given us to do simple justice to them."

His recommendation is in accord with the rule prevailing in all but a very few jurisdictions.

In passing we may be permitted to say that we met M. W. Bro. BARRON last October in Baltimore, and had the very great pleasure of making his personal acquaintance, and we predict for his Grand Lodge a successful and prosperous career under his administration.

The Grand Lodge was fortunate in having presented to it the portrait of its present Grand Master, and of P. G. Masters CLAUDE E. SAWYER, J. ADGER SMYTH, who are still living, and of P. G. Master ROBERT STEWART BRUNS, who died in 1894. We would be glad to quote the remarks made in the presentation of these portraits, especially in relation to Bro. BRUNS, to

whom we had the sad privilege of paying a tribute based in part upon personal acquaintance.

The code was reported and provisionally adopted, but with the arrangement that it should go to a committee, to be more carefully revised and acted upon next year.

A copy of Dalcho's *Abiman Rezon*, of the edition of 1807, was presented to the Grand Lodge by Bro. JOHN F. ROBINSON, of Delaware, through Bro. BERTRAM, Grand Secretary of Delaware. We congratulate the Grand Lodge upon the acquisition of this very valuable volume.

Most of the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters show that they had been efficient and zealous in the performance of their duties, and made reports from which the Grand Lodge could obtain a better idea of the condition of the lodges than it has been able to have at least for very many years.

We desire to add that if this system can be continued with Deputies well qualified, as they become more experienced, the results will be even more satisfactory.

It is the law in that jurisdiction that when a charter is granted, the three brethren named therein as Master and Wardens, are at once dimitted from their original lodges; but a change was recommended so that the Master and Wardens should be required to obtain and file dimits at once upon the issuance of the charter.

Our experience in Maine satisfies us that it would be a much better provision to require that all the charter members of the new lodge should obtain and file their dimits with the Grand Secretary before the charter issues. We used to have the same difficulty that has occurred in South Carolina, but since we have adopted this law, everything has gone on smoothly and we have had no trouble whatever from this source.

There was quite a discussion over that part of the Grand Master's address relating to the physical qualifications of candidates; but as it involved an amendment to the Constitution the discussion was cut short by a brother's raising a point of order. While the objection apparently was acquiesced in, it seems to us that the point was not well taken, because the question before the Grand Lodge was not an amendment to the Constitution, but whether the Grand Lodge would recommit the report of the committee with instructions to report such amendment to the Constitution as would bring about the desired object, in order that it might be considered and acted upon at the next annual meeting. It was proposed to amend by adopting substantially the prevailing rule. Such an amendment was offered, and under the provisions of the Constitution goes over until next year.

Some friction had arisen with another Secret Order in relation to a funeral. The demand was made that joint services should be performed, the Bearers

representing both Orders and the other arrangements to be made accordingly. The Deputy Grand Master, under whose supervision the matter occurred, ruled that this could not be done, and the Grand Lodge sustained his ruling.

We regret that owing to the expense of publishing the Code and for other reasons, the Grand Secretary concluded not to prepare a Report on Correspondence, and only a brief report was submitted by the committee. The only point of interest is, that upon its recommendation, the Grand Lodge decided that no action be taken in relation to recognizing the Gran Dieta of Mexico until the Grand Lodge has full and perfect assurance that all domestic troubles are at an end, and that the Grand Body has established itself on a sure foundation.

The committee on the Grand Master's address have the following to say:

"We heartily concur with the Grand Master in what he says of the wisdom of the Grand Lodge in increasing the number of District Deputies, and are gratified to know that this has enabled them to visit more of the subordinate lodges.

"We are sorry to see that many lodges do not seem to appreciate the fact that District Deputies are Constitutional officers, and are entitled to every respect and obedience that is accorded the Grand Master, as they are his special agents, and we would especially call the attention of the craft to Section 13 of the Addenda of the Constitution, page 56 of the new Code.

"We approve the exercise of the Grand Master's prerogative in having made a mason at sight. Being a landmark of Masonry, we hold that no body of masons can deprive him of the high power."

We trust that this advice to the lodges will be heeded because, it is necessary that the lodges should have confidence in the District Deputy Grand Masters, and understand that when they speak, they speak by authority.

SOUTH DAKOTA, 1897.

The frontispiece is a portrait of JAMES LEWIS, the retiring Grand Master; we also have a portrait of P. G. Master GEORGE H. HAND, whom we at one time expected to meet and were greatly disappointed that we did not do so, for his administration of the affairs of the Grand Lodge of Dakota from 1877 to 1880, inclusive, did very much to secure peace and harmony with other Grand Lodges, especially with the mother Grand Lodge, and to start this jurisdiction upon the career of prosperity which it has since enjoyed.

This Grand Lodge meets at different places in the jurisdiction, and this year met at Mitchell and was welcomed by the local lodge. We cannot give space to the addresses on the occasion.

Grand Master LEWIS thus speaks of the state of the craft:

"With perhaps one exception, harmony prevails in all of the lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction. Notwithstanding the stringency of the times, the low prices prevailing and the general stagnation in business, our membership will, I am gratified to report, show a substantial increase during the

year. For a tabulated statement of the condition of the particular lodges I refer you to the report of the Grand Secretary."

He had, as a matter of course, performed a very large number of official acts of local importance but not of general interest.

He had refused to grant dispensations to confer the degrees out of time, and while probably in the particular cases his decisions were for the best interests of Masonry, yet we think that he has a prejudice against the exercise of this power which might lead him to refuse in a case in which, according to the reasons for which the power is given, the dispensation ought to be granted.

A young man was rejected, and his father, who was a Past Master of the lodge, demanded an investigation. The Master asked if he had a right to order an investigation and the answer covers the whole ground:

"No, the action of the lodge is final and no investigation can be had; neither can you question the motives of a brother casting a black ball, as he is presumed to have good and sufficient reason for his action."

Of course, if a brother sees fit to declare that he cast the black ball and gives a reason that shows that he acted from malicious motives, he may be disciplined, but in the absence of any such declaration, the answer of the Grand Master seems to us perfect.

The report of the Grand Secretary shows that matters had proceeded in their usual healthy manner in that jurisdiction. He had sent out a list of wants for the library and the response was quick and highly gratifying; so that there remain but a few numbers needed in order to make the library complete in lodge, chapter and commandery.

The resolutions of our Grand Lodge in relation to rejected candidates were presented by Bro. BLATT, at the request of Bro. JUMPER, our Grand Representative, who was absent; they were referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, which, considering the importance of the matter, requested leave to report at the next annual meeting.

The Grand Representatives were received with a fraternal address, to which P. G. Master GIFFORD, in behalf of all, replied.

The Committee on Jurisprudence, referring to the refusal of the Grand Master to grant dispensations to confer degrees out of time, say:

"While this prerogative is clearly vested in the Grand Master, the occasion for its exercise must be one of great emergency and especial merit."

We do not quite agree with the last part. Nearly down to the time when the Grand Lodge of Dakota was organized, the matter of the time for conferring degrees in most jurisdictions was left to the discretion of the lodges, to be exercised according to the facts of each case. The necessity for time was in the first instance to ascertain the candidate's fitness, and in the second case for him to make suitable proficiency. Now it is just as impossible to

make a cast iron rule applicable to all cases as it would be to make a rule applicable to the height or weight of the candidates, and this matter must be largely left to the decision of the lodges. We have known the names of candidates to be presented to a lodge in which the members were as well qualified to vote instantly upon the application, and vote favorably, too, as they could by their lying over to another meeting. But it happened that in a few cases the Master of a lodge, desiring to have admitted a friend who was perhaps not likely to be admitted, by being false to his duty in various respects succeeded in introducing a member who ought not to be introduced. Thereupon this power of the lodges was limited, and finally it was taken away and vested in the Grand Master. Now the *cause* of applying for the dispensation is of very little consequence; the main question which the Grand Master ought to consider in deciding whether he will grant it or refuse it is, under the circumstances would the lodge, in the limited time, *be able to determine upon the fitness of the candidate*: or if it refers to the conferring of the other degrees, could it be determined whether the candidate has made suitable proficiency? We have known a candidate initiated at one meeting, who had made greater proficiency, in one day than the average proficiency which candidates make in the course of a month; we, therefore, regret to see that in acting upon the question of granting dispensations, Grand Masters lay the emphasis upon the reason why a dispensation is asked for, instead of upon the question whether it may *safely* be granted.

The Grand Lodge decided to celebrate in 1899 its "quadro-centennial anniversary," and appointed a committee to make the arrangements, and selected P. G. Master WILLIAM BLATT to deliver the historical address.

The Report on Correspondence (104 pp.) was presented by Bro. WILLIAM BLATT. In his introduction, he states that he feels more than ever the importance of the duty, and if he writes them continually for the next twenty years, we have no doubt this feeling will grow upon him.

He notes, and we do so also, with much gratification, that the craft are everywhere cautioned to exercise the closest scrutiny into the character of those who seek our favors. Beyond question, the past days of business depression have caused a feeling of anxiety in the craft in relation to its increase in numbers, and the tendency has been to exercise less care in the admission of initiates. In addition, also, the recent clamor against rejections, as being very largely on the ground of personal spite, has aided in this same direction.

He sums up the action in relation to the Wisconsin proposition as follows:

"The proposition of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin is a new departure in, or rather from, Masonry, to wit: It is the duty of a lodge to care for its members in distress wherever they may be, and in case of its inability to reimburse the lodge which may have expended money for the relief of a member of another lodge, with or without the latter's consent, the Grand Lodge whence the brother hails shall be liable for the amount.

"While this proposition has met with almost universal disapproval, its

consideration by Grand Lodges has had a most salutary effect. It has brought the craft back to a realization of first principles and fundamental ones. Masonic charity is an individual duty. Re-imbusement has no place in our masonic vocabulary. It is not measured by anything under the Heavens or above the earth, except solely the needs of the worthy distressed, and the ability of the mason to relieve. This verdict, so nobly rendered and emphatically expressed at every hand, will, we hope, settle for all time further attempts at innovation."

He believes that cremation is to be the burial of the future and he inquires why a ritual for such occasions should not be made.

He notes a case where a Grand Lodge, upon the appeal of the accused, reversed the action of the lodge, but took the case into its own hands and expelled the appellant. He approves it, saying, "All right, we do not care how it is done, so it's done."

Referring to the action of Colorado on the Wisconsin proposition, he says:

"We are grateful to the Grand Lodge of Colorado for this truly masonic and disinterested act. We say disinterested, knowing that few jurisdictions would receive a larger direct financial benefit from the adoption of the Wisconsin proposition than the lodges and the masons of Colorado."

He notes a decision, also with approval, that where a brother has been suspended for non-payment of dues, pays up his arrearages and petitions for re-instatement but is refused, he then becomes a non-affiliate in good standing. We have always supposed that this is the case everywhere, and yet we can see that in some jurisdictions it would not be the case; at any rate, we think it ought to be, or else the lodge ought to refuse to take the money and give as a reason for not taking it that he is unworthy of restoration. But we hold that payment of the dues should of itself restore, not only to masonic rights but to membership.

He objects to the decision, as we do, that a member of any lodge has a right to object to sitting in a lodge with another member. Until discipline is actually awarded, members of a lodge stand upon a perfect equality. Of course, however, if a member comes into the lodge drunk or crazy, or in any other similar manner disturbs the peace of the lodge, the Master may order him removed, precisely as a man may be removed from any public assembly who disturbs its proceedings.

We judge from one remark which he makes that he *copies* his extracts from other Proceedings, as he says he has "sworn off clipping." So have we; but we do not copy extracts either, we mark them and send them to the printer with our "copy," and if Bro. BLATT will try this experiment once, we think that he will keep on trying it.

He thinks that the edict of the Grand Master of Pennsylvania, requiring of Indiana masons applying to visit to answer the question whether they have been rejected in a Pennsylvania lodge, is going further than the Grand Master ought to have done. We do not feel sure of this by any means; except that

we think the inquiry should be broader. If a Grand Lodge adopts the policy of making masons of the rejected material of other jurisdictions while that rejection is in force, they make it necessary for other Grand Lodges to ascertain whether a visitor comes within that category. The very fact that offence is taken that such a question should be asked, shows that the practice involved in the question is wrong.

In his review of Maine, he says:

“The Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Augustus B. Farnham, reports harmony among the craft and cordial relations abroad. In admonishing the brethren to lead good and useful lives, he says: ‘Every noble life leaves the fibre of it interwoven forever in the work of the world.’ ‘To live well is truer good than to live long.’”

He agrees with the report of the committee in relation to the Wisconsin proposition, quoting the conclusions to which our Grand Lodge arrived, saying:

“The committee also proposed, and the Grand Lodge adopted, the following, which is the true, original, *simon-pure* and *sole maxim* of masonic charity. It should be imprinted *in toto* upon the heart of every mason in the world, and imprinted deeply.”

He applies one paragraph of the report to all masonic legislation, and that is the paragraph relating to the danger of slight departures from ancient usages.

He refers to the report in relation to the rejection of candidates. He, however, does not quite understand one portion of it; if he will read it again he will find that it takes decided ground against perpetual jurisdiction, and gives the reasons for it. In this connection we may say that it was some years ago that the Grand Lodge of Maine changed the rule from perpetual jurisdiction to jurisdiction for five years. We are glad to perceive that, while not being willing to commit himself either way, he proposes to give the matter a very thorough examination. If he does, we believe he will be obliged to come to agree with the principle of the report, although he may think that in some of the details it should be modified.

He refers to our criticism of the action of their Grand Lodge changing the permanent membership, saying there was a time when he was opposed to it, but saying that now he believes it was right. We refer him to the discussion of this question in another part of this report. We did not have in mind, and the doctrine does not have in mind, the idea of *honoring men*, but the reason upon which it is founded is, that the Grand Lodge should have a permanent membership of the most experienced masons in the jurisdiction. Our law in Maine does not extend this beyond the Grand Wardens, but if he will look over the list of permanent members in Maine, he will see that his idea that most of the Wardens become Grand Masters, and so arrive at the dignity of being permanent members of the Grand Lodge, is

not correct, and it ought not to be. The Grand Lodge ought not to establish such a practice as to make it, in a sense, its *duty* to advance a Grand Warden regularly till he becomes Grand Master. The brethren may be entirely willing to elect a man Junior Grand Warden, whom they would not elect as Grand Master; and this system, more than any other, gives the members of the Grand Lodge an opportunity of observing and studying the men from whom in the future it will select its Grand Masters. In fact, in Maine, Grand Wardens are not eligible for re-election or promotion from one Warden's chair to the other, and the intent of the law was that the Senior Grand Warden should have no more right to expect, when he goes out of office, to be made Deputy Grand Master, than any other Past Grand Warden would have.

There are many other things in this report that we would be glad to notice, but we must be content with what we have done.

TENNESSEE, 1898.

We have a fine portrait of the incoming Grand Master, WILLIAM H. BUMPAS. We are glad that he has a "front name," for we regret to say that it is the fact that our Tennessee brethren, while getting up a splendid pamphlet in most respects, are great sinners in relation to the names of its Grand Officers and other brethren who are mentioned.

The retiring Grand Master, ARCHIBALD N. SLOAN (we find his name on the cover as one of the Custodians) thus states the reason for an incomplete report:

"The report of my year's work as your Grand Master is incomplete and must ever remain so, from the fact that on April 3, 1897, my office and its entire contents were destroyed by fire. Not a vestige was saved. All records and papers pertaining to the office of Grand Master, as well as the jewel and apron, were lost. Also my personal records of a lifetime, together with a large number of masonic and other valuable books. To me it was not only a heavy loss, but a very great inconvenience. I attempted to duplicate correspondence pertaining to the Grand Master's office, but with little success. My report must, therefore, be incomplete."

Among his decisions, was one in relation to a brother who professed a disbelief in the Bible and was loud in the vehemence of his denunciation of it, but at the same time saying, that he believed in the existence of a Diety and in the immortality of the soul. We quote his reply:

"*Held*—Our law leaves the question of determining what is unmasonic conduct largely to the subordinate lodges, and sets forth only the great underlying principles upon which they must base their opinion. One of the first assurances given the candidate for Freemasonry is that it will in nowise interfere with the freedom of religious thought. I do not understand, however, that this means that he can discard the one great source from which he is to obtain light by which to exercise such freedom. Another of the

first great lessons taught in our Order is that the Holy Bible is the inestimable gift from God to man, and should be the rule and guide for his faith and actions in this life. We are also taught, and positively instructed that no masonic lodge can exist without the three Great Lights, the greatest of which is surely the Holy Bible. Our obligations to the craft are taken upon and sealed by the imprint of our most sacred affections for this inspired book. There can be no question that any man who applied to any of our lodges for admission to Freemasonry, and holding the belief that the brother in question professes, would be promptly refused admission. I do not think any one would argue that it would be a hardship to expel a man from Masonry for an offence that would forever bar him from admission to the Order. Surely we will not condone in our own ranks an offence that we condemn in the ranks of the profane. In view of these facts, I held that the action of the brother was a masonic offence and he should be disciplined."

The same question has arisen in other jurisdictions and with one single exception has been decided in the same way.

He advises that the copies of the code on hand should be distributed by giving one copy to each new lodge organized and furnishing copies to the Grand Lodge of sister jurisdictions when desired, saying that the code would soon need revision and the copies on hand would be comparatively worthless. His suggestion is a wise one, only we would have been inclined to distribute it to all the lodges instead of only the new ones.

The Grand Secretary, Bro. JOHN B. GARRETT, notices the Tennessee Centennial and the presence thereof of many distinguished masons from various parts of the country. Undoubtedly there would have been many more present, if it had not come during the session of the General Grand Chapter in Baltimore.

The report of the Board of Custodians states that great good has been accomplished by the system recently adopted; it is a system of District Lecturers, corresponding very closely to our system of District Deputy Grand Masters. The Board say that it is becoming more and more popular and more commended by the brethren. The Board formerly recommended that no Master shall be installed until he shall have been examined and have received a certificate from one of the Board or from the District Lecturer.

Last year the "Home" was transferred to the control of the Grand Lodge, which assumed it; and the report of the Board is an exceedingly interesting one. It is doing an immense amount of good and at a low price. The average expense for each inmate per month was \$4.61. The average number of inmates, exclusive of the matron, etc., was nearly ninety-six. The Board say that for this good showing, they are very greatly indebted to the Superintendent, and his wife, who is the Matron.

We notice that in one case that was before the Committee on Grievances, the daughter of the accused was excluded from testifying, *on the ground of interest*. A new trial was ordered on that account. This is another illus-

tration of the dangerous extent to which we are carrying the introduction of the rules of the civil law into masonic trials.

Another case was before the Grand Lodge, where the allegation was that a candidate for an office promised each of two Master Masons that if they would vote for him, he would vote for each one of them for the same office; he was elected, both supporting him, but he failed to vote for *either of them*. The lodge quashed the charge, on the ground that it was of a political nature. An appeal was taken, but the appeal was dismissed because it was not seasonably taken. The committee, however, say:

“Without intimating an opinion as to the truth of the charges, your committee feels that the use of Masonry for the purpose of promoting the interest of candidates for office, or personal gain, is a practice which deserves the condemnation of this Grand Lodge.”

We suggest that the brethren who sold their votes in the manner alleged, deserved to be treated as they were; and we regret that the committee did not indicate to the lodge that the making of such a promise was a masonic offence by all parties to it.

The Committee on Jurisprudence referred to the circulars from the Grand Masters of Maine and New York, in relation to the Grand Lodge of Peru, and recommended that the incoming Grand Master should inquire into the case and act at once, they being in full sympathy with the two Grand Masters.

We are rather surprised to find a minority report of that committee, objecting, not to *decisions made*, but to making decisions under the circumstances, on the ground that the Grand Master was convicting brethren without any opportunity to be heard. In one case, the lodge stated certain alleged facts and asked the Grand Master if they constituted a masonic offence. Certainly there is no convicting of anybody in this, and the other was very similar. We believe it is entirely proper, and even the *duty* of a lodge, if it is in doubt as to whether certain alleged facts constituted a masonic offence, to inquire of the Grand Master; then the charges can be framed properly and the parties accused may be tried. No one was mentioned in the decisions or in the questions to the Grand Master, but simply certain allegations were made, and the inquiry was, if they constituted a masonic offence. The Grand Lodge adopted the *majority* report, and thereby approved the action of the Grand Master.

Another question was before the committee, upon which it divided. There was a slander suit pending in court between two members of a lodge, in which charges and a trial had been had on the same subject matter, and the Secretary was summoned to attend the civil court as a witness and take with him the minutes of the lodge. The majority of the committee say they do not see how they can be competent evidence, and have no doubt that on

proper objection, the court would exclude them; that the Secretary should not produce the books until required to do so by judicial order made on due consideration, after lawful objections properly presented to the court. But if, on due consideration, the court should order the witness to produce the books of the lodge, the duty is to obey. Three members of the committee dissented from this but the grounds of dissent are not stated. We do not believe any court under the circumstances would allow the minutes to be received in evidence. We, from a legal standpoint, can see no possible ground upon which they can be admitted; but as the committee say, if the court holds that they *are* admissible as legal evidence, there is no question concerning the duty of the Secretary as stated by the committee.

We do not know the circumstances; but as stated, if the one, who caused the Secretary to be summoned with the book, is a mason, he ought not to be allowed to remain one any longer than the shortest time in which he could be expelled.

A large amount of routine business was before the Grand Lodge, some of which is of interest, but we are obliged to pass it over.

The report of the Committee on Correspondence (102 pp.) was submitted by Bro. GEORGE H. MORGAN. It is a fine abstract of the Proceedings with frequent comments. The genial tone of the report attracted our notice as we went along, and therefore, we were quite surprised to find at its close, that during its preparation Bro. MORGAN was suffering under the clutches of the rheumatism. In his statement of this he says it was painful to him to handle either pen or *scissors*. He might avoid that last pain if he would mark his extracts and refer to them. We have followed that plan for a great many years and found that it is easier for us and not at all difficult for the printer.

In his review of Maine, he says:

“Augustus B. Farnham, Grand Master, presided, and read an address such as is usual in this jurisdiction of the far northeast—that is, brilliant, at the same time conservative; profound, at the same time businesslike; in fact, from introduction to conclusion sparkling with bright gems of masonic lore.”

And he quotes Grand Master FARNHAM'S remarks on the subject of citizenship and masonic duty. He further says:

“Quite a number of dispensations were granted for various purposes, among which were several to ballot upon applications for degrees and conferring degrees out of time. This is in accordance with law in Maine, the brethren there not seeming to be afraid of the ‘railroading’ process in cases of ‘extraordinary emergency.’”

In Maine we believe in ascertaining the actual proficiency of the candidate without regard to any cast iron rule. We also pay regard to the opportunities offered for the investigation of the character of the candidate, rather than rely upon the expiration of a given time.

He quotes our remarks in our review of Texas last year upon physical qualifications, and quotes them, saying that it is exactly his idea of the matter.

Under Nebraska, he says:

“Though the first part of the conclusion is correct, we do not see any reason why a record of the ‘reasons’ should be kept. If a brother in good standing wants a dimit, and owes the lodge nothing, he is entitled to it without stating *any* reason. We do not know what kind of law they have to the contrary in Nebraska, but any law contrary to this is contrary to the spirit of the great principles of *Freemasonry* as we understand it.”

His review of Texas reminds us that we have omitted the confirmation by this Grand Lodge of the expulsion of a member for vilifying the Bible.

Bro. MORGAN was re-appointed, and we sincerely hope for his sake that his old enemy, the rheumatism, will not interfere with the preparation of his next report, but congratulate him on his having the firmness to prepare a report without any signs of his having been “in the clutches” of that enemy!

TEXAS, 1897.

The Grand Master, A. B. WATKINS, (we do not find his full name) delivered an address showing that he had had, as usual in Texas, a very large amount of business to do and very many things presented to him for his consideration, and yet he condenses the statement of it into a brief space.

He announces the death of their Senior Past Grand Master, JOHN SAYLES, who died on May 22, 1897. He was a descendant of Roger Williams, born in New York and settling in Texas in 1845, when he was twenty years old. He was a lawyer, somewhat in public life, and served in the Civil War, reaching the rank of Brigadier General. He was the author of many valuable books on Texas law, which gave him a high reputation.

He was made a mason in 1846 and became Grand Master in 1852. After his service, he still remained an active mason, and in 1878 crowned his valuable labors for the craft in Texas by the preparation of Sayles’ Masonic Jurisprudence, a very valuable work for all masonic students.

We regret to find that Grand Master WATKINS has adopted the “fad” of talking against dispensations to confer degrees out of time, and especially for the reasons which he gives. His objection is to Masonry’s “changing its rule.” Now with due deference to him and those who think with him, there is no changing the rules at all. The rule is that a petition must lie over a certain length of time unless the Grand Master gives permission for considering it within a shorter time. The reason given utterly ignores the object of the law. The real question to be considered is whether it is safe to shorten the time, considering the interests of the institution. It is everywhere acknowledged that the accession of a man to the fraternity, who will

be a good and true mason, is a benefit to the fraternity, and to refuse to receive this benefit when it can be safely done, because there is a general rule to which the case must be an exception, seem to us puerile. It is said that persons, in whose behalf a dispensation is applied for, are generally moved by mercenary motives. If so, the dispensation ought not to be granted of course; but not for the reasons suggested; but because the man ought not to be made a mason at any time. It is utter nonsense to say that a man is too mercenary to be admitted under dispensation, and yet is not too mercenary to be admitted if he waits four weeks.

The Grand Master had followed the Texas rule in relation to physical qualifications, but he well says:

“*First*—Since there is in fact no physically perfect man in existence, there should be some easily and clearly defined rule; and since the trivial injury of some member is in a physical sense in no way as serious as many unobservable bodily infirmities where the limbs are whole, that such rule should not apply rigorously to external defects where they are not such as to disqualify the candidate from conforming literally to all the requirements of the ceremonies of the several degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry.”

We note also a decision by the Deputy Grand Master, as follows:

“*Fifth*—That an applicant for initiation who had one hip dislocated when a child, one leg thereby being about an inch shorter than the other, causing only a slight limp in his walk, but whose members were all sound, having no defect other than that mentioned, was not thereby debarred from membership.”

The Grand Lodge dissented from both, and we are amazed to find that the committee based it upon the ground that under the old charges a candidate must be a “perfect youth.” We are surprised, because there is no such ancient charge and our brethren in Texas cannot point us, either in the usage of the craft or in the ancient charges, to any such landmark as they claim this is. We state this point thus bluntly in the hope of calling the attention of our Texas brethren to our proposition. We have undertaken to have the “Perfectionists” give us their authority for their doctrine, but never have yet succeeded.

Of the Wisconsin proposition the Grand Master says:

“Payment being declined, I held that one lodge could not charge another for charities to its members; that Masonry differs from other benevolent institutions, in that it was purely charitable, and that charity is without the quality of compulsion and does not rest upon any obligation, but upon voluntary inclination, and that Bald Prairie Lodge could not be legally charged against its wishes.”

He rendered another decision which is exceedingly in accordance with common sense and which we think should prevail universally, although it does not. He decided that when a candidate lives so nearly the same distance from two lodges that it would be impossible to tell which was the nearest

lodge, save by actual survey, if he applies to either lodge in good faith, his doing so should be sustained.

Another question was raised which may possibly come up elsewhere. A District Deputy was appointed, had his commission and visited a lodge, but the Master of the lodge objected to his acting on the ground that he was not eligible to be District Deputy. The Grand Master wisely decided that he having been installed as District Deputy and having a commission under the Grand seal, his eligibility could not be questioned by a subordinate lodge.

We get some light from his address upon masonic affairs in Mexico. It seems that eight lodges were dissatisfied with the decree of the Gran Dieta excluding women and requiring the Bible to be placed upon the altar, and rebelled and were by that Body declared clandestine. Thereupon he directed the Grand Secretary to issue notices to the lodges not to receive as visitors any members from these lodges, or to recognize them masonically in any other way. Later he was informed that one of the lodges, George Washington, No. 195, of San Luis Potosi, had returned to the allegiance of the Gran Dieta.

Later, Washington Hidalgo Lodge, of Chihuahua, applied to a Texas lodge to waive jurisdiction, and the Grand Master instructed the lodge applied to, to refuse peremptorily. Thereupon a body claiming to be a Grand Lodge entered a protest and the Grand Master informed the parties they were not a Grand Lodge and he could receive no masonic communication from them.

We regret to find the following in his address:

“Of the last appointment I beg to add that on May 28th I received through the Grand Secretary notice from the M. W. Grand Master (John Stuart) of New York that R. W. Henry Von Minden, representative of the Grand Lodge of Texas near the Grand Lodge of New York (who was, as far as I knew, entirely acceptable to us), was a *persona non grata*, and requesting that his appointment be cancelled, and recommended the appointment of Bro. George W. Anderson. I complied with the request, but I much question the act, and leave a settlement of the course to be pursued under such circumstances to the Grand Lodge.”

We do not perceive that the Grand Lodge took any action, but we are exceedingly sorry that such a custom should be growing up.

The Deputy Grand Master, JOHN L. TERRELL, decided, and his decision was confirmed by the Grand Lodge:

“*First*—That where an applicant for the degree had been rejected in a foreign jurisdiction it was necessary to secure a waiver of jurisdiction from the lodge rejecting him before taking ballot upon his application, unless he was rejected in the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge which does not retain jurisdiction over its rejected candidates after their removal from the jurisdiction.”

A large number of charters were granted, the committee seeming to take very great care. The general rule is, as we understand it, that no new

lodge shall be established within less than ten miles of an existing lodge; but in one case the circumstances were such that a charter was granted. Now this is to us precisely parallel to the rule in relation to the laying over of applications for four weeks.

We note that one decision of a lodge in a case of discipline was set aside because the charge was not specific enough. The charge alleged generally the defamation of the character of a brother. Now that, of course, is a masonic offence, and we think that if the accused did not object to the generality of the charge and call for specifications, as he had a right to do, he waived the defect.

A very large number of cases was before the Committee on Grievances, and some thirty pages or more of the Proceedings are taken up with the reports of the committee thereon.

The Bible question was again before the Grand Lodge, and the committee give a statement of the action of the Grand Lodge in former cases of the same kind, which is quite valuable for persons interested in this question. They and the Grand Lodge sustained the former decision, and confirmed the action of the lodge in this particular case in expelling the accused.

One case "of novel impression" was before the Grand Lodge. The charge was against a brother "for unmasonic conduct" in "admitting one Thomas, a negro, to social equality with his wife and children, one of whom was a grown daughter; and it was done against the consent of his wife and daughter. The facts were that the negro was in the employ of the accused and had been habitually eating with the family, and the question was whether this constituted a masonic offence, and if so, whether it warranted the penalty of expulsion. The committee argued it at some length, answering both questions in the affirmative, and the record states that their report was "unanimously adopted by a rising vote."

Another case, which we hope is also "of novel impression," was before the Grand Lodge, in which the Master of a lodge was charged, when in attendance upon the Grand Lodge as a representative of his lodge, with visiting houses of ill fame. He pleaded guilty, and asked for mercy, and the Grand Lodge voted that he should be reprimanded.

We must repeat here that we believe that the practice of this Grand Lodge, in printing the full reports of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals, ought not to be continued. In our Grand Lodge all that goes upon the records is the resolution offered by the committee as the result of their investigation, and unless a statement is called for, their report of details is not even submitted to the Grand Lodge. When any question is made the facts are presented, but they are not published.

The following resolutions were offered and referred to a special committee:

“Resolved (1), That hereafter persons engaged in the manufacture or sale, either at wholesale or retail, of intoxicating beverages, shall be ineligible to receive the degrees of Masonry, or to affiliate with lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction.

“Resolved (2), That it shall be unlawful for any mason in this Grand Jurisdiction not in said business to hereafter engage in the same, under penalty of expulsion.”

The majority of the committee submitted an exhaustive and able report in favor of their adoption.

The minority reported as follows:

“A minority of your special committee to whom was submitted the resolution proposing a new qualification for membership in our Order, not being able to agree with a majority of the committee, and believing the proposed legislation unconstitutional and inexpedient, feel constrained to submit this minority report. In our opinion, the ancient tests, which have stood unchanged during the centuries that Masonry has existed, are amply secure and satisfactory; and having been incorporated into our fundamental law, cannot be changed without destroying a landmark and violating the Grand Lodge Constitution. We think that (subject to the Constitution and ancient landmarks) the subordinate lodges and individuals also should be left undisturbed in the right to decide whom they shall elect to membership. We, therefore, recommend that the resolutions do not pass.”

It is difficult to keep within the bounds of masonic courtesy in discussing the outrageous proposition that the resolutions “propose a new qualification for membership” and are not in accord with “the ancient test”! When was it that *morality* was not an absolutely *necessary* qualification? We notice that in Texas, masons are expelled for drunkenness. It would be an insult to the masons of that jurisdiction to inquire if drunken candidates are eligible; and yet, forsooth, the man who knowingly and willfully, for the mere sake of lucre, aids directly his fellow in committing an offence which compels masons to disown him, is a fit candidate for Masonry and a worthy brother! The Grand Lodge punished one of its members for visiting a house of ill fame; yet the logic of the minority is that a law prohibiting the initiation of the *keeper* of such a resort would “propose a new qualification”! If laws are necessary to prevent the admission of immoral candidates, it is the duty of the Grand Lodge to enact them. The Grand Lodge adopted the recommendation of the minority, but we will not believe that it endorsed their report.

The Report on Correspondence (111 pp.) was presented, as heretofore, by THOMAS M. MATTHEWS. He presents to his readers as a matter of curiosity, an extract from the New York Correspondent’s report in relation to the Grand Council at Trent. As we have already said, we do not think they are worth the notice of presenting them, even as a matter of curiosity.

As usual, he writes the whole report and makes very few extracts, accompanying his notice of the doings and sayings in other jurisdictions with

brief comments. It is an exceedingly interesting report to read, but somewhat difficult to review.

In relation to the Eastern Star, he says:

"We fully agree with him when he says 'while we are not fully settled in our mind what recognition, if any, should be given to the Eastern Star, we have never seen any necessity, or good reason, for meddling with their affairs, or opposing their progress.'"

We find from his report that three members make a quorum in a Master's lodge in that jurisdiction, the old ritual provision not having been changed by positive law.

In relation to inspection of the charter by a visitor, he says:

"We do not believe in the *right* part, though, we think, if the visitor politely asks to see the charter, the lodge should in courtesy, and not as of right, gratify his curiosity. It could surely do no harm to do so. As to the dictum that the charter cannot be taken into the ante-room while the lodge is at work, that, as in effect our brother puts it, is all '*bosh.*'"

We concur in his views, at the same time, adding that a lodge has no right to consider a request to see the charter as discourteous, but should recognize that it is sometimes the visitor's duty to request to see it.

In his review of Iowa, he takes very strong ground in favor of the recognition of the Grand Dieta of Mexico, but does not propose to re-argue it, except that he refers briefly to the report of Bro. Cox, of Iowa.

He confesses to some change of views in relation to the matter of rejected candidates, saying:

"Our Grand Lodge maintains the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction, and at one time we thought it was right, but now, individually, we do not so believe. But neither do we think that one jurisdiction should take the rejected material of another and in twelve months after rejection, without any inquiry into his antecedents, make him a mason. Let us not be misunderstood. We believe that everywhere rejection should be received as *prima facie* evidence that the rejected is unfit material for the temple. But we believe also that a man may repent and reform; that though at one time unfit, he may afterward become fit. We, therefore, think one who has been rejected should serve a term of probation to prove that his reformation is real; that, in other words, he should prove himself. We believe further that one, or even two, years is too short a time, generally, in which to test his sincerity. Make the time during which the jurisdiction of the rejecting lodge shall obtain *five*, or at least three years, and even then require the lodge applied to to correspond with the lodge, or members of the lodge, which rejected, and find out, if possible, what was the general character of the applicant in the community where he had formerly lived. Having done this, let the lodge applied to proceed as it may please. Such a rule as this which we have tried to outline should be adopted everywhere, and being done it would bring about harmony between the jurisdictions where now much friction obtains.

"We believe that the best interests of Masonry demand, not that we contend whether perpetual jurisdiction is right or wrong, but that we should bend our energies to bring about some agreement upon which all the jurisdictions can, and will, meet, and thus eliminate a factor which is causing

more disturbance and unpleasantness between Grand Lodges than all other forces combined. Let us all, Brother Correspondents, use our best efforts to this end, that it may be shown 'how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.'"

It will be seen from this that he fully appreciates the difficulties surrounding the subject and pretty strongly endorses the general views given in the resolutions of our own Grand Lodge.

In his review of Maine, he thinks that we condone, if we do not advocate, the use of "cipher rituals." Perhaps we ought to say here that our opinion upon this question may not be very valuable, for our view is, that the utmost that ought to be undertaken, is to have uniformity in the essentials, leaving the matters of detail in other respects to a pretty large discretion. We do not believe that it was ever intended or expected, that the whole ritual of Masonry would be put into set words and phrases, the use of which should be made obligatory. The essentials ought to be known and remembered by all masons, and they can be handed down orally without danger of any material deviation. But if we must have a cast iron ritual in all its details, we know, and so does every other sensible man know, that it is utterly impossible to transmit it from generation to generation of masons orally, and, therefore, that a key or cipher is an absolute necessity, if this course is taken. As to the question of legality of ciphers, we hold that that depends entirely upon the question whether the cipher is intelligible to profanes. There is no doubt at all, that from the earliest times when any attention has been given to ritual, ciphers have been made by men just as honest, conscientious masons as any we have in these days, and they held that it was not contrary to their duty as masons to make a cipher that should not be intelligible to the profanes and with no danger that the secrets of Freemasonry would be unlawfully obtained. We have called, time and again, upon the disbelievers in the use of ciphers to point out anything anywhere that was in conflict with this last proposition and they have never done it.

He notices in a general way the personal allusions which Bro. UPRON, of Washington, has made to us, and deprecates them, and kindly puts in some very pleasant words in relation to us, but we trust he will not be concerned on our account. In regard to Bro. UPRON's course, we feel precisely as the husband said in relation to his wife, when some one condoled with him as to her conduct towards him, and his reply was, "Oh, never mind it; it pleases her and don't hurt me, and so I don't notice it."

We notice that he speaks further in relation to what we have said about the cipher and that he does not quite understand it. We have made it as plain in the above as we can do without a personal interview.

He also replies briefly to our remarks in regard to the granting of dispensations, and from what he says we find that the practice in Texas in relation to the reports of committees differs from that in almost every other jurisdic-

tion, at any rate from that in all of which we have knowledge. In almost all jurisdictions the report is simply favorable or unfavorable and the facts are not given. But our idea was in relation to the granting of dispensations, that the circumstances would be so stated to the Grand Master that he would be able to tell, not whether the candidate is a fit one, for he has nothing to do with that question, but whether the lodge has such or would have such a knowledge of the candidate as to make it safe to allow them to vote upon it.

We had many other things noted, but in spite of all our resolutions and our efforts, our report is extending far beyond a reasonable length, and, therefore, we must leave Bro. MATTHEWS here.

UTAH, 1898.

We have a portrait of JOHN FRANCIS HARDIE, the incoming Grand Master.

The Grand Master, ABRAM DALE GASH, in announcing the deaths in the jurisdiction, notices that the brethren of some of the lodges were not as punctual in their attendance at masonic funerals as they should be. He regrets to speak of it, but feels it his duty to do so. We have been troubled in this same direction, for beyond question it is a fact that there is a general falling off in the discharge of this duty of masons to a deceased brother, and the words of the Grand Master are emphatically true:

“To attend on such occasions, clothed as a Master Mason from the opening to the closing of the lodge, is a sacred duty we owe to our deceased brother, his relatives, our lodge and ourselves; not only are we attending to a solemn and binding duty as such, but at the same time we are being honored by having the great privilege of being in the ranks of a masonic lodge as a mason in honor of a deceased brother.”

* * * * *

“The greatest honor that can be conferred upon a deceased brother is to tenderly lay his remains in their last resting place with masonic honors. Let me earnestly implore my brethren of the craft, to attend to these important duties so well in the future that no one can say anything but praise for your actions.”

He says that in spite of the dull times, the craft has been prosperous and there has been a gain in the membership, and he believes that the increase has been of proper material. He says that the obstacles to the growth of the Grand Lodge is due to circumstances over which the craft has no control, and which had its origin long prior to the establishment of the Grand Lodge.

Referring to the Peru matter, brought to his notice by the circular from our Grand Master, he says:

“We are taught ‘that it is not in the power of any man or body of men to make innovations in the body of Masonry.’ From time whereof recorded history or the traditions of our institution ‘runneth not to the contrary,’ it

has been the law and custom for the Great Lights in Masonry to be spread upon the sacred Altar; to do away with this custom is an innovation that cannot and must not be tolerated by the regular body of Masonry. If Peru has done this, it has put itself outside the pale of Masonry, and cannot be recognized as a masonic body; as well might they do away with the three principal stations in the lodge or lay aside any of its most sacred teachings and obligations."

The Grand Lodge subsequently adopted resolutions substantially in accord with those adopted by our own Grand Lodge.

He had one pleasant experience. He was made a mason fifteen years before, and during the year he attended the lodge and the same brother who presided at his initiation was still Master and called him to the East, and he had the "supreme pleasure" of conferring the Master's degree upon the oldest son of the Worshipful Master who had conferred the degrees upon him.

He decided that documentary evidence is not required to be produced by a brother who offers himself for examination as a visitor. The Grand Lodge added a clause to this, in approving it, to the effect that unless he produced a receipted bill for his dues, he should satisfy the lodge in some way that he is in good standing. This decision, in our judgment, is not accurately correct. The charge to a Master of a lodge requires that in the examination of visitors the candidate shall not only prove himself to be a mason, but satisfy the lodge that he was "made a mason in a regular lodge." The experience of lodges has shown that an impostor may pass a correct examination in the ritual, and thereby show that apparently he is a mason in good standing. For this reason, in doubtful cases, the charge requires, as we hold, the production of documentary evidence showing that the party was made in a regular lodge, and we should hold a lodge derelict in its duty if it should examine a visitor who was a stranger to all present, hailing from some portions of Ohio, unless he did produce documentary evidence that he was made in a regular lodge and not in one of the clandestine lodges existing in that state. The fact is that ardent brethren, in their zeal for acquiring the ritual, have conceived the idea that documentary evidence is used to prove that the party presenting it is a mason, instead of proving that he was made in a regular lodge.

He decided, also, that a mason may apply for membership to any lodge to which he chooses to apply, although he holds that in ordinary circumstances it is his duty to apply to the nearest lodge where presumably he may do the most good. He well says:

"The masonic fraternity is not confined to one lodge, nor to one Grand Jurisdiction, but comprises the whole brotherhood wheresoever dispersed throughout the world. He is a member of it, and if he takes his dimit from one lodge, he is free to choose where he will place it, and hold his lodge membership, provided the lodge is willing."

He finds it necessary to caution the brethren against electioneering for office, both in the Grand Lodge and in the subordinate lodges. We find, also, that a provision against electioneering has been introduced into the Code. We have some fear that this will be somewhat like the law against ciphers, that it will be the law, but that the views of a great many of the brethren will practically be like that of Ensign Stebbins in relation to the prohibitory law, who said he was "in favor of the law, but agin its execution."

He stated that some of the lodges had assembled on Decoration Day, and held lodges of sorrow and decorated the graves of deceased brethren, and he thinks it quite desirable to allow the brethren to so meet, march to the cemetery and there have appropriate ceremonies and decorate the graves of deceased brethren. He brought it before the Grand Lodge at the request of one of the lodges, but the Grand Lodge disapproved the proposition.

The Grand Secretary speaks with evident pride, and properly so, of the manner in which the Proceedings of the preceding year were received by the craft generally. The Grand Lodge celebrated its quarter centennial and decorated the Proceedings with many pictures of old halls, etc., and as the Grand Secretary well says, "the volume is a thing of beauty and will be a joy forever."

He writes that the Code had not been completed, but expects that it would be, and printed soon after the close of the session. He suggests that the Grand Secretary be instructed to collect the cost of a copy of any individual brother who should want one, and the Grand Lodge concurred.

He gives a detailed account of the operations of the lodges, showing, as stated by the Grand Master, that there had been an increase.

He gives an account of the transfer of the non-masonic portion of the library to the Salt Lake City, and we have in the Proceedings a picture which represents a comely damsel bearing the label of "Salt Lake City," receiving the document of transfer from a man wearing the masonic apron.

We deem that this action was wise on the part of the Grand Lodge and congratulate the City upon receiving the nucleus of a splendid library. It is of no use for a Grand Lodge to undertake to maintain and administer a public library.

We find that Bro. DIEHL had undertaken to open correspondence with the Grand Lodge of Sweden, but after a year's exertion in that direction, he recommends that no further action shall be taken. He has reason to believe that the Grand Lodge of Sweden does not care to recognize the Grand Lodge of Utah. If this is meant as discriminating against that Grand Lodge, we think our brother is in error. The Grand Lodge of Sweden publishes no transactions and has very little communication with Foreign Bodies, and we

are inclined to the opinion that its organization is not adapted to such communication. We do not believe for a minute that there was any discrimination as against the Grand Lodge of Utah.

The question of the inspection of a lodge charter by a visitor was before the Grand Lodge, and the committee affirmed the decision that a visiting brother "has no right to demand" an inspection of it; but at the same time held that no self-respecting lodge would refuse to grant a proper request for such inspection. This is the correct doctrine in a nut shell.

We note that the incoming Grand Master was requested to give in his annual address next year a clear definition of the words "true masonic charity." We shall look with some interest for the result.

The signet ring, which was presented to the Grand Lodge by the late P. G. Master EMERY, was transmitted by the Grand Master to his successor with an eloquent and fitting address, and the reply of the Grand Master was in the same line.

After the Grand Lodge closed, ninety-eight brethren participated in a banquet, followed by toasts and responses and brought to a termination at low twelve to the regret of all, because the street cars then stopped running.

We have a cut of the hall of Rocky Mt. Lodge, an army lodge in a regiment stationed at Camp Floyd as early as 1859. It received a charter in 1860, but surrendered it in little less than a year.

The Report on Correspondence (101 pp.) was presented as usual by Bro. DIEHL, and is of the same character as his former reports, of which we have so often and favorably spoken. The comments are interweaved with his account of proceedings in such a way that while it is exceedingly interesting reading, it is pretty hard work to quote them unless we adopt his plan of writing them out.

He gives one experience of his own Grand Lodge which we desire to note. He says that some years ago the Grand Lodge undertook to force non-affiliates back into Masonry and that the scheme cost the Grand Lodge and the lodges about \$200, and proved a big failure. He cites it for the benefit of another Grand Lodge which is apparently undertaking to do the same thing.

In passing, he states that the Historian of Utah will devote a few pages to the 124 masons who formed the Grand Lodge of Utah, and give them some credit as not the least factor in bringing about the present state of affairs in that territory.

In his review of Maine, he replies to our remarks in relation to the action of his Grand Lodge upon the Maine resolutions concerning the rejection of candidates, and goes on to say that the masons in Utah will compare favorably with those elsewhere. This only proves that the *practice* of the masons

in Utah is better than their *theory*. He thinks we made another mistake, and taken literally we did, in applying the six months' rule to jurisdiction out of that state. A man must reside in Utah, whether a rejected candidate or not, a whole year before he can apply for the degrees, but if a lodge in one part of Utah rejects a resident, and he moves to another part of Utah, the doctrine of the Grand Lodge is that six months is sufficient for that lodge to pass upon the qualifications of a man who has once been rejected for admission into the fraternity.

But we were a good deal shocked at one expression in his argument against perpetual jurisdiction and against the Maine resolutions; but we know him well enough to know that it was simply from want of information. But it is a very serious want and makes his argument against perpetual jurisdiction of no weight and his opinion absolutely worthless. The expression is, that in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred rejections, the candidate is rejected "for spite or mischief." This statement shows that our brother does not know what he is writing about, because if he did, and his statement is true, neither he nor any other decent man would stay in the fraternity, unless they repealed the unanimous ballot law.

During our administration as Grand Master of Maine, more than 1,000 candidates were rejected, and if we had known or believed that 990 of these were rejected from spite or mischief, we hope that we would have had honesty enough to have demanded the repeal of the law, or else gone out of Masonry. Within the last thirty years, in Maine, there have been over 10,000 rejections, and if all but one in 100 of these have been made for "spite or mischief," the institution does not deserve to live. The rejections in Maine have averaged over 300 a year, and if our fraternity has enough dishonest masons in it to make almost all of these the result of spite or mischief, it is time to call a halt.

We notice, too, that in Utah in the past year one-fifth of the candidates were rejected, and in spite of Bro. DIEHL's opinion, we have not so poor an opinion of the masons of Utah as to believe that they have done what he in effect says they have.

We have taken Maine and Utah as illustrations; but the same is true of all other jurisdictions. The late Bro. GOULEY, of Missouri, called attention to the fact that over one-third of the candidates were rejected in that jurisdiction, as showing the great care of the brethren in passing upon the fitness of those who sought to come in among us.

Our good brother will find that his zeal has run away with him and that it is necessary for him to re-examine this subject and revise his opinion.

VERMONT, 1897.

We have a splendid portrait of Bro. KITTREDGE HASKINS, the retiring Grand Master, with an excellent biographical sketch by P. G. M. ALFRED A. HALL. We also have a cut of the proposed Masonic Temple at Burlington, a very fine looking building indeed.

Grand Master HASKINS, in his address, speaks eloquently of the dead of the year; but none were of the membership of his own Grand Lodge.

He reports that the revised digest of decisions would be submitted to the Grand Lodge. In this connection he stated that he had had a large number of letters requesting decisions during the year, but that he was able to answer them from the digest published in 1887 and the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge since that time. We believe, therefore, that the revised digest will be a great aid to the brethren and save a good many letters to the Grand Master.

He refused the request of a lodge to appear in public at the celebration of the centennial of the town in which it is located.

He gives a full account of the district meetings, or rather of the meeting of the District Deputy Grand Masters, the proceedings of which are also published by themselves in this volume. This was the eighth meeting of this kind and evidently they are doing great good.

We have heretofore noticed, we believe, the feature of the Vermont law, which, in case of a man's moving into Vermont and residing there less than one year, requires the consent of the lodge in whose jurisdiction he last resided, before his petition can be received. In cases of this kind lodges disclaimed having jurisdiction and stated that they had nothing to do, but he succeeded, as an act of courtesy, in securing a vote granting the waiver. But upon his suggestion the law was amended, so that that it will not be necessary in the future.

A year ago, the case of a mason expelled in Vermont on the complaint of a New Hampshire lodge, for violation of jurisdiction, was before the Grand Lodge upon a petition for restoration. The Grand Lodge authorized the Grand Master to issue an edict restoring him upon the consent of both the New Hampshire lodge and the Vermont lodge, and with the approval of the Grand Master of New Hampshire. All these were given and he issued the edict called for.

He states that an average amount of work had been done, that the conferring of the degrees was never better or more impressively done than now, and that the lodges took kindly to the floor work; in this connection he adds:

“I know of none that have practiced it that desire to return to the ‘go as-you-please’ way of meandering about the lodge room. The method formerly in use as compared with the present beautiful ‘floor-work’ reminds one of the

drill and parade of a company of the 'old flood-wood' as compared with the beauty and precision of the military movements of the National Guard of to-day."

He decided, and properly, that lodges are liable to the Grand Lodge for Grand Lodge dues for honorary members, although they pay no dues to the lodge, and he well says:

"The fact that the lodge elects a brother to honorary membership, and exempts him from the further payment of lodge dues, does not divest the brother of any of his masonic rights and privileges as a mason, or as a member of the lodge. He is still entitled to vote, be elected to and hold office, perform every function, and is entitled to every privilege as before. A brother can be divested of his *membership*, only by a regular dimission on his own voluntary application, or by expulsion or suspension, after charges and trial."

We find an important and exceedingly interesting provision of the law of Vermont, the enactment of which he had obtained, and we quote it:

"SECTION 1. The Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden of any lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, elected according to the constitution and by-laws of said lodge, and their successors in office, shall have corporate powers with perpetuity, for the purpose of taking and holding real and personal estate for the use and benefit of such lodge, the building erected or to be erected thereon and the furniture and furnishings of the same, and for other charitable purposes.

"Sec. 2. Said Master and Wardens, by a majority vote of the members of such lodge present and voting at any annual, stated or special communication thereof, subject however to the constitution and by-laws of such lodge, may sell, mortgage and convey any or all of the real and personal estate so held by them for the purposes aforesaid."

A similar law was passed relating to the Grand Lodge. This is the simplest form of a system of trustees that we have ever seen. The plan does not incorporate the lodge, and it is similar in that respect to the one we have in Maine, and at the first glance we do not see any reason why a similar law might not be all that is necessary in Maine, and we invite the careful attention of our brethren to it. While our system of trustees separates the corporation from the lodge, still difficulties have been experienced on account of the neglect of brethren of lodges to keep up the organization; but this gives an organization that keeps up itself and is perpetual. The three brethren are a corporation, and so far as we can see are not obliged to elect any officers or have any records, but when they act, the act of the majority of them is the act of the corporation. But before recommending its adoption we desire to give the matter some further thought and compare it with the general statutes of the state.

The matter of great interest with our brethren of Vermont is the Masonic Temple which they are erecting at Burlington. The brethren there gave \$7,500 towards the lot, and the Grand Lodge paid \$10,000 in addition, and the Grand Master says that the value of it is greater than the cost.

A tax of thirty cents *per capita* on all the masons of the jurisdiction has been assessed, to continue during the pleasure of the Grand Lodge. The Temple is estimated to cost \$80,000 in addition to the amount given by the citizens of Burlington. The deed had been obtained, foundations laid, and the work is going on. The Grand Lodge, having previously appropriated \$50,000 for the erection of it, added another appropriation of not less than \$30,000.

The other business of the Grand Lodge was largely of a routine character and void of general interest.

We find, however, we have given an erroneous statement of the change in the law in relation to jurisdiction, so we quote it:

“Provided, however, that if the Grand Master in the jurisdiction where the applicant last resided, disclaims jurisdiction, the consent of the lodge shall not be necessary, but its favorable recommendation of the application shall invariably be had, before acting upon his petition.”

The last lines are important and in the right direction of being very careful as to the qualifications of candidates.

The Report on Correspondence (158 pp.) was presented by Bro. MARSH O. PERKINS, as heretofore. It includes a review of all the American Grand Lodges, except Michigan, New Brunswick and Utah, and is of the high character of the reports which he has been accustomed to present; and we only regret that the first part of our report had been made so long that we can notice but a very few points in this.

In his review of Maine he discusses the Maine resolutions relating to rejections and says:

“Having arrived at this conclusion, it is not surprising that in his judgment the basis of uniformity should be the recognition of the disability of rejected candidates according to the law of the jurisdiction in which the rejection was made, and the limitation of that disability to such reasonable time as will protect the welfare of the craft. That limitation Bro. Drummond would fix at five years. Just why that period is named, rather than a longer or shorter, is best explained by saying that it is the period of limitation in Maine. We shall watch with deep interest the action of the different Grand Lodges relative to his proposition, but confidently predict that it will meet with little, if any, more favor than did the Mississippi proposition. Jurisdictions holding to perpetuity will reject it, as altering the landmark. Others will reject it, because they have already determined the time of limitation, and in most cases their law has assumed the veneration of age. As to the desirability and necessity of a settlement of the question before harmonious relations between Grand Lodges entertaining diverse opinions are actually disrupted, we are in perfect accord with Bro. Drummond. And we are more and more inclined to the belief that there can be no settlement effected until it is generally, if not universally, conceded, that the true spirit of fraternal comity shall alone govern in the matter. In other words, the law of the Grand Jurisdiction in which the rejections occur shall be accepted as governing in each particular case by all other Grand Lodges. We do not, and never did, believe in the, to us, senseless theory of perpetual jurisdiction, but unless the foregoing, or something similar, is to govern, the

time may not be far distant, when a mason will find himself one only upon sufferance of geographical lines.”

It has already transpired that the proposition of the Grand Lodge of Maine has met with a much higher degree of favor than we had ever expected that it would receive at the outset. It is true that certain Grand Lodges had already taken action in the same direction, and we do not claim that the action, which has been taken, is in response to the action of our own Grand Lodge. But that is a matter of no consequence whatever, provided that the action shall be taken.

He will know that he is in error as to the probability that all the jurisdictions holding to perpetuity will reject it, because two notable instances to the contrary have already happened. Massachusetts and New York have both abandoned the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction and have both affirmed that they will respect the status given to a rejected candidate by the laws of the jurisdiction where he is rejected. We desire to say further, as we have already said, that the limit of five years was taken because that was our law, but we have repeatedly stated that we fully believe that the Grand Lodge of Maine will modify it if that shall stand at all in the way of such a settlement of this question as will prevent discord in the future.

Our brother accedes to the main point involved, as will be seen by what he has written and that is really the vital part of the Maine proposition. While we believe that a longer time than one year should be required before any other than the rejecting lodge should receive the petition of a candidate without the consent of the latter, still that is a matter for each jurisdiction to decide for itself.

We think he misapprehends one point in our last report. We do not object to the law of the Grand Lodge of Vermont in relation to candidates which come from other jurisdictions, except to this extent, that we do not believe that it is according to sound masonic principle to recognize that a lodge has any jurisdiction over a candidate who has never applied to it, *after he removes from its jurisdiction*. It was, therefore, on this ground that we objected to the use of the word “consent”; but we do think, that if a man is to be made a mason in a new jurisdiction in less than a year it would be an act of prudence to ask from the lodge, in whose jurisdiction he had resided, its *opinion of his fitness*.

VIRGINIA, 1897.

The Grand Master, (ALFRED R. COURTNEY) states that in spite of the depression in business, the suspensions for non-payment of dues had not increased and the lodges had had all the necessary funds to continue their work, and there had been very few deaths among the brethren.

He had granted several special dispensations for doing work, and we are glad to see that he appreciates the chief test which ought to be applied in such cases. He says:

“In every instance in which this prerogative has been so used, I have since been assured that useful material has been brought into our Masonic Temple, and that the workmen have been thereby greatly encouraged in their labors.”

We note among the representatives near other Grand Lodges appointed, is R. W. WINFIELD S. CHOATE, near our Grand Lodge.

He had laid corner stones on several occasions and dedicated halls, at which splendid addresses were made, and he believes that the occasions were productive of great good.

He says one thing which is new to us here in Maine. He declined to lay the corner stone of a church because it was not of so general and public a character as to justify the performance of the ceremony by the Grand Lodge, and he adds:

“The subordinate lodges may with propriety, and frequently do, lay the corner-stones of churches, but I do not think it would be becoming in the Grand Lodge to do so.”

In most jurisdictions this work can be performed only by the Grand Lodge.

He had visited many lodges and was so impressed with the importance of the visitations that he proposed to take the liberty of calling his successor's attention to some cases in which the lodges greatly needed visitation.

He calls attention to the too common error of re-electing the same Master for a number of years in succession, saying that this is the most artificial source of apathy and want of interest among the members, and he adds:

“While the young members of a lodge naturally shrink from taking upon themselves the labors and responsibilities of office, and especially that of Worshipful Master, yet there is also a natural and laudable ambition in every manly bosom to attain to that distinction, and to be honored by such an expression of the confidence and esteem of their brethren, and these should be encouraged and, if need be, forced into office by those who have passed through the chairs. To do this the Master, after serving one or two terms, should peremptorily refuse re-election, and thus compel the lodge to take up some of these brethren and force them to bear the honors they secretly desire but are too modest or timid to acknowledge the fact.”

Of course this depends somewhat upon the character of the membership and the ability of the members to do the work well, but in lodges of the ordinary size it would seem that this plan might be followed. At any rate, if it should be tried and found not to be a success, the brethren could return to the other plan.

He speaks very earnestly of the masonic home of which he has been one of the strong pillars of support. He reports that 149 lodges had contributed on an average of thirty cents *per capita*, while 114 lodges had done nothing,

and he urges that a very earnest effort be made during the ensuing year, as he believes that the lodges, that have failed to contribute, did so, not from want of means or want of interest but from sheer inattention.

He repeats the suggestion made in another Grand Lodge that the Committee on Foreign Correspondence give a list of the regular Grand Lodges recognized by his Grand Lodge, and in that connection calls favorably to their attention the Gran Dieta of Mexico. The Grand Lodge seconded this suggestion; or rather imposed the duty upon the Grand Master.

He advised that arrangements may be made to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the death of Washington, by the appointment of committees and to take such other measures as might be deemed necessary, and the Grand Lodge adopted the suggestion, thanking the Grand Lodge of Colorado for having inaugurated the movement.

He recommended, and the Grand Lodge voted, that the Digest of Masonic Law for that jurisdiction should be revised and republished.

Among his decisions were the following:

1. The name of the member of a lodge cannot be dropped from the roll without charges or trial and without a hearing.
2. That a petitioner who has lost his left hand at the wrist cannot be made a mason, although he has supplied its place with an artificial hand so natural in form and appearance and so well adjusted for use, that with its assistance he could conform to all the requirements of the ritual. He based the decision upon the enacted law of that jurisdiction.

Right here, we are reminded that a decision was made by one, who denies very strongly that natural defects can be cured, that a man with one leg shorter than the other, but *who wore a thick sole to his boot*, was eligible. The "thick sole" seems to figure as the turning point. We think it will be found by and by that it is not safe to say that artificial appliances can *never* be used to aid in the eligibility of a candidate and that the question really will be to what extent they could be so used.

We find from his address that we were in error last year in attributing the Report on Correspondence to Bro. WILLIAM F. DRINKARD. We very greatly regret that we were in error as to his restoration to health sufficiently to enable him to perform that duty. But we do not believe that he will feel very much aggrieved at our attributing Bro. EGGLESTON's work to him; they had evidently learned in the same school of Masonry.

While recognizing the desirability of Grand Masters serving for at least two years, and having no sympathy whatever with the modern idea of rapid rotation in office, he had found himself so situated that he was unable to undertake the duties of it for another year, greatly to the regret of the Grand Lodge.

The delegate of the Grand Lodge to the Masonic Relief Association of

the United States and Canada submitted a report which was ordered to be printed. We take the following from it:

“There is no masonic work done at present which deserves the earnest support of the craft more than this. Indeed, it has become a necessity. Since the introduction of trampism into this country, men, and women as well, have made up their minds that they will make some one support them, which they come very near doing. The average mason is an easy prey, for without stopping to consider the propriety of so doing, he adds to the support of this army by his contribution, frequently a generous one.”

It has done great work beyond question in detecting impostors.

The Centennial Anniversary of the death of Washington is to take place on the 14th of December, 1899, and notices thereof and invitations to attend were to be sent, and, as we understand, have since been sent to the Grand Masters of all the other Grand Lodges; in this connection a resolution was adopted calling attention to the present unsuitable structure over the remains of Washington in Mt. Vernon, and requesting other Grand Lodges to take into consideration the propriety of erecting a suitable mausoleum over his body.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, the Grand Lodges of New Zealand, Tasmania and Victoria were recognized.

This Grand Lodge requires the representation of five lodges to constitute a quorum of the Grand Lodge. A proposition had been made to increase the number to ten, but upon the report of the committee it was rejected.

The committee on the reports of the fifty District Deputy Grand Masters say:

“We are able to report a most gratifying and unusual condition as to the work of the District Deputy Grand Masters. Not one fails to report, and taken as a whole they show a steady advance of the interest and strength of our noble Order. They indicate an unusual absence of controversy and an exhibition of harmonious labor that must bring joy to the heart of every lover of the craft.”

Some of the Deputies having reported that they had not been able to visit the lodges fully, the committee suggest that that is greatly to be deprecated, and such brethren should be selected as would be willing to devote the necessary time to the performance of the duties of the office. There is one defect, however, in the Virginia law. The Deputies have to rely upon the lodges for the re-payment of their expenses, and the committee say that there were cases in which this had not been done. We believe that these expenses should be paid by the Grand Lodge and the *per capita* tax increased accordingly. This makes the Deputy independent so far as the lodges are concerned, and he can visit them without the consciousness that his visit may not be desired simply because it imposes an expense upon the lodge.

The Report on Correspondence (152 pp.) was submitted by Bro. J. E. ALEXANDER.

He gives the law of Virginia as to territorial jurisdiction, which we quote:

“Virginia lodges must respect ‘Territorial Jurisdiction,’ not only as an act of comity but as a necessity to growth and perpetuity. A lodge cannot receive the petition of a profane non-resident. A petitioner must have resided for at least one year in the territory over which the lodge to which he applies has jurisdiction; and this fact is set forth in the petition. Neither can a lodge confer any degree without a dispensation from the Grand Master, upon any person not residing within its jurisdiction, except upon the request of the lodge in whose jurisdiction he resides; nor can the lodge where he resides, surrender ‘personal jurisdiction,’ which is not possessed until the petition is filed, and cannot then be surrendered for one year or until the petitioner has become an E. A. of such lodge, except by unanimous consent, for withdrawal of the petition before balloting.”

In his review of Arizona, he refers to the case reported the year before, in which the Master was unable to obtain the attendance of seven members, as required by the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, in order to do business, and the Grand Master granted a dispensation allowing six members to receive petitions and refer them, and the committee of the Grand Lodge recommended that the act of the Grand Master be not approved, but as the lodge acted in good faith, also recommended that the business transacted under the dispensation be confirmed; and says:

“It is difficult to reconcile the confirmation of the results of an act which can not be approved, unless it be on the principle ‘that the end justifies the means,’ but the adoption of the recommendation was perhaps the wisest course to pursue, as it indicates to future Grand Masters, that they can do some things, when occasion demands, which of necessity must be legalized by the Grand Lodge, although contrary to the ‘Harveyized-Steel’ Constitution.”

But it seems to us that the Grand Master had the right to ask the Grand Lodge that if they held his act was invalid, what the character of *their* act, in approving the business done, was. It would seem that the Grand Lodge has no greater authority to violate its Constitution than the Grand Master had. In our opinion the act of the Grand Master, by virtue of the power inherent in him as such, was valid.

We learn that in Virginia, while a man who throws a white ball cannot declare how he voted, the man who throws a black ball may do so. The latter part was criticised by some one, and our brother gives the reasons for the law, and while we know that the other view usually prevails, yet the reasons have always seemed to us sufficient to justify the Virginia law.

He says further, that a dimit in Virginia is simply a certificate that the brother had been a member of the lodge, and voluntarily withdrawn; that at the time of his withdrawal he was in good standing, and that at the date of the certificate, was not indebted to the lodge. He does not regard the document as a certificate of the masonic character of the one holding it, but leaves that to be determined in the ordinary manner.

He tells us, also, that while a non-affiliate cannot claim as a *right* certain privileges, yet he is not debarred therefrom if no objection is made.

He discusses to some length the status of non-affiliates, holding that non-affiliation is a diseased growth upon the Body of Masonry, but seems to come to the conclusion that the best way is to "let him alone."

After all the discussion that has taken place, we come to the conclusion that that is the general rule to adopt, varying it, however, according to the circumstances of each particular case. It is not always that the *fact* of non-affiliation is the trouble, and in order to determine what we should do in a particular case, we should look beyond the actual condition of non-affiliation and endeavor to ascertain the cause of it.

In his review of Maine he says: "We like the Masonry that breaks bread, not so much for the bread as for the fellowship."

Referring to the question submitted to our Grand Master as to the eligibility of a candidate who has lost his right hand, he says:

"In view of the clear and positive statement of the 'text-book,' we wonder if there was not a shade of humor in presenting this question to the Grand Lodge, or was it to be an 'awful example' to the rest of the craft."

Referring to the amendment in relation to the five years limit presented in 1897 to our Grand Lodge, he says:

"The circumstances which require the 'recommendation' of the candidate by the rejecting lodge, or a request from some other lodge for waiver of jurisdiction, indicate that the candidate is beyond the territorial jurisdiction of the rejecting lodge, otherwise the necessity for either recommendation or request does not appear, unless there are lodges having concurrent jurisdiction with the rejecting lodge; and if the candidate should remain within the jurisdiction of the rejecting lodge for five years from the date of such rejection, he must, of necessity, *leave his home and reside elsewhere*' in order to establish conditions which require either a recommendation or a waiver, or the amendment is inoperative, unless there are lodges having concurrent jurisdiction. Where the case is one involving concurrent jurisdiction, we think the jurisdiction of the rejecting lodge would terminate with the expiration of the time limit, and the candidate would have the right to apply to any other lodge having such jurisdiction; and, under the law, together with the '*scrutiny of the candidate for the preceding five years*,' such lodge would have the right to receive and act upon the petition without reference to the rejecting lodge. The provisions of section 94 of the Constitution are clear and mandatory; the petitioner *must reside within the jurisdiction of the lodge to which he petitions.*"

He is entirely correct in his statement that after the expiration of five years from a rejection in Maine, the candidate does not require the consent of any lodge. However, if a candidate, after being rejected, continues to reside in the same jurisdiction for five years, he can apply elsewhere only by a unanimous vote.

This is the rule in all cases of waiver of jurisdiction and is not confined to cases of rejection. The effect of the amendment is that after five years from a rejection, a candidate can apply elsewhere without the unanimous vote of the lodge, and consent is given unless at least three votes appear against it. Formerly, in such cases consent was given by a two-thirds vote,

but later the requirement of a unanimous vote was made, and the action, so far as this amendment is concerned, is really a movement in the opposite direction. The idea really is, when you get right down to it, that if not more than three members of a lodge object to a man, he shall have the right to apply to another lodge, which can receive him, however, only by a unanimous vote. We have questioned the wisdom of the amendment, but the cases are so rare in which it happens, that it was well enough to make the experiment.

He states that we misunderstand the decision of a committee of his Grand Lodge last year, and says that he is quite sure that if a mason should openly boast that he had black balled candidates and would continue to do so until his friend, who had been rejected, was admitted, he would find that any brother would be amply disciplined in Virginia for such unmasonic conduct.

We would like to go through this report and notice a great many other matters, but our space must be limited, otherwise we shall never reach the end of the report, or our Grand Secretary get our Proceedings published.

We are pained to receive notice, since the recess of the Grand Lodge, that M. W. Bro. JOHN PATERSON FITZGERALD, for two years Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, has died. He was an exceedingly able Grand Master and highly beloved and respected by all the masons of that jurisdiction, and his death is a serious loss to Masonry everywhere.

WASHINGTON, 1897.

The frontispiece is a portrait of Bro. YANCEY CRAWFORD BLALOCK, the retiring Grand Master.

Before opening, the roll was called and the Grand Secretary reported the constitutional number of lodges present, and thereupon the Grand Lodge was opened. Immediately afterwards a Committee on Credentials was appointed, who finally reported the names of those present.

The Grand Lodge held this session at Seattle, and P. G. Master TAYLOR, in behalf of the masons of Seattle, welcomed the Grand Lodge, to which Deputy Grand Master FRATER fittingly responded.

Grand Master BLALOCK announces the death of P. G. Master GRANVILLE O'HARA, and he was buried by the Grand Lodge, Bro. LOUIS ZIEGLER acting as Grand Master.

The lodges chartered last year had been constituted, two halls dedicated, but no dispensations for new lodges had been granted. Other matters of not special interest were passed upon by him.

He made quite a number of decisions which were approved by the Grand Lodge. Among others was the following:

“Does a Master Mason, traveling and meeting with a stranger whom he recognizes by any of the means known to the craft as being a mason, have a right to proceed by strict trial, etc., to satisfy himself that he is a mason, and being so satisfied, hold masonic conversation with him, only the two being present? *Ans.* Yes.”

The committee comments somewhat at length upon this decision, holding that the decision was correct; but suggest that the method ought to be resorted to very rarely. We must dissent from this: we have always insisted that it is the absolute right of a mason, when he meets a man who also claims to be a mason, to make such examination as will satisfy him one way or the other, of course taking due precaution that it is done at a proper time and in a proper place.

He decided, in effect, that Past Masters of a chapter cannot be present when the secrets of the chair are conferred upon a Worshipful Master at his installation.

It was also decided that the *status* of every mason from another jurisdiction is the *status* given him in that jurisdiction.

He announces the publication of the new annotated code by Bro. Wm. H. Upton, a work of which the Grand Secretary speaks in the highest terms.

The Grand Secretary explains the system of dropping from the roll in that jurisdiction, saying:

“The principal office of the existing law is doubtless, as I understand it, not only to lighten that burden, but to restore to the fraternity that just and equitable theory in masonic government, inalienable in the right of every Freemason, that all may know and understand that lodge privileges and masonic privileges *per se* are separate and distinct; that failure to contribute to the means necessary to claim enjoyment of the former, does not necessarily exclude him from the privileges of the latter, so long as the latter are not abused through those channels pointed out by the landmarks of the Fraternity.”

After the reading of this report the Senior Grand Warden reminded the Grand Master that on the evening before, the Grand Secretary, Bro. THOMAS MILBURN REED, completed his fiftieth year as a Master Mason, and offered the following resolution:

“*Resolved*, That as a Grand Lodge we congratulate M. W. Bro. Reed upon the completion of his first half-century as a Master Mason; we recognize his inestimable services to Masonry throughout the whole history of this Grand Lodge; and we tender him our most hearty good wishes for his happiness and prosperity in the years to come.”

which “was unanimously adopted by a rising vote, amidst many warm expressions of congratulation and fraternal regard.”

It would have delighted us to have been present and added one more to that unanimous vote.

As we understand from the report of Bro. Upton, the Commissioner, the Code is a codification of the existing law, and not a revision in the technical

sense; but he recommended certain amendments which were referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, and also in effect recommended a resolution making the Code the actual law of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Orator, JOHN ARTHUR, delivered a fine address, but it is impossible for us to give it attention.

The Committee on Jurisprudence recommended that the recommendations of the Code Commissioner be adopted, and the Grand Lodge so voted.

The following resolution was offered, referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, who reported adversely thereon, and their report was adopted:

“Resolved, That in addition to those prescribed in subdivision 2 of Section 1 of Article II, Grand Lodge constitution, that Past Grand Masters of other Grand Lodges now residing in this state and borne upon the registry of this Grand Lodge, are hereby constituted members of this Grand Lodge, with the same privileges accorded to Past Grand Masters of this jurisdiction.”

The Committee on Jurisprudence made the following report, which was unanimously adopted:

“In relation to decision No. 6, it is a well settled principle that every recognized Masonic Grand Lodge is sovereign and supreme within its territorial jurisdiction, and all decrees and sentences pronounced against the subjects over whom it has jurisdiction must be respected by every other sovereign Grand Lodge. Every Grand Lodge enacts its own laws and provides penalties for the violation thereof, and while in our jurisdiction a member cannot be suspended for non-payment of dues, yet, if in some other state a member is suspended from all the rights and privileges of Masonry for N. P. D., he must stand so suspended before the masonic world until that sentence be removed by the tribunal which imposed it.”

We are very glad to see this recognition by this Grand Lodge of the fact that there are certain laws binding upon all Grand Lodges, which grow out of the very existence of Grand Lodges. We are glad simply because this proposition has been denied in Washington by some of the writers on correspondence.

A communication was presented to the Grand Lodge from parties claiming to be “free and accepted masons of African descent,” and appealing to the Grand Lodge to devise some means by which they can be brought into fraternal communication with the members of the craft in that state. The matter was referred to a special committee of three to report at the next annual communication. At this writing we know nothing officially of what the action was, but we have seen it stated in a newspaper that the communication received favorable action to a certain extent. We are not willing, however, to give confidence enough to the newspaper statement, although it was in a “masonic newspaper,” so called, to make it the basis of any discussion.

Another important question was before the Grand Lodge, and that is in relation to the effect of a judgment of a court in criminal proceedings; the

question submitted was whether such judgment should be taken as conclusive or only *prima facie* evidence. The committee reported that it is not conclusive, but is *prima facie* evidence. The first proposition was adopted and the other was recommitted to the committee to report at the next annual communication. It arose undoubtedly out of a case which was before the Grand Lodge, in which the charges were that he was guilty of a crime against the state, punishable by imprisonment in the State Penitentiary, the details of which were set out in specifications, but the specifications were merely an account of what happened in Court. The accused was acquitted, and, as we understand it, while some errors were found in the proceedings the Grand Lodge sustained the decision of the lodge. In almost all the jurisdictions the judgment of a conviction of an offence in a Court is received as *prima facie* evidence upon charges in a lodge alleging substantially the facts covered by the judgment. In New Hampshire, however, as we understand it, the judgment is not evidence at all. In Pennsylvania, on the other hand, the fact that a brother has been convicted of an infamous offence is followed by striking his name from the roll of masons, adopting in effect the sentence of the criminal Court, and carrying out its consequences to the extent of depriving the brother of all his masonic rights.

We understand that the Grand Lodge of England also holds that when evidence is received that a man has been convicted by the Court of such an offence, a note is made on the record of the fact, and that thereby he ceases to be a mason. According to our recollection a case was before the Grand Lodge of England during the past year in which this doctrine was affirmed. We hope to be able to find it in our review of England and give a more definite account of it.

The Committee on Jurisprudence reported that under their law requiring one year's residence of a petitioner for the degrees, no petition from a brother, who had not resided a year in the jurisdiction, could be received, even by the dispensation of the Grand Master, or by the consent of the lodge at his former residence. However, the matter was not passed upon but was laid over for further examination. The latter paragraph is undoubtedly correct, but in all the jurisdictions in this part of the country the former is not. However, it may be that the difference in decision depends upon a difference in the language of the law.

A historic gavel was presented to the Grand Lodge and a historical sketch of it is given in the Proceedings, from which we find that very great interest in many ways attaches to the gift, but we have not space for detailing it.

The Report on Correspondence (110 pp.) was submitted by Bro. WM. H. UPON, at the request of the chairman of the committee, Bro. THOMAS MILBURN REED.

As will be seen by what we have already written, we have had intimations

that this report contained personal allusions to us; but we had not looked at it till we reached it in our review.

This report shows the calibre, characteristics and character of its author so plainly on its face that an extended notice of it would give it an importance that it does not possess. The fact, however, that it is published in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Washington, calls for one observation—that the author of it crowds more misrepresentations, actual and by implication or innuendo, into a given space than we have ever before seen. It is undoubtedly true, that many of them are the result of his unconscious gross ignorance of what he writes about; but there are many others for which this excuse cannot be given.

WEST VIRGINIA, 1897.

As usual we have a portrait, with a brief biographical sketch of the incoming Grand Master, in this case, Bro. SAMUEL N. MEYERS.

Quite a number of special communications were held for public masonic ceremonies performed, as heretofore stated, in the usual manner adopted by other Grand Lodges.

At the annual communication, immediately after the opening, the representatives of other Grand Lodges were introduced and received with Grand Honors, P. G. Master HOWARD temporarily presiding.

The Grand Master (BRAXTON D. GIBSON) delivered a long and interesting address, discussing very many matters upon which he had been required to pass.

As to the condition of the craft, he says that with some exceptions the lodges are harmonious and carrying out the principles of the fraternity, but that in some sections of the state there was more prosperity than harmony, more making of masons than observance of the lessons taught in the lodge room.

There were to come before the Grand Lodge several appeals, two of them after exceedingly "stormy trials."

His admonitions to the brethren in this connection are most excellent, and if we had any idea that there was need for them in Maine we should quote them at length as deserving very great consideration.

He had issued a large number of dispensations of various characters, a list of which he gives. He had refused to grant others, one to a lodge to install its officers on Sunday, and another to permit the "Eastern Star" to meet in a lodge room of a lodge.

He had granted several dispensations for new lodges.

Among the representatives appointed was R. W. Bro. ALBERT M. PENLEY, near the Grand Lodge of Maine.

He had applied to the Grand Master of Pennsylvania for a waiver of jurisdiction over a former resident of Pennsylvania who had applied to a lodge in that state, and apparently been rejected, although that is not stated. The Grand Master of Pennsylvania replied that he had referred the request to the lodge to which he had applied, and found that no masonic objection existed.

A lodge during the year had received the petition of a candidate who had been rejected more than five years previously by another lodge. Upon complaint of a violation of jurisdiction, the Grand Master inquired into the matter and found that the last named lodge understood that the five years limit had been adopted by the Grand Lodge. But when the Grand Master informed them that the change had not been actually made in the laws, they returned the fees to the candidate and did not initiate them.

Upon a complaint by the Grand Master of Pennsylvania, the Grand Master made a decision which would indicate that if a resident of Pennsylvania comes to West Virginia and obtains the degrees, the work would be declared void. In the actual case, however, it was claimed that the candidate was an actual resident of the state at the time he was initiated.

We find that heretofore, although we believe the law was amended at this session, there has been no prescribed time in which a candidate must reside in West Virginia before he can put in his application.

Another question arose which we desire to notice, as it involves a question of law concerning which we happen to differ from the general opinion. A man applied to a West Virginia lodge, claiming to be a resident of that state, and was rejected. Within less than a year he applied to an Ohio lodge, and was accepted and received the degrees. It was alleged that he stated in the petition that he had never been rejected. The Ohio lodge claimed that when he applied to the West Virginia lodge he was a resident of Ohio, and that that lodge, therefore, had no jurisdiction, and that, therefore, they had a right to receive the petition. At the same time it was held in Ohio, apparently, that he was liable to discipline for not having disclosed the fact that he had applied to the West Virginia lodge and been rejected therein. Upon our view of the law this was an offence, but if, as is quite universally held, the action of the West Virginia lodge was *absolutely void*, how can he be subject to discipline for not saying he had been rejected, when in a point of the law he never had been. We think this illustrates the correctness of our position, that is to say, that if a candidate applies to a lodge which has no jurisdiction over him, he shall stand by the result with all its consequences, whatever that result is.

We note also that in the report of the Grand Representative of West Virginia near the Grand Lodge of Ohio what seems to be an assumption by the committee of the latter Grand Lodge, that if he had been rejected within one

year he had no right to apply for initiation, although the rejection was in another jurisdiction. From our review of Ohio it will be seen that the Grand Lodge apparently came to a different conclusion.

The Grand Master announces that he conferred the three degrees in Masonry at sight on the President of Shepherd College. Of this he says:

“The character and qualifications of the candidate had been fully investigated, and he was found worthy in every particular—conforming physically, mentally and morally to all the requirements of the craft. And he was recommended as one who would make a zealous and exemplary mason.

“The candidate had never applied to any lodge of masons, though he was a warm friend to our Order, and in several ways his favorable opinion had redounded to the benefit of the fraternity. At my direction he signed and presented to me the regular petition containing the declarations set out in our standard petition for the mysteries of Freemasonry.

“The right to exercise this prerogative is as old as the office of Grand Master, and has been practiced from time to time by Grand Masters in other jurisdictions, but I am the first to report special circumstances giving the opportunity to exercise the prerogative in West Virginia. I have not done so in a careless or hasty manner; but made sure all was right before going ahead.”

It is rather curious that the frantic efforts of the opposers of this prerogative, to discredit it and prevent its use, have really resulted in an increase in its exercise, whereby it is shown that the arguments of the opposers have been weighed and found wanting.

Grand Master GIBSON speaks very earnestly against the use of cipher rituals and he refers to the O. B. But there is no such O. B. in this section of the country as he quotes, and that being so, his arguments fail so far as we are concerned; but we are inclined to believe that he is among those who have read only a part of that to which he refers. He thinks if the cipher heresy gains full sway the fraternity is on its rapid way to oblivion. Inasmuch as this “heresy” has prevailed for over one hundred years, to a much larger extent in proportion to the number of masons than it prevails at present, the forebodings of the M. W. brother would seem not to have very great foundation.

He gives a most excellent discussion of the limitations and tendencies of Freemasonry, from which we would be glad to quote but cannot spare the space.

We notice that in this jurisdiction they have District Deputy Grand Lecturers and District Deputy Grand Masters. In Maine, we combine both systems in one, thereby saving expense and time, and we believe that our system is the most effective.

The subject of the Masonic Home was again before the Grand Lodge, but upon the report of the committee it was voted that it was inexpedient to agitate it further.

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence submitted a report in relation

to objection after a ballot, but it was amended and we are unable to determine precisely what was done. But it seems to be that an oral objection is equivalent to a rejection by ballot, but that a member may file an objection in writing, and it holds good while the objector is a member of the lodge, unless he voluntarily withdraws it.

The Report on Correspondence (176 pp.) was presented, as heretofore, by the Grand Secretary, GEORGE W. ATKINSON.

Of the Maine proposition, he says:

“The Maine proposition, suggested a year or so ago, modifying the old doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction over rejected candidates for Masonry, by limiting jurisdiction to five years, has made gratifying progress during the year. It has been my impression for years, that some restriction of the old rule should be adopted by all the Grand Lodges. Many have already fallen into line. Others have refused. Our own West Virginia Grand Lodge, at its last session, decided to stand with Pennsylvania, Ohio, and other of the more conservative bodies of this country, as favoring the original doctrine of following a rejected candidate wherever he goes forever.”

Accordingly, in the Grand Lodge, he called up the resolution reported last year favoring the adoption of the five years limit instead of a perpetual jurisdiction, and moved its adoption, but it failed by one vote to receive the necessary two-thirds and was declared to be lost.

His report, as heretofore, is an excellent abstract of the Proceedings, but with few comments as he passes along, leaving a summing up for his introduction and conclusion.

WISCONSIN, 1897.

The Grand Master (ALBRO JENCKS) delivered a very able address.

Referring to the handsome net gain made in the membership, he says:

“This increase of membership is very gratifying, but is of little value or importance without the teachings of Masonry have found a lodgment in the hearts of the initiates so as to become a part of their daily life. The brightest mason is not the one who becomes proficient in the lectures and ritual; who so commits them as to have them at the tongue's end; but the one who makes Masonry the rule and guide of his daily walk and conduct.”

He decided that under the express law of that Grand Lodge, a lodge could not be opened unless the Master or one of the Wardens was present; and that the work of a lodge in the absence of these officers, when it was opened and the work conducted by a Past Master, was void.

He decided also that a resolution or amendment to an edict of the Grand Lodge in relation to physical qualifications, was void, being in violation of the ancient landmark, and he gives his reasons for this decision at some length.

When we commenced reading what he wrote we rejoiced, because we said to ourselves, at last we are going to get a sight of the landmark to

which the Perfectionists continually allude. But alas, like all others he fails to quote it, and we are left just where we were before we began to read his discussion. We greatly regret this, because we have never found any such landmark; all the landmark, which we have ever found, does have the qualifying clause which he says does not exist. But we must be allowed to hold our own views that he is in error until some one produces this landmark, which, he says, has no qualifying clause.

He decided, in effect, and the Grand Lodge sustained him, that the regulation of our own Grand Lodge and of almost all the others, is in violation of this landmark of which he speaks, but does not quote. It is true, he quotes MACKAY in his support, but MACKAY does not quote the landmark upon which he relies, and none of his students have ever been able to find it, so far as we know. We devote this space to this matter because it is an exceedingly important one. If the Grand Lodge of Maine is violating a landmark, we want to know it.

The Committee on Masonic Relief submitted another report in relation to the "Wisconsin proposition," so called, and they undertook to state what they do not mean by it. Among them is this: "We do not propose any innovation or new departure in Masonry," but the almost universal decision is that their proposition does propose an innovation and a new departure, and in telling what they do propose, they prove it, by saying substantially that a worthy brother in distress, shall have relief when absolutely necessary to him, *to the full extent and duration of his wants*.

Various other matters are discussed in it, but this question is not met, except towards the close of their report they simply say that the opponents of their proposition in effect leave a brother to the tender mercies of the public. That this is a consequence, nobody denies. If nobody is able to do a certain thing, it cannot very well be done.

The committee say further:

"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 aspersion 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."

There is no aspersion upon the masonic fraternity in what we wrote; the doctrine of the committee and the proposition assume and hold that the lodge, in whose jurisdiction a brother falls into distress, must relieve that distress without reference at all to the ability of the lodge of which he was

a member, and it is no aspersion upon anybody to say that this plan involves in itself, when executed in the utmost good faith, the very consequences which we stated.

The Grand Lecturer, Bro. YOUNGS, made an exceedingly interesting report, from which we learn that beyond any question cipher rituals must have been used in Wisconsin within one year after the organization of the Grand Lodge, as the work of WEBB and BARNEY is referred to, and everybody knows that they used and promulgated their work by means of cipher rituals.

A revised Constitution was unanimously adopted, but it is not published with the Proceedings.

As within the few years past, there is no Report on Correspondence.

WYOMING, 1897.

The Grand Lodge is publishing the portraits of its Past Grand Masters, and in this pamphlet we have four.

The Grand Master (DEFOREST RICHARDS) delivered a brief address. He says the return of material prosperity has gone far towards an improvement in the masonic organization. He notes the surrender of one charter caused by a consolidation of two lodges, the proceedings in doing which he pronounced to be correct.

As Wyoming has abandoned the Grand Representative system, he presented the resolutions of our Grand Lodge; but the committee report that those resolutions are in practical conformity to their own law, and, therefore, that no action is necessary.

He reports one case in which written objection to a candidate was filed before his application, and, thereupon, the lodge, by unanimous vote, declined to receive the application when it was presented. Afterwards, however, another application was presented and the candidate was rejected. Some three years after that he again applied and was initiated. Complaint was made against the lodge that these proceedings were illegal on account of the written objection which had been filed; but the Grand Lodge decided that such an objection could not be legally considered and the action of the lodge was approved. The decision is in accordance with decisions which have been made in our Grand Lodge.

He decided further, and the Grand Lodge sustained him, that a lodge has no right to act upon an objection for affiliation unless it is accompanied by a dimit.

The other business was of a routine character and was harmoniously transacted.

The Report on Correspondence (90 pp.) was presented, as heretofore, by Bro. W. L. KUYKENDALL.

He notes what we have said of finding evidence in his reports that he had somewhat modified the views, which we have supposed that he held as to "progressiveness in Masonry." We believe that we have overestimated his tendency in that direction; at any rate, we have very little, indeed, to object to in that direction in this report, which is carefully written and conservative in its tone.

He believes that the right of avouchment should be limited, and he gives some pretty good reasons for it. Inasmuch as so many masons lose their good standing by non-payment of dues, he thinks that an avouchment should be made only upon recent evidence of the good standing of the applicant. That point seems to be well taken. At any rate, a brother who undertakes to avouch for another should state the circumstances upon which he makes the avouchment and then the Master should determine whether the avouchment is sufficient.

In his review of Maine, our brother argues against the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction. We have never claimed, and but few have claimed, that the doctrine is a landmark, and, therefore, unchangeable. We examined that matter in Maine years ago and came to the conclusion that the whole matter is within the proper jurisdiction of Grand Lodges, and that they are not bound by any superior law in this regard. But there is one thing we do not quite understand; the Grand Lodge of Wyoming maintains perpetual jurisdiction as between the lodges in its own Grand Jurisdiction. Now to our mind the arguments against perpetual jurisdiction are just as potent against the law of Wyoming as they are against the law of Pennsylvania; and certainly our brother's arguments are greatly weakened by his support of this law of his Grand Lodge. We believe the same reasons which compel a rejected candidate to wait a given time before he presents his petition *in the same jurisdiction*, apply with equal force when he would present it in *another* jurisdiction, and, therefore, that the law of Maine, which his Grand Lodge by adopting the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence approves, is correct; and that it should apply *in* Wyoming as well as *out of it*.

He sees no reason for any disagreement between Grand Lodges, but we think enough has happened since he wrote this report to show him that there is reason to fear just what we have stated; as quite a number of Grand Lodges are having dissensions among themselves growing out of this matter.

In his argument, he seems to assume that the resolutions of our Grand Lodge sustain perpetual jurisdiction, and, therefore, he does not quite touch the point. We regret to see, also, that he too uses the argument against the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction, that is really against requiring a unanimous ballot.

He says that he does not believe that there has been or will be one case in a thousand where a candidate, rejected in one jurisdiction and afterwards admitted in another, ever presents himself as a mason in the former. We do not concur; enough of such cases have actually happened to show that his figures are incorrect. But whether his statement is comparatively true or not, if there are enough of them who do desire to visit at their old home, to disturb the peace of the fraternity, then a remedy is called for.

As a matter of fact, so far as our observation has gone, very frequently a man who has been rejected in one jurisdiction and made a mason in another, rushes back to his old home on purpose to visit the lodge there, and is moreover urged to do so by his friends. However, we do not desire to spend the time and space in this connection, because there is no occasion to argue the question of perpetual jurisdiction at all.

He suggests that the Grand Master had found something wrong with our recent legislation in Maine in regard to the rejected candidates and that it was not working well. It was not that in the opinion of Grand Master FARNHAM, the plan does not work well, but that it had not gone quite far enough, and so far as he sustains Grand Master FARNHAM he reflects upon the law in his own jurisdiction. The law in Maine, as between Maine lodges, is much more favorable to rejected candidates than it is in Wyoming.

ARIZONA, 1897.

We did not receive the Proceedings of this Grand Lodge in season to notice them in alphabetical order.

The pamphlet is adorned with a picture of "officers, members and visiting brethren present at the session of the Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Arizona, held in the cave of the Copper Queen Mine, November 10, 1897." A brief description is given and a list of the names of the brethren present. It was "a scene never to be forgotten by those who witnessed it."

The Grand Master (WILLIAM FRANCIS NICHOLS) delivers a brief address, closely confined to a concise statement of his official acts.

He had visited all the lodges in the jurisdiction, and says that while some are more prosperous than others, yet all are in good condition, both financially and otherwise, and that harmony prevails; and in all the lodges a desire is manifested to push forward the work for the benefit of our beloved institution.

He decided that where a lodge in another jurisdiction conferred the degrees at the request of a home lodge, the candidate was a member of the latter, which should pay Grand Lodge dues for him.

The report of the Grand Secretary shows that matters had proceeded harmoniously and in order during the year.

A claim of one lodge against a Washington lodge, for money expended, was presented, alleging that it was the duty of the Washington lodge to repay the whole of a bill expended for the benefit of a member of the Washington lodge, which was willing to pay part but would not pay the whole. But the committee reported that the Washington lodge had paid all that it had authorized should be paid and, therefore, they say:

“While we regret that ‘Spokane’ lodge should decline to take care of one of its members, when sickness or adversity overtakes him away from home, yet can scarcely see our way clear to make any recommendation, but suggest that the matter be referred to the incoming Grand Master.”

What the reason was why the Spokane Lodge declined to pay the rest does not appear; but we are bound to assume under the circumstances that it had a valid reason and does not recognize the Wisconsin doctrine that the expenditure by one lodge of money to relieve a member of another lodge, creates a debt.

It was during the session of the Grand Lodge that it made the visit to the cave of the Copper Queen Mine by virtue of the following resolution:

“Resolved, That the members of the Grand Lodge, and all Master Masons in good standing, meet in the lodge room at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning and march in a body to the cave of the Copper Queen Mine, which had been especially fitted with the paraphernalia suitable for lodge work, and that a session of the Grand Lodge be held therein for the purpose of receiving the Grand Representatives from sister Grand Jurisdictions.”

The Grand Lodge, upon the report of its committee, recognized the Gran Dieta of Mexico and accepted the special representative appointed to attend this Grand Lodge.

The visit to the cave is described; among other things the Grand Lodge received and greeted the Representative of the Gran Dieta, who “made an able and suitable response.”

The other business of the Grand Lodge was of a routine character, and shows that harmony and a fair degree of prosperity prevail in that jurisdiction.

QUEBEC, 1898.

In continuation of the publication of the portraits of Past Grand Masters we have those of EDWIN R. JOHNSON, JAMES FRED WALKER and LUKE ROBINSON, all of whom have “gone over to the majority.”

The Grand Lodge held a special communication to dedicate a hall. We note that it was opened at one hall, marched in procession to the hall to be dedicated, performed the usual ceremonies and closed.

The Committee on Credentials gives in connection with each lodge all of the permanent members of the Grand Lodge belonging to that lodge, with his rank in his lodge and in the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Secretary also gives us a list of the Foreign Grand Lodges whose representatives are in attendance. Among them our own Grand Lodge was represented by the Grand Secretary himself.

The Grand Master (E. T. D. CHAMBERS) in his address refers eloquently and feelingly to the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen, and speaks highly of the effect which the erection of the new hall in Montreal has had upon the prosperity of the Order.

There had been peace at home and considerable activity among the craft, measures having been inaugurated looking to the organization of two or three lodges and the erection of at least three new halls.

We are very sorry to learn that last summer P. G. Masters JOHN H. GRAHAM and JOHN H. ISAACSON (also Grand Secretary) were suffering under severe illness. But our hearts are also "filled with joy and thanksgiving" to learn of their recovery.

The Grand Master notices the honoring of P. G. Master M. M. TAIT, Judge of the Superior Court, with Knighthood, and we take the liberty also of tendering the congratulations of the Maine craft to our distinguished brother.

He had declined to restore the surrendered charter of a lodge, or rather to give that charter to petitioners for a new lodge in the same place.

He had issued several dispensations, and among them, one for the conferring of the three degrees in one night upon a candidate about to leave for China. We are very glad to notice that he based his action upon the considerations which ought to govern in cases of this kind. He has no sympathy with granting a dispensation to a man who has lived all his lifetime in the neighborhood of a lodge, and never shown any interest in Freemasonry, and who, being about to move to another home, suddenly desires to be made a mason. The case in which he granted the dispensation did not come within this rule. It is true the young man was obliged to start for China on very short notice, and that he had lived in the vicinity of the lodge; but he had frequently expressed his desire to join the fraternity, and his intention of doing so as soon as his circumstances would permit; and, moreover, it was certain that the brethren of the lodge had a full and complete knowledge of his character and fitness to be made a mason.

The Grand Master says that the remarks, which he had made, were of general application, but made in the hope that masters of lodges under such circumstances would carefully weigh the petitions of all candidates who are smitten with a sudden desire to be possessed of our privileges.

He had had an application for a dispensation to confer the degrees on a candidate from the United States who was merely visiting in that jurisdiction, but the lodge was promptly informed that it could not accept the can-

didate until it had received the proper consent from the Grand Lodge of the jurisdiction in which he resided.

The "Apostasy of the Grand Lodge of Peru" is a heading under which he gives the history of the recent action, and takes the correct ground in relation thereto. The representative of the Grand Lodge of Peru near that Grand Lodge, upon suggestion, had immediately resigned his commission and the Grand Master advised the Grand Lodge to recall the commission of its representative near the former Grand Lodge of Peru. From recent intelligence we are hoping that we shall at no distant date be officially informed that the Grand Lodge of Peru has retraced its steps.

He found there was a lodge in Montreal called "Emancipation Lodge," which was not only irregular but clandestine. It had been chartered by the Grand Orient of France. He, therefore, issued proclamations in English and in French, calling attention not only to the *status* of this particular lodge, but to the *status* of the Grand Orient itself. He would have taken no notice of this lodge, but that he found that some of the French-speaking brethren had been deceived into giving it recognition.

The report of the venerable Grand Secretary shows that he had been able to perform the duties of his office in his usual highly acceptable manner.

We note from his report that the lodges in this jurisdiction are comparatively small. There is only one lodge having as many as 160 members and only 10 others that have over 100. There are 13 having 50 and less than 75, he does not state how many there are numbering between 75 and 100.

The reports of the District Deputies show that they have been quite earnest in the discharge of the duties of the office, and their reports show that the lodges are in very good condition as a rule.

In answer to a member of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master announced the following decision:

"All Master Masons are equal in this Grand Lodge and in the various subordinate lodges of this jurisdiction, no matter under what rite, recognized by this Grand Lodge, they may have received the degrees of Ancient Free and Accepted Masonry."

A lodge recommended the expulsion of a brother who had been convicted by it of the offence of perjury. He had been convicted of that offence in Court, but the Judge presiding had intimated that if application was made for a new trial because the verdict was not justified by the evidence, it would have been granted. But the accused was not able to bear the expense of obtaining a new trial and so submitted to sentence, which the Judge made as light as possible under the law.

From the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence, we judge that they were of the opinion that the evidence did not justify his conviction. At any rate, they reported in favor of setting aside the judgment of the lodge

and referred the matter back with instruction to give the accused a new trial. This action is almost if not quite without parallel in the history of the craft on this Continent, but it is in precise accordance with the doctrine held in most of the Grand Lodges, although we think in two the conviction itself by a criminal Court is made to terminate the masonic *status* of the accused.

We have heretofore referred to the matter of Prevost Lodge, one of the oldest in the province. It will be remembered that there was a schism in this lodge which resulted in the formation of two lodges, Prevost No. 7 and Prevost No. 8. The latter was recognized by the Grand Lodge and the former was not; but matters have been so arranged that the two lodges have amalgamated, and the committee think that it should be under the old charter and with the old number. The first part of this was readily arranged, but in the meantime No. 7 had been given to another lodge and the Grand Lodge expressed its opinion that the new lodge should give up No. 7 and take No. 8, and substantially made a request for it to do so. If the new lodge does consent, the Grand Master could perfect the amalgamation. If it did not consent, the matter was to remain in abeyance and come before the Grand Lodge next year.

The Report on Correspondence (122 pp.) was presented by Bro. WILLIAM H. WYTHE.

He refers to the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee, saying:

“Canada held a leading position in that most remarkable event, exemplifying the words of our Indian brother,

“ ‘ Daughter am I in my mother’s house,
‘ Though mistress in mine own.’ ”

“Canadian masons shared in the universal homage, for from nearly every Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter and from the Knights Templar of the Dominion were sent congratulatory addresses of love and loyalty.”

Of the Wisconsin plan of relief, he says:

“The Wisconsin Relief plan has received such little support that it is practically dead. The proposition that a lodge at a distance, affording relief to a distressed brother, should have a claim or lien on the funds of his lodge, if it be able, and if not then upon the Grand Lodge chartering it, was looked upon as not being strictly in accordance with the ancient notions of masonic charity, and the limit that should be reached in advancing such help seemed to be one of the principal factors in determining its fate.”

And of the Maine resolutions:

“The proposition of the Grand Lodge of Maine, that the jurisdiction over rejected material be limited to five years, has been more generally received. A number of Grand Lodges are willing to adopt it if made general, but a general adoption seems somewhat remote. This idea involves the question of perpetual jurisdiction, a doctrine not held in the British Grand Lodges throughout the Empire, but to which quite a number of American Grand Lodges are firmly wedded.”

We do not quite understand what he means by saying that “the Maine

resolutions involve the question of perpetual jurisdiction," as really the proposition is to abolish that doctrine. Perhaps this is what he means by what he says.

Of the use of the term masonic he says:

"The use of the name 'masonic,' in business, has brought scandal upon the good name of the fraternity, and several Grand Lodges have enacted legislation forbidding the use of the name in its jurisdiction in any business venture. The failure of some so-called masonic association, to meet its just claims, has led to this enactment."

And of another evil he further says:

"The advertising and unnecessary prominence given in the secular press, to the meetings and doings of many of the subordinate lodges, have brought forward very strong condemnatory remarks from Grand Masters and others. There has been far too much of this kind of thing, and it is time a halt was called."

In relation to making a mason at sight, he well says:

"The making a 'mason at sight,' by a Grand Master, has been the cause of numerous resolutions being carried in different jurisdictions prohibiting their Grand Masters from exercising any such power; yet the same Grand Masters are permitted to issue all sorts of dispensations to curtail and abridge the laws regarding the ballot, reference, shortening the time and conferring all the degrees in one night, practically amounting to the same thing."

His remarks, however, do not apply to all the Grand Lodges.

We take these extracts from his introduction; the remainder of his report is very largely of the abstract character, and yet comments are interspersed with it. But we received these Proceedings while the printer is waiting, and we are obliged to stop where we are, very glad, however, that Quebec shall not be missing from our review.

ENGLAND.

We have the Proceedings for the three quarterly and the annual communications for the year ending April, 1898.

When the question of confirming the minutes in relation to the action which the Grand Lodge took in regard to the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, or rather in relation to what lodges may do upon the formation of a Grand Lodge in their territorial jurisdiction, a very strenuous effort was made to reverse the previous action which, allows a lodge by a two-thirds vote to determine to go with the new Grand Lodge; but the attempt was defeated by a very decisive majority.

We do not find, however, that the Grand Master has reached a conclusion in relation to the Grand Lodge of New Zealand.

The Grand Master had conferred Past rank upon sixty Brethren in com-

memoration of the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign, and the Grand Lodge, by unanimous vote, extended the privilege to some of the Provinces.

The Grand Lodge sent a message of condolence and sympathy to the Pro Grand Master, the EARL OF LATHOM, upon the decease of his wife.

Upon a motion to increase the salary of the Grand Secretary, there was a very earnest discussion. A brother, whom we have noticed before, seems to be a kind of a self-constituted watch dog of the treasury, but the Grand Lodge made the increase as recommended by the Board of General Purposes.

A resolution was introduced in relation to electioneering, making the penalty of electioneering by anyone, or by anyone on his behalf, if he should be elected to office, incapacity to enter upon its duties: and the matter was to be determined by the Board of General Purposes.

While the Grand Lodge agreed as to the impropriety of electioneering, the resolution was so drastic in its character that it was defeated by a large majority. It seems to be one of a very dangerous character. It would seem that if a brother should solicit support of another brother for a third person, without the consent or even knowledge of the latter, it would vacate the election if he should happen to be elected.

Another matter of very grave importance came before the Grand Lodge. The Grand Master communicated to the Grand Lodge that a certain person who was a permanent member of the Grand Lodge had been convicted of felony and was then undergoing penal servitude. An official certificate of the facts under the seal of the Court was presented in Grand Lodge, by which it appeared that the brother in question pleaded guilty to the offence of which he was charged.

The matter is one of sufficient importance, that we deem it proper to quote the words of the Deputy Grand Registrar when he presented the matter to the Grand Lodge:

“So far as his connection with ordinary lodges goes, it is made clear by the language used with reference to a person under like circumstances by the Board of General Purposes in December, 1833, in reply to certain questions put to it by the Grand Lodge of Ireland: ‘He ceased from the moment of his conviction to be a member of any lodge to which he belonged. He cannot be recognized as a mason, nor be allowed to enter any lodge until his crime be expiated by his having served his full term for which he was sentenced, or otherwise until he shall have received a free pardon.’ The same Board in the year 1848 maintained the like view, on a complaint by a certain Bro. Keene against the St. Andrew's Lodge. In that case the Worshipful Master had declined, except upon a vote of the lodge, to expunge from the list of members the name of a brother, a member and Past Master of the lodge, who had been convicted of forgery and sentenced to seven years transportation—for which, of course, penal servitude is now the substitute. The Board held that the name of the brother so convicted of felony ought to be expunged *as a matter of course*, upon the lodge being certified as to the sentence, and that the question was not one to be voted upon. In other words, the brother is, so far as ordinary lodges are con-

cerned, a masonic outcast during the currency of his sentence; and practically, for ever. For although, after the expiration of his offence, it is open to him again to join a lodge, it is only if any lodge is willing to receive him, and then only upon a clearance certificate and with a full explanation of all the circumstances which led to the disunion; and discovery of the retention of such full explanation operates as an immediate cancellation of his admission. If, then, he is not fit for the company of the brethren of an ordinary lodge, he is equally not fit for the company of the brethren of Grand Lodge. But a member of Grand Lodge his tenure of Past Grand Office, so long as he has it, Rule 2 of the Book of Constitutions makes him; and this quite irrespectively of his being or not being a member of an ordinary lodge; and it will be quite competent for him, if nothing is done, at the expiration of his sentence, or upon his pardon, to return to Grand Lodge and claim admission thereto as a member by reason of his position as a Past Grand Officer. It follows, therefore, that the remedy is only to be found in removing him from his rank as such. And this is the course, the propriety of following which the Grand Master submits to us for our consideration in the present case. Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair, I apprehend that Grand Lodge will agree with the Grand Master. A precedent for its action—if, indeed, a precedent is wanted—may be found in the case before this Grand Lodge in 1847-1848, of one Cooke. This brother had been appointed by the Grand Master Representative of Grand Lodge at the Grand Lodge of New York, and had been honored with the rank of Past Senior Grand Warden. In that capacity he attended several meetings of Grand Lodge, the Grand Festival amongst them. It was then discovered that he had obtained his appointment and rank under false pretences. The Grand Master thereupon revoked his appointment, and submitted, as here, the propriety, under the circumstances, of removing him from his Past Grand rank; and the Grand Registrar moved accordingly. Grand Lodge, however, took so serious a view of the particular case that an amendment with a view to the brother's expulsion from the English craft, was put and carried; and expelled therefrom he eventually was."

And he moved not that the brother be expelled from the craft, but that his rank be taken away from him, whereby he was deprived of membership in the Grand Lodge.

The acting Grand Master, putting the motion, said that he hoped, for the honor of the craft, he may never have to put again another such motion. It was unanimously adopted.

We quote this partly in consequence of remarks that have been made in relation to the Hart case, which remarks were based upon the proposition that it was in violation of the usages and principles of Masonry to discipline a mason without giving him notice, and if actual notice could not be given to him, that constructive notice should be. We think this action of the Grand Lodge of England and the statement of the law prevailing under its jurisdiction, will be a surprise to some of our brethren who have so sharply criticised the Hart case.

These Proceedings are largely taken up with the accounts and returns of the lodges and the formal routine proceedings of the Grand Lodge, which are not of especial interest to us in Maine.

The roll of lodges numbers 2,704, but very many of these, indeed, a large

majority of them, are vacant. But one gets a practical view of the universality of Freemasonry by noticing the situation of the lodges. We may use a paraphrase and say that the sun always shines on some lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

On the other hand, we are inclined to the opinion that the idea of fraternity so prevalent in this country, is not the leading idea under that Grand Jurisdiction. Each lodge seems to be rather a society of its own and members are admitted to it largely upon social grounds. There are very few rejections, because, as we think, the name of the candidate is pretty thoroughly canvassed among the members before it is presented, and more care is taken than in this country, to ascertain whether a proposed new member will be agreeable to the other members of the lodge which he proposes to join. From what was said by the Deputy Grand Registrar in the quotation which he have made, we judge also that a man is not recognized as a mason practically unless he does belong to a lodge; because in that particular case it was said that after the penal servitude of the accused had expired he could petition to a lodge, but he could not get into one save by a regular certificate of explanation of the circumstances attending his resignation from the lodge to which he formerly belonged. It is true that in one case it speaks of expulsion from the craft, and probably that punishment is theoretically recognized, but apparently, when for any offence his membership of his lodge is terminated, he seems to be practically an outcast from the fraternity.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

We have the Proceedings of this Grand Lodge at its various communications held during the year ending June, 1897. A special communication was held in relation to some proceedings in law apparently growing out of the formation of the Grand Lodge. They were against a particular lodge, and upon its petition the Grand Lodge undertook the defence and unanimously voted to indemnify the nominal defendants against loss.

A question was raised as to whether it was in order to discuss the matter which had not been dealt with by the Board of General Purposes, and thereupon,

“The Grand Master ruled that the matter before Grand Lodge was perfectly in order, as he, as Grand Master, had convened the meeting to deal with this matter. The Grand Master is the elected head of the Order and is Supreme, the only power the craft possesses over him being his election, and the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge must be Supreme, and is over and above all Boards; the matter was therefore in order.”

The Board of General Purposes decided that a lodge could not accept a part of dues in arrears and restore the brother. We get the impression

from this that there is no such thing as a remission of dues in a lodge in this jurisdiction, but that the matter is treated as a matter of business, and if any brother cannot pay his dues he should cease to be a member.

We note also that a charter was restored to five members of a lodge which had ceased working since 1891. But it was restored upon the condition, that they should pay the dues to the Grand Lodge accruing since the last return. This is not in accordance with the usage in this country.

Bro. JOHN B. TRIVETT, the "Grand Inspector of Workings," made a report at each quarterly communication, of much interest, showing that he had been an exceedingly active and energetic officer, and that he, with the aid of the twenty-one District Inspectors, had done much to maintain the prosperity of this jurisdiction, correctness in the proceedings of the lodges and skill in the workings. He speaks highly of the advantages produced by the mutual visitation of lodges, and hopes that the custom will be zealously cultivated. And he advises also, very wisely, that the strong lodges should visit the weak ones, and which would thereby be encouraged, and the danger of admitting unworthy members be diminished.

In one of his reports he says:

"In this connection I would refer to the mode frequently adopted in balloting, where there are two or more candidates, viz., the spreading of the ballot for the proponents *in globo*. This practice is irregular, for reasons which will be apparent on consideration. I would also remark that the method of investiture by proxy, occasionally adopted, should be avoided. It is just as absurd to attempt to invest, as to endeavour to install, by proxy. Material gifts can be imparted per medium of a substitute, intellectual never, with proper effect."

These methods have been very generally objected to in this country.

A complaint was preferred by one lodge against another for not having made the necessary inquiry in relation to a candidate. We judge that the candidate resided in the jurisdiction of the complaining lodge. The lodge complained of admitted that they had made a mistake and the Grand Lodge imposed the penalty of a fine.

It was decided that after the result of a ballot has been declared by the Master he cannot re-open it on the alleged ground that a brother voted who was not properly qualified.

Bro. TRIVETT, in another report, says:

"Great laxity was visible in one lodge respecting the proposition of a candidate for initiation. Neither the proposer nor seconder was present to testify as to character; nor did it seem that they considered themselves bound to send written testimony, being absent; the lodge consequently had only the evidence of casual acquaintances of the proponent, upon which to ballot. Carelessness has also been shown in the examination of candidates prior to advancement, and at times both the Wor. Master and the lodge seemed to regard scanty knowledge as by no means a dangerous thing. If the catechisms are to be of any real worth, an acquaintance with the principles embodied in them should be uniformly required."

He commends the practice of some lodges of delivering lectures when there was no work to be done, and thinks those skilled in masonic matters, by imparting the results of their studies to the lodge, may enlighten otherwise dull meetings and elevate the intellectual standard of the craft.

We note that at one meeting a vote of condolence with Past Grand Master STOKES on the death of his son was adopted, and at the next session his own death was announced and tributes were paid to his memory.

Upon the recommendation of the Board of General Purposes, it was enacted:

“That no Entered Apprentice, or Fellow Craft, initiated or passed in any lodge, not under the jurisdiction of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, shall, so long as he remains a member of that lodge be passed or raised in any lodge, under the jurisdiction of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, without the consent in writing of the Wor. Master and Wardens of the lodge in which he was initiated or passed.”

BRO. TRIVETT criticises some lodges for prompting officers in whispers; also the loose method of vouching in vogue in some lodges, and moreover, earnestly urges that the Lodge of Instruction should devote a part of its time to “points of masonic etiquette and usage in addition to the present routine of simple degree work.” This is exceedingly applicable in this country. While we do not believe in excessive formality, still we know this matter of masonic etiquette has been very greatly neglected. We doubt if one-half of the Masters could receive the District Deputy formally, as required by masonic usage, in case of an unexpected visit.

The Board of General Purposes decided that members of the lodge in relation to which litigation was taking place, could not be admitted as visitors while those proceedings were pending. The matter came before the Grand Lodge for its action. When it was presented, the Deputy Grand Master presiding felt called upon to reprehend a very irregular proceeding. A circular on the subject had been scattered about the lodge room, and he states that whoever was responsible for printing and circulating it, was guilty of grossly improper conduct and that it could not be tolerated by the Grand Lodge, and he hoped that such a thing would never again occur.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence submitted a report and a review. While the review is signed by all the members of the committee, the report is signed by Bro. JOHN B. TRIVETT, and we judge that he was the real author of the review.

He had reviewed the Proceedings of forty-six Grand Lodges. He was unable to give a full review for many reasons. He notes the general subjects which had been discussed. He says:

“We have noted with surprise and interest the attention paid to the details of masonic trials in cases of discipline, and the comprehensive exactness of the Proceedings. In the United States, a conviction recorded in the

Law Courts for felony does not *ipso facto* expell a member. The lodge must try the case independently."

We judge by this that the same law in relation to discipline prevails in this jurisdiction that prevails in the Grand Lodge of England. It would seem that none of the formalities which are required in this country are used in the Grand Lodges originating recently from the Grand Lodge of England.

The Deputy Grand Master made a brief address. He called attention to the fact that the year before he was compelled to report a falling off in the number of members and in the revenue of the Grand Lodge. This year he was able to report a large increase in the revenue, in spite of extraordinary expenses occasioned by the litigation to which we have referred.

He had called attention the year before to the too rapid increase of members in lodges, holding it to be an element of weakness, but he says that the recent statistics show that the reckless, rapid increase of lodges and members had ceased, and that the Order had settled down upon a solid foundation of substantial prosperity.

At the installation of the Grand Master he made a brief address, reviewing somewhat the condition of Freemasonry in the world, appointed the Deputy Grand Masters and gave some account of his masonic service, to which the Deputy replied.

An address, with a more substantial token of the appreciation of the brethren of the services of the retiring Deputy Grand Master, Bro. THOMAS E. SPENCER, was presented to him in open Grand Lodge, to which he made a fitting reply.

We find that there was a slight falling off of the membership, and as this Grand Lodge is not included in our table, we will give the statistics. The year before the total membership was 7,085. There were 669 initiations, 429 had joined, 988 had "called off," 74 had died, and 187 had been struck from the rolls, leaving a total 6,934.

The review, or, as we call it, the Report on Correspondence (91 pp.), is signed by the whole committee, but as we have before indicated, we think it is the work of the chairman. It is a masterly analysis of the proceedings of other Grand Lodges which were likely to be of interest to the brethren in that jurisdiction. Very few comments are made. As a specimen of the manner in which he states the substance, we quote his account of the report of our Grand Lodge in relation to rejected candidates:

"1st Question.—What is the meaning of the action of a lodge in balloting for a candidate, especially in the case of a rejection? *Answer*.—To find if he is fit to be made a mason.

"2d Question.—What is the effect of that decision? *Answer*.—It is a masonic decision that he is then unfit to be made a mason, and the disability follows him wherever he goes, and continues for the time for which, under the law, it was imposed.

"3d Question.—Ought the decision of the lodge to be perpetual, to be re-

moved only by the rejecting lodge? *Answer.*—The disability should be controlled by the rejecting lodge for no longer than a reasonable length of time, sufficient for any lodge, to which he may propose anew, to become aware of his character.

“*4th Question.*—What is a reasonable time? *Answer.*—Some jurisdictions demand one year, which seems too short, Maine requires five years, Massachusetts seven years. A uniform rule could, no doubt, be adopted.

“*5th Question.*—What is the attitude of one Grand Lodge to another, as component parts of one great Institution? *Answer.*—The initiation of a rejected candidate, before he is relieved from his disability 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.”

In relation to the Wisconsin proposition, he says, (and it is one of the rare instances in which he states his own views, and we quote it on that account):

“Bro. Drummond reported on the Wisconsin relief proposition, (which asserts that it is the duty of every lodge to take care of its own members in distress, wherever they may be) very fully, and, in our view, conclusively.”

Of our efforts to perpetuate our history, he says:

“Vigorous efforts are being made to collate the materials for a history of Maine masons. Seven lodges have supplied records, and many other have promised to do so. With the beautiful memorial volume sent by Rhode Island before us, and the hopeful expectation of a similar compendium from Maine in due course, we feel encouraged to persevere in the attempts we have made to persuade our own lodges to perpetuate in print their valuable records, some of which date back to 1816.”

The seven lodges mentioned were those which had sent in histories during the year. A very large number had sent in their histories previously, and quite a number have printed them.

We think that this Grand Lodge more than any other is adopting the methods of the Grand Lodges in this country in relation to the administration of the affairs of the craft.

We are extremely gratified to notice the proofs of its prosperity, and we believe that it has laid the foundation for a long, prosperous and useful career.

NEW ZEALAND.

The Grand Lodge holds an annual communication in April and a semi-annual in October.

Information had been received that the Grand Lodge of England had taken action looking to recognition and that this had caused an increase in the recognitions in America.

The joint address of the Australasian Grand Lodges to the Queen, on the completion of the sixtieth year of her reign, is given. It was to be presented by Grand Master Warr, of South Australia.

The reports of the District Grand Superintendents show a careful supervision of the lodges on the same general plan as prevails here. With a few exceptions, the lodges are represented to be in a fairly prosperous condition.

The Grand Master was installed with ceremony and the Representatives of other Grand Lodges tendered congratulations—those absent, by letter and telegraph. The list includes nearly all the American Grand Lodges.

This Grand Lodge has over one hundred lodges on its roll. Its total membership at the end of 1895 was 3,984: during the year, there had been 407 initiations, 168 admissions, 204 resignations, 82 dropped from the roll and 34 deaths; total membership at end of 1896, 4,239, a net gain of 345.

At the October communication, a letter was read from the Grand Secretary of England, to the effect that the Grand Master had deemed it expedient to await certain contemplated changes in the Constitution before acting upon the question of recognition. He said the amendments had been adopted by the Grand Lodge but required confirmation at a subsequent meeting, and he saw no reason to doubt that they would be confirmed, or that then the recognition should not be formally declared. As the amendments were adopted and the minutes confirmed, we presume that ere this recognition has been announced.

The acknowledgment of the joint address to the queen, with a letter anent the same from the Grand Secretary of England, were received and ordered spread upon the records.

The receipt of Proceedings of Grand Lodges, including three copies of those of Maine for 1897, is acknowledged.

In reading the Proceedings of this Grand Lodge, one is impressed with the care, intelligence and knowledge of masonic law and usage, which mark the administration of its affairs. The number of lodges and members is an agreeable surprise, and this is increased when the returns are examined and it is found that almost all the lodges had done work and four-fifths of them had increased their membership, and, more than all, had paid to the Grand Lodge as dues and for benevolent purposes over \$8,000, an average of nearly two dollars *per capita*.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

This Grand Lodge has adopted the practice of sending out to other Grand Lodges its Proceedings for a year, bound in one volume, instead of sending out their quarterly pamphlets as heretofore, and find it, of course, to be much more convenient than before.

It holds two communications a year. At the semi-annual communication in October, 1896, the report of the Board of General Purposes was presented, from which it appeared that one lodge had surrendered its charter; one

dormant lodge had resumed work; one lodge had been constituted; one warrant for a new lodge had been issued; one lodge had determined to erect a masonic hall and the Grand Master had consecrated the hall of another lodge.

W. BRO. EBENEZER COOKE, our representative, presented the communication of our Grand Lodge in relation to rejected candidates and it was referred to the Board of General Purposes. That Board reported, recommending to the Grand Lodge to adopt an amendment to the Constitution so that the article relating thereto shall read as follows:

“No person can be made a mason in, or admitted a member of a lodge, if on the ballot, three black balls appear against him; but the by-laws of a lodge may enact that one or two black balls may exclude a candidate; that the effect of such exclusion shall be limited to five years, and that 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 the first-mentioned lodge, by a resolution carried by a majority at a regular meeting, after due notice of such resolution has been given.”

The Grand Lodge voted to make the amendment, but it does not become a part of the Constitution until it shall have been acted upon by the Grand Lodge at the next communication.

The action by this Grand Lodge was immediately communicated to us by Worshipful Bro. COOKE and we are very greatly indebted to him for his attention to this matter and the information which he has given us, and we put his letter with the Proceedings to be bound with them for the Grand Lodge library.

It will be noted that the unanimous ballot is not absolutely required, and it will also be noted that the permission for a rejected candidate to apply to another lodge may be given by a majority vote. The latter used to be the practice in many Grand Lodges in this country.

The Proceedings of the Grand Lodge were rather of a routine character and not of general interest, but the indications are that the Grand Lodge is in a flourishing condition in relation to its membership and especially financially.

It had held its own and a little more from the preceding year. At the close of that year the total membership was 2,257. The initiates during the year were 142; 103 had joined; 42 had been re-instated; 191 had resigned; 40 had been erased; 25 had been suspended and 22 had died, leaving a total at the end of the year of 2,266 members.

VICTORIA, 1897.

This Grand Lodge holds quarterly communications, but issues, by vote of the Grand Lodges, its Proceedings for the year in a single volume, but not

paged consecutively, instead of sending out its quarterly pamphlets as heretofore.

Considerable debate arose upon the question, whether a member who had resigned his membership could withdraw his resignation before it was acted upon by the Grand Lodge. The Grand Registrar held that he could under particular forms of by-laws, but the Grand Lodge held that a member has the right to resign his membership when he pleases, and when he hands his resignation to the Secretary it takes effect at once and there is no occasion for any vote of the lodge. We understand the decision is to that effect, even in case where the by-law assumes that it will be presented to the lodge but provides that it shall be accepted. A clearance certificate, as it is called, if he wants one, can be had only upon payment of arrears of dues, so that really the law relates more to his being free of the books than to his resigning his membership.

Representatives were received from quite a number of Grand Lodges which have recently recognized this Grand Lodge.

Eight brethren had been reported to the Board for expulsion from the craft, having been convicted of felony.

Another lodge reported that a former Secretary of the lodge had embezzled its funds: evidence was given before the Board substantiating the charge and the written confession of the accused was produced, and thereupon the Board recommended to the Grand Lodge that he be expelled. Later he was expelled, together with six of the others, the name of one was removed from the list, the case of another was continued to the next quarterly communication, when the Grand Secretary reported that he had notified the brother, asking him if he desired to be heard, and he making no reply, the Grand Lodge expelled him.

It will be seen that one of these was tried directly by the Board of General Purposes. What the proceedings were in the other eight cases we are unable to determine.

A proposition was made that the Australasian Grand Lodges should unite in an address to the Queen, congratulating her on the completion of the sixtieth year of her reign.

This Grand Lodge was called upon to lament the death of its Pro-Grand Master, Sir WILLIAM CLARK, and a tribute was paid to his memory and entered upon the record of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master, in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen, had bestowed Past Grand rank on a number of deserving brethren who had for years assisted in promoting the interests of the fraternity.

Charges were made by a member of a lodge against the Worshipful Master

and a Past Master of the lodge, and upon a hearing two charges were found to be sustained and the others not, and they directed that the Master and its Past Master both be admonished for their conduct. Nothing indicating the method of proceeding is given in the record, but we judge that the accused were both heard in their defence.

We find by the constitution that there must be an interval of four weeks between degrees, but that a dispensation can be obtained to advance a brother at an interval of not less than a week, and these and several other matters were brought to the attention of the lodges by a circular which was sent out to every lodge.

In this jurisdiction masonic clothing is called "regalia," and they have what they call an "undress regalia" and "full dress regalia" and the opinion of the Board was given in relation to the occasions upon which they could severally be worn.

We find the following:

"The V. W. the Grand Secretary said he had received a telegram from the D. G. Secretary of the D. G. Lodge of Western Australia, S. C., at Perth, stating that the Victorian Freemasons resident there were desirous of holding a Lodge of Sorrow in memory of the late Pro Grand Master, and asking the approval of this Grand Lodge.

"V. W. Bro. C. J. Barrow, P. B. G. P., moved that a reply be sent to the effect that no provision was made for Lodges of Sorrow by the Victorian Constitutions, and that while appreciating the desire of the Victorian Freemasons in Western Australia, this Grand Lodge could give no formal approval.

"R. W. Bro. T. Smith, P. S. G. W., seconded the motion, which was carried."

There was before the Grand Lodge "an appeal by the Master and members of the Mildura Lodge against the decision of the Board of General Purposes, reversing the action of the lodge in permanently excluding two of its members for sufficient cause under provisions of regulation 188. Two members of the lodge had acted at a meeting of the lodge in a manner which, in the opinion of the Master, obstructed him in the discharge of his duty as Master. The Master made a charge against these two members, the terms of which were communicated by the Secretary to them in writing. All the required formulæ to properly bring the matter before the local lodge were strictly complied with. Having heard the explanation of the two members, the lodge decided by more than the required two-thirds majority, that the conduct of these two brethren was sufficient to justify their permanent exclusion from the lodge, and then a second resolution was passed excluding them. They retired from the lodge, but before doing so, intimated their intention to appeal to the Grand Lodge; instead, however, of appealing to the Grand Lodge, they appealed to the Board of General Purposes. It appeared to him that unfortunately all the parties, the Board included, had entirely overlooked the fact that no appeal lies to the Board from the decision of a

properly constituted masonic authority. The lodge, for the purpose of dealing with these brethren under Regulation 188, was a properly constituted masonic authority. The Board of General Purposes is what is known as a Court of First Instance. The only Appeal Court known to Freemasonry is the Grand Lodge, and the appeal should have been made by these brethren to the Grand Lodge in the first instance. Under these circumstances, in his opinion, the Board had decided a matter which they had no jurisdiction to entertain, and the decision given was null and void. Unfortunately, in consequence of the appeal having gone to the Board of General Purposes and been entertained by it, the time allowed by the regulation, within which to appeal to the Grand Lodge, had expired; the decision was given by the Mildura Lodge in March last, and the brethren should have appealed to Grand Lodge in June. However, that justice might be done to all parties, he would suggest that the brethren should have special leave given them to appeal to the Grand Lodge at its next quarterly communication."

After some discussion, the course suggested was adopted.

Several appeals were before the Grand Lodge and were all allowed: of one case the Grand Registrar says:

"It is very much to be regretted that the time of Grand Lodge has been taken up for more than an hour in listening to the details of a trumpery and undignified squabble, which seems to have commenced at a meeting of Past Masters of the lodge held in an hotel, to arrange the work to be done at the installation of the W. M. It is astonishing to find that in a masonic lodge, composed of men of mature years, such a condition of affairs as has been disclosed, could prevail. If in the lodge there had been a strong brother 'who in this quarrel intense, had turned on the hose of common sense,' we would not have been troubled with the matter at all. Without further comment, I beg leave to advise Grand Lodge that the appeal should be allowed, and as R. W. Bro. Vahland has moved to that effect, I will second his proposition."

We find no statistics in this volume: there are 180 lodges on the roll, of which ten are "in abeyance."

As the Proceedings for each year are bound in a volume, they would be more readily referred to, if paged consecutively for the year.

STATISTICS.

We append our usual table.

GRAND LODGES.	Members.	Raised.	Admitted and Restored.	Withdrawn.	Expelled.	Suspended.	Susp'd for non-payment of fines.	Dial.
Alabama,.....	11,368	563	753	424	13	24	332	224
Arizona,.....	618	47	47	21	0	0	30	8
Arkansas,.....	12,678	470	433	401	20	13	595	215
British Columbia,.....	1,242	83	68	53	0	0	47	19
California,.....	18,808	1,043	709	403	6	.....	*388	355
Canada,.....	23,398	1,348	404	665	3	5	772	287
Colorado,.....	7,335	401	254	178	2	.....	*166	88
Connecticut,.....	17,053	705	132	101	2	4	165	227
Delaware,.....	2,126	73	17	15	4	.....	*8	23
Dist. of Columbia,.....	5,144	218	114	63	0	0	127	114
Florida,.....	4,317	253	256	268	1	.....	*227	82
Georgia,.....	18,183	1,112	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	340
Idaho,.....	1,175	39	52	37	0	.....	*16	18
Illinois,.....	53,285	2,642	1,081	1,010	31	.....	*1,125	766
Indiana,.....	29,387	1,815	909	772	30	12	538	419
Indian Territory,.....	3,107	252	269	245	12	.....	*95	34
Iowa,.....	27,489	1,390	819	629	26	9	815	317
Kansas,.....	19,888	909	681	694	12	.....	*428	247
Kentucky,.....	18,464	1,162	726	338	15	.....	*988	334
Louisiana,.....	5,439	277	134	110	3	.....	*163	130
Maine,.....	22,191	768	134	169	0	2	318	407
Manitoba,.....	2,641	240	128	99	0	.....	*41	16
Maryland,.....	7,474	409	74	88	3	0	85	126
Massachusetts,.....	38,414	1,880	304	363	6	0	374	559
Michigan,.....	39,576	1,901	545	621	7	.....	458	628
Minnesota,.....	15,891	731	338	385	.....	13	291	170
Mississippi,.....	9,010	486	476	309	7	11	308	243
Missouri,.....	30,316	1,164	951	754	34	22	970	508
Montana,.....	2,706	137	109	71	1	0	58	38
Nebraska,.....	11,763	455	372	275	13	.....	*488	117
Nevada,.....	832	15	29	31	1	.....	*23	10
New Brunswick,.....	1,781	78	22	41	0	.....	*35	22
New Hampshire,.....	9,111	405	12	78	1	1	33	156
New Jersey,.....	16,541	948	288	183	5	1	332	282
New Mexico,.....	854	39	36	34	1	5	61	14
New York,.....	93,271	5,757	2,188	942	21	0	3,017	1,568
North Carolina,.....	11,123	503	280	230	12	45	271	163
North Dakota,.....	2,702	211	84	96	0	0	23	23
Nova Scotia,.....	3,409	202	73	77	0	2	68	48
Ohio,.....	41,713	2,245	1,398	610	33	16	1,486	624
Oklahoma,.....	1,340	122	130	80	2	.....	*67	8
Oregon,.....	4,906	213	138	99	6	1	165	70
Pennsylvania,.....	51,031	2,739	545	368	.....	.....	†663	811
P. E. Island,.....	520	18	7	8	0	0	5	7
Quebec,.....	3,590	191	67	74	0	1	112	53
Rhode Island,.....	5,018	259	17	22	2	1	46	76
South Carolina,.....	5,853	326	.....	207	0	0	209	117
South Dakota,.....	4,308	217	127	179	1	.....	*64	35
Tennessee,.....	17,588	715	692	603	15	22	440	382

GRAND LODGES.	M.	R.	A. & R.	W.	E.	S.	S. for n. p. d.	D.
Texas,.....	31,292	1,151	1,505	1,375	83	53	665	487
Utah,.....	790	39	44	20	1	0	20	14
Vermont,.....	7,758	396	83	141	12	.....	*114	146
Virginia,.....	12,803	†930	98	465	10	9	324	220
Washington,.....	4,649	198	223	175	2	12	544	59
West Virginia,.....	5,983	409	119	128	6	24	167	73
Wisconsin,.....	16,946	983	437	347	5	21	280	238
Wyoming,.....	1,011	45	22	27	1	0	26	13
Total,.....	817,009	42,337	20,013	16,203	471	329	19,406	12,678

* Including suspensions for unmaasonic conduct.

† Including expulsions.

‡ Restorations only.

COMPARISON OF STATISTICS.

	G. Lodges. 1898.	Totals. 1898.	G. Lodges. 1897.	Totals. 1897.	G. Lodges. 1896.	Totals. 1896.
Members,	57	817,009	57	804,706	57	781,670
Raised,	57	42,337	55	43,721	55	40,755
Admissions, &c.,	55	20,013	55	22,574	55	21,881
Dimissions,	56	16,203	56	17,916	56	17,544
Expulsions,	54	471	54	478	53	431
Suspensions,	37	329	36	383	37	304
“ npt dues,	56	19,406	56	18,700	56	18,381
Deaths,	57	12,678	56	12,062	56	11,185

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 7 and 8, 1897.	1
Arizona,	November 9 to 11, 1897.	274
Arkansas,	November 16 and 17, 1897.	7
British Columbia,	June 17 and 18, 1897.	12
California,	October 12 to 16, 1897.	17
Canada,	July 21 and 22, 1897.	23
Colorado,	September 21 and 22, 1897.	26
Connecticut,	January 19 and 20, 1898.	30

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Delaware,	October 6 and 7, 1897.	36
Dist. of Columbia,	November 10, 1897.	39
Florida,	January 18 to 20, 1898.	46
Georgia,	October 26 to 28, 1897.	49
Idaho,	September 14 to 16, 1897.	56
Illinois,	October 5 to 7, 1897.	60
Indiana,	May 25 and 26, 1897.	75
Indian Territory,	August 10 and 11, 1897.	80
Iowa,	June 1 to 3, 1897.	83
Kansas,	February 16 and 17, 1898.	93
Kentucky,	October 19 to 21, 1897.	99
Louisiana,	February 14 to 16, 1898.	107
Manitoba,	June 9, 1897.	116
Maryland,	November 16 and 17, 1897.	120
Massachusetts,	December 28, 1897.	123
Michigan,	January 25 and 26, 1898.	128
Minnesota,	January 12 and 13, 1898.	136
Mississippi,	February 10 and 11, 1898.	141
Missouri,	October 19 to 21, 1897.	148
Montana,	September 15 and 16, 1897.	155
Nebraska,	June 16 and 17, 1897.	163
Nevada,	June 8 and 9, 1897,	169
New Brunswick,	June 24 and 25, 1897,	170
New Hampshire,	May 19, 1897.	172
New Jersey,	January 26 and 27, 1898,	179
New Mexico,	October 4 and 5, 1897,	187
New York,	June 1 to 3, 1897,	190
North Carolina,	January 11 to 13, 1898,	197
North Dakota,	June 8 and 9, 1897,	200
Nova Scotia,	June 9, 1897,	202
Ohio,	October 20 and 21, 1897,	205
Oklahoma,	April 16, 1897,	211
Oregon,	June 16 to 18, 1897,	213
Pennsylvania,	December 27, 1897,	215
Prince Edward Island,	June 24, 1897,	227
Quebec,	January 26, 1898.	275
Rhode Island,	June 24, 1897,	228
South Carolina,	December 14 and 15, 1897,	230
South Dakota,	June 8 and 9, 1897,	233
Tennessee,	January 26 to 28, 1898,	238
Texas,	December 7 to 10, 1897,	242
Utah,	January 18 and 19, 1898,	249

Vermont,	June 9 and 10, 1897,	254
Virginia,	December 7 to 9, 1897,	257
Washington,	June 8 to 10, 1897,	263
West Virginia,	November 9 and 10, 1897,	267
Wisconsin,	June 8 to 10, 1897,	270
Wyoming,	September 14, 1897,	272
England,		279
New South Wales,		282
New Zealand,		286
South Australia,		287
Victoria,		288

CONCLUSION.

We are glad to note the large number of instances in which Grand Masters have very earnestly urged the necessity of greater care in deciding upon the fitness of candidates for admission into our fraternity. The pestiferous doctrine recently announced, that, in balloting upon the petition of a candidate, the only question is whether he would be an agreeable associate member of our lodge, has called out these statements of the true doctrine and of the duty of the craft to "Guard well the outer door."

The resolutions of this Grand Lodge have met with unexpected favor: it is true, that while on the one side, a few Grand Lodges have declined to modify their adhesion to the rule of perpetual jurisdiction, and on the other hand, quite a number adhere to their go-as-you-please rule, a large number have appreciated the situation and been willing to modify their laws to secure the harmony of the craft. The chief point in the resolutions, so far as the question of preventing dissensions is concerned, is the recognition of the *status* given to a rejected candidate by the law of the jurisdiction in which he is rejected, and this has met unexpected favor. While we may believe that in many jurisdictions the time, during which the effect of a rejection continues, is too short for the good of the craft, still if the *status* of rejected candidates is respected, there can arise no dissensions between jurisdictions. This fact has been highly appreciated, and has had its influence with all who look to the good of the craft universal, rather than to the possible interest of their particular jurisdiction.

From the action of Grand Lodges in most cases, and from the expressed opinions of writers in others, we may safely put among the supporters of the recognition of the *status* of rejected candidates, the Grand Lodges of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, South Carolina, Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas, Illinois, Michigan and Oregon.

These are not all: we had intended to give a full list, but we have mislaid the memorandum which we made in our review of the Proceedings of each Grand Lodge, and have not time to re-examine them. Many have not declared themselves, but when the time comes for a practical decision of the question, it will be found that the progress will be in the direction of sustaining this doctrine.

In our report last year, the writer referred to a very recent sore affliction. Our associates in other jurisdictions have very generally referred to it. We have not copied their words of sympathy, for obvious reasons: but we assure them that those words were highly appreciated and the kindness of our brethren will be remembered as long as life shall last.

Fraternally submitted,

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

While the last lines are being put in type, we receive the sad news of the death of

Bro. WILLIAM FRANCIS DRINKARD, of Virginia.

While we have never met him personally, our correspondence and our associations with him in preparing these reports have greatly endeared him to us.

The Grand Master most truly says of him:

“For years and until failing health prevented, the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence of the Grand Lodge, his reports were marvels of excellence; erudite, conservative, yet firm in their conclusions, they attracted wide-spread admiration and applause. His lovely disposition—almost womanly in its tenderness—made even controversy assume the aspect of friendly converse; yet he never sacrificed a principle or shirked a duty. Peace to his ashes, and eternal memory to his virtues.”

Vermont,	June 9 and 10, 1897,	254
Virginia,	December 7 to 9, 1897,	257
Washington,	June 8 to 10, 1897,	263
West Virginia,	November 9 and 10, 1897,	267
Wisconsin,	June 8 to 10, 1897,	270
Wyoming,	September 14, 1897,	272
England,		279
New South Wales,		282
New Zealand,		286
South Australia,		287
Victoria,		288

CONCLUSION.

We are glad to note the large number of instances in which Grand Masters have very earnestly urged the necessity of greater care in deciding upon the fitness of candidates for admission into our fraternity. The pestiferous doctrine recently announced, that, in balloting upon the petition of a candidate, the only question is whether he would be an agreeable associate member of our lodge, has called out these statements of the true doctrine and of the duty of the craft to "Guard well the outer door."

The resolutions of this Grand Lodge have met with unexpected favor: it is true, that while on the one side, a few Grand Lodges have declined to modify their adhesion to the rule of perpetual jurisdiction, and on the other hand, quite a number adhere to their go-as-you-please rule, a large number have appreciated the situation and been willing to modify their laws to secure the harmony of the craft. The chief point in the resolutions, so far as the question of preventing dissensions is concerned, is the recognition of the *status* given to a rejected candidate by the law of the jurisdiction in which he is rejected, and this has met unexpected favor. While we may believe that in many jurisdictions the time, during which the effect of a rejection continues, is too short for the good of the craft, still if the *status* of rejected candidates is respected, there can arise no dissensions between jurisdictions. This fact has been highly appreciated, and has had its influence with all who look to the good of the craft universal, rather than to the possible interest of their particular jurisdiction.

From the action of Grand Lodges in most cases, and from the expressed opinions of writers in others, we may safely put among the supporters of the recognition of the *status* of rejected candidates, the Grand Lodges of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, South Carolina, Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas, Illinois, Michigan and Oregon.

These are not all: we had intended to give a full list, but we have mislaid the memorandum which we made in our review of the Proceedings of each Grand Lodge, and have not time to re-examine them. Many have not declared themselves, but when the time comes for a practical decision of the question, it will be found that the progress will be in the direction of sustaining this doctrine.

In our report last year, the writer referred to a very recent sore affliction. Our associates in other jurisdictions have very generally referred to it. We have not copied their words of sympathy, for obvious reasons: but we assure them that those words were highly appreciated and the kindness of our brethren will be remembered as long as life shall last.

Fraternally submitted,

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

While the last lines are being put in type, we receive the sad news of the death of

Bro. WILLIAM FRANCIS DRINKARD, of Virginia.

While we have never met him personally, our correspondence and our associations with him in preparing these reports have greatly endeared him to us.

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Address of Grand Officers.

JOSEPH A. LOCKE,	= = = = =	Portland,
GRAND MASTER.		
MARQUIS F. KING,	396 Congress Street,	Portland,
GRAND TREASURER.		
STEPHEN BERRY,	= = = = =	Portland,
GRAND SECRETARY.		
JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,	= = = = =	Portland,
CHAIRMAN COM. ON FOR. CORRESPONDENCE.		
FRANK E. SLEEPER,	= = = = =	Sabattus,
GRAND LECTURER.		

Ordered to be read in the Lodges.

The Proceedings furnished to the Masters and Wardens of Lodges are not their property, but should be transmitted to their successors. Every Lodge must preserve one copy in the hall, and when a volume is completed should bind it for the use of the Lodge.—[*Constitution, Sec. 91.*]

Volume XVII will contain two years, 1898 and 1899.

Vol. I—1820 to 1847.	Vol. IX—1876 to 1878.
II—1848 1854.	X—1879 1881.
III—1855 1858.	XI—1882 1884.
IV—1859 1863.	XII—1885 1887.
V—1864 1866.	XIII—1888 1890.
VI—1867 1869.	XIV—1891 1893.
VII—1870 1872.	XV—1894 1895.
VIII—1873 1875.	XVI—1896 1897.

They should be bound in half binding, bright blue leather with blue cloth to match (azure, not dark blue). They will cost in roan, \$1.00; in Turkey, \$1.25.

The Eightieth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge will be held at Masonic Hall, Portland, Tuesday, May 2, 1899, at 9 o'clock A. M.

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Idaho,	September 14 to 16, 1897.	56
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Iowa,	June 1 to 3, 1897.	83
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Kentucky,	October 19 to 21, 1897.	99
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② Appendix ②

REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE.

→ 1899 ←

*To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of
Maine.*

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence herewith fraternally submits its annual report.

In order to commence the printing at an early date, we have not waited as long as usual for the receipt of the Proceedings that came earliest in alphabetical order. So that if the review of any Grand Lodge is not found in its place, it will probably be found near the close of report, and the number of the page upon which it commences will be found in the alphabetical list of "Proceedings Reviewed" at the end of the report.

JURISDICTION OF GRAND LODGES.

We depart from our usual custom and in the beginning of our report, discuss one matter which would be postponed to our "Conclusion," but for our opinion that it is desirable that the discussion of it should be in that portion of our report which is printed in advance of the communication of our Grand Lodge.

We regret, beyond the power of words to express, that, while the bonds of fraternity the world over have generally been drawing closer and closer, a disturbance of the harmony of the craft, causeless and wicked, has been created by the Grand Lodge of Washington. This disturbance, however, is

not likely to divide the craft elsewhere, but is in danger of dividing the craft in that State from the regular masons elsewhere throughout the world.

The disturbance has been caused by the formal denial by that Grand Lodge of the doctrine of exclusive territorial jurisdiction and the recognition of lodges and Grand Lodges, situate in the territory of other Grand Lodges, as lawful lodges and Grand Lodges, and the members of the obedience of those lodges and Grand Lodges as regular masons, despite the decision of the recognized Grand Lodges in each case, that such lodges and Grand Lodges are irregular and unlawful and the members of their obedience clandestine masons, masonic intercourse with whom is forbidden by the landmarks of Masonry.

The mistake of the Grand Lodge of Washington is all the more remarkable, as it is the result of the antics of one man, not yet ten years a mason, for whom the utmost that masonic charity can say, is that while he has scarcely a superficial knowledge of the principles, laws and usages of masonry, *he really thinks he knows them all*, and holds that the founders of Masonry in America and of our system of Grand Lodges and their successors in the past, such as MOORE, MACKAY, LEWIS, MELLETT, VAUX, FELLOWS and others, went to their graves not only in ignorance, but with false views of the laws and usages of Masonry and especially those regulating the relations of Grand Lodges to the whole body of the craft and to each other. We doubt whether there can be found in history another so signal illustration of the truth, that "a little learning is a dangerous thing."

While the questions raised have long ago been definitely decided, and while the responses to the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington have been and will be unanimous in condemnation of her action, yet for the information of those, to whom the past Proceedings of Grand Lodges are not accessible, we deem it important to restate the consensus of decisions and opinion in relation to the principles governing Grand Lodges in their relations to the whole craft and in their relations to each other.

Savages, *and only savages*, hold to the law of force, and that they owe no duties to others save what they voluntarily agree to perform, to be evidenced as to other tribes only by compact or treaty. Civilized peoples, who believe in God, the Father and Supreme Ruler of the Universe, concede that the laws of God are binding on them as individuals and as nations: that under the law of God, man owes duties to his brother man; and nations owe duties to other nations; this law the old writers on International Law termed "The Necessary Laws of Nations," in contradistinction to those laws made by treaty or compact. The laws first described nations do not *make*, but *recognize*. If a nation refuses to recognize these laws, it merely puts itself outside the pale of civilized nations and into the company of savages and

is treated accordingly; other nations have no intercourse with it, but enforce their rights against it "at the cannon's mouth."

That masons in their relation to others are governed by these laws, it ought not to be necessary to state: and it is incredible that any mason would hold that masonic Grand Lodges, governing masonic nations, are not bound in their relations with each other, to recognize the inherent rights of each to at least as great an extent as civil nations in their relations to each other.

These principles and rules of superior law are rarely *expressly* recognized until an occasion for their practical application arises. The condition of masonic affairs throughout the masonic world was such, that no occasion for the express recognition of these principles arose till after the American Revolution, when the creation of a comparatively large number of new Grand Lodges soon raised the question of their relations to each other. It is true that the Grand Lodge of England had tacitly, but practically, recognized the law of exclusive territorial jurisdiction in the appointment of Provincial Grand Masters and the creation of Provincial Grand Lodges, by giving them certain territory and limiting the exercise of their powers to that territory, thus giving to each exclusive jurisdiction within its limits.

The end of the American Revolution found several Bodies claiming to be Grand Lodges, and the number was rapidly increased until there was one in nearly every one of the original States, although it was not till after the Federal Constitution was framed, that Masonry emerged from its semi-chaotic condition.

But the Provincial Grand Lodge in Massachusetts, holding under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, had already acted. Its Provincial Grand Master was killed at the battle of Bunker Hill; and at a meeting called for the purpose by its own vote, the Provincial Grand Lodge on March 8, 1777, assumed the powers and prerogatives of a Grand Lodge by electing a Grand Master and proceeding to grant charters and to exercise the powers of a Grand Lodge, and continued to do so ever afterwards.

It recognized, from the first, the law of territorial jurisdiction. In 1779, it granted a charter for a traveling military lodge with authority to "make masons, pass and raise, in this State or in any of the United States of America where no other Grand Master presides, but in any other State where there is a Grand Master constituted by the Brethren of these United States, they are to inform him and receive his sanction."

For some reason not stated, the Grand Lodge on June 10, 1782, appointed a committee, with PEREZ MORTON as chairman,

"To draught Resolutions explanatory of the Powers and Authority of this Grand Lodge respecting the extent and meaning of its jurisdiction, and of the exercise of any other Masonic Authorities within its jurisdiction."

The committee reported Dec. 6, 1782, and we quote the resolution upon the subject under discussion; the *italics* are ours:

“Resolved, That no Person or Persons ought or can, (*consistently with the rules of Ancient Masonry and the Good Order of the Craft*) use or Exercise the Powers or Prerogatives of an Ancient Grand Master, or Grand Lodge, to wit, to give Power to Erect Lodges of Ancient Masonry, Make Masons, appoint Superior or Grand Officers, Receive dues, or do any thing which belongs to the Powers or Prerogatives of An Ancient Grand Lodge within any parts of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Right full and Appropriated Limits to which the Authority of this Grand Lodge forever hereafter Extends.”

It will be noted that the statement that this action was a statute or a proposed compact is *utterly erroneous*; it is a declaration of *rights inherent in the Grand Lodge*, precisely as the Declaration of Independence was a declaration of inherent civil rights.

In this connection, the address of JOSIAH BARTLETT before the Grand Lodge, June 24, 1790, is excellent reading.

Some brethren had doubts as to the power of the lodges to form a Grand Lodge, and a Convention of the lodges was called, and held May 26, 1785, at which twelve of the fourteen lodges were represented, and thirteen resolutions were adopted, either unanimously or with only one dissenting vote, one of which was that unless the Grand Lodge was a “legal, constitutional Grand Lodge,” there were but four legal lodges in the Commonwealth, and “*all the others are spurious, AS DERIVED FROM A SPURIOUS ORIGINAL.*”

The Grand Lodge continued to enforce its jurisdiction over all lodges in Massachusetts, which it recognized as regular lodges, until its union with St. John's Grand Lodge in 1792.

The Grand Lodge of Virginia was formed by a convention of delegates of lodges, Oct. 13, 1778, and the following was then adopted:

“It is the opinion of this convention, that *it is agreeable to the Constitution of Masonry*, that all the regular chartered Lodges within this State should be subject to the Grand Master of said State.”

On June 24, 1779, that Grand Lodge declared that no lodge in the State ought to hold a charter from either of the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, Scotland, or elsewhere, and *ordered* every lodge to send up an attested copy of its charter.

The principle in question was affirmed in the reply of the English Ancient Grand Lodge in 1792, to the communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, announcing its formation with exclusive masonic jurisdiction in that Commonwealth.

Soon after the union of the two Grand Lodges, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts again expressly affirmed the inherent right of every Grand Lodge to jurisdiction over all lodges and masons in its territory, and forbade masons of its obedience from holding masonic communication with any

others. This declaration was communicated to other Grand Lodges and the correctness of the declaration affirmed by several of them.

From that time forward this doctrine was recognized by all English speaking masons and masons practicing the York Rite. The Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland recognized and enforced the doctrine, each claiming exclusive jurisdiction in those respective countries, and jurisdiction, concurrent among themselves but exclusive as to all others, in the Dependencies of the British Crown, in which no independent Grand Lodge exists. This was recently illustrated, when the Grand Lodge of Manitoba undertook to create a lodge in Gibraltar: the Grand Lodge of England objected and declined to recognize the new lodge; and the Grand Lodge of Manitoba receded from its position.

In a word: for more than a century the Grand Lodges of the York Rite have stood together in recognizing the exclusive jurisdiction of every Grand Lodge in its own territory.

There has been some disagreement as to some details. The Grand Lodge of England has held that when a new Grand Lodge is organized, regular lodges, previously chartered, have the right to continue under their parent Grand Lodge until they give in their adhesion, *of their own accord*, to the new Grand Lodge. But in the recent recognition of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, after a long and very heated debate by the opponents, it abandoned this position and fell into line with the other Grand Lodges.

In another respect, the British Grand Lodges have not carried the doctrine to its logical result.

The American Grand Lodges quite universally claim that as an application to be made a mason comes within *masonic law*, each Grand Lodge has *exclusive jurisdiction over candidates resident in its own territory*. The British Grand Lodges practically deny this. Before the organization of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick, lodges on the border received the applications of residents of Maine and acted upon them without the necessary consent. The then (1860) Grand Master addressed a communication to the Grand Lodge of England, in which it was argued at some length that the law of exclusive jurisdiction grows out of the very existence of a plurality of Grand Lodges, precisely as international law in respect to the same matter grows out of the existence of civil nations. That Grand Lodge, understanding (but erroneously) that the claim of our Grand Lodge extended to persons once resident here who had removed into another jurisdiction, decided against it.

But we quote the resolution adopted by the Grand Lodge of England and commend it to the attention of those who suppose that the doctrine of exclusive jurisdiction is only an American doctrine and binding only on the Grand Lodges which have adopted it:

“That this Grand Lodge fully admits the Supreme Jurisdiction of all regularly established Grand Lodges, within their respective territories, more especially in reference to the formation of lodges or the making of masons therein: but it fully concurs in the opinions expressed by the M. W. Grand Master; and thinking it undesirable to interfere with the privileges possessed by private Lodges, declines to depart from its ancient practice, which has hitherto prescribed no restriction in reference to the place of residence of Candidates who seek admission into the Order.”

In consequence, the Grand Lodge of Maine, holding that this was a violation of the law binding upon all regular Grand Lodges, adopted the following resolution:

“Resolved, That the Grand Master be authorized by the Grand Lodge of Maine to issue his edict declaring all masons hereafter made in violation of the principles we have laid down, and without the consent of the authorities within this jurisdiction, as irregular, and forbidding all our lodges to receive or recognize them as masons.”

In passing, it is due to our Brethren “over the border” to say that the discussion satisfied them that they had been in error, and, thereafter, they cheerfully conformed to the correct doctrine, as has the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick since its organization, and, so far as we are informed, no complaint has arisen for nearly forty years.

The communication to the Grand Lodge of England, to which we have referred, was discussed, either by the Committee on Correspondence or a Special Committee, in other Grand Lodges, and, without exception, the doctrine of the letter, that the law of jurisdiction rests upon inherent right, and not upon legislation, was most emphatically endorsed.

The same doctrine has recently been stated as *the law of masonry*, in the Grand Lodge of England, by the Grand Registrar, who also compared it to the International Law recognized by all *civilized* nations as binding upon them.

It follows that Grand Lodges are not “Sovereign,” in the sense in which some, at the present day, hold them to be; there are, at least, three kinds of limitations upon their lawful powers:

I. Masonry expressly recognizes the laws of God as superior to all other laws, and the duties growing out of those laws as superior to all other duties; and Grand Lodges have no power to repeal or modify those laws or to relieve masons from the performance of those duties.

II. Every Grand Lodge is bound to respect the rights of every other Grand Lodge: and one of those rights is jurisdiction over all lodges and masons in its territory.

III. The powers of Grand Lodges are limited by “the immutable landmarks of the craft.”

The violation of any of these limitations by any Grand Lodge puts it out-

side the pale of regular Grand Lodges and deprives the members of its obedience of the right to masonic recognition.

It is worth our while to recall certain other laws which some of our brethren seem inclined to forget.

When masonry was reorganized in 1717 and the Grand Lodge system created, one of the fundamental laws then adopted was:

“That the privilege of assembling as Masons, which has hitherto been unlimited, should be vested in certain lodges or assemblies of Masons convened in certain places; and that every lodge to be hereafter convened, except the four old lodges at this time existing, should be legally authorized by a warrant from the Grand Master for the time being, granted to certain individuals by petition, with the consent and approbation of the Grand Lodge in communication: *and that without such warrant no lodge should hereafter be deemed regular or constitutional.*”

Again: by the Regulations approved by the Grand Lodge June 24, 1721,

“If any set or number of *Masons* shall take upon themselves to form a lodge without the G. Master's warrant, the *regular* Lodges are not to countenance them nor own them as *fair Brethren* duly formed, nor approve of their acts and deeds: but must treat them as *rebels* until they shall humble themselves, as the Grand Master shall in his prudence direct, and *until he approve of them by his warrant* signified to the other lodges; as the custom is when a new lodge is to be registered in the Grand Lodge book.”

For more than hundred years every Master of a lodge in this country has, as a condition precedent to his installation, been required to promise, and has promised, on his honor as a mason, that he admits that

“No new lodge shall be formed without permission of the Grand Lodge; and that no countenance be given to any irregular lodge or to any person clandestinely initiated therein, being contrary to the ancient charges of the order.

“That no visitors shall be received into your lodge without due examination and producing proper vouchers of their having been initiated in a regular lodge.”

Moreover, every Grand Lodge is the exclusive and final judge of the regularity of any body, claiming to be a lodge of masons situate within its territory: from its decision there is no appeal: by its determination of the case every Grand Lodge, every lodge and every mason *in the world* is absolutely bound. No greater insult to a Grand Lodge can be offered than to disregard knowingly such a decision.

The application of these principles to the case which gives rise to this discussion shows that the Grand Lodge of Washington has violated two important masonic laws and given just grave offence to sister Grand Lodges, which it is impossible for them to overlook, until the gross wrong, which it has done, shall have been undone.

1. It has gone to the length of deciding that a body situated in a sister jurisdiction is a regular lodge of masons, although the Grand Lodge of that jurisdiction has decided that it is irregular and clandestine.

2. It has recognized as regular Grand Lodges, Bodies situated within the territory of sister Grand Lodges, and thus given to them the greatest possible insult.

But the author of that report, as his superficial knowledge usually lets him do, adds a ludicrous feature. In many of the states there have been, and in some of them there now are, two Colored Grand Lodges, each claiming to be the regular one and denouncing the other as irregular: for they too hold to the doctrine that there can be but one regular Colored Grand Lodge in any state: now which of the two does the Grand Lodge of Washington recognize? Or does it recognize both? And thus afford the unique spectacle of a Grand Lodge recognizing and trying to fraternize with *three* Grand Lodges in a single state, each of which declares the other to be clandestine, unless possibly each of the Colored Grand Lodges recognizes the White Grand Lodge as regular!

Moreover, the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Washington explicitly declares—

“This Grand Lodge has supreme jurisdiction over all matters of Ancient Craft Masonry within the territorial limits of the State of Washington.”

And yet, claiming all this for itself, it has made the blunder of undertaking to say that a body of men in another state is a regular lodge of masons, although the Grand Lodge of that state has decided that it is a clandestine lodge! But the worst of it is that the *blunder* is a gross violation of masonic law.

This is enough to convince the Grand Lodge of Washington that it has suffered itself to become a “victim of misplaced confidence,” and committed an egregious blunder, as well as a great wrong, and that it ought to make the *amende honorable* at the first possible opportunity.

The worst of it is that there is no Colored Grand Lodge or lodge in that state, so that there was no real occasion or sufficient reason for this action; indeed, many believe that the first suggestion did not come from the two gentlemen involved in it, but that they were approached first by the author of that report and induced by him to make the application; and that he did so in order to give him an opportunity to “spread himself.” This belief may do him injustice: but his career in his Grand Lodge has not been such as to inspire confidence in those who know him only from that, that such a course on his part is *very* improbable.

While, as already stated, the unmasonic interference of the Grand Lodge of Washington with the most sacred rights of other Grand Lodges, is an unanswerable reason for rescinding its action, in addition its decision of the question at issue was utterly erroneous, as well as in conflict with the decision of the Body which had the rightful authority to decide it, and whose decision was a finality. Conceding for the sake of the argument, that when

the charter of African Lodge in Boston was actually received, Masonry was in such a chaotic condition in Massachusetts, that its organization was no invasion of the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge, its existence was lawfully terminated so that its attempted resurrection was wholly illegal and unmasonic.

On the whole we conclude to give here extracts from a history of this movement, published in our report for 1876, *based upon the original documents published by the Colored Grand Lodges or their historians*, the correctness of which history in no particular has ever been even challenged, to our knowledge.

"In 1775, probably on the sixth day of March, Prince Hall and thirteen other colored men received the degrees of Masonry in a traveling lodge, attached to one of the regiments of the British army, then stationed in Boston. Whether this was done to enable these men to form a lodge or not, or why it was done, does not appear. But they at once commenced meeting as a lodge, without any authority. It has been claimed that they had a dispensation, under which they worked; but no evidence of this has been produced; there is no record of such a dispensation in London, and it is very certain that the Provincial Grand Master did not grant any to them."

* * * * *

"In 1784, an application was sent to England for a charter; in the letter of transmittal, dated March 1, 1784, Prince Hall says that the lodge had been founded almost eight years, but that there had been, until then, no opportunity to apply for a warrant. The Grand Lodge of England (Modern) granted a charter for African Lodge in the usual form, September 29, 1784; but it was not received, or the lodge organized under it, until 1787. Official documents show that it continued to work and make returns to the Grand Lodge until 1798, and there is little doubt that it continued to work until the death of Prince Hall, in 1807. In 1797, Prince Hall granted a dispensation for a lodge in Philadelphia, to which a charter was afterwards issued, but whether by African Lodge or Prince Hall, we have not ascertained. It has been claimed that Prince Hall was 'a Deputy Grand Master, with all the powers and authority pertaining to that office,' when he issued that dispensation, and that he issued it as such; but not only is there no evidence that he was a Deputy, but the evidence is plenary that he was not; indeed, one writer bases the legality of this Pennsylvania lodge upon the right of a lodge to charter other lodges. According to a contemporaneous document, a portion of the petitioners (at least) for this dispensation were made masons in England, and one or more in Ireland. One authority (Woodlin) supposes that African Lodge was then assuming to act as a Grand Lodge, but no other, so far as we can discover, makes any such claim. Soon after, Prince Hall established another lodge in Providence, Rhode Island. In 1808, African Lodge and these two lodges, established by itself, or by Prince Hall, organized a Grand Lodge at Boston. After 1808 there is a blank in the published history of African Lodge, and there is no doubt that it became dormant, if not actually extinct. In January, 1824, a petition was sent to England, reciting the issuing of the old charter, and stating that it authorized the conferring of only three degrees, and soliciting the 'renewal of our charter,' to authorize them to confer the seven degrees. This petition purports to be signed by the Master and Wardens and attested by the Secretary. They say: 'It is with regret we communicate to you that, from the decease of our well-beloved brethren who obtained the warrant, we have not been able for several years to transmit moneys and hold a regular communication; but as we are now permanently established to work conformable to our warrant and Book of Constitutions, we will send

the money as circumstances will admit, together with the money for a new warrant, should your Honorable Body think us worthy to receive the same.' To this petition no answer was returned, as the Grand Lodge of England, at the time of the union in 1813, had dropped African Lodge from its registry, and never afterwards restored it. In 1827, getting no answer to their petition, African Lodge published a Declaration of Independence. In this document it is stated that the original charter 'appears to have been confined exclusively to the Africans and to certain conditions. Whether these conditions have been complied with by our ancestors, we are unable to say; but we can add, that in consequence of the decease of the above named Brother (Prince Hall), the institution was for years unable to proceed, for want of one to conduct its affairs agreeably to what is required in every regular and well-educated lodge of masons.' Not having heard from the Grand Lodge of England, it declared itself 'free and independent of any lodge from this day, and that we will not be tributary, or be governed by any lodge than that of our own.' How many years after Hall's death the lodge was 'unable to proceed,' we cannot ascertain; it was probably till about 1824; and whether the lodge was resuscitated by its old members, or by others, does not appear. Woodlin says, Nero Prince succeeded Prince Hall, but presided only one year; that the third Master was George Middleton; the next, Peter Louis; and the next, Samuel H. Moody; the latter signed the petition in 1824, above mentioned; he, also, according to Woodlin, established Harmony Lodge, No. 5, in Providence, in 1825, and Boyer Lodge, in New York, in 1826. John T. Hilton, a man of much ability, succeeded Moody, and after him five others presided before 1836, when Hilton was re-elected, and held the office of Master until 1847, when, under his lead, a National Grand Lodge was formed. Before 1847, he is sometimes styled 'Master,' and sometimes 'Grand Master'; in 1827, in the 'Declaration of Independence,' he styled himself Master. From these acts of African Lodge in 1827, it seems that the Grand Lodge formed in 1808 was extinct, or had been forgotten, or that its authority was denied, and we have not ascertained when the idea of the independence of African Lodge was given up, or whether the 'African Grand Lodge,' of which, in 1847, Hilton appears as Grand Master, is the Grand Lodge formed in 1808, or African Lodge itself, or a new Grand Lodge."

* * * * *

"After the formation of the lodge in Philadelphia, in 1797, by Prince Hall, two others were formed there (we presume by African Grand Lodge at Boston), and on December 27, 1815, these three formed a Grand Lodge for Pennsylvania, under the title of 'The First Independent African Grand Lodge of North America.' This title indicates that the Grand Lodge at Boston was then understood to be extinct. In 1818, one of the subordinates of the Pennsylvania Grand Lodge, and in 1828 another, were declared rebels and were expelled. But they seem to have continued their work, for in 1833 one of them claimed to have obtained a charter from the Grand Lodge of Ohio, with authority to form enough more lodges to organize a Grand Lodge. It was claimed that \$125.00 was paid for this authorization, one-half by each lodge. Of course it was a forgery, but it is probable that the recipients of it were imposed upon, as they proceeded under it with apparently perfect confidence. Other lodges were formed, and on July 17, 1837, they organized the Hiram Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Between these two Grand Bodies there was a bitter feud until 1847, when John T. Hilton conceived the idea of uniting all the organizations under a National Grand Lodge.

"On June 24, 1847, the delegates of the three Grand Lodges (one in Massachusetts and two in Pennsylvania) and from Boyer Lodge in New York, met in Boston and formed 'The M. W. National Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons of Color, for the United States of North

America and the Masonic Jurisdiction thereunto belonging.' This Body was to meet once a year, but elect officers once in three years. It had power to grant warrants to State Grand Lodges, and no Grand Lodge could be recognized that did not hold a warrant from it.

"Thereupon the two Grand Lodges in Pennsylvania consolidated: a Grand Lodge was formed in New Jersey June 12, 1848, by four lodges, two holding under each of the lately rival Bodies in Philadelphia; also in 1848, Prince Hall Grand Lodge was formed in Massachusetts by four lodges; the United Grand Lodge in New York by six lodges; Union Grand Lodge of Maryland by three lodges; the Grand Lodge of Ohio; and the Union Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia; there were also one lodge in Rhode Island, one in Connecticut, one in Indiana, one in Louisiana, one in Virginia, one in California, and two in Delaware; these were all the lodge organizations then existing, and all under the jurisdiction of the National Grand Lodge.

"But trouble soon came: in 1849, at its annual session, it 'expelled' the Grand Lodge of New York, with three of its subordinates, and a new Grand Lodge was formed Oct. 13, 1849, with six lodges; but the old Grand Lodge continued as Independent; this was followed by a schism in Pennsylvania, and an Independent Grand Lodge was formed there: individuals and one lodge in New Jersey were also expelled.

"The National Grand Lodge, after 1850, met triennially. We have seen its Proceedings for 1856, 1862, 1865 and 1874. Those for 1856 give the organization of three Grand Chapters, a Grand Encampment and a Supreme Council of the thirty-third degree. Its Constitution (1865) denounces all Colored Grand Lodges, and lodges not holding under it as spurious and clandestine. Since 1849 there has been a fierce contest between the 'Nationals' and the 'Independents.' The former have been gradually losing ground, and although the National Grand Lodge has quite a number of subordinates, its days are numbered, unless some reaction shall set in to give it new strength."

For the full report, see Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Maine for 1876, pp. 179 to 187.

The account of the expulsion of the Grand Lodge of New York, above mentioned, says that it was expelled for "nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine years, nine months and nine days."

We find that at the time that report was written, there were two Grand Lodges in each of *ten jurisdictions*, each holding the other to be clandestine; but several, which had been under the authority of the National Grand Lodge, had repudiated it and joined the ranks of the "Independents."

The author of the Washington report says that Prince Hall, "from 1792 till his death in 1807, exercised all the functions of a Provincial Grand Master." *This statement is not true:* the documents to which we have referred show that it was not till 1797 that he did any act that could possibly be said to be a function of a Provincial Grand Master, and when he did that act, he did not pretend to be or claim to be, a Provincial Grand Master, and no document or record can be found in which Prince Hall ever claimed to be, or to act as, a Provincial Grand Master. This whole statement is a very recent invention, with no evidence whatever to base it upon.

If Prince Hall lodge was in active existence for some years after 1792, (as

it seems to have been), it must have known of the union of the two Grand Lodges that year and of the action of the United Grand Lodge soon after, declaring in effect that every lodge in Massachusetts, *which did not give in its adhesion to the Grand Lodge* should be held to be an irregular and clandestine lodge, and all masonic communication with it forbidden. It is true that St. Andrew's Lodge held out for some years, but all the while was treating with the Grand Lodge in relation to the matter, and finally yielded. But Prince Hall Lodge made no offer or attempt to give in its adhesion, but kept on in utter disregard of the Grand Lodge, and thus became, by the decision of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, which alone had full jurisdiction over the question, a clandestine lodge. The question raised in this controversy was then and there finally decided: and the Grand Lodge of Washington has no more power to reverse that decision than the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts has to reverse the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington in revoking the charter of a lodge in that State.

Looking at the surrounding circumstances, we are justified in inferring that Prince Hall's action in creating new lodges was caused by the situation in which his evident determination not to come under the authority of the Grand Lodge had placed him. But let us do him justice: more honest than some of his recent historians, he never claimed that he acted under any authority from any Grand Lodge or Grand Master, but avowedly acted wholly upon his own authority or that of his lodge.

The records of the Grand Lodge of England in those days are full and complete, and the Grand Secretary has stated that Prince Hall was never invested with the powers of Provincial Grand Masters, or any powers to create lodges.

But it is said that white men have done the same thing that Prince Hall did, and their work has been universally accepted. *This statement is not true.* We have quoted the law showing the only method by which an irregular lodge can be made a lawful lodge, viz: by the warrant of the Grand Master, approved by the Grand Lodge having jurisdiction. *In every case that has ever existed in the York Rite, in which an irregular lodge has been recognized, it has been "regularized" by the action of the Grand Lodge having jurisdiction.* For instance, St. Andrew's Lodge had proceeded very much as Prince Hall Lodge did before receiving its charter: and when objection was made against it on that account, it frankly admitted the charge, but claimed that when the Grand Lodge constituted it under its charter, all those irregularities were healed—as they were. So when Prince Hall and his associates were constituted under their charter, all irregularities in their making was healed, if there were any.

But no Grand Lodge, lawfully existing and having jurisdiction, ever "regularized" the lodges which Prince Hall attempted to create, and they

were, and have remained, clandestine lodges; and their acts, whether in making masons, chartering lodges, organizing Grand Lodges or forming a National Grand Lodge, are masonically, absolutely void, and will remain so until they shall be *legalized by the Grand Lodge of the jurisdiction*, save that the Grand Lodges and the National Grand Lodge never can be made regular.

The precedents relied on by the author of the Washington Report utterly fail to establish his proposition. Here we note that the Arkansas Committee calls attention to the fact that he has garbled extracts from *JOUS DOVE'S* history of Masonry in Virginia, to the extent that if he had given the statements of Bro. DOVE as they are printed he would have proved the very opposite of what he was trying to prove!

The difference between the course pursued by Prince Hall and those who came after him, and that pursued in the other cases is a very wide one— as wide as between error and truth. The ultimate legal *status* of the lodges depends entirely upon the action of the Grand Lodge and not upon what happened before that action, precisely as stated in the Old Regulation.

For example, if one of these colored lodges were in existence in Washington to-day and should ask to give in its adhesion to the Gr. Lodge of Washington, and that Body should accept, and issue a charter to it, that lodge would thereby become, as to all the world, a regular lodge, but *made so by the act of the Grand Lodge of Washington* acting within the scope of its rightful jurisdiction: and on the other hand, if that Grand Lodge refused to "regularize" the lodge, all the other Grand Lodges in the world would be powerless to do so.

The point, that irregularities in the formative period of Grand Lodges cannot be precedents for disregarding irregularities after the system had become in full operation and its laws well fixed, is well taken, especially when it is remembered that in all the former cases the irregularities were healed by competent power, in accordance with the Old Regulations, while in the latter case, they never have been.

Our conclusion is the same as it was in 1876, when in discussing the proposition made in the Grand Lodge of Ohio to recognize the Colored Grand Lodges, after giving the history of the organization of those bodies, we added:

"From this history of these organizations, it will be seen at once that on no ground whatever can the Ohio proposition be sustained.

"To recognize them as Independent Grand Lodges is the death of the doctrine of exclusive jurisdiction. If Ohio recognizes the African Grand Lodge, she must repeal the ban of non-intercourse with Hamburg and the Grand Orient of France, and recognize those Bodies in New York, New Jersey and Louisiana which she has for so many years declared to be clandestine, and the planting of which was a masonic offence of so grave a character that it put the perpetrators outside the pale of Masonry, in her judgment, as well as that of all her sisters.

“Again, it introduces into Masonry a distinction founded upon race and color, which is contrary to its fundamental principles. But it is said that a distinction founded upon nationality has already been introduced, and that it is no more an innovation upon masonic usage and law to grant a charter to men of color, than to grant one to Germans or Frenchmen. We have never believed it right to issue a charter with any stipulation as to the language in which the work is to be done; still, the granting of a charter to men of color, leaving them free to admit whom they please, and placing them under the same government as other lodges, is a very different thing from recognizing an African Grand Lodge, and thus saying: ‘the whites will come with us, the blacks will go with you.’

“No, the only terms upon which recognition can be granted, is the consolidation of the two Grand Organizations into one as the supreme authority over all the subordinates. If these organizations are regular, or merely technically illegal, they should be invited to unite and fuse with the white organizations, as masonic history affords many precedents for doing.

“But are they regular? Or are they merely technically irregular? Or are they essentially clandestine? If, in 1782, the doctrine of exclusive jurisdiction was law, as now held, the first lodge, the source of all the rest, was clandestine. But admitting that African Lodge was a regular lodge, was there a single other regular lodge established? The first was formed in 1797 by Prince Hall, who had no other or greater authority than that of Master of a lodge. It is true that anciently, lodges were formed without any warrant or charter; but in 1797, it had been the law of the Grand Lodge, under which African Lodge then held its charter and worked, for three-quarters of a century, that ‘if any set or number of masons shall take upon themselves to form a lodge, without the Grand Master’s warrant, the regular lodges are not to countenance them, nor own them as fair brethren duly formed, nor approve of their acts or deeds’ (Eighth Old Regulation). The lodge in Providence was formed in the same manner. These two, with African Lodge, formed a Grand Lodge in 1808. Under the Old Regulation, to which we have referred, these lodges and their Grand Lodge were clandestine; they were clandestine not merely under the masonic law as it now exists, but under the law as it then existed, and had existed nearly a century. Upon a most thorough and careful examination, with an anxiety to arrive at the truth, but with an earnest wish, which we do not hesitate to avow, that the irregularities in these organizations might be found to be of so purely technical a character that they might be healed by legislation, and the universality of Masonry demonstrated in a signal manner, we can come to no other conclusion than that they are irregular and must be held to be clandestine.

“But it is said that they maintain the same principles, have the same forms and ceremonies, and practice the same Masonry that we practice, and in the same manner in which we practice it, and why not then heal them, as has been done in other cases, in which the parties healed were held to be equally clandestine? To this (if it is true) one answer is, they are not ready. Should we heal the ‘Nationals’ or the ‘Independents’? Although there may be some States in which this question does not arise, yet no policy must be adopted in this matter which is not a general one, and while there are two rival organizations they are not ready to present this question.

“But beyond this there is another difficulty, which another generation will remove; many of the members of the colored lodges are not free born. It is true that in 1813, the Grand Lodge of England struck out ‘free born’ and inserted ‘free man.’ But in America it is a landmark, that no one can be made a mason unless he is free born: there may be no reason whatever why a free man, though not free born, may not be made a mason; but

that does not signify, as long as the law is otherwise, and we cannot see how this difficulty can be removed save by time."

But the course above suggested is not, and has not been, satisfactory to the other parties interested. At the very outset, Prince Hall asked for and received a charter for colored masons by the name of "African Lodge": there is not the slightest evidence that he, or those with him, ever applied to any Grand Lodge in Massachusetts to come under its obedience; on the contrary, the circumstances show that Hall did not desire to amalgamate with the white masons but drew "the color line" himself, and took measures to maintain it, without making the slightest attempt to follow the example of St. Andrew's Lodge. We have been quite familiar with this matter for more than twenty-five years, having made it a point to collect and examine all the printed documents of these organizations, and if there has been, during all that time, a single intimation in favor of amalgamation with the regular organizations, it has escaped our recollection; on the contrary, recognition of their bodies as the peers of the others has been assumed to be the only basis upon which they would treat.

This is emphasized by the fact that in the Dominion of Canada, where the old requirement that a candidate must be "free born" has been changed as in England, to "free man," and colored men have been admitted to regular lodges, they have organized lodges and formed a Grand Lodge.

We regret to find that some brethren, who evidently are ignorant of the facts, assume that the real objection to recognizing these bodies is the color objection. The committee of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina show that this claim is utterly erroneous. The fact that in the numerous cases, in which this doctrine has been applied, the parties were white, ought to satisfy these brethren that their zeal surpasses their knowledge. Also they should be told that in the Dominion of Canada colored men have been habitually made in the regular lodges, and we have never known a case in which one of these was refused the privilege of visitation on this side of the border. They have visited our Portland lodges and been received precisely as white visitors. Moreover, we have sat in a lodge in Boston with a colored brother *made in that lodge*. At the funeral of Bro. CHARLES W. MOORE, a colored mason was in the procession, marching with a Permanent Member of the Grand Lodge. The charge, therefore, that when the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts reviewed and decided this question in 1876, the question of color affected the decision, is so utterly baseless that no mason, knowing the facts, could have made it.

Upon the principal question involved, the Grand Lodge of Maine, in the time of FREEMAN BRADFORD, spoke in terms that cannot be misunderstood; the following report, signed by him, was unanimously adopted by our Grand Lodge in 1873:

“The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, to whom the resolutions of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana were referred last year, ask leave to report:

“That the principles enunciated in those resolutions are correct. The doctrine of exclusive Grand Lodge Sovereignty is no longer to be debated or questioned. This Grand Lodge has already cut off masonic intercourse with Grand Bodies which practically deny the doctrine.

“This remedy, however, has not availed in the cases of the Grand Orient of France and the Grand Lodge of Hamburgh, the latter of which seems determined to violate, on every opportunity, this wholesome law. In such a case they that are not with us, are against us. We recommend that this Grand Lodge endorse the resolutions of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana and declare that absolute necessity requires her to refuse masonic intercourse with all Grand Bodies, which violate the law of exclusive jurisdiction, and all which, after due notice, continue to maintain masonic relations with the Grand Bodies thus offending.”

Since this report was written we have been informed that the author of the Washington report, in his correspondence with Grand Masters of other jurisdictions, claims that his Grand Lodge has not recognized the Colored Grand Lodges. This claim is so preposterous, that, positive as our information is, we have very grave doubts of the correctness of the information. Two men, each claiming to be made a mason in colored lodges, one chartered by one Colored Grand Lodge and the other, by another, applied to the Grand Lodge of Washington to be recognized as regular masons. Their application was referred to a committee which reported in effect, that the petitioners are regular masons, made in lawful lodges, chartered by regular Grand Lodges, claiming in direct line by regular succession from the Grand Lodge of England.

Upon the recommendation of the committee the Grand Lodge adopted (among others) the following resolution, and ordered the Proceedings containing this report and resolution to be sent to the petitioners *as the response to their communication*:

“Resolved, That in view of recognized laws of the masonic institution, and of facts of history apparently well authenticated and worthy of credence, this Grand Lodge does not see its way clear to deny or question the right of its constituent lodges, or of the members thereof, to recognize as brother masons, negroes who have been initiated in lodges which can trace their origin to Prince Hall Lodge, No. 459, organized under the warrant of our R. W. Brother Thomas Howard, Earl of Effingham, acting Grand Master, under the authority of H. R. H. Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland, etc., Grand Master of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of F. and A. Masons in England, bearing date September 29, A. L. 5784, or to our R. W. Bro. Prince Hall, Master of said Lodge; and, in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, for the purpose of tracing such origin, the African Grand Lodge of Boston, organized in 1808—subsequently known as the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, the first African Grand Lodge of North America in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, organized in 1815, and the Hiram Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, may justly be regarded as legitimate Masonic Grand Lodges.”

Comment is unnecessary!

Lest it may be thought that we have not accorded to the author of this

whole trouble, due masonic courtesy, we will add that, as in national affairs, the "safety of the Republic is the supreme law," so in Masonry, the harmony of the craft is its "strength and support": so that one who *wilfully* disturbs it, commits the greatest of masonic offences. And when one, "who pretends to know," disturbs its harmony by promulgating false doctrine, it is legitimate and necessary to ascertain what support his doctrines derive from his experience and learning: and when it appears, on investigation, that he has neither, it is our duty, unpleasant as it is, to declare the fact. This case illustrates the adage that "sometimes a blunder is worse (in its effect) than a crime."

ARKANSAS, 1898.

The Grand Master (J. B. BAKER) congratulates the craft that, in spite of business depression, the fraternity had maintained its general prosperity, attributing it in part to its not being "involved in the political and industrial questions which have agitated the public."

We note that there has been a slight decrease in the total membership, but twenty-seven lodges made no returns. Whether, if there had been full returns, the number would have held good, we are unable to say, but we think there was a decrease in the lodges which did make returns.

We regret more than we have words to express, to learn that our good brother GEORGE A. DANNELLY was unable to be present, owing to ill health. He sent a letter, and the Past Grand Masters present joined in presenting a resolution directing the Grand Secretary to telegraph our brother the sympathy of the Grand Lodge and its prayers that he may again be restored to health; in which we most earnestly join.

He announces the action of the Grand Lodge of Peru in relation to the Bible and its rescission of that action, and in consequence he annulled the order which he had issued withdrawing fraternal intercourse.

He had granted six dispensations for new lodges, but earnestly urges the Grand Lodge to examine each case carefully, for he was fearful they were creating too many lodges.

He announced quite a large number of decisions, some of which were reversed by the Grand Lodge.

He decided that a brother, not resident in Arkansas, could not be received as a member of a lodge in that State, but the Grand Lodge reversed it.

He decided (and the Grand Lodge sustained it) that when, before the result of a ballot is announced, a brother states in open lodge that he had cast a black ball through mistake, and thereupon another ballot is ordered, the first ballot goes for nothing; and if there is but one black ball on the

second time of trying to ballot, the Master should order another ballot, as the law in that respect is the same as it is here in Maine.

The question was presented as to what extent inquiry may be made of the Committee of Investigation as to the basis of their report. The Grand Master decided as follows:

“The lodge has the right to inquire of the committee the authority upon which they base their report or any part of it, but they have no authority to ask questions of the committee which would tend to reveal the individual feelings or opinion of any member or members of the committee.”

But the Grand Lodge qualified it so as to read as follows:

“The committee may be inquired of for the purpose and to the extent of showing the identity, business, etc., of the petitioner. But the members of the committee must not be made witnesses of nor required to give their authority as to the facts in the case on which they base their report.”

We agree with the Grand Lodge.

The following decision was announced by him and approved by the Grand Lodge:

“Masonry is a moral institution, and seeks to elevate the morals of mankind, and men who are in the saloon business, selling intoxicating liquors as a beverage, should not be received as members. And those who are members should not be allowed to retain their membership in the lodge if they engage in the business of selling intoxicating liquors as a beverage.”

Of course the Temple debt was a matter of great concern to the Grand Lodge, but it is hoped that such measures were taken as will give relief.

We have already referred to the illness of Bro. DANNELLY, but we conclude to quote the following from his letter:

“Dear Brother—You will please inform the Grand Master and brethren of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas that it is with a heart full of sorrow and deep affliction I must inform them that I shall not be able to attend the Grand Lodge or any of the Grand Bodies of masons at their next session, as I am entirely helpless, and can neither stand nor walk a step without assistance, and never expect to be able to meet with the Grand Bodies again; but if we no more meet on earth, I hope that we shall meet where parting is no more. Give my loving regards to all the brethren, and ask that I be remembered by them at the throne of heavenly grace, and know that a dear lover of Masonry has ceased to labor and will soon cease to live in this world of affliction.”

Brother DANNELLY for a good many years has been a very active mason and really been one of the strong pillars of its support in that State. We met him once and *we count events* from that date.

The Grand Secretary, FAY HEMPSTEAD, made a very full report, as usual, giving many items that are usually included in the address of the Grand Master.

The receipts of the Grand Lodge the year before had enabled the Grand Secretary to pay over about one thousand dollars on the Temple debt, in addition to which, nearly thirty-five hundred dollars had been raised by a special

tax,¹ but a part of which was required to pay Temple expenses, so that about three thousand dollars was paid to reduce the principal and very nearly wiped out the second mortgage. He estimates that the Temple expenses, including the repayment of borrowed money and interest, will amount to nearly three thousand dollars for the coming year, but he seems very hopeful that the more energetic management of the matter, that has prevailed during the later years, will soon relieve them from the situation.

He publishes a circular from the Grand Master of Ohio, naming the irregular and clandestine lodges in that State and forbidding intercourse with them. We notice that the larger part of them are in a few of the larger cities, several in each.

Six charters were granted to the lodges for which the Grand Master had issued dispensations.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Correspondence, the National Grand Lodge of Sweden was recognized and its proposition for an exchange of fraternal representatives accepted. The same committee also presented a special report on the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington in recognizing the negro lodges. Having already discussed this matter very fully, we only give the conclusion to which they came, and that was, that non-intercourse be declared between the Grand Lodge, lodges, and their members and the Grand Lodge of Washington, its lodges and members. The report was printed in pamphlet form and sent out to other Grand Lodges, a copy of which we received in advance and had it before us when we were preparing the part of our report relating to this subject.

The Grand Orator, EDGAR F. BRYANT, delivered a long historical address in relation to Masonry, of a good deal of interest, as it brings within the reach of many readers, extracts from works which are comparatively rare and which otherwise would not come within their reach. While we do not agree with him in some details, yet we are glad to find so excellent a historical article in these Proceedings.

The Committee on Appeals and Grievances had a large number of matters before it, some of them pertaining to things which ought not to have been made the subject of a masonic trial at all. But we are gratified to find that the committee do not look with favor upon mere technical defects, showing that there is a re-action against the intense technicality that has been gaining ground in masonic trials within the past few years.

The attention of the Grand Lodge was called to the report that certain delegates to the Grand Lodge had entered the hall in a state of intoxication, and a committee were appointed to investigate the same and report. They reported that in one case a brother appeared in the Grand Lodge "beastly drunk," and that at the very time he was lying in an adjoining hall so drunk that he "does not know where he is nor who he is." Another case was

reported in which a brother was intoxicated, but to a less degree. Thereupon the following resolution was adopted:

“*Resolved*, That the lodges to which these brethren belong are hereby directed and required to at once severally charge and discipline these brethren for this grave offence: and that said lodges report to the Grand Master their action in the cases.”

We greatly regret that the Grand Lodge did not itself at once pass upon this insult to its dignity and authority committed in its very presence. If the guilty ones had been expelled by the Grand Lodge right on the spot, we venture to say that the effect of it would be very much better than it was to send the cases to the lodges and await their action. The power of the Grand Lodge to protect itself should be exercised when necessary.

By a special resolution, all the Past Grand Masters were made members of the Committee on Masonic Law and Usage, with the provision that three of them should constitute a quorum. There is a little danger that in so large a committee (18) the old maxim of “What is everybody’s business is nobody’s business,” may have to be applied hereafter.

The Report on Correspondence (175 pp.) was presented by Bro. SAM. H. DAVIDSON, and it is an exceedingly able and interesting one. Bro. DAVIDSON has prepared reports heretofore and gained much reputation thereby, and this one fully justifies it. He writes a good deal of it, giving a very full abstract of the Proceedings. His comments are in many cases brief expressions of assent or dissent, and sometimes we are a little at a loss to determine whether he is giving his own views or those of others. In some cases his statement of the substance of what is said contains something of a reply to it.

In his review of Maine, he gives his views in relation to the granting of dispensations which are not in accordance with our own, and his statement of the consequences are not in accord with our experience in relation to the same matters.

In respect to one decision of Grand Master LOCKE, he says:

“In answer to the question, ‘should the dues of a deceased brother be paid from his estate, if sufficient to do so?’ Grand Master Locke answers in the affirmative, but says that their collection ought never to be enforced by law. No, nor should they ever be demanded of the personal representatives or heirs. In life, as masons we are obligated to befriend and relieve every brother who shall need our assistance, to the extent of our ability, and we should contribute to the lodge funds and charity fund for this purpose, but when death claims us these obligations must cease.”

We confess that this view is a new one to us, but it deserves very serious consideration.

In relation to the Temple debt he says:

“We have the sympathy of Brother Drummond, and we know it is sincere, on the burden of our Temple debt. We will say to him, however, that

the brethren did not give up their mileage and per diem, and they ought not. The mileage and per diem system as carried out by our Grand Lodge is very popular, and there are good reasons for its popularity; but for the fact that a portion of the expenses of delegates is borne by the Grand Lodge, our representation would be very small, especially during the stringent times through which we are passing. The fact that the people of Arkansas are practically all engaged in agriculture, and that the average product of crops per acre is of greater value than in any other State of the South or West, save one, does not countervail the fact that many of our best masons, leading brethren, whose services in the councils of the craft cannot be dispensed with, are aged men whose capacity for earning money is lost or greatly decreased, and who could illy afford to attend if required to pay their own expenses. Hence the necessity for keeping up the mileage and per diem system."

He misunderstands us. We are not opposed to the "mileage and per diem system," but we believe that in most States it is an absolute necessity. It is for the welfare of the whole craft that all the lodges shall be represented in the communications of the Grand Lodge, and the burden of it ought to be borne by the whole craft, so that the remote lodges shall not have a heavier burden in this respect than those situated near the place of meeting of the Grand Lodge. We have always advocated it and insisted upon it very strenuously, and have always opposed the proposition, which is frequently made, that the representatives of any lodge should not be allowed a greater mileage and *per diem* than the amount of dues paid by that lodge. But what we intended to express was our high appreciation of the idea of brethren voluntarily giving up their mileage and *per diem* for the sake of the payment of the Temple debt. This is the same as any other sacrifice which a brother makes for a common good, and commendable accordingly.

There was a proposition that the Grand Lodge should hold biennial sessions until the debt was paid, but of this he says:

"Speaking of the proposition to hold biennial sessions of the Grand Lodge until the Temple debt is paid, he says that such a course would be a much less evil than to be overwhelmed continually with a heavy debt, and in addition lose the Temple. We have a hope that the Grand Lodge at its next session may see its way clear to temporarily suspend the payment of mileage and per diem, at least until the debt can be controlled."

We too most earnestly hope that this may be avoided. A few Grand Lodges, however, have been compelled to adopt it temporarily, but have very soon come back to the system of annual sessions. We regard the matter as a choice of two evils, and there may be circumstances in which biennial sessions may be the less of the two, but we trust that our Arkansas brethren will be able to avoid both evils.

BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1898.

A special communication was held to dedicate a new Masonic Temple in Vancouver City, which was made an occasion of much interest.

The Grand Master, Rev. E. D. McLAREN, in his address at the annual communication says:

“It affords me the deepest gratification to be able to report that during the past year the utmost harmony has prevailed throughout this masonic jurisdiction. It has been my good fortune to have had no occasion to exercise any of the powers and prerogatives with which the Grand Master is clothed for the settlement of masonic strife and the punishment of unmasonic conduct. I am exceedingly thankful that my year of office has been, to such an unusual degree, a year of peace and brotherly love.”

He had visited eighteen of the twenty-four lodges, and his report shows that, as a rule, they were in a very good condition.

In one instance, in which two lodges existed in the same place, there had some difficulty arisen between them so that one lodge left the hall where the other met. But he visited both lodges and through his influence the trouble was healed, and both lodges now meet in the same hall.

He had a peculiar experience at one lodge. He was obliged to appear before a “Board of Trial” to be examined as to whether he should be admitted or not. Of this, he says:

“The examining committee felt considerable reluctance about subjecting the Grand Master to an examination: but as there was no other course open, they discharged their duty faithfully. As some of you may be feeling apprehensive as to the result, let me at once relieve your anxiety by informing you that I managed to pass a satisfactory examination, and was thereupon duly admitted to the lodge, where the brethren received me with the utmost cordiality.”

We do not agree as to the necessity of his submitting to the examination. It might be necessary to identify himself as Grand Master, but it would be a curious state of things if the Grand Master, on an official visit to a lodge, could be excluded because there was no one present who could, or would, vouch for him as being a mason. However, under the circumstances, perhaps it was the best course to take.

The Deputy Grand Master is required by the constitution to make a report and he gives an account of his visitation of the lodges, some of them in company with the Grand Master and others by himself, and we judge that every lodge, with possibly one or two exceptions, was visited by one or the other or both of these officers during the year.

In one case he had occasion to point out to the lodge the existence of the lack of perfect harmony and a want of interest on the part of the principal officers, whereby the “tone of the lodge seemed to be much reduced.” He arranged also to have the Grand Secretary instruct the officers in the performance of their duty, and subsequent accounts showed that the lodge had recovered and was on the highway to prosperity.

He visited one lodge for the express purpose of censuring it for failure to observe certain requirements of the constitution. But they gave him a cor-

dial welcome, and promised better things for the future. They had utterly neglected the examination of candidates in the Master's degree, but at his suggestion they undertook to remedy the defect as far as possible. He had a very pleasant visit. In fact, the visits of both the Grand Officers were impartial, and they commended where commendation was deserved, but did not hesitate to point out defects and call attention to the duties of the officers and members, and we have no doubt that these visits have already produced an excellent effect upon the lodges and the craft.

The Grand Secretary reports that there has been a general prosperity, there having been a loss in only four lodges. One made a gain in spite of the loss of eighteen members whose business had called upon them to leave the jurisdiction. He also speaks highly of the returns of the lodges.

The District Deputies made full reports, which show that these officers had been faithful and energetic. One of them relates a circumstance as probably unique in the annals of Masonry. The Master of a certain lodge, without any warning, absented himself from the lodge and wrote that his religious convictions would prevent him in the future from ever taking part in any masonic ceremony. The Deputy advised that no steps be taken in the matter except to treat him as laboring under some mental affliction or aberration, and that the Junior Past Master perform the duties of the office. This plan was adopted and carried out with success, but not without some dissatisfaction, and the Deputy suggests that, as the Master's term of office had then expired and his successor had been chosen and installed, he could be dealt with by the lodge as circumstances might require.

This case was often paralleled in the old anti-masonic times and has been in a few instances since; but we hold that if a man's religious convictions absolutely forbid his continuing to attend masonic ceremonies, he should be quietly permitted to retire and should not be disciplined. The precise course to be taken in such cases has not been fully settled; but we protest most earnestly, that if a man conscientiously believes that his masonic duties interfere with the duties he owes to God, he shall not be punished for taking the course which his conscience calls upon him to take.

One of the Deputies says:

"I regret to note that the Masonry which has come under my observation is, in some instances, fast degenerating into a mere mechanical routine. Some of the brethren have sunk into a lethargy. At times they are a little roused, by the initiation, passing or raising of a candidate, but it is only momentary. On the regular night of meeting a few of the faithful will assemble, read and adopt the minutes, transact some routine business and close. This is varied from time by the introduction of degree work. You will see many examples of the following: A newly made mason, eager for truth and light, will attend every meeting and participate in every ceremony, for perhaps, six months. You will then notice his occasional absence, and finally, he ceases to attend. The reason of this is not far to seek. He imagines himself a mason, but knows nothing of its principles

or teachings. He tires of the routine. It has become monotonous. The novelty has worn off, and with it his interest, which was created and sustained by that novelty, ceases. The remedy for this is masonic education. The brethren must be taught to read, study and think for themselves, until such time as each and every one can give a reason for the faith that is in him. A man's interest in a subject can invariably be measured by his knowledge of it. Increase the knowledge and you will have a proportionate increase of interest.'

And we think it will be found that the same state of facts exists in almost every Grand Jurisdiction to a certain extent and that really it is the cause of the falling off of interest: and we commend this most earnestly to the attention of the brethren and especially to the officers of lodges.

The proceedings were entirely of a routine character. We note, however, that a proposition was made to amend the constitution, that if the report of the Investigating Committee be unfavorable, the candidate should be declared rejected without a ballot, but that if the report be favorable, the candidate shall be balloted for and declared elected unless two black balls appear in the box.

We hope that this Grand Lodge will not adopt either branch of the proposed amendment. The records of the lodge are liable to be read by profanes. In these records, the names of members of the committee are stated, and if this amendment is adopted, in all such cases the name of the person who rejected the candidate will be on perpetual record; and as to the second branch, we hope that the old doctrine of unanimity will still be insisted upon.

As usual, the Grand Chaplain delivered an address which is published in the Proceedings. It is interesting and exceedingly appropriate for the occasion.

The Report on Correspondence (199 pp.) was presented by Bro. W. A. DEWOLF SMITH, chairman of the committee. It is an excellent abstract of the proceedings of the Grand Lodges reviewed, with comments generally brief, but always pertinent.

He objects to the decisions that a person while under suspension should be charged with dues, that any exception on the ground of jurisdiction should be made in favor of officers or soldiers, sea faring men, or ministers of the gospel.

He says that in British Columbia they have no such thing as a dismissal certificate for an E. A. or an F. C., but if one should remove from the jurisdiction of the lodge, it may request *the lodge where the candidate resides* to confer the remaining degrees for it, the candidate remaining the material of the lodge which initiated him. This is less dangerous than the practice prevailing in some Grand Jurisdictions, that the lodge may request any lodge anywhere, to confer the other degrees, and apparently by a majority vote, whereby the right of objection is practically abolished in that particular case.

He dissents, also, from the practice in some jurisdictions that a Grand Master shall remain in office but one year, saying most earnestly:

“We believe that when a Grand Lodge has a capable Grand Master, it is serving its own interests and conferring dignity on the craft by keeping him in office as long as he will consent to act.”

Of the Wisconsin proposition, he says:

“We were taught, and always believed, that the *right* to masonic relief did not exist; that such relief was free and measured only by the necessity of the case and *the ability of the donor*. To say that a Master Mason is *entitled* to relief from the funds of the lodge, or that he is a special charge on the lodge, is to put the matter on an entirely different footing, and places Masonry in the same category as those benefit societies where a member, so long as he pays his dues, has a right to claim relief from the lodge.”

He devotes four pages to the review of Maine, giving an exceedingly fine abstract of the more important proceedings.

Of the District Deputy Grand Masters, he says:

“The District Deputy Grand Masters in Maine appear to resemble more closely our Canadian District Deputy Grand Masters than do those of any other American Grand Lodge with which we are acquainted. They are twenty-five in number, and, almost without exception, they appear to have labored earnestly in the work. Their reports are very full, and give a favorable idea of the *status* of Masonry in the state.”

He criticises our approval of the decision of the Grand Master of Alabama in relation to allowing a re-ballot in a case in which a brother stated that he cast a black ball and stated his reason for it, and it appeared that the reason was founded upon an error of fact; and says:

“Is not this liable to open the door to grave abuses, Brother Drummond? Is it not to be conceived that an unscrupulous brother (and there are some) might declare a black ball which he had not cast? And how could he be contradicted without a further disclosure of the ballot? We believe the only safe rule to be that which absolutely prohibits any disclosure of the ballot.”

We entirely agree with what he says and have so stated it in a subsequent report, and yet we hold that if it *does* legally appear beyond question, that there was a mistake in the ballot, the Grand Master should have the power to allow a new ballot to be taken. As we have already said, it is difficult to conceive of a case in which it *could* legally appear, however, and we refer our brother to our discussion of this question in our report for 1898.

Referring to our criticism of the practice in Delaware that a Warden cannot confer the degrees unless he is a Past Master, but may call a Past Master to the chair for that purpose, he adds:

“We suppose, Bro. Drummond, that in the case you mention an unfortunate lodge, which has not a good supply of Past Masters to fall back upon, must forego the conferring of degrees until such time as a new Master is elected.”

He says that we are in error in a statement which included his Grand Lodge, that in the absence of the Master and Wardens the Junior Past Master may open the lodge and preside, saying:

“A lodge may be opened on the authority of the Master, or of the Senior Warden if he be absent, or of the Junior Warden in case of the absence of both, ‘but on no pretence without such authority.’”

We do not quite understand this; does it mean that the Master may give “authority” to anyone he pleases to open the lodge, or in his absence, and that of the Wardens, that the Junior Warden may do so? See *ante*, p. 319.

Referring to the Maine proposition in relation to rejected candidates, he says:

“While the legislation of our own Grand Lodge has limited the effect of a rejection to one year, we believe, ourselves, that a longer time would be preferable. Instances have arisen under our own observation, where a person rejected by a lodge removed for a time to a jurisdiction where he was not so well known and where he was made a mason, and on returning to the place of rejection claimed the right to, and did, visit the lodge there.”

There are many other things of interest in this report, but we are unable to notice them, but desire to congratulate the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, that it has adopted the practice of most other American jurisdictions in regard to these reports, and upon its splendid success in carrying it out.

CALIFORNIA, 1898.

The Grand Master (THOMAS FLINT, JR.) says:

“It is with great pleasure that I am enabled to report to you the continued prosperity of the craft within this jurisdiction. Notwithstanding the financial depression that has prevailed throughout the greater part of the State, the increase in membership has been unusually large. The net gain in membership for the year is 734, which has been exceeded but four times in the entire history of this Grand Lodge. Peace and prosperity have prevailed within our borders, and our relations with sister jurisdictions have been pleasant and harmonious.”

He announces the death of Bro. JAMES OGLESBY, who had been for over thirty years Grand Tyler, and who was perhaps as well known to the masons of California as any other brother in the State, and wherever known greatly beloved.

Grand Master FLINT gives a concise statement of his official action and decisions.

We note that, by one of them, a dimit of each brother signing an application for a new lodge, must accompany the petition. As we have formerly stated, we do not believe that this ought to be required, because practically it severs the membership, and, if no charter is granted, leaves the petitioners

all unaffiliated masons, who get back to their lodges only by a unanimous vote.

He decided, also, that a brother, who is refused advancement, is entitled to know the fact, and, when there is an investigation, the result of that investigation.

It was decided that charges may be withdrawn previous to the commencement of trial, but not otherwise. This undoubtedly rests on local law, but we believe that the law ought to be changed. In a matter that is prosecuted for the welfare of the craft, one single man ought not to have the power to withdraw the charges, at any rate, without the consent of the lodge and for good reasons given.

It was further decided that money given as charity cannot be charged to the account of the brother as money due from him to the lodge. This is in accordance with masonic law, but is in conflict with the doctrine held by California as to money given in charity to members of other lodges.

The Committee on Jurisprudence held that every member of the lodge has a right to vote on any proposition submitted to vote in the lodge, although they agree as a matter of propriety that a petitioner for a new lodge ought not to vote on the endorsement of the petition. But we do not see how this question can arise practically, as long as they require the dimit to accompany the petition.

The Grand Master announced that the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home had been completed and was to be dedicated at that communication. This was done, to the great satisfaction of the Grand Lodge.

We quote the following from his address, as of special interest at this time:

“The recent acquisition by the United States of the Hawaiian Islands has added, in a certain sense, to the responsibilities of this Grand Lodge. The two lodges chartered by this Grand Body have thus become nearer and dearer to us, and a territory has been opened that, to a certain degree, may be considered our own, in a masonic sense. While the several lodges situated in Hawaii have derived their charters from different Grand Jurisdictions, it would seem to be for the best interests of Freemasonry that they be, if possible, comprised within the same jurisdiction, and from the fact that the Grand Lodge of California is nearer than any other Grand Lodge; and from the further fact that our masonic relations are, and must be, in the future brought nearer and closer, it would appear that the most natural affiliation of the lodges situated in Hawaii should be with the Grand Lodge of California. We are not unmindful of the fact that the territory of Hawaii is a concurrent one, and that the lodges heretofore chartered have been so chartered in a regular manner, nor would we in any way seek to infringe upon the jurisdiction of any other regular Grand Lodge; but the nearness of Hawaii to this jurisdiction, the close relations that must hereafter exist between our peoples and the fraternal friendship that has in the past been a source of pleasure to us both, would seem to indicate that a closer union would be advisable. I therefore recommend that the subject of a closer union of the lodges in Hawaii with those of this jurisdiction be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, and that said committee report

to this Grand Lodge at this communication such recommendations as they may think proper under the circumstances."

Grand Secretary JOHNSON, as usual, submits a very full report, giving in detail an account of the dispensations granted and the various matters which have been put in his hands to come before the Grand Lodge. Among other papers, he prints a letter from several Past Masters of lodges at Honolulu cautioning the brethren upon going to that place with the expectation that employment could be obtained, stating that already the supply was a good deal beyond the demand, and especially that the medical, dental and law professions have been more than overcrowded.

He also gives an interesting letter from a committee of ladies belonging to the Eastern Star who attended to the wants of the soldiers at Camp Merritt. The Grand Lodge arranged to supply very many necessary articles of clothing and comfort, and these ladies carried it out. We quote the closing paragraphs of their report:

"Permit us to say that the Grand Lodge, through its tent at Camp Merritt, was a blessing to the Boys in Blue, many homes being gladdened by the letters which were sent through its agency.

"It would have been very gratifying to the members of the Grand Lodge could they have seen the sense of appreciation of kindness shown by the Boys in Blue, many of whom, with hearts fired with patriotism, had left comfortable homes and good business positions to take up arms in defense of their country, but who were left, alas! for months to live in the sands and fogs of Camp Merritt.

"As ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me."

The various Boards of Relief presented their reports, showing their action in detail and also the amount of expenditures for brethren, &c., from other jurisdictions and the amount refunded during five years. During the past year the San Francisco Board of Relief expended thirty-one dollars in four cases from Maine, and show an expenditure during the past five years of two hundred and fifty-one dollars in nine cases from Maine, one hundred and thirty-six dollars of which had been refunded.

The Board at Los Angeles had paid out during the past year ten dollars in one case from Maine which is all that they report as paid during the past five years. Other Boards report nothing paid during the past year to cases from Maine, but the Board at San Diego reports that since it came into existence it has paid nine hundred and seventy-two dollars and sixty two cents in a case arising in Maine from Aurora Lodge. No details are given and this is all that we know about it, and the Sacramento Lodge reports fourteen dollars paid out for brethren from Maine during the past five years.

The exercises at the dedication of the Home are given in full, and, as already stated, the occasion was a decidedly interesting one. A history of the Home is given by the Orator on that occasion and it is well worth the examination of all interested in this class of masonic charities.

Of course a very large amount of routine business was transacted, among which we note the consolidation of lodges in two cases.

Upon a full report from the Committee on Jurisprudence, the Gran Dieta of Mexico was recognized. BRO. ALEXANDER K. CONEY, Counsel General at the City of San Francisco, had been selected by the Gran Dieta as its representative and he submitted various documents to the Grand Lodge. A history of the action of the Grand Lodge of California is given, in which it is said:

"It seems to be an uncontradicted fact that the Gran Dieta was organized in 1890; that it then had under its obedience seventeen of the Grand Lodges and three hundred and twenty subordinate lodges of the Republic of Mexico; that it had adopted a constitution; that it had also adopted a decree or order prohibiting any subordinate lodge under its jurisdiction or obedience from conferring the so-called Scottish Rite degrees in Masonry."

The committee take up the objections that have been made and dispose of them in order. The main point upon which we have wanted information is covered by the following:

"It should be here also stated that there are now two hundred and forty-six masonic lodges in the Republic of Mexico, under the jurisdiction of the Gran Dieta Symbolica, seventeen of these lodges being sustained by American citizens and conducted in the English language.

"That all the lodges confer the three degrees of Masonry under the 'York Rite.'

And the committee conclude as follows:

"Finally, there seems to be no reason why the warmest fraternal relations should not be maintained between the two Grand Lodges. When this is done, it will promote masonic intercourse in both jurisdictions. It will unite by fraternal fellowship, the people of the two great North American Republics, and thus benefit both. It will tend to remove national prejudice, and will build up and maintain business and social intercourse; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the Grand Lodge of California recognizes the Gran Dieta Symbolica de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos as the only existing regular symbolic masonic Grand Lodge of the Republic of Mexico, and as a just and legally formed Grand Lodge, and cordially accepts its proposal for the establishment of friendly relations and an interchange of representatives."

The report was concurred in and the resolution adopted. We will, however, add that it appears from this report that fourteen of the Grand Lodges of the United States had previously taken similar action. We have hesitated in this matter in order to ascertain something about the number of lodges in the obedience of this Grand Body. We think the information in this report is reliable and that the time has come when our own Grand Lodge may safely act in the matter.

The Committee on Jurisprudence was considerably occupied with the matter of dues and the questions growing out of it, and some five pages of the report are devoted to this subject, but we find nothing of general interest

in it, beyond the statement that it is in the line of extending the peculiar policy of that Grand Lodge in this matter.

The Committee on Grievances had considerable before them, but we are pleased to know that they were able to sustain the proceedings of the lodges and did not have cause to send them back for retrial on technical grounds.

The Grand Orator, EDWARD SPAULDING LIPPITT, delivered a very beautiful address to which, however, we must simply refer our readers.

In one trial, upon a charge that a brother Master Mason made an assault upon another, the accused pleaded that he did not know that the accuser was a mason and set out matters showing justification and extenuating circumstances, but the Master of the lodge, upon objection by the counsel for the accuser, excluded the testimony. In this connection, the committee well say:

“There seems to be a growing tendency in masonic trials where parties are represented by attorneys to strictly apply the rules of civil law to evidence produced before the Commission. This is wrong; the Master has no right to exclude any testimony—the accuser should have every opportunity to present evidence to the Commission in his defense, and the Commission should judge its competency. The testimony offered by the accused in this case should have been received by the Commission.”

The decision of the lodge was reversed and the case sent back for a new trial.

Other matters are presented, but we have not space to notice them.

One case of decided interest came before the Grand Lodge. A member of a Hawaii lodge (chartered by the Grand Lodge of California, but located at Honolulu) was in the leper colony. He had a wife residing in California, for whom Humboldt Lodge had contributed one hundred dollars, but the lodge of which the brother was a member, had declined to assist, alleging that it was unable to do so, and thereupon the Grand Lodge re-imbursed Humboldt Lodge for the money which it had paid, and set apart one hundred and twenty dollars to be paid in monthly instalments, provided that if the wife should be admitted to the Home, the payment should cease.

The Grand Lodge decided that the life membership of a member of a lodge, that had gone out of existence, has precisely the same status as any other dimitted mason, on the ground that his life membership was a special contract between himself and the lodge, and ceased when the lodge ceased to exist, and that if he affiliates with another lodge, he must pay dues the same as any other member. This is a new question, but we see no ground for reaching any other conclusion.

There were quite a number of decisions in reference to dimitted masons, but they depend entirely upon local law.

In relation to Army Lodges, the committee report as follows, and their report was adopted.

“ We commend the discretion of the Grand Master in refusing to issue special dispensations for the organization of army lodges. An army lodge is an anomaly in Masonry. Its meetings are held at any place where the exigencies of the military service may cause a temporary encampment. If held in our own country, such meetings are necessarily an invasion of the jurisdiction of other regularly constituted lodges. During the clash of battle in our late civil war, it sometimes happened that army lodges, with their charters and records, were swept from existence, and the unfortunate members of such lodges were thus deprived of membership, without dimit or other records to show that they had received the degrees of Masonry in a regularly chartered masonic lodge. We recommend that this Grand Lodge condemn, with unqualified disapprobation, every effort, from any source, to revive the pernicious practice of issuing dispensations for the organization of any lodges of such a character.

“ Our Grand Master has wisely suggested that the time may speedily come when it shall become our duty, as well as our privilege, to grant authority for the organization of masonic lodges in the Phillipine Islands. We shall rejoice in the consummation of events that lead up to so desirable and important an event in our history, confident that the wise discretion and sound judgment of our Grand Master will enable him to solve the problems as may thus confront him in such a manner as to reflect credit upon himself and to redound to the honor and prosperity of our beloved Fraternity.”

The first paragraph is in accordance with teachings which have prevailed in Maine for more than thirty years, and the second paragraph was wise in leaving the matter to be decided when the question shall arise upon the circumstances as then existing.

Questions in regard to the status of the Hawaiian lodge were presented and referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence. The main question, however, was in regard to the status of other lodges or bodies claiming to be lodges, in one of which it requires three black balls to reject, and which also admits candidates physically disqualified under the laws of the Grand Lodge of California.

The intimation is that possibly an effort would be made to form a new Grand Lodge. The committee did not have time to make a report, and recommended that the matter be referred to their successors to prepare a statement of their answers at the earliest practicable date, and that such answers be submitted to the Grand Master, and if approved by him that they be forwarded to the brethren in Hawaii as the ruling and edict of this Grand Lodge. As we find nothing further in this matter in these Proceedings, we assume that the report had not been prepared and submitted at the time of their publication. We shall look with great interest for this report, hoping to get a full statement of facts in relation to the existence of the lodges in those islands.

The Report on Correspondence (137 pp.) was presented, as heretofore, by Bro. WILLIAM A. DAVIES. He gives his usual carefully prepared abstract of the proceedings, the result of much patient labor, and we are pleased to find that he has added to the value of the report by giving more frequently his own personal views.

In relation to calling on the Grand Master for information, he says:

"We would not for a moment question the right of a Master to ask of the Grand Master advice upon any legitimate masonic subject, but there is such a thing as making a foolish inquiry that no 'gentleman found worthy by the voice of his brethren to be chosen Master of a lodge of Freemasons would for a moment entertain.' No legislation, however plain, and no expression, however clear, can forestall the questioner. Some make inquiries simply in order to hold correspondence with the Grand Master, and others ask because no printed law or regulation is so satisfactory to them as the personal assurance of the Grand Master. So let the brethren ask and be enlightened; that's what Grand Masters are for."

We agree. Of course, sometimes such an inquiry will develop the fact that the inquirer is writing not from a good motive, but for one of personal vanity or something of that kind. These cases are usually to be distinguished and the Grand Master can treat them accordingly. But the desire to write the Grand Master for information shows at least that the writer takes some interest in the matter and anything that creates or increases interest in the polity of Freemasonry should be encouraged, even if at times it is a little annoying.

He believes that it is desirable in case of masonic elections, to require a ballot of the members individually instead of collectively, adding: 'thereby avoiding the possible dissatisfaction which results in a lack of interest in everything pertaining to Masonry.'

He gives the action of the Grand Lodge of England in relation to the Peru matter, and while it is probable that we may find it in the Proceedings of that Grand Lodge, yet to make sure, we copy it in full from this report. The Grand Secretary presented a message from the Grand Master as follows:

"It having been made to appear to the satisfaction of the Most Worshipful Grand Master that the Grand Lodge of Peru has decreed the removal of the Volume of the Sacred Law from the altars of all lodges under its jurisdiction, substituting therefor the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Peru, and replacing the word 'Bible' in the Ritual, by the words, 'of the Grand Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Peru'; and, further, that the said Grand Lodge has not only refused to reconsider its decision in authorizing such decree, but requires obedience thereto, from the several lodges under its jurisdiction.

"His Royal Highness is of opinion that recognition of the Grand Lodge of Peru as a masonic body ought no longer to be accorded, until that body shall have returned to its observance of the ancient landmarks, and therefore desires that the sense of Grand Lodge shall be taken on the following resolutions:

"1st Resolution. That this Grand Lodge views with profound regret the step taken by the Grand Lodge of Peru, in ordering the removal of the Volume of the Sacred Law from the altars, and in prohibiting all mention of the Bible in the ceremonies of lodges under its jurisdiction.

"2d Resolution. That so long as the Grand Lodge of Peru, or the lodges holding thereunder, require or authorize the holding of lodge meetings from which the Volume of the Sacred Law is absent, or in the ceremonies of which no mention of the Bible is made, they cannot be recognized as true and lawful masonic lodges or bodies.

"*3d Resolution.* That this Grand Lodge requests that His Royal Highness the Most Worshipful Grand Master will be pleased to take such steps for giving effect to the foregoing resolutions as he may consider consistent with the honor of this Grand Lodge; and to take such further steps, if any, as he may deem desirable for the recognition of those brethren in Peru who determine to abide by the ancient landmarks of the Order.

"*4th Resolution.* That this Grand Lodge hereby reaffirms and again places on record the Resolution adopted by Grand Lodge on the sixth day of March, 1878, as follows:

"That in view of the foregoing Resolutions, the Worshipful Masters of all lodges holding under the Grand Lodge of England be directed not to admit any foreign brother as a Visitor, unless—

"1st. He is duly vouched for, or unless his certificate shows that he has been initiated according to the ancient rites and ceremonies in a lodge professing belief in T. G. A. O. T. U., and

"2d. Not unless he himself shall acknowledge that this belief is an essential landmark of the Order.

"*5th Resolution.* That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be transmitted to the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland, to each Grand Lodge with which this Grand Lodge is in communication, and to the Worshipful Masters of all lodges holding under the Grand Lodge of England, each of whom is hereby instructed to cause these resolutions to be read at the first meeting of his lodge after the receipt thereof, and to direct that they shall be entered on the Minutes."

After a spirited debate, the resolutions were unanimously adopted.

We give this space to this subject because the action of the Grand Lodge of England in relation to such a matter carries great weight with it.

His review of Maine is full, as usual. His personal allusion to us is very gratifying, because we know that he never speaks for the sake of compliment.

He quotes the Maine resolutions concerning rejections, saying that he observes an awakening interest in the matter which he trusts will grow into united action and uniform legislation upon the subject, and he adds what is apparently not the law of California, but which we have always believed would be the practical application of the law in that jurisdiction, and we are glad to have our belief confirmed:

"We assure Bro. Drummond that there is no doubt of the position of the Grand Lodge of California on the direct question of the 'recognition of the status given to a rejected candidate by the law of the jurisdiction in which he is rejected.' The spirit of comity that should exist between Grand Lodges of Masons is strong enough in California to warrant the belief that non-essentials will always be sacrificed in the interest of the harmony of the whole. We regard the declaration quoted by Bro. Drummond as a long step towards making 'practical' the theoretical doctrine of which we so often boast, the 'Universality of Masonry.'"

In connection with the question of charity and the assistance that the widow of a dead brother from Maine received, he says:

"We also think, Bro. Drummond, a system that accomplishes the desired purpose relieves the distress as effectually as though within the jurisdiction of his own kindred and brethren, worthy of more than the attention given it by the Grand Master of Maine."

If he will turn to the correspondence, we think he will find that there was no such lack of courtesy on the part of the Grand Master of Maine as this quotation seems to imply.

He is gratified at our reproduction of his sketch of Dr. PEREZ SNELL, and regrets greatly that he had not "intruded upon the retiring privacy of the last decade of his life and learned more of his life experience." We, too, greatly regret it, for since we wrote what we did, we have received from him a small photograph of Bro. SNELL, and we are hoping to make it the basis of a more extended account of his life.

Referring to the Wisconsin plan, he says:

"The Grand Lodge of California is in full accord with the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin in the declaration 'that it is the duty of each 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 on the Grand Lodge from which it holds its charter, it being understood that in no case is the lodge furnishing relief and asking re-imbusement to go beyond actual necessities without express authority from the re-imbursing body.'"

* * * * *

"Some of our brethren of other jurisdictions tell us, 'true, you relieve the distress of a member of our family, but you were bound by your tenure to do that, and to do it without hope or expectation of reward or re-imbusement, and to do it so unostentatiously and quietly that even the left hand should not be advised of the kindly act done by the right.' That kind of instruction sounds well, but it is not, under the circumstances, at all satisfactory, because we have a very distinct belief that every masonic family ought to exercise some care over all its members and make some provision to protect and care for such as need care and protection.

"We do not think that the whole duty of a lodge consists in making masons and using them so long as they are healthy and strong, and turning them adrift when by sickness or misfortune they are no longer able to care for themselves. Cases have been brought to our attention where a lodge has furnished to one of its own members, who was sick and poor and absolutely needed assistance to provide the necessaries of life, funds sufficient to transport him to another jurisdiction, and then left him to the care of strangers. A lodge is an organized society, and we insist that one of the first and most important purposes of its organization is that it shall protect and relieve its own members when they need protection or relief, and that, except under extraordinary circumstances, it is false to its trust when it fails to do its duty in that regard, and that when another lodge in the same or another Grand Jurisdiction has furnished such relief, it may properly and of right, present its claim for re-imbusement.

"We regret exceedingly to note the slow progress of the just and equitable regulations proposed by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, and known as the 'Wisconsin Plan.' They have been vigorously attacked by a minority, and the majority of Grand Lodges seem to pass them as not demanding early consideration. We hope the Wisconsin Plan may yet receive the attention it merits."

Our brother loses sight entirely of what we hold to be the correct principle of masonic charity. The Wisconsin proposition is that a lodge is bound to maintain and support, whatever may be its own financial condition, one of its members that is not able to support himself, and if the lodge is unable

to do that, it is the duty of the Grand Lodge to tax the other lodges in the jurisdiction to make it up. It is true that the brethren in Wisconsin have added to their proposition that the aid given to a brother shall not extend beyond his "actual necessities" without the permission of his lodge. This is upon its face utterly meaningless, because that is all that is expected at any time. It is the "actual necessities" that we are talking about and acting about. It has never been intimated, so far as we know, that there is any obligation on a mason to assist another to the luxuries of life.

Returning to the main question involved, the obligation to support a brother absolutely unable to support himself, finds no warrant in the law of or usages of Masonry. The duty to "help, aid and assist a distressed brother," so far as it can be done by his brethren, does not mean and cannot be made to mean an absolute duty to support a distressed brother without regard to the circumstances of those whose duty it is to aid him.

We have always held that while assisting a member of another lodge gives no absolute claim upon anybody for re-imbusement, yet when the parties, who have done it, if they had been in the place of those who do it, are able to refund in part or the the whole, masonic courtesy would cause them to do so. It is precisely as in the case of an individual brother who receives assistance in that way. He is under no masonic obligation to refund, but if he should ever become able to do so, we should expect that he would refund or at least offer to. But the masonic law and duty nowhere require a lodge or a Grand Lodge to tax its members beyond their ability, to pay for the support of a brother member.

His statement that cases have been brought to his attention where a lodge furnished a needy brother funds sufficient to transport him to another jurisdiction and then left him to the care of strangers, surprises us and he must pardon us for believing that he has been misinformed. Any lodge in this section of the country that would do that, would have its charter revoked the instant such a transaction was known to the Grand Lodge. If such a case has happened, it must have happened among those jurisdictions which hold to the Wisconsin doctrine, for there is no motive for it in the other jurisdictions.

As to his last paragraph, it will not be until the fundamental principle of masonic charity is abrogated that the Wisconsin plan will command the support of the fraternity and when it does, we had better take down our masonic sign and put up the real name—"Benefit Society."

Referring to the question of rejection of candidates, Bro. DAVIES says:

"Of Bro. Drummond's attempt to bring the Representatives of the Fraternity in the various American Jurisdictions to respect each other's rights by the recognition of the status given to a rejected candidate by the law of the jurisdiction in which he was rejected, known as the 'Maine Resolutions,' the outlook is fair for the adoption of the principle and an agreement upon

a period that will make entire harmony possible, and thus remove the greatest existing obstacle to universal Masonry.

“The proposition is steadily gaining ground and masonic approval, and as the forshadowed results are realized this grand idea will reflect more than Grand Honors upon its distinguished promoter.”

We cannot appropriate to ourself the last portion of the last paragraph. We believe the plan is gaining favor on its own merits as brethren come to understand the question involved.

CANADA, 1898.

Before the Grand Lodge opened the representatives of the city welcomed it to Toronto, and the Grand Master made a suitable response. After the Grand Lodge was opened the representatives of the Toronto lodges also, by their committee, welcomed the Grand Lodge to that city. The chairman of the committee, who was Master of King Solomon's Lodge, recalled the fact that that lodge was the first to recognize publicly the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada after the organization of that Body.

But an exceedingly interesting incident of the meeting was the presence of the Grand Master of Michigan with his Grand Officers, who were most heartily welcomed; in response, Bro. LODGE, Deputy Grand Master, suitably acknowledged the welcome and presented the Grand Lodge with a gavel, as a souvenir of their visit.

He referred to public events, saying:

“Henceforth, Americans and Englishmen, the world over, are brothers with no difference or shadow of contention between them, and we appear at your altar to-day, not only brothers by the sacred ties of Masonry, but also brothers by the strong ties of kinship and country and blood.”

And the description of the gavel which was presented also has a peculiar significance. It is so interesting that we quote the following:

“Its head is made of Michigan Oak; its handle was a part of the boat hook belonging to the gig of Capt. Sigsbee, of the U. S. S. *Maine*, and was last used by the captain himself when his boat had brought him from his wrecked ship to to the steamer *City of Washington*, in Havana bay. He extended it to Mr. Sigmund Rothschild, of Detroit, Mich., who was on board the *City of Washington*, and who assisted him aboard that vessel. As a token of his appreciation, Captain Sigsbee presented the boat hook to Mr. Rothschild, who kindly gave a portion of it to us.

“The head of the gavel is bound at either end with portions of the brass railing of the wrecked vessel. One band is appropriately engraved with the pine needles and cones of the Michigan forests, while, upon the other band, are engraved the maple leaves of Canada. Upon one side of the head has been wrought, in Michigan silver and copper, the coat of arms of the Wolverine State. Upon the other side is a beautifully chased representation of the maple leaf and the consin-german of the wolverine, the beaver, the symbol of your own province.

“Upon the handle are the American and English flags joined, while upon

the top is a silver band, upon which have been engraved these words, 'Presented by the officers of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan, U. S. A., to the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada, in the Province of Ontario, with fraternal greetings and best wishes, July 20, A. D. 1898, A. L. 5898.'

We also add the closing paragraphs:

"We have thus endeavored to symbolize the present nearness of American and English interests and aspirations. The craft which we honor, and which honors us, has already taught mankind, in every clime, that neither country, sect, nor opinion should separate human hearts, but that the only aristocracy we should recognize is the aristocracy of brain and of heart. The spirit of the age is tending towards the breaking down of national barriers; the teachings of our fraternity that 'A man's a man for a' that,' whatever his nationality, are rapidly spreading outside the craft; the restless logic of events is rapidly drawing the two greatest nations of the earth closer together; and we hope that this international fraternal visit of ours and this small token of our regard, with its intermingling of national symbols, may prefigure the speedy coming of the time when our two national anthems, 'America' and 'God Save the Queen,' which, even now, thrill with the same sweet melody, may also voice the same words of allegiance and loyalty, and that the two proudest banners in the world—the Stars and Stripes and the British Ensign—may be twined together in an international loveknot of friendship and of amity that shall never be sundered.

"Accept, then, Most Worshipful Sir and Brethren, this historic gavel with its symbolism of friendship, and may the British 'hearts of oak' of your children and your children's children throb with the same feelings of affection that now pervade and animate every American bosom."

This is one of the most significant events that has happened during the year, and recalls a similar event of a public character which happened in our own city of Portland in 1846, when ground was broken for the first railway connecting American with British soil. On that occasion, and we believe for the first time in history, the flags of the two nations were twined together and the national airs were blended together. The participants foretold the more complete union of the two nations, which now seems to be more nearly an accomplished fact.

The Grand Master, WILLIAM GIBSON, thus speaks of the condition of the craft:

"It is with feelings of pride and pleasure that I am permitted again to refer to the condition of the craft within our own jurisdiction. Our lodges are in a flourishing condition, the work is well done, and the Worshipful Masters, officers and members are taking a deep interest in the welfare and success of their respective lodges. Not a discordant voice has been raised during the two years I have had the honor of presiding over the affairs of Grand Lodge. I attribute this happy state of affairs to the good will of my brethren, the tact and ability of the Executive Officers of Grand Lodge, and to the tireless and painstaking efforts of the District Deputy-Grand Masters of the several masonic districts. No district can be too careful in selecting for this onerous and important position a duly qualified brother."

He devotes some space to the subject of benevolence, stating that the action of the Grand Lodge upon his recommendation the year before in em-

powering a committee to make grants during the vacation in pressing cases, had resulted very favorably. In twelve cases relief had been afforded to the amount of \$475, which did very great good.

We note that the Grand Lodge had paid out during the year for benevolent purposes \$8,775, in addition to a gift of \$2,000 to the "Sick Children's Hospital" at Toronto, and the Grand Master states that the whole amount paid out by the Board of Benevolence since its organization in 1865 had been \$256,500.

He speaks also very highly of the General Masonic Relief Association, saying that it had saved a vast amount of money, comparatively, that had previously been given to tramps and impostors. One single Board of Relief in that jurisdiction had paid out nearly \$1,000 a year to transient persons, whereas, during the past few years, it has paid only about \$150. The inference is that there was a systematic abuse by masonic tramps, or tramps claiming to be masons, many of whom never saw the inside of a lodge. We in Maine have not felt this evil so seriously as it is felt in some other jurisdictions.

Three masonic halls had been dedicated during the year, one by the Grand Master in person and two others by special deputies; corner stones had been laid and he had made a large number of official visits, very greatly to the delight of the brethren, and undoubtedly for the benefit of the craft.

Several Lodges of Instruction were held, and in this connection he says:

"May I be permitted to say that Lodges of Instruction are not called together for the purpose of holding a feast, but rather for the teaching of masonic work and principles.

"I have attended at Lodges of Instruction where the accommodation was provided at the hotel, without any lunch or spread at the lodge room, and in these cases the attendance was large, and the work suffered nothing in consequence. Brethren, I trust the time has gone by when the place of our annual meeting is determined by the ability of the lodges of the district to entertain Grand Lodge. Sufficient hotel accommodation is all Grand Lodge expects, and this principle should apply with equal if not greater force to Lodges to Instruction."

The supplemented remark in relation to the entertainment of the Grand Lodge by the lodges in the place where it is held, is of great weight, as experience in other organizations has abundantly shown. We have known of masonic bodies being embarrassed financially for years in consequence of such entertainments, and on that account we very strongly favor the permanent location of our Grand Bodies, so that there shall be no expectation that the local lodges will spend funds, which are held for charitable purposes, for the entertainment of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master congratulates himself that he did not issue an edict of non-intercourse with the Grand Lodge of Peru, solely because the action of that Grand Lodge has apparently been repealed and the Bible restored to

its altars. We say at the time of this writing "apparently," for we are not yet assured that the contest has been abandoned by Past Grand Master DAM and his supporters. Grand Master GIBSON in this connection says:

"What we believe to be the Revealed Will of the Great Architect of the Universe is in no danger from the puny efforts of mortals, but as Freemasons it should be our pride and duty to uphold the Truth by all the means within our power. The fraternity may safely be trusted to preserve the Sacred Volume as our Spiritual Trestle-Board, and to keep it enshrined as the First Great Light in Freemasonry."

He pays a tribute of love to the memory of Past Grand Master DANIEL SPRY, who died just after the close of the Grand Lodge the preceding year.

We would gladly copy this eulogy, but its length precludes. We can only add that in the death of Bro. SPRY, not only the Freemasons of Ontario, but the craft wherever dispersed has sustained a severe loss. He was a good man, a wise and active mason, ready to assist and instruct younger brethren always, and they depended upon him with implicit confidence.

As usual in these later days, the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters constitute the main feature of these Proceedings, 190 pages of which being devoted to them, giving an average of about one-half a page to a lodge. We have examined them pretty carefully and would gladly make many extracts, but must refer our brethren, and especially our District Deputies, to the reports in our Grand Lodge Library.

One of the Deputies says that there is a lack of accuracy in the detail of the work and a tendency to "mix old work with new," especially with the older officers, and he says the consequences are "no less harmful than in Scripture times."

He states that complaints are made, and quite generally, that the rulings and instructions of the successive District Deputies do not accord. We have noticed this same complaint elsewhere, but we know of no way in which it can be remedied, save perhaps by the exercise of the greatest care in selecting, for a Deputy, a man who is well posted not only in the work, but in the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge and the General Laws of Masonry.

The Committee on Benevolence show that (counting the \$2,000 gift to the Hospital at Toronto) there had been almost \$17,000 expended in charity during the year. The Grand Lodge had found it advisable to appoint an Inspector to investigate the cases which annually come before the Grand Lodge, and it was found to be a wise proceeding. It was noted that some of the lodges had issued printed appeals, and the Grand Master and the committee concur in objecting to the practice, and it was substantially forbidden by the Grand Lodge.

The Report of the Committee on Condition of Masonry is of much interest. It is announced that Secretaries are keeping their books in better shape,

that dues are more promptly collected, and that the lodges have very eagerly welcomed the visits of the Deputy Grand Masters. There is only one defect in the system, and that is that lodges are required to pay the expenses of these visits, and while the large majority of lodges will willingly do so, the lodges which most need visitations are the ones least able and least likely to meet the expenses. The committee say:

“The Board observe with pleasure that some eminent and busy brethren have found time to deliver lectures and read papers at lodge meetings. It has been said that too much attention is given to the conferring of degrees, as if Masonry began and ended with the reception of the degrees. Of course the great object of Masonry is to make masons in the true sense of the term; but unless they are afterwards instructed in the history, the aims, the practices of the craft, as well as its literature, they will not attain to the stature of the ideal Freemason. It is recommended that well read brethren be invited to address lodges on interesting and instructive topics from time to time as the circumstances of lodges may permit.”

The Board suggest, also, that more care should be taken in relation to the institution of new lodges in the immediate vicinity of old ones, and state that there are several cases in which, on that account, lodges are almost “in the throes of dissolution.” The committee suggest that it is the duty of such lodges to get together and arrange honorable terms of consolidation.

The committee also caution the Deputy Grand Masters that they should not make an account of the actual condition of the lodge and the causes of it subservient to a narration of the hospitalities, for these documents are expected to be business documents dealing with important matters. Of course, it is difficult for a Deputy Grand Master, when he has been entertained hospitably, really as a mark of loyalty to the Grand Lodge, to refrain from mentioning it, but there is ground for the caution of the committee, not only in Canada, but almost everywhere.

The Report of the Committee on Correspondence (126 pp.) was again presented by Bro. HENRY ROBERTSON, to whom the Grand Master, in his address, pays a well-deserved compliment for his industry and ability.

Brother ROBERTSON introduces his review of each Grand Lodge with a motto, very apt and interesting. In his very outset, he quotes from the Koran a sentence that makes us think that we are very apt to violate the Koran at any rate. The sentence quoted is, “Haste is of the devil.” We can only say that we do not take the Koran as conclusive authority.

He gives in many cases, the motto of the State, and he commences his review of Maine by giving “Dirigo,” and adding:

“Why dost thou lead these men about the streets?
Truly Sir, to wear out their shoes to get myself into more work.”

We do not quite acknowledge that that is the particular kind of leader-

ship in which our State indulges, and if we could be permitted to refer to public affairs, we think such a reference would sustain our position.

As usual, the report is an exceedingly well prepared abstract of the Proceedings, but with very few and very brief comments.

In his review of Maine, he says:

“Bro. Drummond is still in favor of public installations, notwithstanding our herculean efforts to convert him to our way of thinking. He says that they do not ‘advertise Masonry’ any more than do masonic funerals or laying corner stones. Our remarks have always been directed against *unnecessary* public appearances, but our esteemed *confrere* is apparently unable to see the distinction.”

As public installations are not ordinary “public appearances,” his point is not well taken, and we do not see any greater necessity for Masonry appearing in public for one purpose than for another, provided the purpose is one of those which has been recognized for so many years as a masonic purpose.

COLORADO, 1898.

The address of the Grand Master (CROMWELL TUCKER) is a full statement of his official action and correspondence. He states in the outset that it will be of considerable length. He incorporates into it the circulars which he had issued.

Of the general condition of the craft, he says:

“From personal observation in the lodges which I have visited and from reports made by my associate Grand Officers, as well as from correspondence had with various lodges which have not been officially visited, I am led to believe that the fair state of prosperity reported by my immediate predecessor has been fully maintained, and that the prospect for a material advancement in the near future is propitious.

“The increase in our membership has been about 220, and this in the face of numerous dismissions of those who have located elsewhere during the stringent times through which we have passed, and the large number of suspensions due to the same cause, I feel to be a subject for our mutual congratulation.”

It certainly, under the circumstances, is an excellent showing.

He made quite a number of decisions, most of them of local application. He decided that a candidate who has petitioned a lodge for initiation and the lodge becomes defunct before the petition is acted upon, and returns the petition with the fee, may apply at once to another lodge “having the same territorial jurisdiction as the first.” We believe it would be a little more accurate to say that he could apply to the lodge in whose jurisdiction he would be if the first lodge were absolutely dead.

He decided that in that jurisdiction it is not proper for a lodge to close on the third degree and resume labor on one of the preceding degrees. He holds that the closing on the third degree should not be until the entire

business and work of the evening is completed. How such a practice ever grew up, we are unable to determine, for certainly the old usage was to open the lodge on any degree on which they had business, and, when that was completed, if it had no business in another degree, then to close it.

The following question and answer was submitted:

“Is it a violation of masonic law for a mason to be a candidate on a high license ticket in a town election?”

“After making diligent inquiry regarding the necessity of a decision upon this subject, and being informed that a political campaign was in progress, in which a ruling would be used detrimentally, I felt constrained to make the following reply:

“The question, *apparently*, has been raised at this time, more for the purpose of affecting a political issue at your place than for the good of the craft in general, and for this reason I must decline to formulate a decision.”

Under the circumstances, we deem his reply to be a wise one.

We find that he had made a very large number of visitations, and when he spoke in the beginning of his address, of the condition of the craft, he spoke from knowledge.

He notices the action of the Grand Lodge of Peru and rejoices at its return to the ancient principles of Masonry.

A committee was appointed to visit Worshipful Bro. ADNA ADAMS TREAT, who in April last had passed his one hundred and first birthday, and to extend to him the congratulations of the Grand Lodge on his long and useful life, and—

“Afterwards Brother Kimball reported verbally that they had called on our venerable brother, as directed: that they had found him cheerful, and that he expressed himself much pleased that he had been remembered by the Grand Lodge, and that he had sent his blessings and good wishes to the Grand Lodge and every member thereof.”

A very learned and interesting address was delivered by the Grand Orator, Bro. LEOPOLD FREUDENTHAL, but as usual in such cases, we are obliged to pass it, because no abstract would do justice to it; it must be read as a whole.

The committee in relation to observing the one hundredth anniversary of the death of Washington made a report in detail, giving the programme. As that will come officially before the Grand Lodge, we omit it.

The Grand Lodge refused to give a lodge permission to issue sixty life memberships, the committee deeming the present position of the Grand Lodge to be the sound one.

When we come to the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence, we find that a decision which we have criticised was not approved, the committee saying:

“We do not deem it improper at a regular communication to close on the Third degree and resume labor on a preceding degree, when work is to be done. On the contrary, we are of the opinion that this is the legal, proper and ordinary manner of conducting the proceedings.”

The Report on Correspondence (156 pp.) was presented by Bro. LAWRENCE N. GREENLEAF. He adheres pretty strictly to his plan of giving an abstract of the Proceedings and reserving his comments for his "Conclusion."

In his review of Maine, he says:

"He has faith in the ultimate adoption of the Maine resolutions or some similar uniform rule concerning rejected material, thus differing from the opinion expressed by us, that Grand Lodges generally would not adopt them."

We think that if he will carefully observe the trend of opinion as shown in the discussion of various Grand Lodges, he will change his views.

In his conclusion, he discusses briefly the question of physical qualifications and makes the suggestion that it is essential to inquire "into the symbolic significance of the requirements and to ascertain whether it is not based on the old Jewish law of perfection, and as such has come down to us with other similar requirements as a part of our esotery." The old charge fully and completely answers that question, and if Bro. GREENLEAF will quote it in full—not the mutilated portion of it which is usually given, but quote it in full, we do not believe that he will persist in his suggestion.

We are glad to perceive that recently attention has been called to the wording of the ancient charge, and in some of the masonic magazines, etc., the charge has been printed at full length. But we have been unable as yet to induce any one of the physical perfectionists to quote that charge in full as a part of their discussion.

He discusses, also, at considerable length, the question of non-payment of dues, and believes that milder methods would tend to preserve the membership of a great many masons who are now turned adrift. We fully agree with him.

Before we close this report, we hope to give the views of CHARLES W. MOORE on this subject as expressed fifty years ago.

CONNECTICUT, 1899.

These Proceedings are received after we had passed Connecticut in the regular order, but before the printer had done so, and we are able, therefore, to have them in their alphabetical place.

The frontispiece is an engraved portrait of the retiring Grand Master, FRANK W. HAYENS.

Two special communications were held, one to dedicate a hall and the other to assist in the centennial celebration of one of the lodges.

The Grand Master delivered a brief address, setting forth his official acts during the year. Of the Deputies he says:

“Much of the welfare of the craft and the harmony existing throughout the jurisdiction, as well as the success achieved and enthusiasm displayed by the officers and members of the lodges, is due to the tact, courtesy and skill of the district deputies.

“I have been fortunate in having these positions occupied by those who possessed all these traits in a large degree, besides being themselves unusually skillful in the science of Masonry.”

This statement, followed, as it is, by a brief reference to the report of each Deputy, largely accounts for the prosperity which has been enjoyed during the year.

We find from one of his decisions that no installed officer can be dimitted. This is contrary to the old usage, and, as applied to any other officer than the Master and Wardens, is inconvenient, and, as it seems to us, unreasonable.

He also decided that lodges are not allowed to charge a fee for a dimit.

Being asked whether, if a Master elect is installed by presenting him with the jewel of his office and seating him in the East, the installation is complete, he answered as follows:

“It is one of the essentials of the installation of a Master-elect of a masonic lodge, that he should give his assent to the charges and regulations, as a part of the installation ceremony.”

When the installing officer declares the officer duly installed, we do not think that it is competent for anybody to inquire whether all the details have been performed; otherwise it would never be known whether an officer is a duly installed officer or not. We regard the declaration of installation as final and conclusive, and if any substantial part has been omitted, the installing officer should be disciplined. Of course, if the officer is not eligible, that question is not foreclosed, in all cases, by the installation.

A lodge, which had lost its hall, undertook to hold meetings at a private house, and he advised the Master to accept the invitation, which another lodge extended, for the use of its hall; but finding that the Master hesitated, he issued an order directing him to summon his lodge to meet at that hall for the purpose of doing the work, which the Master had contemplated doing at the private house, and notified him that the Grand Master would be present and assist in the work; but at the hour fixed, neither the Master, Senior Warden nor Secretary were present: after waiting ample time for them to appear, the lodge was opened by the Grand Master, after which the Master and Secretary did appear. Finding that these two officers had treated the orders of the Grand Master with disrespect and disregard, he suspended both of them from office and placed the Senior Warden in charge. At a later date he removed the order of suspension, the officers evidently having learned something in relation to their masonic duties. We regret to have such things happen, but really, when properly treated, the effect of such a thing is beneficial.

Having received the official notice from the Grand Lodge of Peru, that it had rescinded its former edict, he, in his turn, rescinded the edict of suspension of masonic correspondence.

He had made a large number of visits, and evidently with very good results.

The reports of the other officers, and, really, the business of the communication, were of a routine character and contain very little of more than local interest.

The Grand Secretary reported, favoring the adoption of a Grand Register in the form of a Card System, and he recommended that a committee be continued to complete the work.

The Grand Master speaks in high terms of the "Home," which he had visited frequently, and the Grand Lodge laid a per capita tax of one dollar, seventy-five per cent, of which was to be applied to the "Masonic Charity Foundation Fund."

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Correspondence, the Grand Lodge of New Zealand and the Grand Orient of Belgium were recognized.

The Report on Correspondence (178 pp.) was presented, as heretofore, by Brother JOHN H. BARLOW. He devotes the most of his space to well selected extracts. He dissents from a decision that one who cannot read or write is eligible to the office of W. Master, holding that such a person ought not even to be made a mason.

In his review of Maine, he says that in Connecticut the Wardens have gavels, and is somewhat surprised at our remarks in relation to this in our review of Arkansas last year. We are very greatly surprised to learn that this is the custom in Connecticut. We would like to have our Brother recall the secret portion of the installation of a Master of a lodge, and have him tell us whether the installation therein given does not make the gavel the *emblem of supreme authority in the lodge*. We would also like to have him read the closing part of the address of Grand Master HAVENS, and tell us what he meant when he said: "As I surrender to you again this gavel, which, one year ago, you so unanimously placed in my hands," etc. Did not our Most Worshipful Brother mean that he was surrendering the emblem of supreme authority in the Grand Lodge, and, if so, can there be more than *one*? The fact is, we should not be more surprised to find three Masters presiding at the same time in one lodge, than we should to find three brethren holding the gavel at the same time in the same lodge. We think we shall have to refer this to the ritualists among our brethren on these committees, and to start with, we would like the views of Bro. CUNNINGHAM, of Ohio. We have looked into some of the Monitors, and while we do not

find the matter frequently mentioned, yet, whenever it is mentioned, the Wardens are spoken of as holding "Truncheons."

We are greatly gratified to find the masonry of Connecticut moving along so steadily and prosperously, and especially to note the success of the efforts of the brethren to relieve the distressed.

DELAWARE, 1898.

The frontispiece is a portrait of M. W. Bro. JAMES E. DUTTON, the retiring Grand Master.

The Grand Lodge was opened with the Grand Officers and a large number of permanent members present, and various Master Masons were admitted as visitors. A note states that the list of visitors also includes the Wardens of lodges who are "temporary members of the Grand Lodge." It would seem from this that the Grand Lodge of Delaware is made up of the Masters and Past Masters of the jurisdiction, except that if the Master of a particular lodge is absent, a Warden may represent his lodge in his place. We are not sure, however, of this last, because a Master is really a *permanent* member of the Grand Lodge, and it may be that the Grand Secretary means that the Wardens are full members for the time being, but when they go out of office cease to be members. But if this is so, it seems a little strange that they should be classed with the visitors.

The Report of the Committee on Credentials is not published, because it contains only the names of Masters and Wardens of the different lodges, together with all the Past Masters in the State. We have noticed this form of a report on credentials, in this and other jurisdictions, and in our judgment such a report does not answer the purpose for which the committee was appointed. The object of a report on credentials is to ascertain what members of the Grand Lodge *are present*, in order that it may be determined whether the Grand Lodge can proceed to business.

Grand Master Dutton refers to public events in a very patriotic manner, and says that in the craft peace and harmony prevail, and that the teachings of our Brotherhood has impressed more deeply our members.

He made quite a number of decisions, one of them to the effect that there is no masonic law in that jurisdiction which prevents masonic lodges from making life members.

He also set aside the ballot in a case in which the Tyler had not been informed that a ballot was in progress and who had wished to vote.

He had received a letter from the Grand Master of Pennsylvania, asking whether any "masonic objection existed" to the reception of the petition of a certain candidate resident in Delaware, by a Pennsylvania lodge. The lodge in whose jurisdiction the candidate resided did object, and the Grand

Master reported as follows in substance: That the candidate being a resident within the jurisdiction of a Delaware lodge, "there does exist masonic objections to his petition being received by the Pennsylvania lodge."

We were not aware before that Pennsylvania lodges are allowed to receive petitions from residents in other jurisdictions, except *according to the laws of the jurisdiction in which the candidate resides*, and while the objection in this particular case was not (as the term is understood in Pennsylvania) in fact a "masonic objection," yet taking the law as Pennsylvania *ought to have it*, it was such an objection.

Lodges of Instruction had been held in the three different districts; one was a decided success, the second not so successful as desirable, and the third substantially a failure, apparently because the lodges had not taken sufficient interest in it.

He had visited every one of the twenty-one lodges in the jurisdiction, and says:

"The work is receiving attention to a marked degree, the lodge rooms are easy of access, centrally located, made comfortable and attractive for the members, and the attendance in most cases was very encouraging."

He speaks favorably of the system of Grand Representatives, but suggests that the term be extended from three to five years.

In relation to the Grand Lodge of Peru, he says:

"It is a matter of great regret that the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Peru on June 13, 1897, issued a decree which excluded the Bible from the altar of the subordinate and Grand Lodge and substituted therefor the book of Constitution. The Grand Lodges of United States with prompt unanimity have spoken out against this outrage, and called down the counter decree of exclusion of all members of said Grand Lodge and subordinate lodges from all masonic communication. The initial step was taken by the Grand Master of New York in issuing a decree of exclusion and the same was sent immediately to Peru. This so aroused the fraternity that the Grand Master of Peru was constrained to resign. A commission was appointed by said Grand Lodge which reported under date of June 12, 1898, citing the fact that said decree had caused great injury to national Masonry and that this decree is null and void because it is issued in violation of the Grand Lodge of Peru, and that it has not the power nor has any other masonic body, to legislate in opposition to the immutable landmarks of the order. This report was approved and the Bible restored to the altar where it belongs and shall forever remain."

He is in error in one respect, as the initial step was taken by Maine, by means of her indefatigable Representative, Bro. FRANCIS L. CROSBY.

The Committee on Forms for Public Masonic Ceremonies, reported that they had not deemed it expedient to publish them because they already had all the forms that were necessary and they deemed it a useless expense; the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

The following amendment to the by-laws was offered, but failed to receive the necessary two-thirds vote; but it was discussed at considerable length.

" All lodges shall exclude from the lodge room and ante-rooms all intoxicating liquors.

" All lodges are prohibited from receiving and acting upon a petition for initiation or membership of any person engaged in the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and masons are fraternally advised and requested to refrain from engaging in the liquor traffic."

The Committee on the Maine proposition reported as follows:

" Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence, to whom was referred for fraternal consideration, the resolution of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Maine:

" That the effect of a rejection should be limited to five years, and that 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, or such consent of officers and members of that lodge as may be prescribed by the Grand Lodge of the jurisdiction in which the rejection occurs,' would respectfully report that in their opinion a time limit of five years in cases of rejected candidates for the degrees of Masonry where they have permanently removed from the jurisdiction in which they were rejected, to another jurisdiction, would be a desirable step towards uniformity of practice among Grand Lodges, productive of peace and harmony, and a just relief to such rejected candidates. We, therefore, offer the following resolution:

" Resolved, That the Grand Lodge of Delaware fraternally accepts the views of the Grand Lodge of Maine concerning a time limit as to the effect of a rejection and would be willing in the interests of uniformity to modify her practice of 'perpetual jurisdiction' in favor of said time limit of *five years* in cases of permanent removal from her jurisdiction."

And the report was accepted.

The Report on Correspondence (81 pp.) was presented by Bro. LEWIS H. JACKSON. It is an exceedingly well prepared, condensed abstract of the Proceedings, with occasional brief comments.

In defence of the practice of their Wardens not being allowed to confer degrees, he says:

" He does not approve the restriction of the powers of Wardens in the matter of conferring degrees, but perhaps he has not been disgusted, as we have, at seeing beardless and ill-informed Wardens initiating men of age, education and refinement, who could scarcely conceal their feelings of distaste. We admit that the P. M. does not *always* avoid a like result, but there is better security for 'good work' being done."

It seems to us that the fault lies in electing persons for Wardens not properly qualified. As a rule, we should probably find that the "beardless and ill-informed Warden" became a Master the next year, and we doubt whether the quality of his work would be improved in any degree by the change in his official title. Perhaps if Wardens were allowed to do work, more care would be used in selecting them.

In his review of Connecticut, he well says:

"The Grand Master called attention to some growing evils, and warned the craft against them, such as the publishing in newspapers of matters which should not be mentioned outside of the lodge; the malicious black-balling of candidates, which threatens the harmony of lodges; the tendency to connect the term 'Masonic' with business enterprises conducted

by masons; and the sub-letting of lodge rooms to individuals and organizations other than those which are recognized as legitimately masonic. We think his warnings timely, and hope they may be heeded in other jurisdictions as well as in his own."

And in his review of Maine:

"Among decisions we find the following, which is in agreement with our rule in Delaware, and which we commend for its simplicity and justice: 'A brother suspended from membership for non-payment of dues, on payment of his dues is restored to all the privileges of Masonry as though he had not been suspended, and without a vote of the lodge.'

"On the subject of jurisdiction over rejected candidates, Delaware holds to the 'perpetual policy,' but this writer, individually, believes in the relinquishment of rights over rejected material on permanent removal from the jurisdiction in which he was rejected, and waiver of rights to any other lodge within the jurisdiction after one year from date of rejection, provided he has removed permanently to the jurisdiction of such other lodge. And we believe further if all lodges everywhere would adopt the rule not to receive an application until after one year's residence, many of the difficulties and much of the unfraternal action among masons would be avoided.

"The Maine proposition of the limit of five years jurisdiction over rejected material is not likely to be accepted generally by the Grand Lodges of the United States, and would not be accepted at all by foreign Grand Lodges. Even if generally accepted it would not cure the evils it is intended to meet, but we believe the one year's residence rule, if universal, would prevent the unlawful and irregular making of masons by jurisdictions of each other's material. I do not call such work clandestine, because, the lodges doing it are both lawful and regular, while a clandestine lodge is neither lawful nor regular, and its work null and void. Unlawful and irregular work may be healed, but clandestine work cannot be admitted as worthy of any consideration."

While these are his views, he still reported in favor of the adoption of the Maine rule by his Grand Lodge and, as we have seen, it was adopted. He thinks that the Maine proposition is not likely to be accepted generally by the Grand Lodges of the United States and not at all by Foreign Grand Lodges. We are not so sure about this; brethren in different jurisdictions, who have heretofore held to the contrary, are becoming converts to the doctrine. But one of the most significant facts tending in this direction, is the adoption of the principle by the Grand Encampment of the United States, changing, however, the *five* years to *three* years. Until its recent session "Perpetual Jurisdiction" has been the law of the Grand Encampment in force in all the States; but after considerable discussion, as we are informed, for we were not present, the Maine proposition (after changing five years to three years) was adopted.

He still insists that the Past Master's ceremony should not be called a degree. Well, if we were to have the christening of it, we would not so call it; but the trouble is that it has been called so and known so, so long that it is too late to undertake to correct the technical error.

We find upon further examination that Bro. JACKSON does not assent to the doctrine that a man made in a regular lodge can be proclaimed a clan-

destine mason: He makes a distinction between an "unlawfully made mason" and a "clandestinely made mason." We are not disposed to quarrel over terms, especially when the difference between the two kinds is practically none. The only difference being in his judgment, and we think he is correct, that an unlawfully made mason may be "healed," while a clandestine mason must be initiated precisely as if he had never pretended to be made a mason. Practically it makes little difference, because, while the "bar sinister" continues, he is in the same condition in one case as in the other.

Upon further reflection, however, we remember that, so far as clandestine masons are concerned, the practice is not uniform in support of his position. In the famous New York schisms, masons made in clandestine lodges were made regular by a vote of the Grand Lodge. Some Grand Lodges, among them Virginia, at first declined to recognize them, on the express ground that clandestine masons could not be made regular by resolution: but the point was finally yielded everywhere, possibly, however, on the ground that both factions claimed to be the lawful Grand Lodge of New York, and the question which was the true Grand Lodge was not free from doubt.

Still, in other cases there has been no such reason, and it is now pretty well settled that when a regular masonic Grand Body recognizes and receives as its constituent a body in its jurisdiction, it "regularizes" the body *and all its work*. The principle that subsequent confirmation is equivalent to preceding authority, is applied. We should be slow to hold that if a clandestine mason is "healed" and pronounced to be regular by the law of the jurisdiction in which he resides, he is not regular, unless he was so personally ineligible, that he could not lawfully be made a mason at all.

FLORIDA, 1899.

The frontispiece is a "half tone" portrait of M. W. Brother JAMES M. HILLIARD, Grand Master during 1897 and 1898. He announced that the gavel, which he used, was made from timber taken from the battleship "Maine," and was loaned to him by Bro. GEORGE B. PATTERSON, for use during that communication of the Grand Lodge.

We may be in error, but looking over the report of the Committee on Credentials, it appears to us that there was a larger and fuller representation of the lodges than we have ever before noticed, and we trust that it is an indication of returning prosperity in the jurisdiction.

The Grand Master announced the death of two P. G. Masters, Bros. WILLIAM A. McLEAN and HENRY J. STEWART, and he paid a tribute to the memory of each. We knew, by his masonic writings, Bro. McLEAN, in one sense quite intimately, and we agree with all the Grand Master says in re-

lation to the loss which his death occasions, not merely to the craft in Florida, but to all of us.

The Grand Master had suspended intercourse with the Grand Lodge of Peru, but having received information that the objectional action had been rescinded, he issued another edict, renewing masonic correspondence, and rejoicing at his opportunity of doing so.

He had granted but one dispensation for a new lodge, but was obliged to report the surrender of five charters during the year. Three of them were, apparently, of young lodges, although we are not sure, and we suspect that the charters were granted upon too sanguine expectations.

He gives a brief abstract of the reports of the District Deputies, showing that they are doing good work, and, by the aid of district conventions, contributing very largely to a revival of interest and increasing prosperity in the jurisdiction.

He most earnestly urges that decided action be taken by the Grand Lodge in relation to the accepting of petitions of parties engaged in selling liquors. He urges that the printing of Reports on Correspondence be resumed as speedily as possible.

The Grand Marshal was excused from attendance on account of being with the military forces in Cuba.

The Grand Secretary's report shows an improvement over preceding years in the making of returns and the payment of dues, although some eight lodges were in arrears of dues prior to 1898.

We note the report of the Grand Secretary in relation to the *DAWKINS* monument fund. He, in connection with the widow, had selected the stone, had an inscription engraved on it, and had it erected over the grave of our Brother. We note this action, for we know that many brethren, out of Florida, would have gladly contributed to the purpose rather than have it fail.

One feature of this volume is a very interesting one; it is the report of Bro. *SILAS B. WRIGHT*, now Grand Master, in relation to St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 1. Bro. *WRIGHT*, a year ago, received a letter from Bro. *F. F. BOND*, stating that he had a copy of "Preston's Illustrations," printed in 1775, on the title page of which was inscribed "The gift of James Murray to St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 1, West Florida, June 27, 1776." Brother *BOND* offered to send it to the Grand Lodge, and, in response to the request of Bro. *WRIGHT*, had done so; and it was presented to the Grand Lodge Library; whereupon the Grand Lodge adopted a vote of thanks to Brother *BOND* for his valuable and interesting present. In this connection, also, it was stated that important papers belonging to St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 1, had been discovered within the year, that were placed in the hands of Bro. *WRIGHT*, and he had examined them and reported thereon to the Grand

Lodge, which ordered them to be published with the Proceedings—a most interesting and valuable contribution to the history of Masonry in Florida and South Carolina, as well as an interesting substitute for the Report on Correspondence. This is not the place for an abstract of this paper and the history, but we hope that in some form the substance of these new discoveries will be published, so that it may get to the knowledge of the craft more fully. We shall interleave a note in our volume of the History of Masonry, which contains some account of the history of the Grand Lodge of Florida.

The Grand Orator delivered an address, but one which we cannot well review, and can therefore only refer the brethren to it.

The Grand Master brought to the attention of the Grand Lodge the recent action of the Grand Lodge of Washington and appointed a committee in advance to report thereon to the Grand Lodge. Bro. SILAS B. WRIGHT made a very full report, concluding with the recommendation that the Grand Lodge of Florida suspend intercourse with the Grand Lodge of Washington on account of this action. He gave in a supplementary report, a letter from the Grand Master of Washington and a reply to it by the Grand Master of New York. We find that the statement, that the author of the Washington report had claimed that the Grand Lodge of Washington had not recognized any Colored Grand Lodge, or expressed any intention of doing so, is correct. We can only say that we are utterly amazed at this statement; but we have said all we desire to say in relation to it. We will only add that the reply of M. W. Bro. SUTHERLAND, Grand Master of New York, is absolutely crushing.

The recommendation of the Grand Master, together with a resolution in support of the recommendation in relation to the acceptance of petitions from those engaged in selling liquors, were referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, which fully endorsed the Grand Master's position and reported the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved. That the liquor traffic is demoralizing in its effects, has been productive of great evil, misery and suffering and has caused the downfall of many brother masons, therefore the particular lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction are advised and instructed not to accept the petitions of those engaged in it when they apply for admission to our Order."

The visiting Grand Officers and District Deputy Grand Masters were directed to call the attention of the lodges to this resolution at their visitations. The Grand Lodge decided that when the Master, or acting Master, calls a brother to the chair to preside, the Master, or acting Master, may fill any subordinate position in the lodge, particularly when degrees are being conferred.

The question of admitting a visitor, hailing from the United States of Columbia, was referred to the Grand Master, and the question of the recognition of the Grand Orient of Belgium and the Grand Lodge of Mexico was referred to the Committee on Correspondence to report next year.

As already stated, there was no Report on Correspondence, but a historical report of nineteen pages supplies its place; but we hope, in the near future, that this jurisdiction will resume the writing and printing of such reports.

GEORGIA, 1898.

An excellent portrait of Past Grand Master JAMES W. TAYLOR is the frontispiece. We met him at the General Grand Chapter in the fall of 1897 and shall carry most pleasing recollections of him personally, as long as we live. We knew him through his addresses and masonic letters, before, but it was a very great pleasure to have made his personal acquaintance.

This Grand Lodge has something like 400 lodges and it has been the practice to call the roll of lodges and have the representatives of those lodges respond and announce their presence. Of course, this takes a vast deal of time, and resolutions were introduced, looking to a remedy for this and other evils.

We suggest to our Georgia brethren that the plan adopted in Maine has proved a great success. We appoint our Standing Committees *at the close of each annual session* and have a provision in our constitution that a member thus appointed on a committee shall continue to serve until the close of the next Grand Lodge, although he ceases to be a member of the Grand Lodge.

Our Committee on Credentials meet at seven o'clock in the morning and representatives are required to report to that committee, so that as soon as the Grand Lodge has been opened at nine o'clock, the Committee on Credentials are ready with their report, and although it is not complete, we practically have the mass of our representatives present at that time. The report is re-committed to the committee for additions during the session.

The Grand Secretary places all matters of appeal in the hands of the chairman of the proper committee thirty days before the session of the Grand Lodge, and the result is that we are able to do our business and do it intelligently in a comparatively short space of time. It is true that on the second day of the session but little business is done, as the hall is surrendered to other bodies and committees have an opportunity to work Wednesday forenoon, and Wednesday afternoon is devoted to an exemplification of the work. We commend the examination of this method, not only to our brethren in Georgia, but in all the jurisdictions in which the committees are appointed at the beginning of the session.

Grand Master TAYLOR commences his address with general remarks of a very interesting character. He pays a deserved tribute to Bro. WILLIAM ABRAM LOVE, who had died during the recess. He was past Deputy Grand Master and had been one of the most active, energetic masons in the state, whose works will long live after him. We knew him personally and appreciated very highly his high standing as a man, as a physician and as a mason.

The Grand Master had found it necessary to make but comparatively few decisions. One was as follows:

“An Englishman not having been naturalized, though living in America several years, is still a subject of England and not an American citizen, and is not eligible to the degrees without the consent of the Grand Lodge of England. This decision being based upon an edict of this Grand Lodge declaring ‘a man’s home is determined by the place where he votes and pays poll tax.’”

This decision is not in accordance with the masonic law as it has been enacted in most of the jurisdictions, but the precise question involved in this decision has been raised in New Hampshire and we hope to find in the Proceedings of that Grand Lodge a discussion of it.

The general practice in all jurisdictions makes a man’s residence the absolute test as to the place where he shall apply for initiation into Masonry. But the founders of our Grand Lodges held that a man’s masonic allegiance ought to be to a masonic authority in the same country to which he owes civil allegiance. We do not propose to discuss the question now, but make the suggestion that there is more in the point than we have been in the habit of considering.

A case happened in which a lodge found a brother guilty but refused to impose any punishment. The matter was sent back to the lodge with a direction to impose some punishment, or upon its failure to do so that the Grand Master should arrest its charter.

We find that in Georgia a mason is expelled only by the Grand Lodge. A lodge may try him and recommend him for expulsion, but the power of expulsion resides only in the Grand Lodge. Besides, an expelled mason can be restored only upon the recommendation of the lodge and by the Grand Lodge.

Bro. TAYLOR had an immense amount of routine business, showing that the craft had been active. He had declined to grant a dispensation for an army lodge, as his experience with such lodges in the other war led him to take this course. He, however, very courteously assented to the proposition of the Grand Master of Vermont to create an army lodge in a regiment stationed in Georgia, which should, however, receive as candidates *only the residents of Vermont*. But we think that the dispensation was not granted.

There had been many public ceremonies during the year, and of them the Grand Master says:

“I find that the masonic ceremonies are in more demand in laying corner stones for judicial and educational buildings than formerly, clearly showing that the fraternity is held in much higher esteem and becoming recognized as a great power to enlighten the world and bring light out of darkness and intelligence out of ignorance.”

He devotes considerable space to the Peru question, taking the proper ground and enforcing it with great vigor. He says:

“The Holy Bible is a gift of God to His children as a rule and guide for their actions. To the mason it has ever been ‘the book of the law—the great light of Masonry—an ancient landmark.’ ‘It is not in the power of any man, or set of men, to make innovations in the body of Masonry.’ Therefore, when the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Peru removed the Bible from the altars of that Grand Lodge, and from the altars of its subordinate lodges, Free and Accepted Masonry was blotted out in that Grand Jurisdiction.”

He, however, had the satisfaction of announcing that the obnoxious edict had been rescinded, and he gives in full the report of the special commission of the Grand Lodge of Peru in relation to the matter, as well as the various decrees.

At the previous communication, the Grand Master was directed to investigate Masonry in the Republic of Mexico, and if he should find a Grand Lodge there in strict accord with the Grand Lodge of Georgia, he should so notify it and notify the lodges in Georgia of his action. Upon such an investigation, he came to the conclusion that the Gran Dieta was the legal Body, and he thereupon extended recognition and proposed an exchange of Grand Representatives.

He was surprised to find, later, some very severe criticisms of his action by “a paper purporting to be a masonic periodical.” He says he was surprised at it, but it must be that he has not paid great attention to such periodicals, or he would not have been surprised at almost anything. He submitted the matter to the Grand Lodge, and the Grand Lodge unanimously sustained him in spite of those severe criticisms. The only thing that we regret is, that he should have deemed the effusions in that paper worthy of any notice whatever.

It is complained in the civil law and regarded as exceedingly dangerous to the administration of justice, that newspapers are taking it upon themselves to try cases, especially criminal cases, out of court, and we regret greatly to be obliged to state that the same thing is now done in the masonic world. Such an attempt was made a good many years ago in Massachusetts, and the man who made it, though standing high in the community, went down to his grave as an expelled mason, and so far as that jurisdiction is concerned, his example has never been followed. Another may become necessary to correct this crying evil.

He gives a communication of a good deal of interest from the Grand Ori-

ent of Belgium, but as it will probably come before our Grand Lodge in a more formal manner, we refrain from any further notice of it.

The financial situation of the Grand Lodge was improving, and he congratulates the brethren upon the continued prosperity of Masonry in that jurisdiction, and he gives his brethren some splendid advice in the way of continuing that prosperity.

The afternoon of the first day was a special memorial session, when tributes to the memory of Bro. LOVE were paid by several brethren. After the exercises were finished, the Grand Lodge went in a body and visited the tomb of the late Grand Secretary, A. M. WOLHIN, as a tribute of respect. We would gladly copy all these eulogies, as well as a letter from the daughter of Bro. LOVE, but cannot for want of space. They are of a very high character, and deserve to have a more general reading than they can have by being merely published in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge.

The Finance Committee submitted a detailed and exhaustive report in relation to the financial condition of the Grand Lodge and the expenditures for the past fifteen years, and it seems that the debt which the Grand Lodge owes is very largely due to extraordinary expenses. The Committee made certain recommendations looking to the reduction of the expenses, which were adopted; one of them was in reducing the mileage and slightly increasing the *per diem*, as it was found that the representatives of the more distant lodges were really receiving more than their expenses, while those nearer were not receiving the amount of their expenses. This experience and this action are precisely the same as ours here in Maine.

They also wisely recommended that the limitation prohibiting a Representative from drawing more than his lodge pays in dues, be repealed. This was done, thus recognizing the principle that representation in the Grand Lodge is not intended for the good of the particular lodge, but for the good of the craft as a whole.

The membership of the committees is reduced in number. They were very large, as it has always seemed to us, unnecessarily so.

Various changes were made in the constitution and by-laws, but unwisely as we think, all motions proposing the appointment of committees in advance were defeated. We again call the attention to what we have already written in this respect and can assure our Georgia brethren that the change has tended very greatly, not only to the prompt, but to the intelligent dispatch of business. The committees do better work and have their reports ready more promptly.

It is due to the committee, however, to state the reason which they give for retaining what seems to us the cumbrous process of calling the roll to ascertain who are present:

"We believe the present system provides a better method of ascertaining the actual attendance of representatives, the presence of a quorum, the prompt correction of errors, and affords a pleasant introduction to new members. In our opinion, the time now consumed is not sufficient to outweigh these reasons, and we therefore report adversely on said resolution."

Application had been made by the Grand Orient of Portugal for recognition, but it was denied.

They confirmed the action of the Grand Master in relation to the request of the Grand Master of Vermont and approved the courteous and fraternal reply, all the more so because the Grand Master himself does not believe in such dispensations.

Masonic intercourse was established with the Grand Orient of Belgium.

The newly installed Grand Master made a fine address upon taking the chair, which at the request of the Grand Lodge was given and is published in the Proceedings.

We find that the decision of the Grand Master, that an unnaturalized resident is not eligible to Masonry, was disapproved by the Grand Lodge on the ground that residence and not citizenship fixes jurisdiction in Masonry. There is no doubt that this is the law generally, and undoubtedly, also, under the constitution of the Grand Lodge of Georgia; but as we have already said, whether such *ought to be* the law, is not entirely free from doubt, and the matter is before the masons of the country and will undoubtedly be more fully discussed than it has been, before the matter is dropped.

A letter was received from the Senior Past Grand Master, SAMUEL D. IRVIN, who was unable to be present. It breathes a true masonic spirit and can be read by no one without advantage to the reader.

A very large amount of routine business was transacted, some of which was of interest, but we cannot give it space.

The Report on Correspondence (114 pp.) was submitted by Bro. WILLIAM S. RAMSAY. He gives a brief but very comprehensive abstract of the proceedings, with occasional comments.

In noticing the masonic exercises to be held on Dec. 29, 1899, the Centennial Anniversary of the death of Washington, he hopes that all lodges in the United States will hold appropriate service commemorating the event.

The arrangements for the service at Mt. Vernon are stated in these Proceedings, but we undoubtedly shall have them before our Grand Lodge in official form, and we, therefore, do not copy them.

In his review of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, he says:

"We notice with surprise that the Grand Master recommends the Mutual Relief Insurance Company. We know nothing of this enterprise nor its plans, but we know it is simply a *business* enterprise, and it is a serious error for a Grand Lodge to give its endorsement to *any* business enterprise. It is a dangerous precedent."

The craft are learning, if slowly, and the general consensus of opinion is with Bro. RAMSAY.

While we have intended to notice generally, and not in special cases, the kind words that have been said in relation to our family affliction, we must make an exception in the case of Bro. RAMSAY and assure him that his words of comfort are greatly appreciated.

Noticing the Hart case, he says:

"We are glad he gave this opinion, for our own lodge did that very thing. A member committed murder and ran away. He was tried and expelled without notice, nor has he ever been heard of since."

In his review of Maryland, he criticises somewhat the action of the Grand Master in making a mason at sight, saying:

"The defense of Grand Master Thomas in this instance is that 'he did it for the purpose of not allowing this prerogative to lie dormant.'

"Were it not for his exalted station some of the critics might characterize this logic as *silly*."

"There was a time when there might have been necessity for this power to vest in Grand Masters, but the multiplication of lodges, the convenience and rapidity of travel and the short time intervening between the application and conferring the degrees, all contribute to the general consensus of opinion that this prerogative should 'lie dormant' for governors and for plebeians—as all are on a level in Masonry."

There is so great a tendency to assimilate *masonic* law to *civil* law, that we are inclined to look more favorably upon this action than our good brother does. Our observation as to the effect of it is, that it has done a good deal to call the attention of the craft throughout the country to the fact that Masonry is a great brotherhood and is not made up of an aggregation of brotherhoods in the several States; and further, that Masonry has its own laws, not dependent upon the civil law.

In his review of Maine, he says:

"We do not quite understand by what authority the Grand Master granted dispensation to a lodge to hold a meeting in another town not specified in its warrant, for the purpose of conferring the third degree—possibly for instruction, and at the request of the lodge working there. A similar question was adversely decided upon one year ago."

The brother will readily understand this, when we say to him that the Constitution of our Grand Lodge provides that a lodge shall not hold a session, except in the place named in the charter, *without the permission of the Grand Master*. Both the decisions are in harmony with this provision. In the one case, however, the Grand Master decided that it was for the benefit of the craft to grant the request and in the other to refuse it. It was not a question of *power*, but a question of *prudence*.

Bro. RAMSAY closes his report as follows:

"We seek no higher reward than a consciousness of having faithfully discharged our duty, and of having been of *service* to our fellowmen. We

have served you in this review as faithfully as circumstances permitted, and now submit the work for your charitable inspection, trusting that it may meet your approval."

Reports written in this spirit cannot fail to be of interest and profit to the craft.

IDAHO, 1898.

The frontispiece is a portrait of the incoming Grand Master, and in the Proceedings we have also the portraits of the retiring Grand Master, GEORGE M. WATERHOUSE, and Past Grand Master GEORGE L. SHOUP.

A Special Communication was held on March third, 1898, to bury R. W. BRO. CHARLES C. STEVENSON, Grand Secretary and Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence. We announced, in a note to our report last year, the death of this brother and paid a brief tribute to his memory, and we can only repeat that in his death the whole craft have met with a severe loss.

Past Grand Master, ISIDORE S. WEILER had also died during the year, as well as some other Past Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge.

We learn from the address of the Grand Master, GEORGE M. WATERHOUSE, that the death of Bro. STEVENSON was very unexpected. The Grand Master had not heard that he was seriously ill, and he well says of him:

"No man in the Grand Jurisdiction was so well and favorably known throughout the masonic world for his thorough knowledge of masonic law and his versatility as a masonic writer."

He also announced the severe illness, commencing immediately after the close of the session of the Grand Lodge, of Bro. GEORGE GARBUTT, Deputy Grand Master. He had been stricken with paralysis and at the date of the session of the Grand Lodge was slowly improving, but whether he would recover his health again, time only could tell.

A man suspended for non-payment of dues, and probably knowing it, applied to visit a lodge and passed examination and was admitted to visit. He afterwards denied that he had knowledge that he had been suspended. The Grand Master advised the lodge to formulate charges and forward them to the lodge in Texas, of which he was supposed to be a member, holding that the Idaho lodge could not try him but must furnish the evidence.

As we have stated elsewhere in this report, we think this is an error and that the lodge in whose jurisdiction *he committed the offence*, has jurisdiction to try him, although undoubtedly the lodge of which he was a member might try him.

The Grand Master says that one of the greatest evils which the lodges have to contend with, is the lack of attendance of the members upon the meetings of the lodge, and he believes that leads to a non-payment of dues

and consequent suspensions. It is unquestionably a great element, but the same reasons that lead to non-attendance lead to allowing himself to be suspended.

He suggests various expedients to make the meetings more interesting, rehearsing the work, reading from some masonic history and discussing it, reading the Grand Lodge reports and discussing the points brought out, and especially for the lodge to order and have a few first class masonic journals and have extracts from them read in the lodge. All these no doubt would be interesting to a good many, but we are sorry to say that experience seems to indicate that they would be a bore to others.

The Grand Secretary, THEODORE W. RANDALL, submits a very full report. He calls the attention of the Grand Lodge to "the demands and requests" for copies of the Proceedings that are continually received. Some send stamps to defray postage and some do not. Some say the postage will be cheerfully refunded, but he says, in order to fill all these calls, it will be necessary to increase the number of copies from 500 to 1,000.

Many of these calls, he says, are worthy and should be honored, but he suggests that it is impossible to give copies to every applicant, and the Grand Lodge took the matter up, provided for the method of distribution and directed the Grand Secretary to place the remaining copies on sale at a price which would cover the cost.

He announces the publication of the volume of Constitution, By-Laws, etc., which are held for sale at \$1.50 each.

He calls the attention of the Grand Lodge to the condition of the Library, and desires authority to have Proceedings bound, re-arranged, and to purchase some copies to complete files.

It appears from his report that this Grand Lodge had never recognized the Grand Lodge of Peru, and, therefore, no action had been necessary in relation to it, especially as he had received a copy of the decree abrogating the obnoxious one.

He calls attention to the recent action of the Grand Lodge of Washington in regard to "masons of African descent," but not having received the official proceedings, there was nothing upon which his Grand Lodge could act.

The proceedings of the Grand Lodge were harmonious, but almost entirely of a routine character, there appearing to be nothing of general interest, except that the jurisdiction was divided into six districts and a provision made for the appointment of a District Deputy Grand Master for each district, and to support the expense the following resolutions were adopted :

Resolved, That a District Deputy Fund be levied annually on the subordinate lodges in this jurisdiction of thirty cents for each member on the annual returns of their respective lodges for the purpose of paying the fares of said Deputies to attend a lodge of instruction at Boise City, or other convenient place selected by the Grand Lecturer.

“Resolved, That the lodges in each District pay to said Deputy Grand Lecturer of their District pro rata per membership sufficient to pay the board and lodging of said Deputy while being instructed, upon his presenting his bill for the same vouched for by the Grand Lecturer as being correct.”

The Report on Correspondence (75 pp.) was presented by Bro. FRED G. Mock, the retiring Grand Master of the year before.

He pays a deserved tribute to his predecessor, and in his introduction says:

“Leading subjects of discussion have not changed in the year, but some new light has been thrown about them. I have offered but few criticisms and expressed but few opinions. If this is a disappointment to you I would ask what you expected of one so young—one who is not yet eight years old a mason. I have been benefited by the rich gems of thought that I have gathered from able masonic minds, and if you will read the report you will surely be benefited also.”

He followed his plan very closely, and yet comments occasionally in such manner as to show that he promises to maintain the high reputation which the labors of his predecessor have given to the reports from his Grand Lodge.

He reviews Maine for 1897 and 1898. He refers to our comments upon granting money to relieve a brother with a provision that the brother must repay it when able to, under the penalty of expulsion if he failed to do so.

As we remember this case, it was one in which a lodge relieved the member of another lodge and sent the bill to his lodge, which was poor and could not pay it: whereupon the Grand Lodge paid it, but ordered the recipient to repay it when he should become able, *under penalty of expulsion!* We thought, and still think, this is queer *charity*: it assumes that every mason, who receives assistance when in distress, thereby incurs an obligation to repay it, and if he does not repay it when able, he is liable to expulsion for unmasonic conduct. However, it is the logical result of the “Wisconsin Proposition,” but is not the masonic charity which the Fathers taught.

He criticises the granting of special dispensations to confer degrees out of time, as reported by our Grand Master, “for good and sufficient reasons.” The usage of Masonry in this jurisdiction and our Constitution expressly leave the decision of such questions to the Grand Master, and when he grants a dispensation “for good and sufficient reasons,” there is no appeal from his decision, and we have confidence enough in our Grand Masters to believe that one is never granted except “for good and sufficient reasons.” The fact is, if our good brother had had experience, as we have had here in Maine in regard to this matter, he would not be so troubled about it.

He also refers to our remarks in relation to what his predecessor said concerning the resolutions which were sent to that Grand Lodge by ours for consideration, and he expresses surprise at the course that was taken if we

were correct. We went by the record, and our brother can ascertain from that whether we were in error or not. If we were, we shall be quick to correct the erroneous expression which we have given, especially as stated in our report last year, on account of the death of Bro. STEVENSON.

We suggest, however, that the report and resolutions be forwarded to our Representative near the Grand Lodge of Idaho, and ask him to present them to the Grand Lodge and request its consideration of them, for it is evident that by some mistake somewhere, they have not been so presented and considered.

We desire to say that we did not intend any reflection upon the Grand Lodge of Idaho, but merely to make the statement, as we understand it from the record, that the resolutions were not in fact presented. It is quite likely that our Representative was not present. However, there has been no particular harm done, and we make the suggestion stated above because we would like to have those resolutions presented to and considered by the Grand Lodge of Idaho, especially in the light of more recent events, which show that there is a very strong tendency in the country to adopt the principle of the resolutions.

ILLINOIS, 1898.

The Grand Master read a letter from Past Grand Master DEWITT C. CREGIER, excusing his absence from the Grand Lodge on account of illness, and a committee was appointed to wait upon him and express the regrets of the Grand Lodge. We are greatly pained to state that within a few weeks, we have learned of the death of this brother, but have no official information in relation to it.

We regret also to find that Past Grand Master JAMES A. HAWLEY was absent on account of illness and the same committee was directed to convey to *him, in writing*, the regrets of the Grand Lodge.

We are inexpressibly pained to learn, since this paragraph was written, that Bro. HAWLEY, too, has been taken from us.

The Grand Master, EDWARD COOK, delivered a long and very full address. This jurisdiction is so immense, that the matters coming before the Grand Master during the year are necessarily very numerous, and Bro. COOK proved to be an able and active officer.

The Senior Grand Warden, R. W. Bro. GEORGE M. MOULTON, was absent in the United States service as Colonel of a regiment, and the Grand Master thus alludes to it:

“Thirty-three years ago our country was rejoicing in the close of a war which meant the solidarity of our nation. To-day we are rejoicing in the cessation of a war which has brought a step nearer to us the solidarity of the world. The principles of humanity have gained a new triumph, and America has laid down and proved with her blood the postulate that no nation has a right to stand by idle while another people suffers for bread and liberty. At the close of the century the triumphs of our arms have added this new star to the crown of the universal brotherhood, which shall be the victor of the ages. But not by the right of its triumphs alone has our nation pressed forward. By its suffering, too, has it made speed God-ward. For by the tears and groans, and by the dying prayers of our soldiers, our people have learned to look with new fervor for the time when unity shall come without strife, and peace shall prevail without war.”

* * * * *

“And so most of our more than seven hundred lodges have had at least one member in the field, and these ‘heroes in the strife’ have had the moral and material support of the more than fifty-three thousand brethren who remained at home.

“Nor has the Grand Lodge been left without its representative at the front. One of our principal officers, the Senior Grand Warden, was among the first to respond to the call and to give his trained and valuable services. With him are many brethren whose names have honorable place in our records and whose loyalty and zeal in the cause of liberty and justice are equaled only by their devotion to the principles of our institution.”

He had granted dispensations for only three lodges during the year, and in this connection he well says:

“There have been other applications for dispensations to form new lodges and perhaps some of these might have been granted with propriety, but a somewhat rigid interpretation of the law and a careful consideration of facts seemed to me to counsel a very conservative course. The large number of weak lodges with constantly diminishing memberships, and the lack of vitality and healthful vigor on the part of many others, some of them less than a decade old, would seem to show that we already have too many, rather than too few lodges, and indicates that great care should be exercised in authorizing new ventures.

“The right to make masons is the highest privilege that can be conferred upon members of the Fraternity, and before the Grand Master gives brethren a license to set up in the business of conferring degrees, he should be abundantly satisfied that the best interests of the institution will be promoted thereby.

“The law contemplates that the Grand Master, in considering the propriety of granting a dispensation to form a new lodge, shall have the benefit of the combined wisdom and best judgment of the three nearest lodges.

“It is not sufficient (as many lodges seem to think) that they are willing to yield jurisdiction over the territory and that the applicants are ‘good fellows.’ They should by careful inquiry and investigation and through a competent committee if necessary, secure such information as will enable them to certify that all the statements made in the petition are known by them to be facts, thus giving the Grand Master the benefit of the information he is entitled to have, before he takes the grave responsibility of starting a new masonic factory.

“Constituent lodges should feel that this responsibility rests primarily upon them and that the Grand Master is entitled to all the information and assistance they can give.”

We most earnestly commend this to the attention of the brethren. The

idea of lodges too frequently is, that in acting upon this question they are to consider only their own interests, whereas the real question is the interests of the Fraternity, not only in the immediate vicinity, not only in the state, but the whole Fraternity everywhere.

As already stated, the number of official acts performed by him were very numerous, and we cannot even refer to them by classes.

The Grand Master objects very strongly to appeals for aid which have reached the Grand Master from outside of the Grand Jurisdiction and he advises all to discountenance all such appeals that do not come properly endorsed by the proper authorities of Illinois. Some of them he found to be really advertisements in disguise and intended to promote personal interests rather than to relieve distress.

He speaks highly of the Schools of Instruction that had been held, and under the head of "work," he well says; and this we commend most earnestly to the brethren, for the evil denounced in it has made its influence felt in Maine:

"In my visits to lodges it has frequently and generally been my good fortune, and a great pleasure to me, to see the work exemplified in a most beautiful, accurate, and impressive manner. On such occasions I have felt that the expense incurred by the Grand Lodge in providing for instruction, and the efforts of our faithful and efficient Board of Grand Examiners, ably supplemented by the Deputy Grand Lecturers, have not been in vain, but have borne most creditable and satisfactory fruit.

"In a few instances, however, I have been saddened and discouraged to see evidences of an attempt to improve upon, enlarge, ornament and spectacularize the ceremonies. In most cases of this kind it has only been necessary to call attention to the unwarranted character of these practices, to insure their suppression promptly and cheerfully.

"A few have shown a disposition to persist, and to these it should be said that the use of expensive robes and the introduction of uniforms, military drills, stage settings, theatrical scenes, inappropriate music and other appliances and paraphernalia are things unknown in Ancient Craft Masonry, and foreign to our ceremonies as authoritatively taught and practiced at our schools.

"When brethren fully realize in a practical way that the Grand Lodge has adopted a work and that it provides liberally for its dissemination, not only as to matter but also as to manner, and that any willful departure from the authorized methods is in the nature of an innovation and an evidence of disloyalty, all attempts to exploit individual ideas will disappear, and we shall everywhere see our unrivaled ritual taught in its purity, simplicity, and impressive beauty. Let all unite in an earnest, honest, and loyal effort to insure so desirable a consummation."

It may be uncharitable, possibly, but we have had occasion to think, sometimes, that these extras are promoted by persons having an interest in the business of furnishing the necessary paraphernalia. But we trust the day is far distant when the masons of Maine will depart from the methods adopted by the fathers and handed down for so many years, and changing the work into mere dramatic entertainments.

It may be remembered that last year a case was before the Grand Lodge in which a lodge, in defiance of the orders of the Grand Master, refused to put a brother on trial, and thereupon he suspended the charter and advised the revocation of it by the Grand Lodge, but the case was continued until this year. The case of the offending member was sent to another lodge for trial and he was tried and expelled. The Grand Master states that there has been no effort made by the brethren of the lodge to have the charter restored, and he thinks there is no reasonable prospect of its being able to resume work, except to the detriment of Freemasonry, and he advises that the charter be revoked.

In another case, business difficulties arose between some members of a lodge, but the Grand Master decided that the charges were not valid and advised that they should be withdrawn. He also sent Past Grand Master JOHN C. SMITH to visit the lodge and do what he could in the interest of harmony, and upon his advice, the charges were withdrawn by unanimous vote.

But immediately after, the same charges, in substance, were presented and a date fixed for trial. Bro. SMITH again attended as the proxy of the Grand Master, and made another effort to restore peace and harmony; but he was not received with proper courtesy and his orders issued in the name of the Grand Master were openly defied, and thereupon he closed the lodge and declared the charter suspended, but the Master and eighteen other members of the lodge remained and went through the form of trying and expelling the brother. He recommends that the charter be revoked.

A member of another lodge acted as attorney in the prosecution, and was conspicuous in defying the authority of the Grand Master, and he was placed on trial for disrespect, but the lodge failed to convict him, and the case was appealed to the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master, after the experience which he had had, recommends that a Trial Board be established, saying:

“Masonic trials are sad experiences which lodges always deplore but cannot always avoid.

“The personal relations which members of the lodge sustain to one or another of the parties involved are almost certain actively to array them as partisans, to prejudice their views of the case, and to make the administration of justice very difficult, if not impossible. The growing custom of engaging paid attorneys to conduct cases adds to the bitterness of the strife and often entails immoderate expense upon one or both sides.

“For these and other equally good reasons, the inquiry has been raised whether it is not possible, either through a change of venue, or through some provision for a trial board outside of the lodge, to provide means for a speedy, fair, and comparatively inexpensive trial of cases likely to involve a heated or acrimonious contest in the lodge or to seriously impair its peace. I suggest that the subject be referred to the jurisprudence committee for consideration and report.”

His remarks are undoubtedly true. A somewhat similar experience, though of not so bad a character, led the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts to provide a Board of Trial Commissioners for the trial of masonic offences in that jurisdiction. We have watched its operation with great care, and it seems to us to be an abundant success, and in jurisdictions in which there are numerous trials, we believe it would be for the benefit of the Institution to establish it.

The committee on Grand Master's address recommended that the charters of the two lodges above referred to be arrested permanently, and the Grand Lodge so voted.

The Grand Master calls attention to the fact that there are twenty-two permanent members of the Grand Lodge, and he advises that mileage and per diem be allowed to them in order to encourage their attendance.

An amendment to the by-laws was adopted providing for the manner of restoring expelled masons. He must apply to the lodge at a stated communication and the petition be laid over till the next one, when, if it is concurred in by a two-thirds vote, the Secretary shall transmit the same to the Grand Lodge for its action. But in case the lodge has become extinct, the petition shall be made directly to the Grand Lodge.

BRO. JOHN C. SMITH, Grand Orator, delivered a fine address upon the subject, "Freemasonry Universal, the Glory of our Fraternity and the Pride of our Brotherhood."

The Committee on Jurisprudence reported against the Trial Board, saying, however:

"During the past few years this Grand Lodge has had occasion to witness the increasing difficulties growing out of long contested cases of discipline, and this committee is sure that the M. W. Grand Master has done wisely in calling your attention to the same. Some of these cases have grown out of business transactions, that should, under our laws, have never been recognized as causes of masonic discipline. Others have been aggravated, as he reports, by zealous 'paid attorneys,' and the consequent expense is becoming frightful and the records cumbersome. Yet, for all this, our by-laws, in section 1, article 1, part 3, expressly state that 'every lodge shall have the right to exercise discipline over all its members,' etc., 'for any violation of moral or masonic law.' The committee feels disposed to suggest arbitration in certain cases, but in many cases this would not be appropriate; no penalty could be inflicted except by vote of the lodge. The tendency to unnecessarily enlarge the record might be checked by an amendment requiring each party to pay his own share of the expense, and such an amendment has been prepared and may be presented. A 'trial board,' as suggested, does not seem to your committee to be a practicable expedient."

We believe that the evils will continue to increase and that some remedy must be devised. Whether it can be done by changing the character of masonic trials, we gravely doubt, for the reason that the law now allows such course of procedure as would require a judge learned in the law to pre-

side, a qualification that can hardly be expected from the Masters of our lodges.

The recommendation of the Grand Master to pay mileage and *per diem* to the permanent members was adopted.

Past Grand Master ROBBINS reported the names of the Grand Bodies which should be recognized as masonic. He divides them into three heads. There is no occasion to raise any question as to those which he proposes to recognize. The other two classes are as follows:

“Grand Lodges known to have originally derived their Masonry wholly or in part from lawful sources, and which in the present state of our knowledge it is deemed expedient neither to accept nor reject as lawful members of the masonic body: The three Prussian Grand Lodges—The Three Globes, the Grand National Lodge of Germany, and the Royal York of Friendship, at Berlin; and the Grand Lodges of Concord (Zur Eintracht,) at Darmstadt; Eclectic Union, Frankfort; Saxony, Dresden; The Sun (Zur Sonne), Bayreuth; The Netherlands, the Hague; National, of Egypt, Cairo. Also the lodges composing ‘The Free Association of Five Independent Lodges in Germany,’ viz: Minerva, of the Three Palms, and Baldwin of the Linden, both at Leipsig; Archimedes of the Three Tracing Boards, Altenburg; Carl of the Wreath of Rue, Hildburghausen; Archimedes of the Eternal Union, Gera.

*“The following bodies are deemed to be without authority in Symbolic or Craft Masonry and the members of their obedience ineligible to visit lodges in Illinois: Grand Lodge of Alpina, St. Gallen, Switzerland; Grand Orient of Argentine Republic, Buenos Ayres; Grand Orient of Belgium, Brussels; Grand Orient of Brazil, Rio Janeiro; Grand Orient of Chili, Valparaiso; National Grand Lodge of Denmark, Copenhagen; Grand Orient of France, Paris (*interdict*); Grand Orient of Greece, Athens; Symbolic Grand Lodge of Hungary, Budapest; Grand Lodge of Hamburg, Hamburg (*interdict*); Grand Orient of Italy, Rome; Grand Lodge of Luxemburg; Grand Symbolic Diet of Mexico, its constituent Grand Lodges and all other Grand Lodges in that country; Grand Lodge of Norway, Christiana; United Grand Orient of Lusitania (Portugal), Lisbon; Grand Lodge of Peru, Lima; Independent Grand Lodge of the Dominican Republic, San Domingo; Grand Orient of Spain, Madrid; Grand Lodge of Spain, Cadiz; Grand Lodge of Sweden, Stockholm; Grand Orient of Uruguay, Montivideo; Grand Orient of Venezuela, Caracas; and all supreme councils, or sovereign sanctuaries, or other powers however named, wherever situated of whatever rite—excepting Grand Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons—assuming to erect lodges with authority to confer the degrees of Symbolic Masonry.”*

We have discussed this question heretofore and have only to say that the lines in italics, which are so in the original, are in direct violation of masonic law and usage as universally recognized down to the time of our Bro. ROBBINS. It will be noted that he includes in this list the Grand Lodge of Peru, which almost every Grand Lodge in the United States and in the world, except the Grand Lodge of Illinois, has recognized as a legitimate Grand Lodge. We regret very greatly that the Grand Lodge of Illinois should follow our distinguished brother in his peculiar position upon this question. The best commentary upon his position is the fact that all the Grand Lodges, including the British Grand Lodges, with the exception of his own Grand Lodge

and possibly one other, recognize very many of the Grand Bodies which he disowns, and the masons of their obedience as regular masons.

The Report on Correspondence (168 pp.), with an index of eight pages more, was presented by Bro. ROBBINS: at the earnest solicitation of the Grand Master, he had 'reluctantly concluded to essay a report in the topical form.' He well states the difficulties of this plan when he says that it compels the examination of all the Proceedings in advance of writing anything, and, therefore, he cannot notice Proceedings which are received at a late date.

We confess that we do not like the plan. It is true that the ordinary plan may involve a longer report, but it also involves what the other plan fails to give, viz:—some account of the proceedings and condition of the craft in other jurisdictions.

The primary object of these reports was to give this information. The necessary result of changing the style is to substitute dissertations and essays on masonic subjects for the information in relation to other jurisdictions, which, as we have said, it was the primary object of these reports to furnish.

The discussion of the questions is a later addition to the work, and while exceedingly valuable, we hold that it still should not be allowed to be the primary object of the reports.

To be sure, our brother in the head of "As others see us," notices the other jurisdictions very briefly.

In his notice of Maine, he says:

"Human lips never uttered so high a tribute to Masonry, or one so eloquent of unconscious trust in its refining and elevating influence, as the simple act of Past Grand Master Drummond in opening to his brethren—as in the outset of his report—the door of that innermost chamber where he keeps the sacred memories of his dead daughter, the light of his household, but recently gone out—so recently that he cannot yet realize that he shall never again look with mortal eye upon the sweet face upon which he had always taken it for granted that his last look upon earthly things would rest. *How he misses it, he now knows that only those who have had a similar experience can appreciate.*

"But it is also true that only those who have felt the hand-clasp of loved ones loosen as they went down into the valley of the shadow can know how surely and how quickly He in whom our trust is anchored 'giveth beauty for ashes.' The great change which veils our loved ones forever from our mortal sight, but embalms them to memory, and while the fleeting years leave their trace upon us and all things about us, *they walk beside us here changeless as the stars.*"

We have sometimes regretted that we made that allusion in our report, but sentiments like these, which we have quoted, which are not personal to us, *but apply to Masonry*, take away all those regrets.

We greatly regret to read the following:

"Each lodge has the same interest in every eligible man residing within their common territory as a possible candidate for the degrees, that every

other lodge has. This equality of interest ceases only when he ceases to be a possible candidate by becoming an actual candidate through a petition to one of their number. The interest of all the others lapses because his character as a possible candidate has disappeared. But if he petitions a lodge outside of their common territory, their interest in him as a possible candidate has not lapsed until he is invested with the eligibility which he lacks. Now, upon what principle of law or equity may one of the lodges alone undertake to invest him with the lacking eligibility, when neither that lodge nor any of the others is to be benefited by it, but all are to be equally dispossessed."

The old law was that no lodge has any "interest" in candidates; the law that a candidate must apply to the nearest lodge, is of recent enactment, and was enacted for the benefit of the *Fraternity*, and not the *lodges*, upon the assumption that a candidate is best known by the lodge nearest to his residence, and that lodge is best qualified to pass upon his fitness to be made a mason.

He devotes considerable space to "cipher rituals," but a more appropriate heading would be "An attack upon Scottish Rite Masonry." He says that the first printed cipher of which he ever heard was in the possession of Bro. ALBERT PIKE. But the whole force of this is destroyed by the fact that cipher rituals, made years before PIKE was born, are still in existence. It will be time enough to discuss his views, when he comes to the real question, and discusses it upon its merits or demerits.

He apparently agrees with the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington in regard to Negro Masonry. He took the same position in 1871. We have examined what he writes in this report, and find that we have anticipated his positions in what we have already written, and that he was conclusively answered in every point twenty years ago.

He finds that the sentiment of the craft in relation to "using Masoury for business purposes" has become so pronounced, that this evil is very likely to cease to exist: he well says:

"These expressions are sufficient to show in what direction the current is now setting; and, although it will be yet a good while before the desired end is reached, the revolutionary nature and tendencies of the evil complained of is becoming so generally recognized that it will be reached. Human cupidity will still remain, and although this particular manifestation of it shall disappear, in this particular guise, we may be sure that the necessity for watchfulness against its outcroppings will remain also."

We are glad to find that he sees evidence of a reaction in respect to the drastic legislation in relation to non-payment of dues: he says:

"Granted that the mollifying ointment has accomplished so little in the healing way, has the blister, the moxa, or the knife accomplished anything beyond blunting the sensibilities or those who apply them in violation of the obligations which rest—or should rest—with equal weight upon all parties to the contract. Of course masons, like other people, will get piqued if their neighbors, or, worse yet, their kindred, persist in taking a different view of duty than they themselves do; but surely those whose

training is supposed to be a help in subduing the passions, should not be the first to enforce their ideas of duty with a bludgeon. It is a singular fact that most masons who bewail the 'evil' of a brother's separating himself from them, seem to believe that the only orthodox cure for the evil is to *drive* the object of their solicitude back into the fold with a cudgel; to *draw* him back by a silken thread would be no cure at all. Just now the preponderance of opinion is manifestly tending to the more fraternal method, and this preponderance is likely to be augmented as the few Grand Lodges that have not profited either by their own experience or the experience of others, have had their turn with the coercive panacea."

The following in relation to rejected candidates hits the nail squarely on the head: the Maine proposition has been endorsed more fully than we expected at the outset: it is gaining ground steadily, if slowly: the ground gained will never be lost: every clash that arises over the question directs attention to it: Grand Lodges whose "system works well," suddenly find themselves at odds with some other Grand Lodge, and must either consider the matter or submit quietly to the refusal of other jurisdictions to recognize its work and leave one of its initiates to mourn that he is a victim of misplaced confidence; the action of the Grand Encampment in adopting the Maine proposition, only changing "five years" to "three years," may properly be cited at least as straw to show the direction in which the current is setting:

"Of these latter is the subject of jurisdiction over rejected material, which for a few years has occupied a front place. As indicated in our last report the tentative overture made by the Grand Lodge of Maine to see if haply a common ground could be found, to occupy which both sides might be willing to yield something in the interest of common harmony, has fared better than its precursor, the Mississippi proposition, but the result is not immediately encouraging. The complacency with which as a rule every Grand Lodge views its own regulations is such that it can safely be appealed to by an indolent or indifferent committee, who want to get rid of a leisure-disturbing proposition from some other Grand Lodge avowing no more beguiling purpose than the general good; and a report that 'it is inexpedient to disturb the settled policy of the jurisdiction' or that 'experience under our regulations has not disclosed any necessity for changing them,' starts on the road to adoption with the combined weight of self-approbation and inertia at its back. It seems to us that the failure of the Maine overture to receive the general consideration which the importance of the subject might have been expected to command for it was from a disinclination to consider *any* proposition at that time rather than from deliberately formed objections to that particular form. Upon the frequency of cases of friction and deadlock occurring under the present diversity of regulation will depend the duration of the present ebb in the discussion which is sure sooner or later to be again at the flood. Meanwhile there has been a distinct gain from the agitation in the wider recognition of the fact that pending an arrival at a community of regulation on this subject, there can be but one other common, peace-insuring ground, and that is, that in dealing with the rejected material of other states the Grand Lodge shall require its lodges to respect the regulations of the jurisdiction in which he was rejected. Of course this brings us back again to the starting point of the difficulty, the failure to respect these regulations, but in traversing the ground it has been made plain to the general comprehension that in respecting those

regulations we are not constrained to admit that a Grand Lodge can give its laws extra territorial force but that we are constrained by a principle which transcends all territorial lines, the principle that the lawful acts of a regular lodge lawfully at labor under the regulations of a recognized Grand Lodge must be held to be valid and to be adequate to give to the material coming under its hand the *status* designed and defined by those regulations."

Referring to the action of the Grand Master of Nebraska in making a mason at sight, and the disposition of the matter by the Grand Lodge, (See our report for 1808) Bro. ROBBINS says:

"The jurisprudence committee, passing the question whether the prerogative ever inhered in the office of Grand Master, expressed the opinion that it does not inhere in the office of Grand Master in Nebraska, and disapproved the Grand Master's action. The Grand Lodge (rather cavalierly, as it seems to us,) refused the request made in behalf of the Grand Master—whose successor had not been installed—that action be postponed until next year, and adopted the report. Timely inquiry was made as to the *status* of Henry Phelps, and thereanent the jurisprudence committee reported that in their opinion he was an irregularly made mason, and recommended that the Grand Master, in person or by proxy, be directed to go to Schuyler as soon as convenient, and heal young Phelps 'in due masonic manner,' first requiring payment of the fees required by the laws of the lodge within whose jurisdiction Phelps resided, for conferring the degrees.

"The report was adopted, and we have puzzling spectacle of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska in the legerdemain of creating by multiplication something out of nothing, invoking to go to Schuyler and confer upon Phelps the masonic *status*, a power which the necessity for its going showed did not exist!"

We hope that Bro. ROBBINS will return to his former style of report. It may be because we were accustomed to the old form, but the fact is we cannot recognize this as coming from his pen. However, we had our say in the beginning.

INDIANA, 1898.

The frontispiece is a portrait of the incoming Grand Master, SIMEON S. JOHNSON, and on the opposite page is a fine cut of the new masonic temple at Indianapolis.

The Grand Lodge was honored by the presence of Grand Master NELSON WILLIAMS and Past Grand Master ALLEN ANDREWS, of Ohio, who were received, welcomed and responded in eloquent and appropriate words.

The Grand Master, MASON J. NIBLACK, refers to the war with Spain, and in the course of his remarks says:

"Masonry is pre-eminently a patriotic Order. All its teachings are conducive to loyalty, patriotism and a higher state of good citizenship. Bound together by such teachings, we cannot fail to take the keenest interest in everything that pertains to our national welfare."

At the time his address was delivered, Peru had not rescinded its former action, and he recommended that masonic communication with that Grand Lodge be suspended, and his recommendation was adopted.

He announces the deaths of Past Grand Masters ANDREW H. DAY and ALEXANDER C. DOWNEY, and Past Grand Deacon ALEXANDER THOMAS, who he well describes as "one of the wisest and best known masons of Indiana."

He devotes his address very largely to a succinct account of his official acts, few of which are of general interest.

One lodge claimed that, on account of its early organization, it had a right to confer the work as they had conferred it some thirty years ago; but he decided, of course, that that lodge, in common with all others, was bound by the law of the Grand Lodge, and he was informed that his order had been cheerfully complied with.

In another case, a lodge initiated the material of another lodge, but upon complaint the work was stopped. Thereupon the lodge, in whose jurisdiction the candidate lived, but not the lodge which initiated him, expelled him. The other lodge claimed that that lodge had no jurisdiction over him for the purpose of expulsion and that it had a right to go on and confer the other degrees, the order of the Grand Master in relation to the fees, etc., having been complied with, and he submitted the question to the Grand Lodge.

But the Grand Lodge did not decide the question. The majority of the Committee on Jurisprudence reported that the proceedings were without jurisdiction and void, and that the lodge in which the brother received his degree, was the only one which had jurisdiction over him and, therefore, decided that the lodge which conferred on him the Entered Apprentice degree, having complied with the order of the Grand Master as to the fees, could go on and confer the other degrees.

One member of the committee concurred in the opinion that the action of the lodge was illegal, but held that the lodge had the right to try the offender so far as the mere trial was concerned, but as the charges were for acts committed before the initiation, the action of the lodge should be set aside. The record of the proceedings, however, shows that the reports of the majority and minority of the committee "*were not adopted.*"

As the question raised is substantially a new one, we shall be pardoned for a brief discussion of it. The minority of the committee based his report upon the proposition that a lodge within whose jurisdiction a mason resides may try him for unmaasonic conduct. The majority held, however, that an E. A. can be tried only by the lodge in which he received the degree.

We think neither of these propositions is technically correct. As we understand it, the rule which has become almost universally established is that the lodge, in whose jurisdiction a masonic offence is committed, may try the offender, and we know of no reason why this rule does not apply as

well to an Entered Apprentice as to a Master Mason. We also agree that a mason cannot be tried for an offence committed before his initiation, unless it is upon the basis of fraudulent representations made in his petition, and then the real offence is the fraud perpetrated by him on the lodge in gaining admission, and as that offence is necessarily committed within the jurisdiction of the lodge to which he applied, that lodge only would have jurisdiction over him.

We do not know whether in Indiana, if a mason is tried and expelled and does not appeal, the judgment is a valid one, although on appeal it should be set aside as erroneous, but in Maine, where the proceedings result in expulsion, they must be submitted to the Grand Lodge, and if it should appear on record that no masonic offence was charged, the proceedings would be quashed.

As there is not enough of the charges set out in these Proceedings to enable us to determine what the precise character of the offence was, we therefore, cannot determine how the case would have been decided if it had come up in Maine.

The Grand Master announces that the Historian had completed his History of Freemasonry in Indiana and that he had had the manuscript submitted to a committee of three Past Grand Masters. That committee reported, speaking in high terms of the History and the amount of labor involved in its preparation and recommended that \$700 be paid to the Historian as his compensation, and that the History should be printed by the Grand Lodge.

He also announced that Bro. SMYTHE, the Grand Secretary, had not completed the book which he had commenced, containing the decisions of the Grand Lodge, but he hopes that the book would be completed at an early day, as he had felt very often the need of such a work. We rather suspect that Bro. SMYTHE's experience has been like that of some others who have done a similar work, and that is, that it takes very much more time and labor to do the work than was anticipated at the start.

One unique and yet very interesting ceremony had happened during the year. At the previous annual communication, it was stated that the remains of Past Grand Master ALEXANDER BUCKNER, who after his official term became a resident and citizen of Missouri, were lying in an unmarked grave and not in any cemetery. The Grand Secretary was directed to remove his remains and bury them in the city cemetery at Cape Girardeau in Missouri, and erect a suitable headstone at the head of the new grave. The order of the Grand Lodge was complied with on the twenty-eighth of September, 1897, when the Grand Secretary, in company with the Grand Master, went to Missouri and personally superintended the work. The Grand Master of Missouri was unable to be present, but he appointed a personal representa-

tive who was present. The local lodge assisted in the ceremonies. A funeral procession was formed at its hall and the remains of Past Grand Master BUCKNER (which had been buried in 1833) were conveyed to the new cemetery and the full masonic burial service read by the Grand Master of Indiana.

Some fifty masons were present, and following the burial service Bro. LEWIS HOUCK, of Cape Girardeau, delivered a memorial and biographical address, which is published with the Proceedings, and it is an exceedingly interesting contribution to the early history of the two states and especially of Grand Master BUCKNER's participation therein. He was followed by an interesting address by Grand Master NIBLACK, of Indiana. A monument was set up with a suitable inscription. Grand Master BUCKNER was prominent not only as a mason, but in public life, being United States Senator at the time of his death.

The Grand Secretary gives an interesting picture of the condition of the Grand Lodge when he was called to the office twenty years before: it was then laboring under a heavy debt, but during his term of service, it had been paid and the property of the Grand Lodge released from all incumbrances, with also an invested fund of over \$30,000 and over \$14,000 in the hands of the Treasurer.

When the war broke out, the Grand Secretary hoisted the American flag on the Masonic Temple, for which act he was criticised, as he says, "both favorably and unfavorably." The matter was taken up, referred to a special committee, which made a patriotic report, fully sustaining the action of the Grand Secretary.

The basis of the report is that masons are taught, as one of their first duties, to be loyal to the government of the country in which they live and that the support of the government in the war was a masonic duty, and, therefore, that the act of the Grand Secretary was in accord with masonic principles.

A circular letter from some Master Masons of Monterey, Mexico, in reference to the recognition of "Mexican Masonry," was presented, but the committee reported that it gave no information and did not emanate officially from any regular Body of masons, and, therefore, no action was taken upon it. We believe this referred to the recognition of a State Grand Lodge in opposition to the Gran Dieta.

The Grand Lodge decided that the degrees cannot be conferred on a man "who has lost the first two fingers of his right hand at the third joint."

We would be glad to copy from the "Memorial to the Dead" presented by the committee, but our space will not allow.

We are pained to hear that during the session of the Grand Lodge Bro.

MARTIN H. RICE lost a sister by death. The Grand Lodge adopted resolutions of sympathy unanimously by a rising vote.

The Report on Correspondence (135 pp.) was presented by Bro. NICHOLAS R. RUCKLE. As heretofore, he gives an admirable abstract from the Proceedings of other Grand Lodges with a few comments, fewer than we wish there were.

Of the Wisconsin proposition, he says:

“The accumulation and administration of a great Charity Fund is not one of the original purposes of the masonic Institution. The power of the Grand Lodge to collect through the particular lodges a per capita tax for its support and maintenance is conceded. The power of the Grand Lodge to tax for the support of institutions of greater or less merit is not unlimited, though there is no statutory prescription. There is a disposition in many instances to raise by Grand Lodge taxation the funds for charitable expenditures which the particular lodges have failed to provide by the assessment of dues against their members. This carries with it the disbursement of charity by a Grand Lodge committee instead of the charity committee of the local lodge, and takes away the saving merit of individual giving, which has more of a masonic flavor. Who will decide for us whether these provisions are an enlargement or a perversion of the masonic plan?”

In reply it may be said that very early in the history of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, provision was made for the accumulation of a “Charity Fund”: not with the purpose, however, of taking the place of the local lodges, but to be disbursed in extraordinary cases, either in aid of a poor lodge, or in cases in which the recipient would have no claim upon a lodge as such.

He refers to our remarks upon the difficulty between the Grand Lodges of Indiana and Pennsylvania, growing out of the initiation by a lodge under the jurisdiction of the former, of a candidate rejected by a lodge of the latter, but makes no comment upon them.

INDIAN TERRITORY, 1898.

Two special communications were held to lay corner stones. The ceremonies were performed by the Grand Lodge.

At the annual communication the Grand Master, JAMES A. SCOTT, delivered a brief address in which his official acts and dispensations are stated very concisely. It was the twenty-fifth annual communication of the Grand Lodge, counting the one at which it was organized as the first. At that time there were three lodges in the Territory; at this time the number is ninety and over.

He decided that the work of a lodge, at a communication when only five members were present, was not lawful, as a lodge cannot be opened unless there are present seven Master Masons.

He announced the following decision also:

“Has the Worshipful Master the right to give a special committee further time against the wishes of the lodge?”

“Answer: He has. His powers are great, but no prudent Master will set aside the wishes of his lodge, except in extreme cases.”

Of course the decision is correct and the caution a wise one. In that jurisdiction it requires unanimous consent to grant a waiver.

He decides that a lodge is not a court for the collection of debts, and yet he says that before masons should resort to courts of law with each other, all fraternal influences practicable should be used to bring about a settlement.

A brother had discovered that the Bible teaches that it is wrong to be a mason and asked that a dimit be granted: and the Grand Master replied as follows:

“Answer: No. Our law, Page 38, Constitution, Article XVI, says: ‘Whenever a brother applies for a dimit and his dues are fully paid and no charges are preferred against him * * * the dimit shall be granted to him by order of the W. M. without a vote of the lodge.’ But when a brother applies for a dimit upon the grounds stated in your letter it is your duty to order charges to be preferred against him at once, and it is the duty of your lodge to either expel or indefinitely suspend him. Your lodge could not afford to recommend such a mason to the Craft, wherever dispersed about the globe, as a true craftsman.”

We do not agree. We hold that it is not necessary in granting a dimit, that it should be accompanied with a recommendation to the Fraternity, although that is highly desirable. But if a man chooses to terminate his membership, he has an absolute right to do so and should be furnished with the evidence that he has terminated his membership and it is not necessary to go further.

But we object most earnestly to the expulsion of a man who has come to believe conscientiously that it is in conflict with the law of God for him to remain a mason. Of course, if the claim is pretended and is false, he should be expelled for the false pretence, but Masonry interferes with no one’s duty to God, and we hold that the conscience of the individual must be the tribunal to decide the question.

He decided that in that jurisdiction a Past Master has no right to open the lodge in the absence of the Master and Wardens. We think it would be better and more convenient if this Grand Lodge would return to the old usage, for, in any sparsely settled country, such a contingency is likely to occur, and the old rule was a safe one, as has been shown by the experience of the Grand Lodges which have always maintained it.

The efficient Grand Secretary, Bro. JOSEPH S. MURROW, submitted as usual a full report, but very concisely written.

At the last session of the Grand Lodge, he was instructed to have printed and distributed a new edition of the Constitution and By-Laws, consisting

of 2,000 copies. But he found that the call for the copies was so large that it was apparent the number ordered printed would last but a very brief time, and upon consultation with the Grand Master, he had doubled the number printed, and added also blank pages for additions, etc., at an additional cost in the whole of \$80, which he paid out of his own pocket, but asking the Grand Lodge to confirm what he had done. He had mailed from ten to thirty copies to each lodge.

We regard the publication of a sufficient number of copies of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge to place a copy in the hands of every mason in the Territory, to be a very wise one. We believe that the calls for decisions by Grand Masters would be very greatly reduced if pains were taken to place the Constitution and Laws in the hands of as many members as could be induced to read them, and without cost. The Grand Lodge confirmed his action, and ordered the additional expense paid.

One lodge lost its hall and contents by fire, and was re-building, and the dues were remitted.

The Grand Secretary stated that the hall of another lodge was destroyed by a cyclone during the conferring of the third degree. Quite a number of members were injured and one was nearly killed, and the dues were remitted; it is said further:

“It is probable that the candidate who was being raised to the degree of Master Mason at the time the cyclone struck the hall realized the truth of the Master’s statement that this life is beset by dangers, that life is a rough and a rugged road. He was *raised* in a manner unlike that of any other Master Mason probably in the history of Masonry.”

The Grand Master decided that if there is no law forbidding it, a lodge can rent its hall. We have heretofore discussed this question, and there is certainly nothing in the laws of Masonry which prohibits the renting of lodge halls, except where Grand Lodges have intervened and passed express laws. The idea that a masonic hall can be used for no other purpose has been applied in the past only to halls dedicated to masonic usage, and copying the law of the church, decisions have been made that it is not proper to use masonic halls for other purposes.

We have always dissented from this view, for it is a useless waste of money to hire a hall for the exclusive use of a poor lodge when it is to be used only from twelve to twenty times a year. Such was not the old rule or practice. Lodges then met very largely at some hall in a hotel and arrangements were made so that the paraphernalia was taken care of in such manner as not to interfere with the use of the hall for other purposes.

We believe this to be unwise, as we have said, because it imposes a heavy burden upon the craft for a mere sentiment and nothing else.

The Grand Master decided that a by-law which prohibits a mason from voting or holding office whose dues are unpaid at the time of an election was

invalid, until at least he should have been tried and a penalty inflicted. According to masonic usage at the present day, a mason loses none of his rights until he has been disciplined.

The committee of the Grand Lodge, however, reversed the decision of the Grand Master and, as we understand it, their report was accepted by the Grand Lodge. The committee held that the right to vote or hold office is a privilege and not an absolute right. From this we utterly dissent. Membership in the lodge carries with it the *right* to vote and to hold office when elected until the member has been deprived of that right by regular proceedings according to masonic law.

We have already referred to a decision in which a mason wanted a dimit on the ground that he could not conscientiously remain longer a mason, but in the report, of the committee, we find a further statement as follows:

“ We approve of decision No. 11, but would suggest, for the benefit of the craft that the facts were about as follows: ‘Six members of the lodge attended a meeting and in open lodge announced that the Bible taught that it was wrong to belong to the masonic institution and would endanger their prospects for Heaven, and demanded their dimits, their dues being paid.’ The Master directed their removal from the lodge room and ordered the Junior Warden to prefer charges, refusing to grant dimits under the circumstances. The craftsmen were tried, convicted and expelled.”

We regard this proceeding as a gross violation of the fundamental law of the craft, in that it is an attempt to set masonic law above the law of God.

We note that the Grand Tyler had been one of the Rough Riders at Santiago and was severely wounded, and at the time of the session of the Grand Lodge was in a hospital in New York. When this was announced:

“ A spontaneous offering was laid on the altar for Bro. Simms amounting to \$56.50 and the Grand Secretary was instructed to wire him the sympathy and brotherly love of the Grand Lodge and also write a letter sending the money.”

We would like to follow the Grand Orator through his excellent address, but space will not allow.

The Committee on Appeals had a good many cases before them in which the action of lodges was reversed, sometimes on technical grounds and sometimes on the merits. In other cases the findings were sustained.

In one case the findings were sustained, although there were technical errors in the procedure. We are glad to note this, as the tendency elsewhere has been to insist too strongly upon mere technical errors. We believe that when a masonic trial is under investigation by the Grand Lodge and substantial justice has been done, the proceedings should not be set aside for mere technical informalities.

The report of the Committee on Necrology is of special interest. Bro. ALLYN KENT CAPRON, a Captain in the Rough Riders, was killed in the battle of June 24, 1898, and his last words were, “Boys don't mind me, go

on with the fighting." The Grand Lodge dedicated a memorial page to him upon which this statement is inscribed.

Another brother in the battle of the second of July was wounded and died later, and the Grand Lodge ordered that a copy of the report should be sent to the parents and widows of the deceased brethren and the subordinate lodges ordered to drape their charters in mourning for the term of thirty days.

The Grand Secretary says that during the reading of the Report on Jurisprudence his attention was so much distracted by members asking questions and desiring orders on the Grand Treasurer that he is not sure that he correctly reported the action of the Grand Lodge. The incident suggests its own remedy. We have seen other Grand Secretaries troubled in the same way.

We think exceedingly well of our practice in Maine of having an Assistant Grand Secretary qualified to note and take down the proceedings as they are taken, leaving the Grand Secretary to superintend and to attend to such other matters as sometimes necessarily arise.

No Report on Correspondence.

IOWA, 1898.

The frontispiece is an excellent group of the portraits of the elective Grand Officers. The volume, it is scarcely necessary to say, still maintains the high character for which Brother PARVIN'S Proceedings have become celebrated.

The Grand Master, ALMON R. DEWEY, in the commencement of his address says:

"The earliest pages of history are too dim to acquaint us with the origin or the original powers of a Grand Lodge; but when first appearing with sufficient intelligence to be comprehended, it gives us the unmistakable evidence that a Grand Lodge was ever clothed with high authority, and at all times conceded to be the height of masonic prerogative.

"Indeed, a Grand Lodge is clothed with all the attributes of government, and with a system of government complete within itself and peculiar to itself, and contains the elements of all forms of civil government. A civil government professes to contain the functions of the legislative, judicial and executive. The first declaration of our laws—the preamble of the constitution—is a declaration that contains all these elements of civil government: 'A Grand Lodge is the sovereign, legislative, judicial, and executive power of a territorial jurisdiction of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.'

"Hence, within a Grand Lodge may be brought all these issues: As a legislative body it may make laws; as a judicial body it may construe them; as an executive body it may enforce them. No higher authority exists to traverse or review its legislation; no other tribunal can question the determination of its judicial functions, it being, for masonic purposes, a court of last resort. Its executive authority is conclusive and may be rigidly enforced."

We give this very gladly, as it comes from a jurisdiction, which has theoretically held until a very recent period, that a Grand Lodge has only such powers as are granted to it by the lodges or the craft. It is true that Bro. DEWEY states the original masonic doctrine. But with the adoption of a constitutional form of government by the people of the United States, the same ideas crept into masonic government, and threatened to revolutionize it. Iowa adopted and retained these doctrines until she saw the evil of them, and we are glad to see so emphatic a statement of the true doctrine from its Grand Master.

He also refers to the seditions which have existed in that jurisdiction, saying that, "Truth has in its own time purged it from the wrong and rewarded the right," so that Masonry in Iowa has, for the past few years, enjoyed the greatest prosperity.

He had the sad duty of announcing the death of three Past Grand Masters, ZEPHANIAH C. LUSE, RALPH G. PHELPS and WILLIAM P. ALLEN, and he paid eloquent tributes to the memory of each. We have not room for them, but the loss to Iowa and the craft is so great that we desire to notice each, but of necessity, briefly.

We were personally acquainted with Brother LUSE. During the latter part of his life he was in adverse circumstances and was the victim of a painful disease. In the earlier days of our acquaintance, he was an active, devoted mason, and one for whom we had a very great personal regard. Brother PHELPS we have known only through the Iowa Proceedings, from which we were led to form a very high opinion of his worth as a man, his devotedness as a mason, and his ability as a jurist. He administered the affairs of the Grand Lodge at a very trying time but with very great success, and his work upon the Committee on Jurisprudence in his Grand Lodge is a monument to his memory which will last as long as the decisions of the past are taken as guides for the future. Of Brother ALLEN we knew less. He had been for twenty-eight years one of the Custodians of the Work, and as such rendered service of the most important character.

Grand Master DEWEY, upon learning the action of the Grand Master of Peru, issued his edict suspending masonic intercourse with that Grand Lodge; which was continued in force because he had not, at the time of the session of the Grand Lodge (June), received notice of the rescission of the former action.

He had twice assisted in the laying of corner stones and he believes that the services were productive of good, both to the craft and the community.

He devotes quite a space to an account of arresting the jewel of a Master for conferring degrees upon a candidate after he knew that his lodge had no jurisdiction over him.

There was one part of his order which is new to us. The member, upon whom the degrees were conferred, was ordered to apply for membership to the lodge which had actual jurisdiction over him, and if he should be rejected by that lodge, he should remain a member of the lodge which conferred the degrees upon him. We have not had time to give this view of the matter consideration.

Grand Master DEWEY devotes some space to the "Cipher Ritual," and the matter was considered by a special committee, but they have all made the mistake of not meeting the real question at issue. They make certain assumptions, and talk very earnestly from that standpoint. They say "It is contrary to masonic usage, custom, and obligation." Here are three errors in a single line. It is not contrary to masonic usage; it is not contrary to masonic customs; and whether it is contrary to obligation, depends entirely upon what the cipher is. There is no doubt in the world that Thomas Smith Webb used ciphers himself, and made them for his pupils. There are ciphers in existence made by masonic lecturers of Webb's time, made by parties who received the work directly from him, and their use has been continuous from Webb's time to the present, and the ciphers which they made, *at the time when they were made*, were not any violation of any obligation.

The writers against ciphers ignore these facts, and do not meet the practical question at all. That the rule has been violated since Webb's day, and is violated very generally, at the present time, is also beyond question.

We opposed very earnestly the famous "Mnemonics" of some forty years ago as going beyond the usage and the rule, and as being in violation of obligation. There are many ciphers at this time open to the same objection, but we doubt very greatly whether Webb's cipher would be open to any such criticism; and yet it is a question in our mind whether, *with the changed condition of things*, it may not be, but from the fact that it has been discarded so generally, we are inclined to the opinion that it would be as safe now as at Webb's time.

And without now discussing the matter further, we will say that until the opponents of the issue of *any* cipher meet the real question at issue their work will be in vain. We can never eradicate an evil by failing to notice the *real* evil.

The Grand Master speaks a good word for the Grand Lodge Library, and much of this pamphlet is devoted to it. It is of very great interest to us.

With due deference to those who are administering it, we still believe that they have made a very grave mistake in undertaking to make it a general library, instead of a masonic one. In these days a general library is an immense affair, and requires a great amount of time and money and ability to support it. We believe that a masonic library should be devoted

to masonic or kindred matters; however, Bro. PARVIN and his associates have had more experience and a wider opportunity for observing, and are better qualified to judge than we are. Only we are certain that, if we in Maine should undertake a similar enterprise, it would soon be an elephant upon our hands, entirely beyond our ability to maintain and control.

The Committee on Returns expressed their opinion that there should be but very few lodges with a membership of less than twenty to twenty-five. This is no doubt true, but upon the other hand observation for years has satisfied us, that one great cause of the weakening of the bonds of fraternity among us, is the existence of so many *large lodges*.

One interesting case came before the Grand Lodge, in which there was a conflict between the Master and the Secretary of a Lodge, which was heard before a committee and the Master fully sustained. This leads us to refer, again, to the relation between the Master and the Secretary. In olden times the Secretary was a mere clerk to the Master, to record what the Master should determine was fit and proper to be recorded, and only that; and although the present installation service of the Secretary seems to indicate something different, we are still of the opinion, that the Secretary is not vested with any discretion whatever, as to what he shall record, or shall not record. Ordinarily, of course, he will record the doings of the Lodge, but if there is anything concerning which he has a doubt he should apply to the Master for his decision. In fact in some jurisdictions the Master signs the record as well as the Secretary; and while the lodge is called upon to approve the minutes and to approve the correctness of the record after they have been recorded, still, in our opinion the decision of what shall, or shall not, be recorded is vested in the Master alone, subject, of course, to appeal to the Grand Lodge. In this particular case the Secretary held otherwise, but as we understand it the committee sustained the Master in the position which he took and commends him for arresting the jewel of the Secretary in the particular case. The committee say:

“ This evidence, all considered, giving it the strongest possible construction as contended for by the accuser, only shows that the Master, in doing what he did, had erred in his judgment. The committee does not believe that the Master erred in his judgment; we think he was right. The Master should preside over his lodge and direct its proceedings. This is one of his duties.”

The Grand Lodge met at Council Bluffs so as to have an opportunity of attending the Omaha Exposition, and the result was that the “ Incidents of the week ” were quite numerous. The Grand and Past Grand officers of Nebraska visited the Grand Lodge and were received in form, and with addresses, so that the occasion was one of exceedingly great interest. The Grand Lodge accepted the invitation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia to attend the Centennial Anniversary of the death of Washington, and recom-

mended that the lodges throughout the jurisdiction meet, either in their own lodge room or unite with others and hold memorial services on the evening of December 14, 1899.

The committee, which had under consideration the Grand Charity Fund, reported that, from the examination of the statistics, it is apparent that many of the lodges throughout the country are trying to exist upon dues that are entirely inadequate to meet their own demands, without taking Charity into consideration, and also that there are many lodges with a membership so small that it hardly justifies their existence; and the lodges in Iowa, whose dues are less than two dollars, exclusive of Grand Lodge dues, were earnestly requested to take the matter up and raise the dues to, at least, that sum, whereby they might be enabled to contribute to the Charity Fund of the Grand Lodge, with a statement that if the Grand Charity Fund should still continue inadequate to meet the demand upon it, final relief could be had by the re-adjustment of the Grand Lodge dues.

The Grand Lodge had another struggle with the question of non-affiliation and of the granting of dimits, but as the matter seems to us still in an unsettled condition, we will let it rest, and await the results of the action of our Iowa brethren.

The Committee on Grand Lodge Library presents a very interesting report, and speak of the labors of the Librarian since 1841; and we know that the brethren will be greatly interested in the following tribute paid to this officer, Brother PARVIN:

“Before I speak further of this Library, let me show you its founder. In the west room of the second story sits a slight old man. Of such as he was it said in olden time: ‘And also he shall be afraid of that which is high, and fear shall be in the way; and the almond tree shall flourish and the grasshopper shall be a burden.’

“His eye is dim, his step halt; time has deeply furrowed his cheek. The fires of more than eighty years have fiercely burned upon this bundle of nerves, which have just as fiercely defied them. That bent form has grown old in more than fifty years of almost idolatrous service in Masonry. Ever angular, sometimes petulant and almost exasperating; always unswerving and even obstinate in the pursuit of his conception of right, he has ever been the slave and serf of conscience.

“But, though his faults of eighty years were gathered and should make a mountain pile, every true mason in Iowa would turn his back upon them and refuse to see a single one. The name of T. S. Parvin will remain enshrined in the hearts of Iowa masons until his eye shall be brightened, his bent form made straight, and his soul renewed inside the gates of pearl—and still afterward—in all the years to come. All hail to the founder of the Grand Lodge Library!

“All honor to the founder of the Grand Lodge Library; may his last days be sweetened by the perfume of the affection of the masons of Iowa and of the world; may the balmy breath of tender recollections be about him, and white-winged peace sit above the portals of his heart in all his years to come.”

We find that the Committee on Appeals reversed the decision of the lodges in several cases and remanded several of them for a new trial. Our observation, from the day we first entered the Grand Lodge, leads us to the conclusion, that remanding the cases to the lodge for a new trial is always productive of serious dissensions and injury to the craft, and we believe that the Grand Lodge, in all cases in which it is practicable, ought to dispose of the appeal itself. And as time goes by and we note the operation of the commission system in Massachusetts, our conviction of the wisdom of this system has become more and more settled.

The committee to which the cipher question was referred reported at length. They had had a large correspondence in relation to the matter: but judging from their account of the replies from other jurisdictions, we are compelled to conclude, that very many of them were from the *theoretical* rather than the *actual* standpoint.

We have already said that the committee do not meet the actual situation. When we wrote that, we had overlooked one statement which more nearly meets the situation than we supposed, but we do not agree with them in that particular. They say in substance that no cipher was ever invented which could not be read, if it was made worth the while. It is true, that any cipher in which *words* are represented by a particular sign or combination, each sign or combination always standing for the same word, may be read: but a cipher made up of characters, each of which represents any one of hundreds of different words, is not decipherable by human ingenuity.

That Webb used such a cipher and taught that its use was in harmony with obligations no one familiar with the history of this matter will undertake to deny. That parties, who studied the ritual with him, were provided with ciphers by him or under his direction, is abundantly shown by what has come down to us from them. While some attempt to deny their use since, in some of the jurisdictions, our experience and observation are to the effect, that such denials are made from zeal without knowledge.

But the use made of this original cipher was very different from the use made of ciphers at the present day. No one learned or attempted to learn the work from it. Its object was to aid the memory of those who *had learned the work* to give it correctly, and to aid the oral transmission of the exact work from one to another, and to secure the perpetuity of the recognized work.

It was held, and correctly held, that the work could not otherwise be transmitted in its original language from one generation to another, or even from the instructor to the student. We know that some claim otherwise: but when human beings, or some human beings, shall exist *with perfect memories*, this claim will be allowed—and not till then.

So that we hold that the Webb cipher was not in violation of our masonic

duty; that its object was a good one; and that the work cannot practically be preserved and transmitted with accuracy and uniformity without such aid.

We also hold that if the old usage had continued, we should never have heard of the evil of ciphers; but unfortunately, causes intervened to change that usage. A sentiment was created among the craft that the "work" was a matter of vast importance, and that every mason, and especially those who hoped for promotion in office, must know the work and be able to do it: under this impulse, there was not time to learn the work in the old way, and the old cipher was of no practical use; aids were demanded which would enable the student with a general knowledge of the work to learn it literally, and in answer to the demand ciphers, easily read, were invented. Worse than all, the pecuniary element entered into it. Ciphers were made "for a consideration," and soon printed books were made for the express purpose of making a money profit out of them. The skirts of Grand Lecturers and even of Grand Masters have not been kept free from this stain. Other Grand Lecturers, in their zeal for correct work, have aided these mercenaries. And the result is, that so many of the craft "have had some of the pork," that it has become substantially impossible to convict any one for using these ciphers in violation of sacred masonic obligations; and young members of the craft have come to believe that it is their "bounden duty" and absolutely a pre-requisite to preferment, to learn the work, and for that purpose to have these aids. In fact, as masonic affairs are now administered they cannot learn the work in any other manner. It is of no use whatever to preach to them about the unlawfulness of ciphers. As long as ability to render the work literally is made the chief object of masons, just so long will these or other aids be demanded; and as long as there is a demand with a corresponding consideration, there will be a supply. There is no doubt that the unfortunate "Mnemonics" were responsible for the demoralization of masonic sentiment in this respect and the increase of these productions.

Some of our brethren, in some jurisdictions, insist that these aids are not used at all in their jurisdictions: but it is very certain that they are laboring under a delusion: our observation and information force us to believe that there is not a single jurisdiction in the United States in which these "aids" are not more or less used.

It is almost too humiliating to write these things, and we have hesitated to do so: but we are convinced that in spite of all that is done to check it, the evil is increasing, and the danger of the exposure of the secrets of Masonry is not the worst feature of the evil; it carries with it the idea that the chief duty of a mason is to be able to do the work.

And what is the remedy? In our judgment, the first and most important

thing is to educate the craft to a proper conception of what Masonry is and what relation the work bears to it. This involves the tempering of the zeal of Grand Lecturers and other teachers; the idea is altogether too prevalent that the work is the main thing in Masonry; the craft must be disabused of this idea, and taught that the work is not an *object* but a *means*—a means of teaching Masonry—and that unless it is so done that those who look on, will not give their thoughts to the *manner* in which it is done, but will look beyond the work to what the work teaches, the ceremony is an utter failure. Unless this reform is effected, we may as well abandon our efforts, for the *inducements* to have ciphers will continue to exist, and as long as they do, the ciphers will be forthcoming and *will be used*. Laws to prevent their use will be, as experience in many jurisdictions has already shown, a mere dead letter.

If this reform can be effected, and we return to the Webb method of *preserving the work* we shall keep within our obligations and avoid the present evils.

We have written plainly, because, when an evil exists, the first thing in the way of efforts to remedy it, is to ascertain precisely what the evil is, and not shut our eyes to its nature or magnitude.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 137) was presented, as heretofore, by Brother J. C. W. COXE.

In passing, we would say, that, in our judgment, the numbering of the pages of the report by letters, instead of in figures, is the only flaw in this volume.

As heretofore, he makes a capital abstract of the proceedings with brief comments. In relation to one matter which has been considerably discussed he says:

“The brother is not barred from his lodge because of his commandery membership, but because of his non-lodge membership; and the embarrassment to which the Grand Master referred arises from the fact that dimission from the lodge, which estops all participation in Symbolic Masonry, does not affect Templar membership, and to sever Templar membership would not help the case one whit, any more than would withdrawal from a political party or a church.”

The Grand Encampment, however, has entered upon the experiment, and we shall have the benefit of its experience, but we will venture to say that if the law is enforced, the commandery will lose ten members where the lodge gains one. We think the regulation is based “upon The-dog-in-the-manger” principal which substantially makes the lodge say “If you won’t belong to us you shall not belong to any other body.”

Speaking of non-affiliation, in another place, he says:

“We frankly say that we regard this action as erroneous in principle, and likely to be futile in good results. We deny the fundamental assumption, viz: that non-affiliation is a masonic offence according to any legitimate con-

struction put upon the ancient regulations or the general usages of the craft. This whole business of enforced affiliation is a modern heresy, born of commercialism and the pernicious influence of recent 'fraternal' societies, whose badge of fraternity is the dollar mark. How a non-affiliate is 'a menace to the welfare of the order,' or how, being forced into affiliation at the point of the bayonet, he would add anything to its strength and usefulness, surpasses our comprehension. This drastic legislation overlooks the important and vital distinction between masonic membership and lodge membership, and proposes to put the former in jeopardy whenever one chooses to forego the latter. If one elects to forego lodge privileges and the active duties of lodge membership, it should be his unchallenged privilege so to do. As a non-affiliate he may rightfully be debarred from attendance upon a lodge, or participation in the benefits and privileges which inhere in lodge membership; unless, as in some jurisdictions, he shall pay stipulated annual dues as a condition of good standing; but he cannot rightfully, without a violation of fundamental ethics, be deprived of his masonic character and standing except after due trial and conviction of a masonic crime. If non-affiliation is a crime, then every jurisdiction which ever authorized and every lodge which ever issued a dimit is a party to the crime. This whole trend of coercive legislation we believe to be radically wrong in principle and ineffectual as a remedy.

"The New York law has by no means vindicated the confident hopes of its authors in that jurisdiction. Nor will it in any other, *me judice*. The throttling of the 'free will and accord' will not be conducive to harmony, which we have been taught to regard as the strength and support of all societies."

There is no doubt that our brother states accurately, as well as forcibly, the old law (which we hold to be a landmark) relating to this question. He quotes the report of our Committee on Jurisprudence in reference to the use of intoxicating liquors in a hall dedicated to the purpose of Freemasons, and he says:

"We may be pardoned for surprise that such a question should arise in the Pine Tree State, but are gratified with the straightforward courage and candor of both Grand Master and committee in dealing with the matter."

We also are surprised that the question should ever have been submitted to our Grand Master, and we think that it arose out of an *attempt* and not out of an actual occurrence.

He concurs in our views in relation to perpetual jurisdiction, as well as in relation to the Wisconsin Proposition.

He thus refers to a personal remark in a former report of ours:

"The words are an honor to our revered brother, and his sorrow can but more closely attach him to the great body of the brotherhood who have learned to honor the distinguished jurist, but who will henceforth love the brave and tender-hearted man. We mingle our tears with his, and extend to him a hand of brotherly sympathy, for we know the keenness of his grief. 'A sword hath pierced mine own soul also.'"

We extremely regret to learn that he has been thus afflicted, and in addition to the fraternal love which we have long had for him, we shall now have a sympathy which can only arise from the discipline of affliction.

KANSAS, 1899.

Immediately after the opening, the Grand Master of Missouri, and quite a number of his associate Grand Officers, as well as several Past Grand Officers, visited the Grand Lodge and were received by the Grand Master, and the Grand Master of Missouri, Brother ETHELBERT F. ALLEN, responded eloquently. These mutual visitations of the officers and members of one Grand Lodge to another are productive of immense good, and we should be glad to be able to record them more frequently. There is one embarrassment, however, that we have felt, frequently, and that is that particular attention to the business of the Grand Lodge, frequently prevents paying such attention to the visitors as they ought to receive. We have sometimes thought that it would be a good thing to have a committee to receive and attend to visiting brethren.

The Grand Master, MAURICE L. STONE, says that the year had been one of harmony among the brethren and he had endeavored to guide the craft to a true sense of the aims and objects of our order.

We are somewhat amused at his statement in relation to the granting of dispensations. At the outset it was his intention to be exceedingly strict in relation to that, and especially to granting permission to confer degrees out of time, but he says that he little thought of the emergency that was to arise when patriotic men, responding to their country's call, would desire to become members of the fraternity before going to the field of battle, and he adds:

“Unlike one of my Most Worshipful Brothers in another Grand Jurisdiction, who, in his report, remarks that ‘on account of a precedent of thirty years standing, as much as I wished to grant the request of the brave volunteers, I have not granted one,’ I have responded favorably to every one who offered as his excuse ‘enlisted,’ and in several cases, where the time required it, by wire, and in two instances, where the degrees have been conferred by request in San Francisco.”

Nothing further is needed to show the senseless folly of the intention which he entertained in relation to the granting of dispensation. The power is given in order that the Grand Master may act in an emergency, and it is an unwarrantable reflection upon the brethren, who are elected Grand Master, to say that the power can not be safely reposed in them.

The Grand Master announces the completion of the “Masonic Historical Registry,” which is an enrollment of all the members in that jurisdiction from the first organization of the lodge in Kansas in 1854 down to the close of 1897.

Grand Secretary WILSON originated the idea and many were of the opinion that it was impracticable, but he has carried it through to success, and the Grand Master claims as follows:

“ Kansas, however, now possesses the only Masonic Registry in which the entire membership of the jurisdiction, past and present, is alphabetically arranged as a whole, and is consequently the only registry which can promptly and accurately answer such a query as: Was John Henry Smith ever a Mason in Kansas? ”

He speaks also in high terms of the historical value of the work.

While this was practicable in so young a jurisdiction as Kansas, of course it would be utterly impracticable in the older jurisdictions, the records of whose lodges have, in many cases, been destroyed, so that the list of membership before the time of the present system of making returns, cannot be obtained.

He announces the restoration, to the Altar in Peru, of the Holy Bible, “ there to stay forever,” and in accordance with his recommendation, fraternal relations with that Grand Lodge were resumed.

The Master and Wardens of one lodge all went to the war, and a Past Master acted as Master for a time, understanding that he was authorized so to act under the old law. Under the constitution of the Grand Lodge of Kansas, the Grand Master was obliged to hold that the meetings were irregular: but he approved of everything that was done, subject to the assent of the Grand Lodge, and appointed the Past Master to act as Master until the regular officers should return or a new election be held. The same thing occurred in another lodge. He decided that the Grand Master had the power to appoint a Past Master to act as Master, and his decision was approved by the Grand Lodge.

Here is another illustration of the folly of departing from the old law and the old usages, and we should think that these experiments would be sufficient to cause the Grand Lodge of Kansas to restore the law, thus saving the Grand Master from making a decision, which, under the law of the Grand Lodge of Kansas, is an exceedingly doubtful one, and would permit a lodge to go on regularly with its work. So far as we have read, we have never seen any one attempt to give a reason why the old law should not be continued in force.

He recommended that the Grand Lodge be represented at the Washington Memorial, and also that the Grand Lodge of Kansas appropriate \$200 to aid the Grand Lodge of Virginia in defraying the expenses.

He speaks in high terms of the work of the Home during the year, which had cared for fifteen aged brothers, three aged sisters, and fourteen orphans of brothers.

The Grand Secretary, ALBERT K. WILSON, announces, with pardonable pride, the completion of the roll of membership, as we have already stated. He claims “ without fear of contradiction,” that it is the most complete, convenient and easily consulted record of its character in America. He explains the statement at considerable length, giving cuts of the cabinet and

of the cards. We cannot copy what he says, of course, but we refer those interested to his report. Whether it will be worth while for our Grand Lodge to undertake to do any more than it now does, we are not ready to say. We have full returns from every lodge, which are bound in volumes, and thus the membership, etc., of the lodge preserved, but, of course, an examination of the returns of a particular lodge to ascertain whether a particular person had been a member or not, involves considerable labor.

The Librarian reports the addition of Proceedings and a comparatively small number of other pamphlets, together with masonic magazines and papers. He acknowledges the receipt, (beside the Proceedings) of the History of Warren Lodge.

We note that he has a full file of the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

Quite a feature of this volume is the address of Bro. LUCIUS H. PERKINS, the Grand Orator, devoted very largely to historical inquiries.

The Grand Lodge held memorial services for the brethren who had departed during the year. Among the tributes is one to our old friend of many years, Past Grand Master JOHN M. PRICE. Not only were the deceased brethren of this Grand Lodge noticed but those from many other jurisdictions.

The recommendation of the Grand Master, that the Grand Lodge be represented at the Washington Memorial services, was adopted, and \$200 was appropriated to aid the Grand Lodge of Virginia in paying the expenses.

Resolutions recognizing the patriotism and valor of the members of the craft, who had entered upon the service of the country in the war with Spain, were unanimously adopted. The decision of the Grand Master in relation to a Past Master acting as Master in the absence of the Master and Wardens was approved, the committee saying that other instances had occurred and therefore they deemed it necessary to call attention to the law, that *without a special dispensation* from the Grand Master, or his actual presence, in the absence of the Master and both Wardens, a lodge cannot be opened. This requires special dispensation at each opening of the lodge, and therefore it is that we say that this action of the Grand Master, in appointing a Past Master to act as Master of a lodge for an indefinite time, is scarcely within the provisions of the constitution.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 175) was presented by Brother JOHN C. POSTLETHWAITE. His opening paragraph shows that he wrote it under the influence of rejoicing on account of the almost wonderful increase of the production of his state for the previous year. There is no doubt that business prosperity adds to the prosperity of Masonry, and really is an element in the preparation of these reports.

He pays tributes to his associates, briefly, and very ingeniously plays upon

their names. As before, it is a most excellent abstract of the important matters in the Proceedings, with occasional comment. In relation to the matter of closing a lodge on one degree and opening it upon another, at the same meeting, he says:

“The committee failed to approve the following decision: ‘It is not proper for a lodge, at a regular communication, to close on the third degree and resume labor on one of the preceding degrees. The closing on the third degree should not be done until the entire business and work of the evening is completed.’

“We believe that the Grand Master is in the main correct on the literal construction of the words ‘resume labor.’ If the lodge is closed in form it has ceased from labor and cannot ‘*resume* labor’ without *opening* the lodge in full form, which we admit may be done without violation of the work or ancient landmarks. Opening a lodge, and resuming labor, are susceptible of different meaning.”

We think our ritualists have lost sight of the fact that the *lodge* is the body which is opened, and the term “a Master’s lodge is opened” means no more than that the lodge is opened on the third degree; and we see not the slightest impropriety in closing the *ritual lodge* on any degree, and opening it upon another degree, especially when it is stated that it is closed solely for the purpose of opening on the other degree. This “closing” is not a closing of an *actual*, chartered lodge, but the closing of the *ritualistic* lodge, and nothing more.

We are glad to find that he agrees with us in relation to persons who have conscientious scruples about being masons:

“Religious belief is not a masonic crime; and we fail to see how a brother could be suspended or expelled, and stand as a criminal in the sight of masons for trying to withdraw from all the *allurements* of the world, and a conscientious endeavor to make sure of Heaven. A similar case came to the writer’s notice in his own lodge. The dimit was promptly furnished. The brother entered the ministry of a church much opposed to secret societies, but when prompted to denounce the masons his heart failed him. He withdrew from that church, united with another, returned his dimit to the lodge, and now lives the life of a happy, contented Christian mason.”

We quote in full what he says in relation to dispensations granted by our Grand Master, for lodges to attend Divine service:

“The Grand Master issued dispensations to several lodges to appear in public to attend divine service. We presume they were handsomely ornamented and decorated with masonic regalia, and made a fine display, and did humbly and reverently worship the Lord ‘in the beauty of holiness.’ We presume the Jewish brother joined lustily in singing:

“ ‘Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before.’

“And in perfect peace and harmony the brethren could sing:

“ ‘Brothers, we are treading
Where the saints of God have trod;
We are not divided—

All one body we;
 One in hope and doctrine,
 One in charity.'

"And no doubt the regalia inspired the singing and increased the reverence for the 'house of the Lord.'"

We suspect that this is a little "sarkasticle," but for all that it is an ancient masonic custom for lodges to attend Divine worship, and while the Jewish brother may not be able to join in the service, if he possesses true masonic toleration he will not be offended, or refuse to be present at such services. The fundamental idea is the *worship of God*, and the true mason will tolerate any method of worship, which his brethren conscientiously adopt, although it may not be in accordance with his own views.

He gives us a good dig also about our remark in relation to "a demand for copy." If he is serious in this, the only punishment that we can wish that he might endure, would be to have the printer calling on him for copy when it was not ready! However, we are a little inclined to think that this punishment would be a little too severe, so we will not really wish that it would happen to him, but leave it for a suggestion.

We concur in his views in the following:

"He deplores the publicity given masonic trials and the affairs of the lodge, and as an admonition quotes the ancient charge, as follows: 'You shall be cautious in your words and carriage, that the most penetrating stranger shall not be able to discover or find out what is not proper to be intimated; and sometimes you shall divert a discourse, and manage it prudently for the honor of the Worshipful Fraternity.' Unfortunately the masons who indulge in such practices do not read the reports or charges. Masonic literature is practically unknown to them."

He copies the resolutions of the Grand Lodge of Washington, and adds:

"We do not desire to enter into a lengthy discussion of the matter, but desire to say that in our judgment the Grand Lodge of Washington out of the generosity of their love and fellowship have committed a grievous error, the effect of which will not be conducive to the good of Masonry. The yielding up of exclusive jurisdiction by the Grand Lodge of Washington will require a new set of ancient charges. In future the Master must qualify his answer to the question, 'You admit that no new lodge shall be formed without permission of the Grand Lodge, etc.,' and also to the fourteenth and fifteenth charges. For the information of our Kansas brethren we refer you to the Proceedings of our Grand Lodge, 1876, page 55, for the very exhaustive and complete report on this subject."

In his conclusion, he states that he sent a fraternal request to the Grand Representatives of the Grand Lodges near the Grand Lodge of Kansas, to furnish him with items of masonic interest, but that the result was the receipt of only three letters, which he had filed for future reference. If he will allow us to say it, we will suggest that he is mistaken as to the object of Grand Representations and also of reports on correspondence. Ever since the latter system was established it has been confined to the examination of the *printed proceedings* of the other Grand Lodges, and it is not a

committee of "correspondence" beyond that limit. Grand Representatives are appointed to strengthen the bonds of fraternal union between the Grand Lodges and to act upon matters that come directly to them from the Grand Lodge by which they are accredited, or that concern in their own Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge which they represent.

KENTUCKY, 1898.

We have a portrait of REGINALD H. THOMPSON, the retiring Grand Master, and also a portrait of "Our Jewels" taken on the steps of the "Home."

Our curiosity is somewhat excited to know who the two guardians of the "jewels," who are included in the picture are, and what their powers are!

Grand Master THOMPSON delivered a very full and able address. He devotes a page, under the head of the "Great Lights," to the Grand Lodge of Peru, in which he says:

"The action of the Grand Master of Peru, instead of extinguishing the Great Light, simply extinguished Masonry in that jurisdiction. Masonry is the practice of morality, and morality, to be a living force in human life, must have a higher sanction than any mere philosophy. Philosophy may describe the beauty of godliness; but how to make man inwardly pure and outwardly virtuous, how to bring him to love the truth, which condemns his natural propensities, and to practice the virtues against which his heart revolts, is a problem which no philosophy can solve. That book alone which men receive as a revelation of the will of God, the Trestle Board on which the G. A. O. T. U. has laid down his designs, can alone speak to the spirit of man and 'bring the unseen and the eternal within the knowledge, the affection and the devotion of humanity.' True Masonry receives it as the inestimable gift of God to man, bearing in every line 'the seal of high Divinity; every leaf bedewed with drops of love divine and with eternal heraldry, stamped and signature of God Almighty from first to last.' 'God spake these words and said' is the source and sanction of all morality, and is the life and power of all pure Masonry. Without it Masonry is a lifeless thing, a dead sea fruit, fair to look upon, but dust and ashes in the mouth. It is therefore a source of gratification to all true Masons throughout the world, that the Grand Lodge of Peru has repudiated and condemned the crime of her Grand Master, and restored herself to the confidence and fellowship of the fraternity."

He devotes, also, several pages to a very full discussion of the account of the Grand Lodge of Washington, concluding as follows:

"The Grand Lodge of Washington has been misled, by its committee, into hastily recognizing the negro bodies without even waiting to ascertain whether the negro bodies recognized it as a legitimate body or not. I consider this action unnecessary, undignified and unmasonic. It is revolutionary and uncalled for, and is certain to create discord. This Grand Body has no right to control the action of a sister Grand Lodge. It can not say to the masons of Washington, you shall or you shall not admit certain persons into your lodges or your families. But it has the right to fellowship or not with any other Grand Body or its members. It has the right to repudiate and denounce any doctrine which trenches upon its own prerogatives,

and endangers the existence of American Freemasonry. It can not admit that the Grand Lodge of Washington can establish legal lodges of masons in this state, or that any foreign body can do so in territory belonging to Washington. It affirms this principle without any regard to the legitimacy of the foreign Grand Lodge or the color of its members. I think the Grand Lodge of Washington has fallen into a grievous error, and that this Grand Lodge should so declare, and that it should do so promptly and emphatically. For this reason I some time since appointed a special committee of three, consisting of Past Grand Master J. Soule Smith, Past Grand Master James W. Staton and Past Grand Master Bernard G. Witt, to consider and report at this session, in order that the Grand Lodge may act advisedly in the premises.¹¹

We may say here that the committee reported, giving a careful and correct statement of the history, and winding up with a resolution declaring non-intercourse with the Grand Lodge of Washington, and the resolution was unanimously adopted. The discussion of the Grand Master and the report of the special committee were ordered to be printed in pamphlet form and sent out to Grand Lodges and other masons. That has been done, and parties examining this question will find these reports of exceedingly great value.

He announces the following decision:

“The Master and Senior Warden not being present at the annual meeting, the Junior Warden congregated the lodge and called a Past Master to the chair, who installed the Master then elected. Held that the entire proceedings as stated were legal and proper. The Master has the right to preside, when present, and no one, save the Grand Master, can displace him, hence he has the right to install his successor. But when he is absent the law provides how his station may be filled, the Worshipful Master *pro tem.* is for the time being invested with all the rights, privileges and duties of the Worshipful Master, and lodge business, including installation (if a Past Master), and is not required to wait on an absent Master.”

We agree, although in some jurisdictions this decision will be questioned. In this section of the country it is a part of a Master's duty to see his successor installed, but we hold that the acting Master has the same powers and duties as the actual Master.

He granted a dispensation for an army lodge, confining its powers wholly, so far as making masons is concerned, to candidates from the State of Kentucky, who should actually be in the military service.

In relation to another matter, he says:

“In one instance a Master was not installed for more than six months after his election, presumably because they could not get together enough Past Masters to confer that degree. That degree is an anomaly and a nuisance, and, in my opinion, should be abolished.”

If our Kentucky brethren would follow the old usage, there would be no trouble in respect to this matter. The old usage was, that the Master could be installed and enter upon the duties of his office without receiving the Past Master's degree, which was held to be mere instruction which the Master

could receive at any time in the future, and which he was entitled to receive by virtue of his installation. This is another illustration, that departure from the old usage, almost invariably leads to confusion and irregularities.

He objects in very strong terms to the Kentucky law which allows a single objection, without reason, to stop the advancement of a candidate, and he suggests an amendment to prevent the injustice growing out of the present law. We think, however, that our law in Maine is better than what he recommends; here an objection to advancement must be accompanied with reasons which are to be submitted to the lodge, and unless sustained by the lodge, the candidate is advanced.

He speaks in high terms of the management and successful operation of the "Home," giving credit to those who have charge of it, for its success. He congratulates the craft, that the Grand Encampment is to meet at Louisville in 1901, and says Kentucky masons must give them a welcome commensurate with the honor conferred, and in keeping with the importance of the occasion. He adds:

"The Grand Lodge of Kentucky can do no more appropriate and graceful act at this session than to take the lead in extending a welcome to the vast numbers of Masons who will come to our city during the next conclave and to promptly offer such financial encouragement as the dignity and influence and wealth of the Grand Lodge commands."

We are greatly rejoiced to find in this address one of the most earnest exhortations in regard to the admission of new candidates, that we have ever met. He says:

"I can not close this address without most earnestly insisting upon a severer scrutiny into the lives and characters of those who petition for initiation. Their habits, their associates, their peculiarities should all be scrutinized most carefully before a committee should make a favorable report. A careless, unfaithful Committee of Investigation is the deadliest enemy to the prosperity of Masonry, and even conscientious committees forget that it is the eternal, and not the external man they are to investigate; what he is, and not what he is reported to be; In other words his *character*, and not his reputation. Too many are admitted upon mere negative qualifications. The applicant may be apparently free from any open vice, not intemperate, not untruthful, not dishonest in public estimation. He may be of good social position, intelligent, rich; all these qualities he may have, and still be totally unworthy to be a member of a band of brothers, whose sole aim is to build up character and spread the cement of brotherly love. He may have all these outward qualifications, and still be wholly selfish, covetous, envious, censorious, a lover of gossip, eager to hear and ready to repeat the whispers of evil report. He may be swift to anger and slow to conciliate, a man of filthy conversation, of unscrupulous will, one who 'keeps the word of promise to the ear and breaks it to the hope.' These are things which show the heart, and Masonry deals with the hearts of men. Can such a man be temperate, prudent, brave, just? Can he be said to possess the four perfect points of entrance? Surely not. He is unworthy."

We rejoice the more earnestly, because it is but a short time since that

the writer of the Report on Correspondence took a very different view, holding that all a rejection means, is, that some member of the lodge does not wish to have the applicant for an associate, and that it implies nothing at all against the man who is rejected. That doctrine was caught up by a few others and led directly to the vicious practices which Grand Master THOMPSON so earnestly condemns.

A very large amount of business was transacted, but very little of it is of general interest.

The committee, to which was referred that portion of the Grand Master's address relating to the admission of candidates, heartily concurred in the sentiments of the Grand Master, and urged that they should be read and re-read in every lodge, until they are indelibly impressed upon the minds of the members.

The Committee on Jurisprudence did not agree with the Grand Master in relation to objection to advancement, saying that his argument applies, with equal force to a profane who has been elected. We do not agree, for the reason that this assumes that a profane stands on the same plane as a mason. When we have once made a man a mason, we have very different duties and obligation toward him, from those we have to a profane. The report of the committee substantially denies this.

The Report of the Committee on Correspondence (pp. 141) was presented by Bro. W. W. CLARKE. He adopts the topical arrangement, making up his report almost wholly of extracts from the writings of others, in relation to the various subjects discussed.

He devotes a large part of his report to Mexican Masonry. He objects to the recognition of the Gran Dieta. He gives his own conclusions briefly, but as he holds that in any territory, not subject to Grand Lodge jurisdiction, the regular number of masons can meet and make masons by inalienable right, his views are of little consequence. We do not believe that he will find any mason, familiar with the law and usages of Masonry, who will agree him.

He discusses the use of ciphers, objecting to them. He confesses, however, to a change of views on this subject. His former idea was that the qualifying clause in the prohibition authorizes a Grand Lodge to give such permission that it would be lawful for masons in the jurisdiction to make and use ciphers. He seems to understand that that is the basis of our own views: but such a thing never occurred to us. We agree with him very emphatically in his views in relation to Grand Lodges, that there is masonic law higher than the authority of a Grand Lodge and controlling it, so that no Grand Lodge can give an authority for a cipher if it is absolutely prohibited by that higher law; but our view of the qualifying clause, as stated elsewhere, is entirely different.

He discusses again the question of perpetual jurisdiction, but when writing it, he apparently had forgotten what he had written as to the powers of Grand Lodges when he was discussing the cipher question, and the latter is a complete answer to the former.

He had failed to receive the Proceedings of several Grand Lodges, among which we are sorry to see that Maine was included.

LOUISIANA, 1899.

The Grand Master (A. C. ALLEN) says that business has been depressed, partly by the low prices of products, and in some parts of the state by excessive rains, and in addition the pestilence has added to the misfortune of the people; and that in consequence Masonry had not progressed in numbers appreciably during the year. He says:

“Accession to our ranks grow less, and many valuable members of our lodges, under such embarrassment, either secure limits, or are forced to *suffer themselves to be suspended on account of an inability to pay the dues assessed against them.*”

The *italics* are ours; we had hoped that, in Louisiana, such a thing is impossible. Of course, it will sometimes happen that a member will be suspended who is unable to pay his dues, because his inability is not known; but to have it happen so often as to be recognized as a common occurrence, startles us. Even in the jurisdictions, in which the non-payment of dues is apparently the most heinous of Masonic offences, it is claimed that inability to pay is recognized as a sufficient reason for remitting the dues; of course, the inability is recognized only in a very small per cent. of the cases in which it actually exists. To have this stated officially by a Grand Master, therefore, as a reason for a *small* increase in the membership, is terrible.

Of the Washington matter, the Grand Master says:

“As the Grand Master of Masons in Louisiana, I have not allowed myself to act hastily on this question. I have given patient thought, study and inquiry to the issues and propositions it presents. I have dispassionately considered and tested the arguments urged by the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Washington in defence of his position. It is able, but disingenuous, and with all of its ingenuity it does and can only bring forth this conclusion, viz: That the Grand Lodge of Washington has authorized its subordinate lodges to recognize as regular, negro masons, coming from sister jurisdictions whom those jurisdictions know to be clandestine and spurious—not on account of their color—but because they have been irregularly made and in defiance to certain fixed laws and principles.

“I willingly accede to the proposition that Masonry recognizes no difference between brethren, based upon race or color. That accepted principle is not, and cannot be, truthfully raised in this controversy.

“This proposition is equally true: That no person can be a regular mason who has not been made in accordance with the usages of legitimate Masonry, and who has not received the degrees in a lodge which has been regularly chartered. The grant of authority must be valid; the fountain-head must

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be pure and undefiled. Lodges not so endowed are clandestine, and clandestine lodges can only produce clandestine masons."

* * * * *

"The masons of Louisiana have no prejudice against genuine brothers on account of color. We welcome to our lodges and fraternize with all regular masons, no matter to what race they may belong, no matter from what country they may come, or what language they may speak; but we do object to any other Grand Lodge recognizing as genuine, clandestine masons, operating in this state in antagonism to the authority of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, let their color be what it may."

And the Grand Lodge adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the Representative of this Grand Lodge, near that of the Grand Lodge of Washington, be withdrawn, and our constituent lodges are hereby forbidden to receive any mason hailing from a lodge holding under the Grand Lodge of Washington. This edict to remain in full force and effect until such Grand Lodge cease to recognize clandestine made masons."

The Grand Lodge sustained a decision of the Grand Master, in relation to Grand Representatives, as follows:

"In the matter of Grand Representatives, your committee apprehend that much difficulty would be removed from the consideration of the question, should we remember that the commission of a Grand Representative as such emanates from the foreign body, and not from the Grand Lodge of which he is a member; and further, that the custom of consulting the Grand Master of a foreign jurisdiction to which it is proposed to accredit a Representative is one of courtesy alone. It may be well to add that we believe that a Grand Lodge has the right to object and refuse to receive a Representative, and can request the recall of any Representative. In the latter case, it is in the discretion of the Grand Master, acting for his Grand Lodge, to recall the Representative, or to refuse to recall him."

The following was also confirmed by the Grand Lodge:

"I also decided that a person who has only one foot is not physically qualified to receive the masonic degrees. And, further, that this physical want of qualification cannot be cured by the fact that the person has an artificial leg."

But the most serious question before the Grand Lodge was the financial one and the Grand Lodge debt. The question was squarely met, and by an overwhelming majority, the Grand Lodge voted to lay a special *per capita* tax of one dollar for the next year and fifty cents a year for four years thereafter. We trust that within that time, the craft will be relieved of the burden that does so much to prevent prosperity.

The edict of non-intercourse with the Grand Lodge of Peru was rescinded. No general Report on Correspondence.

MANITOBA, 1898.

The Grand Master, THOMAS ROBINSON, discussed several important matters with a great deal of force and ability.

His visitation had led him to realize more forcibly the necessity of in-

struction to the lodges; not merely in the work, but in all masonic matters. The Grand Lodge was not able as yet to maintain a Grand Lecturer, but until it can, he urged that the brethren have lectures and attend when they were given.

Of dispensations he says:

"I have exercised the prerogative of issuing dispensations freely during the past year. While I felt that such power was to be very judiciously used, yet I have not hesitated to do so when I felt there was a necessity for doing so, and I was fortified in this judgment by the resolution passed at the last communication of Grand Lodge. This resolution was one passed in amendment to a motion that the dispensing power of the Grand Master be confined strictly within the limits of the constitution, but the wisdom of the Grand Lodge exhibited itself in asserting that the Grand Master should be free to exercise his discretion in the best interests of the craft. I have granted dispensations to various lodges to confer degrees within the period of one month; full particulars of which and the reasons for so doing will be found in the Grand Secretary's report. In some cases I refused such dispensations, the reasons offered for so doing not being, in my judgment, sufficient to warrant the granting of the same."

We believe this to be correct, in accordance with the old usage, and for the best interests of the craft.

We learn from his address that in that jurisdiction they have the ladder process of opening a lodge. To open the Master's lodge they have to open it on the First degree and on the Second degree also, and to close they have to come down the ladder in the same way. We have heretofore asked for information as to where and when this method originated, and no one has given it.

We learn that advancement can be stopped only on charges filed and properly substantiated.

He had had no official information as to the action of the Grand Lodge of Peru, and therefore had done nothing more than to cause the Grand Secretary to write to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Peru: but in relation to it he says:

"It will be within your knowledge that some years ago the Grand Orient of France repealed a clause in its constitution recognizing the fundamental principle of our Order, viz: the belief in God, and that shortly after doing so, all the Grand Lodges in the world withdrew their representatives. The same course will doubtless have to be adopted in regard to the Grand Lodge of Peru, because if we take away the foundation upon which our Order is erected, it would give it a purely social and humanitarian basis. No man could be made a mason, nor could we have connection with any body of men, or individuals, who did not acknowledge the masonic verities of the existence of a God, and that He has revealed His will to us as a guide to rule and govern our faith in Him, and our action towards each other."

But we have been the most interested in his discussion of the question of "physical qualification," in which he has brought out, to a certain extent, the law and usage of the British Grand Lodges.

In his discussion, however, he does not seem to understand that many of the American Grand Lodges hold to a strict construction of a part of the old charge, reading only the following part of it, "No Master shall take an apprentice unless he has sufficient employment for him, and unless he be a perfect youth." He would be very strongly against this construction; but he quotes the charge as follows:

"No Master shall 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."

He gives a long extract from a letter by Bro. HUGHAN, in which Bro. H. says:

"I have not traced any reference to physical qualification in the reports of our Board of General Purposes to the Grand Lodge of England, but I know the question was considered privately by them, so to speak, twice or more in 1860. It was decided by the Board that one who had lost his left foot was not unsuitable for initiation, as it was the moral and mental qualities that made fit and proper persons for initiation.

"In 1875 the then Grand Secretary wrote, "That the Board of General Purposes feel that it is impossible to lay down a hard and fast rule as to the initiation of a candidate not perfect in his body, as required in article Four of the Ancient Charges." I am directed to say that the general rule in this country is to consider a candidate eligible for election who, although not perfect in his limbs, is sufficiently so to comply with and go through the various ceremonies required in the different degrees. Each case of this description must be defined on its own merits by the members of the lodge, to whom the candidate is personally known, subject to the approval of the Master of the lodge, who is personally responsible that the candidate was in condition to comply with the above named requirements.

"In 1877 it was also ruled "that having a cork leg did not render a member unfit to take the third degree." "

We learn also from this letter that while the Grand Lodge of England holds that one wholly blind, deaf or dumb could not be admitted, still, that lodges are allowed to exercise their own discretion as to the initiation of candidates who are "mutilated in or minus a limb."

In Ireland the rule is as follows:

"If a candidate proposed for admission be in any manner maimed, lame or defective, he shall not be initiated without a dispensation from the Grand Master or the D. G. M., the application to be made by memorial, wherein the defect shall be clearly specified."

Brother HUGHAN says in substance that under the Grand Lodge of England no defect of a physical character has been a bar to initiation, because the rule pertained to the operative period and has never been a regulation in the book of constitutions.

Brother HUGHAN admits, however, that there are physical defects, which make the candidate ineligible, but is exceedingly misty in defining, even generally, the line between eligibility and ineligibility. Some of our English

writers have affected to be amused at the discussions upon this subject in this country, but this letter from Brother H. reveals the fact that, like charity, they had better "begin at home."

Brother HUGHAN really fails to state the English rule or the principles upon which it is based.

The Canadian rule is:

"A candidate who can comply literally with all the ceremonies and work of the Grand Lodge, and is mentally and morally worthy of admission, is a fit subject to become a mason."

It will be seen that this is the rule we have in Maine, and in most of the American jurisdictions. In concluding his discussion of this subject Brother ROBINSON says, in part:

"Personally, so far as I can humbly presume to form my own judgment on this difficult subject, I feel that, with great diffidence and respect to the American rulers of the craft and the rulers of the Grand Lodge of Canada, their conception is too strict; on the other hand I share the opinion prevalent on this continent, that the advisers of the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland have not been as strict and careful as the best interests of Masonry might demand. I think that the clause in the Charges of 1722 is the proper guide for us to take, and that the words 'That render him incapable of learning the art' modifies the strict, literal, and physical perfection which the American view seeks to enforce. The question is a moral and ethical one, just as much as a physical, and I do not think that the former view should be absolutely merged in the latter. The 'art' of Masonry is not so much a question of physical perfection, but rather of the moral up-building of a perfect character, and this consideration should make us careful not to let the spirit of our craft be enslaved by a too rigid subserviency to the letter of the law."

* * * * *

I "prefer the provision of the constitution of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and by way of guidance would therefore rule that if a candidate for admission suffer from any physical defect, he shall not be initiated without the permission of the Grand Master, the application for such dispensation to set out clearly the nature of the defect. No definite rule can be laid down and each case must be judged upon its own peculiar merits; without departing altogether from the idea of physical perfection, we should seek to admit persons whose lives and character indicate a natural affinity with our conception of what should constitute a fit and proper person to be made a mason."

But the Grand Lodge, while agreeing that it is "impossible to lay down a hard and fast rule," approved the Canadian rule and the practice in the United States, that in doubtful cases the question shall be decided by the Grand Master, but only upon the request of the lodge.

He discussed to some extent the status of the parties in Ontario, who had been initiated in the irregular lodges, and recommended that in order to be received in Manitoba they must have made application to the Grand Lodge of Canada to be healed and present the proper certificate from the Grand Secretary.

The Grand Master stated that the condition of the craft is quite prosperous, and this is borne out by the reports of the deputies, and especially by that of the Grand Secretary. It would seem that it is a practice in that jurisdiction to confer rank upon these officers, and the Grand Master recommends that it be conferred upon the deputies of the preceding year, but he adds, "Although I do not think they are all justly entitled to it." On examining the reports we find that one or two of them did but little; however, the rank was conferred on them all.

The report of the Secretary is full of details, giving an account of the various dispensations, &c. The report of the Librarian shows that considerable additions had been made during the year. We notice that other than masonic works were added, quite a number of them by purchase. This undoubtedly is all right now, but we think that ultimately the Grand Lodge will have to follow the example of the Grand Lodge of Utah and turn over the non-masonic matter to a public library. The committee regret that but a small number avail themselves of the advantages of the library, and from their report we learn that there is a public library in the city, and that undoubtedly accounts for the fact that the masonic library is but little used. Radical amendments to the constitution were adopted.

The Board of General Purposes was abolished; the standing committees are to be appointed at the close of each communication, to hold office until the close of the next communication.

The following provision is made in relation to the appointment of committees:

"The said committees shall be appointed in the following manner, viz: At each annual communication a Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Grand Master, one brother from each district represented, who shall be a resident thereof, and three at large; which Nominating Committee shall immediately, on the declaration of their appointment, proceed to select from among the members of Grand Lodge five brethren to serve upon each of such Standing Committees, and shall submit such selection for the approval of Grand Lodge. No brother shall be selected to serve on more than one committee. All vacancies occurring shall be filled by appointment of the Grand Master."

We shall watch the workings of this system with much interest, as it is something entirely new to us. We note that the changes, as a rule, in the constitution bring it more nearly in accord with the constitutions of Grand Lodges in the United States.

A committee was appointed to revise the existing constitution as amended, and have the same ready for printing at the next annual communication. While this involves considerable delay, we believe the move a wise one. No Report on Correspondence.

MARYLAND, 1898.

We have the Proceedings of both the May and November communications in the same pamphlet. The Grand Master (THOMAS J. SHRYOCK) delivered no address in May, but gave an account of the dispensations which he had granted and the Representatives whom he had appointed.

He stated that the implements used in the laying of the first stone of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad had been loaned to the Grand Lodge, and would be kept on exhibition in the Grand Lodge Museum.

The Committee on Correspondence reported in relation to the Peru matter, with resolution as follows:

“That all masonic communication and intercourse by the Freemasons of Maryland with the Grand Lodge of Peru, its subordinates, or any mason who owes allegiance thereto, is hereby prohibited by this Grand Lodge.”

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Several visiting brethren, who were in Baltimore as delegates to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South were introduced: among them was Bro. VINCIL of Missouri. In response to an invitation of the Grand Master, he and Bro. WOOD, Past Grand Master of Missouri, addressed the Grand Lodge, which was highly delighted with the evening's exercises.

A special communication was held to lay the corner stone of the monument to FRANCIS SCOTT KEY, at which a very interesting address was delivered by Past Grand Master JOHN M. CARTER. At the conclusion of the ceremonies the Grand Lodge returned to the hotel and was closed.

At the annual communication, the Grand Lodge was opened by Past Grand Master JOHN M. CARTER, after which the Grand Master, THOMAS J. SHRYOCK, entered and was received with the Grand Honors, and assumed the East. Grand Master SHRYOCK delivered a brief address, showing that the craft are in a very prosperous condition in that jurisdiction. Of the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, the Grand Master says:

“Our Grand Lodge is in the most cordial and fraternal relations with the Grand Lodges throughout the world, particularly those throughout our own great and glorious country. The only note of discord, which has startled the masonic world, is the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, who have, in the judgment of your Grand Master, officially acknowledged clandestine Masoury. As soon as the matter was brought to my attention, I submitted it to your very able Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, who has made an exhaustive report on this subject, and which has been presented to you this evening in printed form for your action. Your chairman, knowing the conservatism of our Grand Lodge and being of the same disposition himself, has not recommended to this Grand Lodge any radical resolution upon the subject but has prepared a resolution, admonishing our brethren of the Grand Lodge of Washington, kindly reminding them of their faults and trusting for a reformation, which resolution, I have no doubt, will meet with your entire approbation, which will be promptly passed at this session of the Grand Lodge.”

He had granted a dispensation to the members of Maryland lodges in the first Maryland regiment of Volunteers, with power to make masons only of residents of Maryland, who should be also members of that regiment. He visited the lodge while it was at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, and of his visit he says:

“Together with the Grand Officers I officially visited this lodge whilst the regiment was stationed at Fortress Monroe, Va. The Commandant of the Post—a Major of the United States Army—had kindly placed at the disposal of the lodge a very suitable room for lodge purposes. On the evening of our visitation we were officially received, and the First degree of Masonry was conferred in ample form. The officers were ably assisted by the son of our Grand Lecturer, who is a member of the regiment, and who has attached himself to this lodge. There were a large number of visitors present, all of whom were officers and men of the regular service of the United States together with the Master of the lodge at Hampton, Va., who is also an officer of the United States Army.”

And of its subsequent movements he also says:

“Subsequently the regiment was moved to Camp Meade, Pa. I addressed a letter to the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Pennsylvania, William J. Kelly, advising him of the existence of this lodge on the territory of the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, and received from him a most courteous reply, in which he extended to the lodge, through me, the use of the lodge room at Middletown, Pa. Owing, however, to the very severe military duties to which the regiment was subject, in order to prepare it for service in Cuba, I have just been informed by the Master of the lodge that they were unable to hold meetings during their stay in Pennsylvania. The officers of this lodge are extremely discreet, one of them being Past Senior Grand Warden of our Grand Lodge, and another a Grand Inspector at the time he enlisted.

“So I feel perfectly safe in advising the Grand lodge that this Lodge will do nothing but what will reflect credit upon the fraternity in Maryland. I felt, as these brethren had offered their lives as a sacrifice on the altar of their country’s honor, they were entitled to all the privileges that we, as masons, could confer upon them, and that of having the privilege of meeting in lodge fellowship was the highest in our power to bestow.”

In his account of the laying of the corner stone of the Key monument, he says:

“The laying of this corner stone was an important event in the masonic history of this state and nation. Not only was it the province of your Grand Lodge to perform that function, because the immortal Key was a Marylander and the author of the stirring national anthem of the greatest people upon God’s footstool; not only because this state furnished the incident, the scene and occasion of his inspiration; not only because Maryland was his honored birth-place and the sacred repository of his bones, but because Freemasonry is the bulwark of human liberty on earth, the fountain-head of free institutions, and the very corner-stone itself of the American Republic—indeed, of the Anglo-Saxon race. It was peculiarly fitting, therefore that the enduring shaft in honor of the memory of the immortal patriot should be placed in position by so ancient and eternal an institution—an institution to which, under the Providence of God, is due the emancipation of human thought and energy which made such a poet a possibility; to which belong the credit of having kindled and kept alive the holiest and noblest aspirations of the human race; to which is due the victory over ignorance and

the emancipation from superstition that opened the way for man's progress and the world's civilization.

“He is the freeman whom the Truth makes free,” and Freemasonry has been the repository of truths, which, fructifying through the ages, have produced a harvest of brotherhood and benevolence, which ripens and renews itself an hundred fold with each teeming and expanding century.

“The erection of a monument to memory of Francis Scott Key is the sign and harbinger of a people's appreciation. It indicates, in the face of reactionary prophecy and dogmatic pessimism, the onward march of republican development. American patriotism, intelligence and love of liberty are not retrograding, but going forward to higher effort and grander expansion. Key's monument will be, for centuries to come, the Mecca of a nation's pilgrimage and the magnetic centre of a grateful people's love and loyalty; and, under its enduring foundations, will appropriately and perpetually repose, beside the hallowed dust of the honored dead, the archives and records of an eternal Order, sealed in its corner-stone, under the auspices and with the solemn ritual and benediction of the Grand Lodge of Maryland—the fitting tribute of a perpetual organization to a no less enduring memory.”

The committee in relation to the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington made a very able report of the same tenor of those made to other Grand Lodges, and reported the following resolutions, which were laid over until the next day and then unanimously adopted:

“*Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge of Maryland hereby reaffirms its adherence to the doctrine of Grand Lodge Territorial Jurisdiction; that is to say, a Grand Lodge first organized in a state or territory has the supreme control over symbolic masonry and is the sole judge of what are, or are not, legitimate masonic organizations within its territorial limits.

“*Resolved*, That this doctrine having been acquiesced in by every American Grand Lodge, and the experience of a century having proven that it is a wise and wholesome doctrine, by which the Grand Lodges have been enabled to dwell together in peace and harmony, the Grand Lodge of Maryland views with regret and alarm the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington in the abrogation and setting aside of this doctrine by the recognition of dual Grand Lodges in a large number of the jurisdictions of our country.

“*Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge of Maryland fraternally, but most earnestly, trusts that the Grand Lodge of Washington will at its next annual communication, reconsider said action, and thereby promote that peace and harmony which has ever characterized the family of American Grand Lodges.”

“*Resolved*, That a copy of this report, with the resolutions attached, be forwarded to the Grand Lodge of Washington and to all Grand Lodges with which this Grand Lodge is in fraternal communication.”

The spirit and tone of these resolutions cannot be too highly recommended.

Visitors from the Grand Lodge of Virginia, upon the invitation of the Grand Master, addressed the Grand Lodge in a very impressive and eloquent manner, in relation to the contemplated observance of the Centennial of the death of Washington.

The recent action of the Grand Lodge of Peru having been received, the resolution of non-intercourse with that Grand Lodge was repealed, and the

Grand Lodge cordially acceded to the request for the restoration of fraternal relations. The Grand Lodge of New Zealand was also recognized.

One very touching scene occurred. Bro. SCHULTZ, in view of the loss of his eye sight, asked to be excused from further duty on the Committee of Correspondence, and thereupon,

“The Grand Master declined his request, believing that, with the assistance of an amanuensis, he could perform the duties as acceptably as heretofore.

“The Grand Master asked the sense of the Grand Lodge as to his refusal to accept Bro. Schultz’s declination, and was unanimously sustained.

“Bro. Schultz responded in a very feeling manner, and said he felt greatly complimented by the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge in insisting on his continuance as chairman of the committee, and would endeavor to discharge the duties as heretofore.”

And in addition, a committee was appointed to procure and present to Bro. SCHULTZ “a suitable testimonial for his long and valuable service to the Grand Lodge.” This testimonial was presented to Bro. SCHULTZ at a communication of the Grand Lodge specially held for the purpose.

We have as a frontispiece, to this part of the proceedings, a portrait of Bro. SCHULTZ taken in his library.

The testimonial was a splendid “loving cup.” The addresses on the occasion were appropriate and eloquent, and the response of Bro. SCHULTZ was exceedingly touching. Such a demonstration so truly in earnest on the part of his brethren, is almost worth losing his eye-sight. No greater reward for a life service to Freemasonry can be imagined, and we join with our Maryland brethren in tendering our sympathies and our fraternal affection to this beloved brother, congratulating him that while he is suffering physically, he has to sustain it the perfect assurance of the love, respect, and admiration of the whole craft.

We have in this pamphlet a historical sketch of the first Grand Master of Masons in Maryland, Dr. JOHN COATS, by Bro. DAVID C. AVERY. He was a great feature in the organization of the Grand Lodge and its first Grand Master, and Bro. AVERY has made an exceedingly interesting addition to the history of Masonry in Maryland.

The Report on Correspondence was presented by Bro. SCHULTZ. He does not undertake to review the Proceedings, but makes a general report, discussing ably various subjects, which we trust will be widely read. He repeats his well known views in relation to non-payment of dues, the right of non-affiliates, the inalienable rights of a mason, and other subjects which are at this time attracting the attention of the craft. We would gladly copy the whole, but of course our space will not allow.

Upon one point, however, we briefly state his views. He holds that a mason has rights of which no lodge nor Grand Lodge can rightfully deprive

him, unless for the commission of an offence against the Fraternity, and then only after trial and upon conviction; and he says further:

“But there are other rights and privileges, which he may obtain upon the payment of certain yearly or quarterly dues, in addition to the above. These are the rights of membership in a *particular* lodge, which are the right to a voice, to a vote, in all matters coming before the lodge, and upon applications for entrance into the Fraternity, as well as in the selection of its officers, to participate in all masonic processions, to relief from the lodge funds, and masonic burial at his demise. These lodge rights and privileges he may at any time relinquish, voluntarily, upon payment of his dues and asking for his dimit; or he may forfeit them by neglecting or refusing to pay his dues. Surely a forfeiture of such lodge membership rights is a sufficient punishment for voluntary or involuntary non-affiliation.”

In regard to the harsh measures which some Grand Lodges have taken, in relation to non-affiliation, he says:

“An examination of this table will also show that the percentage of loss was much less in those states where suspension from membership only for non-payment of dues is inflicted than in those where the harsher sentence is inflicted. Take, for instance, the States of Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and compare them with California, Washington and Nebraska. In the three states first named the loss is only one and two-tenths per cent., while the loss in the three latter is six and four-tenths; and I am quite sure that an examination of the records of our Grand Lodge since 1872, when the regulation was adopted, will show a much greater percentage of loss than under the system previously prevailing, which was suspension from membership rights only.”

It will be remembered that we assumed that he would not write another report, and therefore made some reply to Bro. WHITTY, of Pennsylvania, in relation to public masonic ceremonies. He quotes what we said, and adds:

“It will thus be seen that Bro. Drummond clearly proves that, down to the year 1878, the law in Pennsylvania, regarding ceremonies in public, was precisely the same as now practiced by every other English-speaking Grand Lodge in the world, and, therefore, Pennsylvania has made an innovation on the practices of the fathers, and not other Grand Lodges, as Bro. Whitty charges. If, therefore, Bro. Whitty will thoroughly examine this subject—or, better still, suggest to his Grand Lodge the appointment of a committee to do so, as our Grand Lodge did, they will find that their jurisdiction has made innovations upon the old practices.”

We trust that Bro. SCHULTZ will be able, as the Grand Master suggested, with the aid of an amanuensis to continue his work in this department of masonic labor.

MASSACHUSETTS, 1898.

The usual quarterly communications were held during the year, as well as a number of special communications to dedicate halls, lay corner stones, etc.

At the first quarterly, the amendment to the constitutions, in relation to rejected candidates, was considered and the following was adopted:

"Any candidate whose application has been rejected, who shall within five years after such application be initiated in any lodge other than the one to which he first applied, without the recommendation aforesaid, shall be deemed a clandestine mason, and all masonic intercourse with him is forbidden."

It will be seen that this is substantially in accordance with the law in our own jurisdiction, except that the recommendation referred to is granted in a different manner than in Maine.

We copy the following in relation to ciphers, partly to show the methods adopted by parties interested, in selling them, and partly to show that in spite of severe laws, there is good reason to believe that they are circulated and obtained by members of the craft:

"The Recording Grand Secretary stated that a circular had recently been very freely distributed to the officers of lodges throughout the state, advertising an antiquated cipher, published many years ago by one Redding, of New York, and now re-issued by his widow, purporting to represent the ritual of this jurisdiction.

"Our Grand Lecturers had repeatedly cautioned the brethren against this worthless catch-penny affair, assuring them that it contained between seven and eight hundred variations from the true work, and that officers who used it were sure to be exposed by their repetition of these numerous errors. These cautions would seem to be sufficient warning against the use of such worthless attempts to aid the memory.

"Moreover for twenty-five years past our Grand Masters, and the Grand Lodge itself, had repeatedly condemned such publications and warned the brethren against the use of them. Nothing could be more decided or positive to that effect than the unanimous adoption by the Grand Lodge at the annual communication in December, 1894, of the following preamble and vote:

"Whereas, certain unauthorized practices tend to corrupt the work and lectures of this Grand Lodge, and deceive the craft; and whereas, certain printed books purporting to be cipher keys to the ritual, or parts thereof, of this Grand Lodge, have been found in circulation in this jurisdiction; it is

"Voted, That hereafter any mason, under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, who shall print, or cause to be printed, any such book or sheets, or buy or sell the same, or cause the same to be bought or sold, or who shall use or circulate the same, shall be liable to expulsion from the rights and privileges of Freemasonry, or to be otherwise punished, by vote of the Grand Lodge at any quarterly communication thereof.

"So emphatic and stringent a prohibition of these publications ought to be frequently brought to the attention of the craft of our jurisdiction."

At the next quarterly the Commissioners of Trial made several reports, all of which confirm us in our opinion that the system is operating very successfully.

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand was recognized and relations resumed with the Grand Lodge of Peru.

At this session the corner stone of the new Temple was laid, with addresses of a very interesting character. Many incidents are stated which we would like to re-produce, but we trust that brethren, generally, will read

the full account in the Proceedings, which are to be found, not only in our Grand Lodge library, but in various other libraries in the state.

A special session was held at Northampton to dedicate a new hall and assist in celebrating the centennial anniversary of the formation of that lodge. The addresses contain a good deal of exceedingly interesting local history.

King David Lodge, Taunton, celebrated its centennial anniversary.

A special communication was held on the 5th of July to attend the funeral services of R. W. CHARLES LEVI WOODBURY, Past Deputy Grand Master. We had the mournful satisfaction of being present on that occasion. A fine portrait of Brother WOODBURY accompanies the tribute paid to his memory by the Grand Lodge. That tribute concludes as follows:

"In the daily life of Boston, and especially in his accustomed place at the Parker House table, where he has sat for more years than the Parker House has been upon its present site, his familiar presence, always carrying with it a certain air of authority, but always kindly and genial, will long be missed. In this Grand Lodge he will always be remembered for the wisdom of his counsel, the warmth of his friendship, the cordiality of his greeting, the brilliancy and wit which have illuminated so many of our festive meetings."

This comes home with great force to a great many of us who have been his guests. He always had a kindly word for the brethren, whom he met.

Grand Master HUTCHINSON, in his address at the December Quarterly communication gives an account of his official acts and visitations, showing that he has followed the example of his predecessor in giving a very large amount of his time to visitations, and special work of the Grand Lodge. We find that the craft in that jurisdiction are continuing to enjoy a high degree of prosperity. The appreciation of Brother HUTCHINSON'S labors was shown by his unanimous re-election.

A committee submitted a very full report in relation to the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington on "Negro Masonry." The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That this Grand Lodge, while recognizing the right of the freeborn negro to solicit the privileges of Masonry, as equal to that of the freeborn white man, hereby renews its refusal of masonic recognition to persons, lodges or Grand Lodges, deriving their masonic lineage from a certain Prince Hall, who unwarrantably assumed the function of a Provincial Grand Master over this and neighboring states in which Grand Lodges already existed.

"Resolved, That we protest against the recent recognition by the Grand Lodge of Washington of such spurious masons and masonic bodies.

"Resolved, That we also protest against the resolution of the Grand Lodge of Washington sanctioning the possible establishment of a Grand Lodge of co-ordinate jurisdiction in that state, based upon principles which we believe would be fatal to the fraternal and social advantages of Masonry.

"Resolved, That we fraternally demand of the Grand Lodge of Washington a speedy reconsideration of its entire action upon the subject of 'Negro Masonry,' in the United States."

This report came with former reports on the same subject, of former committees of the Grand Lodge, in the same pamphlet, to which we refer as containing a complete history of "Colored Masonry," so far as Massachusetts is concerned, and showing conclusively that by the masonic law in force at the time, the original lodge ceased to exist; was revived without authority, and then undertook to declare its independence of all Grand Lodges, and to consider itself a Grand Lodge with power to charter other lodges.

We do not believe that any one, after reading these various reports, will have the hardihood to undertake to defend the masonic legality of this organization.

The Grand Lodge voted to be represented at the celebration of the Centennial of the death of Washington, and appropriated \$500 as a contribution towards the expenses.

On the twenty-seventh of December the Installation Communication was held, followed by the "Grand Feasts." As usual, the speeches on that occasion are of rare excellence, and while a pang of sorrow is felt, as we look in vain for the familiar names of brethren who have participated in it in the past, we note with pleasure that younger members are supplying their places, traveling in the same path and adhering to the precepts laid down by the fathers.

MICHIGAN, 1899.

The frontispiece is a portrait of the retiring Grand Master, JAMES BRADLEY.

Bro. R. B. HUNGERFORD, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, was present and addressed the Grand Lodge to its great pleasure.

Grand Master BRADLEY, in his address, says that Masonry, in that jurisdiction, has continued to flourish and grow, and he thinks that the record of the preceding year will compare favorably with other years. A few contentions have arisen to mar the record, but with few exceptions they have been settled in such a satisfactory manner that it was not necessary to bring them before the Grand Lodge.

He pays a tribute to the memory of P. G. Master DANIEL STRIKER, who had died during the year. He was, and had been since 1891, General Grand Treasurer of the Grand Chapter. We had the pleasure of meeting him in Baltimore last year.

Grand Master BRADLEY had many official acts to perform in the way of dedication of halls, laying of corner stones and granting special dispensations, some of which should have been provided for, we think, by the law. He declined to grant one dispensation—to confer upon an E. A. the two remaining degrees. The request was by telegraph and the dispensation was wanted for that evening. He says:

"I refused to give permission for the reason that I would not allow the degrees to be conferred on any one in violation of Grand Lodge regulations, which provide that a candidate cannot be advanced except on a favorable ballot after passing a satisfactory examination in open lodge, and their request was to confer the balance of the degrees on one who had only received the first degree. In reply to this I received a letter scoring me for refusing to grant his request and asking me to submit this to the Grand Lodge, so that they could pass on this decision."

We regret to say that there have been many other indications in Michigan, that some of the brethren of that jurisdiction ought to read the charges to a Master more carefully, and unless they should produce results, some discipline would be exceedingly wholesome and for the best good of the craft.

He decided that, under the Michigan law, he had no power to grant a dispensation for the reception of a petition of a candidate who had resided in the state less than twelve months. Also he decided, greatly to our surprise, that a Michigan lodge cannot waive jurisdiction so that a candidate may apply to a lodge in another state.

One case arose illustrating the extreme to which punishment for non-payment of dues is carried. The oldest member of a lodge had been suspended for non-payment of dues; he afterwards paid them up but had neglected to apply for re-instatement, and while this was his *status* he died, and the Grand Master decided, as he must under the harsh provisions of the law, that his lodge could not give him a masonic burial.

He had refused dispensations in certain cases, of which he says:

"I cannot grant dispensation for the purpose asked. I have had several of these inquiries, and in all cases have refused, for the following reasons: I find that invariably the parties asking for these favors have resided within the jurisdiction of lodges where they could have applied in the regular manner, if at any time they had been prompted to solicit the privilege by a favorable opinion of our order, but they did not avail themselves of this privilege, and now that they are called upon to face the fortunes of war, they desire to avail themselves of it at a time when it would be impossible for the lodge receiving the application to act upon it in the usual manner, and it looks to me as if they were prompted to apply at the present time with the view that it would be of personal benefit for them, instead of love for the Fraternity, and while the Grand Lodge confers upon the Grand Master the privilege of granting dispensations, I considered that they did not take as broad a view of it as to intend that petitions should be received at a special meeting, committee report, ballot and confer the three degrees in the same evening, and I have invariably held that advancement can only be made after examination in open lodge."

He decided that a dimitted mason could be disciplined for offences committed in that jurisdiction. In this particular case the party had a dimit, from a New Hampshire lodge, and it is suggested that members of the lodge, when they granted the dimit, knew his character.

He had had the usual trouble with "Masonic Keys," although the Grand Lodge in 1894 had supplied each lodge with a ritual. He issued an edict

ordering the destruction of all other keys or rituals, stating that if it should come to his knowledge that one was used in a lodge, he would revoke its charter; and he was greatly surprised at the receipt of letters from Masters stating that they had received and destroyed keys, in one case as many as five in one lodge.

The Grand Master had found that after the Grand Lodge had prohibited the use of the term "Masonic Insurance," companies outside of the state had sent representatives there soliciting insurance from the Fraternity. Whereupon he issued a circular to the Masters of the lodges, calling their attention to the fact that all brethren violating the regulation were liable to charges, and it was the duty of the Master to proceed to have them filed. After the issue of this circular he had received but one complaint, and upon investigation it was found that the party had moved out of the jurisdiction.

Several complaints had been made to him by lodges against other lodges for conferring degrees on parties resident of other jurisdictions. He said that these cause dissension and ought to be avoided. The whole trouble arises from the color which Grand Lodges have given to the claims of lodges, that they have an interest in candidates. If lodges could be made to understand that they have no such interest, but that the regulation was made for the benefit of the Fraternity to prevent the admission of unworthy candidates, and in the consideration of them the pecuniary element would be disregarded, we believe that there would be very few complaints. But in Michigan, when a matter of this kind is decided, the fee goes to the lodge in whose jurisdiction the candidate resided. The offending lodge should be punished, but it should be done in such a way that it would take away all inducement to obtain candidates from the territory of another lodge, and at the same time not make it an object for the other lodge to complain of it. The result is that in many cases, in which the decision is a very close one, and in which a decision either way would do no particular injustice, complaint is made for the sole purpose of getting the fee.

Four pages of his address are devoted to one case where a lodge complained against another, and while it was found that the latter lodge had accepted a candidate before he had resided twelve months within the jurisdiction, the complaining lodge had not the slightest ground for complaint.

There are very many other matters in this address which we would be glad to take up and discuss, though they relate chiefly to local matters, but we must pass over them all to notice briefly the Washington matter.

The Grand Master says:

"As may be supposed this action came as a great surprise to the other Grand Jurisdictions, as by this action they recognize as legitimate what

we have always considered as clandestine, and is in direct opposition to our Constitution, which reads as follows:

“This Grand Lodge, subject to the Constitution and Ancient Landmarks, is the only source of authority in all matters pertaining to Ancient Craft Masonry within the State of Michigan. Any and all organizations, associations or persons professing to have any authority, powers or privileges in Ancient Craft Masonry, not derived from this Grand Lodge, are declared to be clandestine and illegal, and all masonic intercourse with or recognition of them, or any of them, is prohibited.

“From this I cannot understand how we can recognize any other body claiming to be a lodge or a Grand Lodge in the State of Michigan.

“The action of the Grand Lodge of Washington has been severely criticised by several of the Grand Lodges in the United States that have held meetings since this action was taken by them, and on the day their official proceedings reached the Grand Master of New York, he addressed a communication to the Representative of the Grand Lodge of Washington near the Grand Lodge of New York requesting him to forward his resignation as such to the Grand Master of Washington.

“In concluding this matter I desire to say that I trust this Grand Body will take such action as will maintain and uphold the dignity of the Grand Lodge of Michigan.”

After he wrote this part of his address, he received a letter from the Grand Master of Washington, substantially a copy of what he had addressed to other Grand Masters, which he presented in connection with the address, and to which we have already referred.

Of the Gran Dieta of Mexico he says:

“Regular Symbolic Masonry was founded in Mexico under the patronage of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York in 1825.

“The Grand Lodge Valley of Mexico No. 1, which was the founder of the Grand Symbolic Diet in the United States of Mexico, is the legitimate successor of the above mentioned lodge, and proclaimed the Independence of Symbolic Masonry in the year 1878.

“The Gran Dieta of Mexico is an exclusively Symbolic Body, working entirely in accordance with the landmarks of the Free and Accepted Masons of England and of the Grand Lodges of the United States of America.

“The Gran Dieta of Mexica does not admit women in any of its lodges, and displays upon its altar the Great Lights of Masonry.”

The report of the Grand Secretary is as usual very full and complete, giving an account of the Grand Lodge Library, which we are glad to see is growing rapidly. He calls attention to the increase in membership during the year, having passed the “40,000 mark” and retained its place as fifth Grand Lodge in America in its number of members.

The Grand Lecturer submitted his annual report, showing that he had held a large number of schools during the year, and we are glad to find that he calls attention to the duties of masons and does not make the accuracy of the work the highest thing in masonry. We would quote from it but for want of time and space.

The edict in relation to the Grand Lodge of Peru was unanimously rescinded.

There were two reports upon the proposed amendment to the Constitution in relation to the rights, powers and duties of dimitted masons, in which the subject is considered at considerable length. As nearly as we can ascertain, no member can be dimitted except when he has moved out of the jurisdiction, or has been elected a member of another lodge, or is a signer of a petition for a dispensation to form a new lodge. This of course is law in Michigan, but for all that, in our judgment, it is a gross violation of one of the landmarks of Freemasonry. Other amendments of a corresponding character were adopted. However, we find the following at the close of the report:

“By the foregoing amendments, it will be seen that if they are adopted no member of any constituent lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction can hereafter sever his membership therein, except for the purpose of joining another lodge, unless he removes entirely from this Grand Jurisdiction. No matter how badly a brother may want to withdraw from the Fraternity, without the brand of suspension being placed upon him, he cannot do so, and as a result, from time to time we are apt to have members within our ranks who are not members because they want to remain, but because they cannot get out. And while it is true that the maxim, ‘once a mason, always a mason,’ is one of the ancient landmarks of Masonry, yet your committee believe that as a man enters the Fraternity of his own free will and accord, that he should be permitted, when he does not desire to remain a member longer, to withdraw from it in an honorable manner, as freely as he entered. No member should be required to remain in any institution unless he believes in the institution, its purposes, teachings and practices, and when he ceases to believe he should be permitted to go out if he desires to do so. Your committee, therefore, recommend that Article XIV, Grand Lodge Regulations, be amended by adding thereto a new section, to be known as Section 13, which shall read as follows:

“SECTION 13.—Any member of the lodge against whom charges are not pending, and whose dues and indebtedness to the lodge are paid, may withdraw from membership by presenting a written application therefor at a regular communication, stating his reasons therefor. The lodge shall grant the request of the brother by dropping his name from the rolls, and his membership shall thereby be terminated, and he shall not thereafter be considered or treated as a member of the Fraternity. A brother thus dropped from the rolls of a lodge shall be entitled to a certificate setting forth the fact and the reasons therefor, which certificate shall be issued by the Secretary of the lodge, under its seal. Such person may, at his request, be restored to membership in the same lodge which granted him the withdrawal certificate at any regular communication, by a majority vote taken by show of hands.”

If a member, who, as is claimed by the Michigan law, is thus put out of the Fraternity, should move into any one of a large number of the jurisdictions, we believe that the status, which this gives him, would not be recognized on the ground that under the landmarks, he had inherent rights of which no Grand Lodge in that manner could deprive him.

The matter of rejected candidates, which has been referred to a committee, was continued in the hands of the committee until the next year.

The committee was inclined to hold that the acceptance, in another jurisdiction, of candidates rejected by a Michigan lodge would not give the

Grand Lodge the right to adopt serious measures against the Grand Lodge so offending, but it could protect itself by refusing all masonic recognition of a mason made in another jurisdiction, out of its rejected material.

This is as far, we believe, as any of the Grand Lodges go, but it puts upon the other jurisdiction the *onus* of taking such measures as it may see fit to take to vindicate itself. It seems a little curious that a Grand Lodge would have degrees conferred upon a candidate, and when that candidate should be refused recognition in other jurisdictions, should sit calmly by and say nothing.

The consideration of the Washington matter and of "Mexican Masonry" were suspended until the next annual communication, except that the following was adopted:

"Your committee, therefore, in the most fraternal spirit of brotherly love, asks our sister Grand Lodge of Washington at its annual communication, to review its action on this question, and in the interest of harmony repeal its action and spread the cement of brotherly love, that which will reunite the great sisterhood of Grand Lodges into one grand and complete whole, among whom no contention should ever exist, but that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who can best work and best agree."

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 276) was presented by Bro. JEFFERSON S. CONOVER. He gives in a very brief space an enumeration of the important matters acted upon by the other Grand Lodges, but devotes almost the whole of his report to extracts from the Proceedings of other Grand Lodges, in relation to various matters, and without a word of comment.

There is one, however, noticeable exception: he gives a general summary of the financial reports of the different Grand Lodges, under the heading, "What it costs to run Grand Lodges." It is exceedingly valuable, but we regret that in quite a number of instances it is not accurate: for instance, in giving the expenses of the Grand Lodge of Maine, he names among the expenditures the \$1,082.42 transferred to the Charity Fund, and in the account of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana he includes the disbursements on account of the Masonic Temple, and none of the receipts; he makes it cost over \$6 a member to run that Grand Lodge. Counting in the amount transferred to the Charity Fund it costs sixty-five cents in Maine. The average in all the Grand Lodges is ninety cents a member, but this is not accurate, for the reason we have already stated. There are very few jurisdictions in which the cost per member is less than in Maine, if we should take out the amount transferred to Charity Fund. However, this part of his report is worth careful notice.

We hope that his next report will have more "CONOVER" in it.

MINNESOTA, 1899.

The frontispiece is a portrait of Grand Master ALONZO T. STEBBINS.

As usual, the Grand Master "opened a lodge of Master Masons," did certain business, and then opened the Grand Lodge. We regard this as erroneous, in confounding the *ritual* lodge with the actual lodge. The *Grand Lodge* should be opened, and on such degree as the Grand Master should direct. In the old records in this section the language is, the *lodge* was opened "on the third step in Masonry"—or "first step" or "second step," as the case might be. The masonic *law* undoubtedly is, that it is the *chartered* lodge, or the *Grand Lodge* which is "opened," and not a merely theoretical, non-existing body. This may seem to be an unimportant matter; but that is not so, for it teaches an erroneous idea of a lodge.

Grand Master STEBBINS announces the death in Louisiana of Past S. G. Warden CHARLES T. STEARNS, the last surviving founder of the Grand Lodge.

He had granted dispensations for three new lodges, and declined to grant two others on the ground that a lodge could not be supported in the particular locality. One of the new lodges was in Minneapolis and starts with a membership of one hundred: there are a good many lodges in that city, but if this lodge has for its object the cultivation of Masonry rather than to make masons, it will be a benefit to the craft: our city lodges are all too large to carry out the primary objects of the lodge organization.

The Grand Master says:

"On July 12th I received a petition from certain Master Masons of the Thirteenth Regiment, Minnesota Volunteers, then in California on their way to Manila, asking a dispensation for the formation of a military lodge in that city. Having had an intimation that such a petition would be presented, I took occasion to study the history of army lodges, and I corresponded and conversed with well informed masons on the subject. I was justly proud of my brothers, whose loyalty and patriotism had prompted them to enlist in their country's cause, and I could most heartily wish them all the enjoyment and privileges that it was possible to obtain, but my duty to the craft, as I saw it, battled for the mastery over inclination, and the petition was returned."

He had granted dispensations to confer degrees out of time, but says:

"Have been cautious about granting dispensations, especially to permit the conferring of degrees out of time, the only deviation being made in the case of soldiers going to war, and then insisted that they become proficient in one degree."

Our observation leads us to the conclusion that there are other cases in which such dispensations are beneficial and less likely to produce bad results.

He granted a "special dispensation" to a New Hampshire lodge, to confer the other two degrees upon an E. A. who had received that degree in a Min-

nesota lodge: granting a dispensation to a lodge in another jurisdiction was new to us, but upon looking further, we conclude that it was not a technical dispensation, but that the Minnesota law requires such a request of a lodge to be approved by the Grand Master.

A claim was made that a member of a lodge must in all cases be tried by his own lodge, and could not be tried by the lodge within whose jurisdiction the alleged offence was committed: the Grand Master denied this claim and held that an expulsion by the lodge within whose jurisdiction an offence is committed is binding everywhere.

The District Deputy system has been recently adopted in Minnesota and the Grand Master speaks in high terms of its success. He read one of the reports to the Grand Lodge and adds:

“If every Deputy would visit every lodge in his district, and make such reports as did this one, the Grand Master would be able to lay before the Grand Lodge annually a summary of the condition of the craft that would be both interesting and instructive.

“Pardon me for the deep interest I take in the District Deputies. They are the arteries through which flow the life's blood of our institution. It is only through them that the lodges can hope to receive annual visitations from Grand Lodge officers, and these visitations not only awaken renewed interest, but they create a desire on the part of the members for more light in Masonry. In closing this subject, let me say that, in my opinion, we do not give the honor and dignity to the District Deputy that his office demands. He should be received everywhere with all the courtesy due the representative of the Grand Master, and should be accorded the honors due his rank.”

Of course we need not say to our Maine brothers that we fully concur in this and wish that all of our Deputies may have as high an appreciation of the importance of their office as Grand Master STEBBINS has.

Of the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington he says:

“That the Grand Lodge of Washington has grievously erred there can be no dispute. It declares the legitimacy of lodges tracing their origin to Prince Hall and his assumed authority, which all Grand Bodies that have considered the subject, including our own, have declared to be of irregular formation. It recognizes the right of the members of such irregular lodges to visit lodges of regular formation. It presumes to sanction the formation of another Grand Lodge within its own jurisdiction, when section 1 of their constitution says: ‘This Grand Lodge has supreme and exclusive jurisdiction over all matters of Ancient Craft Masonry within the territorial limits of the State of Washington.’”

A case arose which led the Grand Lodge, upon the recommendation of the Grand Master, to change its law making the signing of the by-laws a pre-requisite to membership in a lodge.

The Grand Secretary formulated a list of nearly fifty questions for lodges to answer to the District Deputy, and to serve as the basis of his report to the Grand Lodge. We will not copy them, but District Deputies will gain many useful hints by calling at our Grand Lodge office and reading them.

The Grand Lodge voted to procure jewels for the Deputies, and that they

should have mileage and *per diem* when they attend the Grand Lodge. In Maine they are members of the Grand Lodge during their term of office.

Intercourse with the Grand Lodge of Peru was resumed: the committee to which the Washington matter was referred were given further time to report, although they say:

"So far as colored Freemasonry in this jurisdiction is concerned, its status was fully defined and affirmed by this Grand Lodge in 1877, as appears in the printed Proceedings of that year, page 36."

The Grand Master was requested to attend the celebration of the centennial of the death of WASHINGTON and \$100 (or so much thereof as may be necessary) was appropriated to aid the Grand Lodge of Virginia in paying the expenses.

The Grand Orator, Bro. HENRY R. ADAMS, delivered an exceedingly beautiful oration upon the subject of "Love."

The Report on Correspondence (100 pp.) was presented by Bro. IRVING M. TODD.

He has revived a method of preparation of these reports that involves much labor, time and study—giving a paragraph containing condensed items that gives "much in little" to an extraordinary degree. He makes few comments, so that if others should adopt the same course, the supply of material from other reports would soon cease.

In the review of Maine, he says:

"Bro. Drummond does not seem to appreciate the difference in status between an application from a candidate who has been previously rejected and an application from one who has not. We can assure him, however, that when an average committee of investigation finds this cloud upon the title, some reliable evidence is required to remove it. Of course the inquiry is prosecuted strictly upon masonic lines."

To say that we are amazed is putting it mildly. Why, we have almost been called a crank for insisting so strenuously that there is a vast difference between the *status* of a rejected candidate and one who has not been rejected!

Of Mexico, he says:

"Toltec Lodge in the city of Mexico, was lawfully constituted by the Grand Lodge of Missouri; it surrendered its charter and applied to the Grand Dieta for another because it was ordered to do so. Any one who recognizes the Grand Lodge of Missouri need have no fears in visiting its legitimate offspring. Neither does such visitation imply a recognition of Mexican masonry, in the usual acceptation of the term."

We do not agree: if a regular lodge gives in its adhesion to a clandestine Grand Lodge, it becomes clandestine, and no regular mason can visit it. And certainly visiting such a lodge is a recognition of the Grand Body under which it holds, or is a gross violation of masonic law and obligations. But we say this without prejudice to Toltec Lodge, as we are by no means saying that the Grand Dieta is not the *regular* supreme masonic authority in Mexico.

To our mind his discussion of the use of the word "Order" comes to this: that because the word once had a more limited meaning, it is not proper to use the word with the meaning which it now has. Usage makes laws in the meaning of words as well as in Masonry.

Of the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington he says:

"As the status of negro masonry was settled in the Grand Lodge of Minnesota in 1877 by the decisive vote of three hundred and twenty-one to seven and is not likely to be brought up here again, it is not deemed necessary to thresh the mouldering straw anew. Some of us were present and took part in the one sided controversy. The younger members of the fraternity will find the proceedings of that year very interesting and profitable reading."

* * * * *

"It is known that their work is identical with ours in all essential particulars.

"There are things which a mason in good standing has no right to know. This is one of them. If the information was obtained by Bro. Upton through conference with his whilom clients they certainly have a right to complain of an abuse of confidence."

As usual, these Proceedings contain also the Proceedings of the Masonic Veterans' Association, with an excellent portrait of the President, Brother GEORGE R. METCALF.

The addresses are all of a high character, and the historical ones are of great value.

A paper was read which had been prepared by Bro. FRANCISCO DE P. RODRIGUEZ, Secretary of the Cuban Veteran Association, entitled "Cuban Masons and Cuban Veterans." This is of so much interest, especially at the present time, that we shall endeavor to find space for it, when we reach "Cuba" in our review. We wonder that it has not already been published in some masonic periodical.

MISSISSIPPI, 1899.

The frontispiece is a portrait of the retiring Grand Master, JOHN M. STONE.

He announces the death of Past Grand Master WILLIAM G. PAXTON, who died on the twenty-seventh of October last. In him, the masonic Fraternity loses one of its ablest, best, and most useful members.

He says that the yellow fever epidemic practically paralyzed business for two months, but it was of a mild type, and except in one or two localities, the death rate was very small; and still, serious losses were entailed upon the people, from which some will never recover. But the hand of charity was open to them, and many poor people were provided for who, without such aid, must have suffered. It involved an expenditure of Grand Lodge funds to the amount of \$100. He had granted the usual number of dispensations, and does not seem to have been frightened by the bugbear which so many

have set up in relation to this necessary part of a Grand Master's business. He had laid several corner stones; among them three of public school buildings in the City of Biloxi, all on the same day. These buildings were given to the city by three of its citizens, and the duty of laying the corner stones must have been an exceedingly pleasant one for the Grand Master and his assistants.

He announces that Peru had restored the Bible to the masonic altars and recommended the resumption of relations, which was voted by the Grand Lodge.

In relation to the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, he says:

"This recent attempted innovation was not the work of any Negro Grand or Subordinate Lodge, for they all seemed to be satisfied with their status; but it was the bold and shameless assumption of two individuals, acting alone for themselves, and with no power on earth to commit or bind anybody but themselves.

"The negro lodges of the world have sought no recognition from or affiliation with lodges composed of the white race. They want nothing to do with them, and they will have nothing to do with them, not even so much as to admit a white mason, as a visitor, into their lodges.

"No Negro Grand Lodge has asked recognition of the Washington Grand Lodge for itself or any of its subordinates. They have been doing their work among their own people in their own way, asking no favors of the Grand Lodge of Washington or that of any other state or country, and all was moving smoothly along until these two designing incendiaries cast their inflammatory brands among the ignorant and timid members of the Grand Lodge of Washington."

We are not quite sure that our M. W. Brother is correct. It has been alleged that the two men were not the *moving cause*, but they were moved in the action, which they took, by others.

He expressed grave doubts as to whether, within any reasonable time, the Masonic Home can be made a success, and he says:

"Let us look this matter squarely in the face and meet the issue bravely, and if we see that we can establish and maintain the Home, let us continue the work, with renewed energy and confidence. But if, on the other hand, it shall appear that we have undertaken that which we can never perform, let us like men and masons, make the confession, and appropriate the funds to such other charitable purposes as the wisdom of the Grand Lodge may determine."

We very greatly regret to read the following:

"I cannot close this address without referring to our dearly beloved brother, Past Grand Master Savery, whose absence from the Grand Lodge must be a source of profound regret to every member who has so often seen his familiar face among us, and heard his voice for so many years in the counsels of this Grand Body. His failing health has for several years given us great concern, but for the first time in many years he is now unable to be with us. I have often asked myself the question, since hearing that he could not be with us, 'How are we to have a Grand Lodge without Bro. Savery?' Masonry has never had a more devoted advocate than Past Grand Master Savery. Your Grand Master has never had a more unselfish,

faithful and self-sacrificing friend. I devoutly pray that he may be restored to health and be with us yet for many years to come."

We had not heard of the illness of Bro. SAVERY until we commenced our review of these Proceedings, which are just received. We trust that he has improved in health, and that our brethren of that jurisdiction will have for many years, the benefit of his able and unselfish labors.

The committee to which the Washington matter was referred, made a very able report and submitted several preambles reciting what had been done, and the effect of this action of that Grand Lodge, and recommending the adoption of resolutions as follows: and they were unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That this Grand Lodge, deeply regretting the necessity and expediency of such action, will hereafter hold no masonic intercourse with the Grand Lodge heretofore existing as a lawful Grand Lodge in the State of Washington, or with any lodge or mason of its obedience, and prohibits any masonic intercourse by any lodge or mason of this jurisdiction with any lodge existing in or mason hailing from the State of Washington.

"Resolved further, That the commission of Right Worshipful Bro. Benj. L. Sharpstine, as the Grand Representative of this Grand Lodge to the Grand Lodge of Washington, be and the same is hereby recalled and vacated.

"Resolved further, That this Grand Lodge regards the State of Washington as vacant masonic territory, and would look favorably upon the establishment of lodges in said state by any Grand Lodge choosing to exercise jurisdiction over it."

We hope that there will never be any occasion for action under the last resolution, although, of course, if the Grand Lodge of Washington persists in the course it has taken, that must be the ultimate result. But we are hoping that when the Grand Lodge *thinks*, it will remove all cause for complaint. We were about to say that when that Grand Lodge "takes the sober, *second* thought," it will so act; but we are satisfied that the Grand Lodge of Washington, *as a Grand Lodge*, did not take the *first* thought in relation to this matter.*

Grand Secretary POWER submitted his thirtieth annual report; and he truly calls it "both a great and exalted privilege"; but an honor and privilege, that he had worthily won. During that time seventy-five Past Grand Officers have died, and moreover, at the end of thirty years, the net losses in membership had been nearly 2,800. The largest membership was in 1873, 11,794; the smallest was in 1887, 7,253; the present membership is 8,748. He estimates there are in the jurisdiction 4,000 unaffiliated masons. There had been in the past year a net gain of 99, and a careful examination of the

* NOTE. Since this was put in type we are informed by telegraph that the Grand Lodge of Washington has rescinded its former action *by a unanimous vote*. The craft will be devoutly thankful for the removal of this cause of dissension, and will appreciate the courage and devotion to Masonry, of their Washington brethren, who, finding that they had made a mistake, admitted their error and promptly corrected it.

statistics which he gives, warrants the statement that the craft is in a condition in which a gradual, solid increase may be expected in the coming years.

He credits Memphis and St. Louis with about \$3,000 received by him as Treasurer of the Howard Association, besides liberal contributions in the way of supplies from Chicago, and he says:

"In this connection permit me to say that the Howard Association and other relief organizations regret the necessity in these emergencies, of calling on the general public for help. Especially is this undesirable and distasteful when the people of other states have to be invited to assist. But when most of our substantial citizens flee from towns, infected or so threatened, and quarantine regulations bottle up those who remain, something has to be done by somebody to provide for the sick and destitute. Mississippi is amply able to take care of herself at all times; and her people, I believe, are willing that all needed legislation shall be enacted to meet the demands of these visitations as they occur. There is one section of the Board of Health law that should be repealed—the one authorizing the State Board of Health, on approval of the Governor, to apply to the general government for help. If the law creating the State Board of health, and the appropriations made thereunder, make no provisions for the destitute sick, and those who may be cordoned so as to prevent the spread of infection, then they should be amended so as to create a special contingent fund for the sick and destitute who cannot be otherwise provided for. Appeals to the outside world should cease; but until other means of relieving distress are provided, those of us who consider ourselves immune, and remain through epidemics, will continue to do the very best we can with the conditions that may confront us. When the Illinois Central placed a special train at the service of the Jackson Howard Association, for the relief of the much afflicted town of Harriston, Bishop Galloway and your Grand Secretary did not think that we were compromising our dignity or self respect by taking to that stricken community supplies and money received from Memphis, St. Louis and Chicago. On the contrary, we esteemed it a high privilege to be thus the almoners of the generous sympathy of those cities.

"I dare venture these suggestions to so representative a body of citizens as compose this Grand Lodge—men of broad views and large sympathies, who will approve any measures that will enable our state and health authorities to amply provide for all emergencies.

"And in this connection, permit me further to suggest that while it may, or may not be true, that 'corporations have no souls,' my experience is that so far as the railroads passing through Mississippi are concerned, they never fail to respond promptly and generously to all demands for public or personal relief. I have made many requisitions on them during epidemics, and other occasions, and they have always been honored. For instance: A few years since, when I had 2,000 pounds of iron cots shipped from St. Louis to the Asylum at Natchez, and failed to get the transportation department of the Illinois Central to deviate from their liberal rule of half-rate for charitable shipments, the big-hearted general passenger agent of that corporation gave his personal check as a Christmas present, for the other half, and the forty cots were thus delivered free at Natchez. He charged me not to mention him in connection with the transaction, and hence his name is withheld, but many of you will find it on your transportation certificates."

If epidemics must come, they certainly have one good result, as the contributions, to which Bro. POWER refers, amply show.

The Committee on Masonic Home had conferred with other Orders, but

nothing had been done, although the matter seems to have been favorably considered, and it looks as if the movement is premature.

The Committee on State of the Order had sent letters to the various lodges with questions to be answered, and the result seemed to be that the condition of the lodges had not deteriorated during the year, and that generally the duties of Masonry had been well performed by the craft.

A pleasant episode was the conferring of the first and second degrees on the youngest son of the Grand Secretary by Vicksburg Lodge, after the Grand Lodge had called off.

The Committee on Law and Jurisprudence submitted a long and able report. We cannot go through it and note the points of interest as it would take too much of our space, but we desire to give for the benefit of some of the brethren, who have written upon the subject, what the committee say in relation to the presence of the charter:

“Although the charter is not in itself the authority of a lodge to congregate and work, being but paper evidence of the action of the Grand Lodge, it has been thought prudent to require its presence at every assembly of the lodge, with the possible exception of funeral and other occasions when the lodge is in public. ‘A lodge is a sufficient number of Masons, duly assembled, with the Holy Bible, Square and Compass, and their Charter or Warrant empowering them to work.’ Text Book, page 20. In its absence the lodge cannot be opened, and, of course, there could be no election held. But we do not mean to give countenance to the practice, in some lodges, of the Master taking the charter from the lodge room. If the lodge is a fit and safe place, the charter should be kept there, and, if it had been in the instance under consideration, there would have been no failure to hold the election, for, in the absence of the Master, the ranking Warden present could have opened the lodge and it could have proceeded with its labors.”

The committee passed upon the question whether, when a Warden elect is guilty of unmasonic conduct between the time of the election and the time of the installation, he can be installed. The chairman answers the question as follows, and his answer was adopted by the Grand Lodge:

“No; it is the duty of the Installing Officer to refuse to proceed with the installation of an elected officer against whom charges are brought or urged, and he is required to ask publicly, in the case of the Master, whether there are any such objections. (See Installation Ritual.) The officers of a lodge must ‘not only be pure, but, like Cæsar’s wife, above suspicion.’ The Installation Officer represents the Grand Master, and may do what he would do under such circumstances. So well settled is this rule that it has not hitherto been called in question by this Grand Lodge. The matter should be immediately investigated and a report submitted to the Grand Master, who will give such directions as the necessity of the case may require.”

It will be seen that this decision is in accordance with the decisions in Maine.

The usual “In Memoriam” services were omitted on account of the absence of the chairman of the committee, but it was ordered that each member of the Grand Lodge, who should feel inclined to do so, should send in to the

Grand Secretary for publication, such tribute to the memory of past Grand Master PAXTON, as he should desire. The result was some splendid eulogies.

Our copy of these Proceedings is mispaged in one form, and we have come very near "getting things mixed."

The following amended by-law in relation to non-affiliates was adopted:

"Any non-affiliated mason who shall neglect or refuse to annually contribute, to the funds of the lodge under whose jurisdiction he resides, an amount equal to the ordinary lodge dues, shall not be entitled to, or permitted to receive, the rights, benefits and privileges of any lodge; that is to say:

"The right to visit and associate with the members of any lodge,

"The right to ask and demand relief and pecuniary aid from any lodge, or its funds, for himself or his family;

"The right to move or join in masonic processions;

"The right to masonic burial.

"*Provided*, That any mason unable, in the judgment of the lodge, under whose jurisdiction he resides, to contribute to its funds, shall be released from doing so; and, while lodges are strictly enjoined to exact payment from all, whether members or resident non-affiliates, whose circumstances do not excuse them from this duty, they are to remember that, 'if thy brother be waxen poor and fallen into decay with thee, then thou shalt relieve him, though he be a stranger and transient person, that he may live with thee.' *Provided, also*, That whenever a mason shall dimit from his lodge for the purpose of changing his membership to another lodge, or to enable him to join in a petition for the formation of a new lodge, he shall be regarded as in good standing and entitled to all the rights, privileges and benefits of Masonry for the period of twelve months from the day upon which such dimit shall be granted."

The committee say that their law has been criticised rather severely, but we do not see any objection to this by-law. We do not see but that it states the law in accordance with the principles of Freemasonry. The by-laws which have been criticised, are those which undertake to interfere with the duties of individual masons to each other. In relation to this the committee well say:

"In conclusion, one word ought to be said regarding our relations as masons, towards these men. It is undoubtedly true that 'once a mason always a mason' is an inflexible law. We cannot in certain contingencies stop to inquire whether a man is worthy or not; a response must be given to the cry of distress whether it comes from the good or the bad. Having placed it in the power of all who kneel at our altars to set in motion the means of demanding certain relief at our hands, we do not mean to repudiate this claim upon us, but there is no necessity for enlarging it."

We would like to copy the full remarks of the committee in relation to this subject but have not space for them. We will only say that the committee hold that the large majority of non-affiliates have become such because they were really not fit material for masons, and after a short time they lose their interest, and having done that, they may as well be out as in, and perhaps a little better be out than in, because if they are in, they are a perpetual drawback. There is much truth in this. The only thing

that we have ever seen reason to complain of, is that care enough has not been taken to distinguish the cases in which the parties are really unable to pay their dues from those who are able, and do not choose to. We think the percentage of this class is much larger than is generally supposed.

The Report on Correspondence (pp 96) was presented as heretofore, by Bro. ANDREW H. BARKELY. It is briefer than usual, and is largely devoted to a mention of the more salient matters in the Proceedings.

His experience in relation to granting dispensations to confer degrees out of time has been the reverse of ours.

He says:

"We have had a little experience in this matter of granting dispensations to confer degrees out of time, and we have carefully observed the case of many who were hurried through regardless of time, and so far as our knowledge extends, the good of Masonry has not been advanced by the example of those who received the degrees under such circumstances, nor have those who were so made had their knowledge of the great principles of Freemasonry been increased by the plan adopted in bringing them to light. The old paths are best, and we could wish that the power to grant such dispensations had never been thought of in connection with the powers and rights of the Grand Master."

The last sentence is a little unfortunate, for in this section of the country, in former times and down to within our own recollection, lodges could confer degrees as they pleased and when they pleased, and the restriction is a matter of comparatively recent legislation. His position is just as certainly erroneous as it is certain that one man can, and will, learn in a day more than another man will learn in the three months, but his rule makes it that no man can learn the work in a shorter time than the Constitution requires, and every man will learn it within that time. And we repeat that our observation of this matter for now nearly fifty years, abundantly satisfies us that the masons made under dispensation come fully up to the average of those who wait the full time.

In his review of Maine, he says that we seem to have got into the fog in relation to their Grand Secretary's salary. Well, no matter, provided the salary gets into Bro. Power's pocket, as it ought to.

In his review of South Carolina, he speaks very strongly against the making of masons at sight by the Grand Master; saying that the Grand Master "turned him loose on the common, knowing nothing of Masonry." We think that this conclusion is quite a hasty one, for we have reason to believe that the brother thus made was thoroughly instructed. It makes little difference practically, whether the candidate learns Masonry before he receives the subsequent degrees or afterwards; in fact, the emphasis, which is now placed upon previous instructions, gives candidates the impression that they have learned all there is to learn about the previous degrees, whereas, of course, they have only just begun.

We believe that if this brother so made should visit Mississippi he would be found to be exceedingly well posted, and we doubt very gravely whether our brethren in that state would undertake to refuse to recognize him as not being lawfully made.

Upon these two points we do not agree with our beloved and highly respected brother, but in almost all other points in his review we are agreed.

We note that in Virginia subordinate lodges may lay corner stones, and that principally on that account the Grand Master declined to call out the Grand Lodge to lay the corner stone of a church, saying that a church is not a building of such public character as to justify the performance of the ceremony *by the Grand Lodge*. This action of the Grand Master grew out of the peculiar law of that jurisdiction which allows lodges to lay corner stones—a law that exists in no other, so far as we know; for in all other jurisdictions corner stones can be laid only by the Grand Lodge, either by the Grand Master himself, or by his Deputy, and under such law we can well see that while our Virginia brethren have the highest regard for the sanctity of the church, they are so numerous that the laying of the corner stone may well be done by the lodge of the vicinity without calling upon the Grand Lodge to do it.

In his conclusion, he says:

“And here we close our work at the moment of time that the old year is swallowed up in the ‘sepulchre of the centuries.’ We have entered the treasure-house of knowledge, which other minds have filled, and through its open doors drawn therefrom that which, in our humble judgment, would lead to the strengthening of the craft in the great principles of Freemasonry. If to any appreciable extent we have succeeded in this effort we shall count ourselves most happy, as we lay before them this tribute of brotherly regard and friendship. To the craft at large we say, May peace and prosperity attend your every step through life. To the *Guild*: May you abound unto all fulness, and your last days be your best.”

All of his co-laborers will most heartily reciprocate his wish, for while he has the courage of his convictions, and speaks plainly, his manner is always so courteous and kind that every one respects and loves him.

MISSOURI, 1898.

The frontispiece is a portrait of the retiring Grand Master, FLAVIUS J. TYGARD.

Grand Master TYGARD delivered an exceedingly succinct and brief address, considering the very large number of matters upon which he had acted.

His first official act was to dedicate the chapel at the Masonic Home. This building was erected by the ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star. The Grand Lodge tendered a vote of thanks to them for their generosity and interest in the Masonic Home.

Seven State Lodges of Instruction were held during the year, at all of which, save one, the Grand Master was present, and he believes that excellent results had followed each meeting.

One curious case had come before him. The Grand Lodge had, the previous session, upon the report of a committee, arrested the charter of the lodge and ordered the Grand Master to take it up, and that was done. Thereupon the Master of the lodge wrote and inquired why it had been done; and upon being furnished with a copy of the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge, he replied that the committee was entirely mistaken, and upon investigation, the Grand Master found not only that the lodge was not guilty of the charges alleged, but deserved commendation for its zeal in complying with the lodge. After conferring with many brethren as to the course to be taken to remedy the injustice done, he determined to return the charter and other effects, to be retained until the meeting of the Grand Lodge, and did so, and left it to the Grand Lodge for such action as it might deem proper.

He had been obliged to suspend two Masters from office for intoxication. In one of the cases, the committee reported the charges to be sustained, and the offender was expelled. We do not know as the committee intended it, but the tone of the report seems to imply that only in a case of great aggravation would such course be deemed proper. At any rate, after setting out a gross case, the committee add other facts as a reason for the expulsion. Probably they did not mean this, but the report conveys that impression to us.

At the close of the preceding session, eighteen lodges had either failed to pay dues or make returns. But through the efforts of the Grand Secretary and himself, all but one had forwarded returns and paid dues, so that but one charter was arrested. He had made quite a number of decisions, and in two or three cases he had ordered new trials by lodges on account of defects in their proceedings. Most of his decisions depended upon local law; to some of the others we may refer later.

He made a brief but earnest appeal in behalf of the Masonic Home.

He had appointed fifty-five District Deputy Grand Masters, to all of whom he says he is under great obligation for valuable assistance rendered, and he believes that they should be expected to attend the Grand Lodge and should be allowed mileage and *per diem*. We believe that his conclusion is justified fully by our experience in Maine.

The Home committee reported that the Home was in good condition and will compare favorably with any institution of the kind in the country. Of course, additional facilities were needed, but on the whole the call for expenditure of money was not large.

The Grand Secretary's report gives very many of the details which are

embodied in the addresses of some Grand Masters. The point of most interest in it, is an item in relation to unpaid dues of lodges. The reports from the lodges show that this amount is over \$40,000 in this State. The Grand Secretary well says that such a large indebtedness must be a source of embarrassment to many of the lodges.

The Grand Lodge endorsed the action of the Grand Master in returning the charter of which we have spoken and "cancelled" the action of the Grand Lodge of the year before.

The Grand Lecturer reports that the large majority of the District Lecturers have become thoroughly proficient in the work and have been active in disseminating it. We still think that the offices of District Lecturer and District Deputy Grand Master may well be, and really ought to be, united in one.

The following amendment to the by-laws was adopted after discussion:

"Sec. 164. *Objection to Advancement.*—No candidate shall be passed or raised in any lodge within the time hereinafter stated, when any member thereof shall object. Such objection shall stand as a bar against the candidate for sixty days, unless sooner withdrawn by the objector, or unless he shall previously cease to be a member in good standing of said lodge."

Of course, this precludes a secret objection, and we do not see how the provision can be enforced unless the objection and the name of the member making it are entered upon the record.

The evenings of the first two days were devoted to the exemplification of the work.

The Grand Lodge adopted a by-law providing for the payment for mileage and *per diem* to District Deputy Grand Masters and District Lecturers. This gives a pecuniary argument in favor of the union of the two offices.

A very curious case came before the Committee on Appeals. A man was charged with being a habitual drunkard and other offences, and a trial was had; and while a majority voted for conviction on two of the charges, he was acquitted because they were not sustained by a two-thirds vote. At the next meeting of the lodge, the accused filed a petition or motion, that the verdict of "not guilty" be set aside and he be allowed to withdraw his former plea and plead guilty to two of the charges. This was done, and upon taking the vote for punishment, it finally resulted in suspension for one year.

A member of the lodge took an appeal, and the Grand Lodge decided that the action of the lodge in re-considering and re-opening the case was illegal, and the correct doctrine is stated, viz: "the action of the lodge in such case goes into effect as soon as the verdict is announced by the Master, and the only remedy then, is by appeal."

While this is "correct doctrine," of course it applies only when there is no positive regulation by the Grand Lodge. The testimony was of

such a character, however, that the accused was expelled by the Grand Lodge.

We are delighted to read the following in the report of the committee in another case:

“Before reviewing the testimony in this case, we desire to say that your committee is not inclined to lay much stress on technical objections. ‘It is the duty of the judge,’ says Cicero, ‘in every cause to seek for truth.’ This is the great, the only object of a masonic trial, and hence, in such a trial, no advantage should be permitted to be taken of those legal and verbal technicalities, the use of which in profane courts so often enables the guilty to escape. This great principle of masonic law must never be forgotten in the management of a trial. Every part of the investigation is to be directed with a single view to the ascertainment of truth. Masonic trials should, therefore, be conducted in the simplest and least technical method that will preserve at once the rights of the Order, and of the accused, and enable the lodge to obtain a thorough knowledge of all the facts in the case. Punishment, in Masonry, is inflicted that the character of the institution may remain unsullied, and that the unpunished crimes of its members may not injuriously reflect upon the reputation of the whole society.”

In another case, a decision was made in relation to the question which we have frequently expected would arise in trials in this state, and that is, whether any members of the lodge who had not heard the whole evidence, save the minutes taken by the Secretary, should be allowed to vote? The letter of our laws requires every member present at the time when the question is taken, to vote upon the question of guilt. But it assumes that those present have heard all of the evidence.

In this Missouri case, the Grand Lodge sustained the report of the committee in affirming the decision, that those present on the second evening of the trial, and not present on the first, although the Secretary read the minutes of the evidence taken the first evening, should not be entitled to vote. In another case, the same question was raised, and it was decided that allowing members to vote, who did not hear all the testimony when given by the witnesses, is sufficient ground for setting aside the proceedings of the lodge.

Several cases were before the committee growing out of the ballot. In one case, a mason was suspended for three years for offering to pay money to a member of the lodge to blackball a candidate. The committee well say that the accused should consider himself fortunate to get off with so slight a punishment for so heinous an offence. In another case, a member of a lodge who had been a devoted mason but who was of rather a quick temper, was let off with a reprimand for allowing his feelings to get the better of him and to lead him to say unmasonic things in consequence of a rejection. It seems that in his lodge every applicant had been rejected by a single ballot, and when a friend of his was rejected in the same way, he gave vent to his indignation. The Grand Lodge sustained the action of the

lodge under the circumstances, though on one account we deem it a stretch of lenity to the utmost extent, for some of the talk was made in the presence of profanes.

We are glad to note that this Grand Lodge looks into the merits of cases, and disregarding technicalities, makes such disposition of cases as to it seems wise. In several instances it decided a case finally, and prescribed the punishment.

The Grand Lodge decided, contrary to the decision of the Grand Master, that all agreements between lodges as to jurisdictional lines not in accordance with the law of the Grand Lodge, are absolutely void. The Grand Lodge reversed a decision of the Grand Master that lodges, in approving the petition for a new lodge, are bound to know that all the petitioners are masons in good standing. We think the Grand Lodge was right, for the action of the lodge relates to the desirability of forming a new lodge, and does not cover the character and standing of the petitioners; but that is left for the Grand Master to determine. The Grand Lodge reversed a decision previously made, that a Master Mason not qualified to sit in the lodge cannot be present at his trial. We wonder that the contrary decision was ever made.

The Historical Committee reported that it would be impracticable to provide for publishing portraits and biographical sketches of all the Past Grand Officers in the Proceedings, and that if it was done at all, it should be done in a separate volume.

The report was accepted and no further action taken.

On account of the absence of the chairman of the committee to which the subject of Masonry in Mexico was referred, leave was given to the committee to report at the next meeting of the Grand Lodge.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 180) was submitted, as usual, by Bro. JOHN D. VINCIL. As usual, he gives a very careful abstract of the Proceedings of other Grand Lodges, with occasional brief comments.

He objects to the action of the Grand Lodge of California in allowing a lodge to decorate its altar with the American flag; and he well says:

“I yield to no man living in my devotion to the flag of my country, but would enter my solemn protest against taking it out of its legitimate place as an emblem of American liberty, and placing it on the altar of the church or of the lodge. I have no objection, but rather favor the presence of the banner of the free to be displayed on proper occasions by Masonic Bodies. I have even welcomed its presence within the tiled precincts of Masonic Lodges, having its place, not as a part of the paraphernalia of the Body, but as an ensign that we masons are true to God, to Freemasonry, and to our country.”

In his review of Manitoba he seems to reverse the actual history of what he calls the prerogatives of Grand Masters. We think if he will examine the early history of the organization, he will find that Grand Masters always

exercised the prerogatives of which he speaks. In early times there was only one limit to them, and that is, that a Grand Master could not force a member upon a lodge without its unanimous consent, and all constitutional provisions in relation to this matter are of a comparatively recent date.

In his review of Illinois, he said:

“One of our Grand Masters, some years since, decided that a non-affiliate could not join in a petition for dispensation to form a new lodge. He then ruled that, in order to become a petitioner for such dispensation, he must first affiliate with an existing lodge, becoming a member thereof, before he could be an eligible petitioner for dispensation to create a new lodge. The idea was presented by Brother Robbins, and its force cannot be denied, that if a mason can petition for membership in an existing lodge, he is surely eligible as a petitioner to form a new lodge. To this view I give my approval, and thereby put upon record the fact of my conversion to a more liberal interpretation of the subject, being convinced of the right involved and the justice recognized.

He received the Proceedings of our Grand Lodge at so late a date as to be obliged to give them a very hasty review, and we are placed in the same category in regard to his report, on account of a month's unexpected absence, just as we had reached Missouri in the preparation of our report, and the printer is hurrying us for “copy.”

MONTANA, 1898.

The frontispiece is a portrait of the retiring Grand Master, EDWARD C. DAY.

The Grand Lodge held several special communications: one to attend the funeral of P. G. Master JAMES R. BOYCE, who was Grand Master in 1872, and had been a member of the Grand Lodge from its organization; in fact he installed the first elected Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge.

At the annual communication the Grand Secretary reported that all the lodges had made returns, and all but one had paid dues. He advised the passing of a resolution congratulating our brethren of the Grand Lodge of Peru upon their recent action, and sympathizing with them in the warfare they are compelled to wage against fanaticism on the one side, and atheism on the other side; and the Grand Lodge did so.

He called the attention of the craft to the alarming increase in the disposition to discuss masonic matters in public, and the Grand Lodge endorsed his position very strongly, and recommended that Masters of lodges should order an investigation in every case which should come to their knowledge in which the law had been violated.

We have thought that the efforts of newspaper men to get “all the news” has led brethren in many instances to go beyond the law of propriety in this respect; in fact, we have seen articles published in so-called masonic

papers, that ought to have been noticed by the Grand Lodge of the jurisdiction and the guilty parties punished. There has been so much reprehension of this of late, that we think something of a reaction has set in, and that our brethren are becoming more careful in this respect.

The Grand Master granted dispensations for five new lodges, the largest number in any year since the organization of the Grand Lodge; among the petitioners were thirty masons who had not been affiliated in that jurisdiction. He decided that brethren moving into the state may affiliate with any lodge they please, adding (what in some jurisdictions is denied), "the fact of residence has nothing to do with qualifications for affiliation."

He also decided that—

"The extent of masonic relief is not a matter of right, and the amount to be given must be to some extent in the discretion of the subordinate lodge. Where there has been no abuse of that discretion on the part of a subordinate lodge, neither the Grand Lodge nor the Grand Master has any right to interfere."

He decided that the exhibition of the charter in response to the demand of the visitor is a matter of courtesy and not a right, but the Grand Lodge reversed the decision and declared it to be a matter of right. In many jurisdictions it is held that visitation is a matter of courtesy and not of right, and therefore, that the exhibition of the charter is a matter of courtesy. But we think that the truth really is, that if a request to be examined in order to visit a lodge is granted, the visitor then has the right to see the charter; and furthermore, in several jurisdictions, as a matter of proper precaution, ought to see it as a preliminary step to being examined.

During the year the twenty-fifth anniversary of the services of Bro. CORNELIUS HEDGES, as Grand Secretary, occurred, and the Grand Master visited his lodge and presented him with an ink stand and silver tray in behalf of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Master accompanied it by a very fitting address, to which, at the time, Bro. HEDGES made no reply, but in a letter to the Grand Lodge, made a suitable acknowledgment.

In his address, the Grand Master said, and the truth of his statement will be recognized by us all:

"These talents he has poured out in unstinted measure at its bidding. During this period and for a few years longer he also served as its Committee on Fraternal Correspondence, and in that capacity has produced that remarkable series of masonic essays, of which one of his distinguished co-laborers has said, 'that everywhere fraternal feeling takes on a warmer, tenderer glow when the name of his jurisdiction is mentioned.' Such has been his contribution to masonic philosophy and jurisprudence that he is recognized as being among the leading masonic writers of the English speaking people. Glancing through his work recently to familiarize myself with it, I was astonished at the variety of themes with which he has dealt, and the luminosity of his treatment of them. And through it all runs as a clear, limpid stream that grand characteristic of his life—Brotherly Love—that love which is broad enough and wide enough to embrace suffering humanity everywhere and to seek for its amelioration."

The Grand Master had not been able to make as many visitations as he desired and expected, but he is able to report that the craft are really in a prosperous condition.

From the report of the Grand Secretary, we find that quite an addition has been made to the Grand Lodge Library. Among other things, the Proceedings of the Lodge Quatuor Coronati had been added.

A committee was appointed to revise and compile the laws of the Grand Lodge, and submit a report at the next session.

The Grand Orient of Belgium and the Grand Lodge of Egypt were both recognized.

Charters were granted to four of the lodges *v. d.*, and the other dispensation was continued.

The Signet Ring was presented to the incoming Grand Master at the conclusion of the installation, with some very appropriate remarks by M. W. Bro. DAY.

The Report on Correspondence (156 pp.) was again presented by Bro. CORNELIUS HEDGES. We think there is not a single extract in it, but is all written in full by him. We need not say that it is an exceedingly able report, written in our brother's courteous style. We have sometimes wondered whether anything could happen that would stir his indignation sufficiently to show the effect of it in his report. We somewhat doubt it, for we believe that during the many years in which he has prepared these reports, he has given no proof of it.

He commenced writing his report before the Cuban War commenced, and he refers to Cuba, to the Armenians and to Russia, and thereupon he adds:

"The opening year is big with possibilities of war among the great powers, and war, with its modern enginery has become terribly destructive of life and property. Fortunately for us, the seat of inflammation seems to be in the far East, leaving us free-handed to settle the little affairs of Cuba and the Hawaiian Islands. While all the world at the Christmas-tide is chanting 'Peace on Earth and Good-will Among Men,' all the great nations seem to be vieing with each other in forging deadlier implements of war, and our country, with the protectorate of a continent on its hands, even in the interests of peace, is bound to be prepared for war.

"In all its widening and deepening influences Masonry makes for peace and good will among all races, countries and peoples, and its especial cohesive influence among all English-speaking peoples assures us that if either England or the United States were in peril, the other would not stand an idle witness of its destruction.

"Masonry builds up; war tears down. Masonry builds asylums, and war fills them. Charity, so beautifully described by St. Paul in Corinthians 1-13, is the essence of Masonry, its greatest landmark. Let us see what Masonry is doing to fulfill its true mission."

We have gone through this report and marked a good many things for notice, but we know in advance that it will be impossible for us to give

space to all which we have marked, so we will begin and stop when our space is exhausted.

In relation to Masonic Temples, he says:

“It would be well for those with Temple buildings on the brain to imitate King Solomon, who accumulated the means to complete his work before commencing active operations. But it may be safely stated as one of the corollaries of much experience, that temple-building by Grand Lodges is of doubtful propriety under the best circumstances, and by the strongest Grand Bodies. The building of Masonic Homes has been much more successful and reflects greater credit upon the craft.”

And yet, several Grand Lodges have crippled themselves in building Masonic Homes before there was really sufficient demand for them; and when we say “sufficient demand,” we mean that as a business matter, the parties can be taken care of at better advantage in the Home than any where else. All will admit that it would be utter folly to build a Home for a dozen occupants, but the question where the line is to be drawn is an exceedingly difficult one. There have been instances in which, taking into account the cost of the Home, there has been paid for the support of destitute masons, more money per annum, than it would cost to maintain them at a first class hotel. We are not opposed to Homes. We think that when they are needed they are the grandest institutions in the world; but it is true, that it is extravagance to maintain them when they are not needed; and yet, there is a tendency to do that without stopping to inquire as to whether they are needed or not.

Referring to a case in which the penalty imposed by the lodge was reduced by the Grand Lodge, he says:

“Lodges are not, as a general thing, apt to be too severe in their judgments. Does it not tend to relax discipline to have their judgments set aside or cut down without strong reasons?”

That is true, but many cases have happened within our observation, when the lodge went to the opposite extreme, and strong reasons did exist for modifying the penalty.

It is useless to disguise the fact that a lodge trial is not the most satisfactory method for arriving at the truth; for while, theoretically, the members are supposed to be impartial, yet really, it frequently happens that the members will take sides in advance, and the question will not be determined by the evidence, as much as it is by the prejudices of those who decide the case. This is one of the reasons why we look favorably upon the system of commissioners of trials, such as prevails in Massachusetts.

He discusses the question whether it is necessary for a new member to sign the by-laws. There is no doubt at all that in the older lodges, in former times, the practice prevailed universally of requiring a ballot for membership as well as for initiation. Later, the initiate would be proposed

orally for membership, and elected and become a member upon signing the by-laws. Later still, it was provided that the initiate would become a member by signing the by-laws; but the law has now come to be quite general by actual legislation, that receiving the third degree in the lodge, makes the party a member of the lodge, and yet we believe that in a few jurisdictions the old practice prevails.

Of the work he well says:

“We presume it true that the original work has been as faithfully preserved in California as in any jurisdiction that relies upon the mouth-to-ear method of propagation, and we venture to say that if there were any way to compare the work as established in any jurisdiction in the country with that in use in the early part of the Eighteenth Century, it would be found so much swollen and altered as to be scarcely recognizable, though each generation would swear that it was transmitted as received.”

We think our brother, while generally right, is not in accord with the old law and practice in a few matters, and one of them is in relation to masonic charity. He says:

“The dread expressed by some of being mistaken for a ‘benefit society’ would be ludicrous if it were not humiliating. Why! if Masonry were not the oldest and best benefit society in the world, it would never have survived as it has, and its early commission to preserve the name and worship of the true God would have expired. The greatest Teacher who ever dwelt on earth taught that men should be judged by their works, as trees by their fruits. Trees that afford only grateful shade are not to be compared with those that bear nourishing fruits as well as give shelter and shade.”

Yes, and it has survived because it was not a “Benefit Society” and the lesson which the past teaches is, that we had better adhere to the old ways, and not branch off into the new ways, as suggested by our good brother, and some who think as he does.

In his review of Illinois, in relation to another question in regard to which we are not in accord, he says:

“On the modern historical basis of our brother, certainly the lodge is older than Grand Lodge, and the Grand Lodge is older than Grand Masters. If the office of Grand Master is the creature of Grand Lodge, the question will naturally obtrude: Can the creature be greater than its creator? Whence came the prerogative powers of a Grand Master? On the historical basis private and particular lodges created the Grand Lodge, and the latter created the office of Grand Master. The Grand Lodge couldn’t give greater powers than it possessed. So, as we have always contended, if we cut loose from King Solomon we cut loose from all prerogative powers in the extreme sense of that term, prerogative, as an inherent, inalienable, irresponsible power, and we had better drop the claim. The powers that the Grand Master exercises are in no proper sense prerogative. All that he does in the intervals of sessions of Grand Lodge, he does it in its name, behalf, and subject to its approval.”

We understand that most of the facts are precisely the opposite to the statements in this paragraph. It is true, that the lodge in one sense is older than Grand Lodge, and yet, the present lodge is not older than

the Grand Lodge; nor does the Grand Lodge create the Grand Master. We understand the correct history to be that Grand Masters existed before either the present lodge or Grand Lodge system was invented, and he was what the name imports, *Grand Master of the Craft*; government by the people was then unknown and had been thought of only by a few, and the system of government was absolutely monarchical. It is true that the office did not descend in the family, and the Grand Master was elected, but when elected, he had absolute powers.

He was not elected by lodges or the representatives of lodges, but by the whole body of the craft meeting in general assembly. This was found to be inconvenient and the Grand Lodge system was substituted for the General Assembly, leaving the powers of the Grand Master precisely as they were. It was a change from the General Assembly of all the craft to the Representative Body so that the Grand Lodge, while becoming the sovereign power, did not take away from the Grand Master any of the prerogatives with which he had been formerly invested.

Another part of the change was the creation for the first time, of permanent lodges, and they could be created only in one way, and that was by a warrant from the Grand Lodge. Now, if our brother will reform his history, or show us wherein we are wrong, we think we can come to an accord in reference to this question.

In his review of Maine, he says:

“Grand Master Farnham presided during the session, completing the customary two terms of service, and was succeeded by the next in line, Bro. Joseph A. Locke, with whom we have had the pleasure of an acquaintance at his home and at Grand Encampment. We congratulate the Maine craft on its choice, and anticipate for him a successful and we hope brilliant administration. No jurisdiction in the country is better officered and advised. There were no less than eleven Past Grand Masters in attendance to constitute the masonic Senate, and we think it a matter both of justice and good policy that the perquisites of mileage and per diem were voted to them. The address was of modest style and proportions, but of the best quality. The craft is reported enjoying peace and a fair degree of prosperity. Its more immediate care is entrusted to twenty-four District Deputies, and the instruction of the craft is looked after by a very wide-awake lecturer, whose name, to be frank about it, is Sleeper. Past Grand Master King has a regal oversight of the finances, and Bro. Berry is ripe to all his official duties. Resolutions of sympathy were adopted for Bro. Arlington B. Marston, Past Senior Grand Warden, and for many years Grand Representative from Montana, then very low, and since deceased. As we have occasion to join with our brothers in Maine in this common loss, so they have had occasion to unite with us in mourning the loss of Past Grand Master John Stedman, who was a native of Maine.”

Yes, we do unite with Montana in mourning the loss of Past Grand Master **STEDMAN**. Not wholly because he was a son of Maine, but for the good work that he has done for the craft.

Referring to perpetual jurisdiction, while opposed to it, he says:

"If all other jurisdictions will come together on a limitation of three years, we would advocate it for the sake of harmony and uniformity. Still we do not apprehend such dire consequences as Bro. Drummond pictures from a permanent disagreement. Our form of petition requires a candidate to state if he was ever rejected, and if so, where, and it is made a subject of correspondence. If therefrom it appears that any good and continuing cause exists for the former rejection, it will bar his admission with us. It is not the case that we adhere to the principle of perpetual jurisdiction as between our own lodges, not at least in the sense in which it is understood among most jurisdictions. The lodge may allow a waiver of jurisdiction by a three-fourths' open vote, so that no slight personal objection can forever exclude one desirous of receiving the degrees. We practice perfect comity in the matter, for we never object to having the same rule applied to ourselves that we apply to other jurisdictions. And even should others apply to us a different rule, we shall not allow it to disturb our friendly relations. The right of objection by any member to a visiting brother is fully recognized. We might think it unfriendly and unreasonable, but we are not so conceited or narrow-minded as to insist that others should look upon all matters through our eyes, and so long as they treat us as they do others, we shall consider it no special grievance. But we have said before all we care to say upon the subject. If we cannot agree upon some course acceptable to all, we will agree to disagree and still be good friends."

We would ask the brother if the state of things existing even now between the jurisdictions of Indiana and Pennsylvania, are not "dire consequences"?

He still insists upon the Wisconsin doctrine, that it is a duty of the lodge to relieve its own members, and if the lodge is unable to do it, it is the duty of the Grand Lodge. We have already discussed this question so fully that we need add nothing, save that the number who hold as our brother does is so very small, that we can say that substantially the *consensus* of masonic opinion is against his position.

He agrees with us that there is too much technicality in lodge trials, and substantial justice is too often sacrificed thereby. He believes, too, that non-payment of dues is punished too severely. He objects very strenuously to giving the effect to a rejection which we have claimed it has. But he really comes to the logical result, and that is that the requirement of a unanimous vote is wrong. He says, it is no landmark, and is not the usage in countries where Masonry is older than in many of our states. And yet, in the old regulations published in 1723, it is expressly stated that "no man can be entered a brother in any particular lodge, or admitted to be a member thereof, without the unanimous consent of all the members of that lodge then present, when the candidate is proposed and their consent is formally asked by the Master," and it is further stated, that this "inherent privilege" is not subject to dispensation.

Thus it appears that when the permanent lodge system was adopted, the unanimous ballot was held to be a right "inherent in the lodge," and not even subject to a dispensation by the Grand Master, the only exception, by the way, that is found in the old law.

In his closing, he says:

“The appeal from Georgia for the relief of our brethren in Cuba came after war was declared, when the case had gone to a higher tribunal for decision. In delivering Cuba forever from the cruel and bigoted rule of Spain, our country has wrought the effectual relief of our masonic brethren as well. Freemasonry could never flourish, hardly exist, under Spanish rule in Cuba. A brighter era is now open to permanent residents of this long and much persecuted island, and with it Masonry will revive and flourish. Light is breaking in many dark places, and the Sons of Light, the world over, have great cause to rejoice and take courage.”

NEBRASKA 1898.

Returning from a somewhat protracted absence from town and taking up the work of completing our report, we are almost overwhelmed to learn for the first time, as we commence the work of the review of the Proceedings of this Grand Lodge, that during our absence notice was received of the sudden death of our most dearly beloved brother, WILLIAM R. BOWEN, Grand Secretary, on the sixth of May last. We have known him pretty intimately for a good many years, although we have met him personally but a few times. But our personal intercourse with him strengthened our previously conceived opinion as to his ability and his devotion to Masonry. His death is an immense loss to the craft in his own jurisdiction as well as to the craft universal. We have not time to pay the tribute to his memory that his high character and his service for Masonry demand, and we can only note the fact of his death with the assurance to our Nebraska brethren, that the craft in Maine lament his death as earnestly as if he had been one of us.

The issue of these proceedings was delayed by a fire which destroyed the whole edition just as it was ready for mailing, and the printers were obliged to reorganize by purchasing and arranging a new plant.

We have the excellent steel plate portrait of M. W. JOHN B. DINSMORE, the retiring Grand Master.

At the annual communication, two hundred and nineteen out of the two hundred twenty-nine chartered lodges were represented. As provided by the laws of the Grand Lodge, a Master Mason's Lodge was opened; the roll was called, whereby it was ascertained that a constitutional number of lodges was represented; whereupon the Grand Master declared the Grand Lodge opened.

It is some satisfaction to note that the word “quorum” is not used.

Visiting members from Iowa were introduced, fraternally welcomed, and seated in the East.

The Grand Master refers to the deaths of prominent masons in other jurisdictions, announces the few decisions, gives an account of the dispensations which he had issued and of his other official acts, few of which are of general interest. His list of dispensations suggests that nearly all of them might have been avoided by provisions of law, as in other jurisdictions. We cannot possibly understand why it is necessary to require the officers of the lodge to be installed at a particular time, and if not then installed a dispensation must be issued to authorize their installation. We do not wonder that the Grand Master finds that the law providing for installation is frequently disregarded. It would certainly be wonderful if all the officers of over two hundred lodges could be present at their respective meetings for installation on the given day. It is too much to expect of human beings. Under the masonic law the old officer holds over until his successor is installed, unless he becomes incapacitated from holding the office.

He made two decisions in reference to the saloon question, upon which the committee on Jurisprudence divided, and after discussion both reports were postponed until the next annual communication.

By his direction the Grand Secretary had furnished the masonic libraries at Wilmington, N. C., and at Tacoma, Washington, a complete file of the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge, and his action was confirmed.

The officers of a lodge were installed in the lodge opened on the first degree, and upon inquiry the Master replied that they had followed Webb's Monitor. He confirmed the installation and asked for further legislation in the matter, and the Grand Lodge adopted a regulation:

"That any brother elected and not installed, as prescribed by the constitution and by-laws, shall be reported to the Grand Master within thirty days, when he may issue a dispensation to elect and install to fill such vacancy or take such other action as he deems best."

We think this very regulation illustrates the wisdom of the suggestions which we have already made.

He had not been able, as he had intended, to visit many of the lodges, and he found the other duties of the office much more extensive than he had supposed.

He says that he had had 537 official communications from the Grand Secretary and that he had written nearly or quite 1500 letters.

The question was raised whether the law of the Grand Lodge exempted from Grand Lodge dues, brethren who had been members more than thirty years, and it was decided that the law means a membership of thirty years, not necessarily continuous.

The reports of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary had been printed in advance and were therefore submitted without reading. This suggests the only possible improvement, so far as we can see, that can be made in

the management of the affairs of our Grand Lodge while in session. If the address of the Grand Master and the reports of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, and perhaps of the Committee on Returns, should be printed in advance, we could probably save some time, and in many cases act more intelligibly upon various recommendations.

The Grand Secretary says that every year, demonstrates the wisdom of their second edition of their Proceedings, accompanied with an index.

He had been importuned by older members to use larger type in the Proceedings, but felt that he could not do so unless the Grand Lodge should authorize it. As he made no change, we presume nothing was done. We think that so far as the tables are concerned, at any rate, the change suggested would be a great improvement; but of course, we are not impartial, as we come into the category of those older members who are specially interested.

The Grand Orator, CHARLES H. SLOAN, delivered a beautiful address, which is published in the Proceedings.

The Iowa brethren were importuned to address the brethren, and finally did so, to their great pleasure and instruction.

The Grand Master was requested to attend the Washington Centennial exercises, or, if unable to do so, to appoint a substitute.

A change in the by-laws was made, giving more time between the date when the returns, etc., must be made, and the meeting of the Grand Lodge, in order that the various tables and reports may be made up before the Grand Lodge meets.

A large amount of routine business was transacted.

A brother who had been reprimanded for publishing an article appealed to the Grand Lodge, which decided that the publication of the article constituted a masonic offence, and that the punishment was inadequate, and suspended the party for one year. The Proceedings do not enable us to judge what the article was.

The Committee on Relief endorsed the following in relation to a claim made upon an Ohio lodge:

“The matter was taken up by our Grand Master with the Grand Master of the jurisdiction of Ohio, who replied in substance that his Grand Lodge had always taken the position that relief was purely voluntary; the obligation to afford the same was moral only; that there was no contractual obligation between a lodge and its members; that no re-imbusement would be enforced upon the Ohio lodge, and in addition thereto stated that such lodge was so weak that if such effort were made it would result in the surrender of its charter.”

There was no Report on Correspondence.

NEVADA, 1898.

The Grand Master, ALBERT LACKEY, presented a report, giving concisely an account of his official acts and decisions.

He says the craft are in a fairly prosperous condition, and while the work has not been quite up to that of former years, the losses are less, and the returns show an increase in the total membership.

He had made quite a number of visitations, and on one occasion installed the officers of the lodge in public. He states that the work in the different lodges in the main is very well performed, but that there is no uniformity in the work in the different lodges, the members of each apparently working as they please.

He well states the true doctrine in relation to the secret ballot:

“It has been represented to me that in one of our lodges a bad state of affairs exists, by reason of the rejection of good men on account of prejudices and personal pique; and that so many worthy applicants have been rejected that others desirous of becoming masons, dare not apply. This is the only complaint of the kind that has reached me.

“While a mason has the undoubted right to use the black-ball without having his motive questioned or the fact inquired into, yet he should never allow his personal feelings or prejudices to carry him so far as to cast a negative ballot upon the application of one whom he knows to be worthy.

“When a brother enters a lodge he should leave in the outer world all questions of sectarianism, business rivalry, personal prejudice and ill-will, and regard applicants for our mysteries for their qualities of mind and heart, and deal as justly with them as we are taught to do in personal business relations, and to vote without fear, favor or prejudice, but alone for the good of the Fraternity.”

He gives the full correspondence with the Grand Lodge of Peru as well as his edict suspending correspondence with that body, which at the date of the session of the Grand Lodge, June, 1898, had not been revoked.

He granted dispensations to two lodges to meet outside of their respective jurisdictions while their halls were undergoing repairs. The Committee on Jurisprudence hold that the constitution of the Grand Lodge gave no authority for such dispensations, but in view of all these facts, they recommended that all the proceedings of the lodges without their jurisdiction be healed and legalized.

The interesting question arises, what power the Grand Lodge has, by a mere resolution, to violate its own constitution? Is its action any more valid than that of the Grand Master, even if the theory upon which that action is based is correct? An altogether better solution is, that the Grand Master, *by power inherent in his office*, can do what is necessary in such a case for the good of the craft.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 82) was submitted by Bro. A. D. BIRD. It is a brief and excellent abstract of the proceedings of the English speaking Grand Lodges, with very few comments. At the close of his

report he gives items in relation to Masonic Homes and quotes from others what they have written upon other subjects; but we regret to find that he does not give his own views.

NEW BRUNSWICK, 1898.

The Grand Master, THOMAS WALKER, states that, with the exception of one matter, nothing had occurred to mar the concord of the provincial masonic family. He gives a brief tribute to the dead of the year; among whom was Past J. G. Warden GEORGE TODD.

He had visited quite a large number of the lodges, and speaks highly of their condition as a whole.

He refers to the Peru matter, but at that time the intelligence had been received of a change in the office of Grand Master of that Grand Lodge, and therefore no further action was taken.

The report of the Grand Secretary shows that there had been a slight falling off in the total membership, and the matter was referred to a committee to consider the cause and propose a remedy. The committee reported that the causes are a lack of interest, especially among the Past Masters; a failure to instruct new members; and the advancing of officers, who make no effort to learn the work, but whose only object is to get through the chair. They advised certain measures, action upon which the Grand Lodge deferred until the next annual communication. We shall look for the final report with much interest.

The Grand Orient of Belgium was recognized upon the report of a committee, from which we take the following:

“From the facts set out in the letter of M. W. Bro. Berge, and from information already in the possession of your committee, there can be no doubt whatever that the Grand Orient exercises lawful authority over the lodges of Craft Masonry in the Kingdom of Belgium, that it has been in existence sixty-six years, and that it possesses the confidence and respect of all the legitimate governed bodies of Craft Masonry in Europe. It exercises no control over any other degrees than those of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason, and men of character and eminence in the national life of Belgium have been long connected with it.”

The work of the third degree was exemplified before the Grand Lodge by the Union Lodge of Portland, the Grand Master acting as Master.

The reports of the District Deputies show an encouraging condition of affairs, but we think that if they were authorized to instruct in the ritual, and required to visit every lodge, the effect of their visits would be more apparent, and would, to a certain extent, at any rate, answer the questions submitted to the special committee.

As we understand the report of the Grand Treasurer, the debt of the

Grand Lodge had been reduced \$500.00, and \$2,000.00 more, which had fallen due, had been paid by the issue of new bonds to the same amount.

There was no Report on Correspondence.

NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1898.

We have an excellent portrait of Past Grand Master *ANDREW BENTON*, who had died during the year.

The usual semi-annual communication for the exemplification of the work and for social purposes was held, and was very largely attended.

At the annual communication, the Grand Master, *HENRY A. MARSH*, says that peace and harmony had pervaded the jurisdiction and not a ripple had disturbed the harmony of the Grand Lodge. He speaks of the great benefit of the annual gatherings of the Grand Lodge to the Fraternity.

Before reading this, we were specially struck with the evident benefit which results from the semi-annual gathering, at which there is a greater opportunity for social intercourse than at the annual meetings.

He pays a deserved tribute to Past Grand Master *BENTON*, and also to Past Junior Grand Warden *JOHN SULLIVAN KIDDER*, who died April 6th, 1898, at the age of eighty-seven years.

He announced the death of *BRO. WILLIAM H. W. HINDS*, Past Deputy Grand Master, and *JOSEPH SHATTUCK*, Past Junior Grand Warden.

He gives a brief account of the celebration of the Centennial of Benevolent Lodge, an occasion of much interest. He decided that a person removing from the jurisdiction of one lodge into that of another, cannot be made a mason until he has lived in the latter the required time, and that the lodge in whose jurisdiction he formerly lived, has no power to give consent that will shorten the time, and in fact, that it has no power in the premises whatever. We should not notice this, were it not that we find that the same question has been asked a great many times, and the same rule applies in this jurisdiction.

Referring to the trial for unmasonic conduct, he says:

“ I desire to bring the attention of the Grand Lodge to the subject of a change in the mode of trials for offences against the law of masonry. In many grand jurisdictions these trials are conducted by a commission regulated by constitutional provisions. Our present system was the one which was in use more generally at the time of the adoption of our constitution, but it has gradually given place to the commission in very many states. There are obvious objections to the system used here, involving sometimes local controversies and sometimes unsatisfactory results, frequently making it necessary to have new trials and unnecessary expense. A trial by a commission would obviate many of these objections, and in states where it has been in use the fraternity are satisfied with the change. It would require an alteration in our constitution, and it should be guarded by all necessary and reasonable regulations. I recommend that a committee be pro-

vided for, to take the subject under consideration and report at the next annual communication, with such recommendations as they may deem expedient."

The matter was referred to a very able special committee which will report at the next annual communication. We shall look with much interest for the report.

He announced that St. Croix Lodge at Calais, with the approval of our Grand Master, had waived jurisdiction over JOHN MORRILL BOYD in favor of Lodge of the Temple in that jurisdiction.

He reports that much progress had been made in raising the funds for a Masonic Orphans' Home. He thinks the consummation of the work had been too long delayed, and desires the Grand Lodge to take up the project and push it to an early completion.

He submits with his address the reports of the District Deputies, and an examination of them shows that they had been, as usual, active and efficient in the performance of their duties, and one completes the reading of their reports with a strong feeling that the Fraternity in our neighboring jurisdiction is in a prosperous condition, to which the faithful services of the District Deputies have very largely contributed.

Few matters of general interest were before the Grand Lodge.

It had occasion, however, to affirm the doctrine, that in matters of business, Masonry will not take disciplinary jurisdiction of business matters unless there is an element of fraud in the transaction.

The Committee on By-Laws disapprove of a code which provided for honorary membership, although members could be elected to honorary membership only by unanimous vote, taken by the secret ballot. We do not quite agree with the committee. We think there are cases in which men, who have devoted much time to the service of Masonry, and who have really grown old in its service, may well be put on an honorary list.

The following provision in relation to masonic clothing will be of interest at this time in this jurisdiction:

"The officers of the Grand Lodge shall wear their appropriate jewel appended to a purple velvet collar or metal chain, and a white apron trimmed with purple. The Masters and Wardens of particular lodges shall wear their appropriate jewels appended to a blue velvet collar or metal chain, and a plain white apron. Representatives of lodges shall wear a white apron which may be trimmed with purple. And no member of the Grand Lodge shall be allowed to speak or vote in Grand Lodge unless he is properly clothed."

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 152) was presented, as heretofore, by Bro. ALBERT S. WAIT. It is briefer than some of his former reports, being more nearly confined to an abstract of the more important matters. However, he freely discusses quite a number of questions.

Referring to the decision of a Grand Master, that while the masons of a

certain country were undoubtedly legitimate, masonic intercourse could not be maintained with them because the Grand Lodge had not formally recognized them. This is a question to which we have given considerable thought, and as a member of a committee have passed upon a similar question arising in this jurisdiction. And the conclusion at which we came was, that it is not safe to leave to lodges the question of recognizing masons from other countries until the Grand Lodge has recognized the governing body under which they hail.

In relation to non-payment of dues, he well says:

“We doubt the wisdom of this drastic action in regard to non-affiliation and non-payment of dues, we question its justice, and we are not convinced that it will prove an appropriate or successful remedy for the supposed evils at which it is aimed.”

In his review of Illinois, he replies at some length to Bro. ROBBINS, of Illinois, in relation to Masonry in Mexico.

The following so fully accords with our own views, that we quote it in spite of its length:

“It is objected against the Gran Dieta that it is not organized on the precise plan of the English and American Grand Lodges. And Bro. Robbins maligns it because it is a Grand Lodge exercising jurisdiction over other Grand Lodges in similar manner to the General Grand Chapter and the Grand Encampment of the United States; and he argues that it ought not to be recognized by American Grand Lodges because they will not consent to the formation of a General Grand Lodge. The argument seems to us puerile in the extreme. The objection of American masons to the formation of a General Grand Lodge is from considerations of policy, not in the least reaching any question of its effect upon the legitimacy of American Masonry. Suppose a General Grand Lodge were to be formed, does any one pretend that it would be an abandonment of the legitimacy of Masonry? What, then, of the whole system of provincial Grand Lodges with their provincial Grand Masters and all under the government and supervision of the Grand Lodge of England?

“If departure from former usages in the government of the craft is an abandonment of legitimate Masonry, what of the Grand Lodge of England at its formation in 1717? It was a movement novel and before unheard of in Masonry; yet no one, so far as we have ever heard, has suggested that the organization then made was a departure from Masonry. Although it was new, it was purely conservative in its objects and purposes, and to which, so far as can now be seen, the institution owes its preservation. There is every reason to think that on the part of its promoters the formation of the Gran Dieta was from a belief of the same necessity which lay at the foundation of the organization of the first Grand Lodge in England. And not only so, but everything warrants the belief that in this they were right. Every kind of confusion existed in the Masonry of that country, and the seeds of disintegration, sown broadcast, were rapidly germinating with their destructive influences.

“The Grand Dieta was formed with the hope of bringing order out of chaos and saving masonry from a destruction which to men of foresight seemed plainly impending. And now, because they did not by a single vault spring into perfection, instead of encouraging their efforts at the elimination of incorrect practices common cause is made in a few quarters with parties and organizations in Mexico, who are opposing it because of those

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very efforts at reform. They even join with them in espousing the cause of a person who for fractious and unmasonic conduct has been expelled from masonry by the bodies with which he has been identified, assuming all his utterances, made under the smart of his ostracism from association with his former brethren, to be worthy of credence against the denials of men in high position not only in masonry but in affairs of state. We do not intend to assert that the expulsion of that person was or was not for just cause; that is a question upon which probably no safe opinion can at this distance be formed. We do say, that it is fundamental wherever legitimate Masonry exists, that a person standing as that person does is beyond the pale of fraternity and cannot be recognized or communicated with as a mason. It seems to us something astonishing that the statements of this man should be taken up and assumed as unquestionable truth against the denials of them which have been made."

We will only add that in a pamphlet published by Chism, the only objection which he made to the legality of his expulsion was, that he had *ceased to be a member of the lodge at the time he was expelled*, though not denying that he lived within its jurisdiction.

We notice that some of his apologists in this country also parade the fact that he still holds a dimit from a Missouri lodge, whose legality cannot be questioned. Such is the fact with every expelled non-affiliated mason, and we have never before heard that this fact has any effect whatever upon the expulsion. The dimit is in his possession, and probably if it were demanded of him, he would do precisely what he did in relation to the charter for a chapter in Mexico in his possession, when he was ordered to return it by the General Grand High Priest. At the session of the General Grand Chapter, the action of the General Grand High Priest in suspending the charter on account of the expulsion of Chism was affirmed, although he was heard in that body by his special representative, if not his attorney. The General Grand High Priest demanded the charter which Chism refused to surrender, in which he took the ground that that officer had not the authority to suspend the charter of a chapter! In all respects, the General Grand Chapter confirmed the action of the General Grand High Priest, declaring that his action was in accordance with the constitution, and that it was Chism's duty to return the charter on his demand; and furthermore, the charter was revoked—and that, too, by a substantially unanimous vote.

In his review of Maine, he refers to the amendment to our constitution which provides that if a rejected candidate continues to reside within the jurisdiction of the lodge for five years, permission to receive the degrees elsewhere may be granted unless there are more than three negative ballots, and adds:

"We suspect that the provision in this proposed amendment requiring consent unless there be more than three negative ballots, will elicit some discussion at least elsewhere, and we shall be surprised if it does not among our brethren of Maine before its adoption. In this, however, we do not intend to assert that it is indefensible in a masonic view."

Of course this is an experiment. In former times, permission to apply elsewhere was granted by the recommendation of the Master, Wardens and three other members of the lodge, as was the case, and we believe is now, in Massachusetts. Later, a majority vote of the lodge was required; later still, a unanimous vote was required; and the law was further changed by making the effect of the rejection cease at the end of five years. It was suggested that if, after a candidate has been rejected, and he continues to reside five years in the community, subject to the scrutiny of the craft, no more than three members shall vote against releasing jurisdiction and allowing another lodge, upon careful inquiry that would necessarily follow in such a case, to admit him by unanimous vote, in all human probability, the negative votes would be cast by mistake or for some other reason not valid. However, it is an experiment; if it does not work well in practice, it will be changed.

He still spends space in relation to the power of the Grand Master in Maine to set aside the action of a lodge in cases of discipline, and he grows so pathetic as, considering the circumstances, to be almost ludicrous.

Let us re-state the matter. It was found by experience that in trials by lodges, blunders were frequently made, which utterly invalidated the proceedings; thereupon a provision of the constitution was adopted that in all such cases a transcript of the record and evidence should be submitted to the Grand Master for his examination, and if he found cause, that he should send back the case for a new trial. In this manner very much time of the Grand Lodge was saved and cases finally determined much earlier than it would be if reported directly to the Grand Lodge and its action awaited; but his decision is not conclusive and the parties interested may go before the Grand Lodge for its decision. Bro. WAIT goes to the absurd length of declaring that this makes the Grand Master a despot. We have said all that is necessary to say in relation to this point.

Grand Master CHASE had two cases before him, which showed upon their face that the lodge either grossly violated its duty, or was profoundly ignorant as to its plain duty, and he set aside the decision as against the facts and ordered a new trial.

Bro. WAIT says:

“To vest a masonic lodge with authority to decide judicially, and then if the decision does not square with the views of another, to visit with the capital penalty of having its charter taken away is not only the essence of injustice, but a plain and pure contradiction. It enjoins judicial duties, and at the same time denies the power to decide—even worse, it treats the decision as a crime, however honestly it is made. We deny that there is, or ever was, any such masonic law. We affirm further, that with such a law understood and generally acted upon, Masonry, as now constituted, could not, and ought not, to exist.”

And yet, the Grand Lodge of every jurisdiction has that power, and exer-

cises it frequently. We doubt if Bro. WAIT writes a single report in which, if he should note such cases, he would not be obliged to note several.

The power to set aside the verdict of a lodge as being against the facts, is law in almost all the jurisdictions, but in a few, it is true, that instead of setting aside the verdict, they take away the charter.

Now the Grand Master is not vested with the power to "take away" the charter, but only to *suspend it* until the Grand Lodge meets; and this has often been done on the ground that the lodge failed to perform its masonic duties, either because its members disregarded them or were too ignorant of Masonry to know what those duties are; and it has always been held, not only a just cause, but as what *ought to be done*, and the idea that in such a case there is any exercise of despotism would seem to us too absurd to be noticed, did not our brother so earnestly insist upon it. We repeat, that if a lodge does not know enough to perform the ordinary duties of Masonry, it ought to have its charter taken away, even if it acts honestly, just as much as in case it acts dishonestly. The safety of the Institution is the supreme law.

In his review of Massachusetts, he says:

"By some of these reports, with the action thereon, if we rightly understand them, it is held in Massachusetts, as in the Grand Lodge of England, as well as in those of some of the British provinces, that it is sufficient to justify expulsion that the brother has been indicted and convicted in a civil court of an infamous crime, and other evidence than the record of such conviction is not required. In this connection we desire to say that we have long felt serious doubts whether the rule in our own Grand Lodge, which denies the use of such a record in a masonic trial, for any purpose, is either necessary or just to the masonic institution."

We understand that this doctrine prevails in Pennsylvania, but do not understand that it does in Massachusetts, but that Massachusetts holds that a record of a conviction is conclusive evidence of guilt unless the effect of it is destroyed by other evidence. Such is the rule in Maine.

We believe that New Hampshire is the only jurisdiction in which the record of a conviction is not evidence in a masonic trial.

We have marked other paragraphs for notice, but our printer is calling for "copy," and we must obey!

NEW JERSEY, 1899.

The Grand Lodge held an Emergent Communication to lay the corner stone of the postoffice at Paterson. We believe that we have never noted the method pursued on such occasion by this conservative Grand Lodge, and therefore we will add that the Grand Lodge was opened in ample form; a procession formed and marched to the place where the ceremonies were to be performed. The form of ceremonies is precisely the same as that

used in Maine, including the giving of the Public Grand Honors. When the ceremonies were completed, the Grand Lodge returned to the lodge room and was closed in ample form.

The Grand Lodge also held an Emergent Communication to dedicate the new Masonic Home, an occasion of great interest to the craft in New Jersey. Previously to the ceremonies, an American flag was presented to the Grand Lodge to be used at the Home. An address of presentation was made, followed by singing the "Star Spangled Banner" and an address of acceptance on behalf of the Home committee.

There was a very large number of visitors present, including the Grand Master of Pennsylvania and several of his associate officers, and a large representation from the Board of Managers of the Masonic Home of Pennsylvania. As on a previous occasion, the Grand Lodge was opened in ample form and performed the services as a Grand Lodge, and after the exercises were completed, returned to the place of opening, where the Grand Lodge was closed in ample form. A banquet followed, at which ladies were present, followed by speaking by a number of distinguished brethren, including those from sister jurisdictions. We note that the Grand Honors were given after the pouring on of the corn, wine and oil respectively.

We would be glad to quote from the addresses if space would allow, but we can only add our congratulations upon the completion of this great enterprise.

At the annual communication, the Grand Master, JOSEPH W. EWAN, delivered a very full and complete address, covering an account of his official acts with such recommendations as his experience suggested. Of course, we must pass over very much of it to note a few of the salient points.

We are greatly pained to learn from his address that Right Worshipful Bro. WILLIAMS, Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania, who had accepted an invitation to be present on this occasion, had just died in Philadelphia, and this information had reached the Grand Master after his address had been prepared.

Among his references to other jurisdictions, is one in relation to the recent action of the Grand Lodge at Washington. Of this he says:

"Such a declaration is so startling in its character that it may well be wondered whether the Grand Lodge of Washington fully realizes its position in its relation to other Grand Lodges by the adoption of such a radical principle.

"I cannot believe that New Jersey is willing to accept or approve such declarations as are contained in this report.

"In fact, I may say that New Jersey, in Grand Lodge assembled, many years ago, placed itself on record upon this very subject, and the wisdom of the decision then determined has been fully demonstrated.

"The question of 'white' or 'colored' may be left entirely out of the discussion and only the questions of 'Clandestine Masons' and 'Exclusive

'Territorial Jurisdiction' considered, and we can arrive at but one conclusion."

* * * * *

"I may be permitted to express the hope that the Grand Lodge of Washington will, as quickly as possible, recede from its unwise position and remain within the sunshine of masonic intercourse with her sister jurisdictions."

According to information which we have received by telegraph at this writing, the hope of Grand Master EWAN has already been realized.

He had entirely revised the list of representatives of sister jurisdictions as he had noticed that some of them were dead and some of them never attended, and he says:

"While these Representatives are commissioned by the Grand Master of the Jurisdiction they represent, yet I assumed that such appointments were, to all intents and purposes, made by the Grand Master of the Jurisdiction to which they belonged."

This is undoubtedly true, but it is not in accordance with the original plan, and we believe that it has been the cause of all the troubles that have grown out of the system, and we most earnestly wish that Grand Masters would unite in restoring the old system.

It seems by his address, as would naturally be expected, that large numbers of requests for waiver of jurisdiction over candidates are made by New York and Pennsylvania. Very many of the business men in New York City and Philadelphia live in New Jersey but are really better known in the cities where they do business.

We find from his address, that the Treasurer of the Home Committee, had permanently placed in the front wall of the Home, a white stone about twelve inches square, brought from the quarries of King Solomon at Jerusalem. A cavity had been made in it, in which was placed a metallic box containing articles which are usually placed in the boxes deposited under corner-stones. On the front of it, had been chiseled a square and compass.

He reports that the special assessment of \$2.00 per capita had been paid by the day fixed, by nearly all of the lodges, and since then all delinquent lodges had made their payment. And he says of one of the lodges that made delay in payment, that its contribution represents more real sacrifice than, perhaps, that of any other lodge.

He had granted a large number of dispensations and had refused other applications. He declined to allow lodges to attend divine service in Masonic clothing, in accordance with the precedent established by his predecessor. He states that he fully concurs. It certainly has been masonic usage for masons to attend divine service on St. John's Day, wearing their masonic clothing and in a body as a lodge. In other countries, the

line is not drawn at St. John's Day, and we are not certain by any means, that attending divine service is not strictly masonic work.

In view of the large number of dispensations which are asked for that ought to be avoided, he suggests that the Grand Lodge impose a fee of ten dollars for each one granted.

In reference to physical qualifications, he says:

"Personally, and through my Deputies, I have examined thirty candidates for masonic privileges with reference to their physical qualifications.

"I have decided seventeen of these to be eligible and thirteen ineligible, while the examination of two candidates is pending.

"It has come to my notice that waivers of jurisdiction are frequently granted to candidates who have visible defects which would debar them from the privileges of Masonry in New Jersey, and which are not sufficient to prevent them from being made masons in sister jurisdictions.

"This condition it seems to me, should not exist.

"Applicants for waiver of jurisdiction should possess all the qualifications required to join a lodge in New Jersey, and any case of visible physical defects should be referred to the Grand Master for his examination and decision.

"I have in mind a young man, who could not, by reason of a physical defect, join a New Jersey lodge. He was granted a waiver, and subsequently joined a lodge in a sister jurisdiction, and is a frequent and welcome visitor to the lodges in the city of New Jersey, in which he resided.

"I have been expecting to be asked whether he could affiliate with a New Jersey lodge on dimit, and if not, why not.

"Our sister jurisdiction has been benefited by his initiation fees and dues. He is a mason in good standing, and associates with us as such. It may well be asked why the Grand Lodge of New Jersey will permit a man to be made a mason in a sister jurisdiction whom it will not allow to be made in his own. I will venture a decision: Applicants for waiver of jurisdiction must possess the same physical qualifications as required by those applying to a lodge of this jurisdiction, and their eligibility determined in the same manner."

We think it would trouble any Grand Master to give a good reason why he should not be affiliated, and the question arises whether the facts, which he states, do not suggest that the law of New Jersey is too strict in this regard.

It seems, though we were not before aware of the fact, that there is a clandestine lodge at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, which was visited by a young brother from New Jersey without his being aware that he was not visiting a regular lodge. He was reprimanded by his lodge for his carelessness. He says, also, that a clandestine mason, claiming to hail from a clandestine lodge in Philadelphia, working under the Grand Orient of Spain, had actually visited one or more of the lodges in New Jersey, and he adds that it is difficult to understand how masons of ordinary intelligence can be misled by such parties.

We believe that it is partly due to the efforts which have been made by very many to ridicule the idea of a visitor's asking to see the charter of the lodge which he desires to visit. It used to be one of the sharpest points of the examination of a proposed visitor, to ascertain if he hailed from a regu-

lar lodge; but our observation is, that care in this direction has gradually decreased, and if a man proves himself to be a mason, that is all that is necessary, forgetting that it is equally the duty of the Master to require them to produce proper vouchers of having been initiated in a regular lodge. In fact, the object of a proper certificate had been supposed by some to be a method of proving himself to be a mason, and this use has therefore been held to be evidence that the applicant has not been properly instructed. The special attention of Masters of lodges ought to be called to these facts and to the danger of carelessness in this respect, when they are installed.

Of the duty of lodges, he says:

“The recital of the condition of this lodge, which, I regret to say, is not the only one in our jurisdiction in a similar condition, is given to call the attention of all lodges to the fact that the Grand Lodge expects the subordinate lodges to select competent men to carry on the work of the lodge, and when unable to secure them to frankly acknowledge that they are unable to carry out the duty enjoined on them, and surrender their warrant.”

To which should be added that, if they do neither, the charter of the lodge should be arrested.

Under the head of “Discipline,” he gives quite a large number of cases in which his official action had been required.

Harmony had been restored in one lodge by the expulsion of a prominent member—an act which we have no doubt will have a very beneficial influence throughout that jurisdiction. He regrets to announce that some of the Lodges of Instruction were not so fully attended as heretofore. He had made a large number of visitations, which had proved very beneficial beyond question. He had mailed more than 3,000 letters during the year, and had kept his two private Secretaries pretty busy. A large part of it, however, had grown out of the Masonic Home, which he reports in full operation and doing a vast deal of good.

The Grand Master of Delaware, and a member of the Centennial Committee from Virginia, were presented and welcomed, and made fitting responses.

The Committee on Masonic Home, and the Superintendent, made very full reports, showing that the Home is answering the expectations which had been formed for it.

The Grand Secretary gives his usual full and yet concise report. The work was exemplified at the evening session of the first day.

A tribute to the memory of R. W. HENRY WARREN WILLIAMS, Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania, was adopted and ordered to be sent to the Grand Secretary of that Grand Lodge.

The Committee on Correspondence presented a comparatively brief report in relation to the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, and affirmed the action of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey in 1871, and severed fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Washington.

BRO. GEORGE B. EDWARDS presented to the Grand Lodge the Bible which was used upon the altar, printed in 1478.

The Grand Lodge adopted the following:

"The Secretary of a lodge, with the approval of the Worshipful Master, may issue printed notices to the members, to be sent in sealed envelopes, containing a statement of candidates proposed for membership, with date of voting thereon, and also of contemplated masonic work."

We are somewhat surprised at this action by this conservative old Grand Lodge, for it really informs the public as to who the candidates are to be, and is an entering wedge to a very serious disclosure of the business of the lodge.

The Report on Correspondence (188 pp.) was presented by Bro. GEORGE B. EDWARDS, and is in our brother's usual happy vein.

In regard to the burial service, Bro. EDWARDS says:

"The practice in New Jersey is to perform this duty when at labor, the same as all other masonic work. The presence of the officers in person or by deputy, acting, the three Great Lights and representatives of the lesser, the immovable jewels in the appropriate stations at the grave, the emblems of office, the proscribed limits tiled by an officer, which no profane is allowed to penetrate, the continuance of an organized lodge, the presence of the charter or possession of the same by a subordinate, the ceremonial, are indicative of a lodge at labor, and the exhaustive article by Bro. Schultz sustains this status."

In his review of Maine, he says:

"The first official act, of a public character, of the Grand Master was the dedication of the new apartments of the Lodge in which he first beheld Masonic Light, a third of a century before. The occasion was surrounded with pleasantries. The providing of more convenient and more sumptuous quarters for lodge homes is mentioned as eliciting serious consideration among the craft. The advice given to Laertes, as relates to his apparel, is as applicable to the adornment and comfort of lodge rooms; the element of attractiveness has much to do with attendance. Ritualistic studies are also stimulants having the same tendency. Few men hide their light; they rather seek opportunity to display acquirement."

Quoting our statement that in opening lodge the knocks should commence in the East, he says:

"This is in harmony with instruction and practice in New Jersey, but the Jersey reviewer does not find it in accord with the work promulgated in the earlier days, known as the Webb-Preston, so far as the knocks are concerned, and also for the following conception:

"The angle of incidents formed by a ray of light at meridian, in contact with the plumb-line at the vertex of the service in the South, the station in which that immovable Jewel is found, the course of light Westward, proceeding eventually to illumine the East, the place of light, by diurnal rotation, directly point in linear harmony, the track of motion, with which masonic accuracy, in practice, should accord."

His statement in regard to the Webb-Preston Work surprises us, for "we have not so received it."

Referring to the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, he says:

“It might not be inappropriate to repeat the enquiry made to one ‘who was among the herdsmen of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah, King of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam, the son of Joash, King of Israel, two years before the earthquake’: ‘Amos, what seest thou?’”

He concludes his report by quoting Kipling’s verses, entitled “The Mother Lodge.”

NEW MEXICO, 1898. .

We have the portraits of Past Grand Masters JAMES H. WROTH and CHAS. BOWMER. The Grand Master, JOHN W. POE, thus speaks of the condition of the craft:

“All things considered, the year just closed has, I believe, been a fairly prosperous one for the craft in this jurisdiction. I think so because of the increased interest, and more healthy tone generally manifested by the lodges and especially by the weaker and more isolated ones. Some of these which, one or two years ago, were seriously considering the surrender of their charters seem to have found new courage, and are hopefully looking forward to a brighter future. This I think may be accounted for, in the main, by the greatly improved business conditions of the past year within our territory. We are at peace with all our sister jurisdictions. Harmony is the rule within our own. A majority of our lodges are making a healthy growth in membership, and judging from reports I have received and from my own observations, the material which is being brought up is good and desirable.”

He had increased the number of District Deputy Grand Masters, and reduced the size of the districts on account of the large amount of time and expense that had been previously required of those officers in making their visitations.

He refused to grant a dispensation to elect and install officers at a special communication, no quorum having been present at the annual meeting. He objected to the election at a *special* communication, but we do not see why, for if notice, that ought to be given in such cases, is given, there need not be any danger. He says further:

“I also refused a dispensation for the conferring of a degree out of time, on the ground that there was no emergency to warrant such action. Although I am one of those who adhere to the opinion that the Grand Master has, and ought to have the power or prerogative of granting dispensations for this purpose in cases of emergency and that to attempt to deprive him of it by legislation, would be equivalent to the setting aside of a landmark, I am also of the opinion that this prerogative should be exercised with great care and caution, and in cases of extreme emergency only.”

The matter of restoring a charter had been referred at the former communication to a committee of Past Grand Masters, who reported in favor of doing it, and thereupon he restored it accordingly. He made various decisions, the most of them dependent on local law.

He decided that a suicide is entitled to masonic burial on the ground that

no perfectly sane person will attempt suicide. Of course, his decision is correct, based upon that theory: but we regard the reason upon which it is based as an exceedingly dangerous one, and moreover, that with any proper definition of insanity, it is not true. We believe that many commit suicide when they are both morally and legally accountable for their acts.

The report of the Grand Lecturer shows that great progress had been made in disseminating the ritual. In this connection he says:

“As to the ritual, few are near letter perfect, but all are impressive in rendition, and that is of far more importance than the ‘parrot like’ repetition of our beautiful ritual. The ritual, as rendered, was satisfactory: very few changes, if any at all, are desirable. There is an earnest wish that the work be put in a form so that it cannot be changed whenever it is necessary to make a change in the office of Grand Lecturer.”

In relation to the burial of suicides, the committee say:

“We agree with the Most Worshipful Grand Master, that there may be circumstances attending a suicide when it would not be improper to accord the deceased a masonic burial. It is probably better not to attempt to lay down any hard and fast rule on this subject, and to leave each case to be determined according to the peculiar circumstances surrounding it. Suicide may be committed by a Master Mason under such circumstances as to make it a crime which would bring shame upon the craft. It was recognized as such under the common law of England, but it must not be forgotten that a much more lenient view is taken of it as the world has grown to be more charitable and tolerant. A suicide might also be committed by a mason under such circumstances as to appeal to the charity and sympathy of his brethren, and under such circumstances as to make the denial of the right of burial a punishment to those who survive him instead of to the deceased.”

We think this is a true doctrine, and it was adopted by the Grand Lodge.

The reports of the District Deputies show that both had performed their duties zealously. We are unable to tell whether these officers give instructions in the ritual. If not, we believe it would add greatly to the efficiency of the system, to enable them to do so.

A special committee reported a revised constitution which is published in the Proceedings, and will come up for consideration at the next annual communication. We note one departure from the general practice, and that is in allowing the Master or a Warden to appoint his own proxy in case he cannot attend the Grand Lodge. And yet his lodge is allowed three votes. It is provided, however, that if the Master or Warden will not appoint a proxy the lodge may. We like the old system in this section of the country, much better. The lodge appoints its proxy just as regularly as it elects its officers, and under the constitution, that proxy is entitled to a seat in the Grand Lodge and to cast the vote of the lodge if neither the Master nor Warden is present. We think this is much more likely to secure the representation of the lodge in the Grand Lodge, although, of course, the larger extent of territory in New Mexico may make a difference.

The Report on Correspondence (110 pp.) was presented by the Brothers, MAX FROST and W. H. SEAMON, each of whom puts his initials to the review written by him. Nearly half of the report, however, is devoted to the review of foreign Grand Lodges, copied from the New York report for the information of the brethren of New Mexico.

Referring to the question whether a lodge should await action by the courts before it proceeds to discipline a member, Bro. SEAMON says:

"This is a difficult question to interpret in absolute harmony with the principles of the institution. We are of the opinion that, when possible, the lodge should take action before the matter reaches the courts; and if it has gone that far it should wait until the courts have come to some decision. It is not proper for a body of brothers to turn against an erring brother, even though a criminal, and use the influence of its decision to kick him down the hill. Not that I believe that it is the duty of a mason, or of a lodge, to give any assistance to a brother who has transgressed, further than to extend to him its sympathy; to keep its hands off; after the courts are through, then the lodge should act, regardless of the decision of the courts. The legitimate function of Masonry is to make men better, not to punish."

We do not believe that any "hard and fast rule" can be adopted in relation to this matter, but hold that it must be left to the good sense of the lodge, with the advice, in doubtful cases, of the Grand Master. Some cases are of such a character that they ought not to await the dilatory proceedings in court, and the question whether they should await or not, ought to be determined in view of the interests of the craft as well as of the accused.

He devotes over a page to the discussion of the question whether ministers ought to be admitted without fee. He objects to it on the alleged ground that it is "class legislation." We regret that our brother should have imported this phrase into a masonic discussion. We hold that as far as possible, masonic laws should be general, and that the most dangerous kind of legislation is that in favor of a specified individual. However, we refer to this matter because our brother misconceives the original cause of the exemption in question. It originated at a time in this country when almost all clergymen were very much like the apostles, so far as payment of their services was concerned. They were supported by the voluntary contributions of the community, and it was conceived that money, contributed for the support of religion, should not be received for masonic fees. On that account, clergymen were exempted from fees and dues as a contribution of the craft in the same direction. The exemption was not based upon the idea that they would perform greater service for Masonry than other members, in return for being admitted without fee. But times have changed, and the original reason for the exemption has very largely ceased to exist, except, possibly, in the newer portions of our country, and for that reason, very many Grand Lodges which formerly exempted them, do not now.

Commenting upon the law of the Grand Lodge of Idaho, which provides for the expulsion of non-affiliates, he says:

“We endorse most heartily the first resolution and we will as heartily endorse the second if it results in reducing the army of non-affiliates, which we regard as a great menace to the institution. It is our opinion, however, that the resolution will accomplish no real good. Non-affiliation is a result of two causes: First. Inability to pay dues. Second. Lack of interest in the institution. The first is a condition into which any brother may fall through misfortune or by weakness of character. It is not charitable to punish such. The other is a fault in the institution itself and can be remedied only from within. A mason who cannot find enough in the institution to awaken sufficient interest to pay dues and attend has a right to withdraw and the institution has no right to punish him for its own weakness. Expulsion carries with it the idea of disgrace; it is therefore held (by this law) over the heads of non-affiliates to force them to have an interest in the institution; but the enforcement of the penalty will not carry any disgrace with it to the individual, although it may disgrace the institution which imposes the penalty. We will watch the operations of this law with much interest.”

The same brother, in his review of Maryland, criticises the action of the Grand Master in “making a mason at sight,” and says that the prerogative “is more apt to be made a weapon of injury to the Masonic institution than one of good.” Experience does not justify this feeling. “By their fruits ye shall know them.” Now, our brother cannot point, we believe, to a single case in which any injury has resulted to the Institution by the exercise of the prerogative so far as the work done is concerned. If those, who are received into the Institution through the regular course, could have reached as high a standard as masons and men as those who have been made at sight, we should be vastly better off. When we say “as men,” we do not mean official position, but the true character of the man.

He discusses the same question under Nebraska, but with a strange inconsistency he endorses the idea that the Grand Lodge can authorize its Grand Master to violate the landmarks and its own constitution, when the Grand Master, of his own motion, cannot do it! The action of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska unconsciously sustains the very prerogative which that Grand Lodge attempted to deny, and by endorsing it, our brother unconsciously does the same thing. He makes the positive statement that this prerogative does not exist “so far as the Grand Lodges of the United States are concerned,” and while that is true, of his own Grand Lodge, yet he speaks decidedly without warrant. In nearly all of the older lodges, it is conceded that the prerogative exists, and we see also that his own Grand Lodge is not a unit in support of his doctrine, for the Grand Master in his address expressly takes the opposite ground.

Bro. FROST has limited his review to an abstract, we regret to say, for we greatly miss his able discussions of various questions which we are glad always to read, although we do not always agree with him.

NEW YORK, 1898.

We have fine engraved steel plate portraits of DEWITT CLINTON, and of the retiring Grand Master, WILLIAM W. SUTHERLAND.

Grand Master SUTHERLAND, in his address, announces the death of Past Grand Master JAMES GIBSON, who until last year has attended every session of the Grand Lodge for over thirty years. Then he was reported ill and a message of fraternal greetings was sent to him by the Grand Lodge; but four days afterwards he was overtaken by death. Both as a mason and as a citizen he had been of great service to the community.

The Grand Master, in announcing the death of Bro. JOHN Q. A. FELLOWS, of Louisiana, relates the following incident:

“Bro. Edwin Cole, a private in the 71st Regiment of New York Volunteers, and a member of Hope Lodge, No. 244, was, on the 21st day of July, 1861, severely wounded at the battle of Bull Run, and taken prisoner. After a brief imprisonment at Richmond he was removed to the city of New Orleans, when the M. W. Brother Fellows, then Grand Master of Masons in Louisiana, provided Bro. Cole and eight of his fellow-prisoners, who were craftsmen, with clothing, with medical attendance, and with every needful comfort in the hour of their extremity. This exhibition of fraternal consideration under such embarrassing and distressing circumstances evoked a storm of criticism throughout the state of Louisiana, which was subsequently met by the formal action of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana approving the course of its Grand Master, and in June, 1862, the Grand Lodge of New York, by duly engrossed and certified resolutions, made its formal acknowledgments to the Grand Master of Louisiana for this most gracious evidence of his masonic charity.”

While we remembered the general similar action of Bro. FELLOWS, this particular incident had passed from our memory.

The account of his official action by the Grand Master, shows that he had been an exceedingly busy officer; and he states as his conclusion, that the visits of the Grand Master have been productive of an increased interest in the lodges visited.

While he had applications for many new lodges, he granted dispensations for but two; and they had given evidence of their proficiency and ability to maintain a lodge, and he recommended that the charters be granted to them.

The incorporation of “Greater New York” required changes in the Constitution of the Grand Lodge. They were adopted by it at its previous annual session so far as could be done at one session, and as immediate action was desirable, he availed himself of the provision of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge authorizing him to submit them to a vote of the lodges in vacation. He did this, and the amendments were adopted.

He invited special attention to the report of the Historian, Bro. PETER ROSS. We have read that report with great interest, and only regret that our lack of space prevents further notice of it. We are the less sorry because

Bro. Ross will undoubtedly hereafter report more fully upon some matters in regard to which he is only able to make suggestions.

Application was made to the legislature to change the charter of the Hall and Asylum, by having the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master *ex-officio*, members of the Board of Trustees, and the other five appointed by the Grand Lodge upon the nomination of the Grand Master. This was opposed by some as giving too much power to the Grand Master, and finally an amendment was adopted allowing the Grand Lodge to determine the number of the trustees and the manner of their selection, with power to change in the same manner as constitutional amendments are made.

He announces that masonic relations had been established with the Grand Lodge of Sweden, which has a total membership of about 4,000.

He gives a full account of the correspondence with the Grand Dieta of Mexico in relation to the destruction of the Maine. He says that of the two hundred and sixty-six American sailors who went down in the Maine, eighty-three were Freemasons. Five days afterwards, the Grand Master of Masons in Mexico, who was also President of the Republic, issued the edict commanding all masonic lodges within the jurisdiction to be draped in mourning on account of these, our dead, and also directed the Grand Secretary to make known this fact to the Grand Lodge of New York.

He says further:

“In addition to this the representative of the Grand Lodge of New York near the Grand Lodge of Mexico transmitted to us his report, not only of the action of the Grand Master of Mexico, but of the subsequent assembling of various lodges in that jurisdiction in a Lodge of Sorrow on the 22d day of February, accompanying his report with translations of several of the speeches delivered on that occasion by the orators of the local lodges.”

He undertook to make investigations concerning Masonry in Cuba and Porto Rico, but on account of the conditions prevailing, had been able to make little progress.

He devotes considerable space to Peru, announcing action similar to that which had been before taken by our Grand Master, but as he had received intelligence of the revocation of the obnoxious edict in season to notice it, in a note to his address, we only make this reference to it.

The report in relation to the Home shows that it is in a prosperous condition, the *per capita* expenses having been reduced to \$188.53, a decrease of \$2.99 from the year preceding.

We are glad to note from the report of the Librarian that considerable additions have been made to the Library, and that it is used quite extensively.

Mention is made in the Proceedings of the payment of the legacy of \$5,000 to the Hall and Asylum Fund, made by EDWARD B. HARPER.

The report of the Board of Relief is interesting reading, and shows the

attempts of very many, and, in some cases, very *skillful* impostors, to impose upon the Fraternity. In closing the President says:

"A large number of cases presenting peculiar and interesting features might well be noted, were it not that space will not permit. Included in these unnoted cases are persons whom we have sent to their homes in Europe and elsewhere, and those whom we have assisted in a variety of ways besides the donation of money. Our Committee on Charity has a constant change, before it, no two cases presenting the same conditions. Insane men and women, men who have never joined the Fraternity, men unaffiliated for many years, and believing they have justifiable claims for relief, masons who beg that their lodges be not informed of their applications—an evidence of pride not lost in distress—persons seeking employment, and many others come to us for help and information. In every instance we give earnest and proper attention, regretting that we cannot assist except in worthy cases."

The Grand Masters of Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey, were present and addressed the Grand Lodge to the great pleasure of the brethren.

We note that all the Grand Officers were elected by acclamation, Most Worshipful Bro. SUTHERLAND being re-elected Grand Master.

The following resolution was adopted by the Grand Lodge in relation to the action of the Grand Dieta of Mexico:

"*Resolved*: That our Most Worshipful Grand Master be requested to assure the Grand Master of the Gran Dieta of Mexico that the Grand Lodge of the State of New York deeply appreciates and gratefully acknowledges his expression of sympathy and sorrow in the hour of our national calamity, and assures him of its earnest hope and desire that the cordial relations now existing between the Gran Dieta Simbolica of Mexico and the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of New York may continue throughout all time."

It seems that the three lodges working in the French language had become reduced in their membership, so that the expense of maintaining them became burdensome. They were rather desirous of consolidation but each wished to retain its name. The Grand Lodge declined to order them to take any particular course, but recommended that the younger lodges should surrender their charters and affiliate with the older lodge; the name to be determined upon afterwards.

The Committee on Hall and Asylum made a long report (part of which is not published in the Proceedings), which we commend to the attention of all having charge of such enterprises.

An appropriation of \$500 was made for the erection of the monument over the grave of Past Grand Master JOHN L. LEWIS.

Upon the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence, the following resolution was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That we recognize the Grand Orient of Belgium as having exclusive control of Symbolic Masonry and the first three degrees in Belgium, and authorize the M. W. Grand Master to welcome them to the Circle of Symbolic Grand Lodges and exchange Representatives."

Several amendments to the Constitution were proposed and adopted so far as they can be at one session of the Grand Lodge; the most important of them is the following:

"Any member of a lodge against whom charges are not pending and whose dues and indebtedness to the lodge are paid, may withdraw from membership by presenting a written application therefor at a stated communication. The lodge shall grant the request of the brother by dropping his name from the rolls, and his membership shall thereby be terminated, and he shall be subject to the disabilities of a non-affiliated Master Mason. A brother thus dropped from the roll of a lodge shall be entitled to a certificate setting forth the fact. Such brother may at his request be again affiliated in the lodge at any stated communication, by a majority vote taken by show of hands."

The addresses of the Grand Master at special sessions of the Grand Lodge held during the year to lay corner stones, etc., are given, and they are well worthy of careful examination, but our space prevents further notice of them.

The reports of the District Deputies are brief, but they show an active performance of duties by those officers, and give the impression that the craft are enjoying a good degree of prosperity.

The Report on Correspondence, 198 pages, was presented by Bro. JESSE B. ANTHONY, and it contains quite an extensive notice of foreign Grand Lodges prepared by Bro. EMIL FRENKEL, of much interest and great value to the craft in this country.

In relation to one matter, he says:

"The special committee appointed last year to consider the subject of non-affiliates and non-payment of dues, made an extended report. The principle that every mason *should* belong to a lodge no one will gainsay, but that compulsory measures will tend to remedy the evil we very much doubt. You can 'lead a horse to water, but you cannot compel him to drink.' There is a large number of unaffiliated masons in all jurisdictions, but in most instances it is a condition of their own choice. Wherein they are a 'serious menace to the welfare of the Fraternity' we are unable to comprehend. A large percentage of this class should never have been made masons and are no advantage to the craft, except as additional units. Loss of interest causes many to drop out and this arises from the fact that many lodges are simply mills for manufacturing masons. Another factor, and a very important one, is the negligence in the collection of dues as they accrue. The correction of these faults and an earnest effort to make a lodge a place of interest, sociability, and the cultivation of the principle of helpfulness will operate more to the diminution of the growth of this class than any radical legislation.

"As to the 'honor they enjoy of being masons,' it appears to us that it is a very *questionable honor*. The deprivations of the benefits of membership, the right of any claim for assistance or burial, would seem to be a condition wherein their being masons in name is of no practical advantage to them, and no impediment to the welfare of the craft."

We agree fully, but as we understand it, it is not in accordance with the policy of his Grand Lodge which we have thought has adopted too severe a system in reference to these masons.

In reply to Bro. ROBBINS, he well says, stating the law accurately:

"Conceding the regularity of lodges under the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, in countries where that is the dominant rite, the Grand Lodge of New York requires that before a Grand Body composed of such lodges shall be recognized as such, it shall be a supreme Grand Body having exclusive control over the three symbolic degrees, and entirely independent in itself.

"This is conformable to the principle established in the recognition of Grand Bodies of the York Rite.

"Further, it is in accord with the position ever maintained by the Grand Lodge of New York, that it can have no official relations with any masonic organization except those confined to the degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry. This principle does not add anything to the regularity of the lodges in which the degrees are conferred, but it does exact the *regularity*, that the governing body shall be a Grand Lodge over the symbolic degrees, and not under the control of a Supreme Council with which a Grand Lodge of Ancient Craft Masonry can have no official relations.

"This, in the estimation of our brother, is termed 'a by-play of making stand in favor of the Grand Lodge form of organization.' We should say that it was the exaction of a requirement held to be essential by all American Grand Lodges."

In his review of Maine, he says that he fails to comprehend the authority of the Grand Master to grant a dispensation to a lodge to hold a meeting in a town other than that specified in its warrant, for the purpose of conferring degrees. The power is given by our Grand Lodge Constitution, which provides that a lodge shall hold a meeting in no other town except *with the consent of the Grand Master*. The case decided the year before did not turn upon the *power* of the Grand Master but upon the *propriety* of issuing the dispensation in the particular case. In his next case, the circumstances were such as to make the granting of the dispensation not only proper, but necessary. In our country towns, if a lodge hall is burned, it is sometimes actually impossible to obtain a place to meet in, in the same town. This is an illustration of the wisdom and necessity of the rule. He says further:

"There is every reason why the 'permanent members of a Grand Lodge, in attendance at its annual session, should receive the same *per diem* and mileage as the representatives,' and we are pleased that the Grand Lodge sanctioned the same."

Referring to the HART case, he says:

"We note under Washington, his favorable consideration of the action of that Grand Lodge, in holding (in a trial for a masonic offence) that when the whereabouts of the accused was unknown, notice by mail, sent to his last usual place of abode, shall be deemed sufficient. Upon this point there will be no great diversity of opinion.

"We are somewhat surprised that he should say: 'We go further, and hold that if 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.'

"We beg to disagree. Absconding does not prove guilt; the fact must be established by a trial of the case upon its merits, guarded by all the requirements established in such a procedure."

Will our brother have the kindness to inform us, when it clearly appears that a mason has absconded and is in hiding, so that no one knows where he is, what is the practical use of attempting to give him notice? We do not say that proof of absconding is sufficient evidence to convict him, but is sufficient to justify the lodge in waiving the useless ceremony of giving notice. We hold, moreover, that absconding, when clearly proved, is evidence of guilt, and we still adhere to our former position, that when it is clearly proved that a man charged with a crime has absconded so that a letter directed to his last and usual place of abode cannot possibly reach him, and that he is in hiding, the attempt to give notice is a useless farce.

Referring to the question of the rejection of candidates, he thinks "the only practical solution of the problem will be in the establishment of the principle of each Grand Lodge, giving the same force to a rejection within their jurisdiction as held by the Grand Lodge within whose jurisdiction the rejection originally occurred." This principle is really the only material one in the Maine proposition, as it is called.

He says further:

"In answer to an inquiry, we should say that, in our judgment, the regulation that in the absence of the Master and Wardens, a lodge cannot be opened, commends itself to us as wise, sensible, and conformable to the present custom of the craft. We hold to this opinion even though we are aware that it was otherwise held under the ancient regulations, and even now prevails in some jurisdictions."

Wherein is it unwise or not sensible to return to the old usage, and allow a Past Master to open the lodge in the absence of the Master or Wardens? Did our brother ever hear of a case in which any evil grew out of the doing of this? We never have, and the system has prevailed in this section of the country ever since Masonry was established here.

In relation to his remarks upon the desirability, while admitting that the Grand Master has a prerogative to make masons at sight, that the prerogative should not be exercised, we would ask what reasons he finds growing out of the exercise of it upon which such a wish is founded? The wisdom of laws depends upon the results of their execution, and when no evil results have ever followed, it is quite safe to say that the law is not a dangerous one.

Remarking upon the Nebraska action, to which we have alluded, he says it cannot be held that the work of the Grand Master was irregular, and hence there was no necessity for healing.

In his review of the foreign Grand Lodges, we find a brief notice of the Grand Lodge of Sweden and the Grand Lodge of Norway. The former was established in 1759. It has under its jurisdiction four provincial Grand Lodges and thirty-three lodges, with a membership of about four thousand. No transactions are published.

The latter was founded in 1801, and has under its jurisdiction six lodges with a membership of about twenty-two hundred. This Grand Lodge publishes no Proceedings. The Grand Lodge of New York had previously exchanged representatives with the latter, and at this session voted to do so with the former.

NORTH CAROLINA, 1899.

We have portraits of Bros. WALTER E. MOORE, the retiring Grand Master; BENJAMIN SMITH, Grand Master from 1808 to 1810; and JOHN H. MILLS. That of Bro. SMITH is accompanied by a very interesting biographical sketch.

Grand Master MOORE presented a brief address in which he thus speaks of the work for the year past:

"I have nothing of very special interest to report under this head. So far as I have observed and have been able to ascertain, the general progress is very satisfactory. The officers and members of the subordinate lodges have shown a desire and earnestness to learn the work and to follow the masonic law; good work has been done, and some excellent members have been added. There has been no serious trouble or friction, but in rare cases, and, on the whole, I think it has been a year of decided progress."

He calls the attention of the Grand Lodge to an abuse of issuing circular letters among lodges asking aid for particular brethren.

None of the Past Grand Officers had died during the year, but the whole state had sustained a great loss in the death of Bro. JOHN H. MILLS, who was, in a sense, the father and support of the Oxford Orphan Asylum.

The Grand Master had held several communications for laying corner stones, and there is no doubt with good results to the Order therefrom.

The Grand Secretary reports an improvement in the time of making the returns, and urges Secretaries to comply with the law in that regard, and hopes the next session of the Grand Lodge will show still further improvement.

Two new lodges had been created during the year; three lodges revived; duplicate charters issued to three to replace those lost by fire; two charters had been surrendered; one lodge had become delinquent so that its charter was subject to forfeiture; and two lodges had been continued under dispensations granted the year before.

The librarian reports progress, but desires funds for the binding of Proceedings. He gives a list of Proceedings wanted to complete files, but Maine is not in the list.

Very few copies of the Code had been sold during the year, and the Grand Secretary suggests that every lodge in the state would be benefited if they would provide themselves with at least three copies of the Code. We have no doubt of this, and we are so strongly of his opinion that we favor furnish-

ing lodges and brethren in the jurisdiction, copies of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge without charge; and we think that in that jurisdiction a law making it obligatory on lodges to have and keep at least three copies of the Code would be of great service to the craft.

He announces that the portrait of B. N. DUKE, who, though not a mason, contributed so largely for the Orphan Asylum, had been procured and hung in the building named after Mr. DUKE'S deceased son.

The Grand Lodge had also received a portrait of Past Grand Master SMITH, a copy of which is given in these Proceedings.

The Grand Secretary says that there had been a gain in membership during the year of 454 members, and that the condition of Freemasonry in the state was never more satisfactory than at present—a condition largely produced by the efficient manner in which the Grand Master had discharged the duties of his office for the two preceding years.

Considerable space is taken up with the Orphan Asylum, to which the attention of all interested is called. The committee report that over \$5,000 had been contributed for this purpose during the year.

The Grand Orator delivered an interesting address, for which he was thanked, but it was impossible to publish it, as it was very largely *ex tempore*.

The Committee on Jurisprudence submitted a very able report in relation to the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, from which we make the following extract:

“With the spirit and temper of this letter, addressed to the Grand Master of the great jurisdiction of the State of New York, evidently seeking to conciliate him, and its effort to excite against Southern lodges hostility and diverse criticism, your committee has no concern. When a Grand Master of Masons goes out of his way to characterize Southern Grand Lodges as ‘the Grand Lodge of Kentucky and her confederates,’ and writes of a committee of a Grand Lodge that it ‘sought to conceal naked ignorance and misrepresentation beneath a garment of vulgar obscenity,’ such an unworthy occupant of high position in the masonic Fraternity may well be left secure from attack by his own solution of race association, and subject only to the contemptuous indifference of every free-born mason. It is not with him that the Grand Lodge of North Carolina has any controversy.”

Masonic intercourse was suspended, and in connection therewith the following resolution was adopted:

“Resolved, further, That this step is taken not in anger, but in sincere pain, and that the masons in North Carolina earnestly trust that the Grand Lodge of Washington may in its discretion see fit to rescind its former action and to return to the ancient landmarks, which, in the opinion of the masons of North Carolina, have been invaded.”

We should like to copy the entire address of Bro. FRANCIS D. WINSTON in presenting a Past Master's Jewel to Past Grand Master Moore, but our space will not allow.

The proceedings at several of the special communications of the Grand Lodge at the laying of corner stones are given, and the addresses on three

of the occasions are very interesting and eloquent, especially the one at the laying of the corner stone of the new Alumni Building of the State University.

The Report on Correspondence (90 pp.) was presented by Bro. JOHN A. COLLINS, in which he gives a concise abstract of the Proceedings reviewed, with few comments. He notes, as a very remarkable thing, and creditable to the Fraternity of Maine, that the Committee on Grievances and Appeals had absolutely nothing to do. While our brother has written an admirable report according to the plan he has adopted, we believe that he will benefit the craft in his jurisdiction, and interest them everywhere, if he will change his plan and add comments of his own.

NORTH DAKOTA, 1898.

We have the portraits of Bros. ROBERT M. CAROTHERS, the retiring Grand Master, and FRANK J. THOMPSON, Grand Secretary. The former suggests to us that his name is the same as that of the late Rev. Dr. CARRUTHERS, that sturdy, old Scotch Divine so well known in Portland.

The Grand Master very forcibly sets forth the general character of the true mason, and urges the brethren not only to make themselves familiar with the ritual, which he says is but the alphabet of Masonry, but also with the literature of Masonry, and in this connection he advocates the presentation to each newly made mason of the "Morals and Dogma," written by the late Bro. ALBERT PIKE, and require him to promise to read the book. The Grand Lodge acted upon this and recommended that every lodge furnish *gratis* to every new brother, a copy of that work. One lodge had already adopted the practice, and it is said that the result of it was exceedingly satisfactory.

In the old time, it was considered the duty of every newly made mason to obtain a copy of the Monitor in use, and study that; and that was expected of him as much as the performance of any other duty. Lodges frequently purchased enough Monitors to give every member of the lodge a copy. To obtain the most good we think the reading of the "Morals and Dogma" should be preceded by a careful reading of the Monitor.

The Grand Master announces the death of Past Grand Master WILLIAM H. BEST, the first death that had occurred among the elected officers since the organization of the Grand Lodge. He gives brief accounts of Brethren in other jurisdictions who had died during the year, which will be of essential service to his brethren if they are read.

He had granted a dispensation for a Military Lodge to be attached to the battalion of the state troops in the Philippine Islands. Nearly every commissioned officer signed the petition. His action in this respect was con-

firmed by the Grand Lodge, and the Grand Lodge further voted that all members of lodges in this jurisdiction, in the military service of the United States, be relieved from lodge dues, and the lodges from Grand Lodge dues, during the continuance of the services.

He had made quite a number of important decisions. He decided that although one or more of the Committee of Investigation report unfavorably, yet, when the ballot is taken and it is clear the candidate is elected. This will be questioned in some quarters, but it is undoubtedly correct law, that every case should go to ballot and be decided by its result. He held, and properly, that although a brother about to be tried for a criminal offence in the state courts, gets the principal witness to leave the state so that his testimony cannot be had either by the courts or in a masonic trial, the minutes of the testimony taken by the justice or any other party cannot be received as evidence in the case. He does not suggest, however, what seems to us the proper course to be taken in such a case, and that is that, if allegations upon which it was proposed to admit this evidence, can be proved, charges should be filed and the party disciplined for securing the absence of a witness, and thereby preventing his testifying against him. He well says that all offences under the criminal statutes of the state, when committed by a mason, are masonic crimes, but a masonic offence is not necessarily criminal. We regret to find that in his jurisdiction, if the accused is acquitted, there can be no appeal against him. This is an importation from the civil law, (in which, however, the rule is not universal) which, under the old charges, finds no proper place in masonic law. He says further:

“I thoroughly understand that the sole object of a masonic trial is to determine the truth of the guilt or innocence of the accused, and that the technical rules of the law are not to be held applicable in all their severity. At the same time some of the principles underlying those rules are so in accord with justice that it would not be wise, nor within the spirit of Masonry to disregard them. It would seem to be a better practice in cases where a brother is charged with a crime, and legal proceedings have been begun, for the lodge to wait the conclusion of such proceedings. Then, if the accused has been adjudged guilty in a court of law, the record of the court as to such guilt, properly certified, would be sufficient to warrant the lodge in proceedings against the brother for his masonic delinquency.”

We have already discussed this somewhat in an earlier part of this report.

And he made the following decisions in reference to qualification of candidates:

“The matter of physical defects should rest in the sound discretions of the particular lodge. The degree of the hardness of hearing must control. If the hearing of the applicant is so defective that he cannot hear a whisper without what is said being heard by others standing near, he should be rejected, not because of his misfortune but for the protection of the Order.

“With reference to the man with a stiff leg, it is clearly your duty to reject him.

“While mental and moral qualifications are to be required in cases, these, where serious physical defects exist, should not be deemed sufficient.”

The first one is new, but we think it comes within the proper rule.

The Grand Secretary, as usual, submits a very full report. We were greatly interested in his report on the Library, but we must make the suggestion that the present condition of things already shows that ultimately the Grand Lodge will have to follow the example of the Grand Lodge of Utah, and give up the attempt to *maintain a general Library*. There ought to be public spirit enough in Fargo to accept the non-masonic books, etc., and maintain a Public Library, as was done in Salt Lake City. If the Grand Lodge sustains a Masonic Library of the character of that under the charge of Bro. THOMPSON, it will have all that it ought to undertake to do in this direction.

He had practically completed the Registry, though more yet remains to be done.

This Grand Lodge has adopted a law, fining lodges whose returns were not made at the required time, unless they offer a sufficient excuse. One lodge was excused, but the Grand Lodge very decidedly refused to excuse others and let it be known that this provision of the law would be enforced.

A proposition was received from the President of the Trustees of the Scottish Rite in that city, stating that it was the intention of the Trustees to erect a Masonic Temple and offer apartments, at the nominal rent of \$1.00 a year, for the Grand Secretary and the library; the Grand Lodge to finish and furnish the rooms. The Grand Lodge accepted the proposition, and chose a committee to locate the apartments; but limited the powers of the committee to agreeing upon the location. It was said that the lot had been bought and paid for and it was expected that the building would be completed within two years, and possibly within one. During the session the work was exemplified.

An attempt was made to adopt a regulation requiring of candidates advanced to the degree of Master Mason, to become proficient in the lectures of that degree, up to and including the obligation. But the question arises, what should be done if the candidate fails to comply with the regulation? Some favored reporting their names to the Grand Secretary; others that they should not be allowed to vote or hold office; and others that they should be tried upon charges for unmasonic conduct: finally, the whole matter was laid upon the table, and very wisely, as we think. If the members have doubts whether a candidate will become proficient, we think the better course is to let him severely alone. At any rate, we do not believe that penal regulation would better the matter at all, but on the contrary, would do a great deal of harm.

There was no Report on Correspondence.

NOVA SCOTIA, 1898.

The Grand Lodge was opened, then, as usual, formed a procession and marched to the St. John Church, where divine service was held and an eloquent sermon preached by W. Bro. GEORGE HASLAN, rector of the church, and W. Master of Unity Lodge.

An invitation to an excursion by steamer, during the afternoon, was accepted, and the Grand Lodge met at eight-thirty in the evening.

It met for the first time in Lunenburg, although for over three-quarters of a century, a lodge, one of the oldest in the jurisdiction, had existed there.

He had made quite a large number of visitations, and we may say generally, that they were all of great interest, and undoubtedly were of good advantage to the craft. He had been present in his official capacity at the dedication of the Masonic Hall at Ottawa, an occasion long to be remembered.

He gives an account of his official acts, none of which are of general interest.

He states, that while the financial condition of the Grand Lodge is not flourishing, it is satisfactory. He urges the Grand Lodge to provide for library accommodations to preserve the masonic books and documents, which he says now are not properly housed. He regards with favor, a closer union with the Maritime Provinces, but states that he sees no clear way, yet, to a practical result in relation to an establishment of a masonic home for those provinces. He notices at length, the decree of the Grand Lodge of Peru, and the action of the Grand Masters and Grand Lodges in this country, sustaining that action fully, but as the obnoxious decree has since been rescinded, there is no occasion for more than this general reference to it.

The Junior Past Grand Master, who had acted in place of the Grand Master during his absence, made a brief report.

The Grand Secretary in his report says:

“Of the 62 lodges that were in existence last year, the number has yet continued the same. Twelve lodges show no work during the whole year, and with dimits, missing, suspended for non-payment of dues, and deaths, the gradual weakening of those lodges may be plainly foreseen. There are nine of these lodges which remitted dues to Grand Lodge amounting only to \$151.80. There is room here for improvement in new material and more energy on the part of Secretaries and other officers. The question may be asked, are the officers and Past Masters found in their places at each regular meeting? and their indifference will soon show when the year's work is summed up.”

And he found himself under the necessity of taking to task some of the Secretaries who had neglected to answer his letters. In spite of the adverse circumstances, there had been a net gain of forty-four in the total membership. The Committee on Finances report payments on account of the

principal of the debt, amounting to \$1,500, leaving the mortgage indebtedness, \$13,500.

The District Deputies made full reports; showing that they had been active in the performance of their official duties, and also showing that a few lodges had scarcely appreciated their duties in relation to the visitations by those officers; but on the whole, the reports show a very favorable condition.

The Committee on Revision of the Constitution reported progress and recommended that the committee be continued, and it was so ordered.

The Committee on the Home reported that they had come to the conclusion that it was impossible, at present, to carry out the idea of such a building, and their report was accepted.

The Report on Correspondence (176 pp.) was presented by Bros. T. V. BINGAY and W. ERNEST THOMPSON. Each one puts his initials to his own review. They are largely of the abstract character and give an exceedingly good review of the transactions in other Jurisdictions. Bro. THOMPSON replies to Bro. GRACE, of Arkansas, in relation to attending divine service. Perhaps the average mason will hold that the true line is about half way between them.

We find in the review of Georgia that Bro. WILLIAM ROSS, the efficient Grand Secretary, had rendered assistance in the writing of the report and we find his initials to quite a number of the reviews. We thank Bro. BINGAY for his kind personal allusion to us.

In his review of Maine he says:

“The Proceedings of Nova Scotia for 1896 are fully reviewed. Attention is called to the apparent anomaly, that under the constitution of our Grand Lodge, provision is made for the exercise of the functions of Grand Master, by the Junior Past Grand Master, in the temporary absence of both Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, yet in a subordinate lodge in the absence of the Master and Wardens there is no provision for a Junior Past Master presiding. Does Bro. Drummond consider that such power should be possessed by a Junior Past Master? We have hitherto considered that modern masonic usage generally held that in the absence of both Master and Wardens the lodge could not be opened, the power of congregating resting only with the Master and Wardens.”

We think there is as much reason for allowing the Junior Past Master present to preside in the lodge as there is in allowing the Junior Past Grand Master to preside in the Grand Lodge; the reason being precisely the same in both cases; and the law in both cases having been established at the same time. We understand that the old rule still prevails in the Grand Lodge of England and in most of the Grand Lodges in the Dependencies of the British Crown, as they follow the law of their Mother Grand Lodge; and the surprise which we expressed in a previous report, grew out of the fact that apparently Nova Scotia alone had departed from that practice.

The law, to which we alluded, prevails in very many of the older Grand Lodges still, and in some of the younger ones ; and we think that the argument that it was the old law, is a stronger one than our brother's suggestion that it is the practice now. We remark in addition, however, that where the practice has prevailed no bad results have ever followed, and the rule has frequently allowed a lodge to hold a meeting which otherwise could not have been held, although there was work to do, and a full number of brethren present to do it.

BRO. BINGAY, in his review of Pennsylvania, says:

“The Grand Master is styled *Right* Worshipful, and his decisions when once given, become law, and are not subject to revision by any committee of the Grand Lodge. When he acts, he acts with authority, is indisputable.”

We understand that the same rule prevails in nearly all the jurisdictions. The decision is law *in the case in which it was given*, but is submitted to the Grand Lodge, to determine whether the same rule shall continue to exist in the future. It is true that a very few Grand Lodges theoretically undertake to overturn a decision of the Grand Master, which has been made and acted upon, and we have never known a case in which the Grand Lodge did not, in some way or other, confirm what had been done by the Grand Master in the particular case.

The Grand Secretary apologizes for unusual delay in the publication of the Proceedings, because, by the marriage and consequent absence of one of the Committee on Correspondence, and the failure of another member to do anything, he had been compelled to review the Proceedings of seventeen Grand Lodges. He adds an apology for the manner in which he has done the work, but no one of his readers will discover a reason for such apology.

OHIO, 1898.

We have an almost *speaking* likeness of the retiring Grand Master, NELSON WILLIAMS.

The Grand Lodges of Kentucky and Missouri, being in session at the same time, the three exchanged telegraphic messages of greetings and good wishes.

The Grand Master delivered a long and able address, referring to a vast number of matters that almost necessarily arise in such an immense jurisdiction. We can refer to but a few of them.

We quote the following, in relation to the District Lecturers, for the benefit of our District Deputy Grand Masters, who perform the same duties in this state:

“In this connection I desire to commend the work of the District Lecturers collectively and individually. Of the 500 lodges in the state, all but

27 were visited and inspected. Of this number, 11 were in one district, and 12 in another; so it will be seen how faithfully the work was done by the other Lecturers. In 19 of the districts every lodge was inspected. In one of the two districts mentioned, the Lecturer was appointed late; and this, I presume, to some extent prevented the visitation of all of the lodges in his district. In the other district the Lecturer wrote me a few days ago that he had been unable to get answers to his letters asking lodges to fix dates for his visits. If the good brother had notified me six months ago that his letters were ignored, he would have had prompt answers thereto, or the Masters to whom he wrote would not be representing their lodges at this session of the Grand Lodge. The total cost of lodge visitations for the year was \$1,202.21, and the average cost per lodge was \$2.55.

"The Lecturers have not only performed their duties as instructors in the ritual, but have carefully looked into the condition of the lodges visited, and have reported to me their condition, if, in their judgment, it was not what it should be, and have thus enabled me to suggest and recommend improvement, or direct a change in the affairs of the lodge."

By the burning of the Masonic Temple in Cincinnati, eight charters were destroyed, and we find in addition that seven other halls in the state were burned during the year; but four of the lodges saved their charters. The following was once applicable in Maine, and it may be now, but we hope not:

"Some of these lodges have had no insurance on their property, and the loss has been complete. Lodges should exercise the same business care in the management of their property that is exercised by careful and shrewd business men of to-day, and one of the most important things to be looked after from a business standpoint is the insurance of lodge property. I trust that the lessons of the year just past may serve as a warning to lodges to place insurance, if they have none, on the property they own."

He had issued one hundred and six dispensations during the year, and had declined to issue nearly as many more. He had in all cases absolutely refused to grant dispensations for authority to confer degrees in less than the time prescribed by the code. In relation to this he says:

"These requests have been more numerous than of late years, and more urgent, because of the enlistment in the army of many petitioners, and of brethren who had only taken one or two degrees. I should gladly have issued these dispensations had it been consistent with my understanding of the policy of this Grand Lodge. No landmark of our Order is more clearly established than the one which invests the Grand Master with the prerogative to grant such dispensations; but for more than thirty years our Grand Masters, nearly all of whom are still living, have refused to grant them, because they believed that hasty work was not for the best interests of the craft. With an abiding faith in the judgment of these distinguished brethren, I have made the rule inflexible."

We are sorry to see that this old jurisdiction has yielded to the *fad* (for it is nothing else) of decrying the issue of these dispensations. It has been the fashion for Grand Masters to talk upon this subject, but no one of them has ever intimated that, so far as his own experience and observation are concerned, any evil consequences have resulted. But it has been the fashion, and Grand Masters have followed it. We have already said con-

siderable about this matter in this report, and we will only add here that the requirement of time between the conferring of the degrees is a modern idea; and a refusal to grant a dispensation in all cases, is an absurd assumption that a human law can be so perfect that there can be no exception to it, and moreover, that all men are exactly equal in their power to obtain a knowledge of the preceding degrees, and not only equal, but that it takes every one just such a time, and that every one in just that time can become proficient!

He gives an account of a trial against a brother charged with murdering another brother, in which he appointed a special proxy to preside. We would like to quote the whole of the report but cannot do so, and will only observe, as showing the carelessness with which lodges act, that one dimitted brother and two who had been suspended, were allowed to be present in the lodge at the trial and to vote. But the error was discovered immediately and the presiding officer declared the action null and void, and ordered another vote after the two suspended brothers had been excluded from the hall. The result was the same, however, which was a verdict of "guilty," and the expulsion of the accused. The proxy closes his report as follows:

"I charged the brethren not to publicly discuss the matter with anybody outside of the Order, and urged them to endeavor to maintain peace and harmony in the lodge."

We commend this to the attention of the brethren, for we are sorry to say that in some Jurisdictions the probability is, that the result would have been published either in the next morning papers, or in the next issue of a "Masonic Paper."

A brother who had been a District Lecturer was tried and suspended for disseminating twelve copies of the ritual, whose use had been forbidden by the Grand Lodge.

He had arrested one charter on account of dissension in the lodge which had grown out of a masonic trial some years before. All work had been stopped and the usefulness of the lodge was evidently at an end, and it was one of those cases to which we have heretofore alluded in this report, in which a lodge found itself unable to perform the duties required of a lodge and so lost its charter. In the course of his report of this case the Grand Master says:

"The secrecy of the ballot has ever been recognized and enforced in masonic lodges, and a brother's right to cast a black ball for cause has never been, and can never be questioned; but the brother who casts a black ball without cause commits almost as grave an offense against the fraternity as he who fails to cast the black ball when there is sufficient cause."

A full account is given of laying the corner stones of various public buildings, especially of that of a new Masonic Temple in Columbus. He also dedicated many halls and made many visitations, installing the officers of

lodges, and several times in public. He rendered several decisions, all of which were approved by the Grand Lodge. It was found, however, that the law of the Grand Lodge in relation to physical qualifications had been misunderstood by the lodges. The law was:

“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.”

But lodges understood that they were permitted to judge of the fitness of the candidate without any restriction, which, of course, was not the intention of the Grand Lodge. To make it plainer, the following resolution was adopted:

“*Resolved*, That a candidate for the degree of Entered Apprentice should be able physically, as well as intellectually, of himself, and without exterior aid or assistance from another, to receive and impart all the essentials for masonic recognition; and the question as to his sufficiency in such respects is a subject presented to the lodge petitioned for its determination.”

This resolution illustrates the importance of a comma. If a comma were used after the word “*aid*” the meaning would exclude all artificial appliances, spectacles among the rest; but as the resolution now reads it would seem to prohibit only “aid or assistance from another.”

We believe that the adoption of this will not, and should not, prevent applications to the Grand Master for his advice or decision in this class of cases. They ought to be precisely like other cases in which the lodge has the duty and power to perform a certain act, but is uncertain as to whether the performance of it in a particular case is in accordance with masonic law.

He decided that the Master of a lodge has no power, either express or inherent, to suspend an officer of the lodge from the functions of his office. It is held otherwise in many jurisdictions, and we think correctly. For instance, if a Secretary should come into the lodge in such a condition that he could not perform the duties of his office, we should say that the Master has the power inherent in him to suspend him temporarily from the functions of his office, being answerable, of course, to the Grand Lodge for any abuse of this power.

He decided that the three lights may be tapers, gas jets, or electric bulbs.

He made the following decision:

“*Held*: That a subordinate lodge of this jurisdiction will not be permitted to receive and ballot upon the petition of an applicant residing in another Grand Jurisdiction, who is physically disqualified under the law of that jurisdiction to receive the degrees, although the waiver of jurisdiction and consent of the lodge within which the applicant resides accompanies the petition. The reception of such petition and action upon it might be construed as discourteous to the jurisdiction or the law or policy of a sister Grand Lodge.”

This was approved. One of his predecessors made a similar decision in relation to a rejected candidate, but the decision was reversed by the Grand

Lodge. We shall have hopes, therefore, that if the latter question goes again to the Grand Lodge it will be decided as this was.

He was asked if the masonic funeral services could be held over the body of a mason in case of cremation, and as this is a coming question, we quote the following:

“Some neighboring jurisdictions and some able masonic writers have taken a contrary view of the matter. My research was of necessity limited, as a reply was asked by wire, and the decision was given as my best judgment at the time. I am still satisfied as to the correctness of the decision. Freemasonry is universal, and will survive the ages. It recognizes no man for his worldly wealth or honor. It questions no man as to his political belief or religious faith. If he recognizes the existence of a Supreme Being, it takes him as he is, a living man, and requires of him no pledges as to the disposition of his body after death. Neither does it make any requirement relative thereto. It gives him the assurance that if he be in good standing at the time of his death, he is entitled to a masonic burial. And what is a masonic burial? In what does it consist? In nothing more than reading our funeral service over the body of a deceased brother, and dropping on his coffin the evergreen as an emblem of our faith in the immortality of the soul. And what is our funeral service, or ceremony? It is no part of Freemasonry. It is not mentioned in our Ancient Constitutions, and was not thought of until years after the revival of 1717. The ceremony has been given to us in order that we may, in a public and suitable manner, testify to our appreciation, as masons, of the character of the deceased brother, and pay his memory that respect to which it is entitled. And to do this, is it necessary that the body be actually deposited in the earth? We think not. Some of our most renowned men and masons are sleeping in sepulchers and mausoleums, some above and some below the surface of the earth, and yet no one has denied them a masonic burial. It is quite common to deposit the bodies of our fellow-men in vaults for weeks after death, and then privately inter them. Is it possible that masonic brethren may not read their ceremony over those bodies before the doors of the vault are closed upon them, shutting them out from the gaze of the public forever! And if this may be done, why may we not pay our last tribute to the dead before the doors of a crematory close upon his body forever? If it be contended that the Ritual of the Third Degree symbolizes the literal burial of the body, may it not with equal force be claimed that it symbolizes the literal resurrection of the body, and yet no one seriously advocates this at the present time.

“The body is placed in the grave to moulder and decay and after long years to dissolve into dust or ashes. By cremation the dissolution of the body, and the consumption of the gases, takes place at once. The end is the same—ashes! I do not want to be understood as favoring cremation; but I believe there is no masonic law, or reason, which will prevent a masonic lodge from reading the funeral service over a body which is to be cremated.”

The committee approved the decision but did not deem it necessary to endorse or disapprove the views which the Grand Master expressed.

He devotes some four pages to clandestine lodges in that state and gives instances in which lodges in other jurisdictions had been deceived. He therefore issued a circular giving a list of the so-called lodges so far as he knew.

It is not necessary to give the list, but we advise that in the case of visitors from Ohio, unless they are properly vouched for by a competent

voucher, the written evidence which the masonic law provides for should be required before they are examined. And in visiting lodges in Ohio, unless it is a well-known lodge, visitors ought to ask to see, *and see*, the charter, before submitting to examination. We regret that this is so, but we believe that this fraud is on its wane and will in the near future cease to exist.

Two petitions for restoration from parties connected with this illegal organization, were presented. One of them was from the first Grand Master of the so-called Grand Lodge, and is as follows:

"I hereby respectfully petition the Grand Lodge to restore me to good standing in the Order, I having been expelled by the Grand Lodge at its session in 1891, because of the part I, as Master of New England Lodge, No. 4, F. and A. M., took in the withdrawal of New England Lodge from the Grand Lodge, and because of my connection with the so-called Grand Lodge A. F. and A. M. of Ohio. I hereby renounce my connection with each and all bodies which have been declared clandestine by the Grand Lodge, of which Nelson Williams is at present the Most Worshipful Grand Master, and promise obedience to the laws of the last named Grand Lodge."

In both cases the parties had been legally made masons and their petition was granted. The committee expressly say that their recommendation was based upon the fact that they were originally regular masons, and that no person who was not such could become a mason save in the regular way, and the clandestine members of these organizations could never be recognized until they had been made according to masonic law.

The Grand Secretary reports on hand a very large number of Proceedings of some of the years, and he advises that all over two hundred copies of each year be sold to paper dealers; saying that that would leave a sufficient supply for fifty years at least. He says further that it would be necessary, at a comparatively early date, to bring the reprint from 1857 down to 1870.

Upon the Report of the Committee on Correspondence, the Grand Orient of Belgium was recognized.

The Grand Lodge had before it the unhappy case of a brother, the Master of a lodge, presenting himself to the Grand Lodge in session in an intoxicated condition. The matter was referred to a committee, which found the facts to be as stated, and reported the same back to the Grand Lodge. It appeared that there were some extenuating circumstances. The Grand Lodge imposed no further penalty than resolving that the brother forfeit his mileage and *per diem* and be denied the right to sit in the Grand Lodge during the session. This precise method of proceeding was followed in Maine in a similar case.

The Grand Secretary or the printer makes a curious error in announcing that Bro. REUBEN C. LEMMON, "the M. Ex-General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter," was introduced. Inasmuch as Companion

LEMMON holds the office now, the hyphen, instead of a period, makes quite a difference!

The Grand Lodge appropriated \$6,000 for the Masonic Home.

A large amount of other routine business was performed, but we have already exceeded the space which we, in our mind, had allotted.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 274) was presented by Bro. WILLIAM M. CUNNINGHAM. As heretofore, it is an exceedingly carefully prepared abstract of the Proceedings reviewed, with comments and discussions which are of even greater value and interest. He includes in it a letter from Bro. WILLIAM J. HUGHAN. One of the points in this letter is a reference to the wearing of masonic clothing by the masons in procession *as early as 1708*, which we commend to the attention of our brethren in Pennsylvania. Bro. HUGHAN says further:

“The Book of Constitutions, 1738 (England) was as regular and as authorized, until superseded, as was its predecessor, from 1723 to 1738, and its successor, from 1756 to 1767, and so also the issue of a new title-page of 1746, else being quite the same as 1738.”

We have the edition with the title page in 1746.

Bro. C. also devotes a couple of pages to “Symbology,” and then enters upon his report proper. Of course, it will be impossible to do more than to notice a few of the matters which we have noted.

In Ohio, masons are expelled for non-payment of dues, but referring to the expulsion of *sixty-five* members in another jurisdiction for this cause, Bro. CUNNINGHAM well says:

“Expulsion for non-payment of dues is, in the opinion of your committee, a travesty upon *masonic* justice, and is a disregard of every principle of Brotherhood; and we regret that our own jurisdiction has a law that permits the infliction of this penalty.

“Sixty-five presumably impecunious brethren, only, so far as reported, culpable in the mere matter of delinquency in their payment of dues! a local contract with their own lodge and Grand Lodge only, that has nothing to do with the great Fraternity of Freemasons, receiving the same punishment, and classed in the same list with malefactors and lowest grade of criminals. Upon his first admission to the fraternity there was no intimation to the initiate that Impecuniosity was a capital crime, or that a money contract with the body of which he was becoming a member was implied in his agreement to comply with the *rules and regulations* of the Order, and upon the failure of his compliance therewith he would be *expelled*. And yet for this offence capital punishment is inflicted, and the poor brother is declared masonically dead to his lodge, *dead* within the jurisdiction of his Grand Lodge! and *DEAD* to the craft throughout the world!! Is it not time that this remnant of a barbarous age, a law with its parallel only in the Blue Laws, that punished witchcraft or the theft of a sheep with death, should be expunged from our laws?

“The punishment to be inflicted upon those *able* to pay dues, but who neglect or refuse to do so, should be that of suspension or exclusion from lodge membership or striking from the roll, and, in extreme cases only, suspension or exclusion *from* all of the privileges of masonry, and then

subject to proper and fraternal restrictions in the regulations for restoration therefrom.

"Whilst the writer does not wish to be understood as in any manner defending or desiring to shield from punishment the willful refusal of a brother who is *known* to be absolutely able to contribute his proportion of the legitimate expenses of the lodge to which he belongs, it is also proper to ask, in the same connection, whether any expenditures outside of necessary lodge expenses, such as entertainments, masonic buildings or temples, or stock therein, and all other like matters that legitimately belong to that class of expenses that should properly be placed under the head of voluntary contributions, should ever be allowed by either a Subordinate or Grand Lodge to be incorporated in the necessary annual dues, for which each member is amenable to discipline for its non-payment."

It has always seemed to us not only absurd, but as monstrous, that what is at the most a refusal to perform a masonic duty should practically be held to be as great a masonic offence as the worst affirmative violation of masonic obligation. There seems to us to be a marked difference between a neglect or refusal to perform a masonic duty, and an actual violation of masonic law, especially a duty measured by dollars.

Replying to a brother who was quite unduly excited in relation to the use of ciphers, he says:

"Although, as often heretofore mentioned, personally neither approving, advocating, or encouraging the use of such helps, yet, in view of the well-known fact that the statement that the work of every Grand Jurisdiction is not only surreptitiously published for *gain*, but is bought and *used* therein, has never been successfully denied or disproven, is a sufficient reason for the writer's declining to pass judgment upon those who hold different views from his own upon the question, and who have an equal right to make their own conscientious construction of masonic restrictions: otherwise, he might be considered "unco guid," and, whilst straining at an official gnat, swallowing the illegitimate camel."

Here, again, he "hits the nail on the head."

Of these reports he says:

"In this connection, in regard to Reports on Foreign Correspondence, those that the general reader, perhaps, may regard as the most difficult, are in reality the most easily written. This is especially the case in those Topical Reports in which the scissors play the most important part. The different styles of synoptical reports, and summaries of Proceedings, it is needless to say, are not any more difficult because of the absence of quotations therein. The different methods vary the monotonous character of the reports, and either method may be made as difficult of preparation as their writer may elect."

Referring to the making of a mason at sight by the Grand Master of Nebraska, he quotes the order of the Grand Lodge and says that it was without sufficient warrant. He adds that this prerogative of the Grand Master is recognized in the Constitution of his Grand Lodge as a legal right, "as it should be."

Referring to the "knocks," he concurs with us that they "are in the

nature of orders, and, therefore, should commence with the Master, then in the West, and last in the South."

We regard his opinion in a matter of this kind as entitled to the greatest weight, as in the preparation of Monitors he has had occasion to examine such questions very fully.

In his review of Washington he says:

"As may be noted, it is much to be regretted that, throughout his papers, our R. W. Brother seems to delight in posing as the disinterested defender of clandestineism, Cerneauism, the pretended claims of bogus masons, the advocacy of the claim of the so-called negro masons and negro lodges of the United States to masonic recognition, and the denial of Grand Lodge sovereignty and its supremacy in any one jurisdiction. It is, therefore, not a matter of surprise that the so-called Grand Master of the bogus masons in Ohio, prominent also in other Cerneau bodies, should quote him as their champion. As Bro. Upton is also said to have been a contributor, however, to the late so-called official Cerneau publication in New York, it would be reasonable to infer that he is, himself, the possessor of their so-called degrees.

"In his reference to Ohio, he compliments the writer, by courteously saying that his review of Washington 'is an intelligent and appreciative review,' and, further, fraternally says of the comments of the writer upon his (Bro. Upton's) previous reports, that, 'as, with all his severity, he writes like a gentleman and a mason, we take no exception to what he says,' for which our acknowledgments are herewith extended.

"In the report of Bro. Upton for current year we find no reason for changing the opinion expressed by the writer in his review of last year, other than that, perhaps, its egotism, sophistry, and discourteous expressions seem to the writer to be even more pronounced than heretofore, as may be noted in his unwarranted and ex parte statements concerning the action of this Grand Lodge and the courts of Ohio against Cerneauism.

"Although he says of himself, that 'whatever other errors we fall into, we rarely commit that one—of not making sure of our facts before we reach a conclusion. *We served twenty years' apprenticeship in learning exactness in a school compared with which law and mathematics are but restful recreations and fanciful uncertainties!*'"

The italics are by the Ohio committee, and we will only add that, measured by results, what an awful waste of time this was!

In his conclusion he says:

"The writer intended to submit a further report in relation to Mexican Freemasonry, but circumstances have prevented; although his favorable views of La Grand Dieta Symbolica of Mexico are unchanged, and he believes that that Grand Body is honestly striving to place itself on a strictly masonic footing, yet he cannot see the necessity for any haste whatever in its formal recognition by this Grand Lodge, and therefore, as yet, submits no recommendation in that connection.

"The Grand Lodge of Washington having, in an untimely manner, brought up the subject of the recognition of the colored lodges of the United States, and by its action thrust its consideration upon the other Grand Lodges, is an element of discord that will require patience and forbearance in its treatment upon the part of all other Grand Lodges. From advance sheets of the annual address of the Grand Master of Masons in Kentucky, the writer learns that his inferences and conclusions, submitted in the review herein of the Proceedings of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Washington in that connection, are correct."

OKLAHOMA, 1898.

The frontispiece is a portrait of the retiring Grand Master, ALBERT W. FISHER.

He had held one special communication to constitute a lodge and dedicate its hall. The Grand Master, in his address, calls attention to the fact, so little appreciated, that it is the little things done in the present that make its history, saying it especially applies to what is done in the lodge; and he adds:

“Our great Fraternity seems to little understand how vitally it is concerned in building higher and loftier standards of manhood, many are so absorbed in the ritual they forget the great mission and work of the craft, forget, that though the world takes no part in our work, it watches us with jealous eyes to either praise or censure, and that action of the world constitutes an important part in the formation of many a man's character, who, perhaps, never sees the inside of a lodge room. Then let us see to it, brethren, that the things we do to-day, the history of the future, that which affects the lives of men after we are dead and gone, are such that they influence the world for good, and that those who, in after years, may read this page of our history, will say we have been of some benefit to the world as well as the craft.”

From what we see of the addresses of Grand Masters, we are of the opinion that it is a fact that attention to the ritual has been carried to such an extreme that other matters, quite important, have been neglected, and that this state of things exists very generally.

He decided that a lodge U. D. has no right to receive an application to confer the second and third degrees upon an E. A. This is not law in Maine nor in a good many other jurisdictions, and the decision probably depends upon the language of the Constitution of this Grand Lodge.

-Other decisions were based upon local law, and are not of general importance.

He states that the condition of the lodges, with one exception, is good; but he found one lodge defunct, without members enough to hold a meeting, and he thereupon suspended the charter.

The report of the Grand Lecturer shows that a good degree of interest prevails in the work, and the officers are generally proficient. He objects very strongly to the granting of a charter until the lodge has worked for a time under dispensation. We cannot exactly see what difference this fact makes, for it would seem to be just as natural to get “mixed” when starting under dispensation as when starting under a charter. He does say, however, that after a lodge gets its charter it is not so eager to get the correct work as when it is working under dispensation.

We should be greatly disposed to vote against granting a charter to brethren of whom this could be truthfully said.

The resolutions of our Grand Lodge in relation to rejected candidates were

received, spread upon the record, and referred to the Committee on Law and Usage; but we do not find that any report was made.

The edict of Grand Master SUTHERLAND, of New York, in relation to the Grand Lodge of Peru was read, and by a unanimous vote, the Grand Lodge concurred, ordered the letter to be spread in full upon the records, and the Grand Lodge of New York notified of this action.

The Grand Lodge adopted a resolution that the Territory should be divided into four districts for visitation by the Grand Officers, whose expenses were to be paid by the Grand Lodge.

A large amount of routine business was transacted, and some amendments to the constitution adopted.

There is no Report on Correspondence, but the committee were instructed to prepare a report which should be printed with the proceedings of 1899.

After the Grand Lodge closed a banquet followed, with speeches, which evidently were of great interest.

OREGON, 1898.

These Proceedings have for a frontispiece, the portrait of the retiring Grand Master, WILLIAM H. HONSON, and a brief biographical sketch is also given.

He made quite a number of decisions, from one of which we infer that candidates must actually live (not technically reside) within the jurisdiction of the lodge one year immediately preceding the presentation of the petition. We, in Maine, have a somewhat similar law, and we were not aware that it exists in any other jurisdiction.

He announces that he had been obliged, on account of ill feeling of a personal character existing among the brothers of the lodge, to suspend a charter; and the Grand Lodge approved his action, and revoked it.

In two other cases charters had been surrendered.

He gives the report of the Grand Lecturer, who says that in most cases officers of lodges are busy men and can spare but little of their time from business, but all were willing to learn the adopted work so far as they could without neglecting their avocations. He thinks it would be very desirable to assemble officers of contiguous lodges for instruction, but he is of the opinion that that cannot be done; probably on account of the distance of the lodges from each other. Most of the lodges are in a prosperous condition, though a few were retrograding. He thinks that if the brethren would take pains to read the Digest and Standing Resolutions, much trouble would be obviated in settling many vexed questions which arise in some of the lodges.

The Grand Master had found that the office was a laborious one, involv-

ing the writing of a great many letters; but to him "it was more of pleasure than of labor," as is evident from the zeal and fidelity with which he discharged his duties.

The Grand Lodge received a touching letter of thanks from the widow of Berryman Jennings, in acknowledgment of the reverent courtesy shown to the memory of her deceased husband, by the erection of a monument to his memory in Greenwood Cemetery.

The Grand Secretary complains that lodges fail to make their returns within the time fixed, so that it is impossible for him to complete the statistics and give the Grand Master the information which he requires for his address. He says that his predecessors have, for ten years, called the attention of the Grand Lodge to this fact, but no improvement has been made and the Grand Secretary is powerless to remedy the evil; and suggests that the remedy lies in the lodges themselves. We think that if Bro. ROBINSON waits for the lodges to remedy it, he will wait a good while, for among all the Secretaries, there will almost always be found a few who require "punching" to enable them to perform their duties in season. In nearly all of the jurisdictions, the Grand Lodge has taken measures which have produced good results, and after a time lodges will not elect Secretaries who neglect this duty.

The following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, That all resolutions offered during this session of the Grand Lodge be referred to the appropriate committee, if one exists, and if not, then to a special committee of three to be appointed by the Grand Master. There shall be no discussion of the subject-matter of such resolution prior to the report of such committee."

This is very sweeping in its terms, and while it was partially followed during the session, it was disregarded in many cases and the resolution was interpreted rather according to its general intention than according to its language.

The necessary number of brethren presented the following preamble and resolution:

"Whereas, There is a great lack of uniformity in the laws of the several Grand Jurisdictions as to the effect of the rejection of an applicant for the degrees in Masonry, and

"Whereas, Steps have already been taken by some of the sister jurisdictions looking towards the enactment of laws, rules and regulations which shall have the effect to harmonize existing differences in the several jurisdictions; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That Section 3 of Article XII of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Oregon, be amended so to read as follows:

"SEC. 3. That the effect of a rejection of an applicant for the degrees shall be limited to five years, and that during that time the applicant shall be allowed to petition only the lodge which rejected him, or another lodge with the consent of that lodge; or such consent of officers and members of that lodge as may be prescribed by the Grand Lodge of the jurisdiction in

which the rejection occurred: Provided, however, that an applicant who has been rejected cannot apply again for the degrees until the expiration of six months from such rejection."

It was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, who afterwards reported as follows:

"We have carefully considered the matter, and find that said proposed amendment originated in Maine, that grand old state which has been said to produce granite and men, and which certainly produces grand and true masons; its tendency will be to produce a better understanding among the different jurisdictions and more harmony in the craft. We therefore recommend its adoption."

As in Maine, proposed amendments, under the rules, lie over until the next session.

The Grand Orator, W. T. WILLIAMSON, delivered a very learned address, containing much of interest for the masonic student.

A committee was appointed to confer with a committee to be appointed by the Order of the Eastern Star, to confer upon the question of a Masonic Home.

The Committee on Jurisprudence, to which, at the previous session, the Wisconsin plan of relief was referred, reported as follows, and the report was adopted:

"1. That every mason is under equal obligations to relieve the distress of a worthy brother according to his necessity and his own ability to contribute.

"2. That the right of a distressed worthy brother to claim relief grows out of the fact of his being a mason and not out of the fact of his having contributed to the funds of any particular lodge.

"3. That the association of masons for the purpose of forming and maintaining lodges in no manner relieves them from their individual charitable obligations, and that when they act as a lodge, their duty, and, therefore, that of the lodge, is precisely the same as that of an individual mason. That masonic relief is never purchased or sold; therefore never creates a debt."

The following resolution was adopted, and an able committee appointed in accordance with it:

"Resolved, That the subject of a degree for elected Masters of lodges be referred to a special committee of five, to report at our next annual communication."

The Committee on Records of Lodges submitted a report, from which we take the following:

"We find that, while in most cases the records are neatly kept, only a few strictly conform to the prescribed form. Some records disclose the names of Investigating Committees; one record does not show the minutes approved by the lodge; others lack the approval of the Worshipful Master. These and other minor irregularities we have noted in the several minute books, calling the attention of Secretaries to the defects."

The Committee on Jurisprudence also presented a report prohibiting the use of the term "honorary member" in that Grand Jurisdiction, and ordered lodges having honorary members on their rolls to drop them at once.

On account of the financial condition of the Grand Lodge, the provision for the salary of the Grand Lecturer was repealed, and it was voted that the lodges, which require his services, shall pay his expenses and reasonable compensation.

A committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions for the semi-centennial celebration of the Grand Lodge.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 176) was presented by Bro. ROBERT CLOW. It is a splendid abstract of the Proceedings, accompanied as usual by well-considered comments. In his review of California he says:

"The idea of establishing a Supreme Grand Lodge for the United States, it would seem, has not been abandoned. It has some promoters in the councils of our neighbors on the South, who secured the introduction of a resolution proposing to raise a committee of three to confer with all other Grand Jurisdictions with a view to securing the establishment of such a body, to hold triennial meetings to promote uniformity of work. Uniformity forsooth! There is not a Grand Lodge in the United States that has been able, after years of effort, to secure uniformity within its territorial limits. This being true, the folly of attempting it on a larger scale, it seems to us should be apparent to the most superficial observer."

We suspect that the brethren of many jurisdictions, including Maine, will take issue with him upon the last statements. He differs from the Grand Master whose remarks we have quoted in relation to the performance of the masonic funeral service in case of cremation:

"He thinks the masonic funeral service may be performed over the cremated remains of a deceased mason. We cannot agree to that. We are not yet quite ready to eliminate from the service the ceremony of depositing the apron and the emblem of immortality, with all it conveys to the thoughtful and intelligent mason."

In regard to the Gran Dieta of Mexico, he thinks recognition should be delayed until the reforms have been enforced and cheerfully acquiesced in. He dissents from the legislation of Iowa, which we also have criticised, in relation to the treatment of non-affiliates.

In his review of Maine he says:

"He strongly urges upon District Deputy Grand Masters the importance of visiting the smaller lodges, and if it be necessary to omit any visitations let it be those of the larger and more prosperous lodges. This was good advice and might be followed by the Grand Master with good results in one jurisdiction we have in one mind. Nothing so stimulates and infuses new life into a small lodge as an occasional visit from the Grand Master."

He thinks, as we do, that if every Grand Lodge would give the effect to a rejection that is given to it in the jurisdiction in which it is made, there would be no cause for dissension among the Grand Lodges on this account.

At the same time, in this country, where men are so frequently changing

their residences, we believe that it is wise for the Grand Lodges holding to perpetual jurisdiction to make concessions upon this point.

In his conclusion he says:

“The Wisconsin plan of relief has been before nearly every Grand Lodge with which we are in correspondence, either in the original or modified form, but the consensus of opinion has been so overwhelming against it that there is little danger of its general adoption.”

He also states the correct doctrine in regard to the Grand Lodge of Peru, but we do not quote it, for that question has been settled, and we hope permanently.

PENNSYLVANIA, 1898.

We have the cut of the Masonic Temple, now usually given as a frontispiece, and fine steel plate portraits of ANTHONY BOURNOUVILLE, Grand Master in 1852-1853; of JAMES HUTCHINSON, Grand Master in 1854-1855; and WILLIAM A. SINN, Grand Secretary since 1896

Permission was granted in two instances for a lodge to receive from —— “a second request for permission to present a third petition.” We infer that this refers to candidates twice rejected, and that such are not allowed to apply the third time without the special permission of the Grand Lodge.

We note that seventy-five hundred copies of the Proceedings are published, at a cost of \$3.63 a page, which includes the binding of one hundred copies in half morocco. We are inclined to think that this is the largest number published by any Grand Lodge. It is only since 1850, that this Grand Lodge commenced publishing its Proceedings annually, and when we contrast this magnificent volume with those we used to see in our early masonic life, we are struck with the progress that has been made in diffusing masonic light to the craft.

A letter from the Grand Master of Sweden was read.

A Grand Lodge of Emergency was held March 30, 1898, with thirty-three lodges represented, for the purpose of making (by virtue of the presence of the Grand Master) masons at sight, and accordingly the three degrees were conferred separately on JOSEPH KRAUSKOPF, JOHN WANAMAKER and JOHN L. KINSEY.

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand was recognized upon the following report presented Past G. Master ARNOLD:

“The Committee on Correspondence, to whom was referred the subject of the recognition of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, respectfully report that they have given the matter due consideration, and find that the Grand Lodge of New Zealand has been in existence since the year 1889. It is composed of a majority of the lodges existing in that territory, and is now supreme and sovereign there; no other Grand Lodge will or can lawfully warrant a new lodge there, and if any lodges which were warranted before

the formation of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, refuse to submit to its authority, that is no reason why it should not be recognized. The same conditions have occurred before in the formation of Grand Lodges, but they have not prevented the recognition of a Grand Lodge when duly formed by a majority of the lodges within its territory."

We are very glad to see this, for this Grand Lodge has sometimes heretofore refused to grant recognition, on the ground that the new Grand Lodge had not secured the adhesion of all the lodges in its territory.

The report of a special committee appointed by the Grand Lodge to try charges against a brother is given in full (except the names), and it is interesting as showing the method of procedure in such cases. The committee, organized by the choice of chairman and secretary, fixed a time and place for the hearing and ordered the parties and witnesses to be notified accordingly. At the hearing, the counsel for the accused excepted to the sufficiency of the charges, but the exceptions were overruled, and the accused pleaded not guilty. We remark, in passing, that presumably the Grand Lodge considered the sufficiency of the charges before the committee was appointed. Part of the testimony was heard, and then, upon the suggestion that all the other witnesses resided in another place, an adjournment was made to the masonic hall in that place, where at the time fixed the hearing was resumed. Further testimony was taken: one witness was excused from testifying because he had been, all through, private counsel for the accused; of course, if he was a lawyer, no other decision could have been lawfully reached by the committee. Three profanes declined to testify, and of course the committee could not compel them to do so. The witnesses were examined and cross-examined, and the testimony of all was taken by a stenographer. The very widest latitude was allowed, "so as to get all the facts in the possession of the witnesses."

At the next meeting of the committee none of the parties were present, and the committee went into executive session and considered the case, and came to the conclusion that the evidence wholly failed to support the charges, and so reported without calling upon the accused for his defence.

We believe that this method of trying charges for un-masonic conduct is the coming method, and we commend this to the attention of the brethren. Upon only one point will there be any difference of opinion, and that is the latitude given in the scope of the testimony. In Maine, "hearsay evidence" is excluded by our Constitution; but, as a rule, we believe that the admissibility of testimony should be left to the discretion of the committee or commission.

Another thing is suggested by this case; that as we cannot compel profanes to testify, masonic trials must often fail to get at the truth; in this very case, it may be that if the profanes had testified, the result would have been different: in fact, it would seem that if the testimony of these witnesses

would not have prejudiced the accused, they would have been willing and even anxious to testify. That this is a serious defect in masonic trials goes without saying. But practically it is not of so much consequence as appears at first sight. If the offence is a crime against the civil law, the judgment of the court supplies what is wanting. In Pennsylvania, we believe, though we are not sure, the Grand Lodge acts upon that judgment as conclusive without any hearing: in other jurisdictions, it is conclusive evidence upon a hearing on charges; in others, and much the largest proportion, it is evidence, and sufficient evidence, unless rebutted, to require a conviction; in New Hampshire, alone, so far as we remember, it is not received as evidence. We regard the fact that profanes cannot be compelled to testify as a conclusive reason for the admission of such a judgment as *prima facie* evidence, subject to be controlled by other testimony.

The Grand Lodge had lately received a legacy of nearly \$10,000 from the estate of Bro. STEPHEN TAYLOR, of whom an interesting account is given. He died in 1877, but his bequest did not become operative till the death of his wife, which happened in 1897.

Bro. THOMAS R. PATTON, having served twenty-five years as Grand Treasurer, the Grand Lodge adopted resolutions of thanks for this long and faithful services and recognizing his "munificent generosity" in presenting to the Grand Lodge the Memorial Charity Fund. And twenty-five of his associates presented to him a magnificent "loving cup."

We find the decision of the Grand Lodge upon an able report by Bro. GEORGE W. GUTHRIE, which illustrates the propriety and even necessity of recognizing the judgments of our courts.

The appellant was charged with "gross unmasonic conduct," the specification being that he had been indicted, tried and convicted on a charge of conspiracy to cheat and defraud. The facts were that he was so tried and convicted, but before the day fixed for sentence, "he made a settlement with the prosecutors and paid the costs, and was thereupon discharged from custody, without the imposition of any sentence."

The Trial Committee reported that the charge be dismissed, but the report was rejected by the lodge and a resolution was passed, finding him guilty as set forth in the charge and expelling him from Masonry. He appealed: the committee report that the proceedings were regular, apparently confirming our understanding that in cases of conviction by courts, the lodge acts by resolution, without any hearing upon the question whether he was actually guilty as found by the court. But the committee says:

"And in his lodge his brethren, notwithstanding the report of the Trial Committee, found that, acting as he had, he was guilty of 'gross unmasonic conduct.'

"Just what the term 'gross unmasonic conduct' includes, just what acts take a man out of 'the tongue of good masonic report,' has never been and

probably never will be finally decided. Certainly it means something more than a violation of the 'obligation of a mason,' for that is made the subject of a specific charge; and just as certainly it does not mean mere 'business disputes' between brethren, for the Grand Lodge has frequently held that it will not take cognizance of such disputes.

"In the present case it appears that the brethren of the appellant, the members of his lodge, after a fair and regular trial, found that in their opinion his conduct was 'unmasonic,' was 'unbecoming a mason.' Why should the Grand Lodge undertake to reverse their findings, and compel them to receive in their lodge and advance to the degree of a Master Mason a man convicted of a serious crime, one involving dishonesty and over-reaching, for which he might and probably would have been sentenced to pay a fine and undergo imprisonment had he not given up everything which he had gained by the transaction complained of and paid the costs of prosecution, including the fees of the prosecutors' attorneys.

"The fact that because of this no sentence was imposed by the court does not change the character of the offence with which the appellant was charged; nor did it excuse him in the opinion of his brethren, and the committee sees no reason to differ from them.

"A brother convicted of a criminal misdemeanor, on evidence which, in the opinion of the members of his lodge, was sufficient to justify the verdict, even though not sentenced, cannot be considered 'under the tongue of good masonic report.' A course of conduct which brings a brother within the condemnation of the criminal law of the Commonwealth, even though it is a part of a so-called 'business transaction,' is 'gross unmasonic conduct,' and 'conduct unbecoming a mason.'"

This leaves us in doubt as to whether the lodge went into the evidence upon which the verdict was rendered: but we fully concur with the committee that the fact, that he was not sentenced, should not affect the consequences of the conviction and that the Grand Lodge properly confirmed the action of the lodge. If the accused had demanded a trial upon the question of his actual guilt, instead of upon the question of his conviction by the court, we should have held, that in accordance with the general practice, he should have been so tried, and thus had an opportunity of showing, if he could, that the evidence was not "sufficient to justify the verdict."

The Committee on Correspondence made an able report in relation to the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, but in view of the repeal of that action, we limit our extracts to two:

"It may be stated as a sound masonic maxim that a Grand Lodge which recognizes and fraternizes with a clandestine lodge or its members thereby makes itself clandestine."

* * * * *

"The Grand Master of Washington asserts that their action in this matter is a matter of 'internal affairs' and 'private judgment,' and so it is. But it is also a matter of external or foreign concern in its effect upon other Grand Lodges when it trenches upon their jurisdiction and authority. The Grand Lodge of Washington must recognize and fraternize with either one or the other of the Grand Lodges in this jurisdiction, but it cannot maintain fraternal relations with both. Having recognized a Grand Lodge in this jurisdiction which is clandestine, it has given us cause of complaint which our self-respect compels us to notice and govern ourselves accordingly."

The Grand Lodge unanimously approved the report and adopted the recommendation—

“That fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Washington be suspended until that Grand Lodge shall have withdrawn its recognition of the clandestine lodges in this jurisdiction.”

At the annual Communication, the Grand Master introduced Brother JULIUS F. SACHSE, who delivered what is called in the Proceedings a “historical address.” We are amazed that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania should have allowed this silly performance to have received its apparent sanction by publishing it in its Proceedings. Bro. SACHSE had made a discovery of considerable interest—the account book of BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, commenced July 4, 1730.

That we may do Bro. S. no injustice we quote:

“This new proof comes in the shape of original entries in the handwriting of Benjamin Franklin and is nothing less than his personal account with the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania from August, 1734, to August, 1737. It also shows that there was at least one lodge within the Province outside of Philadelphia; this was at Lancaster. The account further offers a strong inference that our Grand Lodge was not only the oldest and most important Masonic body in America, but that at that early day, as a matter of fact, the lodges of both Massachusetts and Carolina were subordinates to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.”

Fortunately for the truth of history, he gives a *fac simile* of the pages upon which he bases this grand flourish. The “Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania” dwindles down to “Lodge of Masons at B. Hubbard’s:” the evidence of the existence of a lodge at Lancaster is a memorandum that a few copies of the “Constitution,” (the book published by FRANKLIN) had been sent to Lancaster: the inference that the lodges of both Massachusetts and Carolina were subordinates to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania is based on a memo. that seventy copies of the Constitution were sent to Boston, and that twenty-five were sent to Carolina!!

A brief statement of the facts relating to the history of Masonry in Pennsylvania is made necessary by its Grand Lodge giving color to such stuff by allowing it to be published in its Proceedings.

In February, 1731, (N. S.) there existed in Philadelphia a voluntary lodge that had adopted an organized form. It is probable that masons had met, from time to time, previously, after the ancient manner, which meetings were called lodges; and in February, 1731, they effected an organization. Liber B, (as it is called), affords conclusive evidence of that. On the twenty-fourth of June following, a (not *the*) Grand Lodge was held and Grand Officers elected. The term “lodge” had previously meant the assembling of a limited number of brethren, and the words “Grand Lodge” (as used) then meant no more nor less than a general meeting of all the craft, precisely as in England before 1717: the words meant a mere meeting, and did not include the

idea of an organized body; the statement that "a Grand Lodge was held" meant precisely the same as if the words used had been "a general meeting" of the masons was held. Similar Grand Lodges were held annually up to and including 1738, and again in 1741, at which a Grand Master and Grand Wardens (but no other officers) were elected, *who were the same brethren who were at the time Master and Wardens of the lodge*, as shown by Liber B.

In 1734, FRANKLIN, who was then Grand Master and Master of the Lodge in Pennsylvania, went to Boston, made the acquaintance of PRICE, and, as their subsequent correspondence shows, conferred with him on masonic matters. On his return, he published the Constitutions—the first masonic book published in America—"by special order," as he says. By *whose* "special order" did FRANKLIN act? Evidently by PRICE's. Later, having heard that PRICE's authority had been extended over all North America, FRANKLIN wrote to PRICE (remarking that in that Province they seemed to "want the sanction of some authority derived from home") to obtain "a deputation or charter granted by the Right Worshipful Mr. PRICE," &c., confirming them in the privilege of holding a Grand Lodge annually, as they had been accustomed to do. In response, PRICE granted a charter to FRANKLIN's lodge, with him as Master, but being only a *Provincial* Grand Master, PRICE could not, of course, give authority to hold a Grand Lodge under the new system of masonic government. There is no evidence that FRANKLIN acted upon this authority. The lodge continued to meet, however, till 1738, and undoubtedly then became dormant. FRANKLIN took the lodge book and used it in his business: as the book Bro. S. has discovered is Ledger A, and the old lodge book is Liber B, this name was probably given to it when FRANKLIN commenced using it in his business.

With the exception of the holding of a Grand Lodge (under the old system) in 1741, no evidence has been found that any masonic work was done in Pennsylvania till 1749, when action was taken which conclusively shows that the old organization had ceased to exist. On July 10, 1749, THOMAS OXNARD, Provincial Grand Master of North America, and at the head of the Provincial Grand Lodge at Boston, appointed BENJAMIN FRANKLIN Provincial Grand Master of Pennsylvania, with authority to appoint other Grand Officers, hold a Grand Lodge and issue warrants. Accordingly a Grand Lodge (the first ever held in Pennsylvania under the 1717 system) was held September 5, 1749, and a warrant granted to hold a lodge in Philadelphia, called the "First Lodge."

This action by OXNARD has never been explained: it certainly was in excess of the authority which he was understood to possess. Apparently this question was immediately raised, for on March 13, 1750, WILLIAM ALLEN presented a commission from the Grand Lodge of England (Modern) ap-

pointing him Provincial Grand Master of Pennsylvania; he appointed FRANKLIN as his Deputy, and appointed the same brethren (with one exception) whom FRANKLIN had appointed, but each one taking the office next below the one which he held under FRANKLIN.

The Ancients established a lodge in Philadelphia in 1758, and a Provincial Grand Lodge in 1764, by warrant dated in 1761, at which date the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania finds its origin. This Provincial Grand Lodge refused to recognize the ALLEN organization as masonic or the members of its obedience as masons. It discarded Franklin's Constitutions and followed Dermott's, and in 1783 published an Ahiman Rezon of its own. It required the "Moderns" as they were called to be "re-made." Rev. WM. SMITH, who preached the sermon for the ALLEN Grand Lodge, June 24, 1755, submitted to this ordeal and finally became the Grand Secretary of the "Ancient" Grand Lodge. In a word, the ALLEN Grand Lodge was crushed out and ceased to exist before 1785, and all its lodges before 1793.

There is no evidence, so far as we have been able to discover, that FRANKLIN ever was re-made, and we have seen no evidence that he was ever *in his life-time*, recognized directly or indirectly as a mason by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and it is safe to say that he was not.

Returning now to this "historical address," we have only to add that an examination of this account, as given in these Proceedings, shows not a little of evidence that this account was with the Grand Lodge, as the author claims, but shows conclusively that it was with the lodge, so far as it is an account at all. We say "so far as it is an account at all," because the totals do not agree with the sum of the items, and with the exception of the first charge, there are no credits to balance, but the whole account stands open; and the suggestion is that it is a memorandum merely for his own convenience. It may be that the account is continued on another page, but nothing is given to indicate that.

There is one significant item which the discoverer does not discuss: in the latter part of 1734, (but without other date) at the very time when PRICE sent FRANKLIN a charter for his lodge, there is a charge "For postage of Commission, &c., 11/4 & 2/8," carried out 14 in the shillings column. What commission, &c., could it have been, but the "deputation or charter" which FRANKLIN asked PRICE to send him, and which PRICE did send?

We regret very greatly that the Grand Lodge should have allowed the following reference to the "Cadwalder letter" fraud to be published in the Proceedings:

"Then, again, this reference tends to give additional color to the statement in the celebrated Cadwalder letter wherein Dr. Henry Bell, of Lancaster, claims to have been one of the originators of the first-masons' lodge set up in Philadelphia in 1730."

This throws distrust upon all the statements of Bro. SACHSE, on the principle of "*Falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus.*"

In his closing address, the Grand Master, WILLIAM J. KELLY, says:

"When I was installed two years ago as Grand Master I prayed most earnestly for strength, wisdom, and forbearance by which I might be enabled to so conduct the affairs of the office that the Fraternity in this Jurisdiction would be measurably satisfied with my administration.

"In ending my term I most devoutly thank God that I give to my successor the office clear of all complications of whatever nature, with our membership united, prosperous, and zealous in the full discharge of all the duties that they owe to us.

"I also give him a perfectly clean sheet in our relations with foreign jurisdictions.

"There is not a single question left open, either of a domestic or foreign character, that can in any way affect the peace and harmony of this jurisdiction."

* * * * *

"And now, brethren, my term of service is actually completed. I leave in your hands the verdict to be rendered. I can say truthfully that I have been actuated only by the highest motives as I conceived them, and in surrendering my station, which I now proceed to do, I have a consciousness that, however mistaken I may have been in some things, I have given you the best of my intellect, my abilities, and my masonic knowledge."

Not only his brethren of Pennsylvania, but all who have had the privilege of reading the record of his administration, will say that these personal words are emphatically true.

We copy some of his decisions:

"It is not necessary at a masonic funeral that all of the pall bearers be masons. Any friend of the family, mason or otherwise, may be selected and serve.

"If a Treasurer will not obey, and persistently refuses to obey, the by-laws of a lodge, it is the duty of the Worshipful Master to declare the office vacant, and appoint a brother to serve from meeting to meeting, until an election is held to elect a successor."

In Maine, the Master would suspend the official temporarily and file charges with the Grand Master.

"A brother visiting a clandestine lodge, or affiliating with clandestine masons, must not be admitted to a lodge in this jurisdiction. Members of lodges holding masonic intercourse with clandestine masons give cause to have charges preferred against them.

"No member in this jurisdiction can be 'passed to the Chair' excepting by a dispensation granted by the proper masonic authority."

In two cases, he had ordered names stricken from the list of members for making false statements as to their residence, upon the strength of which they were admitted to lodges which had no jurisdiction over them. We wish that our Pennsylvania brethren could see their way clear to substitute trial and expulsion for this summary proceeding.

He issued an edict:

“Forbidding masonic intercourse with, and recognition of George Dixon, who had been twice rejected in a lodge in this jurisdiction, and who went abroad and became a mason in Scotland.”

The new Grand Master, HENRY W. WILLIAMS, delivered an address showing that he had a correct conception of his duties and an earnest intention of performing them. We sorrow greatly that he was not to carry out his designs; for we have learned that not long after he delivered this address, he was called away from life's duties to eternal rest.

In the Appendix we find an account of the “Masonic Ceremonies at the laying of the corner stone” of the new capitol.

We have read the account with great interest and a high degree of satisfaction, for hitherto we have not been sure that we knew what those ceremonies are in that jurisdiction.

In the first place we note that they are termed “MASONIC CEREMONIES.” Our good Brother VAUX enunciated the proposition that “there are no public masonic ceremonies.” And upon that proposition hinged a discussion that has continued for years. These ceremonies were public: they are officially termed “masonic”: so that we may now assume that this doctrine of Bro. VAUX is not maintained in Pennsylvania.

Again: we find that the Grand Master issued a dispensation permitting two lodges to form a procession and escort the Grand Lodge officers on the occasion.

The brethren appeared in masonic dress, the officers of the Grand Lodge and the officers of the lodges wearing their appropriate jewels and aprons and the other brethren white aprons.

We quote:

“When the head of the procession reached the west end of the platform prepared for the Grand Lodge, it halted, the ranks opened to the right and left, facing inward, and the brethren uncovered.

“The Grand Master, preceded by the Grand Sword Bearer and followed by the other officers of the Grand Lodge, the proper authorities, and the members of the Grand Lodge, in reverse order, advanced through the opened ranks to the east of the platform.

“As this procession advanced the band played a March.

“The Grand Master took his station, and directed the officers of the Grand Lodge to take their respective stations and places.”

While great care was evidently taken to avoid giving any impression that the Grand Lodge was there, once in a while, as in the first paragraph quoted, the theoretical gave way to the actual.

Three brethren from Potomac Lodge, No. 6, of Washington, D. C., were present, having with them the historic Washington gavel, of which it is said:

“It may be proper here to state that this gavel never leaves its place of safety in that lodge except by action taken at a meeting of the lodge specially called for the purpose, and then only in charge of three of the brethren specially designated to look after its safety while in use.”

The Grand Master, WILLIAM K. KELLY, delivered a brief but splendid address, taking for his subject the question, "why should masons lay corner stones of public buildings?" He gave three reasons:

"First. Because of the antiquity of the institution.

"Second. Because Masonry is clearly the oldest republic in the world.

"Third, Because, not only now, but always, masons have met in the name of God, and transacted their business under His guidance."

We have not space for the whole, but we commend the following to the attention of masons everywhere, and because some, who claim to be masons, are now teaching the contrary doctrine:

"As we review the past, remote as well as recent, we are struck by the stability of Freemasonry. No other human organization has been so permanent. Men die, kingdoms pass away, even nations are lost, but Freemasonry, like the everlasting hills, remains. Why is this? It is because the corner stone of our Fraternity is the first great light in Masonry,—the Word of God. Without it there would be no Freemasonry, and it is this which insures its perpetuity.

"Freemasonry is founded upon a rock. It is a beautiful system of morality, derived from the Holy Bible. We quote its very words and perform the very deeds enjoined by it.

"This is why our Mystic Craft, which traces its origin by history and tradition to the remotest past, promises to continue to the remotest future. Its corner stone is God's Word. Its spiritual temple is 'a house not made with hands,' the ashlar of which are the ever-living souls of ever-living men, and its cap-stone is charity or brotherly love.

"Freemasonry in its very essence is a system of light, but if the source of that light, the Grand Architect of the Universe, should be stricken from Freemasonry, the craft would lose its sun, about which all of its symbolism clusters, and enthrone darkness in place of light."

He concludes as follows:

"It is not amiss here to state that George Washington, Past Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22, while serving a second term as President of the United States, on September 18, 1793, and Acting Grand Master, clothed in the insignia and jewel of that office, performed the ceremony of laying the corner stone of the Capitol at Washington, in the presence of one of the grandest masonic gatherings that has ever, perhaps, been assembled in this country up to that date, thus attesting to the world his appreciation of Masonry, his faith in its teachings, and the importance of having the corner stone of the Capitol of this nation 'tested,' 'tried,' and laid by the proper officers of the Grand Lodge of Masons in accordance with ancient usages and solemn rites."

As we understand the record of those ceremonies, our R. W. Brother, to have been masonically accurate, should have omitted the words "the proper officers of," so that he would have said "laid by the Grand Lodge," for the work was done by the Grand Lodge acting through the Grand Officers, but assisted by the brethren.

The ceremonies at Harrisburg are very similar to the services in other jurisdictions, modified so as to conform to the theory that the work is done by the Grand Officers and not by the Grand Lodge, although there are still

other modifications which must be made in order that the practice may be perfectly consistent with the theory.

There were able addresses of a non-masonic character, and of much interest, delivered on the occasion.

We have it now settled, that in Pennsylvania, contrary to the contention of Bro. VAUX, public masonic ceremonies are performed: and are performed by masons, officers and members clothed as such; and that the only difference between her and the rest of the masonic world is, that otherwheres the work is done in lodge or Grand Lodge, while in Pennsylvania it is done by a mass meeting of masons, an assemblage for which no warrant is found in the ancient usages of the craft, which require that *all masonic work shall be done by a lodge, Grand or subordinate*, and recognize no assemblage as *masonic*, save a lodge.

There is one exception to the foregoing statement as to the manner in which Pennsylvania masons perform public masonic ceremonies: and that is, that masonic clothing is now not allowed to be worn at a funeral.

The Report on Correspondence (239 pp.) was presented by Bros. MICHAEL ARNOLD, S. KINGSTON MACAY, BUSHROD WASHINGTON JAMES, CHARLES J. McCLARY and JAMES M. LAMBERTON. Each subscribes his initials to his own productions.

In the introduction, the committee say:

“The subject sometimes called ‘perpetual jurisdiction,’ and at other times called ‘the effect of a rejection,’ is yet a subject of discussion. The Grand Lodge of Maine proposes to limit the duration of jurisdiction over a rejected candidate, to five years. This proposition meets with favor in some quarters, while in others it is not approved. Some writers think that when the ban is taken off, it should be taken off altogether, and the effect of a rejection should be restored to what it was in the beginning, binding only upon the lodge in which it was made. We believe this is the English rule. It is not altogether without merit. As a lodge is not bound to admit as a visitor one who has been rejected by it, the initiation of such a person in another lodge can do the rejecting lodge no harm. Rejections are too often based upon private pique and spitefulness, rather than upon the character and worth of the applicant, to entitle them to a judgment that they are always right; while the approvals do not inspire one with the belief that initiation into a lodge is always a guarantee of good character, this subject is undoubtedly a matter of importance; it is the cause of much thought, and is calling for expressions of opinion from all quarters. What the result will be, no one can prophesy. We allude to it without expressing any opinion on it.”

We have seen no evidence that since lodges became *chartered* bodies, the rule ever was that a rejection was binding only on the lodge in which it was made. The fact that the other rule has prevailed in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, South Carolina, as far back as can be traced is very conclusive evidence that it has always prevailed in those jurisdictions.

A lodge has no masonic right to refuse admission to a visitor, save for a *masonic* reason: if admission can masonically be refused to a visitor, because

he was rejected in that lodge, it certainly follows that he was wrongly made a mason. We have always regarded Bro. VAUX's proposition that rejection gives a candidate a status, that goes with him precisely as any other goes, as correct masonic law.

Human laws are necessarily imperfect: any such law may be abused: abuses, if sufficiently numerous, are ground for a *change of the law*; but measures to avoid the effect of the law, applicable to some of the cases of abuse, but not to all, are erroneous in principle, and must be mischievous in practice; therefore, if there is such an abuse of the law as to require a change, it should be made in the law itself. In other words, if the "unanimous ballot" law is abused to such an extent that measures should be taken to obviate the natural effect of the law in a limited number of cases, those measures should not be adopted, but the law requiring a unanimous ballot should be changed.

We are not sure what the *law* is in England, but we are informed that no member will present to his lodge the petition of a candidate who has been rejected in another lodge. If this is correct, it matters little what the *law* is.

Of course, also, there are mistakes the other way; but we do not deem the abuses and mistakes numerous enough to call for any change in our "unanimous ballot" law which has come down to us from the fathers; we hold that we should continue to determine the fitness of candidates for admission in the old way, and if it is discovered that any member casts his ballot upon any other consideration than the fitness of a candidate, he should be punished for unmasonic conduct. So that when a candidate is rejected, the conclusive presumption shall be that he is *then* unfit to be made a mason, and has been so adjudged according to the immemorial law of the craft.

But we are opposed to the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction because man's judgment is fallible and men change, so that when a candidate removes from his own home and settles in a new one, those among whom he has lived a sufficient time, are the best fitted to determine whether he has become fit to be made a mason. We have written at this length upon this subject because the committee express no opinion upon the question, and the position, which their Grand Lodge has always taken, makes their views of much interest.

Referring to the action which the other Grand Lodges have taken in relation to the Grand Lodge of Washington, the committee well say: "They have acted more in sorrow than in anger; but there was no alternative for them."

Maine fell to Bro. LAMBERTON, and he devotes twenty-two pages to a review of our Proceedings for 1897 and 1898.

He quotes Grand Master FARNHAM's recommendation in relation to rejected candidates and adds:

"It strikes us the phrase 'a candidate rejected through prejudice' begs the whole question. This suggestion was altered so that consent shall be given unless there are more than three negative ballots, and adopted by the Grand Lodge in 1898.

"The right to cast a black ball is a right which heretofore, it was believed, was secured to every member of a lodge; 'the black ball is to protect the lodge, the craft, and the fair fame of the Fraternity of Freemasons'; hereafter, in Maine three black balls will be necessary for that protection."

Our good brother mistakes: no one can be made a mason in Maine without receiving a unanimous ballot in the lodge to which he applies. Formerly the law required the unanimous vote of *two lodges* in certain cases; the change in the law requires that there must be three negative ballots in one of the lodges, or one in the other, to reject the candidate.

He quotes our remarks in relation to the criticisms of other Grand Lodges by the officials of his Grand Lodge, and adds:

"We must beg to differ. Our officials have not accused 'substantially all of the other jurisdictions of violating the landmarks of Masonry, etc.' There may have been occasions, and doubtless were, when it was proper for our Grand Master to caution the brethren of Pennsylvania as to certain tendencies in some jurisdictions which were beginning to show themselves in Pennsylvania, and to call attention to the landmarks of the craft which seemed in danger of violation."

We beg to insist: and to say that Bro. LAMBERTON cannot have carefully read the address of the Grand Masters and the reports of the Committee on Correspondence of his Grand Lodge for the last twenty years, or he never would have written that paragraph. However, we accept the disclaimer, believing that there will be hereafter no just cause of offence.

He refers us to Bro. SACHSE's paper for further light, in relation to the early history of Masonry in Pennsylvania. And we refer him to what we have already written upon that subject. He says:

"Lest our silence on the subject be misconstrued, we reassert our position, namely, that Philadelphia is unquestionably the mother city of Freemasonry in America, and that there were lodges in Philadelphia in 1730, and a Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1732 or earlier, of which we are the successors, perhaps, rather than the descendants."

We are glad to find that he goes so far as to admit that his Grand Lodge is not the Grand Lodge (whatever it was) that existed in Pennsylvania in 1732 [1731] nor its descendant, and is only its *successor*. But *in the sense in which he uses the terms*, there was no lodge in Pennsylvania in 1730, or Grand Lodge in 1732, as we have already shown in this report.

He quotes our remarks in relation to the practice in that jurisdiction of striking from the roll an initiate for some mere irregularity in the making, and quotes our reply to Bro. BLATT as a sufficient answer.

But it does not touch our objection: he says that in such cases the mason was not lawfully made. It is a principle of universal law, except in this particular case in Pennsylvania, that when the power to determine certain

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question is vested in a particular tribunal, the determination of that tribunal is conclusive, and cannot be inquired into afterwards; but as to matters not entrusted to it, its decision is not binding. The Pennsylvania practice falls under the former; and the question discussed with Bro. BLATT, under the latter. If a lodge makes a woman a mason, the work is void under the latter rule; but if the law requires a previous residence of a given time, and the lodge decides that the candidate has had that residence, and makes him a mason, the action of the lodge, *so far as the candidate is concerned*, cannot be impeached.

He quotes the edict of Grand Master LOCKE in relation to Peru (as the first action in relation to that matter), as well as the decree of the Grand Master of Peru upon which that edict was based: and regrets that he cannot give in full that portion of Grand Master LOCKE's address that relates to this subject.

He quotes our remarks in relation to our calling the Past Master's ceremony a "degree" and adds:

"We cannot agree. In Masonry a 'degree' is a 'degree.' We believe in calling things by their right names; and as there is no such thing as a Past Master's degree, we cannot call that a degree which does not exist."

But the trouble is that neither he nor we can fix the meaning of words; as we stated, usage does that—and in spite of both of us! And as usage has decreed that the Past Master's ceremony *is* a degree, that term is properly applied to it.

The following removes doubts, which we have entertained, in relation to procedure in certain cases, and we are very glad to have it so clearly stated:

"In this jurisdiction no brother's name has been stricken from the roll without a fair and just trial either in the lodge of which he was a member or in the Grand Lodge. It is a brother's right and privilege to have a trial for any masonic offence with which he may be charged; it cannot be refused even if he has been tried, convicted, and sentenced by the court. The fact that he has been convicted in a criminal court may be given in evidence against him, and with telling effect in cases of infamous crimes."

In the case which we were discussing, the committee say that the charge was (in effect) that the accused had been convicted of an infamous offence, in the courts. In Maine, this would not be a sufficient charge, but only evidence in support of a charge that the accused had committed an offence. We entirely agree as to the correctness of the practice as stated in the paragraph just quoted.

It seems that we, or our stenographer, misspelled R.W. Bro. KELLY's name. It may have been the force of habit with us, who have long known several of the name who use the additional "e." In any event, we beg our brother's pardon, for seeing a name written or printed erroneously always grates upon our nerves.

He intimates that we are in error in our understanding that his Grand Lodge has absolutely abolished the Representative system by quoting Grand Master ARNOLD's account of his action in the matter as follows:

"In thus dispensing with Representatives from the Grand Master of Pennsylvania to other Grand Masters, I did not mean to be understood as intending to refuse to recognize and receive representatives who might be sent to me by other Grand Masters, for that would be discourteous; but on the contrary, I will continue to receive and recognize such representatives as may be duly accredited to me, but their commissions will no longer be read in Grand Lodge."

While this does not *in express terms* abolish the system, yet, inasmuch as other jurisdictions invariably appoint a "Representative near the *Grand Lodge*" to which he is accredited we are of the same opinion still. Bro. ARNOLD erroneously assumed that under the system the Representatives are accredited to the Grand Master: but while appointed by the Grand Master, he appoints them as Representatives of his Grand Lodge and accredits them to the other Grand Lodge. When, therefore, Pennsylvania announced that no more Representatives would be appointed by her, and no commissions from others would be presented to the Grand Lodge, she "absolutely abolished" the system so far as she is concerned.

Of ciphers, Bro. LAMBERTON says:

"We answer they *may* thereby be 'unlawfully obtained'; for we believe we are safe in saying that no cipher has been invented which cannot be deciphered. It may take a long time to discover the appropriate 'Rosetta' stone, but such is the desire to penetrate into the mysteries of Freemasonry that, inasmuch as even with the greatest care ciphers or rituals do go astray and fall into the hands of the profane, the ingenuity of the curious will be exercised to discover the meaning of the cipher when found."

But he is not safe in so saying: in those that have been deciphered or can be deciphered, there is a system that the same sign or letter always represents the same letter, word or thing. We used to agree with him in this opinion, but a prolonged investigation of the matter and experience in reading ciphers showed us that we were in error. WEBB's cipher has never been deciphered by a profane: it cannot be read by the initiate without a teacher, nor by *any* mason unless he knows in advance the substance of the particular sentence which he is attempting to read: in a word, its whole office is to present the work, and to enable one who has substantially learned the work to learn it with verbal accuracy.

And because this is so, ciphers which may be read when one has the key, have been invented, and their use is a masonic offence, because any cipher, which may be read by the aid of a key, may be deciphered: such, for instance was the "Mnemonics" of Conservator memory. We fully agree with our brother, that any cipher, whatever its name may be, by which the secrets of Masonry may be unlawfully obtained, is absolutely forbidden.

But so far as our knowledge goes, no Grand Lodge has ever authorized any other than the *WENN* cipher.

He reproduces a part of Bro. VAUX's argument about "public masonic ceremonies," but his Grand Lodge has already settled this in accordance with our contention and with usage elsewhere.

He says that we are unable to realize that *work* is not performed in public by Pennsylvania masons; of course we are, because such is not the fact, as the account of the laying the corner stone of the Capitol conclusively shows.

To explain the provision in the old Ahiman Rezon in relation to the appearance of lodges in public, he claims that the word "lodge" "may have several meanings"; we beg his pardon, for while in ancient times the word "lodge" was applied to the hall in which masons met, for the last century it has in Masonry but one meaning, and it will be like gnawing a file for him (or any one else) to argue that the authors of the old Ahiman Rezon used the word in any other than its well known masonic sense.

In relation to public installations he says:

"Our brother says he 'really believes that if our Pennsylvania brethren could witness a public installation, they would wholly change their views,' and he 'knows that they would be obliged to say that there is "no violation of masonic secrecy" in them.' The writer has witnessed a public installation, and he begs to say he has not changed his view one iota, and he thinks the whole proceeding was a 'violation of masonic secrecy.'"

We only desire to ask him how he can possibly think that the rehearsal of what has been published for years in the Pennsylvania Ahiman Rezon, can possibly be a "violation of masonic secrecy."

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, 1898.

A special communication was held on October 13, 1897, for the purpose of participating in the centennial celebration of St. John's Lodge. It was an occasion of much interest and the Grand Master, LEONARD MORRIS, delivered a very fine address. At his suggestion, the members and visiting brethren signed their name upon the regular record book of the lodge instead of upon the visitor's book, in order that the names of those present should go down to the future as a memento.

We find from his address that a number of masons, belonging to a military regiment, stationed at Charlottetown, held meetings under an authority of the lodge at Halifax, dated May 29, 1781. Application was made to one of the English Grand Lodges for a charter; but for some reason it was not granted until 1797, when St. John's Lodge obtained the charter which was present at the celebration. The Grand Master returned it to the Master of the lodge, desiring that in future installation of Masters, the following should be added:

“And now, Worshipful Sir, I entrust to your keeping the original charter of St. John’s Lodge. This sacred relic which I received from my predecessor I now place in your hands, and I charge you to preserve it with religious care, and when your Mastership terminates, deliver it to your successor with this charge with which you now receive it.”

He refers very happily to the fact that Queen Victoria had celebrated her sixtieth anniversary as Queen, and he adds:

“Her life, so pure, brilliant and perfect, the counterpart of the most valuable of earth’s jewels, the true diamond, has shone brightly over the empire, and when we consider Her Majesty as the daughter of a Freemason, as the mother of Freemasons, (two of her sons being rulers in the craft), and as the patroness and benefactress of our fraternity, we can truly say from the bottom of our hearts, ‘God bless our noble Queen.’”

“In the neighboring republic, Masonry has assumed large proportions during the last century. Time does not permit me to make many further remarks, but while referring to our sister English speaking nation, there arises before our vision of the past many great men and women of the century, and in the forefront of the group, two persons stand boldly out, two names long to be remembered, the supreme American Man and the supreme English Woman, Abraham Lincoln and Queen Victoria. One stands for Liberty, the other for Peace, Freedom with good government, Peace with honor.”

His mention of Lincoln in this connection will be very gratifying to his brethren “this side of the line.”

At the annual communication all the lodges were represented. The Grand Master says that peace and harmony prevailed, and that a bountiful harvest in the Island had been gathered. He regrets that the brethren of the United States were in a war with Spain, “one of the few nations who place any ban upon Masonry.” He refers to the Peru matter, to the Centennial Anniversary of Washington and to the Grand Orient of Belgium, a communication from which was laid before the proper committee, but no report was made.

It seems that at the previous session of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master was installed at the first part of the session instead of the last part, which, he says, is without precedent in that Grand Lodge. After he had taken the chair, the revised Constitution was presented for adoption, but he ruled that it could not be then entertained, so that the further consideration of it was postponed one year. There appeared to be some difference of opinion as to the correctness of the course which he had adopted, but the matter was finally disposed of without any dissension. He had visited quite a number of the lodges and regretted that he had not time to visit them all.

The finances of the Grand Lodge were in good condition.

He had granted one dispensation for a new lodge.

Referring to the membership he says:

“Our membership has not materially increased this year, and yet we are holding our own. Considering the fact that many of our young men are

moving from time to time to the western parts of the continent, that there are other societies vigorously canvassing for members, some of them by paid agencies, we are surprised that we hold our own. We do not canvass. It is contrary to the spirit of Masonry. We are supposed to be attractive enough to draw good men to us. In view of that fact, brethren, are we careful enough in our ballots? Brethren, the ballot box is the safeguard of our fraternity. If you want to ruin Masonry, be careless in your ballots."

The usual routine business was transacted, but there was little of general interest.

No Report on Correspondence.

QUEBEC, 1899.

Our Quebec brethren give us fine portraits of BROS. ISAAC HENRY STEARNS, Grand Master in 1889-'90, FRANK EDGAR, Grand Master in 1891-'92, and THOMAS PAGE BUTLER, Grand Master in 1893.

Two special communications of the Grand Lodge had been held, one to constitute a lodge and the other to consecrate a hall.

At the annual communication the Grand Master, E. T. D. CHAMBERS, delivered a most interesting address. In his opening he refers eloquently to the Bible and the belief of the craft in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man. He refers briefly, also, to the growth of the craft during the thirty years of the existence of the Grand Lodge, also to public events, and among others to the war with Spain, of which he says:

"While it is impossible for us without transgressing the landmarks of Masonry, to indulge, as masons, in national or political discussions, we should scarcely prove our loyalty to the teachings of the craft by withholding an expression of gratification at the speedy triumph, in a recent war, of the principles which make for the increased happiness of humanity."

Referring to another matter he says:

"Our country has been privileged to have a number of its representative men appointed upon the High International Commission that is endeavoring to settle the points of difference between this Dominion and its Southern neighbors. This method of removing international difficulties is in full accord with the teachings and practices of Freemasonry, and amongst the American membership of the Commission, during its sitting in the City of Quebec, I was not surprised to meet, in the person of Senator Faulkner, with a distinguished Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of West Virginia."

He announces the decease of Grand Chaplain T. H. LLOYD in that jurisdiction, and refers to the deaths of others in neighboring jurisdictions.

He had granted one dispensation for a new lodge. He holds that honorary membership in that jurisdiction is simply a financial arrangement between the member, his lodge and the Grand Lodge, and therefore he had declined approving a by-law, making a ballot necessary for the election of an honorary member.

He details one singular case, and we think it illustrates the wisdom of our law. A gentleman received the first degree in England; came to this country and at once applied for the other two degrees. Thereupon, the lodge communicated with the lodge which conferred the first degree upon him and was assured that it was all right for the Quebec lodge to go ahead and confer the degrees, and that was done and the certificates sent to the English lodge. He then applied for his Master Mason's certificate and was referred to England, but received for a reply that the lodge in that country could not give a certificate for degrees conferred outside of its jurisdiction. After a good deal of discussion, the Grand Master solved the difficulty by asking the lodge in whose jurisdiction the brother resided in Quebec, to confer all the degrees upon him without fee, except that payable to the Grand Lodge, and he granted a dispensation for the purpose. This was done, and the brother received his Master Mason's certificate. If the Quebec lodge had, in the first place, required, as we do in Maine, that the English lodge should surrender any jurisdiction which it might have and the brother had petitioned for the remaining degrees in the regular manner, he would have received them and been entitled to a certificate without the trouble which actually followed.

The trouble between the two lodges at Prevost had not been settled.

He calls the attention to the fact that Past Grand Master WALKER'S mediation with the Grand Lodge of England in relation to the English lodges in Quebec, and states that no formal report had ever been made by that brother. He had had some correspondence in relation to the matter, and it was deemed advisable that BRO. WALKER'S report should not be published any further than that his efforts had not been successful. We are of the opinion that if the Grand Lodge of Quebec would insist upon its rights, and enforce them, this question which has been troubling them ever since the organization of the Grand Lodge, could be put to rest.

He announces the serious illness of Past Grand Master GRAHAM, and the best wishes of the Grand Lodge were expressed in his behalf.

Grand Secretary ISAACSON presented a report of the doings in his department, which are chiefly of a routine character.

The District Deputies' reports show, as a whole, a prosperous condition of affairs, and a good degree of attention to the duties of Masonry by the several lodges.

The Grand Chaplain delivered an interesting discourse, which was ordered printed in the Proceedings.

The Benevolent Fund was increased, so that it now stands at \$12,000. The financial condition of the Grand Lodge is very good.

A resolution was unanimously adopted that it is advisable in the interests of the craft, that the control of the Masonic Temple should be passed into

the hands of the Grand Lodge as soon as possible, and a plan to secure this was adopted.

The report of the Committee on the State of Masonry is in accord with what we have already said in relation to the condition of the lodges.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 116) was submitted by Bro. WILL. H. WHITE. It is an excellent abstract of the proceedings, with brief extracts and comments. He differs from us in part, and from our Pennsylvania brethren in part, in relation to one matter shown in the following:

“In replying to Bro. Drummond, of Maine, he objects to the ceremony of installing the Master of a lodge being called a degree, and maintains it is not correct and a misnomer, while Bro. Drummond says ‘usage fixes the meaning of words in spite of the scholar.’ We do not object to the word ‘degree’ as much as calling it the ‘Past Master’s Degree,’ which is certainly a misnomer. With us it is the degree of an ‘Installed Master,’ and such we call it in our ceremony.”

In his review of Maine, he says:

“This will sound strange to the Wardens of this jurisdiction, and we think of all other British lodges who have always used gavels. Regarding the knocks, we are quite in accord with Bro. Drummond, and such has always been our custom, inherited from the Mother Grand Lodge.”

The latter clause means that the knocks should begin in the East.

In regard to perpetual jurisdiction he says, referring to the action of Maine.

“The resolutions are a vast improvement on the perpetual jurisdiction theory, but we were very dubious of the adoption of them by many Grand Lodges who seem to be so wedded to that peculiar theory. We have one year in this jurisdiction for a residential qualification for candidates, but a mason suspended for cause anywhere can never be received into any of our lodges until that suspension is removed by the power inflicting it.”

In regard to unaffiliated masons, he says:

We are sorry Bro. Matthews uses the word ‘stingy’; it looks as if the ‘mighty dollar’ was really at the basis of all such legislation. ‘Alas for the rarity of Christian (and sometimes masonic) charity!’ Many a man has had to dimitt because he was not able to meet the expense of his dues, and was too sensitive to beg to have them remitted by the brethren. But dimitted masons are no drones or parasites on our Fraternity in this country. If a brother dimitts, he knows that from that moment he has no claim on the lodge, no right of visiting or taking part in any masonic work or event of any kind. It is seldom a lodge sees a brother after he dimitts, for he knows he has no right to visit more than once afterwards.”

In his conclusion we find a more deliberate statement in relation to non-affiliates, which we copy:

“We note several more American jurisdictions are talking of legislating against the non-affiliate. The trouble seems to us to be in some jurisdictions allowing the non-affiliate the right of partaking in lodge privileges, functions, etc., as if he was still a contributing member of the lodge, and in confounding the rights and privileges in the Fraternity and lodge membership. In

this Jurisdiction the dimitted mason (he can only get a dimit if he is clear on the books and no charges pending) is in good standing with the Fraternity at large, but he has no standing as regards lodge privileges, which were granted him upon payment of certain yearly dues or assessments. He has no right to take part in any lodge ceremonial, assembly or funeral rite. He is not entitled to lodge burial, nor has he any claim to the Charity fund of the lodge, but we claim that as long as he conducts himself uprightly he has a claim upon each individual member of the Fraternity through the five points of Fellowship. This, we think, is the rule in all British Grand Lodges. With all kindness we remark that all compulsory legislation in the nature of endeavoring to force non-affiliates to pay dues to some local lodge looks to us despotic, arbitrary and mercenary, and not in accord with the principles of Brotherly Love."

The late period at which we have received these Proceedings, and our desire to notice them for all that, have compelled us to go through them at railroad speed.

RHODE ISLAND, 1898.

At the semi-annual communication the Grand Master submitted a question of jurisdiction between two lodges. It seems that a charter was granted for a lodge located at Riverside. It purchased a lot there, but in the meantime, by verbal or written consent of the Grand Master, occupied a hall two miles north of the lot owned by the lodge. It seems that Riverside is not the name of a town, but only the name of a village which has a post-office called "Riverside," and the place where the lodge holds its meetings is outside of that village, but the lot is in the village. The Grand Master ruled that the lot must be taken as the point from which the distances must be measured in determining the jurisdiction. The decision of our Grand Lodge in 1863 was cited in support of the doctrine that where a lodge, by permission of the Grand Master, holds its meetings in a town other than that named in its charter, its jurisdiction is not affected thereby. His action was confirmed by the Grand Lodge. At this same session the Constitution was revised and ordered to take effect on the first day of January, 1898.

The Commissioners of Trials made two reports, which go to confirm our views that this system of masonic trials is better than trial by the lodge. In one case the accused was expelled for falsely stating in his application that he had never made application and been rejected. In the other case a brother was suspended for three years for threatening to blackball all applicants, and actually doing so in one case, for other than masonic reasons. The Commissioners awarded a milder penalty in consequence of the circumstances attending the commission of the offence.

A special communication was held in the new masonic temple at Pawtucket, to dedicate such portions of the building as had been set apart for the use of the craft. An excellent address by Bro. WALTER GARDINER WEBSTER, was delivered on the occasion.

At the semi-annual communication, the Grand Master, CYRUS M. VAN SLYCK, announced the death of Past Grand Master THOMAS VINCENT, as well as the deaths of quite a number of Past Masters.

He had restricted the prerogative of granting dispensations to cases in which there was a great necessity, or in which a refusal would seem to reflect upon the judgment of his predecessors. Among the dispensations granted were two to ballot upon applications for *membership* in the case of parties who had received appointments in the consular service of the United States, and were liable to be ordered abroad.

He had officially visited a good many lodges, and at one lodge he met a mason who had reached the age of one hundred years and was made a mason in 1819. He was a blacksmith, and had worked at his trade until he was ninety-two years old. The lodge celebrated his centennial birthday by electing him an honorary member.

Two questions in regard to the work arose, and as they are discussed in other jurisdictions and have been in our own, we quote his remarks:

“The first is in reference to the use of the stereopticon as an adjunct to the lessons of the several degrees. While I am aware that upon this subject there is room for an honest difference of opinion, to me the use of such an arrangement has seemed undesirable.

“It seems quite superfluous to attempt to paint the lily by adding to the beautiful word pictures of the several degrees, and with the most careful management, there is a possibility, so near as to approach probability, that some error of the operator will excite one’s sense of the ludicrous and lessen, if not destroy, the solemnity and impressiveness of the lessons taught by the lectures. In some jurisdictions the use of stereopticons and similar devices is specially prohibited, and at this time, when the only large collection of slides in the jurisdiction has been destroyed, it seemed to me wise to prohibit the use of the device until Grand Lodge should express an opinion upon the subject. If permitted at all the use of the stereopticon should be allowed only within lines carefully and strictly marked.

“The second question arose from inquiries made by the Master of one of the lodges, and was in my opinion of sufficient importance to warrant the issuance of a circular letter to the Masters of the several lodges. It is as to the use of robes or costumes in the work.

“I think that I can no better express my views than by quoting from the above mentioned circular letter.

“In reply to your request that I give my opinion as to the propriety of the use of robes or costumes in the work of the third degree, I deem it inexpedient to express my personal views until I shall present this subject to Grand Lodge at its next annual communication.

“For your present guidance, however, I think it proper to suggest that Grand Lodge has constantly expressed itself in favor of uniformity in the work, and in this direction has caused the ritual to be carefully revised and put in a form for permanent preservation. In that ritual no provision is made for any special costumes to be worn by officers or members during any portion of the work, and as it is the custom in this jurisdiction that, except in case of candidates, the dress should be the ordinary attire of a gentleman suitable to the time and place, it is reasonable to suppose that if Grand Lodge had intended to authorize any innovation in this particular, we would find regulations to that effect.

“ I consider also that the adoption of special costumes of anykind by a portion of the Lodges in the jurisdiction is inconsistent with the spirit of the strong and unvarying expressions in Grand Lodge in favor of strict uniformity in the work.

“ Consequently, until Grand Lodge shall expressly authorize the use of such costumes I deem it my duty to consider such use prohibited, and to require that the lodges in this jurisdiction omit the employment of any special costume for the purpose of theatrical or dramatic effect in the work of the degrees.”

“ In the circular I simply expressed the opinion that the use was prohibited because not expressly authorized.

“ It seems proper that I should state now that my personal opinion is that the use of robes or special costumes is extremely inappropriate in a symbolic lodge. Bro. Mackey says: ‘ A proposition was made in the Grand Lodge of England, on April 8, 1778, that the Grand Master and his officers should be distinguished in future at all public meetings by robes.’ ‘ This measure,’ Preston says, ‘ was at first favorably received, but it was, on investigation, found to be so diametrically opposed to the original plan of the Institution, that it was very properly laid aside. In no jurisdiction are robes used in Symbolic Masonry.’

“ It would be unfortunate and a great mistake to depart from the uniform simplicity which has characterized Freemasonry in New England, and in seeking after theatrical display to an innovation likely to result in jealous contention between lodges of unequal financial ability.”

We believe he takes the correct ground.

The reports of the Deputies, Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, show that in this jurisdiction the craft is enjoying genuine prosperity, and is growing regularly, though not rapidly. This is, in our judgment, genuine prosperity. The hysterical condition of large growth in one year, followed by a reaction in the next, is, in our judgment, far from being the prosperity which is desirable for the craft.

The Grand Lodge had adopted a system of ballot by which it was expected that a check would be given against irregularities. As we understand it a certain number of white ballots and black cubes were to be in the ballot box at the commencement of the ballot, and at its close they must be compared, and unless they agreed, the ballot was void. The committee to which the decision was referred, recommended that a better method should be devised and adopted.

Bro. BURNHAM made his annual report upon the Webb monument. Some defects were found in it, and he recommended that, during the summer, paraffine be run into the cracks in order to exclude the moisture which, under the present conditions, finds its way into them.

The Committee on Reprint reported that, owing to the financial condition of the Grand Lodge, nothing had been done during the year, but asked and received an appropriation of \$200, to continue the work at the discretion of the committee.

The Festival Communication was held as usual, and a very fine address delivered by Bro. JOSUA M. ADDEMAN.

No Report on Correspondence.

SOUTH CAROLINA, 1898.

A special communication was held to lay the corner stone of the masonic auditorium of Converse College. The Grand Lodge was opened; the Grand Master announced the purpose of the meeting:

"The procession was then formed by the acting Grand Marshal and marched to the site of the auditorium. The masonic procession was met at the arched gateway to the grounds by the young lady students of Converse College, to the number of about 300, who were formed on both sides of the drive, the lines extending the complete driveway, through which avenue of loveliness, grace and beauty the masons marched saluting as they passed. When the head of the column reached the site of the building, it was halted and opened order, the Deacons and Stewards, with their emblematic staves, making an arch through which the Grand Lodge, and then the young ladies, marched towards the platform constructed over the foundations of the auditorium. On this platform upon which the officers of the Grand Lodge and other guests were seated, was also the choir who furnished the music. It was under the direction of Prof. R. H. Peters, the Musical Director of the College, who presided at the organ and was ably assisted by Dr. and Mrs. C. W. Gaskill, Mrs. Rembert, Mrs. Grimbball and the Misses Matteson.

"At 4.15 o'clock, in the presence of a large concourse of citizens, ladies and gentlemen, and the young lady students of the College, the corner stone was laid with the solemn ceremonies of Masonry."

Then follows an account of the other ceremonies of the dedication. The procession was reformed and returned to the hall, where the Grand Lodge was closed. It will be noted that these proceedings are the same as in Maine; in fact, the Pennsylvania method does not exist outside of that state so far as we have been able to discover.

At the annual communication, after the Grand Lodge was opened, the mayor of the city of Charleston, Past Grand Master J. ADGER SMYTH, welcomed the Grand Lodge and the Grand Master replied.

The Grand Master, JACOB T. BARRON, in his address announced the death of Bro. RICHARD PORCHER, a District Deputy Grand Master; the first time he had been called upon to make such an announcement.

Of the condition of the craft he says:

"While in some lodges, and even in some sections of the state, Masonry is not flourishing as it should, I am glad to be able to report that as a rule we see much that is encouraging, and in many instances satisfactory. I find that the officers are becoming more familiar with the revised ritual, and, as a natural consequence, the attendance is generally larger, and more interest is displayed. The extreme low price of cotton, causing a 'financial depression' that is painfully felt throughout our state, has no doubt kept down a large increase in our membership; but I have great faith in the happy results sure to flow from a uniform ritual and the visits of Grand Lodge officers to subordinate lodges. I do not attach much importance to numbers. Instead of taking membership as the evidence of our condition, let us remember that it is only when we reflect in our daily lives the teachings of our noble order, that we can truly say we are prosperous."

He had visited fourteen lodges, but gives no specific account of his visitations. He speaks in high terms of the services of the District Deputy Grand

Masters. He had revived four lodges and granted a dispensation for a new one.

We find from the decisions of the Grand Master that the "perfection rule" as to candidates is in full force in its strictest terms in that jurisdiction. In fact, the provision is inserted in the Constitution: but we would like to inquire of Bro. INGLEBY where his Grand Lodge finds in the Old Charge the authority for that provision. It seems to us that the Grand Lodge has put into its Constitution a part of the charge but omitted a very essential portion of it.

He calls the attention of his Grand Lodge to the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington. The Grand Lodge acted upon it and suspended masonic intercourse.

We have examined carefully the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters and we believe that the good results of the system are already apparent. It is barely possible that the only change in the system is that, considering the extent of territory, a larger number of districts may possibly have to be created. We note that one Deputy failed to visit two lodges and it would have required four days to have made the visits. This suggests that perhaps the trouble can be obviated by having smaller districts and more of them.

The Committee on the Grand Master's address urged D. D. G. Masters to visit all the lodges, whether specially invited or not.

A few of the lodges, but fewer than usual, asked and were granted time in which to pay their dues.

It was decided that if a lodge receives a petition from a candidate and acts upon it and confers one degree upon him, the applicant is a regular mason, although he has not resided in the jurisdiction for the time required in the Constitution.

The committee, to which was referred the matter of the Grand Lodge of Washington, made an able report. We, however, will not notice it further on account of the more recent action of that Grand Lodge. We may refer to this report, however, when we come to the review of Washington.

We find that the retiring Grand Master, JACOB T. BARRON, submitted an amendment to the Constitution which lies over another year, as follows:

"Provided, the Grand Master may grant his dispensation to receive such candidates as in his judgment can literally comply with all the requirements of the ritual—the right of dispensation being restricted to such cases."

This, if adopted, we believe will bring the Constitution of this Grand Lodge more nearly in accord with the ancient charge.

A committee was appointed to prepare a uniform ritual for opening and closing the Grand Lodge, and later to prepare a ritual for a Masonic Burial Service.

Much routine business was transacted by the Grand Lodge, and their whole proceedings show a greater degree of real prosperity than has prevailed in this jurisdiction for many years.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 117) was presented as usual by Bro. CHARLES INGLESBY, Grand Secretary. It is a very faithful abstract of the various proceedings, involving much labor, enlivened with instructive comments.

In discussing the question of perpetual jurisdiction, he says:

“The Grand Lodge of South Carolina from its organization has sustained the perpetual jurisdiction doctrine, and so far as we can see, it will continue to do so. That is enough for us. We do not claim nor expect that our regulations regarding rejected candidates, shall be operative within the territory of another Grand Lodge. *In their territory*, they can do as they see fit. They can, if they like it, take the stones rejected by the builders of our Temple and put them in proud places in their masonic edifice, but if they are brought into South Carolina they will be, and will be always, treated as rejected material, and therefore unfit for our masonic association.”

We do not think this is quite consistent. If the masonic *right* to make masons of candidates rejected in another jurisdiction is acknowledged, it seems to us that masonic *duty* requires that those candidates, when so made, should be recognized as regular masons; moreover, we do not see but that, upon the same principle, lodges in one jurisdiction may initiate expelled and suspended masons. We think our brother in the sentence, “in other *territory* they can do as they see fit,” has for the moment forgotten the effect of the law which controls all Grand Lodges and which he so forcibly applies in relation to the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington. If he only means that they have the *physical* power to do so, of course we agree, but it means nothing; the question is one of *lawful* power and of right.

Of the usefulness of codifying masonic law, he says:

“It was exactly this condition, which induced the Grand Lodge of South Carolina to have prepared a codification of its laws as declared in its edicts and decisions, which, in connection with its Constitution, should constitute the written law of the jurisdiction, and that work has been done. The code of South Carolina is based upon the Constitution, edicts, rulings and decisions of the Grand Lodge, repeals all edicts, rulings and decisions that have preceded it, and with the Constitution, contains all the written law of the jurisdiction. The adverse decision of the Grand Master or even of the Grand Lodge itself, to any section of the code, operates only in the particular case in which it is made, but the section stands until it is expressly changed by the Grand Lodge enacting a new section in its stead, which of course it can at any time do. In this way there are no conflicting laws and there is no difficulty in ascertaining what is the law of the jurisdiction. We suggest to our brethren in Georgia to adopt our plan.”

In his review of Maine he quotes Grand Master LOCKE's remarks in relation to masonic relief, and adds:

"This is sound doctrine. For years we have been urging it and trying to point out that the duty of the individual mason in this regard, is enjoined in his M. M. O. B. and that it is so is one of the chief beauties of our institution which distinguishes it from the imitation orders, which are avowedly 'mutual benefit' schemes."

In his review of Nebraska he says:

"We note with interest the action of the Grand Master in a case in which he exercised his prerogative as Grand Master. Trouble had arisen in a lodge and the Grand Master visited it in consequence. The lodge proposed to surrender its charter. The Grand Master summoned all the resident members to meet him in the lodge room. He found that one brother with some ground for complaint, thought he had been wronged by the lodge; two Fellow Crafts, perhaps three, against whom no ground of objection really existed, had been rejected upon their application for advancement. The Grand Master presided and explained to the lodge what he regarded to be its duty and the duty of its members; one to the other, and to the fraternity at large, as also some questions of masonic law and usage. The matters of disagreement were, by the members of the lodge, fully discussed in a fraternal spirit, and by a secret clear ballot, the G. M. was petitioned to dispense authority to the lodge to ballot upon the advancement of the two F. C., who had been rejected. 'Regarding the matter of grave importance, and being satisfied that the good of the lodge and of Freemasonry would be best conserved, I determined to exercise a prerogative of the office I hold, but only in the unwritten law, yet as surely existing as any power residing in the Grand Master; I granted the prayer of the lodge. Upon a favorable ballot, taken upon each of two applications, I proceeded and raised the brothers to the sublime degree of M. M.' In our judgment it is just for such reasons and such cases, that in the ancient Constitutions, the Grand Master is vested with almost unlimited powers. It is right that he should be."

* * * * *

"The prerogative of making a mason at sight, is distinctly placed in our Constitution, and should be in all. We agree with the Grand Master, however, that the matter of making a mason at sight, is an inherent prerogative of the office, because it is a landmark."

He discusses the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington very ably, and calls attention to an article, published in the Voice of Masonry, at the time Bro. MACKAY was one of the editors. We had overlooked that article, but now our attention is called to it, we remember it as a very able discussion of the whole matter at the time the question was mooted before the Grand Lodge of Ohio. He reaches the following conclusions:

"1. That the so-called African Lodge, No. 459, never had any American authority for its constitution. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was in full possession of its territory in 1787, when the English charter was issued, and all masonic authority will therefore agree that the charter was illegally granted. At the utmost, however, it was simply a charter for a subordinate lodge, and absolutely conferred no authority to Prince Hall, its W. M., to dub himself R. W. to convert himself into a Grand Master and his lodge into a Grand Lodge. It was simply a bold assumption and usurpation.

"2. That in 1813 the Grand Lodge of England dropped this African Lodge from their registry, it having been dormant for many years. That from that time, even its unlawful existence was terminated.

"3. That therefore neither it, nor the illegal lodges which it attempted to organize in Massachusetts and in Pennsylvania, ever had the right to con-

vert themselves into Grand Lodges, and therefore the assertion in the Washington resolutions that these so-called Grand Lodges 'may justly be regarded as legitimate masonic Grand Lodges,' is entirely untrue and without justification.'

SOUTH DAKOTA, 1898.

We have the portraits of the retiring Grand Master, ALBERT W. COE; Grand Master OSCAR S. GIFFORD; and of FRANKLIN J. DEWITT, Deputy Grand Master, who had died during the year. BRO. DEWITT was the Master of one of the earliest lodges in the territory while it was U. D., and was one of the active spirits in the formation of the Grand Lodge, and its first Deputy Grand Master. He was elected Grand Master, but felt obliged to decline on account of ill health. He had been a very active mason, and was much beloved by the brethren.

Grand Master COE, in his address, gives a brief account of his official action. He had created one new lodge U. D., but had declined a request for a dispensation for a military lodge.

The Grand Lecturer being about to move out of the jurisdiction, tendered his resignation, but the Grand Master, following the rule growing out of a comparatively recent change in the installation ceremonies, held that that officer could not resign after he had been installed; but he appointed another brother to act temporarily for the Grand Lecturer.

Two lodges had consolidated under circumstances which seem to indicate that the organization of the second lodge grew out of the temporary dissension among the brethren; and the Grand Master congratulates them that peace and harmony at that place again prevailed.

One charter had been surrendered.

He advised very earnestly that the Grand Lodge should establish a permanent place of meeting, but the majority of the committee reported adversely, and no action was taken.

The report of the Grand Lecturer indicates to us that the substitution of District Deputy Grand Masters in a jurisdiction having as large a jurisdiction as South Dakota, is the most effective within the financial resources of the Grand Lodge.

The Library had been increased by the binding of 136 volumes, and while the Grand Secretary reports that he has 100 more volumes ready for binding, in view of the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Grand Lodge, it was deemed wise to postpone further appropriations for the Library to another year.

BRO. BLATT had found among the papers of BRO. DEWITT the dispensation from the Grand Master of Iowa for a lodge at Fort Randall, bearing date of April 23, 1862, of which BRO. DEWITT was the Master. He also

found the written copy of the proceedings of the convention which culminated in the organization of the Grand Lodge. This dispensation was said to be the oldest masonic document of the two Dakotas. Bro. BLATT presented that to the Grand Lodge, which tendered him thanks therefor. The Governor of the state was introduced and welcomed, and made a brief speech in reply.

No appeals were before the committee, but in two cases action of lodges in expelling members were confirmed.

The committee on the celebration of the quarter centennial reported that they had decided to have a historical address by Bro. BLATT, to be followed by toasts and responses and other appropriate exercises, to be held at the next annual communication.

The Committee on Library say that there are 780 bound volumes in the library, together with 100 not bound. They consist wholly of Proceedings of Grand Lodges, Grand Chapters and Grand Commanderies.

The Committee on Jurisprudence, in relation to the case in which a lodge conferred the degrees upon a candidate rejected by a lodge in Michigan without obtaining its consent, reported that the Dakota lodge had acted in strict conformity with the regulations of the Grand Lodge. It seems that the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction prevailed in Dakota for some years after the organization of the Grand Lodge, but it had been eliminated. The committee say:

“We are opposed to any change in the same, believing it to be a fair and just one, and in full accord with the earlier practices of Masonry, as well as that of a majority of the Grand Lodges in this and in all foreign countries to-day.”

We take exception to the statement that their present rule is in full accord with the earlier practices of Masonry; for, so far as known, the fact was precisely the contrary. The committee apparently think that the case with Michigan is ended, but if the party should happen to visit his old home and find that in Michigan he is not held to be a mason entitled to recognition, something further will be heard from the case. At any rate, it seems to us that the party who is most interested would have some right to complain that the Grand Lodge of South Dakota had failed to do its duty somewhere.

We regret to find that the committee seem to assume that the law of territorial jurisdiction was made for the benefit of particular lodges instead of the safety of the craft; and while we think that the lodge should vote upon the waiver of jurisdiction, the reason for requiring the vote is that that lodge is presumed to be best acquainted with the qualifications of the applicant, and not on the ground that the lodge has a vested interest, so to speak, in the candidate. While the committee are right in saying that the majority of Grand Lodges do not hold to perpetual jurisdiction, we think that a

majority do hold, that the *status* given to a candidate by rejection, is binding upon him wherever he goes.

Past Grand Master JOHN QUINCY ADAMS BADEN, having enlisted as a private soldier, the Grand Lodge adopted a resolution of commendation, and congratulation on his having been promoted.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 176) was presented by Bro. WILLIAM BLATT. It was written during the excitement of the beginning of the war with Spain, augmented by the fact that his only son, about to graduate from college, had gone into the army.

In his introduction he says:

“The proposal of the Grand Lodge of Maine for a uniform law by Grand Lodges upon this subject, has been considered by the majority of the Grand Lodges in the United States. The action taken proves the futility of any effort in that direction, and the instances of acquiescence are very few indeed and far between. The grounds taken upon the subject by Brother Josiah H. Drummond, notwithstanding the fact that he is one of the few recognized authorities on Masonic Jurisprudence, are not altogether tenable, and we believe he has in a few of his arguments permitted his zeal, in favor of the proposal, to get the better of his judgment. He maintains for instance, in reply to Brother Vincil of Missouri, that the initiation by one lodge (after a reasonable length of time, of course,) of the rejected material of another, is precisely the same as if the former had initiated one, *expelled* by the latter. An expelled mason is one convicted of crime after due trial. A rejected applicant is not a masonic criminal, and the parallel is unreasonable and unjust.

“We do not, however, desire to prejudice the minds of the members of our Grand Lodge upon the subject, and will lay Brother Drummond’s arguments, in his own words, before our Grand Lodge. The subject is one demanding more than ordinary consideration.”

He is in error in relation to the *status* of the resolution of our Grand Lodge. We are entirely satisfied with the progress that has been made. It has been greater than we had anticipated. This is a revolution that will not go backwards. The Grand Lodges, which have adopted the proposition, will continue to adhere to it, and the logic of events is bringing other Grand Lodges to the same view of the matter. Several which have not adopted the Maine proposition in terms, have adopted the principle upon which it is based, to wit: that the *status* of a rejected candidate follows him wherever he goes.

He has not quite correctly stated our argument to which he refers. It was first used in reply to Bro. CLARK of Kentucky, who held that every Grand Lodge has power to act as it pleases in regard to residents within its jurisdiction, and that other Grand Lodges are bound to recognize such action as valid. We denied the correctness of this proposition, and in proof stated that that doctrine would allow one Grand Lodge to make a mason of a mason expelled in another jurisdiction.

But in addition we claimed then, and we claim now, that while making a

mason of a rejected candidate of another jurisdiction is not precisely the same as it would be in case of an expelled mason, yet that the principle is the same in both cases. It is true that a rejected candidate is not a masonic criminal, nor is an expelled mason a masonic criminal except by force of the action of the lodge which expelled him, and he must be treated as an expelled mason everywhere on account of that judgment of the lodge, and no other lodge has the right to inquire into the grounds upon which that judgment is based. In the case of a rejected candidate, the lodge, having jurisdiction, has in the manner prescribed by immemorial usage, rendered a judgment that the candidate is unfit to be made a Mason. The method of proceeding is not the same in both cases, but in each case the method of proceeding is according to the immemorial law, and the judgment of the lodge in both cases stands upon the same principle.

In regard to non-affiliation, Bro. BLATT says:

“While membership in the lodge is a masonic duty, a duty existent since the organization of lodges, yet we have failed to see any benefits derived by coercion in the line of legislation.”

His general review is, as heretofore, a very carefully prepared abstract of the proceedings. He approves the action of a Grand Master in granting a dispensation to a lodge to decorate its altar with the American flag. We do not agree. We do not believe that the altar of Freemasonry should be decorated in any other manner than the ancient usages prescribe.

In his review of the District of Columbia he says:

“A resolution was presented providing that in case where a sufficient number of brethren do not assemble to form a respectable procession at the funeral of a deceased brother, *the Master is authorized to designate a committee which may conduct the masonic funeral service, wearing masonic clothing.* The writer is wholly responsible for the italics. Shades of George Washington's monument! Where are you going? Or is it possible we are a back number or too far west.”

What will he think of the present practice of Pennsylvania?

He says further:

“Under Maine, he maintains that lodge jurisdiction over profanes is purely United States Masonry; that it never has nor does it now obtain in any European or South American Grand Lodge. Bro. Drummond himself states that it was not the law in Maine when he became a member of it, and that he assisted at its establishment in that Grand Lodge. That the right of a lodge to make a mason regardless of residence is inherent, but has been abridged, no doubt wisely so, by Grand Lodges. Hence a waiver of jurisdiction must of necessity still be inherent in the lodge and not in the Grand Master. We have always stood upon and maintained the same grounds.”

We do not quite understand this logic. If a candidate may apply to any lodge he pleases, we do not see what any lodge has to do in relation to the waiver of jurisdiction, so that when the Grand Lodge limits the rights of the

candidate, it seems to us that it may annex such conditions as it pleases, and that the lodge has no inherent right in the matter.

He quotes the decision of Grand Master FAURNHAM in reference to the rights of an unaffiliated mason, and says that if that decision omitted the words "Masonic relief for himself or family," it would be the Dakota law *verbatim*. The decision, as understood in Maine, referred only to relief *by lodges*, and did not undertake to hold that the unaffiliated mason has no right to masonic relief from an individual brother.

We do not know in what particular service our brother's son enlisted. If he went to Cuba he has probably returned; in any event, we most earnestly hope that his son has been preserved, and will be preserved to return to him in good time.

TENNESSEE, 1899.

The frontispiece is a portrait of Bro. JOSEPH H. BULLOCK, the incoming Grand Master. Years have touched him since we first met him nearly twenty-five years ago at Nashville and New Orleans, but so lightly that we recognized the portrait at once without stopping to look at his bold, plain autograph.

The Grand Master, WILLIAM H. BUMPAS, referred in his address in eloquent terms, to the times through which we were passing, recalling the memory of the heroes of the past, and mentioning the heroes of the present, whose names are inscribed upon our rolls.

He had granted a large number of dispensations, many of which were to install officers. We cannot forbear repeating that we deem it against the true interests of the craft to multiply occasions for dispensations. It may be different in other jurisdictions, but certainly no harm has come during all these years in Maine from giving the power to install the officers to the retiring Master of the lodge. We even think that a general law that when the election is not held at the stated time it might be held at the next stated communication, would be preferable to requiring a dispensation in every such case.

He had made quite a number of visitations, and in this connection speaks of the District Lecturers as follows:

"Judging from the character of the work with which we met in our visitations, we are well persuaded that these brethren have faithfully performed the duties entrusted to them. We have not heard one word of dissatisfaction or criticism of any one of them."

He had granted dispensations for two new lodges.

While he had omitted a very large number of his decisions, he still reports twenty-nine. Among them was that he could not grant a dispensation

for celebrating St. John's Day on any other date than the twenty-fourth of June. He held that a lodge has a right to call off for a time, up to the next regular meeting. The other decisions depend upon local law, or are such as have been passed on so frequently in other jurisdictions that they need not be repeated.

Of the representative system, he says:

"We have received several requests from Foreign Jurisdictions to appoint at their Grand Lodges representatives to take the places of deceased brethren. This custom having been abandoned by the Grand Lodge of Tennessee of course no action was taken. We regret that this ancient and highly fraternal custom has fallen into disuse with a jurisdiction standing so high as does that of Tennessee. We trust that in your deliberations you may see fit to revive this custom, which can not be otherwise than of benefit to us. In fact, we are of the opinion that we exhibit an unwarranted selfishness not to participate in this time-honored custom of broad Fraternity."

The committee differed from his view, but a resolution restoring the system presented by Past Grand Master GEORGE H. MORGAN, was adopted.

He calls the attention of the Grand Lodge to the fact that there are only about twenty days in which lodges are allowed to elect and install their officers and make up their returns for the Grand Secretary, and suggests that the time is insufficient.

He notes with pleasure the return of the Bible to masonic altars in Peru, and believes that this gives new hope to the Masonry in that country.

He devotes considerable space to "the Home" and he brings good news. But an additional building was needed, to raise the funds for which a call was made for voluntary contributions. The responses were such that the additional building had been built and paid for. We congratulate the craft of that state upon their successful efforts in this direction.

He makes a most eloquent appeal in favor of a "Home for the old Mason." He thinks that \$2,000 will build and furnish the home for present needs. He announces the death of JOHN R. FRIZZELL, the son of the lamented JOHN FRIZZELL, so many years Grand Secretary, and pays a deserved tribute to his memory. He also announces the death of Past Grand Master ARCHELAUS M. HUGHES, at the age of eighty-seven years, who was buried by the Grand Lodge, of which he had been a member for more than sixty years and three times Grand Master. We take the following from the tribute to his memory:

"We buried Grand Master Hughes from his own church, in the city of Columbia. A large concourse of masons and friends followed him to his home in Rose Hill Cemetery. We were reminded, as we stood at the foot of his grave, of his great usefulness, his long life, his grand career, his noble name, his untarnished character, and we felt that we stood in the presence of a sacred friendship, and upon holy ground. We turn away from these graves, remembering that a young life has gone out, leaving behind hundreds of friends who will regret his death, and that from the other there comes the sweet reflection that old age is happy, and pleasant, and full of

comfort when the trust on God is strong. Judge Hughes died in the full hope of a glorious immortality, and we trust that on the glorious morn of the Resurrection; we shall greet them both."

BRO. BEN HERMAN, one of the founders of the "Home," had also died during the year.

He gives the resolutions adopted by the Grand Lodge of Washington, and without entering into a discussion of them he recommends that the relations with that jurisdiction be suspended.

He refers to various other matters, showing, as he well says in one of the opening paragraphs of his address:

"We have no apologies to make for our shortcomings, for the reason that we have given to you our best ability, our best thoughts, and our best time, after we had discharged those duties which we first owed to our God and to our family. During the year every letter has received a reply; every question has been answered; every brother that has asked counsel has received aid; every address that it was possible to make has been delivered; every visit that could be made without detriment to our business or health, has been made; hundreds of letters were written to advance the cause of Masonry, and to build up her Widows and Orphans' Home."

But we quote the following in relation to intemperance in spite of its length, because it sets out the true doctrine:

"Brethren, to be a good man and a good mason, means to be a temperate man and a temperate mason. It is unbecoming the dignity of manhood to be intemperate. It is immoral in the highest sense and it lays the foundation for wrecking the most substantial and beautiful characters. Intemperance does not lead to noble life or to noble doing or to noble daring, but it dethrones every high impulse of the soul and causes the possessor to descend to the very lowest scale of degradation. A drunken mason should be an object of pity, and while we commiserate his condition and his weakness, we do not forget that one of the first lessons impressed upon his young life was to be a temperate man. We do not forget that as he entered that door and took the step to the sacred place of prayer, that he there stood an honest, temperate and upright man, endowed with intellect and the graces which go to adorn human life and render it beautiful in the eyes of the brethren. We do not forget that as he listened to the solemn warnings against immorality and vice that his heart received the impressions and that he resolved then and there to dignify the calling which he had chosen. We do not forget that as the years came and his life grew stronger and the world grew friendlier, and he went forth to earn a manly living, that he met temptations. We do not forget that he is weak by nature, and although endowed with an immortal part, yet he is a highly social being, and that the social glass has oftimes led to the pauper's grave. Brethren, there cannot be any higher rules made for the man who promises upon the sacred pages of the Great Light, that he will be just and honorable and upright and temperate in his daily walk before his brethren and his Maker. Every man can, by his influence, and the example of his own life, refuse to support and defend men of intemperate habits, and to lend the aid of his life and his good works to the cause of intemperance which digs more graves than war or pestilence and renders fatherless more children than the most dreaded epidemics. The legislation of this Grand Lodge is towards temperance. The doors of Masonry are barred against the man who manufactures and sells whiskey. Can we not raise our voices against him who by his high

handed and defiling life brings disgrace upon this noble profession, and dishonor upon his own name and household? A drunkard is unfit for the company of gentlemen, a drunkard is unfit for the company of any man, and he who willingly consents to degrade his life and destroy his immortal soul, should find no home in this asylum, where the hand that greets, is the promised hand that binds up the wounds which his wicked course has made.

"The world moves easier and faster to-day than a hundred years ago. The rules of business are as inexorable as fate. Business spurns intemperance. The drunkard must seek his level. Society frowns at the offensive smile of sickly, maudlin manhood under the robes of office and authority. The iron hand of government presses down upon this foul blot. Shall Masonry do less? If he will not turn from this evil, Masonry must disown her son."

It recalls to our mind an incident in 1877, at Buffalo or Cleveland, we forget which, when the brethren from Tennessee set a splendid example in this respect.

The children at the Home gave an entertainment, attended by the Grand Lodge, which was a rare treat. The record says:

"During the entire performance a number of the little ones, who look upon Grand Master Bumpas as a father, gathered around him, and one little tot went asleep in his arms and rested there until the close of the entertainment."

Happy Grand Master!

From the report of the Board of Custodians it is evident that several of the District Lecturers, at least, faithfully attended to their duty, and made faithful reports to the Grand Lodge.

One decision of the report of the Committee on Grievances, which was adopted by the Grand Lodge, strikes us with surprise. A mason expelled for non-payment of dues having paid the dues, petitions the Grand Lodge for restoration, stating that he was then living within the jurisdiction of a New York lodge, which had adopted a resolution recommending his restoration. The committee decided that the Grand Lodge had no jurisdiction and rejected the petition. It may be that the lodge, by which he was expelled, by the law of Tennessee is the only one having jurisdiction, or that he should have procured the recommendation of that lodge to accompany his petition. In Maine, the Grand Lodge has jurisdiction in such cases.

We notice that the Grand Lodge set aside an acquittal on the ground that the evidence sustained the charges, and remanded the case for a new trial. Our experience is that in such cases the harmony of the lodge is liable to be very greatly disturbed by the second trial, and it is much better for the Grand Lodge to give the judgment, which, upon the evidence, the lodge ought to have given, and inflict the punishment. However, we find this was done in another case. This corrects our first impression, as it shows that the Grand Lodge is accustomed to exercise this power, which some Grand Lodges have held we cannot exercise.

A very interesting report in relation to the Home is submitted with details. We find that it is controlled by a board who have charge of the funds, the principal of which is to be preserved inviolate, and never to be diminished. It may be that when the time comes for re-investment, this will impose a burden in paying the premium, which would probably have to be paid in order to obtain securities of the character required in the rules. But we have no doubt that the craft in Tennessee would respond instantly to the call in such a case.

The Grand Lodge, upon the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence, reversed the decision of the Grand Master, that an objection in advance does not hold. The same question arose in Maine, and our Grand Lodge decided in accordance with the decision of Grand Master BUMPAS, and we have observed to the same effect in several other jurisdictions. As we understand it, it was also held that service as a Warden in another jurisdiction is not sufficient to enable a brother to serve as Warden in Tennessee. If that is so, we think it ought to be changed. We believe that the old law relates to service as *Warden* or service as *Master*, and that when a man has been a Master or a Warden in a regular lodge, no matter where, he is to all intents and purposes a past Master and a past Warden.

The committee also suggest to the Grand Lodge that the Board of Control should not increase the capacity of the Home to the extent that the expenses shall exceed the income; otherwise it will bring the noble charity into disgrace.

It commends the views of the Grand Master in regard to a "Home for old masons," but thinks the time is not propitious for undertaking it. But his action in his efforts to raise money for the Home on St. John's day are commended. They endorsed his views favoring the publication of a history, but held that it should be done without cost to the Grand Lodge.

Of his views in relation to intemperance, the committee say:

"We most heartily, unequivocally, and with all the force of our nature, approve what the Grand Master says concerning profanity and intemperance. These two vices, in our opinion, have sent more souls to perdition, wrecked the happiness of more homes, blighted the prospects of a larger number of communities, and committed more murders than all the other vices combined. Brethren, heed his advice."

They endorse his views as to the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, and report a resolution suspending masonic intercourse, which was adopted by the Grand Lodge.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 116) was presented by Bro. GEORGE H. MORGAN. He endorses very eloquently the views of the Grand Master of Alabama in regard to the Bible. He quotes some criticisms on the law of perpetual jurisdiction, which illustrate the difficulty of discussing the question of law which shall apply to all cases when it happens to arise in a

case of apparently particular hardship. The extract begins with "a man of confessedly high character," etc. Now this suggestion is misleading and never should have been used in the argument of a question of *law*. The law in the case is precisely the same as if a man had been confessedly of the worst possible character, and the use of this argument shows the weakness of the proposition which the party using it is endeavoring to sustain. However, the real point was that one Grand Lodge claimed that the rejected candidate received a *status* from which he could be relieved only according to the law of the jurisdiction in which he received it; and if Bro. MORGAN will read his extract again he will perceive that the remainder would apply equally to a person who had been expelled, as to one who had been rejected. It is not a case of error in procedure, but a case in which, in consequence of the *status* of the party, the lodge had no jurisdiction over him whatever.

But we agree with him fully in his remarks in relation to trying and expelling craftsman, who had come to the conclusion that they could not conscientiously remain members of the Fraternity; we believe that this is unanswerable:

"We think the ruling, as well as the action of the lodge, contrary to both the spirit and letter of masonic law. When the candidate first crosses the masonic threshold, is there nothing in the assurance given him that what he is about to take upon himself does not conflict with his religious or political notions, be they what they may, or that conflicts with his duty to his family, himself, his country, or his God? Is there any Medo-Persian law in Masonry that compels him to hold to the views on religion and religious duty he entertains when he becomes a mason, under pain of expulsion if he changes? We claim to be 'Free and Accepted Masons!' Is there no meaning in the word 'Free?' The very quotation from the Constitution given by Grand Master Scott plainly shows the ruling to be erroneous. To become a mason a man must be "free-born." In becoming a member he surrenders none of his freedom, but only takes on himself additional obligations and duties."

In his review of Maine, he quotes the provision of our Constitution in relation to rejected candidates, but adds that he thinks the Tennessee law is better; but we do not find what that law is.

He does not quite understand what we said in relation to the "sin" of our Tennessee brethren in not giving the names of the Grand Lodge officers. If he will turn to the list of its Grand Officers present, he will find that the first name is given in full but once, and in only two other cases are abbreviations which indicate what the name is. In other words, only the initials of names are given as a rule and a very general rule, and while the Grand Officers may be well known at home, yet their names are not known to very many of the readers of the Proceedings; and the result is that we, in other jurisdictions, do not know which one of perhaps a dozen men of the same initials, is meant.

We are very glad to learn that our brother is even partially out of the

clutch of his old enemy, the rheumatism. While that has never had much of a clutch on us, we have had occasional twinges of it sufficient to enable us to sympathize very heartily with any one suffering with it. We reciprocate most heartily the lines he has quoted, addressed to his brethren of these committees.

TEXAS, 1898.

For such an immense jurisdiction, the address of the Grand Master, JOHN L. TERRELL, is quite brief, but it was supplemented by an address from the Deputy Grand Master, who, in that jurisdiction, has the same powers as a Grand Master in relation to various matters, as we understand it.

The Grand Master says:

“In the turmoil of battle on land and on sea, the hand of Providence has guided the destinies of our nation and our men in the great cause of humanity, made manifest in the wonderful achievements of a liberty-loving people against tyranny and oppression, while at the same time He has knit together the hearts of our own patriotic citizenship and obliterated what of division may have been left among the people of our own land and flag, till we feel that all the earth should sing: ‘O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands: serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.’

“From all parts of our great jurisdiction come the glad news of peace and harmony among our near 30,000 brethren.

“Our lodges are prosperous and we feel confident that these Masters come with buoyant spirit to enter upon the labors of this communication with renewed love and esteem for the works of our ancient and honorable institution.”

He gives a brief account of his very numerous official acts. He had declined to give a dispensation for a military lodge.

A lodge elected a party to membership upon his presenting what purported to be a dimit from a lodge in Arkansas, but when he attempted to visit the lodge, he could not prove himself to be a mason, and it turned out that the dimit had been forged. The Grand Master very properly declared, the proceedings void and censured the lodge for not ascertaining that the party was a mason before they received his application for membership.

He decided that a protest against conferring the first degree may be made after the petition has been filed, although before it has been acted upon. Upon the recommendation of the committee, the Grand Lodge amended its law, so that it now provides that an objection to his receiving the first degree may be made at any time after the petition has been received and before he receives the degree. This is following the decision of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, but is contrary to the decisions elsewhere, and we believe it is erroneous in principle. The ballot is the test, and the right of objection has been allowed only as a necessity, in consequence either of the discovery of new facts after the ballot, or because the party objecting was unable to bu

present and ballot; and we think the exception to the old law ought not to be extended.

The Grand Master decided that a brother offering to visit a lodge has no right to demand that the charter be brought into the ante-room for his inspection. Of this decision the committee say:

“The tenth decision is correct in stating that a brother offering to visit a lodge has no right to demand an exhibition of its charter; but we wish to add that no brother should visit a lodge until satisfied that it is regularly constituted, and while no right exists to demand an exhibit of the charter, the lodge ought not to refuse a reasonable request made by such brother, that he may obtain the necessary information.”

There is a good deal of confusion about this matter, but as elsewhere stated, we have come to the conclusion that if a lodge assents to an application to visit it and to examine the party to determine whether he is a mason, he has a right to see the charter, and under many circumstances it is his duty to see it. This rule will reconcile the differences which have existed.

A lodge may decline absolutely to receive a visitor, but if they assent to receive him it is just as much his duty, under the masonic law, to know that the body which he visits is a lawful lodge, as it is for the lodge to ascertain that he is a regular mason.

The question of Grand Lodge expenses had become a serious one, especially in view of the efforts in favor of the Home. It was found that the expenses of District Deputies had very largely increased. Within twenty years the number of districts had been doubled; the number of lodges had largely increased, and the state is so large a one that in many parts of it the lodges are necessarily scattered. The number of lodges in 1897 is 814. The expense of visitation was, on an average, less than a dollar a lodge. Of course, all could not have been visited, but we advise our Texas brethren to go slow in any measure that will diminish the effectiveness of the District Deputy system and the number of lodges visited.

The committee noted, also, that the expenses of Schools of Instruction had cost the Grand Lodge the year before, over \$5000; and thereupon, the Grand Lodge reduced the mileage from three cents to one and one-half cents, and the *per diem* to fifty cents, the original idea having been that the Grand Lodge should bear only one-half the expenses. A minority of the committee opposed this, but the Grand Lodge adopted it.

The Grand Lodge formally extended an invitation to the Grand Commandery of Texas to act as an escort to the Grand Lodge in laying the corner stone of the Home on January 7, 1898. We think this must mean 1899.

The Committee on Appeals had quite a large number of cases before it, and some of a very interesting character. One brother was accused of disbelief in the Bible, but upon his statement of his articles of faith, he was acquitted.

Considerable space is given to the Home. A lot near Fort Worth had been given and accepted, and about \$110,000 had been collected for the fund; and it was determined to go on and erect the building.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 98) was presented by Bro. THOMAS M. MATTHEWS. It is almost wholly written, and is a carefully prepared abstract of the Proceedings reviewed, with occasional comments. He reproduced in it the picture of the meeting of the Grand Lodge of Arizona in the Copper Queen mine. He mixes brief comments with his abstracts, and thus very pleasantly breaks the monotony.

He says that in Texas, in the absence of the Master and Wardens, any Past Master present may open the lodge, adding, "we can see no fault in our law and know that sometimes it is very convenient." The same is true in Maine.

We are obliged to him for giving us the name of Grand Master WATKINS and we are glad the Grand Secretary gives us the names of the Grand Master and Deputy, and his own, although beyond those in the list of Grand Officers, he is quite sparing of this information.

He does not see what the character of the man in whose favor a dispensation is asked, has to do with granting it. Well, we think it has a great deal to do with it. The sole object of the delay between the reception of a petition and its acceptance, is to ascertain what the character of the applicant is, and in the case in which it appears that that character is already abundantly well known, a dispensation may safely be granted.

He undertakes to quote for our benefit, the Old Charge which the committee of his Grand Lodge had in mind when they made a decision upon physical qualifications, and we had a little laugh because he stops it just where the committee stop it, and adds, "etc." Now if our brother and the committee, instead of putting "etc.," will put *what there is in the charge*, they will see the force of the point which we made and there can be no difference between us as to the construction of the language. However, he puts in the disclaimer that he, himself, does not hold to the perfection theory.

In regard to the ritual he says:

"We agree with him that in regard to the ritual 'the utmost that ought to be undertaken (and we add that can be reasonably expected) is to have uniformity in the essentials, leaving the matter of details in other respects to a pretty large discretion.' We can not and need not expect to have a 'cast iron' formula: but we can not agree that 'the legality of the cipher depends entirely upon the question whether the cipher is legible to profanes,' for as we know the O. B. makes the using or making them illegal. At all events the one which we took does. To us the question is not whether it *is* legible, but whether it *may become* so. Like as yourself, brother, we can be no more explicit unless we could have a personal interview."

We agree that the question in relation to ciphers is not whether it *is* legible only, but to that must be added whether it *may become* so; and we refer him for our views to our review of Pennsylvania.

He agrees that the best method of reports of committees on character is for each member to report orally to the lodge and leave the lodge to judge for itself.

He gives a very able review of the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, as does the special committee to which it was referred. The Grand Lodge adopted a resolution suspending fraternal relations; but as the Grand Lodge of Washington has repealed the offensive resolutions, we omit any further notice.

UTAH, 1899.

We have the portraits of Bro. JAMES DAVID MURDOCH, incoming Grand Master; of P. G. Master EDMUND PELTON JOHNSON, and of P. S. G. W. STEPHEN SMITH SCHRAMM, both of whom had died during the year. Their portraits are accompanied by a biographical sketch of each, prepared by Bro. DIEHL, Grand Secretary.

In the forenoon the Grand Lodge opened, filled vacancies upon some of the committees and called off until afternoon, when the Committee on Credentials reported, and the Grand Master announced the standing committees.

The Grand Master, JOHN FRANCIS HARDIE, delivered a comparatively brief address, in which he says that peace and harmony had prevailed, and at no time in his opinion, since the organization of the Grand Lodge, had there been a warmer and more cordial union among the brethren than now exists.

He says further:

“It is also a pleasure to state that in admitting new material into the several lodges, the brethren have exercised due caution and judgment, and while our own numbers are not so large as in sister jurisdictions, we are consoled with the knowledge that it is quality not quantity that wins in the long run. In order that our lodge meetings may have a larger attendance, and so induce brethren who are carrying their dimits in their pockets to join our ranks in this state, I would recommend for your approval and encouragement a revival of the pleasant practice we followed here in Salt Lake City some years ago, of visiting each other in a friendly and informal manner.

“In my experience in the past such visits never failed to elicit the warmest expressions of friendship and brotherly love.

“Fraternity seems to me to be the very essence of Masonry, and whatever promotes it should receive the hearty concurrence of the craft. In connection with this, I would recommend the introduction at these fraternal visits, of choice readings from leading authors, debates on interesting subjects, musical selections, etc., and any other interesting diversions that will transform the dry, prosaic business routine of the Lodge into a joy and pleasure, and I have no doubt we will succeed in making our meetings more attractive, and secure a larger attendance.”

We have no doubt whatever that if this programme could be carried out it would result in a greater interest among the brethren, and aid materially in their instruction, not only in the work but also in the proper administration of the affairs of Masonry, as well as in their duties as masons.

The Grand Master had visited nearly every lodge in the jurisdiction, and believes that permanent benefit resulted therefrom. He notices the war with Spain in very patriotic terms.

He recommended that a roll of honor be published in the Proceedings, containing the names of those who had served, and the command they were serving with, and it was so ordered.

We greatly regret to learn that in a disastrous fire at Park City, the hall of Uintah Lodge was destroyed, with all its records, etc., nothing having been saved, and that in addition another lodge had been burned out, losing everything; the latter being the youngest lodge in the state, was placed in an exceedingly hard condition by the fire, but other lodges had aided them generously. Of this the Grand Master says:

"I cannot find language fitting enough to commend the noble response of the brethren in this instance; but it proves what has been said so many times, that the heart and purse of a true mason is ever open to the cry or sign of distress. In view of the severe loss of the records of these lodges, I most earnestly beseech you to always have a place provided for their safe keeping. Insure them and your furniture in some good reliable fire insurance company. 'Do not wait until the horse is stolen before you buy a lock.'"

He gives the following account of an excursion by one of the lodges whose hall was burned:

"I also on the 9th day of July issued a dispensation on Uintah Lodge to hold an open air meeting on the top of a high mountain overlooking Park City on the evening of the 13th day of the same month: the site chosen for this event, was on the top of a mountain almost due north from Park City, with a plateau running east and west. A finer situation could not have been found anywhere, and being over 8,000 feet above the level of the sea, the view was of the grandest description. Having chartered a special train over the Utah Central, with Jos. G. Bywater, Past Master of Mt. Moriah, No. 2, as engineer, and accompanied by 181 brethren from our Utah Lodges, and 27 from sister jurisdictions we left Salt Lake City at 4.30 p. m. on the afternoon of the 13th of July, arriving in Park City in due time, where we were met by the brethren of Uintah Lodge and escorted by them to the chosen place of meeting. Sentinels having been stationed to guard against the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers, the lodge was opened in due form, and the regular business was proceeded with, first in order being the receiving of the Grand Lodge Officers, and the dedicating of the altar, and the mountain top to masonic uses; speeches bearing on the importance and solemnity of the occasion were made by Past Grand Masters Dalby, Scott, Gash and myself, our Grand Secretary, and the Worshipful Masters of Wasatch, Mt. Moriah, Argenta, Story, Weber and Tintic Lodges. It was after 11 o'clock when the lodge was closed, and torches being procured we made the descent of the mountain, reaching our train without accident, and after having spent a most delightful time with our Park City brethren and partaken of their bountiful hospitality, we started for home, arriving there in the 'wee sma' hours ayont the twal."

We notice that similar excursions are getting to be, as it seems to us, somewhat frequent. We confess to entertaining very grave doubts as to the benefit of them, especially when they are held for conferring the degrees.

In this particular instance it should be noted, however, as we understand it, no work was done.

The report of the Grand Secretary, CHRISTOPHER DIEHL, gives a detailed account of the affairs of his office during the year as well as of the condition of the lodges and the library, etc.

The Grand Lodge, upon the report of the committee, decided that a lodge may receive the petition of a man who has a stiff knee, being crippled to that extent, who is otherwise well qualified.

The Committee on Jurisprudence presented a report in relation to the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington with the following resolutions, which were adopted.

“Resolved first, That we regret exceedingly the action taken in this matter by the Grand Lodge of Washington.

“Resolved second, That we dissent both from its premises and conclusions, and can find no warrant for the departure from long established customs which must result from such action.

“Resolved third, That we fraternally implore our brethren of that state which bears the name of the foremost great mason of the land, as they love the institution of Freemasonry, and desire to maintain that harmony which should ever prevail among us, to gather to their full strength at their next annual communication, and rescind the action which is the cause of so much alarm and unrest among the fraternity, East, West, North and South.”

The Grand Orient of Belgium made an application for recognition and the committee ask further time for their report.

The Grand Lodge made an appropriation for its share of the expected expenses of the Washington Celebration. The work was exemplified and the question as to the manner in which it can best be disseminated was discussed, but no action was taken.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 105) was presented as heretofore by Bro. DIEHL. As usual, he gives a carefully prepared condensed abstract, mingled with exceedingly interesting comments.

In relation to electioneering he says:

“If we read correctly between the lines our brethren in California do indulge more or less in the electioneering business, and in order to prevent that a resolution was introduced to amend the constitution, providing for the election of Grand Officers in the afternoon of the first day’s session, instead of the fourth day. If the amendment had been adopted it would have shortened the time of the masonic politicians, but it failed to carry. The Jurisprudence Committee was favorably impressed with the commendable purpose of the proposed amendment, but was of the opinion that the change would be inadequate to remedy the evil complained of. In Utah we have a constitutional law forbidding electioneering and the member of Grand Lodge or of a lodge who solicits votes, either for himself or for another brother, will be charged with a masonic offence and punished. Since that law was adopted by our Grand Lodge electioneering is a thing of the past. We advise our California brethren to adopt it or a similar one.”

Probably for the same reason in our Grand Lodge, the election has been held from a time whereof our “memory runneth not to the contrary,” on

the afternoon of the first day. It is well understood that electioneering is against the law of the Grand Lodge, but we suspect, for all that, that the practice prevails to some extent. It has been understood that in a few instances, where the fact has been known, it has been rebuked by brothers of the Grand Lodge refusing to vote for the parties practicing it.

BRO. DIEHL firmly believes that the world is growing better, and thus changes are called for in almost every thing. He does not, however, carry this idea in Masonry so far as many others who want to make Masonry over according to their own ideas, in order that it may "keep pace with the times." We think that herein lies the greatest danger to the Institution. But he, in his review of Delaware, intimates that the masons of Utah will continue to walk in the old path, as we sincerely trust they may.

In his review of Maine he holds that we are happy because our Committee on Appeals had nothing before them. He refers to our remarks in relation to the library, and in order that we may not be misunderstood, we desire to say that the masons of Salt Lake City did a great work in founding a general library with their masonic library, and we have never under valued the importance of it. At the same time we think a division was made, and a Public Library organized just at the right time. Our objection does not lie to the starting of such a library, but in the attempt to continue to maintain it beyond a certain point. We repeat, that in our judgment the masons did one of the greatest things for the benefit of the city when it started this library, and cultivated a public opinion that caused it to be assumed by the city.

He regrets that he cannot agree with us in relation to the rejection of candidates, but we do not despair. We have hopes of him yet, as while he claims that he is somewhat of an "old fogey," he is not so much of one that he will not learn by experience. We have read his report, as usual, with great interest, and only regret that we have not more time and space so that we might notice very many other things which we find in it.

We quote, however, from his Conclusion, what he says in relation to the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington:

"The action of the Grand Lodge of Washington concerning 'Negro Masonry' has created an agitation in our country, the like of which is not to be found on the pages of masonic history. Much has been said on the subject, and much more will be said on it within the next year or two, but even that cloud, as serious as it may now appear, will pass over and the masonic horizon will be again clear and bright. In the foregoing review we have copied the resolutions of such Grand Lodges as have taken action upon the matter during the year, to which we refer our readers. We have offered no criticism, because we did not believe it prudent to do so, before our Grand Lodge had passed and acted upon the subject. We may here state that individually we fully agree with the views expressed in the report of our Committee on Jurisprudence. The historical facts as stated by the committee cannot be gainsaid, even not by the learned brethren of the Grand Lodge of Washington."

VERMONT, 1898.

We have a volume of over five hundred pages filled with matters of much interest. In addition to the regular proceedings we have the portrait of Past Grand Master PARK DAVIS, with a biographical sketch of him; the proceedings of the Grand Lodge at the laying of the corner-stone of the new Masonic Temple at Burlington, and of two other special communications for masonic work; the proceedings at the dedication of the Masonic Temple (which, however, took place during the annual communication); the list of members of the subordinate lodges; and the proceedings of the Ninth Annual District Deputy Grand Masters' Meeting.

The addresses at the laying of the corner-stone, especially that of the Grand Master, are of a very high character and would justify extensive quotations if we had the space, and if it were not for the fact that the whole should be read together. The same may be said of the addresses at the dedication of the Temple, at which responses were made for the Grand Lodge, Ancient Craft Masonry, Capitular Masonry, Templar Masonry, Cryptic Masonry and Scottish Rite Masonry.

Grand Master LOCKE was present and spoke briefly upon the "Benefits of Masonry to Individuals."

The address of the Grand Master, DANIEL W. NICHOLSON, was necessarily of considerable length, as he had to deal with a very large number of subjects. He pays a tribute to the fraternal dead, giving a brief biographical account of many of them. He decided that it is a settled principle of masonic law that when a brother affiliates with a new lodge, he carries with him all the official rank which he had previously possessed in the lodge to which he formerly belonged; and that it was the duty of lodges to return all Past Masters, not only those becoming so in their own lodge, but in any other lodge.

He decided, also, that if the Master will not apply for a dispensation to elect an officer to fill a vacancy, the lodge may, by a majority vote, direct the Secretary to apply for one, under the seal of the lodge.

He gives the correspondence with the Grand Orient of Belgium; that pertaining to the Centennial Anniversary of Washington, and that in regard to Peru. He gives in full the treaty between the Grand Orient and the Supreme Council of Belgium, in which the latter recognizes the former as the only regular authority in Belgium over the three symbolic degrees.

Much of his address is, of course, devoted to the Masonic Temple, and we are greatly rejoiced to find that it has been fully paid for and that the erection of it is a complete success. Bro. NICHOLSON has been an exceedingly active and hard working officer, discharging his duties with fidelity and ability.

The question of the recognition of the Grand Orient of Belgium was continued in the hands of the committee for another year.

He calls attention to the fact that in that jurisdiction, the hammer is the jewel of a Deacon, and he recommended that a change be made; but the committee reported against any change at the present time, leaving the matter for further investigation as to the reason why the hammer was adopted as the jewel of that officer. It has been the jewel, apparently, for a long time.

The reports of the District Deputies, of the Grand Lecturer and the proceedings of the district meetings, show that these officers had been active in visiting the lodges, and that they are in an excellent condition in every respect, with a very few exceptions.

The Report on Correspondence, (pp. 134) was presented by Bro. MARSH O. PERKINS, and like his former reports, is a very painstaking review of the Proceedings, with comments instructive and interesting, and the comments are so interwoven with the abstract as to keep up the interest of the reader throughout.

In his review of Georgia, he says:

“One of them is to the effect that a mason is not required to divulge the proceedings of the Grand Jury, while serving as a member of the same, though a brother be indicted. It strikes us that the decision would have been more in accord with true masonic law and spirit if it had read, ‘a mason *should not* divulge, etc.’ The masonic institution does not countenance aught that conflicts with one’s duties to his God, his country, his neighbor or himself.”

We think that the last sentence has been overlooked quite frequently. We have had occasion to refer to the correctness of this doctrine several times in this report, and we are glad that Bro. PERKINS states it so forcibly. He commends the example which Kansas has set of conferring the M. M. degree in Grand Lodge “*by the duly elected and installed officers thereof.*”

In his review of Maine, he says:

“A third decision involves the question of the requirement of voting on a request for a dimit, from which we learn that Maine has two methods of procedure, viz: 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; or a member may give notice at a stated communication, that at the next he shall apply for a dimit, and if in the meanwhile no charges have been filed, and he is clear of the books, it is the Secretary’s duty to give him a certificate of honorable discharge from membership. In either case, the dimit should be, as in Vermont, made a matter of record. We like the two strings to the bow, protecting, as it seems to us, the fullest rights of the individual, without injury to the lodge.”

Our experience before adopting this rule, and our experience since, confirm us in the wisdom of the rule which our Grand Lodge has adopted.

We find that in Vermont, since 1866, Past Masters have not been allowed to preside in the absence of Masters and Wardens, and our observation touching this point was applicable to Maine and not to Vermont. Under our law in Maine, in the absence of the Master and Wardens, a Past Master may open the lodge and preside, and while presiding has all the powers of the Master. Also, if a Warden or Master calls another brother to the chair, that brother, while presiding, has all the powers of the Master; but the Master or Warden who put him in the chair has the right to resume the chair at his own pleasure. We think this will remove the obscurity of the paragraph which he quotes:

Reviewing the Nebraska case, which we have criticised, he says:

“The laws of Freemasonry of Nebraska may deny all prerogatives of a Grand Master, except those constitutionally conferred, but the fact still remains that prerogatives beyond and outside of the written law have always existed in the history of the Institution, and one of them most generally conceded, although rarely exercised in ‘occasional lodges’ of late years, is that of making masons at sight. That it is an inherent right of a Grand Master, has not been disputed until a comparatively recent date, and we question if any constitutional enactment, directly or indirectly declaring its non-existence, is not an innovation on the body of Masonry. Nebraska herself recognizes the prerogative in conceding to her Grand Master the dispensing power to subordinate lodges to confer degrees out of time. We believe in its existence although we are not in sympathy with its exercise in this day and generation, except as it has always been exercised by the Grand Masters of Vermont in the power of dispensation.”

We are not prepared to say that the power should never be exercised. We agree with our brother that it should be exercised only in very special cases, but we are not prepared to say that no case can arise in which we should think that it ought not to be exercised. In fact, in this report, or our previous one, we refer to a case in which we regarded, and still regard, the exercise of this power as very wise.

He replies briefly to the argument of the New Hampshire committee against the adoption of the Maine resolutions; saying, that since Vermont has adopted the time limit of one year, but few questions have been raised with her sister jurisdictions. The real question, however, as far as we have observed, has not arisen, and we doubt if it ever does arise in Vermont, for we do not believe that her lodges will make masons of the rejected material of other jurisdictions until “the time limit” in those jurisdictions shall have expired.

VIRGINIA, 1898.

We have a fine portrait of the Grand Master, R. T. W. DUKE, JR. He had the sad duty of announcing the deaths, during the past year, of four Past Grand Masters, all of them men of high character and distinguished ability—M. W. BROS. WILLIAM TALIAFERRO, JOHN PATERSON FITZGERALD,

WILLIAM F. DRINKARD and JOHN R. PURDIE; the first three were present the year before, and the other sent greeting from the Masonic Home. Of these brethren the Grand Master well says:

“Committees have been appointed to make due memorials of these beloved brethren. I shall not, therefore, enter into any eulogy of them. To you, my brethren, eulogy would be unnecessary. You knew and loved them well. Each in his own sphere of life, did life's duty well. One was a major-general, a judge, a legislator. Another a lawyer in a quiet, lovely country town. He was a soldier—a colonel—but ambition never carried him beyond the ranks of the profession he loved and adorned. The third was an editor—a soldier, too—one who used the great power of the press only for high purposes and with noble aims. The most erudite masonic scholar this Grand Jurisdiction ever produced. The fourth was a beloved physician in an old country town distinguished for its culture and refinement. His father was Grand Master of Masons in Virginia in 1819. He in 1841. He lived up to his ninetieth year, respected, revered. He died literally in the arms of Masonry at the Masonic Home.

“In no year in the history of this Grand Lodge did ever four purer, nobler gentlemen return to God. We likewise mourn the death of R. W. J. E. Stephenson, District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 31. A most worthy and exemplary man and mason, whose loss we deplore.”

While we never met either of them, we were very familiar with their names and services, and our correspondence with Bro. DRINKARD has been such that he has always seemed to us, not only a beloved brother mason, but a personal friend.

The Grand Master also had to announce the death of his father, who lingered for seven months in illness and then joined his beloved ones “beyond these voices.” Of him he says:

“For a loss like this there is, it is true, no comfort save the hope of a reunion hereafter, but if grief can have a solace it is when the heart of man speaks to the heart of man, as your hearts spoke to mine. From the length and breadth of this Commonwealth, which he had served in war and peace, and which had so highly honored him, came message after message, which was indeed balm to bruised hearts. As his, and my own mother lodge laid his ashes to rest with our beautiful ceremonies, I realized in its full what Masonry meant and how sweet a thing is the chord of human sympathy binding our hearts together.”

We tender him our heartiest sympathy.

The illness of his father and other illness in his own family prevented his visiting the different sections of the state as he had intended.

He had laid three corner-stones and was prevented by the illness of his father or family from accepting other invitations.

He announced six decisions, most of them depending upon local law. This fact lead him to recommend that in the next edition of the Text Book, the Ahiman Rezon be printed; and the Grand Lodge so ordered. We are very glad that this was done and to learn that a new edition of the Text Book has been issued.

He decided that a lodge has no right to entertain charges against a mem-

ber for not attending an important meeting of the lodge according to notice given him; and he well says:

"Attendance upon lodge meetings is purely voluntary. The length of the cable tow is the length of the chord of love that binds the heart of a mason to his lodge. If he is not drawn to the assembling of his lodge by a love of the Institution and a cordial desire to meet his brethren in friendly converse, his presence is more to be deplored than his absence."

We quote the whole of the following as bearing upon a question so much discussed and as expressing our own views:

"I decided, but with much reluctance, that a non-affiliate had *no rights* in Masonry. He has *privileges*, but no rights. I say 'with reluctance,' for it seems to me we treat non-affiliates with a harshness which should not exist. When a man enters our Institution he obtains certain inalienable rights. When for some reason, best known to himself, he dimitts, he is still a mason—a mason in every sense of the word, except that he is not a member of a lodge. The great aim and object, I respectfully submit, of all law on this subject should be to get all the good non-affiliates back into the lodges. We can never do it with a club. I have found from personal experience that a little kindly talk, an invitation to come to lodge, a hearty welcome when he came, and an assurance that he was still a brother, though not a lodge member, has brought back in the lodge more than one man, whom all the terrors of the law could not have restored to the fold. This equally applies to the unfortunate brother suspended for non-payment of dues. We punish him with a severity it seems to me his offence does not justify, making the failure to pay three dollars in one year as great an offence as drunkenness or misbehavior, and placing the unfortunate brother in the class of suspended masons with whom to hold converse upon masonic subjects is one of the greatest offences.

"Some lodges have tried to get rid of this by having a by-law dropping the brother from the roll. Of course this, under our law, is vain. It seems to me the wisdom of this Grand Body ought to devise some means to soften the hardship of the present law. I know finances are the life-blood of every institution, and that every member of a lodge owes it and the fraternity a duty financially; but whilst finance is the life-blood, charity is the very life, the soul of the Institution, and we should deal with the non-paying brother in the highest spirit of charity. Before suspending him, before waiting his answer or non-answer to the citation, go to him in a spirit of brotherly love, enquire into his circumstances, find out why he cannot pay, remit if necessary. If he is found unworthy don't be afraid to prefer charges and have him suspended for cause rather than let him be suspended for failure to pay money. I wish we could place the mason suspended merely for non-payment of dues in some different class from the mason suspended for wrong doing."

Our law in Maine, which authorizes only suspension from, or deprivation of membership, would suit him better.

He decided that a lodge has no right to have in its lodge room an exposed blackboard on which were written the names of petitioners for initiation or membership. How much more earnestly would he decide that the printing of the names of candidates on notices of meetings is contrary to the old masonic law.

He says further:

"I have also noticed an attempt in many of the by-laws to limit the power of the Master during the interval between the meetings of the lodge,

which I declined, of course, to approve. The Master of a lodge, when the lodge is not in session, is only limited in his powers by the laws of the Grand Lodge and ancient landmarks. Masonry is in no sense of the word a Democratic institution. It is autocratic, and a lodge can no more by a by-law attempt to limit the powers of the Master in any of his legal masonic work than they can change any other ancient landmark."

We are glad to read these words in these times when there is such an attempt upon the part of a few brethren (who have so utterly misconceived Masonry, that they should never have been made masons) to reduce Masonry substantially to the form of an old-fashioned New England town meeting.

He refers to the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, and in his discussion of it says:

"I have examined this matter with the most earnest and careful scrutiny, eliminating entirely from my mind all question of race or color, and I now say carefully and judiciously, weighing all the evidences pro and con, there can be no question whatever that Prince Hall Lodge, no matter how regularly it may have been constituted, was never legally chartered, and even if legally chartered, by its own act in 1827 put itself out of the masonic pale by declaring itself free and independent of other lodges.

"I also decide without a moment's doubt or hesitation that every so-called lodge now in existence, claiming to be chartered by or in descent from Prince Hall Lodge, is clandestine, even if masonic, and that every man made therein is a clandestinely made mason, if a mason at all."

* * * * *

"I am at an utter loss to understand the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington in the view of these facts, and I am constrained to the belief that when its attention is called to its direct violation of the wise and wholesome doctrine of the exclusive jurisdiction of a legitimate Grand Lodge first organized in a state or Territory, over symbolic masonry, and the great wrong of the recognition of clandestine lodges and clandestinely made masons, it will review and change a resolution which can accomplish no good, and which is liable to do a great deal of harm and bring discord into an Institution whose corner stone is harmony."

He recommended the passage of resolutions similar to those of the Grand Lodge of Maryland; and they were adopted.

He calls attention, under a proper heading, to the evil of publishing masonic affairs in the newspapers, and in this connection he says:

"I am compelled to call the attention of this Grand Lodge to the reckless way in which masonic matters are published in newspapers, and to suggest that measures be adopted to prevent the publication of matters relating to masonry unless they be such as should be properly printed. Blazing head lines in the Richmond and Washington newspapers announced the fact that a distinguished clergyman had been elected to take the degrees in Masonry in a lodge in Richmond. Had he been black balled, no doubt the columns would have been leaded and the head lines doubly enlarged. Your Grand Master has been informed—through the public press—that he was going to make various and sundry distinguished persons masons at sight, and the whys and wherefores largely descanted upon.

"Whilst your Grand Master has no doubt whatever of his prerogative to make masons at sight, and would not hesitate to exercise it in any case he thought wise and necessary, he would not select the public prints as his means of communicating the fact, nor does he think any mason should

allude to such action until due authority was given him. Public masonic celebrations and anything leading up to them or likely to arouse interest in them; the names of officers elected, hours and dates of meeting, installations, banquets, the visit of distinguished guests—these things are legitimate for publication. But what takes place in a masonic lodge—who is proposed, who elected, who rejected, our rites and ceremonies, or business, our charities, these no mason should ever give to the public prints, or allow to get into them if he can help it."

He then says that the man to whom reference was made, petitioned and was accepted by a lodge precisely as all other candidates are, and he then visited Richmond and conferred the three degrees. He says:

"Dove Lodge was opened in special communication and we then repaired to the gentleman's home, to which he had been confined by an accident, and there the degrees were conferred, I in my capacity as Grand Master, dispensing with such portions of our ceremonies as I thought the occasion and the condition of the gentleman required."

We wonder if our Pennsylvania brethren will hold that these degrees were not conferred in a lodge because it was opened in one place, and then went through the streets to another place before the work was done?

He refers, with great satisfaction, to the action of other Grand Lodges in relation to the Washington Centennial, which promises to be one of the most interesting masonic occasions that has ever happened in this country.

We hail the following as exceedingly timely, and in some sections of our country needed, to save our Institution from very dangerous innovations. We wish that every member of the craft in this country could read it and understand it; and, moreover, appreciate that it is the truth. We commend to all his eloquent closing sentences:

"The study of our great Institution, its principles, its symbolism, the laws which govern it, is a work worthy of any man's effort, and the more one studies Masonry the less he sees of any need of improvement.

"Life after all is but a great school whose graduation—Death—ushers us into the University of Eternity, where we are to apply, in everlasting study of God's love and God's creations, the lessons learned here.

"Woe to the idler, the fool, the sluggard in this earthly Academy.

"And amongst those things deserving of serious, earnest study I know of none to which some portion of time can better be given than to our Ancient Institution.

"To the antiquarian her legends, her dust-dimmed records, her very history will prove a mine of pleasant research.

"To the poet her majestic ritual—lofty thoughts set to musical, well chosen words—will charm with its spell as doth a mystic chant.

"To the philosopher great ideas will spread before the vision of his thought as he studies the hidden meaning of many a mystery too few care to interpret.

"To the philanthropist our broad charity, working in secret, yet doing its work well, will give new ideas of how to better the human race.

"To the lover of the drama, our great drama, acted in the simplest style, will appeal, as do all tragedies, to the deepest sympathies of the human heart, whilst its lessons of simple faith, of sturdy honesty, and unflinching courage will stir every fibre of the man.

“For the dreamer of dreams, we have visions; for the man of action, we have opportunities; for the wretched, comfort; for the doubter, faith, and above all, to be searched for with all the zeal man can give to effort, we have hope of better things not only in the resurrection of the body but in the new birth, the assoilment, the salvation, purification, elevation of the human soul.

“But beware, O my brethren, of the mere study of ‘words.’ Here, as elsewhere, ‘the letter killeth.’ Study principles, study meaning, study action, and act as you study. Show forth the result of your endeavor not only with your lips, but in your lives.

“LIVE Masonry.

“‘*Permite divis cœtera.*’”

In his closing “suggestions” he earnestly urges that the social feature of our Institution shall be more general, and that each lodge shall have a modest entertainment once a quarter which shall not be formal, but at which the brethren shall eat together, and stay afterwards and talk, and learn to know each other better.

The Committee on the Washington Centennial Observance, made a long and full report, which we do not copy because the substance of it will be published in circulars for the benefit of the craft.

A committee had waited upon the President of the United States to invite him to attend, and of this they say:

“They were most graciously received, and Bro. McKinley expressed the great pleasure that it would give him to participate in the services of that most interesting occasion in any way that to the brethren might seem fit, and further expressed the hope that every Grand Jurisdiction in the United States would be represented, and to an intimation that the committee believed that such would be the pleasure of every Grand Jurisdiction in the country, and that, moreover, there would be representatives from many foreign lands, and that the committee was not without hope that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales might be induced to attend, the President expressed his gratification that such an event might be possible and the great pleasure that it would give him to entertain His Royal Highness again at the White House as was done by Worshipful James Buchanan, who was then President.”

They had received assurance of participation from about fifty Grand Lodges, including those of New Zealand, Nova Scotia and Quebec.

The Grand Lodge adopted unanimously, a resolution inviting the Prince of Wales, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, to be present.

We should be pleased to quote from the tribute paid to the memories of the deceased brethren, but our space will not allow. They amplify the words of the Grand Master which we have quoted.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence submitted a special report in relation to Grand Lodges which the Grand Lodge would recognize; among these are the Grand Lodges of New Zealand, Tasmania, Victoria, Egypt, Belgium, Netherlands and Switzerland.

The special Committee on Revision of the Digest, reported quite a large number of amendments. He reported a provision that when a lodge suspends or expels a brother, if the judgment of the lodge is reversed on appeal, it shall not restore him to membership; but we are glad to see that the Grand Lodge, instead of it, adopted the following:

“Pending an appeal from the penalty of reprimand, suspension, or expulsion, the *status* of the accused shall be that of a mason under charges, and he shall be regularly reported as a member. No member can be imposed upon a lodge without its consent; but when a lodge shall suspend or expel a member, if the judgment of the lodge be reversed upon appeal such reversal shall have the effect of restoring the accused to his right of membership in the lodge.”

In this jurisdiction, if a lodge suspends or expels a member, and he appeals, his *status* is that of a brother under suspension until the case is finally decided by the Grand Lodge. It is something like a writ of error in the civil courts. The judgment of the lower court remains in force until reversed by the higher court.

In that jurisdiction, when a brother receives the third degree, he may, at the same communication, declare himself to be a member of the lodge; but if he fails at that meeting to so declare, he becomes a non-affiliate. Undoubtedly the reason was that it would apparently tend to create discord in the lodge to allow a brother, suspended or expelled by it, to exercise all the rights of membership.

The Grand Master had received an application for a dispensation for a military lodge stationed in Florida, and he at once applied to the Grand Master of Florida for his permission to establish the lodge: on receiving a courteous reply declining a permission, he proceeded no further; and of this the committee say:

“The action of the Grand Master in the matter of the application for an Army Lodge in Jacksonville, Florida, is cordially endorsed. His submission of the petition to the judgment of the Grand Master of Florida, and his deference to the refusal of that Most Worshipful Brother, was in exact accord with the historic conservatism of this Grand Lodge, and her unyielding maintenance of the fundamental principles of Grand Lodge sovereignty within its conceded jurisdiction.”

Noting the remarks of the Grand Master about giving undue publicity to masonic matters, the committee commend his remarks to the brethren, with the earnest hope that occasions for complaints will rarely, if ever, hereafter present themselves in the Virginia press. We believe there is no “masonic newspaper” published in Virginia.

This Grand Lodge has fifty District Deputy Grand Masters; all save one made a report. The condition of the lodges, as a whole, is good; but in a few a want of harmony existed, and a few others had become so weak that they probably would have to surrender their charters.

In the appendix is given an abstract from the history of Winchester

Hiram Lodge, giving in full so much as relates to the making of President McKinley a mason therein.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 122) was presented by Bro. J. W. EGGLESTON. It is an able and interesting report in the line of the conservatism, if we may so call it, of this Grand Lodge; but the more correct phrase would be its adherence to the old laws and usages of the craft.

Referring to the session of the Grand Lodge of Arizona in the Copper Queen mine, he says:

“This was done, and in small parties they were lowered 200 feet down a shaft, and then marched through a long gallery to the cave. The cave was lighted with electric lights, and in this *low vale* the session was held. It was here, two hundred feet below ground, that Mexico was recognized.”

We had not noted, if we had noticed, this in the proceedings of that Grand Lodge.

Referring to the difference made in Arkansas between suspension for non-payment of dues and suspension for unmasonic conduct, he says:

“Presumably it was necessary in Arkansas to refer to written law against this decision because they make a radical distinction between the two kinds of suspension, but if their obligations are like ours it would be necessary to call the penalty for non-payment of dues something else than ‘suspension,’ or regardless of written law no mason could sit in lodge with the—not ‘brother’ as he is called above, but—*party*.”

“When we in Virginia suspend, we suspend utterly from all the rights and benefits of Masonry,’ no matter what the offence. Many hold that some other penalty should be devised for non-payment of dues, but what it should be none seem able to say.”

In Maine, from time immemorial, the punishment for non-payment of dues has been suspension from, or deprivation of, membership. This, while leaving the brother a mason, takes away from him all the rights and benefits which membership in the lodge gives.

In his review of British Columbia he agrees with us that it is better to have general laws by which officers of lodges may be installed, though out of time, than requiring a special dispensation in every case.

We find that in Virginia, the brother casting a black ball has the right to disclose it, and our brother says:

“Of course we do not require or even encourage any brother to declare a black ball unless he has reasons therefor and chooses to do so of his own free will and accord. In fact, our law forbidding any brother from declaring a white ball is solely intended for the protection of those who may have cast black ones, as a poll of the lodge by permitting such a thing would always point out the objecting brother or brethren. How any unscrupulous brother could harm any one by declaring a black ball which he did not cast, or what possible motive could induce him to do so, is beyond our comprehension; but if we are wrong we would like more light.”

This has always seemed to us to be the sensible view of the subject, provided that the brother disclosing that he cast the black ball, is not allowed

to waive his objection, and the candidate be declared accepted, as has seemed to be the practice in some jurisdictions. However, it must be said that there may be danger that the disclosing by a brother, of the fact that he cast the black ball, may disturb the harmony of the lodge by leading others to forget their masonic duties, and to retaliate when a friend of the other brother should be proposed.

In his review of California, he says:

"The reporter takes (as he supposed) our lamented Bro. Drinkard to task for the summing up of our Virginia ideas of some fundamentals, including opposition to a Constitutional form of government for our Ancient Institution, and the prerogatives of Grand Masters, and says: 'From such heresies, Good Lord deliver us.' Well, Bro. Davies, we can only say that ours was a very old masonic jurisdiction when your country contained only a few scattered missions of priests who would have forbidden Masonry foothold, and we have always been very conservative, abhorring modern innovations of all kinds in masonic matters, and we have always held these views. Does it not occur to you that possibly the heresies are not ours? It does seem that we might say to you, 'Injun here—wigwam lost.'"

On the saloon question, he says:

"Resolutions forbidding the introduction of intoxicating liquors into lodge rooms or ante rooms, and the initiation or receiving into membership of those engaged in the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, were introduced and lost. This is in line with our action had more than once, and in defence of it we can only say to those jurisdictions pursuing a different course, possibly like the Irishman told the Bishop when asked to join the Father Matthew society because he, the Bishop was a member, 'Maybe your Riverince has need of it.' Anyhow, we as masons have enough work cut out for us on the lines of general morality, including temperance, and can safely leave this special work to the noble bands organized for that special purpose, without even committing ourselves to the dogma that temperance and prohibition mean the same thing. So far, we like our moral suasion and its results."

We commend the following to brethren everywhere:

"A decision of the Grand Master should always be law until the next annual communication, when the Grand Lodge can affirm it, and thus adopt it for the future, or not affirm it and let it then cease to be law. It is noticeable that all Grand Jurisdictions which are trying to cramp Masonry into a system of government in imitation of civil governments, are continually worried by the impossibility of making organic law that will cover new cases, and with the difficulties continually presenting themselves of deciding how to get along in these new contingencies when the organic law which the Grand Master cannot violate is in the way of a common sense application of masonic justice. All the organic law we need is our ancient landmarks and our esoteric ritual."

In Virginia we find that District Deputies have nothing to do with teaching the ritual, but are selected by the Grand Master to look after the ordinary business matters of the lodge. The ritual is entrusted to a committee through whom the work is taught. Our experience in Maine, however, is that, by a careful selection of District Deputies, they may be safely entrusted with the supervision of the work, aided by the Grand Lecturer.

In his review of Iowa, he says:

"In his address he describes a Grand Lodge as a unique body, embracing all the powers of government, executive, legislative, and judicial, which is all true as far as it goes, but he has nothing to say of the exalted place and power of a Grand Master. It is true that Grand Lodges make Grand Masters, but it is only done by selecting the noblest in rotation, and the office represents imperial dignity and power of that wisest and greatest of kings, the like of whom will never again appear, while Grand Lodges stand for nothing more ancient than the beginning of the 18th century when they were devised as a *method of selecting Grand Masters*, and correspond more nearly to the simplicity of pure democracy. (See New Jersey.) There seems to be a tendency in our western states to practically reduce the Grand Master to the ranks, which we of the somewhat older jurisdictions feel to be modern innovation, and calculated to level down the grandest and oldest of human institutions to the plane of modern secret societies, all of which, while worthy of all respect and honor for their good works, are, at best, only feeble imitations of Masonry. The encouragement of brevet Masonry, called the Order of the Eastern Star, is along the same line. Let us keep Masonry, Masonry, and leave other organizations to stand on their own foundations. One masonic principle we must not surrender is that a Grand Master is, of right, and must always be, *Grand Master of Masons*, and not a mere presiding officer of the Grand Lodge, reporting an account of his stewardship after a year of *service*. Of course all this is not intended otherwise than as a protest against innovation and the tendency to *occidentalize* our distinctively *Oriental* Order. Masonry has done wonders in the younger two-thirds of this country, and will never grow less there unless sacrificed by its own best friends. The tales of unselfish devotion and unbounded masonic charity which come to us from the inimitable West are too many and too striking for us to presume to go farther than simply to whisper in the ears of our brethren that good counsel which should always in the most friendly manner warn of error for the purpose of aiding reformation. Our feeling in this matter is, brethren of the great West, God speed you in your well-known good work, and keep you from losing sight of the ancient landmarks, our devotion to which marks our consequence among men."

We heartily wish that our Western brethren would carefully study it, especially some of those in the Northwest, and that some of the so-called "masonic newspapers" in that portion of our country, might come to have a more correct conception of what the institution is. In several other places he discusses this question, but we can only add the following:

"Civil government is entirely different and does need organic law (or a constitution) in each commonwealth for the protection of the people from invasion of their rights by unscrupulous rulers, and the same is true of many modern societies organized for other purposes, and not so careful as to the material received or the officers elected, but we ought to be above such needs. It is inconceivable that any Grand Lodge could let any mason unworthy of the highest trust reach this the most honorable office in the gift of man. We are the only strictly and entirely moral society in the highest meaning of the word moral, and we should not concede, that our most trusted brother is unworthy to be *de facto* GRAND MASTER as well as *de jure*. The matter is vitally important, and protests should never cease till masons everywhere come to see that we should return to the good old way, and by our very organization illustrate both the fact of our "meeting on the level" and our entire subordination to the representative of King

Solomon, which are typical of the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God. Those Grand Lodges working without this galling harness have far less trouble and get along much better with their legal questions than those so hampered and modernized."

In his review of Maibe, citing the decision that dues do not accrue to a mason while under suspension, he says:

"It seems that under the law of Maine a premium is put upon dereliction in this particular, if the delinquent economizes to the extent of the dues saved during his suspension. In some jurisdictions, possibly in Maine, this evil is avoided by making the dues continuous during the suspension and requiring payment to date.

"Besides suspension seems to be only from membership in Maine and from the privileges thereto attached, while with us and elsewhere it is as complete while it lasts (with us always indefinitely) as is expulsion. It does seem that some plan should be devised providing just the proper remedy for this delinquency and making a proper distinction—which we do not do—between masonic offenders and simply delinquents, frequently delinquent from no fault whatever, unless it be a fault to use scant income to feed one's family instead of paying dues."

The principle upon which the Maine law rests, is that the payment of dues is a necessary qualification to entitle a mason to the benefits accruing from lodge membership, and that the deprivation of these rights and privileges, measures the precise offence which the brother, able to pay dues and not paying them, commits. We have never known but one case in Maine in which a brother, suspended from membership for non-payment of dues, sought to be re-instated for an unworthy purpose. After being a non-affiliate for many years, and becoming poor and sick, one man, formerly a brother of a lodge in Maine, did seek to be re-instated in order that he might have a claim upon the lodge for assistance.

He admits the correctness of our statement that it is a defect in the Virginia system to make the District Deputy Grand Masters depend upon the lodges visited for payment of their expenses.

We have marked other passages in this splendid report, but we are exceeding our limits. We believe it would do any brother in Maine good to read this report entire, on account of the able manner in which he defends Masonry as it came to us from the fathers.

We *must* give the following, however. In his conclusion, he says, and we agree with him fully:

"If in this report there is a sentence which wounds the feelings of any brother in the whole world we would recall it if we could. Some of the expressions are strong, but there is no malice behind them. In discussing matters which we think involve masonic principle vigorous expression indicates only a desire to defend from all evil that which we hold very dear. All agree that in this enlightened land our sole danger lies within our tiled doors, and that 'eternal vigilance is the price of liberty' is no more true than that it is the price of the existence of our Institution. One thought, ever present, nowhere appears, because to express it in our review of any one Grand Lodge, might be thought to be a reflection on the brethren

in that locality, and that is, that the insidious desire for innovations arises largely from the influence of other societies to which so many masons belong. Modern societies are all but numberless, but no one of them covers our broad field. Each has its special mission of good, but every effort to incorporate the peculiarities of any one of them in our Institution has a weakening tendency. If every mason fully realized how infinitely higher Blue Lodge Masonry is than any of them and how entirely unimprovable it is, there would be less trouble. When a brother is an active officer of some other society, it is, of course, very hard for him to divest himself of views with which he has become saturated, but he should be very careful not to urge them on an Institution whose landmarks forbid change."

WASHINGTON, 1898.

We have the portrait of Bro. ARCHIBALD W. FRATER, the retiring Grand Master.

After calling the attention of the brethren to the question as to the manner in which they had performed their masonic duties during the year, he announces the deaths of Past Grand Masters ELWOOD EVANS, ALFRED A. PLUMMER and RALPH GUICHARD, and of Bro. BENJAMIN HARNED, who had been Grand Treasurer thirty years.

He announced quite a number of decisions, mostly growing out of the new Code and not of general interest.

There had been an *apparent* falling off in the membership; "apparent," because a loss of members which actually happened in 1897 was counted in 1898; but this made the actual gain very small. Of this the Grand Master says:

"Or is it not on account of our law which provides for dropping of delinquents from the rolls?" I want to submit to you, brethren, the question, 'Is this a good law?' I am of the opinion that it is not a good law and ought to be modified or repealed. I believe in the exercise of charity; true masonic charity, which is long suffering and kind; and I would at least recommend to the lodges, before they allow brethren to be thus dropped from the rolls, to consider if it is not better to remit dues where, by reason of hard times, they have accumulated for several years, than to lose good members; more particularly when dues for the current year can be collected, which I believe could be done in most cases."

We quote the following from the report of the committee to which the decisions of the Grand Master were referred:

"We are satisfied that a by-law compelling a lodge to furnish funeral expenses for the burial of a deceased brother, without regard to the needs of the case, violates the unwritten law of Masonry, and is of a dangerous tendency. Such a provision is proper only in beneficiary or mutual insurance organizations, the purposes of which are widely different from those of the masonic fraternity."

* * * * *

"We are of the opinion that a defect in vision that has been or can be remedied by the optician is not sufficient to disqualify even a candidate for the degrees."

We learn from another report that no person, who is not a resident, and has not been a resident, in that state can be made a mason there, even by dispensation.

But the matter of absorbing interest was the action of the Grand Lodge in relation to the recognition of the Grand Lodges and Lodges of Colored Masons, claiming under Prince Hall.

We have already discussed this, but inasmuch as the Grand Lodge has rescinded its action in this regard and we have received the official circular to that effect, we devote our space to that and such comments as seem to us to be called for.

The circular is as follows:

“THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF WASHINGTON,
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

“OFFICE OF THE GRAND SECRETARY,
OLYMPIA, WASH., June 19, 1899.

“*To the Worshipful Masters, Wardens and Brethren of all Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction; and, to all Sister Grand Lodges and Lodges of their obedience throughout the world, to whom these presents shall come—*

“BE IT KNOWN: That at the Forty-second Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Washington, held in the city of Seattle, on the 14th day of June, A. L. 5899, A. D. 1899, the following Report and accompanying Resolutions, submitted by a Committee of seven Past Grand Masters of this Grand Jurisdiction, duly appointed to consider and report on the subject thereof, was, upon motion, adopted by the Grand Lodge, ‘the vote being almost unanimous,’ as follows:

“REPORT ON ‘NEGRO MASONRY.’

“*To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Washington:*

“Your Special Committee to whom was referred the question of ‘Negro Masonry’ and all papers relating to this subject, have carefully considered all of said matters submitted to them and respectfully report as follows:

“Some of these papers are of the highest importance, and might, no doubt, be discussed with profit at great length; but we have observed a tendency in some quarters to confuse the opinions and arguments of your committee with the declarations of the Grand Lodge. For this and other reasons we consider it preferable to submit our conclusions, without any extended discussion of the matters before us.

“Accordingly, we recommend the adoption of the following declaration, and that your committee be discharged:

“DECLARATION.

“The Grand Lodge of Washington, in response to the several requests of the M. W. Grand Lodges of Maryland, Rhode Island, Virginia, Utah, Massachusetts and Maine, to the effect that it reconsider its action of last year in adopting four resolutions relating to the subject of Masonry among the negroes of America, printed at page 60 of its Proceedings for 1898, doth now fraternally declare as follows:

“*First*, That it appreciates to the fullest extent the fraternal feeling and the zeal for Masonry which actuated its sister Grand Lodges in making the requests referred to, and the courteous language in which those requests, in the greater part, are framed.

“*Second*, That it trusts its sister Grand Lodges appreciate the fact that these requests are presented to it at a time when it is facing attacks upon its autonomy and sovereignty which, if successful, would result not only in the

destruction of its masonic independence, but, ultimately, in the abrogation of that principle of local self-government, subject to the landmarks only, which has prevailed among masons from time immemorial; and that as these assaults are connected with the resolutions to which our brethren allude, this Grand Lodge would hardly be blameworthy if it declined—so long as an enemy is at its gate breathing threatenings and slaughter—to take any step that might be construed as a concession to threats, or that might encourage similar attacks upon it, or upon others in the future.

“*Third.* That, notwithstanding these deterrent circumstances, feeling itself strong enough, with the blessing of God, to defend the interests of Masonry committed to its keeping, even against the attacks of misguided brethren; and being most desirous of promoting that harmony which all recognize as the very keystone of Masonry; in further continuance of its brotherly love and friendship for the M. W. Grand Lodges of Maryland, Rhode Island, Virginia, Utah, Massachusetts and Maine, this Grand Lodge unhesitatingly and with unmixed pleasure, declares its willingness to comply with said requests to the fullest possible extent.

“*Fourth.* That accordingly it has carefully reconsidered its said action and resolutions of last year, with the results stated below.

“*Fifth.* That this Grand Lodge does not see its way clear to modify in any respect the first of said resolutions, but re-affirms the same, as follows:

“*Resolved,* That in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, Masonry is universal, and, without doubt, neither race nor color is among the tests proper to be applied to determine the fitness of a candidate for the degrees of masonry.”

“And, consonantly with the spirit of that resolution, this Grand Lodge would fraternally suggest to the whole Fraternity, and more especially to those Grand Lodges whose laws forbid the initiation of men of a certain race, the propriety of carefully considering whether such laws are not inconsistent with the spirit of Freemasonry, and whether they place beyond the pale of Masonry the bodies which enact them. Upon the latter of these questions this Grand Lodge expresses no opinion at this time.

“*Sixth.* That it is manifest to this Grand Lodge that the second of its said resolutions, while entirely clear to all the members of this jurisdiction, has been very generally misunderstood elsewhere; and in particular, that the latter part of it has been erroneously understood to accord recognition to certain organizations incidentally mentioned therein. Therefore, with the hope of removing all misunderstanding, and satisfying every reasonable objection, said resolution is hereby repealed. And whereas, the relations of the Grand Lodge of Washington with the present M. W. United Grand Lodge of England during the whole existence of this Grand Lodge have been and now are of the most fraternal and cordial character. In view of this and other circumstances, including its own descent, the comity due from one masonic body to another, and its duty to preserve harmony among its own members, this Grand Lodge does not see its way clear to deny or question the right of its constituent lodges or of the members thereof to recognize as a brother mason any man (otherwise in good masonic standing) who has been regularly initiated into Masonry by authority derived, regularly and strictly in accordance with the laws of the masonic institution, from the United Grand Lodge of England or from either of the two Grand Lodges which joined in forming the United Grand Lodge in 1813, so long as the regularity of such initiation remains unquestioned by the Grand Lodge of England; provided, always, that such initiation conflict with no law of the masonic institution, and that the old Landmarks be carefully preserved.

“*Seventh.* That whereas, the third of said resolutions, has been widely—though erroneously, as this Grand Lodge believes—supposed to encourage the establishment of a second Grand Lodge within the State of Washington; and, whereas, it appears to be open to the objection of pledging this Grand Lodge to a course in future years which may not be consistent with the judg-

ment of the brethren then composing the Grand Lodge; and whereas, this Grand Lodge is not insistent upon any one plan for dealing with the matter to which that resolution relates, but is willing to consider any plan that may preserve harmony and subserve the ends of truth and justice; and whereas, the publication of that resolution for one year has served—with our own members and with all by whom the meaning intended was understood—all necessary purposes, and its further publication might lead to further misapprehensions; therefore it is now—

“*Resolved*, That said third resolution be repealed.

“*Eighth*, That this Grand Lodge fully confirms the several assurances given by its M. W. Grand Master during the year, that it has not accorded recognition to a second Grand Lodge in any state or country.

“*Ninth*, That whereas, it seems to have been supposed by some of the Grand Lodges named above that this Grand Lodge is not in sympathy with the doctrine of exclusive territorial jurisdiction, and might favor dual Grand Lodges, this Grand Lodge declares that that supposition is erroneous, and that the circumstances in her history which appear to have led them to that opinion were, to a large extent, occasioned by her desire to avoid a course which she supposed might disturb the harmony of sister jurisdictions.

“*Tenth*, That whereas certain novel and erroneous notions upon the subject of masonic government, pernicious and destructive if put in practice, have recently been asserted and adopted with the apparent desire of hampering this Grand Lodge and destroying its independence, this Grand Lodge most emphatically declares that while it expects to continue the practice of that comity towards and consideration for other Grand Lodges which have characterized every portion of its past history, it will not tolerate the slightest infringement from any source whatever, under claim of right, upon its powers and prerogatives as the sole and supreme constitutional head of a body of independent masonic lodges; and, in particular, it maintains that it is ‘amenable to no superior jurisdiction under heaven,’ and, except during its own pleasure, is subject, in matters of Masonry, to no law except the landmarks of Masonry and its own constitution; and it totally repudiates, as a recent innovation and one destructive of harmony and subversive of inalienable masonic rights, the idea that a Grand Lodge or its constituent lodges are legally or morally bound by regulations adopted, without their assent, by other Grand Lodges. Nor can this Grand Lodge consent to tolerate the idea that her lodges do not possess the plenary rights to determine for themselves—but for no one else—subject to review by nobody but herself the *status* of all persons, claiming to be masons, who knock at their doors, either for the purpose of visiting or as applicants for affiliation. This right has been inherent in masonic lodges since the dawn of masonic history, and in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, is not to be questioned; yet it is always to be exercised with due comity towards sister lodges, and with the most strict regard for every law of Masonry.

“This Grand Lodge has been led to make these declarations of her opinions and purposes, as well by a belief that some fundamental principles of Masonry have been overlooked by those who have attacked or criticized her, as by a sincere desire to promote that harmony which is the peculiar strength and support of our Institution, for the disturbance of which she is unable to consider herself in any way responsible. She makes no claim to inerrancy of judgment; and wherein she may be in error, whether in these declarations or in any other matter whatsoever, she will always be glad to correct her mistake. She feels, however, that she is the peer of any Grand Lodge, and that her reason and her love of Masonry should be appealed to, instead of resorting to contumely, reproaches, and violence against her. The world witnesses that this has not always been done; and while she utters few complaints, grief and disappointment fill her heart when she ponders on

the words and actions of some of those of whom she had reason to expect better things.

“*Finally*, The Grand Lodge of Washington sends fraternal greetings to all true brethren throughout the world, of every race, clime and creed.

“May brotherly love prevail, and every moral and masonic virtue cement us.

JAS. R. HAYDEN,
THOMAS M. REED,
J. A. KUHN,
J. E. EDMISTON,
EDWARD R. HARE,
THOMAS AMOS,
J. M. TAYLOR,

Committee.

“A true copy. Attest:

[L. S.]

THOMAS M. REED, *Grand Secretary.*

“Olympia, Washington, June 20th, 1899.”

When the action of 1898 was announced in the newspapers, the report was received with incredulity among masons all over the country. It seemed incredible that a Grand Lodge could so far depart from her masonic duty to the craft, and especially to her sister Grand Lodges, as to recognize, as regular, clandestine lodges and their members in other jurisdictions; or that she could forget that principle of masonic law, that they who consort with clandestine masons become clandestine themselves, precisely as mixing foul water with pure pollutes the whole. So when the report was confirmed by the official Proceedings, as was natural the Grand Lodges took prompt and decisive action, and all in the same direction. When the accounts of their action reached Washington the attention of the brethren was aroused to the fact that their Grand Lodge had taken action in contravention of the laws of Masonry, which would inevitably destroy their good standing as masons, and at once they commenced to agitate the question of repeal. Their Grand Master made frantic efforts to break the force of the action of his Grand Lodge by correspondence with other Grand Masters: but that was in vain. Brethren published and circulated documents for the information of others, with the effect that when the Grand Lodge met it was a foregone conclusion that it would retrace its steps, and again put itself in line with the regular Grand Lodges. The result was that the foregoing report was presented and adopted, “the vote being almost unanimous.”

It is manifest upon the face of it that the report was written by Grand Master UFFON, and we shall so treat it. We, however, must say that to some extent we agree in opinions already expressed by others, that the committee, to let him down easily, in the kindness of their hearts have gone further than masonic law justifies. However, there is no danger that the grandiloquent talk and implied threats will ever be practically carried out by that Grand Lodge, but they must be taken in a Pickwickian sense.

The suggestion that the Report of 1898 was only the opinions and argu-

ments of the committee and are not to be taken as the declarations of the Grand Lodge cannot be allowed. When a committee of a Body makes a report, and presents resolutions based on that report, and the Body accepts the report and adopts the resolutions, it thereby makes "the opinions and arguments" of the committee its own.

Coming now to the "Declaration," we are obliged to say that the first half of the "Second" is absolutely untrue. There were no attacks upon the "autonomy and sovereignty" of the Grand Lodge of Washington whatever; and the further statement, "So long as an enemy is at its gate breathing threatenings and slaughter," with all its grandiloquence, would be simply laughable, did it not, by implication, make a basely false accusation against a large number of our Grand Lodges. The action of all the Grand Lodges was wholly in sorrow and not in anger. The author of that report might just as well say that the jury which convicts, and the judge who is obliged to sentence a lawbreaker, are making an attack upon, and are enemies to, him. It is true that we have had reason to know that Grand Master Upton considers adverse criticism of his acts or of what he writes, as necessarily proceeding from personal hostility to himself; but the idea that when other Grand Lodges say to his Grand Lodge "You are consorting with clandestine masons in our jurisdiction, and until you cease to do so, we cannot hold masonic correspondence with you," those Grand Lodges are attacking the "autonomy and sovereignty" of the Grand Lodge of Washington, or are its enemies (even without being "at its gate breathing threatenings and slaughter") is so preposterous, that we would not have believed that any one would write it, save perhaps for a "roaring farce" in a boys' theatre.

It is a pity that the "Third" is *smouched* by speaking of the "attacks of misguided brethren."

As to the "Fifth," we have not seen any action by any Grand Lodge, nor heard of any, which called for the repeal of that resolution: in fact, almost every Grand Lodge, that acted upon the matter, substantially stated that that resolution has been law from the first.

As to the paragraph following the resolution, we apprehend that the clause "those Grand Lodges whose laws forbid the initiation of men of a certain race" must be amended so as to read "that Grand Lodge," &c., for upon a careful examination of the Constitutions and Laws of the American Grand Lodges, we find that the statement is correct as to but one Grand Lodge, whose laws do, in effect, prohibit the initiation of Negroes, Indians, and in fact men of any race other than the Caucasian.

It is true that Bro. INGLESBY, of South Carolina, in his Report on Correspondence expresses the opinion that the laws of his Grand Lodge forbid the initiation of men of color: the law to which he refers does not, in our judgment, sustain his opinion. The Constitution of his Grand Lodge provides

that "the Constitution of the Grand Lodge and the landmarks of the order, as set forth in the *Ahiman Rezon* of Brother MACKEY, shall be the governing principle of every lodge." It is manifest that only the *landmarks*, as set forth in the *Ahiman Rezon*, are made law by this provision. But the landmarks as given in the *Ahiman Rezon* give no such law. It matters not what may be said elsewhere in the *Ahiman Rezon*; it is not a part of the law.

But the laws of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky expressly provide that

"A candidate for initiation must be of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, and a free-born white man."

We confess to surprise at finding this clause in this Constitution: for we were familiar with the excellent treatise of Bro. GRANT on the "Ancient Landmarks," and he gives as a landmark:

"Every candidate must be a man, free-born, of mature and discreet age, of good morals and report, possessed of intelligence, and having the natural use of his limbs that will enable him to receive and impart craft mysteries."

We knew, too, that this provision was not in the old *Ahiman Rezon*s adopted in Kentucky, and it seemed to us that if it had been introduced into the Constitution within the last forty years we should have noticed it. So we have looked to find its origin and believe that we have done so. A Committee reported in 1858, a revision of the Constitution, which was ordered printed in the Proceedings for action in 1859. In that revision the old law was continued; in 1859 the report was discussed but final action postponed to 1860, when it was discussed, *amended* and adopted. The specific amendments were not given in the Proceedings, but in the Constitution as then adopted we find the provision as it now reads. We believe that this was another of the shadows of the coming events of the succeeding years, and greatly regret that, when men's minds afterwards were calmed, the old provision was not restored. It certainly limits Masonry in that jurisdiction as it is limited nowhere else in the world.

But beyond question, each Grand Lodge has the rightful power to add such limitations as it pleases to the limits in the landmarks as to who shall be eligible to be initiated in its lodges. Principle and usage both agree in this.

The suggestion, therefore, in the report under consideration, that this limitation upon the eligibility of candidates places the Grand Lodge of Kentucky "beyond the pale of Masonry" has no force.

It is quite amusing, however, to notice the implication that at some future time the Grand Lodge of Washington may be of opinion that this law of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky places it "beyond the pale of Masonry;" it is pertinent to inquire if the former will still maintain masonic correspondence with the latter, or will attack its "autonomy and sovereignty," or be an "enemy at its gate breathing threatenings and slaughter."

The logic of the first part of "Sixth" is very peculiar: but we have already noticed that. It is enough that the obnoxious resolution is repealed. We confess that with others we do not feel certain that we comprehend the remainder of the paragraph: the original writer of it seems to hold that lodges may hold masonic correspondence with such persons as they see fit unless prohibited by the Grand Lodge; but the law is precisely the other way; no lodge has a right to hold masonic communication with a person claiming to be a mason, hailing from a lodge under a body which has not been recognized by its Grand Lodge as a regular masonic body; and a Grand Lodge which allows its lodges to hold masonic communication with clandestine masons puts itself in the same position as if it expressly authorized them to do so.

The "Eighth" must be noticed, although we have already shown up its sophistry. That the Grand Lodge did, by express vote, "recognize," in the technical sense of that term, and in the usual manner, any of the Colored Grand Lodges, no one claims; but when a man claiming to be made a mason in a colored lodge under a Colored Grand Lodge, petitions the Grand Lodge of Washington to be recognized as a regular mason, and its committee reports that in its opinion he is a regular mason, and the Grand Lodge accepts that report and *orders it to be sent to the petitioner as its answer to his petition*, all assurances of its Grand Master and of itself that it has not practically and in the most effectual manner, recognized the body under whose authority the petitioner claims to have been made a mason, as a regular Grand Lodge, will be "in vain and worse than in vain."

The "Tenth," that seems so terrible, we can assure our brethren, is perfectly harmless, like the fire-works and tom-toms of old Chinese warfare.

Of course the Grand Lodge of Washington has the power to do unmasonic acts; but it is equally as certain that, if it violates the laws binding upon all Grand Lodges, it will take the consequences, precisely as any other Grand Lodge would: it has the power to hold masonic communication with clandestine masons, but if it does, its masons will take the consequences, precisely as other masons would. Nor will the false history and erroneous law in the last two sentences, be of any avail to avert those consequences.

While we have no idea that the Grand Lodge of Washington will ever again undertake to practice the doctrine adopted in 1898, and to a certain extent reaffirmed in this report of 1899, and while the latter, standing upon its own merits or the authority of its author, would call for no notice whatever, yet, as it is signed by the committee and adopted and published by the Grand Lodge, and considering the vast importance of the subject matter of it in connection with the harmony of the Fraternity, we have deemed it necessary to discuss it, and to speak plainly in spite of the unpleasant nature of the task; and if our brethren of the committee deem that we have written

more warmly than masonic courtesy warrants, we can only say that we have done so in sorrow, and because in our view the welfare of Masonry—in our judgment superior to all considerations of courtesy—absolutely demanded it. And we desire to say further, that the very large majority of the craft in Washington are entirely blameless in this matter. The report of 1898 came into the Grand Lodge under such circumstances that it could scarcely be expected that it would challenge opposition, especially as immediate action upon it was taken. But the manner in which the craft rallied to undo the wrong, is worthy of all praise. The only regret is that the Grand Lodge, while fully rescinding the erroneous legislation, should have allowed the author of the mischief to repeat his false theories and to indulge in unwarranted denunciations of sister Grand Lodges.

We include in this statement our first report on this subject, after re-examination of it more than once. We find only one modification to make. The Grand Lodge of England has not gone so far in the direction of declining to maintain lodges in the territory of a new Grand Lodge as our language implies, and as we had understood from its action in the New Zealand case. We refer to our review of England for a more complete statement.

WEST VIRGINIA, 1898.

We have a portrait of Bro. JOSEPH HALL, the incoming Grand Master, accompanied by a brief biographical sketch. He is spoken of as a ritualist of wonderful attainments, as well as greatly devoted to the principles and teachings of Freemasonry.

The Grand Lodge held a large number of special communications; one to conduct the funeral of P. G. Master GUSTAV BROWN, another to constitute a lodge, and several others for laying the corner-stones of public buildings, at one of which the acting Grand Master, Bro. SHOWALTER, delivered an excellent address.

At the annual communication, the lodges were very fully represented. The Grand Lodge opened, and the representatives of other Grand Lodges, including Bro. HUGH STERLING for Maine, were welcomed to seats in the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master, SAMUEL L. MYERS, calls attention in his opening, to the higher and more important duties which Masonry imposes. He believed that Masonry had been making a steady and healthful progress in the state and that a substantial increase of membership would be reported; but he complained that he was unable to give a positive account because the District Deputies had been derelict in their duty of making seasonable reports. He calls attention to the rule that if a District Deputy fails to send in his report, on or before the first of October, he shall not be entitled to any

compensation for attendance on the Grand Lodge. He suggests that the Grand Secretary print this rule upon the back of each commission, and that in the future the rule be rigidly enforced. Formerly, in this state, the same state of things prevailed, but we believe now that our Deputies generally appreciate their duty in this respect, and quite faithfully perform it. We know, by experience, that failure of these officers to report promptly, is not only a serious annoyance to the Grand Master, but also prevents his discharging his duties in laying before the Grand Lodge the various matters which may need its consideration.

The Grand Master announced the death of P. G. MASTERS ODELL S. LONG and GUSTAV BROWN. A lodge of sorrow was held in commemoration of these brethren and of Past Grand Chaplain C. J. TRIPPETT. The order of service is given in full for the benefit of subordinate lodges, as well as the addresses on the occasion. They take up some twenty pages in the Proceedings, and of course it is impossible for us to reproduce them. We regard the death of Bro. LONG as a great calamity to the fraternity throughout the world, as he was taken from us in the very meridian of his usefulness, although his services to the craft have been for many years constant and effective. It must seem to those who were present at the Grand Lodge that what had seemed from its organization to that time to be an inherent part of it was missing.

Grand Master MYERS granted and refused a large number of dispensations. He had created four new lodges and appointed many representatives. He announced ten decisions, all of which were confirmed by the Grand Lodge. Several of them, however, related to physical qualifications and others were based on local law.

The question of the effect of an objection after ballot was submitted, and the question asked whether such an objection was perpetual or during the pleasure of the objecting brother, and what effect the suspension of the objecting brother has upon the objection. His views in relation to this are so eminently just and proper, that we quote them in full, as our law is precisely the same as that now established in West Virginia:

“Held: First, it did not; the original objection remained in force for one year only. Second, an objection, verbal or written, with one exception, is co-equal with and has the same force and effect as an unfavorable ballot or black ball, and is effective for one year only. The exception being that the objector may at any time within the year recall or remove his objection, whilst the act of the balloter is subject to no such privilege.

“The decision just announced is not in accord with a popular, but extremely illogical, idea that seems to prevail, that an objection, however made, endures for an unlimited or indefinite length of time, and is abridged or perpetuated in accordance with the peculiar whim or notion of the objecting brother. An objection after a ballot is had may be properly defined to be an extraordinary or emergent privilege granted to any brother who for some specific reason is prevented from being present in his lodge when the

ballot is spread. The general effect or object attained is essentially the same as if the brother had been present at the balloting. The question naturally arises: Why does the one mode of objection confer unlimited power to reject a candidate, while the other determines in twelve months? Why do we not make the act of the brother who objects to a candidate with the ballot perpetual? I hold, if it is proper to entertain the application of a candidate who has been black balled, after the expiration of one year, it is equally proper to entertain the application of one who was verbally objected to in the same time. Either of which, if the candidate is unworthy, may be repeated or renewed as the case may be, when the petition is re-presented. The discrimination heretofore made is not only unfair, but is absurd, and not predicated on sound masonic law or good common sense. Masonry loves harmony. All her fundamental laws are based on harmony, equality and equity. An objection, no matter how it is made, is, after all, nothing but an objection. The end being the same, the means contributing to that end should be equal; and no logical argument can be advanced in support of increased power and potency in the one that is denied in the other case."

In many jurisdictions, the other doctrine prevails, but we think that the reasoning of Bro. MYERS against any other doctrine is conclusive.

A man alleged to be a resident of Pennsylvania received the degrees in a West Virginia lodge. Upon complaint of the Grand Master of Pennsylvania, the matter was investigated, and Grand Master MYERS came to the conclusion that the candidate's residence was in Pennsylvania, and he issued an edict declaring the party irregularly made, and to be treated as a profane. We are sorry that he should have done this, as it is the first instance, in our knowledge, that such an edict has been issued in a similar case, outside of Pennsylvania. For reasons stated in our review of Pennsylvania, we think the party should have been tried upon charges, so that he would have had a hearing, and then, if found guilty, been expelled.

This case, however, leads the Grand Master to make a very wise suggestion, that there should be a time limit in all cases; that is, that candidates should be required to reside for twelve months in the state, and six months within the jurisdiction of the lodge, before his application could be entertained.

Other matters of importance to the brethren of the jurisdiction were passed upon with great wisdom by the Grand Master, but they are not of sufficient importance to call for notice in detail.

We notice that an amendment to the Constitution was adopted by the Grand Lodge at the preceding session and sent out, as is the custom in that jurisdiction, for the action of the lodges, and it is not adopted unless two-thirds of all the lodges vote for it. It had been sent out the year before, but failed of adoption in consequence of the failure of the lodges to act upon it. This year, a bare two-thirds of the lodges acted upon it, and all voted for it except one, and it was adopted. But almost one-third of the lodges failed to act upon it, and the Grand Secretary suggests that the question should be determined at that session whether the edicts of the Grand Lodge

should be carried out or not. We suggest that the whole difficulty lies in the departure of the Grand Lodge from the regular and old form of masonic government, and that the final vote upon the adoption of the Constitution should be taken in the Grand Lodge itself. It is rather a curious idea that a measure can be submitted to the lodges for their action under circumstances in which no vote at all is a vote in the negative, and then punish the lodges for not voting on it. Quite a proportion of the Grand Lodges which once adopted this innovation, have repealed it, and returned to the proper and ancient usage.

Reading the reports of the District Lecturers and of the District Deputy Grand Masters, we are greatly impressed with the idea that much of the difficulty in this jurisdiction might be avoided by consolidating the two offices into one, so that the same brother should act as District Grand Lecturer as well as District Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Lecturer, of course, having supervision of the whole.

We have already referred to the Lodge of Sorrow. We commend the programme for use in similar cases. As we have already said, we would be very greatly pleased to quote extensively from the remarks made, but our space will not allow.

The Grand Master recommended that action be taken to prevent masons from being saloon keepers, but the committee presented the following report, which was unanimously adopted:

"The recommendation of the M. W. Grand Master upon the subject of temperance, which was referred to a special committee if adopted, would be far reaching, and may be *ex post facto* in its operation. It is impossible, in the short time at the command of your committee, to give the subject presented mature thought and consideration.

"Your committee are, however, of opinion that it is hard for men who live solely by the sale of strong drink to those who are debauched and destroyed by its use, to truly practice the tenets and principles of our noble profession, and we commend to the subordinate lodges in this jurisdiction the exercise of great care and caution in the admission of such persons into masonic fellowship."

There is no limitation in masonic law which prevents the Grand Lodge from passing laws which may be, in a sense, *ex post facto* in their operation. We have no Constitution of the United States which restricts Grand Lodges from exercising this power. And if a mason is engaged in practices which are injurious to the craft and really in violation of the moral law, we do not think they should be allowed to continue them simply upon the ground that have already been practicing them.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 147) was presented by Bro. GEORGE W. ATKINSON. In his introduction he notes the difficulty which a busy man labors under in the preparation of these reports. We can appreciate it, but our observation is that it is only the busy men who do these things.

He notes that the Wisconsin plan of relief "has fallen by the wayside."

Of the Maine proposition he says:

"The Maine proposition of restricting the jurisdiction of a lodge to five years, over rejected candidates, has made some headway among the Grand Lodges. It has always seemed wrong to my mind, that when a candidate for the mysteries of Freemasonry has been rejected by a lodge, that that lodge shall have absolute control of the rejected party forever. There ought to be a time limit, and the Grand Lodge of Maine fixes it at five years, which is a reasonable period. However, many of our Grand Bodies have held to the theory of 'perpetual jurisdiction' so long that they seemingly cannot let go. But I am free to say, it is my judgment, that the Maine proposition will ultimately triumph."

He says further:

"The cipher business has about wiggled itself to death. The Grand Lodges which tolerated it, have reaped the whirlwind, and it will very soon be heard of no more forever."

We wish we could see this in the same light, but we apprehend that our brother will have occasion to say that he was altogether too sanguine.

He discusses the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, and reaches the following conclusions:

"Hence I conclude that inasmuch as every colored lodge of masons in Massachusetts and in the United States as well, which derived its charter directly or indirectly from the Prince Hall colored lodge of that State, are irregular and spurious, and must, of necessity, be regarded as clandestine."

The body of his report is, as usual, a very carefully prepared abstract of the Proceedings of other Grand Lodges.

On the subject of ciphers, he says:

"It seems to me that this whole subject ought to be disposed of in a sentence: the O. B. does not permit ciphers of any sort, therefore they should be absolutely prohibited by all Grand Lodges. In my judgment, there should be no straddling or mincing of words upon a great question like this. The fact that nearly all of the Grand Lodges of the country have pronounced against all cipher rituals ought to and, in my judgment, does settle the question once and forever."

We do not agree with his proposition upon which his whole argument is based, and if he will refer to previous parts of our report, he will find the reasons; and we think also that he will find that he is in error in relation to what he says of nearly all of the Grand Lodges.

Replying to our statement that it is impossible to transmit from generation to generation of masons, the ritual, with verbal accuracy and without change, he says:

"In this utterance my learned brother is in error. It is very evident that he is not a ritualist, and therefore places a low estimate upon ritualism. He himself may not possess the faculty of learning the work, down to the crossing of a 't' and the dotting of an 'i,' and the mistake he makes is in judging other men by himself. He, possessing a large vocabulary, and being fluent of speech, may be wholly unable to confer a degree exactly the

same way two different times. This may be true. But because he cannot do it, does not imply that others who possess small vocabularies and are deficient in utterance, but at the same time possess retentive memories and pride themselves upon that one particular accomplishment, cannot thoroughly commit the work, and as carefully transmit it to another. Here is where M. W. Bro. Drummond is at fault. He is a symbolist and a jurist, and is not a ritualist, and he fails to recognize the fact that the Order, in every Grand Jurisdiction, has hundreds of born ritualists, who pride themselves upon that particular accomplishment, and who can confer a degree a thousand times, without changing a word, syllable or even a letter."

We admit that we are not a ritualist, and we did not base our proposition upon being a ritualist or not, but we simply say and insist, that it is utterly impossible for human beings to transmit the ritual of the extent that ours is, with verbal accuracy, from generation to generation, without some standard to which reference may be made. We base it upon the fact that *men are human* and not perfect. However, we have said elsewhere all that we deem to be necessary and sufficient, so that our brother will understand wherein we differ from him in regard to the fundamental law upon this subject.

WISCONSIN, 1898.

The Grand Master, NATHAN C. GRIFFIN, gives an interesting account of the growth of the Grand Lodge. We think the following is almost wonderful.

"We have been especially favored in our permanent membership. During our fifty-four years of existence we have had twenty-eight Grand Masters, seventeen of whom are still living. There have been forty-four Deputy Grand Masters, thirty-three of whom are living and twenty-one have occupied the Grand East. Out of forty-five Grand Sr. Wardens, twenty-five are living and eight have been permitted to fill the office of Grand Master. Out of forty-two who have been made permanent members during the last eighteen years, only four have died; and we now have sixty-three living Past Grand Officers who are permanent members of this Grand Body. The Supreme Ruler has dealt very kindly with us, for which we should be devoutly thankful."

We think that part of this is due to the fact that the Grand Officers, as a rule, are continued in office but one year. He says, that so far as the membership is concerned, the question has never been so much how to *increase their numbers*, as to *select the best*, and, that while that has been true in the past, it should be specially so at the present. The increase in membership had not quite kept pace during the last twenty years, with the increase in the voting population. This is a pretty good test that care has been taken in the selection of brothers. He says that in the past twenty years they have raised 14,000 candidates; they have lost by death about 3,000; the net increase during that time was about 6,000. He asked the question, "Where are the other 5,000?" and he answers it, "Expelled, suspended or dimitted." Of course, under the term dimitted is included only the excess of dimissions over admissions.

In this connection, he says:

"But in addition to these two classes we find quite a large number who, having become members from pecuniary or other unworthy motives, after a short period, not realizing their expectations, dimit and remain unaffiliated. Such very often are ready to claim all the benefits incident to the relation which they sustain to the order while bearing none of the burdens. I have no doubt but that one of the causes that leads to the reception of such material is the growing practice among some overzealous masons, of soliciting persons to offer themselves as candidates.

"The custom cannot be too strongly condemned. Any mason, no matter how high his station, known to be guilty of such unmasonic conduct should be disciplined.

"If the guilty parties are officers of a lodge they should be suspended. If private members and the lodge refuses or neglects to deal with them, the charter should be arrested. The resolutions adopted on the subject of soliciting at our last session were wise and timely and should be frequently read in open lodge."

He also says that on account of the rivalry between lodges in the same place, he thinks that no city of less than 20,000 inhabitants is large enough for more than one masonic lodge. This may be true as to a rapidly growing city, made up to quite a large extent of new immigrants, but we do not think it is true of older cities whose population is substantially permanent. We think that in large lodges there cannot be that acquaintance among the membership that is necessary to maintain the bonds of fraternity.

He had written the following letter in relation to the Eastern Star:

"Your communication of the 1st at hand and contents noted. If any respectable number of the members of the lodges in Janesville are dissatisfied with having the lodge rooms used by the Order of the Eastern Star, they had better put their objections in form and send them to the Grand Lodge. The Order of the Eastern Star seems to have come to Wisconsin to stay and if not permitted to use masonic halls they will probably find some other places to hold their meetings. While not a member of the Order myself, I have no special objection to permitting masons' wives and daughters occasionally occupying our apartments for purposes not in conflict with masonic teachings. If our lodge rooms are too sacred for our wives and daughters to sometimes cross the threshold and discover their shape they must in sacredness exceed the Temples erected for the worship of the Supreme Architect of the Universe. Each lodge, however, has a right to decide for itself, subject to the approval of the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge, as to what institutions shall be permitted to occupy their apartments."

He rendered quite a number of decisions but most of them depended upon local law. One interesting case arose. A lodge had been in the habit of using white balls and black cubes, but finally black balls were substituted for the cubes, and this was not generally known to the brethren. A candidate was balloted for and rejected. Before the next communication, it transpired that very many of the members who had voted were ignorant of the fact that the change had been made, and, of course, were entirely ignorant as to the character of the ballot which they had cast. Thereupon, the Worshipful Master set the ballot aside, as a fraud upon the lodge, and

ordered a new ballot. The Grand Master decided, that while the ballot could not be said to be a fraud upon the lodge, the probability of mistake was so great that the Master took the right course.

He announced the death, at the age of seventy-seven years, of Dr. F. L. VON SUESSMILCH, Past Grand Treasurer. He had been an active mason for a great many years, and was buried by the Grand Lodge, assisted by a large concourse of brethren.

He refers to the Washington Centennial, to the state of affairs in Cuba, and had issued an edict severing all relations with the Grand Lodge of Peru. When this came up for discussion some opposition showed itself, but Past G. Master LITTLEJOHN advocated the resolution sustaining the action of the Grand Master in "one of the most beautiful and eloquent ten minute addresses ever listened to at a session of a Grand Lodge."

The Grand Secretary adds:

"The relations between the Order of Freemasonry and the Great Light which ever rests upon its altar, with reference to the many teachings of the inspired Book which appear in the masonic lectures, were presented in such an impressive, masterly and interesting manner as to make a deep impression upon the minds of the brethren who were privileged to listen to it."

A revised Constitution having been adopted, the Grand Secretary expresses the hope that it may be allowed to remain unchanged for a few years; at least until the officers of the lodges shall have had time to become familiar with its provisions. While we deprecate changes in the laws of the Grand Lodge, yet human experience shows that in these days, when too many brethren are trying to improve the Masonry of the past by imitating civil law and the laws of other societies, legislation frequently becomes necessary to check them.

The gavel used at the first communication of the Grand Lodge, had been presented to the Grand Lodge, and was used by the Grand Master at this session. It was presented by a daughter of the first Grand Master, who first used it.

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand was recognized.

Quite an amount of routine business was transacted. In one case, in which a man had been indefinitely suspended, the Grand Lodge set aside the action of the lodge, and expelled the party from all the rights and benefits of Masonry.

The following resolution was presented and unanimously adopted, and a copy directed to be sent to the commanding officers of each of the Wisconsin regiments now in the field:

"Resolved, That in view of the fact that many masonic brethren of the State of Wisconsin have responded to their country's call and are now in the service of the United States, ready to sacrifice their energy and their lives, if need be, in the cause of humanity and liberty, the Grand Lodge of the State of Wisconsin extends to them at this time this expression of their love

and esteem, and says to them that, although absent they are not forgotten; that the prayer of this Grand Body is that they may be restored to us in unbroken ranks and that they may be held through all the storms of war in the hollow of the hand of the Supreme Architect of the Universe."

When the resolution directing the procurement of a Past Grand Master's Jewel, to be presented to the retiring Grand Master, was offered, another brother offered a resolution providing for the presentation of a Past Deputy Grand Master's jewel to Bro. DAVID H. WRIGHT, who had attended the Grand Lodge for forty consecutive years, and might have been (the Grand Secretary suggests) the Grand Master had not it been for his modesty.

This was a pleasing acknowledgment of the appreciation of the Grand Lodge of long and faithful services performed for the love of Masonry; and in this instance, the honor was most worthily bestowed.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 112) was presented by Bro. ALDRO JENKS.

In his review of Maine he refers to our discussion of Bro. BOUCEK's theory of what a correspondence report should be, and quotes what we said in relation to referring it to a committee, and in regard to its being accepted by the Grand Lodge. We may well refer to this report of Bro. JENKS as being what, in our view, such a report should be.

He refers to the most important matters in other Proceedings with brief extracts and comments of his own. Quoting from Bro. GRACE's report in relation to the building of Masonic Temples and his advice to go slow, Bro. JENKS adds:

"We heartily recommend this chunk of wisdom to the consideration of such of our subordinate lodges as desire to have "a temple" and have nothing but unlimited confidence in the future to draw on. A bank account is much better."

We need not say that we heartily concur.

In his review of the same report, he says further:

"Bro. Grace never misses an opportunity to shy a dornick at our Wisconsin proposition which he characterizes as a 'modern innovation upon the true spirit of Masonry,' and advises those Grand Lodges that have adopted it to drop it and get back to first principles. We presume that it was his abhorrence of innovation and his love of first principles that induced him to take up the cudgel in defence of those who have cut loose from the landmark concerning physical qualifications. He was so busy, however, in looking after the Wisconsin heresy that he forgot to watch his own Grand Lodge. In answer to an inquiry on the subject the Committee on Masonic Law and Usage recommended, and the Grand Lodge adopted the following declaration:

"It is the duty of every lodge and every mason to relieve the destitute widow and orphans, as far as able, and each lodge must judge for itself of its ability and of the necessities of the claimant."

"Where was Bro. Grace when this was adopted? We supposed, according to the Arkansas doctrine, that charity was always an individual obligation; never one resting on the lodge. We should have expected, even up here in Wisconsin, to have heard his stentorian voice raised in protest."

Now, we desire to say that the extract which he makes from Bro. GRACE'S report, is precisely the doctrine which the opponents of the Wisconsin proposition maintain. We have never seen it stated that charity is always an individual obligation, as he puts it. The doctrine is, that individual masons are always under obligation to aid distressed brethren; but we have never, to our recollection, seen it stated, that lodges are not also under an obligation to aid destitute brethren.

But, (and this is a point which we have never succeeded in having our Wisconsin brethren notice at all) the opponents of that doctrine hold that a mason is not entitled to his full support from the craft, but that their duty is to help, aid, and assist him as his necessities may require and their ability may allow, and of this they are the sole judges. Now we desire to say to Bro. JENKS, that the supporters of his proposition, so far as we have seen, have utterly ignored the discussion of this qualification, and have held, and the proposition, which the Grand Lodge has adopted, holds, that every brother of a lodge is entitled, if his necessities require it, to be fully supported by his lodge; and if the lodge is unable to do it, that the Grand Lodge must tax the lodges in its jurisdiction to make up what the lodge is unable to pay. This proposition we hold to be entirely at variance with the fundamental law of Masonry and a lowering of the institution to the level of beneficial organizations, in which charity in its true sense is unknown, but relief is sold on the one hand, and purchased on the other.

He apparently has pretty strict views as to physical qualifications, and he maintains that the law relating to them is a landmark. But wherein we differ is undoubtedly that he reads half of the landmark and leaves off the rest, if we are correct in our understanding of his views. We hold that the masonic law is in no sense similar to the Levitical law. The latter requires physical perfection, the former, *such perfection only as will enable a mason to do all masonic work*, and it is a practical law without any symbolism in it.

In his review of Maryland, he refers to the making of a mason at sight by the Grand Master, and says:

“This subject was considered by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin in the years 1847 to 1852, and at last upon the report of M. W. Henry L. Palmer, and after great research on his part, it was determined that the Grand Master possesses such prerogative and cannot be deprived of it by the action of his Grand Lodge. Here the matter has rested ever since in this jurisdiction. No one has since questioned the right and no Grand Master has since then seen fit to exercise it.

“This subject has recently been investigated and discussed by Committees on Correspondence of great ability and learning, some affirming, and some denying that the Grand Master possesses any such inherent prerogative.

“From the earliest times of which we have any authentic record, Grand Masters have occasionally ‘made masons at sight’ and that under claim of ancient prerogative inherent in the office of Grand Master, and until a very recent period no one ever questioned the right of Grand Masters so to do. If there were no other reasons to be given we should, to use a legal illustra-

tion, say that the statute of limitations has run in favor of the right claimed. But holding these views we are also of the opinion that it would be well for Grand Masters to go slow in the exercise of this prerogative; and that no harm can come to the craft by permitting it to lapse into innocuous disuse."

While we agree with him that the occasion to use this prerogative is quite rare, we do not believe that either we, or any other human being, can foresee the future to such an extent that we are able to say that no case would ever arise in which it would not be wise and proper for the Grand Master to use this prerogative.

We fully agree with him in the following, in relation to evidence of ancient landmarks and usages:

"Then, too, we are far from believing that the terms 'ancient landmarks,' and 'ancient customs' are mere catch phrases, invented at a recent date to delude the unwary and mislead the public. We are satisfied that there is a great deal in Masonry that has never been committed to writing, and, while it has become the proper thing for modern historians to require contemporaneous documentary evidence for everything which they admit to be authentic, we are of the opinion that they are demanding something of Masonry which the earliest teachings of the craft strictly forbade. Masons at an early day were much more reluctant than they are nowadays to reduce their teachings, practices and beliefs to writing; regarding matters even the most trivial as esoteric. Under such circumstances it is not remarkable that modern historians should find difficulty in securing authentic documentary evidence to support its traditions."

In his conclusion, in discussing the Wisconsin proposition, he says:

"The principal objections urged against this measure are that the plan of relief it proposes is not charity, but partakes of the nature of mutual insurance or sick benefits, and that it substitutes relief by lodges instead of individual masonic charity. This plan differs widely from mutual insurance or sick benefits as generally practiced. In such societies any person keeping up his assessments or dues is entitled to a benefit in case of sickness without regard to his financial condition. Under the plan proposed only distressed, worthy brethren are entitled to its protection. If a brother is able to help himself he is no more entitled to the assistance of his lodge when sick or unfortunate than he is to demand charity of the individual mason. In mutual insurance companies having sick benefits, and the like, the amount payable is a fixed sum per week or month, without regard to the amount the beneficiary may actually need; under the Wisconsin proposition a brother is entitled to relief to the amount of his necessities whether they be small or great, and beyond this no relief is to be furnished. If the relieving of a distressed worthy brother to the extent of his necessities would be charity when done by an individual mason such an act is equally an act of charity when done by a lodge, and if he is relieved because of his masonic *status* it is masonic charity."

That there are minor differences between the Wisconsin proposition and the system of most of the organizations to which he refers, there is no doubt. But, at the same time, the principle is precisely the same. Under the Wisconsin proposition, the mason, by the regular payment of his dues, becomes entitled to relief according to his necessities, when he is unable to relieve himself, and that, too, *without regard to the ability of the lodge.*

Other societies give relief whether the subject is poor or not, and limit it without regard to his actual necessities. The details are different, but the principle that it is relief purchased and paid for in both cases, is the same. We have already called the attention to the apparent misapprehension of our Wisconsin brethren in relation to individual obligation. The Wisconsin proposition entirely relieves individual masons from any obligation, and throws the burden upon the lodge, while the opponents hold that the obligation of lodges and individuals go hand in hand, and are based upon the same principle and are limited by the same restrictions.

WYOMING, 1898.

We have a portrait of the retiring Grand Master, E. P. RHORBAUGH. We wish our good Bro. KUYKENDALL would give us the full first names of his Grand Masters.

Grand Master RHORBAUGH refers to the destruction of the Maine and the Cuban War in a patriotic tone.

Referring to the duties of masons, he well says:

“The duty before us is very plain—preserve, unimpaired, the ancient landmarks as they have come down to us from our forefathers, and at the same time keep step with the movements of the times and the changing conditions of social life.”

He had granted a dispensation for one new lodge which he had visited, and of which he speaks in high terms.

Among his decisions is one to the effect that it is entirely at the discretion of the lodge, whether to remit dues or not, and, he decides, that if a member who has been suspended for non-payment of dues, is in distress financially and is a worthy brother, his dues may be remitted, and he restored to membership, and a dimit granted to him. He decided, also, that American citizenship is not a necessary qualification for admission to Masonry, provided the candidate has all the other necessary qualifications. He decided further, that the refusal of a lodge to receive a petition of a candidate is not equivalent to a rejection by ballot. He decided further, that the report of investigating committees, whether favorable or unfavorable, should be recorded. Of course, we dissent from this decision, and we believe that the almost universal opinion is, that that is one of the things which is not proper to be recorded.

He made quite a number of visitations, and regretted extremely that he could not make more, as he was firmly impressed with the necessity of such visitations.

He earnestly urged that the Eastern Star be favored and helped whenever practical.

The following preamble and resolution were adopted by the Grand Lodge and by a unanimous vote:

"Whereas, Many members of the masonic fraternity have enlisted in the volunteer regiments, recruited within this jurisdiction, and as a consequence a number of familiar faces are absent at this session of the Grand Lodge of the State of Wyoming:

"Therefore, be it resolved, That this Grand Lodge sends to all absent brother Masons who have served or are serving in the volunteer service or regular army and risked their lives for their country in the stand it has taken in the cause of humanity, a fraternal greeting, realizing that they are with us in spirit, if not in the flesh, upon this occasion; and we pray that the Supreme Grand Master above will guard them against bodily harm, protect them from disease, and grant them a safe return."

Quite an amount of business of a routine character was transacted, but nothing of special interest.

The constitution and by-laws of the Grand Lodge are published in these Proceedings.

We find that special provision is made for the conferring of the second or third degree by a lodge other than that which conferred the first degree. Provision is also made that the first lodge may waive its jurisdiction.

In the absence of the Master and Wardens, any Past Master of the lodge may open it and preside.

The conferring of the Past Master's degree is prohibited, and it is provided that complete service as a Master of a lodge shall qualify him to take rank as Past Master without any ceremony. This leads us to wonder what the ceremony in that jurisdiction has been, and what is substituted in the installation ceremony for what is termed the Past Master's degree.

The following is the provision in relation to rejected material:

"No lodge shall initiate into the mysteries of the craft any person whomsoever, without first being satisfied, by a test or otherwise, that such candidate has not made application to some other lodge in this jurisdiction and been rejected, and if it shall appear that he has been so rejected, then the lodge must be satisfactorily convinced that the objection to his initiation has been withdrawn, and the unanimous consent of the lodge rejecting him must be obtained before he can be initiated.

"Perpetual jurisdiction over rejected material except as between lodges in this jurisdiction is hereby abolished."

We have heretofore alluded to the inconsistency of this provision.

The Wisconsin proposition is inserted in the Constitution in the following terms:

"It is the duty of each lodge to take care of its own members 'n 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 reimbursement, to go beyond actual necessities without express authority from the re-imbursing bodies."

We are surprised that the qualifying clause should be solemnly made a

part of the Constitution. Where is there any warrant whatever for seeking or furnishing relief beyond "actual necessities"? And if a full support for the time being is an actual necessity, it follows from this provision that the lodge of which one is a member is bound to *support* him.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 88) was presented by Bro. WILLIAM L. KUYKENDALL, and it is quite an interesting one; but he comes to conclusions which he would not reach did he not reject established rules of evidence and require a kind of evidence that could not possibly exist.

We shall have occasion to advert to this as we proceed in our review.

He says:

"He copies entire the oration of the Grand Orator of Washington, whose theme was Chinese Freemasonry and the Druses of Palestine, in which the attempt is made to connect both with genuine masonry. Both are out of place and there is no foundation for either. It is no credit to our institution to even attempt connecting it with what is termed Chinese Masonry, which is not Masonry in any sense."

This is a matter which we have never examined, and therefore will not undertake to discuss it.

He has come to the conclusion that legislation requiring a person who has received the third degree, to pass an examination before can become a member of a lodge, is unwise, and we agree with him. He suggests that, while a person receiving the third degree should thereby become a member of the lodge, he should be required, under a penalty, to learn the work. We do not believe in this. Our experience is, that, if a new brother will not learn the work, the lodge has made a mistake in admitting him, and we have lost all faith in the efficacy of laws which undertake to *force* members to perform their affirmative duties; in every case we had better recognize that fact and let the parties take the consequence.

We fully agree, of course, in the following:

"It appears that our British Columbia brethren have an unwritten law or requirement that visitors presenting themselves who cannot be vouched for must produce written evidence of good standing, without which they are refused recognition. One case is cited where a lodge admitted a visitor without such evidence who had been suspended for non-payment of dues in 1889. We have for years contended for the production of written evidence of good standing in addition to examination, and we are gratified to know that at least one Grand Jurisdiction is prepared to effectually shut the door in the face of imposters, suspended and expelled masons, and we hope our Wyoming lodges will follow suit."

The opposite practice grew up in consequence of the erroneous position taken by earnest ritualists. They assume, erroneously, that the object of written vouchers is to prove *that the party is a mason*, and they held that he ought to be able to prove himself a mason upon an oral examination, whereas the office of written vouchers is to prove that a man, who has apparently proved himself to be a mason, *was made in a regular lodge and is in good standing*.

In his review of California, he says that, one by one, the Grand Lodges have discarded perpetual jurisdiction. This is true, but not the whole truth. The most of those who have discarded perpetual jurisdiction still adhere to the position that the jurisdiction during the time limit is exclusive.

He claims that a mason has no right to choose the lodge of which he shall be a member, save within the Grand Jurisdiction in which he resides, denying that the opposite doctrine is law; and in this connection, he says:

“We have requested a citation of the law, and have been met with a reiteration of the claim without anything to back it, and one brother reviewer went so far as to say one thousand miles was purely imaginary on our part.”

Our brother ought to know that masonic laws are very largely restrictive. The very term “Freemason” implies that; but the conclusive answer to his question is, that, from time immemorial, usage has permitted a mason to select the lodge to which he will belong without regard to territorial lines. This is one of the instances in which he discards established rules of evidence, and calls for a citation of the law in support of a practice established by long usage; and he will find that wherever his doctrine prevails, it does so by force of recent affirmative restrictive law.

He devotes about three pages to a reply to Bro. GREENLEAF, in relation to the origin of Speculative Masonry, and in this he falls into his usual error of demanding record proof, and he even goes so far as to assume that those old lodges had Secretaries! He seriously inquires what has become of their records. It is a rule of evidence that ancient writings, made soon after any particular occurrence or alleged occurrence, if they have remained long undisputed, are evidence in relation to such occurrence. Our brother assumes that ANDERSON must be corroborated or else his writings are entitled to no credit. The rule of evidence is precisely the contrary, and the same is true of the writings of PRESTON: and our brother, in our judgment, is very greatly in error when he calls for written evidence in relation to an institution which avowedly committed little or nothing to writing, and avowedly based its laws upon “the usages of the craft.”

In his review of Maine, after quoting our remarks to the effect that in our opinion the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction is not a landmark, he says:

“We are pleased to quote the foregoing as emanating from our learned brother. We have never had any doubts regarding the right of any Grand Lodge to adopt or reject the doctrine. He does not quite understand why our Grand Lodge maintains perpetual jurisdiction as between lodges in Wyoming, and believes the ‘same reasons which compel a rejected candidate to wait a given time before he presents his petition in the same jurisdiction, apply with equal force when he would present it in another jurisdiction.’ To our mind a wide distinction between the two exists. Grand Lodges are sovereign within their respective territories. The right of objection not only to candidates but to visitors is universally acknowledged and practiced by all. For instance, Pennsylvania champions perpetual jurisdiction and such right of objection. Wyoming favors the latter but not the

former. A candidate rejected in Pennsylvania removes to our state and in due time is made a Master Mason. He may at some time return to his old home and attempt to visit the rejecting or some other lodge with honest and sincere intentions, or to be smart; in either case objection bars him out, and who is hurt? Wyoming has no grounds upon which to base a case causing friction so long as her Grand Lodge recognizes the right of objection, and Pennsylvania surely cannot claim any grounds in such case. In our opinion there can be no friction between Grand Lodges over this question unless caused by one attempting to force its laws upon another, which it is better not to attempt so long as each is recognized to be a sovereign. The case is very different between lodges in the same jurisdiction. Friction is sure to result between lodges and even extend to members. Objection intensifies the friction and endangers the standing of Masonry in the community. To prevent this is why Wyoming adopted the law as it stands. We did not oppose the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence which our brother says approves the law of Maine, for the simple reason that said report did not change our by-law, Section 78, to which he is referred, and which we do not believe he will think is in strict conformity with the law of Maine. No, Bro. Drummond, there is no danger of endangering friendly relations between Grand Lodges unless the law of one is attempted to be foisted upon another. No friction can arise otherwise."

To which the reply is, that under masonic law Grand Lodges are *not* "Sovereign within their respective territories." He also misapprehends the consequences of the making of a mason in Wyoming of a candidate previously rejected in Pennsylvania: the matter is not left to the action of members of lodges, but the Grand Master issues an edict declaring the party a clandestine mason, and forbidding his recognition in Pennsylvania as a mason: the Grand Lodges of Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Illinois, Michigan and numerous others, recognize the decision of the Grand Master of Pennsylvania as correct, and the party is not recognized in any of these jurisdictions; we should think that when such a one should go back to Wyoming, and say what he naturally would say, his complaint could scarcely be brushed aside by the statement that it is a very trifling matter, because every member of a lodge has a right to object to the admission of a visitor, to say nothing of the fact that a member who does object to a visitor *for any other than a masonic reason*, violates his duty to a brother mason. The fact that Grand Lodges in several cases have had dissensions over this matter also refutes our brother's argument.

Nor is there any forcing of the laws of one jurisdiction upon another. While the argument of Bro. K. would apply equally to the initiation of a mason expelled in another jurisdiction, we do not believe he will say that any lodge any where can masonically do that: and why not? Because, under the laws of that other jurisdiction, the party has acquired a *status* which follows him everywhere: in like manner the rejected candidate has acquired a *status*, which follows *him* everywhere. His explanation why perpetual jurisdiction is right in cases of rejection by lodges in Wyoming, but wrong in cases of rejection by lodges out of Wyoming, does not explain. In spite of all he says, it is substantially saying that when the doctrine

operates in our favor, we adopt it, but when it operates adversely to our interests we discard it.

He explains that the action of his Grand Lodge on the Maine Resolutions amounts to nothing, because, notwithstanding the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence and its adoption by the Grand Lodge, that those resolutions are in conformity to the law in Wyoming, they are not so. So far as relates to rejections in Wyoming, he is apparently correct, but we find nothing in it that prevents this action of the Grand Lodge from operating as the rule to be followed by the lodges in relation to candidates rejected in other jurisdictions.

There are other parts of this report that we had marked for notice, but must be content with one more. He censures the Grand Master of Nebraska for making a mason at sight, and rejoices at the action of the Grand Lodge. He says:

“ We are surprised that he overlooked or ignored the fact of having taken upon himself a solemn obligation to support the constitution of his Grand Lodge and the masonic laws, rules and regulations of the jurisdiction and then boldly overrode them in the perpetration of an act, which, if it ever had any cause for existence in speculative Masonry (which we deny), it has ceased to exist long ago. It is said Masonry is no respecter of persons, and this is borne out by the fact that laws in all jurisdictions provide how all eligible persons may become masons and members of lodges in the regular way as therein defined. No middle ground or exemption is provided for any man and in the making of a mason no Grand Master has any legal right or power to set the law at defiance, and so the Grand Lodge of Nebraska decided in this case.”

But he does not quote the obligation correctly: he leaves out “the ancient landmarks of Masonry” that is or ought to be in the obligation, though it makes no difference whether it is in the installation obligation or not. Whenever the Constitution conflicts with the landmarks, and one cannot support both, the Constitution gives way to the landmark. But we are surprised that he should rejoice over the action of a Grand Lodge which undertook to make a mason in a manner not authorized by its Constitution. We ask our brother, (as we did our brethren of Nebraska, but so far without reply) what right the Grand Lodge has, more than its Grand Master, to override, boldly or otherwise, the provisions of its own Constitution? The Grand Master claimed to act under a landmark, but the Grand Lodge on its own theory acted without any pretence of authority except “its own sweet will.”

ALABAMA, 1898.

A special communication was held to perform the ceremony at the funeral of Past Grand Master, HENRY CLAY TOMPKINS, who died suddenly in his office, Sept. 12, 1898. By the death of Bro. TOMPKINS, the craft in Alabama sustain a great loss, in which the whole craft participate.

The Grand Master, JAMES A. BILBRO, in his address also announces the death of Bro. PALMER J. PILLANS, who has for so many years prepared the Reports on Correspondence for this Grand Lodge. He was a brother dearly beloved and a true mason, whose death will be lamented everywhere. Having been associated with him in similar work for a good many years, his death is to us the loss of a greatly respected and beloved friend.

The Grand Lodge met, for the first time, in its own home, the Temple (the corner-stone of which was laid the year preceding) having been finished, and the Grand Master speaks of it with feelings of great pleasure.

He had granted dispensations for three new lodges. He announced quite a number of decisions; the following is certainly novel but is correct, although it will not apply in those jurisdictions in which cubes are substituted for black balls:

“A Master Mason who has lost both his arms is not on that account excused from balloting on the petition of candidate. He may ask any one present to assist him. Such assistant must in his presence, without noticing, take up ballots until the one desired is selected and deposit it in the box.”

In regard to candidates rejected in another state, he says:

“A lodge should not make a person a mason who has been rejected by another lodge in this state, without the consent of the majority of the lodge to which the applicant first petitioned. A majority of the lodge means a majority of the members present at the regular communication of the lodge at which such consent is asked.”

He further decided:

“A lodge should be opened in order to bury a brother with masonic honors, and in case of emergency this may be done and a masonic burial given with a less number than seven Master Masons.”

He made a decision, from which it appears that Alabama still continues to be a Grand Lodge not in possession of full sovereign powers, inasmuch as it cannot amend its own Constitution without submitting the matter to the lodges, and the decision further shows that they have trouble in securing the votes of lodges upon propositions submitted to them.

But little progress had been made towards the establishment of a Masonic Home.

He regrets to be obliged to announce that in many lodges personal strife and bitterness among the members exist, and of this he says:

“I warn you, my brethren, that such conditions greatly retard the usefulness of the lodge and fearfully abate the zeal of the craft in their work. Be prompt, therefore, on the first approach of any of these evils, to correct them firmly but kindly, and if brethren at variance with each other will not be reconciled, after the utmost exercise of fraternal labor and care, then 'tis far better that the offending ones should withdraw and leave the lodge in peace.”

He regrets also prevalence of drunkenness and profanity, and he urges that the edicts of the Grand Lodge in this respect should be enforced, and in this connection, he says:

“ I find no pleasure in referring to these regretful circumstances. But I feel it to be my duty to do so; for Masonry is suffering from these evils in many parts of our jurisdiction. It is time to sound the alarm, and not only that, but it is also time to get ready for action. The lodges afflicted with these abuses of masonic law must correct them if they hope to see Masonry prosperous in their respective localities. And to get nearer home, how is it with us as to these matters when we come to the Grand Lodge to attend its session? Are we as circumspect, prudent and cautious in our conduct as the dignity and purity of our Order demand? Or do we not sometimes in the buoyancy of renewed friendships and brotherly greetings, reach excesses that are a reproach to us in our moments of quiet and calm reflection. I have heard from a number of brethren that on several occasions they have seen among the delegates to the Grand Lodge some who were decidedly under the influence of intoxicants, and that there were still others who profaned the name of Deity while here as Representatives of their lodges. Brethren I cannot hesitate to say that this is an open mockery of our cause. I say this in love to all offending ones, if such there be, that they may be led to a higher and purer life, and that our Grand Lodge may never again be humiliated by such gross, and oftentimes thoughtless and unintentional indiscretion.”

* * * * *

“ I recommend that the explanation of the principal tenets of the Order as given in the Chart, and the three great duties of a Mason, as given in the charge at initiation, be read in open lodge at each regular communication of our subordinate lodges.

“ I do not believe these great lessons can be too often repeated nor made too familiar to the craft. They are the basis of all that is good in masonry, and without their practice there can be no growth in those virtues which mark true masonic character.”

In connection with an amendment to the Constitution submitted to the lodges, we find a list of lodges which did not report, and the Grand Master ordered that the masters of those lodges should appear before the Grand Lodge at its next annual communication and give their reasons for failing to report.

Two lodges were authorized to consolidate by a majority vote of each.

The Committee on Work made reports on the work; and they were adopted.

A pleasant incident of the session was the introduction of the Grand Lecturer and the presentation to him of a badge with a medalion bearing—

“ the well known features of one of the oldest, truest and most useful members of the craft in this Grand Jurisdiction; one who for fifty-three out of the past fifty-four Annual Grand Communications of this Grand Lodge has been present to discharge willingly, cheerfully and zealously, every masonic duty assigned him; one who has in fact well-nigh burned out his long and useful life around the altars of Masonry—I allude to our venerable and much beloved State Grand Lecturer, R. W. James M. Brundidge.”

A thousand of them had been prepared and they were distributed among the members, who were authorized to wear them during the remainder of the session of the Grand Lodge.

The Masonic Temple was dedicated during the session. Eloquent addresses were delivered on the occasion, but we regret to find that it had been impossible to secure a copy of the address of the Grand Master in season for publication in these Proceedings. His subject was "The Temple." The Deputy Grand Master spoke for the Grand Lodge; the Senior Grand Warden for Ancient Craft Masonry; a Past Grand High Priest for Capitular Masonry; the Grand Master of the Grand Council for Cryptic Masonry; a Past Grand Commander for Templar Masonry, and the Inspector General of Alabama for Scottish Rite Masonry.

A large amount of routine business was transacted.

Memorial tributes to the memory of Bros. PILLANS and TOMPKINS were presented and adopted.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 143) was presented by Bro. WM. Y. TRICOMB, except that Bro. PILLANS had reviewed eighteen of the Proceedings before his death. It is enough to say of the manner in which Bro. TRICOMB performs his duty, that we are unable to determine which reviews were written by him and which by Bro. PILLANS. The report, as always heretofore, is very largely confined to abstracts with but few extracts or comments. We wish that the Grand Secretary or the Committee on Printing, would require the printer to make a distinction between *extracts* and *original matter*. It would add much, really, to the interest of the report.

He esteems the brethren of Maine happy, from the fact that the Committee on Grievances and Appeals had not a single case before it. He quotes what we stated concerning the decision of the Grand Master of his Grand Lodge in relation to the burial of a brother suspended for non-payment of dues. We note that the committee, while sustaining the decision of the Grand Master in this particular case, stated emphatically that it must not be taken as a precedent.

It seems that we misunderstood the law of his Grand Lodge in relation to the time of making returns. An amendment to the Constitution was offered the year before, providing that the returns should be made on or before the first day of the session. We were unable to determine what part of it was new and assumed that this part of it was not; but it seems that the law as already existing, did provide that the returns should be made in ample season before the session of the Grand Lodge.

While we miss very greatly Bro. PILLANS, we congratulate the Grand Lodge of Alabama that it has been able to fill his place so well.

ARIZONA, 1898.

The Grand Master, JOSEPH BRAWNER CREAMER, had, in consequence of the election coming up on the day fixed for the meeting of the Grand Lodge, changed the time of its meeting to the Tuesday following, and his action was approved by the Grand Lodge.

He had revoked relations with Peru; at the time of the meeting of his Grand Lodge he had, however, received information that the obnoxious edict had been rescinded and he recommended that fraternal relations should be re-established with the Grand Lodge of Peru, and the Grand Lodge so voted.

He refers to the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, which he holds is unwarranted.

He says the year had been a prosperous one, and that there had been a gain in the membership, none of the lodges having lost ground, and the majority having made material gain.

He reports one decision. A member of a lodge applied for a dimit, and one was granted without a recommendatory certificate, and thereupon the brother refused to accept the dimit, and he asked that the lodge be required to give him one with a recommendatory certificate. It seems that, in that jurisdiction, a dimit without such a certificate virtually terminates the relation of a party with the order, because his application for membership cannot be accepted by any other lodge. We believe that to be wrong, but, under the circumstances, we think the decision, which is as follows, is correct:

“That while it was optional with the lodge as to whether or not it would grant a recommendatory certificate with a dimit, it is equally optional with the member applying for dimit whether or not he will accept a dimit without a recommendatory certificate. If the brother refuses to accept such a dimit the action of the lodge is without force and the brother remains a member of the lodge.”

He learned later that the lodge had granted the certificate with the proper recommendation.

He urges that the Grand Lodge should be located at some central point, and also, that the lodge at the place where the Grand Lodge meets should not be allowed to make lavish expenditures in the entertainment of the Grand Lodge.

The business of the Grand Lodge seems to be chiefly of a routine character. The Grand Orator delivered a very fine address which is published in the Proceedings, and really is worthy of a more general circulation among the craft than it will receive by being merely printed in these Proceedings.

Of the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, the committee say:

“In the matter of the action by the M. W. Grand Lodge of Washington, recognizing as legitimate masons negroes tracing descent from ‘Prince Hall’ Lodge, your committee does not think any action by this Grand Lodge necessary at this time.

“The question of the admission of negroes, either by initiation, affiliation, or visitation, has never, to this committee’s knowledge, come before any lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction; and your committee is of the opinion that when the question does arise a strict compliance with the requirements of the Constitution and Ritual will solve all difficulties, without the necessity of allusion to or drawing of the color line.

“A desire for notoriety; rather than a desire to right a wrong, is probably the cause of this cloud occasionally obscuring the masonic horizon.”

The decision of the Grand Master in relation to the dimit, was not approved; the committee holding in substance, that a brother can withdraw from a lodge at his pleasure; and the committee say:

“The fact that a certificate of withdrawal without recommendation will not entitle the holder to apply for affiliation to any lodge, is not such a hardship as may at first appear, because a brother who has earned the ill will of the majority of the members of his own lodge, is certainly not a desirable member for any other lodge.”

We repeat that we believe this to be all wrong. If a brother has a right to sever his connection with a lodge at his pleasure, he ought to have the right to apply to any other lodge for membership, *leaving that lodge to determine his fitness to become a member.*

No Report on Correspondence.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1898.

A special communication was held, for the exemplification of the work and other purposes.

The Committee on Jurisprudence reported that the five years time limit was established recently, but the Grand Lodge, in cases of rejection, was retroactive in its operation—precisely as our Grand Lodge decided.

At the semi-annual communication, the committee made an able report upon the Peru matter, and, as a result, masonic intercourse was suspended with that Grand Lodge and the members of its obedience.

At the annual communication, the Grand Master, SAMUEL C. PALMER, made a full report of his official actions. He announced that the “Great Light of Masonry” had been restored to the altars of Peru, and that he anticipated with pleasure the probable resumption of intercourse with that Grand Body.

He had granted a dispensation to one of the lodges to receive the report of a committee on the petition of a candidate and, if elected, to confer the degrees upon him, at a special meeting.

He had decided that, under their law as to rejections, which is the same as ours, if a black-ball appeared on the second ballot, the candidate must

be declared rejected, although there might possibly be some faulty construction of the ballot box. The idea of the law, both in that jurisdiction and in ours, seems to be that a second ballot may be taken to determine the question whether there has been a mistake in the first or not, and that the lodge can go no farther.

Various other matters are stated and discussed by him, but none of general interest.

The installation communication was held as usual, at which the report of the Committee on Library was received, and some other business of a routine character was transacted.

Preparations were made to be represented at the Washington Centennial exercises.

The Report on Correspondence (pp. 96) was presented by Bro. WILLIAM R. SINGLETON.

He calls attention to the inconsistency in requiring the payment of dues while the member is under suspension, and yet not paying dues to the Grand Lodge on account of such members.

Referring to the action of the Grand Lodge of Canada upon the Maine proposition, he says:

"Such is the law in most Grand Lodges, but this does not touch the Maine question because it does not define whether it refers to rejected candidates in other jurisdictions than wherein the candidate was rejected."

Referring to the statement of Bro. JACKSON, of Delaware, that Mexican Masonry should not be recognized because it originated from the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite, he says;

"We are sorry to hear that from you, my brother. Now, what will you do with the Grand Lodge of Cuba, which we find in your list, 102, with your Grand Secretary as your Grand Representative? Nearly every lodge in the Grand Lodge of Cuba, if not every one, was derived from the Supreme Council, A. A. S. R. No. It has been well settled by our very best masonic authorities that the symbolic degrees of the A. A. S. R. are legitimate bodies."

We do not see but that the only answer that Bro. JACKSON can make is that the old usages must give way to modern ideas of improvement in Masonry.

Of the Nebraska case of making a mason at sight, he says:

"He reports that after careful examination of the prerogative of a Grand Master to 'make a mason at sight,' he had used that privilege and had made his son a mason, he having observed all due precautions in the premises, and followed out the usual method of holding an 'occasional lodge'. In this we concur."

Referring to the statement of a Grand Master that very many of the questions propounded by him might have been answered by the Code, he well says:

“Differing from the Grand Master of another jurisdiction he had granted, very properly and according to ancient masonic usage, several lodges to appear in public for the purpose of attending divine service.”

Giving a decision of Grand Master LOCKE'S, that payment of dues restores a brother to membership under our law without a vote of the lodge, he says:

“We regret that our own Constitution does not go as far as that of Maine. We only allow one year for such self re-instatement. After that, the one dropped must subject himself to investigation by a committee, and a *majority vote*. We have always held that as a *majority* of brethren are dropped from inability to pay dues that should they at *any future time* come forward and pay the amount of indebtedness, that by such act, having fulfilled their obligations they should be re-instated.

“If common fame or any good reasons can be assigned why a brother should not be a member, then charges should be preferred against him and a trial had, and, if convicted, he should be either suspended or expelled, as the case may require.

“Being dropped and afterwards excluded is not masonic in its character, and is anomalous.”

We commend the following, in relation to the Grand Lodge of Peru, to our brother in Illinois:

“In all Christian countries every legal oath is administered upon the ‘sacred writings called the ‘Bible,’ because it is recognized as of Divine inspiration, and its function in the ‘*jurat*’ is to represent the ‘Divinity’ who is thus invoked as a *witness* to the compact.

“Take away this, the sacred insignia of God, and then substitute what? the very instrument itself, to which the party sworn is to be conformable in his acts, which has no such ethical position therein as did the original medium, which always and everywhere is referred as emanating from the highest moral authority in the universe.

“What a blunder was made by a Grand Master.”

We fully agree, as we believe it has been the usage of Masonry as far back as any usage can be traced, to require the presence of a book which represents the Divinity.

In his review of Kentucky he discusses very ably the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, giving extracts from the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England, which we should quote were it not for the fact that the matter has been disposed of finally. In this connection, we shall look with much interest for Bro. ROBERT FREKE GOULD'S new work on military lodges, which, we learn, has just been issued in England. It will be of great interest and pleasure to us in this country.

We are greatly rejoiced to find Bro. SINGLETON at his work again as actively as ever, in spite of the severe illness which we mentioned last year.

ENGLAND.

At the quarterly communication in June, 1898, the Peru question was before the Grand Lodge, and considering the position held by that body and

especially considering the views expressed by it, we devote our space almost exclusively to this subject.

The following resolutions were presented:

"*1st Resolution.* That this Grand Lodge views with profound regret the step taken by the Grand Lodge of Peru, in ordering the removal of the Volume of the Sacred Law from the altars, and in prohibiting all mention of the Bible in the ceremonies, of lodges under its jurisdiction.

"*2d Resolution.* That so long as the Grand Lodge of Peru, or the lodges holding thereunder, require or authorize the holding of lodge meetings from which the Volume of the Sacred Law is absent, or in the ceremonies of which no mention of the Bible is made, they cannot be recognized as true and lawful masonic lodges or bodies.

"*3d Resolution.* That this Grand Lodge requests that His Royal Highness the Most Worshipful Grand Master will be pleased to take such steps for giving effect to the foregoing resolutions, as he may consider consistent with the honour of this Grand Lodge; and to take such further steps, if any, as he may deem desirable for the recognition of those brethren in Peru who determine to abide by the Ancient Landmarks of the order.

"*4th Resolution.* That this Grand Lodge hereby reaffirms and again places on record the resolution adopted by the Grand Lodge on the 6th day of March, 1878, as follows:

"That in view of the foregoing resolutions, the Worshipful Masters of all lodges holding under the Grand Lodge of England be directed not to admit any foreign brother as a visitor unless

"1st. He is duly vouched for, or unless his certificate shows that he has been initiated according to the ancient rites and ceremonies in a lodge professing belief in T. G. A. O. T. U., and

"2dly. Not unless he himself shall acknowledge that this belief is an essential landmark of the order.

"*5th Resolution.* That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be transmitted to the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland, to each Grand Lodge with which this Grand Lodge is in communication, and to the Worshipful Masters of all lodges holding under the Grand Lodge of England, each of whom is hereby instructed to cause these resolutions to be read at the first meeting of his lodge after the receipt thereof, and to direct that they shall be entered on the minutes."

The Grand Registrar, in seconding the resolutions, said:

"Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair, it is very seldom indeed that a Grand Lodge is convened anywhere to consider such a message as His Royal Highness has sent to this Grand Lodge to-day for our consideration, but the circumstances are such, and the facts have been brought to the attention of the Most Worshipful Grand Master in such a way, that they cannot, in the interests of true Masonry, be ignored; but on being laid before the brethren with the expression of the Grand Master's opinion upon them, they will doubtless cause the adoption of the suggested resolutions which will place this Grand Lodge of England among those Grand Lodges who have emphatically pronounced their condemnation of the acts and edicts of the Grand Lodge of Peru. As masons, we know that admission to our Order is free to all, whatever their belief, so long as they believe in the Great Architect—but there is a further condition which cannot be ignored. Our Great Light is the Volume of the Sacred Law. No man can be made a mason except in a lodge just, perfect and regular. The lodge is regular by its Warrant of Constitution; it is perfect by being composed of seven or more members; and it is just when the Volume of the Sacred Law is unfolded and with certain implements placed thereon; and unless those

Great Lights are present no lodge can be held; that has been stated over and over again, and has been resolved over and over again by this mother of Grand Lodges, and by Grand Lodges throughout the world representing true Masonry. Any body of men meeting, under whatever names they choose to call themselves, who have not these Great Lights are not a body of masons. We are bound—every Past Master here has taken the obligation—we have promised to respect genuine and true brethren, and to discountenance impostors and all dissenters from the original plan of Freemasonry. Therefore, if we find any body professing to be a masonic body which departs from the original plan of Freemasonry we have sworn that we will discountenance those people—I will not call them brethren. We also admit that it is not in the power of any man or body of men to make innovations in the body of Masonry. We declare in our charges that let a man's religion or mode of worship be what it may, he is not excluded from the Order, provided he believe in the glorious Architect of Heaven and Earth, and practice the sacred duties of morality. We are also told that this Grand Lodge, as a Grand Lodge, can only legislate having regard to the ancient landmarks of the Order."

He then gave a statement of the facts and of the action of Cosmos Lodge in surrendering its charter rather than hold under a Body that had ceased to be a Grand Lodge; and added:

"Many of the Grand Lodges of America, the Grand Lodge of Victoria, I believe, and others have already passed resolutions, and their Grand Masters have declared against the action of the Grand Lodge of Peru—in some cases in language which I would not like this Grand Lodge to adopt, because no good comes of using hard names. All we can say is this, those holding under the Grand Lodge of Peru and in accordance with its edict have ceased to be masons, and cannot be received by us until they have returned to their duty to the Great Architect, and to Masonry. It is not a question of a Bible being on the altar. It is the volume of the Sacred Law we recognize. Among Christians it is the Old and New Testaments combined; among Jews it is the Old Testament alone; among Mahommedans it is the Koran, which they believe to be the revelation of the will of the Great Architect; but whether it be a lodge of Christians, Jews, Mahommedans, or Hindoos, it is their volume of the Sacred Law which must be on the Altar. (Hear, hear.)"

The question was formally taken upon each resolution separately and they were unanimously adopted.

We hope that our brethren will carefully read all this more than once, although it is only the repetition of masonic laws and principles which from the first have been held to be landmarks; because in these latter days the doctrine has been attacked by a few leaders in Masonry here in the United States as well as in Peru.

At the session of the Grand Lodge in March, 1899, official notice of the subsequent action of the Grand Lodge of Peru was received, and thereupon, the following resolutions were adopted:

"1st. That this Grand Lodge hails with the greatest satisfaction the reversal, by the Grand Lodge of Peru, of its decree of the 13th of June, 1897, by which decree the Volume of the Sacred Law was removed from the altars and from the rituals of lodges under its jurisdiction.

“‘2d. That this Grand Lodge welcomes the return of the Grand Lodge of Peru to its place among those supreme masonic bodies which acknowledge a belief in the Great Architect of the Universe and the presence in lodges of the Volume of His Sacred Law, as essential landmarks of the craft.

“‘3d. That so long as the Grand Lodge of Peru, and the lodges holding thereunder, respect those ancient landmarks, and practice pure Masonry, they are entitled to recognition by English masons as true and lawful masonic lodges or bodies.

“‘4th. That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be transmitted to the Grand Lodge of Peru, to the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland, to each Grand Lodge with which this Grand Lodge is in communication, and to the Worshipful Masters of all lodges holding under the Grand Lodge of England, each of whom is hereby instructed to cause these resolutions to be read at the first meeting of his lodge after the receipt thereof, and to direct that they shall be entered on the Minutes.’”

In a former part of this report we have spoken of a change in the policy of the Grand Lodge of England, in relation to new Grand Lodges within its jurisdiction, and while, as already intimated, that Grand Lodge has not gone to the extent to which we understood it had gone, it has gone so far in the right direction that a statement of its action should be made.

Formerly, the Grand Lodge of England did not allow a lodge in the Dependencies of the British Crown, to vote upon or even discuss the question of forming a new Grand Lodge, or of giving its allegiance to a Grand Lodge already formed; also, any meeting of brethren to discuss the question was unlawful; and when such new Grand Lodge should be formed, masonic intercourse with it and all the lodges and brethren of its obedience was absolutely forbidden; and any vote of the lodge to assist in forming a Grand Lodge was void, and as long as three members of any lodge chose to dissent, they were continued as a lodge and as *the* lodge; and in addition, District Grand Lodges were maintained, and new lodges were chartered. But in March, 1897, when the question of the recognition of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand was presented, the Grand Registrar stated very forcibly the evils of the practice, and submitted certain amendments. They were bitterly opposed, but finally, by a nearly two-thirds vote, the matter was referred to a special committee to report later.

We did not receive the Proceeding for January, 1898 (and by the way the same is true of the Proceedings of January, 1899), but we were informed on authority that we deem perfectly reliable, that the proposed amendments had been adopted, and we are not certain now that they were not. However, at the meeting in September, 1898, the Grand Master, with whom the matter had been left, reported articles of recognition of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, which were presented to the Grand Lodge by the Grand Registrar. One member of the Grand Lodge, who had opposed the former doctrine, expressed regret in relation to the matter, but the articles were unanimously adopted. In those articles were substantially embodied the amendments of which we have already spoken. The Grand Lodge was

recognized, and it was agreed that the Grand Lodge of England would grant no warrant for a new lodge within the territory of the new Grand Lodge and the new Grand Lodge would grant no warrant for a lodge outside of their territory. Lodges were authorized to hold a special meeting for the purpose of determining whether they would tender their allegiance to the new Grand Lodge, and, if it should be so decided by a two-thirds vote, that should be effectual and its warrant should be returned to the Grand Lodge of England for cancellation, but with the understanding that it might be returned to the lodge as a memorial. It was further agreed that the lodge might dispose of its property and records as a majority of the lodge should decide ; but the Grand Master recommended that all the papers should remain with the lodge, in order that the continuity of the lodge might not be imperiled. The District Grand Lodges would be absolutely dissolved, and it was further provided that the members of the lodges should be entitled to masonic recognition and incur no censure for any part they might have taken on either side in the formation of the new Grand Lodge.

We believe we may assume safely, that this is now the doctrine of the Grand Lodge of England in relation to the formation of a Grand Lodge in the Dependencies of the British Crown, and it goes a great way in the right direction, especially as it recognizes the right of a majority of the lodges, acting by a two-thirds vote, to form a new Grand Lodge. The only limitation contrary to the American doctrine is that if two-thirds of the lodge do not vote to go with the new Grand Lodge it may continue to exist as a lodge under the obedience of the Grand Lodge of England. The step taken is so long a one in the right direction, that we believe it will not be many years before the Grand Lodge of England will recognize the doctrine that upon the formation of a new Grand Lodge by a majority of the lodges in a given jurisdiction, all the lodges in that jurisdiction will thereby become subject to its authority.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

We have the Proceedings of this Grand Lodge from June, 1897, to June, 1898.

Quarterly communications were held as usual and a large amount of business was transacted.

An attempt was made to have "Ladies' Nights." The Board of General Purposes acted as follows:

"A communication was read from the M. W., the Grand Master, remitting, for the consideration of the Board, some correspondence he had received relative to ladies being admitted to the lodge-room. This matter engaged the attention of the Board for some time, and ultimately it was decided that ladies ought *not* to be admitted to the lodge-rooms under any circum-

stances. This restriction, however, does not apply to their attendance at banquets or social gatherings of Freemasons."

The Grand Inspector of Workings submitted a report, showing a very satisfactory condition of the lodges, nearly thirty of which he had visited.

From a decision, we infer that the Worshipful Master of the lodge may refuse admission to a visitor.

We find the following:

"Letters were received from this Grand Lodge, soliciting recognition, but as it appeared that there were two Grand Bodies claiming jurisdiction in Mexico, the Board resolved that the request be not entertained for the present."

As we go on with our review, we find that the Grand Inspector of Workings reports quarterly and that he had visited a very large proportion of the lodges and found them in very good condition.

A lodge petitioned that it might continue to confer the third degree in the manner in which it had been accustomed to confer it before the formation of the Grand Lodge, but the Grand Master decided that under the Constitution, the Grand Lodge had no power to grant the request, holding that uniformity throughout the jurisdiction was required.

The chairman of the Committee on Correspondence submitted a long and very able report in relation to the Grand Diets of Mexico, concluding with the recommendation that recognition be withheld for the present.

The number of members reported June 30, 1868, is 6,847, as against 6,033 the year before.

The Report on Correspondence (90 pp.) was prepared chiefly by Bro. JOHN B. TRIVETT, but Bros. A. R. DOCKER, W. J. HOLMES and W. H. SHORTLAND assisted, each identifying his work with his initials. The report is very largely an account of the more important action of other Grand Lodges; but we are pleased to note that comments are added, from which we learn the methods in that jurisdiction.

In his review of the District of Columbia Bro. T. says:

"We think that the custom of 'dropping' for non-payment of dues might profitably be considered in N. S. Wales. Very little reflection will suffice to make manifest the injustice of stigmatising by means of 'exclusion' as is our vogue, a brother who, perhaps from pure misfortune, may be unable to meet his obligations, and who in most cases, under this category, becomes irrecoverably lost to the craft."

Referring to the rules proposed in the Grand Lodge of England in relation to the formation of new Grand Lodges, he adds:

"If such provisions had been in force twenty years ago, what a world of trouble would have been avoided in this colony."

In his review of Iowa, Bro. SHORTLAND says:

"The Wisconsin plan of relief was strongly opposed. Masonic help being voluntary, it should not be made compulsory upon the lodge of the relieved brother or his Grand Lodge to re-imburse the amount. [These are our sentiments and our practice.]"

* * * * *

"We may also explain that the term 'called off' applies to those brethren who, removing their place of residence, or tiring of their connection with their lodges, apply for clearances. Many of them, however, rejoin other lodges. We must confess that with us, membership, as a rule, does not last many years; we have, of course, our regular and consistent brethren who deem it a duty to remain a lifetime in full connection; but there are a vast number unaffiliated who prefer to remain so."

In his review of Maine (1897), Bro. TRIVETT copies the decisions of Grand Master FARNHAM, and adds: "We think these rulings should be carefully noted by our members and acted upon."

Referring to Missouri, Bro. S. says:

"We note that all relief afforded is practically a charge upon the particular lodge, to whatever jurisdiction it belongs, whose members have been assisted. This is very different to our system, which relieves brethren of every jurisdiction through our Board of Benevolence, from funds provided by the contributions of all the lodges in the territory, without claiming refunds in any case."

The report of the Freemasons' Orphan Society is given, and it shows an expenditure on account of nineteen orphans of about \$2,500, and a fund amounting to about \$110,000.

The Report of the Freemason's Benevolent Institution is also added in these Proceedings. The portraits of the two oldest annuitants are given, one a lady of eighty-six, and the other a man of ninety. The number was twenty-nine; six had been added during the year, and four had died. Over \$2,100 had been paid out, and the invested fund is over \$20,000. The proceedings at the meetings of the Directors are of great interest, but too long to be copied in this report.

We congratulate our New South Wales brethren upon their splendid work.

NEW ZEALAND.

We have the Proceedings at the annual communication April 28, 1898, and at the semi-annual communication held in October following. The business transacted was largely of a routine character, having reference to the financial affairs.

The disbursements from the Fund of Benevolence for the year ending March 31, 1898, were about \$500.

The matter which occupied the attention of the Grand Lodge most completely was its recognition by the Grand Lodge of England. We have

already given this in our report; the articles were adopted, and a cablegram sent to the Grand Lodge of England to that effect.

Recognitions by other Grand Lodges and exchange of Representatives were reported.

The Grand Master transmitted to the Committee of General Purposes the invitation to attend the Washington Centennial Anniversary; and in his letter he says:

“This invitation appears to me to call for some consideration. The event is one in which all freemasons who speak the English language can scarcely fail to take a deep interest. Recent events have shown that in spite of all political dissensions and commercial jealousies, there is between the great branches of the English speaking races a bond of sympathy which is still strong, a yearning after brotherhood which refuses to be hushed. Should the desire, which occasionally finds utterance, for a union of all the English-speaking races ever be gratified, there seems little reason to doubt that Masonry, with its world-wide ramifications, can be made a potent factor in so happy a consummation. There seems to me to be a special reason why these colonies, now apparently on the threshold of their national manhood, should cultivate a closer acquaintance with the United States. We have sprung from the same stock, we speak the same language, we own the same traditions, and we are both destined to play an important part in that commercial awakening which must inevitably follow the events now transpiring in the East. It would therefore appear to be prudent that we should neglect no opportunity, however unimportant it may seem, which can assist in establishing a good understanding with our American cousins.

“The occasion of the Centenary Celebration of the death of Wor. Bro. Washington seems to me to offer such an opportunity. I suggest that the question be referred to the Board of General Purposes for consideration. It is, of course, somewhat early to make any definite arrangements, and it might be well to communicate with the other Grand Lodges in the colonies, which have doubtless received a similar invitation, with a view of obtaining their views on the matter. If a separate representative cannot be sent from each Grand Lodge, it might be practicable to obtain the services of some distinguished brother to represent all the Grand Lodges of Australia. The gathering promises to be one of the greatest in the history of the craft, and I personally should like to see our Grand Lodge represented.”

It was announced that one lodge, under the English Constitution, had recently tendered its allegiance to the Grand Lodge of New Zealand and had been registered accordingly.

A committee had formerly been appointed to ascertain what the custom in other jurisdictions was in relation to conferring past rank. In the United States, out of twenty-three Grand Lodges which made replies, twenty-one had no such rule or practice. Some added various criticisms, favorable or unfavorable, according to the ideas of the writer.

The report was received and referred to the Board of General Purposes.

The Grand Superintendents show a good state of things on the whole, they having visited very many of the lodges.

The returns of the lodges show a membership of 4,549 against 4,278 last

year. There had been 459 initiations; 184 admissions; 236 registrations; 135 had been struck from the rolls and 30 had died.

The Fund of Benevolence had been increased during the year and now stands at about \$7,600; to this should be added other funds, amounting to over \$3,000.

At the semi-annual communication, the ritual question was presented, but it was determined that it should remain, for the present, in abeyance. It was announced that one of the Scottish lodges had transferred its allegiance to the new Grand Lodge and that a new lodge had been warranted during the preceding six months.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

We have the proceedings for the year ending April 20, 1898. The Grand Master, Chief Justice S. J. WAY, had just returned from England and was welcomed back by the Deputy Grand Master, who congratulated him upon the able manner in which he had represented the interests of his Grand Lodge in England, and upon the high honor which had been conferred upon him by his being made a Past Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of England; and the Grand Master, in return, made his acknowledgments, and testified to the admirable manner in which the Deputy Grand Master had performed the duties during his own absence.

It seems that the Australian Grand Lodges joined in an address of congratulation to the Queen upon her Diamond Jubilee and it was forwarded to England by Grand Master WAY. Upon his application, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, undertook to present the address in person to the Queen, and at a great meeting of between seven and eight thousand masons in Victoria Hall, Judge WAY placed the joint address in the hands of the Prince of Wales. A subsequent notice was given that it was most graciously received by her Majesty, and due acknowledgment made through the Right Honorable Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Due acknowledgment was made of the receipt of the invitation to be represented at the Washington Centennial, and the following was adopted in relation to the Grand Lodge of Peru:

“That whereas the Grand Lodge of Peru by its action in abolishing the use of the Bible upon the altar of its lodges, has deliberately severed the strongest link which bound it to Ancient Craft Freemasonry, therefore it is—

“Resolved, That all recognition heretofore accorded to, and all intercourse with the Grand Lodge of Peru be and is hereby withdrawn and forbidden, and the Commission heretofore issued to Bro. Ignacio Acuna, as the Representative of the Grand Lodge of South Australia near the Grand Lodge of Peru, is hereby revoked.”

There had been disbursed in charity from the Benevolent Fund, during the year, about \$1,900, and the permanent fund had been increased to nearly \$6,000.

The number of members was reported as 2,332 as against 2,266 the year before. There had been 142 initiations; 75 admissions; 31 re-instatements; 128 resignations; 17 suspensions; 23 deaths; and 49 had been erased from the rolls. Every lodge save two in the jurisdiction had done work during the year.

There was no Report on Correspondence, but we hope that the example of the Grand Lodge of New South Wales will be followed by all of the Australian lodges, for we think it manifests upon reading the reports made to that Grand Lodge, that the information given to the Craft in relation to masonic proceedings elsewhere, will be of great advantage, and will have a great influence in securing uniformity in masonic polity throughout the world.

VICTORIA, 1898.

This Grand Lodge meets quarterly, besides holding a "Grand Anniversary Festival Meeting" for the installation of the Grand Officers which are elected at the March communication.

At that meeting the Board of Benevolence reported that sixty-four applications for aid had been refused and one hundred and fifty-seven granted, to the extent of some \$4,250; adding to this the amount paid under special votes of the Grand Lodge, the disbursements of this Board had been over \$5,000.

The edicts of the Grand Masters of Maine and New York *in re Peru* were presented; but in the absence of all other information upon the subject, no action was taken at that meeting.

The lodges number up to 180; four had "amalgamated"; four were extinct; and one was "in abeyance."

Motions were made to give money from the Benevolent Fund to various charitable institutions, but it was decided that that fund is held for the sole purpose of aiding individual brethren, their widows and orphans. As we understand it, in all the Australian jurisdictions the lodges rarely, or never, disburse money in charity, but make contributions to the Benevolent Fund, and disbursements are made by the Board, which in Victoria met twice a month during the year. What course is taken when immediate relief is necessary, we do not know.

On December 31, 1897, the number of members was 7,548 as against 7,677 the year before; the resignations had been 817, the exclusions 208,

and the deaths 87. The gains are not given, so that we cannot judge how many of the resignations and exclusions are of a permanent character; we believe that non-payment of dues is followed in all cases by exclusion, whatever the cause of the non-payment. The payments by lodges during the quarter ending March 16, 1898, were about \$2,100 to the General Fund, and about \$2,800 to the Benevolent Fund. This is about *three dollars* per capita, for a year.

The Grand Master elect was not present to be installed, and the acting Grand Master filed a protest, claiming that he could not be installed in his absence: but the Grand Lodge, following the precedents of the Mother Grand Lodge and its own, decided against the protest, and the Deputy Grand Master took the throne and the Grand Director of Ceremonies made the usual proclamation of installation. We think that it is not customary to administer any installation obligation in the case of the Grand Master, while the other Grand Officers are obligated.

Of the Washington Centennial Anniversary the Grand Master said:

“ It is of course somewhat early to make any definite arrangements, and it might be well to communicate with the other Grand Lodges in the colonies, which have doubtless received a similar invitation, with a view of ascertaining their sentiments on the matter. If a separate representative cannot be sent from each Grand Lodge, it might be practicable to obtain the services of some distinguished brother to represent all the Grand Lodges in Australia. The gathering promises to be one of the greatest in the history of the craft, and I personally should like to see our Grand Lodge represented ”

Considerable discussion arose in relation to a reported revision of the Constitution and questions arising under the old Constitution, but the whole matter went over to the first Quarterly, when the revision would come up for final action.

These Proceedings are published in one volume, but they are paged separately: of course, if they were paged consecutively, they would be much more convenient for reference.

STATISTICS.

We give our usual table.

GRAND LODGES.	Members.	Raised.	Admitted and Restored.	Withdrawn.	Expelled.	Suspended.	Susp'd for non-payment of fines.	Died.
Alabama,.....	11,345	647	697	442	9	20	502	235
Arizona,.....	701	08	65	29	0	0	13	7
Arkansas,.....	12,522	640	461	470	17	24	480	254
British Columbia,.....	1,339	118	64	60	0	0	24	18
California,.....	19,542	1,244	644	443	9	.....	306	396
Canada,.....	23,996	1,282	537	574	0	7	630	254
Colorado,.....	7,605	371	336	184	6	...	*164	82
Connecticut,.....	17,232	673	122	68	3	1	223	172
Delaware,.....	2,176	80	13	14	3	...	*5	27
Dist. of Columbia,.....	5,298	253	134	67	0	0	80	84
Florida,.....	4,187	251	300	225	2	.....	*150	81
Georgia,.....	18,611	1,071	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Idaho,.....	1,240	75	57	25	1	.....	*28	15
Illinois,.....	54,080	2,762	1,165	1,225	14	.....	*1,341	719
Indiana,.....	29,954	1,530	784	549	39	13	609	426
Indian Territory,.....	3,450	319	290	234	19	9	60	48
Iowa,.....	27,907	1,356	735	641	10	9	674	352
Kansas,.....	19,888	1,037	710	791	10	.....	*486	245
Kentucky,.....	18,402	1,188	832	664	26	.....	*1,104	308
Louisiana,.....	5,415	323	122	125	2	.....	*189	126
Maine,.....	22,165	702	165	200	2	1	286	419
Manitoba,.....	2,669	192	86	114	0	0	88	25
Maryland,.....	7,784	420	116	135	5	2	89	114
Massachusetts,.....	39,334	1,858	310	357	1	0	362	581
Michigan,.....	40,387	1,941	597	665	13	.....	*461	569
Minnesota,.....	15,908	741	361	433	3	9	255	218
Mississippi,.....	8,748	550	371	259	8	9	325	222
Missouri,.....	31,360	1,736	1,196	813	38	22	901	459
Montana,.....	2,850	181	91	89	0	1	78	22
Nebraska,.....	11,775	525	386	317	8	.....	*428	139
Nevada,.....	837	30	32	20	1	.....	*18	18
New Brunswick,.....	1,757	82	20	51	0	.....	*58	30
New Hampshire,.....	9,224	.....	404	72	0	2	47	170
New Jersey,.....	16,970	974	260	180	4	0	349	275
New Mexico,.....	881	53	40	23	4	1	25	9
New York,.....	95,480	5,681	2,286	909	19	0	3,194	1,536
North Carolina,.....	9,842	677	273	192	5	67	221	142
North Dakota,.....	2,871	240	87	110	1	0	46	25
Nova Scotia,.....	3,383	176	83	89	0	0	61	41
Ohio,.....	42,848	2,418	1,473	654	12	15	1,440	636
Oklahoma,.....	1,450	126	126	56	1	.....	*50	9
Oregon,.....	4,946	229	148	83	2	3	118	60
Pennsylvania,.....	52,060	2,462	468	267	.....	.....	†764	870
P. E. Island,.....	525	18	11	12	0	0	7	6
Quebec,.....	3,643	213	70	71	0	1	105	34
Rhode Island,.....	5,164	236	11	18	0	1	40	91
South Carolina,.....	5,840	336	.....	184	.....	.....	175	144
South Dakota,.....	4,460	242	150	165	2	0	57	37
Tennessee,.....	17,248	679	633	624	16	18	486	385

GRAND LODGES.	M.	R.	A. & R.	W.	E.	S.	S. for n. p. d.	D.
Texas,	27,718	1,233	1,422	1,484	49	47	624	450
Utah,	807	30	38	18	0	0	18	10
Vermont,	9,886	377	41	120	3	...	*96	166
Virginia,	12,904	...	87	396	6	8	289	249
Washington,	4,633	259	195	159	4	3	273	66
West Virginia,	6,251	420	179	144	5	5	125	144
Wisconsin,	17,226	802	350	317	7	34	287	258
Wyoming,	985	57	33	32	3	0	28	6
Total,	827,740	40,131	20,667	16,647	383	332	19,342	12,493

* Including suspensions for unmasonic conduct.

† Including expulsions.

COMPARISON OF STATISTICS.

	G. Lodges. 1899.	Totals. 1899.	G. Lodges. 1898.	Totals. 1898.	G. Lodges. 1897.	Totals. 1897.
Members,	57	827,740	57	817,009	57	804,706
Raised,	55	40,131	57	42,337	55	43,721
Admissions, &c.,	56	20,667	55	20,013	55	22,574
Dimissions,	56	16,647	56	16,203	56	17,916
Expulsions,	55	383	54	471	54	478
Suspensions,	38	332	37	329	36	383
“ npt dues,	56	19,342	56	19,406	56	18,700
Deaths,	56	12,493	57	12,678	56	12,062

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.

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Arkansas,	November 15 and 16, 1898,	313
British Columbia,	June 23 and 24, 1898,	317
California,	October 11 to 15, 1898,	322
Canada,	July 20 and 21, 1898,	332
Colorado,	September 21 and 22, 1898,	337
Connecticut,	January 18 and 19, 1899,	339
Delaware,	October 5 and 6, 1898,	342

District of Columbia,	November 9, 1898,	567
Florida,	January 17 to 19, 1899,	346
Georgia,	October 25 to 27, 1898,	349
Idaho,	September 13 to 15, 1898,	355
Illinois,	October 4 to 6, 1898,	358
Indiana,	May 24 and 25, 1898,	367
Indian Territory,	August 9 and 10, 1898,	371
Iowa,	June 7 to 9, 1898,	375
Kansas,	February 15 and 16, 1899,	384
Kentucky,	October 18 to 20, 1898,	389
Louisiana,	February 13 to 15, 1899,	393
Manitoba,	June 8 and 9, 1898,	394
Maryland,	November 15 and 16, 1898,	399
Massachusetts,	December 27, 1898,	403
Michigan,	January 24 and 25, 1899,	406
Minnesota,	January 11 and 12, 1899,	412
Mississippi,	February 8 and 9, 1899,	415
Missouri,	October 18 to 20, 1898,	422
Montana,	Sept. 14 and 15, 1898,	427
Nebraska,	June 5 to 17, 1898,	434
Nevada,	June 14 and 15, 1898,	437
New Brunswick,	August 23 and 24, 1898,	438
New Hampshire,	May 18, 1898,	439
New Jersey,	January 25 and 26, 1899,	444
New Mexico,	December 3 and 4, 1898,	450
New York,	June 7 to 9, 1898,	454
North Carolina,	January 10 to 12, 1899,	460
North Dakota,	June 21 and 22, 1898,	462
Nova Scotia,	June 8 and 9, 1898,	465
Ohio,	October 19 and 20, 1898,	467
Oklahoma,	February 18 and 19, 1898,	476
Oregon,	June, 15 to 17, 1898,	477
Pennsylvania,	December 27, 1898,	481
Prince Edward Island,	June 24, 1898,	496
Quebec,	January 25, 1899,	498
Rhode Island,	May 16, 1898,	501
South Carolina,	December 13 and 14, 1898,	504
South Dakota,	June 14 and 15, 1898,	508
Tennessee,	January 25 to 27, 1899,	512
Texas,	December 6 to 8, 1898,	518
Utah,	January 17 and 18, 1899,	521
Vermont,	June 15 and 16, 1898,	525

Virginia,	December 6 to 8, 1898,	527
Washington,	June 14 to 16, 1898,	538
West Virginia,	November 15, 1898,	546
Wisconsin,	June 14 to 16, 1898,	551
Wyoming,	September 14, 1898,	557
England,		569
New South Wales,		573
New Zealand,		575
South Australia,		577
Victoria,	March 16, 1898,	578
Grand Lodge Sovereignty,		297

CONCLUSION.

We regret that the absence of the writer for a month after the session of the Grand Lodge on a vacation, made necessary by an attack of the grip, has delayed the completion of this report. There is a personal consolation, however, in the fact that the absence was so beneficial, that it is very probable that he has done more work since his return than he would have accomplished during his vacation and the time since, if he had not gone away.

Again, our report is longer than we had intended; but the action of the Grand Lodges of Peru and Washington has made it necessary to give "line upon line and precept upon precept" to prevent a threatened departure from the old ways and the abandonment of fundamental principles which have made our Institution what it is, and which are as necessary for its existence in the future as it has been in the past.

We recognize with almost devout thanks the kind expressions of our brethren, and if we have gone beyond masonic courtesy in any instance, we trust it will be attributed to our intense conviction, emphasized by a habit of over forty years, that the interests of Freemasonry must be the paramount rule in every discussion, in which they are involved, and especially when her very existence is attacked, even if the attack is without malice, and the result of zeal without knowledge.

But we congratulate the craft everywhere that the events of the past year have tended to bring out more sharply the distinction between Masonry and other organizations, and to impress more deeply upon the minds of all, the necessity of standing firmly by the ancient usages; so that out of temporary evil permanent good has come. *So mote it be!*

Faternally submitted,

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