

The Special Committee on State of the Order, submitted the following Report :

COMMITTEE ROOMS, HAMILTON, August 3d, 1865.

To the R. W. Grand Lodge of Canada West, I. O. O. F.:

Your Committee on the State of the Order and Legislation beg leave most respectfully to offer the following as their Report :

1. They have had under their serious consideration the report of the Most Worthy Grand Master, and they would take the liberty to congratulate this Grand Lodge on the prosperity, harmony and unanimity with which the Lodges in this Jurisdiction are doing their noble and holy work of Friendship, Love and Truth, and also at the reception which the M. W. Grand Master met with in his official visits and capacity as the head of the Order, from the various Lodges which were honored and benefited by his presence and counsel. But it is a source of deep regret to your Committee to hear that two of our sister Lodges have ceased to exist, yet on the whole we may be permitted to congratulate this Grand Lodge on the prosperity and increase of our beloved Order within our Jurisdiction during the fiscal year now ended. May our Order continue its course, upward and onward, until every good and true man in our common country is enrolled beneath our happy and friendly banner of Faith, Hope and Charity.

2. (A.) In reference to the decisions of the Grand Master, as submitted in his Report. First, "A member who is in good standing in the Manchester Unity wishing to join our Order can he do so and remain a member of the former, or in other words can he belong to both?" Answered in the affirmative. We believe the answer to be in accordance with law.

(B.) The next question, "Can a Lodge legally hold property in its own name?" The Grand Master says he referred the brother to the Statute, giving the Chapter and Section.

(C.) The next question, "whether a Lodge can invest the Widow's and Orphan's Fund." We believe the reply to be in every way correct, and would further add, that the Lodges should at all times invest said fund to the best advantage, but in such a manner that it could be always at the control of the Lodge, to be available at any time.

The next decision "Can a Lodge after electing a candidate to membership and previous to his admission, have they or not the right to reconsider the matter and order a new ballot for the candidate?" Answered in the affirmative. We think this question of much importance and should be well understood. For instance if the Lodge ascertains that the applicant for membership made false representation in order to gain admission into the Order, then the Lodge would clearly have the right to reconsider and reject the applicant.

The next decision was in reply to the question, "A brother who has been a member of the Order and passed all the Chairs, and had been a member of his State Grand Lodge, who cannot prove satisfactorily his standing having no card, in consequence of his Lodge having ceased to work, and joins another Lodge by initiation, has that Lodge a right to confer over again the Degrees on the Brother? Or does his initiation entitle him to the rank and position he formerly held in the Order?" Replied to in the negative as follows: That the re-initiation of a member was illegal, as a Brother can only be admitted by Card, &c., which decision we deem to be legal and in accordance with Law and usage.

(F.) The next decision was in reply to the question, "Whether if a Lodge had conferred the Degrees on a Brother, situated (as described in the preceding question and reply) would they be compelled to refund the money to the Brother which he paid for same." Replied to as follows: "That if the member was ignorant of the law and acted *bona fide*, he ought to have the money refunded, if otherwise he ought to forfeit it." In the case wherein this question was asked and reply given,