

office, with its entire contents, had to succumb to the raging flames; with fearful haste we escaped therefrom, saving only our most valuable private papers. All the Proceedings of Grand Lodges were burned. We had not time to send to the different Grand Secretaries for other copies, and, if we had, we could not see the spare time to review them, because we deemed the re-building of our burnt properties, and the aiding in the re-building of our once beautiful city, the paramount duty.

After devoting the whole day long to both mental and physical labour, as everybody had to do, in order to rise from the heavy blow of such an extraordinary catastrophe, nature demanded all the night rest possible to obtain.

We may be pardoned for the following and somewhat personal sketch. In sooth, we do it to give the reader from afar some idea of the extent of our calamity, and the herculean efforts required from every citizen to rise from the dreadful effects.

A young city of thirty thousand souls; ten millions of its best property destroyed in two hours, not more than one hundred days from severe winter, with only two and one-half millions of Underwriter's insurance.

Now, Brethren, in the face of the situation before us, we promptly say—no time for writing reports, or any other duty excepting placing brick and mortar.

Bro. Ziegler is right. Masonry requires no man to neglect, for its sake, his material interests, or those of his family, his employers, his clients or his patients; and those who boast of neglecting duty for Masonry gain none of our sympathy thereby.

M. W. BRO. WILLIAM A. FAIRWEATHER,
Grand Master.

R. W. BRO. THOMAS MILBURNE REED,
Grand Secretary.

WEST VIRGINIA.—1889.

THE Twenty-fifth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of West Virginia was held at Wheeling, on the 12th November, 1889, Grand Master GUSTAV BROWN presiding. The address of the Grand Master and the proceedings of the Grand Lodge were of local importance only.

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