

at its organization four years ago, and who have attended each Annual Session, we are greatly reinforced and strengthened by the introduction of new members, whom we gladly welcome to share our counsels and join in our deliberations. We meet, not merely for enjoyment and to renew old and form new associations, but to consult together and legislate for the good of Odd Fellowship in this jurisdiction. I trust, therefore, we may wisely and harmoniously consider and determine those measures which may be submitted for our attention, "keeping in view that philanthropic principle by which we hail each other as brothers," so that our deliberations may be pleasant and their results beneficial. The depression which has prevailed along all the lines of business agricultural, industrial and commercial, has tended to try the stability of our Lodges, and test the confidence of our members in the ability of our Order to fulfil its moral and pecuniary obligations. Notwithstanding this depression, every claim on our funds has been fully met; the great command of our Order "to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, to bury the dead and educate the orphan," has been obeyed, whenever and wherever circumstances have required; we have more than held our own as regards membership, and have considerably increased our reserve funds to meet future contingencies, so that our present position is very satisfactory, and our prospects for growth and influence most encouraging. Therefore, with devout thanksgiving to Him who is crowning the year with His goodness, may we enter upon the labors and duties of this our fourth Annual Session.

When, one short year ago, by your generous confidence and support, was committed to me the important trust of presiding over this Grand Lodge and guiding the destinies of our Order in this jurisdiction, I resolved, so far as my time and abilities would permit, to faithfully discharge the duties devolving upon me; but now, in giving back to you that trust, I realize how far short I have come of fulfilling the resolutions and expectations then formed, and I ask your fraternal forbearance, assuring you that no known duty has been willingly neglected. My intercourse and correspondence with my colleagues, District Deputies and Lodges, have been uniformly pleasant and courteous, and every matter which has come before me has been impartially considered, and, I believe, satisfactorily disposed of. No Appeals or Grievances arising out of my actions will come before you, and, so far as I know, peace and harmony prevail among the brethren. It now devolves upon me, as

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