

misguided men have been carried away by their blarneyings and by representations made to them, so that they have allied themselves with this rebellious movement to subvert the authority of this Grand Lodge, their industry and activity during the past five months have secured for them the small handful of men whose names appear above as suspended by me. And the men so suspended, I need scarcely tell you, in most instances have been the discontented and disappointed members of some of our Lodges who have looked for personal promotion and advantage rather than the furtherance of Masonic aims and objects.

When we reflect that out of 305 Lodges on our registry in active life and vigor, not one has accorded any support whatever to the seditious movement, and that from over 16,000 Masons in active membership, and at least an equal number of unaffiliated, making in all considerably over 30,000, they have not been able to secure a more important following than appears above, we may be assured that neither success nor good in any form can attend their efforts, and that naught but disaster and disgrace will be the portion of those who have been so unmindful of their obligations, and of all who follow after or participate with them.

2. It is next said by the so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario that with us "that active benevolence which is highly characteristic of true Masonry has become covered with the cold charity of distrust and selfishness, and the Grand Lodge funds have been spent lavishly in banquets and honours and testimonials to the rich, while to the poor, the needy and the distressed of the craft charities have been meagrely, and apparently, grudgingly doled out."

My Brethren—what should be said of men so unworthy as to hurl at the heads of the members of Grand Lodge charges so unfounded and statements which you know to be so much at variance from the truth?

(a.) Not one dollar of Grand Lodge funds was ever expended at a banquet or on refreshments of any kind.

(b.) The few testimonials presented by Grand Lodge since its formation, and the distinguished services rendered by those who have been the recipients of the same, and in most cases the great pecuniary and other sacrifices made by those who have been singled out by Grand Lodge to be thus honoured, justify me in dismissing this subject of attack with the simple reminder that no objection was ever raised to any of the testimonials voted, either, by Bro. Westlake or any who now join with him. On the contrary Bro. Westlake seconded the motion for one of these testimonials, and acquiesced in the propriety of voting the others.

(c.) Bro. Westlake has been one of the most determined opponents of the scheme for the erection of a Masonic Asylum, and seconded a motion to abolish that trust, and for the distribution of the funds collected for the erection of such a home for aged and indigent brethren, and for the widows and orphans of impoverished members of our Order.

(d.) The liberality of the Grand Lodge in the matter of benevolence is too well known to require comment from me, and I may mention that irrespective of special grants and annuities made on this account, the expenditure of Grand Lodge on account of Benevolence from 1867 to 1875, inclusive amounted to no less than \$32,836. Every application to the Grand Lodge for assistance from our fund of benevolence has been liberally considered, and no instances can be named in which the necessities of the applicants have not been most charitably and generously dealt with; and it should be borne in mind that such grants have been in many cases only supplementary to the moneys dispensed by the private Lodges through the officers, and committees. In order that the extent to which such assistance is afforded to our brethren in distress and their families may be understood, I may be permitted to say that through the Board of Relief in Toronto there was dispensed

In twelve months ending 30th June, 1874.....	\$ 1499 00
" " " " 1875.....	1364 00
" " " " 1876.....	1,348 00

and through the like Board of Relief at Hamilton,

In twelve months ending 30th June, 1874.....	\$ 614 00
" " " " 1875.....	421 00
" " " " 1876.....	389 00

and somewhat similar sums in preceding years, to all of which should be added the moneys directly voted by the lodges in those places; whilst the local boards of relief in other cities and towns, as well as the Lodges throughout the country have, with an equally generous hand, ministered to the wants of all who have been in need of assistance. It is not necessary, however, that I should detain you with an enumera-