

that to every one of us it has brought something of hope and of consolation. If it has imposed some burdens, it has relieved us of others. It may have tendered us opportunities which we have neglected, yet I am sure it has given us some of which we have been able to avail ourselves in the interests of humanity. Not always can we live up to the full measure of our desires; yet it is good to cherish high aspirations and to indulge in lofty thoughts, for these must result in some accomplishments. If, upon a rigid examination of our lives, we find something for self-condemnation, that same examination may justify the belief that we have not lived in vain—that we have done something for our fellows—and that our Father who is in Heaven will, with compassionate kindness, measure our work by our hopes and our wishes and our efforts, and not by our failures.

We had on our roll last year twenty-two active members, two past-active members, and two honorary members. We have that number now, so that we are all spared to take part in the duties and pleasures of this day. Will all do so? As I look around these walls I find my answer. Probably we cannot expect all our active members to be present. We are glad when even half the number come; and if we complain of the continued absence of some (whose faces we might almost forget, so rarely do we see them), we do not do so in any spirit of fault-finding. It is rather because we are without assistance which we would like to have, counsel to which we would be glad to hearken, fellowship in which we would be delighted to mingle. Doubtless, many of our members find that great difficulties intervene to prevent them coming to these annual meetings; yet in accepting position here they have assumed duties which, if not as imperative as destiny, at least demand fulfilment, even at considerable personal inconvenience and trouble. We all know that geographical and other considerations in the interest of the Rite demand an increase of the membership in this Council, but if we could devise some plan by which increase of membership would bring greater regularity of attendance at these annual sessions we would all be very much pleased.

Our relations with the Supreme Councils of our correspondence are pleasant and harmonious. With none of them have arisen any matters which require a reference to Supreme Council. The Supreme Council of Brazil has informed us that Ill. Bro. MACEDO is still our representative at its Grand East, and that his name was dropped from their published list by an accident.

The Supreme Council for Italy has named Ill. Bro. HUGH MURRAY as their representative here, and in that capacity we gladly welcome him.

With Past Grand Commander HUTTON and Ill. Bro. STEARNS, our Grand Marshal, I visited this year the Supreme Council for the Northern Jurisdiction of the United States, which held its annual session in September last at the Cathedral of the Rite in the city of New York, and was present the greater part of two days. To say that we received a cordial, a hearty welcome, would be but faintly to describe the warmth of our reception. Brethren who regularly honor us with their presence here, Brethren who had met us before, those who now greeted us for the first time, were alike eager in their desires to

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