

assembled to transact the business of this, the twenty-first annual session, I trust we come with true fidelity to the principles we advocate, and with kindness and fraternal regard for one another; and above all, that we come with hearts full of love and gratitude to our Heavenly Father for his great goodness toward us, and for the great prosperity which under divine favor and blessing has attended the efforts of our laborers to advance our order and cause. Especially should we be grateful for the happiness and peace which are realized under the protection of our banner of "Faith, Hope and Charity." If we come not in faith, and come forgetting the responsibilities which rest upon us, as members and representatives, then to a great extent will our deliberations be fruitless, and the progress of our order be retarded. But coming, as I trust we do, with a full sense of these responsibilities and the solemn duties which are before us, leaning on the strong arm of One who is able to give us strength, and who will aid us in all our righteous labors, we may confidently expect much good to be done, the meeting pleasant and harmonious, and our legislation wise and prudent; and when our session shall have closed, we can return to our respective homes to continue our labors of love with renewed strength and zeal.

NEW GRAND LODGES.

During the year of 1874, and up to the present time, more new Grand Lodges have been organized than during any previous year in the history of our order. I therefore take pleasure in calling your attention to the following list of Grand Lodges organized since our last annual convocation:

THE GRAND LODGE OF SOUTH AFRICA organized on the 29th May, 1874, by Bro. J. F. Smith, D.D.E.W.G.T. The Hon. J. Geard, of Port Elizabeth, a man of prominence and influence, and a member of the Legislative Council of that country, was elected G. W. C. T.; Bro J. F. Smith, a zealous and earnest worker, was elected G. W. S. The Order under their direction is spreading rapidly.

THE GRAND LODGE OF NEW SOUTH WALES was organized on the 25th May, 1874, by Bro. Joseph Wearne, D.D.R.W.G.T. The Grand Lodge is ably officered, and we have great confidence that the Order will rapidly spread under their direction.

THE GRAND LODGE OF TASMANIA was organized on the same day (May 25th, 1874), by W. Fisher, D.R.W.G.T., who was elected G. W. C. T., and Bro. P. Facy, jr., elected G. W. S. I have confidence in these brethren, and from what I know of them by correspondence, I consider them well worthy of the high and honorable positions to which they have been called.

THE GRAND LODGE OF QUEBEC was organized on the 1st day of July, 1874, by Bro. W. S. Williams, R. W. G. S., assisted by Bros. John Ormiston, of Her Majesty's Customs, G. W. C. T., of Canada, J. A. Fairbanks, Esq., G. W. C. T., of Nebraska, and T. W. Casey, G. W. S.