

direct contradiction to the constitution. In calling your attention to these matters, it is for the very best purposes, monies lying in the hands of officers should be drawing a reasonable interest, and under no circumstances should Lodge Treasurers hold more than the amount stipulated by the constitution, which is sufficient to meet all reasonable demands from week to week. One more matter for congratulation in connection with the annual statistics, is the increase of members in good standing, namely, 174 over last year, also an increase of 199 paying cap. tax, over that of last year. With a view of compiling statistics from the commencement of the Order, and submitting the same for the perusal of this Grand Lodge, I wrote to all the Lodge Secretaries, asking for information as to number proposed, initiated, and suspended. I am sorry to say that they are so incomplete that I have decided to lay the same over for another year, when myself, or my successor, shall have an opportunity by giving the Secretaries more time for preparing the same. I do desire, however, to state in this connection, that a very large number of candidates who are proposed for membership, are never brought up for initiation, are allowed to lapse, and are entirely lost sight of, as an illustration, one Lodge alone, whose name I need not mention, received 397 propositions, and only initiated 267. The Lodge lost, not only the Lodge, but the Order lost 130 members, who might have been a very great service, this is only one Lodge, I might illustrate others, but as the returns are so incomplete and misunderstood, I propose to lay them for future reference. The returns of Bedford and Wellington Lodges has been received since the statistics were printed, consequently could not appear.

I now ask you to turn to appendix (A) on the same printed paper. Cash received during the year and handed over to the Grand Treasurer, \$1,107.97, being an increase of \$89.47 over the previous year. The receipts from cap. tax for 1882, was \$497.60, this year it is \$531.20, or an increase of \$133.60. The total receipts for the year, including balance from last year, is \$1,155.40, or an increase of \$132.90 over the previous year. It is with pleasure that we report that in addition to paying all our legitimate expenses, we have been enabled to repay \$200 to the Grand Treasurer, leaving only \$100 of a liability in that connection. The greatest economy was followed out in the opening of new Lodges, though we have organized and dedicated seven new Lodges during the year, the expenses in that connection has only been \$52.35, of this sum \$30 has been repaid back in the shape of Lodge Charters. I am pleased to report that after the re-payment of \$200 with the interest, and all other expenses, we have a cash balance of \$149.43, or an increase of \$142 over last year. The item miscellaneous expenditure for \$173.50, is made up by the purchase of Members Certificates, \$38; Jewels, \$65; Seals, \$14; W. R. D. Charts, \$25; purchase of Constitutions, \$9;