

WASHINGTON.—1890.

WASHINGTON'S volume of proceedings, for 1890, contains as a frontispiece, the portrait of R. W. Bro. Thomas Milburne Reed, Grand Secretary.

Grand Lodge met in 33rd Annual Communication on the 10th June, 1890, Grand Master WILLIAM A. FAIRWEATHER, presiding.

From the Grand Master's address, we learn, with regret, of the death of M. W. Bro. Thomas Taylor Minor, Past Grand Master.

The address is a business-like document, but refers to matters of local importance only. Nor is there anything of very general interest in the legislation of Grand Lodge at this Communication.

The number of Masons in the jurisdiction, enrolled and reported to Grand Lodge, is 3,025, a net increase of 478 during the year.

A Foreign Correspondence Report, which this time exceeds eighty pages, is again from the pen of Past Grand Master Louis Ziegler.

Quebec, for 1889 is fraternally reviewed.

In most of what he writes we are glad to be in full accord with him. But under the heading "Arkansas" we find the following :

One case struck us as most singular indeed. A brother was tried by his Lodge for denying a belief in the future existence of the wicked and their eternal punishment. He said he believed that when the wicked died, they were nothing more than brutes; there was nothing more of them. His Lodge only reprimanded him, but the Grand Lodge expelled him. We ask, is the Grand Lodge of Arkansas controlled by creeds and dogmas? We were taught that the true test of the applicant for our mysteries was a belief in God, the creator of all things and nothing more. His way of serving God is left entirely to him, so long as he observes the rules of the moral law.

We require of our initiates, (in Quebec), and it was also required of us, to believe that the God in whom we professed to place our trust, was a rewarder of virtue and a punisher of vice. What value can the initiate attach to his Masonic obligations, if he believes that after death he will have no further future than that of the beasts that perish?—and that the God whom he calls upon to witness his vows, has it not in his power to punish after death, those who wilfully violate them. The Grand Lodge of Arkansas is