

WASHINGTON TERRITORY—1874.

The seventh Annual Communication of the M. W. Grand Lodge of the Territory of Washington was convened at Masonic Hall, in the City of Olympia, 2nd September, 1874.

M. W. D. C. N. Rothschild, Grand Master; R. W. Thomas M. Reed, Grand Secretary.

All the Lodges (except one) in the jurisdiction represented.

From the excellent address of the Grand Master we learn that prosperity has attended them during the year.

Dispensations granted for the formation of two new Lodges. The usual number of questions asked and answers returned, detailing much unnecessary labor upon the Grand Master. We think there should be some check put upon these constant questioners; why cannot they be compelled to read for themselves. The Grand Master says truly, that twenty-five dollars judiciously expended would procure for each Lodge all the necessary Digests and Treatises to enable an intelligent Master (and none but such, we think, should occupy the Chair) to decide upon any question that may come before him. It is neither the Grand Master's province to make laws nor construe them for another's action, or to gratify another's curiosity; but in his executive capacity to see the law obeyed.

One W. M. writes: "I am not posted in Masonic Law in Washington Territory." Grand Master says: "That Brother need not plead ignorance of Masonic Law; he ought to know that Masonic Law is the same everywhere—that the 'Landmarks' and the 'Law' are immutable."

We wonder how such men get into the Master's Chair. It must be by some system of pitch-forking.

To be well skilled in the ancient charges, rules and regulations of the Order, is one of the most essential qualifications of a candidate for the Master's Chair, at least, such has been our teaching. But after all, perhaps, we ought not to be too severe. The law-making fever has become so prevalent, now-a-days, that the Grand Master who fails to have a rider of decisions to his report, may almost be considered a nonentity. It is scarcely to be wondered at, that some of our