

Permit me in the first place, brethren, to offer you my warm congratulations in meeting you again under circumstances so glad some and auspicious. Here we are met brethren of the mystic tie, of the "Three Links," in open Grand Lodge, under our own vine and fig tree, to endeavor to advance the interests of our Order. With thankfulness we should review the past, the Head Master of the universe having permitted us to meet as Representatives and brothers, in the principles of Friendship, Love and Truth. We should not only hail each other in the ties of Odd Fellowship, but feel thankful to Almighty God for his sparing mercy, in preserving our lives through another year, and in health and strength granting us the felicity of coming together once more.

Brethren, ours is a noble cause, worthy of our attention, and worthy of a little sacrifice. Great is the work before us; to alleviate human misery, raise the fallen, succor the distressed, and dry the orphan's and the widow's tear, is the sacred office of an Odd Fellow. What work more noble? More delightfully great and good? All mankind may engage in it and labor, no matter how exalted their station or elevated their position. Our Order has never been more prosperous nor more successful. Our ranks are now filling up, I trust with good, true and faithful men who will endeavor to promote its prosperity, and prove themselves worthy of the honor conferred on them. Yet, while we rejoice and take courage that our membership is being steadily increased, our ranks filling up and the Order generally on the increase, I have to state that as is usually the case, a few Lodges have died out during the year, and became defunct for want of proper interest taken by its members, and dishonest acts of its officers, clearing out with books, papers and funds intrusted to their keeping, and other members in good standing removing to different parts of Canada and the United States.

In concert with the Grand Master I visited several Lodges during the past year. All goes well, large prosperity following the good cause and work in Western Canada. The reception we met with everywhere was cordial and brotherly—just such a welcome as only a good Odd Fellow can give and appreciate.

Immediately after the session of the Grand Lodge, held at London, C. W., I compiled the Proceedings thereof, and according to instructions I caused two hundred copies to be printed and forwarded to all the Lodges, and officers under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada West. Also to all Grand Lodges and Grand Encampments under the jurisdiction of the R. W. Grand Lodge of the United States. I beg to acknowledge the receipt of Journals of Proceedings, as follows, viz: The R. W. G. Lodge of the United States, the Grand Lodges of Kentucky, California, New Hampshire, Ohio, Massachusetts, Southern New York, Pennsylvania, State of Maine, Indiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Columbia, Michigan, Kansas, Connecticut, Iowa, Minnesota, Oregon, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Maryland. Grand Encampments viz: Massachusetts, Tennessee, Ohio and California; all of which proclaim glowing prosperity of our Order in those several jurisdictions. The said Proceedings are now in the possession of this Grand Lodge.

(1.) Brethren, the correspondence of the past year will be laid before you for your deliberation, nothing of any importance has been received by your Secretary.

(2.) I received a circular from the R. W. Grand Secretary, Bro. John F. Dristol of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island, notifying this Grand Body that the Charter of Friendly Union Lodge, No. 1. of Providence, was annulled and said Lodge suspended for non-compliance of resolution of said Grand Lodge. I immediately notified all subordinate Lodges under this Jurisdiction of the suspension of said Lodge, and to govern themselves accordingly.

(3.) I received a communication from Jared M. Gleeson and Charles N. Male, dated Lockport, U. S., July 10th, 1865, enclosing one dollar green-back, and requesting me to forward them Cards of Clearance, as members in good