

accomplished much in directing public sentiment on a subject which, as faithful conservators of a truly noble, patriotic and righteous cause, we are bound, upon our sacred honor, as men, to keep prominently before the world. Our Order has passed through many vicissitudes, incident however to all human organizations aiming at the elevation of our fellow-men. In the zenith of its prosperity, embracing a membership of over 17,000, and having many fluctuations in the interval, we have this day to present you with statistics showing a large declension in our membership. I mention this subject thus early in my Report that your minds may be fixed on some comprehensive effort, to throw new life, new activity, new material, into our Order. However, we have much reason to be thankful that, while other organizations for the same object have fallen into decay and forgetfulness, "the flag of the Red, White and Blue" still floats in the breeze, and its central star shines forth, emitting rays of light and hope and joy to the tempest-tossed mariner on the turbid sea of dissipation and despondency.

May this Session be characterised for peace and harmony; may strong hearts and willing hands, here assembled, give their serious attention to the revival of the Order; and may "He who alone is able to keep us from falling", give you wisdom in all your deliberations for the elevation of the human race.

Without considering at large the causes of our declension in membership, I consider that the nonpayment of dues has been a fruitful cause of the loss and expulsion of our members. Dues, in many cases, have been allowed to accumulate to a considerable sum, and the number of apathetic members so indebted has become so large that wholesale suspension, and often expulsion, has been resorted to. Fully aware that the duties of the Financial Scribes in our Subordinates are somewhat onerous, and perhaps the most responsible in the Division, I would urge on the attention of the brethren more prompt and regular attention to this matter at the expiration of each quarter, as the laws and our Constitution require. The late general election has also doubtless diverted public attention from our Order and its objects. While some may be engaged in advocating our principles, many have become discouraged and have retired from the field. The present season should be diligently improved for the education and elevation of the public mind. There is now a political calm, and the public ear will listen to, and the mind apprehend, the truth, plainly and forcibly uttered. Are you, brothers, prepared to avail yourselves of this seed time? "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under Heaven."

As anticipated, there has been as yet no session of the National Division of North America since the Annual Session of June, 1860. Conformably with the notice received at your Semi-Annual Session, a joint Session of the Grand Divisions of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Eastern New York was held at Cape May in July last, the Most Worthy Patriarch being present; on which occasion the Most Worthy Patriarch was advised, after considerable discussion, to convene the National Division in the City of Montreal, C.E., in June, 1862. Your Representative faithfully carried out your instructions by advocating Toronto, but was pleased that a location was fixed on, only perhaps second to that which he advocated as your choice. The recommendation of that Advisory Session was considered final until the recent publication of a circular from the Most Worthy Patriarch, from which it appears that (assuming the impossibility of meeting in Nashville, Tennessee) the location of the Bi-Annual Session remains an open question;