

"The formative principle of Masonry finds its illustration in that principle of science by which the most minute and apparently isolated facts resolve themselves into systems; these systems again are bound together in still wider systems; complex laws, as we ascend higher in the scale of being, unfold their complex operations, and assume simpler forms. And so we go from infinite diversity, to a higher and higher unity, until we find all reduced to a unity of one universe, beneath the throne of one God.

"From this fundamental principle of science springs the development of the mind, in the activity of thought, and the various applications of the conclusions gained.

"In the Brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God, is the unity of one human family; and this principle is the formative principle of Masonry. The realization of this sublime fact develops obligations, moral, religious and political. But Masonry aims not at the presentment or enforcement of obligations abstractly considered, only at the inculcation of the family relationship, from which spring morality, religion, civil obedience and progress. Other organizations and instrumentalities, Divine and human, have their legitimate place in the world's history, to which Masonry claims only to be the handmaid, and from which Masonry welcomes light and truth, and all elements that tend to the realization and perfection of the Brotherhood that is her peculiar mission to insist upon, and illustrate;

'For so the whole round earth, is every way
Bound by golden chains, about the feet of God.'

The reports of the Grand Treasurer and Secretary do not exhibit Grand Lodge funds in a very healthy condition. The balance in the hands of the Treasurer at the beginning of the year was \$4,969 34; and there was received on loan the sum of \$4,000. These two items, with the ordinary receipts of the year, amounted together to \$19,816 14; while the disbursements for the year amounted to \$20,749 43. Of this amount no less than \$6,991 20 went to pay representatives for their attendance at Grand Lodge, and \$9,771 77 went towards roofing and repairs of "Grand Masonic Hall." Not a dollar was expended in benevolence.

There are 381 lodges under warrant, and 31 U. D., having a membership of 21,205. During the year there were initiated 2,301 candidates. There were suspended during the year 311, and expelled 79.

M. W. Bro. Martin H. Rice was re-elected Grand Master, and R. W. Bro. John Bramwell Grand Secretary.

GRAND LODGE OF CONNECTICUT.

The eighty-first annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, commenced its sittings at New Haven on May 12th, 1869, 93 lodges being represented.

M. W. Bro. Storer, Grand Master, delivered a very interesting address, in which his official acts for the year are fully detailed, and from which we learn that the Craft is in a prosperous condition in the State. Dispensations for four new lodges had been issued during the year, and a number of official visitations had been made.

A most unfortunate event had occurred during the year, the particulars of which are stated in the Grand Master's address. The Grand Treasurer, Bro. Benjamin Beecher, had during the year appropriated