

The attendance was large, there being upwards of a hundred and twenty Representatives present. These were from twenty-three Jurisdictions.

General harmony prevailed throughout the entire Session, but in cases where difference of opinion *did* exist, still, recognizing and acting upon the three cardinal principles of our Order, there was a disposition to "yield a cheerful compliance with the constituted majority," illustrating most beautifully "How sweet and how pleasant it was for brethren to dwell together in unity."

The Reports of the Most Worthy Patriarch and the Most Worthy Scribe are very important documents, exhibiting the state of the Order throughout the entire National Jurisdiction. That the Order has suffered beyond measure during the late unhappy civil war will be seen by the following extract from the M. W. P.'s Report:

"For the last four years, a large portion of our Jurisdiction has been the theatre of a bloody and desolating civil war. All social, civil, and even religious ties that bound society together have been sundered, and the question of "*reconstruction*" will not alone perplex the wise in the State, but will put in requisition all the sagacity, patriotism, humanity and religion of the innumerable circles which have been broken up by a fratricidal war. In the Southern portion of our Jurisdiction our Order has been nearly annihilated, while in the Northern States the Division Rooms have been seriously drained of their active young men. . . . Now, that the sword has been returned to the scabbard, the camp and field of war have been deserted, and the arts and blessings of peace have been restored, it will be our difficult task to erect again our broken down altars and bring back again the heavenly messengers, Love, Purity and Fidelity, to their old abiding places."

Looking at the dark picture here presented, we might reasonably expect that the statistics of the Order would disclose a fearful decrease of membership. But in delightful contrast with the above will appear the following from the Report of the M. W. S.:

"The past year has been one of prosperity, and the prospects for the coming year are very bright. While a few Jurisdictions have decreased in membership, a much larger