

TENNESSEE.—1889.

THE Seventy fifth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee was held at Nashville, on the 30th and 31st January and 1st February, 1889, Grand Master HENRY H. INGER-SOLL presiding.

The Grand Master's address is exceedingly interesting reading. It refers to the laying of the corner-stone of the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home at Nashville, and to the forwarding of \$1,000, voluntarily subscribed by the Masons of Tennessee, to the yellow fever sufferers of Florida.

By far the most important matter that claimed the attention of the Grand Lodge was the severance of official relations between the Grand Lodges of Ohio and Tennessee, in consequence of the action of the Grand Master of the latter jurisdiction declining to commission a representative near the Grand Lodge of Ohio, nominated by the Grand Master of that jurisdiction, on the ground that he was an active participant in the Scottish Rite dispute in Ohio. The Grand Master of Ohio declined to act upon the suggestion to make another nomination until assured that Tennessee did not support treason and rebellion. The Grand Lodge of this jurisdiction declines to have anything to do with the efforts in Ohio to discipline Masons joining themselves to a so-called Rite that has claimed authority to confer the three Symbolic Degrees.

The following excellent advice is contained in the address of the Grand Master:—

Reading and study are essential conditions to intelligence; and in Masonry, as elsewhere, "Knowledge is power."

To some well-informed Brethren, however, I take leave to suggest that knowledge in Masonry is beneficent only when it is used to promote the general welfare of the Craft; and that sticking over small points just for the sake of confusing a new Master, or of making a question that may put him in technical error, displays learning sometimes to a poor purpose, and rather harms than helps the cause of Masonry, by producing strife and discord over trifles where otherwise peace and harmony would prevail. Let us not "pay tithes of mint and cummin and neglect the weightier matters of the law," but rather employ all our powers in the cultivation of the royal Masonic virtues, whose sowing is pleasure and whose harvest is happiness.

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