

required by our Constitution and Ancient Usage, to lay before you an account of my official acts, and such other matters as seem to me to be of general interest.

Condition of the Order.

In addition to what has already been stated, I am thankful to report from personal observation and correspondence with my Deputies, that Odd Fellowship in this jurisdiction is fulfilling its mission, and justifies its claim to rank first among those moral agencies which, by the dissemination of the principles of our cardinal virtues, Friendship, Love and Truth, tend to hasten the day when

"Man to man the world o'er
Shall brothers be for a' that ;"

for let it ever be remembered that Odd Fellowship is something incomparably more than the mere almoner of the contributions of the many to the necessities of the few.

By constitutional provisions and long established custom, admission to our Lodges is carefully guarded, but it is left for Committees on Character to carefully and conscientiously perform their important duty, and to members, by a wise discrimination in the use of the ballot, to preserve our Order free from the unworthy. I believe that in the main this discretion is judiciously exercised by our Lodges, and where, perchance, the unworthy is found, rigid discipline is applied and enforced. I am further led to believe that, while the Ritualistic portions of our work are fairly well rendered, a desire exists throughout our Lodges for improvement in this respect, which should be met on the part of this Grand Lodge, by providing for the holding of Lodges of Instruction in as many of our subordinates as may be practicable ; a portion of the expense to be borne by the Grand Lodge, and the rest by the Lodge or Lodges benefitted thereby. It should be the aim of this Grand Body to see that the ceremonies of the Order are rendered in a becoming and dignified manner, free of everything partaking of the ludicrous, so that the sublime teachings of the Initiatory and other Degrees may be conveyed to the candidate in a way calculated to make a favorable and lasting impression. Subordinate Lodges, of course, can aid in this by seeing that brothers elected or appointed to office are thoroughly competent for their respective positions. The training of Degree Teams, to share the