

While under this head I may be permitted to call the attention of Grand Chapter to the apparent negligence manifested by some few Subordinate Chapters in making their returns. It is highly important that these should be punctually attended to, in order that Grand Scribe E. should not be delayed in preparing and completing his annual statements. I would suggest that some more stringent method should be adopted by Grand Chapter to remedy this seemingly growing laxity.

In the month of February last an offer was made me of a Grand Z's regalia, at what was considered a very low price, and by the advice of a number of the Executive Committee I was induced to purchase it for the use of Grand Chapter, and for which I caused a cheque to be drawn on the Grand Treasurer for the sum of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00), and which action I trust this Grand Body will fully endorse.

#### DISPENSATIONS.

During the year a number of applications have been made to me for dispensations to open new Chapters, and when properly recommended by the several District Grand Superintendents, have been, after careful inquiry and mature consideration, granted, the names and localities are as follows: Grand River, Waterloo; Prince of Wales, Amherstburg; Keystone, St. Thomas; Erie, Port Stanley; Beaver, Strathroy; St. Clair, Milton; Mount Nebo, Drummondville.

These several Chapters are, I am informed, regularly organized and in good working order, and I cheerfully recommend Grand Chapter to confirm the same and cause their several warrants to be issued in due course.

One other petition of a like nature has been received by me, from the City of Toronto which, for good and sufficient reasons, I felt myself compelled to decline granting, leaving the petitioners to apply to Grand Chapter if so advised. This petition, together with other documents relating thereto, will be laid before the Executive Committee for their consideration.

A great number of applications have been made to me during the year for dispensations to instal Companions, who were otherwise ineligible, in the chairs of First and Second Principals, and on this point I may, perhaps, have acted over cautiously, having in many cases declined granting them, firmly believing that the hasty granting of such dispensations frequently tends to promote jealousy and ill feeling among the members of a Chapter, and is certainly opposed to the spirit of the Constitution of Grand Chapter. However, where I was fully convinced that the necessity of the case actually required it, I did, in some instances, accede to their request. I am not aware at the present moment whether the system of recording these applications for dispensations suggested by Most Ex. Companion Seymour at the last convocation of Grand Chapter has been adopted, but I cordially agree with him as to the necessity of such a system being at once entered upon, as it would prove of great value as a book of reference.

Some time since I received a petition from a number of Companions in the Town of Sherbrooke, asking a dispensation to reorganize Golden Rule Chapter, located in that Town (which I regret to say has not been working for some years), and also to enable them to elect officers for the current year, and at the same time requesting me to remit the payment of certain monies due Grand Chapter. As will be seen by the statement in the last year's published Proceedings, no returns have been made by this Chapter since 1869, and the amount appearing to be due by them at that date was \$51.00, which they express their willingness to pay. I replied that I was willing to grant the dispensation asked for but that the power of remission of dues rested only with Grand Chapter, to which I suggested an application. In view of this appeal, I have deemed it my duty to lay this matter before you for such action as you may think proper.

#### REPRESENTATIVES.

During the year I received notice of the appointment of R. Ex. Companion I. H. Stearns, of Montreal, as representative of the Grand Chapter of the State of New Hampshire near this Grand Body. I have to congratulate the R. Ex. Companion on his appointment to that dignified position, feeling sure that Grand Chapter will duly recognize the honor so deservedly merited. My immediate predecessor, M. Ex. Companion Seymour, having before retiring from office nominated M. Ex. Companion Kimball as our Representative near the Grand Chapter of the State of Massachusetts, I caused the necessary credentials to be forwarded to that most worthy Companion, who is now performing the duties.

Upon the proper recommendations being received, I appointed Most Ex. Companion A. H. Bartley, Past Grand H. P. of Mississippi, as our representative near the Grand Chapter of that State, and the usual authority to assume the duties has been forwarded to him. I trust these two appointments will be confirmed by Grand Chapter.

#### AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION.

Your attention will, no doubt, be called to the following amendment to the Con-