

These brethren have one and all discharged the various duties devolving upon them in a most able and satisfactory manner, and deserve the thanks of this Grand Lodge in seconding the efforts put forth by your Executive head for the advancement of the Order.

P. C.'s Hatch and Townsend, at considerable inconvenience to themselves, kindly rendered me valuable assistance when making official visitations.

RULINGS AND DECISIONS.

1st. A ruling was asked through one of my Deputies as to whether a member over three months in arrears was entitled to receive benefits. My answer to this question was as follows: That, although the By-law of the Lodge provided for the space of six months before becoming in arrears, that under Article X., Section 2, of the Constitution, the member was not entitled to receive benefits, and that no By-law of subordinate Lodges could contravene the Constitution.

2nd. My approval was asked to allow Myrtle Lodge No. 2 to strike out from the By-laws of that Lodge, Section 1 of Article VIII., relating to sick benefits; also Section 1 of Article XI., regarding benefits to widows of deceased members. I answered that this could not be granted, as under the Constitution, it would be a decided infraction upon the principles of our Order.

DISPENSATIONS GRANTED.

During the year dispensations were granted by me to Ivanhoe Lodge No. 4, for the purpose of conferring ranks on a maimed person, and also to Charity Lodge No. 20, to confer the several degrees upon a candidate over fifty years of age. The monies for these and all others received by me, have been forwarded to the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal.

THE LATE SUPREME KEEPER OF RECORDS AND SEAL.

It is my sad duty, in my official capacity, to inform you of the death of Bro. Joseph Dowdall, Supreme Keeper of Records and Seal, which took place on the 7th of April last. I received a circular from the Hon. G. W. Lindsay, Supreme Chancellor, dated April 15th, informing me of the loss which the Order had sustained, and in accordance with the directions contained therein, I immediately issued a communication to the different Lodges in this Province in regard to the same.

Bro. Dowdall was born in Centerville, Pa., in June, 1824; afterwards he removed to Ohio. He filled Government positions of great responsibility, both in that state and also at the seat of the Federal Government at Washington. As a member of our Order, and one who has been called upon to occupy exalted offices in the Supreme Lodge, I think it peculiarly fitting that some expression of our sympathy, as a Grand Lodge, should be forwarded to the bereaved family of our brother. Bro. Dowdall always took a most lively interest in this isolated jurisdiction, and has proved himself a

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