

GRAND LODGE OF COLORADO.

The ninth annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Colorado was opened at Denver on Tuesday, the 28th September, A.L., 5869, the constitutional number of lodges being represented.

M. W. Bro. Henry M. Teller, Grand Master, mentioned in the course of his earnest and able address, the circumstances under which he had deemed it necessary to reject certain applications for dispensations to open lodges. In one case the brethren had furnished no evidence of the ability of the proposed W. M. to confer degrees and take charge, nor was the M. W. satisfied of the existence of suitable Masonic material in the neighborhood to justify the action, and moreover it was stated that the brethren urging the application had already incurred considerable expense, and were in debt accordingly. Upon this last point the G.M. says:

"If there had been no other objection to granting the dispensation except this, I should have refused it. A lodge cannot make a worse start than to be in debt, and if there is not sufficient interest taken among the brethren to see that the lodge starts out of debt, I think it well to let them wait."

In another case, although perfectly satisfied of the ability of the proposed W. M., and of the initial solvency of the proposed lodge, the G.M. considered it best to refuse the dispensation, from a due regard to the sparseness of population in the vicinity and the uncertainty of many of the brethren as to permanent residence. He justly says, and the words are worth weighing:

"The great expense attendant on supporting a lodge in this new country often renders it a burden instead of a benefit, and perhaps a few brethren are compelled to keep up the lodge at quite a sacrifice. The demands of the lodge for money to meet the current expenses become so pressing that when a petition is presented the brethren think more of the advantage to be derived by the candidate's election in a pecuniary view, than of the qualifications which should recommend him to be made a Mason. It is impossible for a small lodge, embarrassed with debts, to do justice to the fraternity at large. I trust that no one will think that I am losing sight of the fact that the strength of a lodge does not consist in numbers, or the amount in its treasury, but in the virtue, zeal and intelligence of its members."

The G. M. calls attention to one of the standing resolutions of Grand Lodge making it "the imperative duty of the subordinate lodges in the jurisdiction to restrain as far as possible the Masonic crime of intemperance, by trial and suspension or expulsion, as the case may require." Upon this point he adds:

"I trust the Worshipful Masters of the subordinate lodges will endeavor by all means in their power, to comply with the requirements of this resolution, ever remembering that due allowance must be made for the weakness of humanity, and that they are not to aggravate the offences of their brethren, but judge with candor, admonish with friendship, and reprehend with justice, tempered with mercy."

The death of Past Grand Master Allyn Weston, a permanent member of the Grand Lodge, who had been its first Grand Lecturer and its second Grand Master, is feelingly alluded to in the address, and the hope expressed that the Grand body would take suitable steps to do honor to the memory of so esteemed and beloved a brother, and in con-