

During the session, Representatives were present from every jurisdiction under the Grand Lodge of the United States; and all the Representatives were entitled to seats except three, viz: one each from Pennsylvania, Michigan and Delaware, in 1857; and in the latter Session, Representatives were in attendance from every jurisdiction except from the Grand Encampments of North Carolina and Michigan, and all of those entitled to seats were present except six, viz: one each from Iowa, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Texas and North Carolina.

Two new sister jurisdictions were this session added to our confederation—the Grand Lodges of Kansas and Nebraska, each having five flourishing Lodges.

CONDITION OF THE ORDER.

From the R. W. Grand Secretary's Report for 1857, I learn that returns have been received from 3,505 Subordinate Lodges, having 188,712 members in good standing, and that there has been paid out of their treasuries for "relieving the sick, burying the dead, and educating the orphan," \$538,411 30: to which there is to be added \$34,040 87½, expended by the Encampment branch for the same glorious charity.

The total amount of Receipts reported in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the United States, from both branches of the Order, is \$1,226,187 07. In the Grand Secretary's Report for 1858, I find—leaving out the Grand Lodges of Arkansas and Nebraska, from which no Reports were received—3,385 Lodges. 176,700 members in good standing. There has been paid for the "relief of the sick, burying the dead, and educating the orphan," by the Subordinate Lodges, the sum of \$440,259 22, and from the Encampment branch, \$36,679 94—amounting to \$476,938 66. The gross amount of Receipts being for the fiscal year, \$1,333,841 57.

Herewith are submitted copies of the Annual Reports of the M. W. Grand Sire, and the R. W. Grand Secretary, for more particular information. I also have much pleasure in presenting to the R. W. Grand Lodge of Canada West a bound copy of the Journal of the Proceedings of the R. W. Grand Lodge of the United States, (in four volumes,) including a history of the institution of Odd Fellowship from 1819 to 1855—with the Journals for 1856, 1857 and 1858, in pamphlet form.

DECISIONS BY THE M. W. GRAND SIRE, WM. ELLISON.

First.—Whether it is competent for a Grand Lodge to grant a duplicate or any other kind of a copy of a subordinate charter to a working Lodge, and at the same time permit such Lodge to *retain the original in its possession?*

Second.—In granting a charter to take the place of one mutilated, defaced or destroyed, can the Grand Lodge change or vary the phraseology of the original charter?

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