

GRAND LODGE A. F. & A. M. OF ILLINOIS.

THE thirty-seventh Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois, was held in Chicago, on 3rd 4th and 5th of October, Deputy Grand Master Robbins acting in the absence of Grand Master Lounsbury, who has been compelled to seek relief from failing health in Colorado.

In the acting Grand Master's address special reference was made to the Masonic schism in Canada in this wise :

"Masonic Relations.—So far as I am informed, our relations with other Grand Lodges are of the most fraternal character. Application for recognition, and an exchange of representatives has been received from a body styling itself the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Ontario, having its pretended seat of government at London, in that Province. From an accompanying document, it appears that the following provision has been incorporated into the constitution of this new body : "In case of the sickness of any brother, disqualifying him from labor, three dollars per week is to be appropriated by the lodge to which he belongs, for his sustenance; and in case of the death of any brother, fifty dollars is to be appropriated by the Grand Lodge for the benefit of his widow and orphans, if any."

The Grand Lodge of Canada, with which we are in fraternal correspondence, and which is everywhere recognized as a sovereign body, already fully occupies the territory of the Province of Ontario; but were it not so, the Grand Lodge of Illinois could not enter into fraternal relations with an organization which, by the incorporation of the above-quoted provision into its organic law, had already taken itself out of the category of Masonic bodies. The doctrine on which that provision is based is utterly subversive of the principles and groundwork of Masonry, and the provision itself at once converts the society built upon it into a mutual benefit society, with which Masonry can have nothing in common until it shall have lost those grand characteristics which distinguish it as a charitable, instead of an insurance association. That in recent years we have been drifting in a mercenary direction, and coming to make Masonry more and more a matter of dollars and cents, cannot be doubted, nor can any thoughtful brother view without alarm the increasing tendency in this direction. Heretofore these tendencies have manifested themselves only in such ways as to make their repression by legislative action difficult; but now that they have culminated in this revolutionary innovation, attempted by a body otherwise so revolutionary as to compel action with reference to it, I trust that the Grand Lodge of Illinois, while recognizing in unmistakable terms the jurisdictional rights of the Grand Lodge of Canada, will in terms no less unmistakable emphasize its determination to hold no intercourse with any self-styled Masonic body whose organic law is a denial of that fundamental principle of Masonry, which more than any other is characteristic and vital."

The committee on jurisprudence reported that they concurred in all the decisions of the Grand Master; that they approved his views concerning the so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario, and that they recommend that he should issue an edict forbidding Masonic intercourse with that body, its subordinates or members.

AN IMPORTANT HISTORICAL FACT.

TO THE OFFICERS AND COMPANIONS OF GATE OF TEMPLE CHAPTER, NO. 208, R. A. M.,
NEW YORK.

COMPANIONS,— Tradition, the Bible, and certain written and unwritten information which has been transmitted to us, have to a certain degree familiarized us with the Temple Builders, the Temple, its vast extent and magnificence, as also the rites and observances celebrated therein. We have also learned through the above sources to form a just conception of the greatness and magnificence, grandeur and wealth of the Jewish nation when at its zenith. We have hitherto entertained the belief that everything that the field of diligent enquiry, a search of the Scriptures and erudition could bring to light, had been obtained, and that nothing remained for us to accomplish in that direction—our efforts being limited to the availing ourselves of the material which the labors of our predecessors have secured for us. Such, however, strictly speaking, is not the case, and "another stone fit for the builder's use" has been found in a most