

the same accepted by, the brethren, and our Past R. W. G. T. was employed and commissioned to visit New Zealand and Australia, in the interests of the Order. Brother Hastings sailed from San Francisco in December last, arriving in New Zealand in January, and, as has been stated, he instituted one of the Grand Lodges in New Zealand. The reception given to our distinguished brother was a compliment to our entire Order, as well as a merited tribute to a zealous and worthy brother. I have much pleasure in stating to you that all questions of difference have been settled to the satisfaction of all parties, the irregularities in the work corrected, and many letters have been received from our brethren thanking us for sending him to them, and speaking in glowing terms of the great good accomplished by his visit. I am also glad to inform you that the Executive Committee were enabled to make such arrangements with the Executives of New Zealand and Australia that the expense to this body was nominal, and has not taken any funds from our treasury, as the greater part of the expense to be borne by this body was to be collected from the Executives there, and the remainder was, by my direction, charged against me. For particulars of arrangement, I refer you to the report of the Executive. The good accomplished by the visit of Brother Hastings has more than repaid us already.

SOUTH AFRICA.

There are several Lodges in the western portion of South Africa which refuse to acknowledge the authority of the Grand Lodge of South Africa. They claim never to have joined in the petition for the Grand Lodge charter, and allege that the distance is so great that they never could have representation in the Grand Lodge, and they therefore ask to remain under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England for the present. We may have made some mistake in granting the charter of South Africa to cover so much territory. I desire that you give special attention to the matters pertaining to the Order in South Africa.

FINANCES.

While we have not been able to collect as much of the indebtedness to the Right Worthy Grand Lodge as we could have liked (owing to the depression of the times and the stringency of money matters), yet recent collections give us, I think, sufficient for our present purposes. There is still a large amount due this body from the several Grand Lodges. The Grand Secretaries have been repeatedly called upon for payment, but in many instances they have replied that it was impossible owing to the great scarcity of money. With the funds on hand, including the several amounts due, the Secretary will report quite as large, if not in excess of any previous session. Owing to the failure of the Grand Lodges to pay their indebtedness, we have been greatly crippled in our missionary efforts during the year. On this account the Executive Committee could not carry out fully the request of this body in reference to the employment of Bro. Russell, if the finances of the Order would