

ROYAL ARCH MASONRY IN MAINE.

"Proceedings of the Seventh Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Maine Part II."

We are indebted to R. E. Stephen Berry, G. S. for the annual report of the Grand Chapter, which is got up in his usual excellent style. The Grand High Priest, M. E. Seward S. Stearns, referring to Capitalar Masonry in Maine, says :

"It is with great pleasure that I am able to announce a substantial and healthy increase in membership the last year, somewhat larger, if I mistake not, than heretofore, showing that the effect of the financial depression upon Capitalar Masonry has reached its lowest ebb, and that we may look forward to an era of progress and prosperity in this branch of our beloved fraternity.

"It seems, from what can be learned through visitations, letters and conversations from and with prominent companions, that throughout the state there is a gradual but sure advance toward a more correct and impressive rendering of the work of the several degrees. New appliances and paraphernalia, more enthusiasm and study are having and producing an effect upon the work that is to be hoped will grow more marked with each succeeding year, so that the milestone of our progress during this year, though marking the three score and ten years allotted to human life, may mark but the beginning of a vigorous and energetic manhood for our cherished institution."

D. D. G. H. P. Almon C. White, in his report introduces the question of refreshments at Chapter meetings, which seems to be still a debatable question in Maine :

"In nearly all chapters there has been a supper or collation served at close of work. I am well aware many condemn this practice ; they are, however, usually of the sort who hold to

the old puritan idea that duty should be stripped of all pleasant association, and performed simply for duty's sake. They overlook the fact that although one may feel pleasure in a duty done, it becomes vastly more pleasurable in the performance when surrounded by the pleasant accessories of life.

"I believe that it would be to the material advantage of every chapter to have some kind of refreshments at least two or three times a year. I do not advocate anything elaborate ; sandwiches and coffee, or somethingsimilar, will fill the bill ; and let one of the occasions be on the visit of the Grand Officer. It would bring out some at least who do not attend regularly, and afford them an opportunity to profit by any advice or instruction given, and I doubt not would be the means of increasing the attendance and membership, and of strengthening the finances, and further promoting interest and good fellowship."

The present number of members, 5714; Exalted, 373; Affiliated, 22; and Re-instated, 7. Henry S. Webster, G. H. P. ; Rufus H. Hinkley, G. T. ; Stephen Berry, G. S.

In concluding the report on Foreign correspondence, M. E. Comp. Josiah H. Drummond, chairman, gives the following statistics of the 50 Grand Chapters reported upon: Membership, 195,580; Exaltations, 13,442; Admissions and Restorations, 3,151; Dimissions, 3,889; Expulsions, 60; Suspensions, 68; Suspensions for non-payment of dues, 4,133; Deaths, 2,818. In conclusion Comp. Drummond says:

"In our report last year, we expressed the opinion, that the then current year would show the effect of the financial depression to even a greater extent than the year before. The result justifies our expectation ; the net gain in membership has fallen off from over four and one-half per cent. to less than three and one-half per cent. The exaltations have fallen off somewhat, while the admissions and restoration s have increased ; the dimissions have