

which he has lost." On the subject of the secrecy of the ballot, the Grand Master says:—

"The secrecy of the ballot, on an application for initiation, is a landmark, and the Constitution also ordains that it "shall be inviolably secret." This principle should be preserved because it is a landmark; and it should be respected and obeyed, because the regulation is necessary to preserve the unity and welfare of our Institution. There is no officer in the Fraternity so high that he can disregard this commandment, and no member, junior or senior, but is entitled to shelter himself, from any question on the subject, under the broad privilege of inviolable secrecy. How can the ballot be secret, if there is any one in the lodge entitled to know its character? If the reasons or motives of a brother in casting a black ball can be inquired into, then it follows that the like inquisition can be had as to the motives of those casting white balls. And if motives can be inquired for, and a bad one is stated, it logically follows that the brother who is not actuated by motives satisfactory to others is subject to charges and a trial. Every brother voting on a petition has a masonic right to vote as he thinks proper. He ought to vote with a conscience void of offence against God or man, but he is not responsible for the act to any human tribunal. When a rejection takes place, the balloting should have been so "inviolably secret," that no one could possibly know how any other voted, or who cast a rejecting ballot. No one has any right to know, or even to inquire. On a ballot being spread, the brethren are placed under masonic honour that each will vote secretly, and that each one will bear his share of the burden of the result, be it what it may. If a rejection is declared each one voting should stand as one who might have cast the rejecting ballot, and no one should inquire of another as to his vote, or inquire at all, much less go about the lodge making confusion and strife, and angrily seeking unlawfully to know by whom the rejecting ballot was cast. On the contrary, when a rejection occurs, no brother ought to take offense. He who proposed the candidate exercised a masonic right, no stronger than his who rejected the petition. The brother who recommended the candidate should recollect that the stranger's admission would give offence to a brother, and compel him either to leave the lodge or fraternally acknowledge one whom he may consider degraded or dishonored, or whom he may despise. What is the applicant to us, my brethren, that we should have strife on his account? He is nothing but a stranger, while we, as Father Abraham said to Lot, "be brethren;" and I trust will ever cultivate with each other "brotherly love, the foundation and capstone, the cement and glory, of our ancient Fraternity."

Reference is made to the action of the Grand Orient of France in recognizing a body in the State of Louisiana, known as the Grand Council of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, and which presumes to grant the three first degrees in defiance of the protest of the Grand Lodge of that State; and the Grand Master recommends the withdrawal of friendly relations with the Grand Orient, so long as this recognition is continued, Accompanying the address are eight pages of closely printed matter, containing the decisions of the Grand Master on points of masonic law given during the year.

By the Grand Secretary's report it appears that the amount received by him during the year was \$67,947 64. The number of initiations during the year was 8,852; and the total number of masons on the roll was 70,333. The Grand Treasurer reports expenditures to the amount of \$67,469 99, leaving a balance in his hands of \$4,868 84.

The Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Asylum fund, reports receipts during the year to the amount of \$267,585 69, and expenditures to a like amount—\$160,000 having been paid on purchase of property. The Trustees hold property to the value of \$421,500, upon which there is due \$87,568 25