

put up the fun that "Rastus" is capable of. Last fall, when the High Court Deputies were working with us, one of them stated that Court Stanford had the first meeting place of any place they had visited in the State. We have a large hall with all modern improvements, banquet hall, kitchen, large range, fine piano, easy chairs, carpets, and all things, making a comfortable place for members to spend their meeting-nights in.

COLUSA, Cal., Dec. 4th, 1899.

To the Officers and Members of Court Sioc, No. 1067, I.O.F.

DEAR BROTHERS,—With one leg amputated, with the other and both arms paralyzed, with a large family dependent upon me without income and without means. I lay helpless and almost without hope, when your representatives handed me the check for \$1,500 in full payment of my total disability claim.

Words are useless as vehicles by which to convey my appreciation of such timely succor in this hour of dire extremity.

Let me pray that God may bless you individually and as a Court, and may He spare for many years the S.C.R. Oronhyatekha and his able coadjutors that they may continue and perpetuate the noble institution of the I.O.F. in its heaven-born labor of relief to the sorely distressed.

Yours in L., B. and C.,

Jos. S. WEST.

### ILLINOIS.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 22, 1899.

Court Virginia, No. 1849, is "getting a move on." At our first meeting in December we initiated 8 new members and received 10 new applications, Bro. Kennedy doing most of the hustling for new members. By the way, Bro. Kennedy was presented with a solid gold charm watch of the Order by Court Virginia. We are organizing a sick fund and give a reception and ball on Saturday evening, Dec. 30th, 1899, at the Schiller Theatre Building. Being assured of its success, we mean to keep the Court before the public by giving entertainments every month during the balance of the winter. We elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Bro. Wm. Purcell, C.R.; Bro. Hudson, V.C.R.; Bro. Rubens, F.S.; Bro. Rubens, Treas.; Bro. Peterson, R.S.; Ed. F. Blake, C.D.

### IOWA.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA, Dec. 29, 1899.

I would like to take up a few lines in your valuable paper, and give you a few items from Council Bluffs, Iowa. Courts Council Bluffs, 3786, and William Frise, 1626, are getting along nicely. Court Council Bluffs, which meets on every Wednesday evening, has yet to have the first meeting at which from 4 to 8 candidates are not initiated. I find it much easier now to secure members for the I.O.F. than at the time I started. Since commencing work for the Order last September, I have secured close to 100 applications, which is fairly good considering the extra large number of Fraternal Orders in this city. I feel it my duty to mention our Chief Ranger, Col. Budtz, who has been re-elected for the year 1900. He takes an unlimited interest in the Order, and especially in the welfare of Court Council Bluffs. Wednesday even-

ing, Dec. 20th, we were visited by the members of Court Ak Sar Ben of Omaha, Neb., who brought over their regalia (at the expense of C. R. Budtz), and put on the work to the extreme satisfaction of all present. We have now an expert Recording Secretary in the person of Bro. John Corlies. All the officers of Court Council Bluffs are well up in their work, and, with the exception of four, all the old officers were re-elected. Bro. Harrison, orator of Court Council Bluffs, and a bright young attorney, fills his position very admirably, as also does our Vice-Chief Ranger, Bro. Geo. Gable. The new officers were installed by me on Wednesday last, Dec. 27. I look for a good large Court of the Foresters in this city. We are going to give an invitation Fancy Dress Ball on Wednesday evening, January 10, which we expect will be an elaborate affair, Bro. Harvey De Long being chairman of the committee and an expert in his line. We now put on our own initiation, much to the satisfaction of the candidates. Not wishing to take up any more of your valuable space, I will now close.

Fraternally yours in L., B. & C.,

FRANK ELGAN, D.S.C.R.

### MAINE.

#### The War in Old Town.

The following two letters will show the way they do things in Court Penobscot:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—By dispensation of the Supreme Court relative to the admission of members at reduced rates, the term has been extended through December.

I want to tell you that I think you have earned that oyster supper promised us by the other side if we won the contest, but as they have made an extension in time, I suppose we shall have to stay our stomachs with the wind that blows from some other table until the contest is over. We are at present about thirty members ahead, but in order to still keep this number in advance, we shall have to do some tall hustling.

They ought to feed us, now we've beat,

And give us oyster stew to eat;

Not keep us waiting the whole year through,

But pay up like men as they ought to do.

But we can wait a little longer,

Until the oysters are a little stronger;

Until the milk gets thin and blue,

And then the whole thing will slip through.

But never mind, we will give the thing one more push and come out on top just the same. Every member securing a new beneficiary member during the month will be given the Extension of the Order Tax for one year.

Trusting you will do your best to secure a new member, I remain,

Yours in L., B. and C.,

C. E. RACKLIFF.

OLD TOWN, ME., Dec. 1, 1899.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—By dispensation of the Supreme Court, I.O.F., the October and November dispensation relative to admission of members at reduced rates is extended through December with a further incentive to earnest work by remitting the Extension of the Order Tax to each member obtaining one new accepted beneficiary member during the month.