

best wishes for our brothers of other Jurisdictions close by, who have been and are now called to endure the affliction of war. Let our prayers be that they may come out of the trial as gold purified.

I take pleasure in discharging the duty of rendering an account of the work of my department; a duty made doubly pleasant by the uniform courtesy and co-operation I have received from all the brotherhood, and especially that of the M. W. Grand Master, Bro. Bingham, who has been untiring in rendering me such assistance and advice as has been almost invaluable.

As soon as possible after the last session, I attended to the printing and distribution of the Journal, sending copies to each subordinate Lodge, and to the several D. D. G. Masters and Representatives in this Jurisdiction. I also enclosed copies to the Secretary of the R. W. Grand Lodge U. S., and to each of the Grand Lodges whose address was given in the last Journal of the proceedings of the G. L. U. S. I have to acknowledge the receipt in return of the Journals of the Grand Lodges of California, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, District of Columbia, Kentucky, Indiana, Missouri, Tennessee and Maine, and also the Journal of the Grand Encampments of Iowa, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Tennessee. I am happy to say that all these, while they deeply deplore the terrible condition in which their country is placed by the cruel and desolating war now raging there, yet speak hopefully of the present and future prospects of the Order, and most of them afford undeniable evidence of the great good accomplished by the Order, which is brought more prominently into view by the dire necessity that exists for its benevolent ministrations.

In accordance with the resolution of last session, an appeal was made to each subordinate Lodge in the jurisdiction for a subscription to the Wilkey Monument Fund. To this several of the Lodges have already responded in a liberal manner, and it is hoped that ere this session close the remainder will have done likewise. The amounts received will be found in the statement herewith submitted.

The matter of purchasing the stones upon which our subordinate Lodge Charters were printed having been placed in the hands of the Executive Officers, I am happy to report, that, as the result of considerable correspondence, one special and two casual visits to Toronto, made by the M. W. Grand Master, we have at last effected the purchase of the principal stone, containing the black drawings. The other quite small stone containing the written portion had been defaced, but can be obtained at a trifling cost at any time. We contracted with Messrs. W. C. Chewett & Co. for the renewal of the written portion and the tints, and also for the printing of a limited supply of Charters for sale. For further particulars you are referred to the correspondence and memorandum of agreement made with Messrs. Chewett & Co., through whose courtesy and favor we were finally enabled to secure our object easier and earlier than we could otherwise have done, and to whom this acknowledgment is justly due. Early in the year descriptive circulars of the Charters were mailed to all accessible Grand Lodges, and sample Charters sent to a few. I would recommend the purchase of the small stone referred to above. Orders already received will very nearly, if not quite, reimburse the Grand Lodge for the purchase made, and there is every probability that when the financial, political and social affairs of our neighbors shall have regained their equilibrium, we shall be enabled to realize by the sale of Charters all that my predecessor in office anticipated in his annual report, and in view of the fact that some of our negotiations are yet incomplete would recommend that the whole matter be left in present hands for another year.

The original Dispensation of Chatham Lodge (a Charter having been granted instead) has been cancelled in accordance with the resolution of Grand Lodge.