

WISCONSIN—1896.

The Fifty-second Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin began in the City of Milwaukee on Tuesday, June 9th, 1896.

M. W. Grand Master, W. W. Perry, presided.

His address is a most valuable review of the Masonic situation within his Jurisdiction, and contains many interesting observations upon subjects of a general Masonic character. He says:—

“The brother who has undertaken the task to carry out fully the teachings of Masonry should be encouraged in the good work, but only those who have had experience can say how few there are who succeed, how many have started and have fallen by the wayside. The cry of the widow and orphan; the brother who needs the strong arm of his brother to support him; the brother who feels the need of a brother who will defend his character behind his back as well as before his face; the brother who needs to be cautioned, and needs good counsel; the brother who needs the mantle of charity thrown about him; all these are about us, and are of us. And yet, the aims of Masonry find their foundation in the performance of these acts. They should naturally be expected, for they are promised. Masonry is a pleasant and safe path to travel, but alas, how forgetful we are to walk therein. Masonry purposes to make its followers just and upright men, of use to the community wherein they live, not to confine all their good deeds to those who are of the Fraternity, but to extend them to the world; so that many of the Craft have taken upon themselves burdens which are hard to bear, and not only that, but they have never been asked to put on the yoke and certainly they should be the last to complain. It was of their own volition.

“Be silent and prove yourself a Mason by your acts, not by your saying so, that the world may say you are a Mason, not by the emblems you wear, but by the deeds you perform. The world is a severe critic, and one with which, as Masons, we desire to be on the best of terms. From it we are to draw for a fresh supply of manly men, who are to succeed and indeed to fraternize with us. Out of the world comes the material which is to adorn and beautify this magnificent and stately edifice. So, when before the exacting gaze of the world, my brethren, and when you appear under the canopy of Heaven clothed in white gloves and aprons, which distinguish you from the rest of the world, and especially when you bury the dead, O! my brethren, let me caution, exhort and admonish you to be careful and acquit yourselves like men and Masons. Try and feel the great responsibility that rests upon you individually, remembering that as you appear and as you conduct yourself, and as it