

fast, Rev. Charles C. Mason, Asahel Moore, and the Grand Tyler, Warren Phillips. He reported that Ionic Lodge, at Gardiner, had surrendered its charter, and that one new lodge had been formed. The Committee on Credentials reported 167 of the 181 lodges represented. The usual official reports were received. The report on returns showed 18,991 members; 682 initiates; 223 deaths. The Grand Master and Grand Secretary were re-elected.

The combined lodges of New Zealand send about £1,500 annually to Great Britain in dues and fees, and yet they have no substantial fund for the relief of the distressed dependents on Masonic aid in New Zealand. After 20 years' existence, the District Grand Lodge of E. C., in Otago, has actually in bank only £350 to its credit. Can any brother read these figures and say that a Grand Lodge is not absolutely necessary not only in New Zealand but in every other colony in Australia? Arouse, brothers in New Zealand, from your apparent lethargy, and take steps to effect such a grand design. The time was never more opportune.—*Sydney Freemason*— [Yes, it is quite time that lodges in different colonies should cut their leading strings and set up house for themselves. It seems to us a species of "insanity" for New Zealand to remit every year from seven to eight thousand dollars to England, for the honor of having her appoint a District Deputy Grand Master. Where is their Masonic and British love of independence? We have no patience with such wanton waste and childish simplicity. Let New Zealand set up a Grand Lodge for herself, and emulate the example of her cousins in the Dominion of Canada, and Province of New South Wales.—ED. CRAFTSMAN.]

The Grand Master of South Carolina thus discourses in his annual address:—It is of vital consequence to the unity and harmony of Masonry that all our Grand Lodges observe and

maintain the well-settled American doctrine of Grand Lodge sovereignty and jurisdiction. This law is perfectly plain and easily understood, and is that when a new Grand Lodge is formed and recognized, it is the sovereign exclusive Masonic governing power over all the lodges of Ancient Craft Masonry in the territory in which it is situated. If it is to govern only those lodges which yield their allegiance to it, and other lodges within that territory are to be permitted to remain independent of it, and pay their homage and dues elsewhere, how can such Grand Lodge be sovereign, or how can it be said to possess exclusive jurisdiction over its territory? It is a manifest contradiction in terms, and therefore it seems clear, that upon the formation and recognition of a Grand Lodge (12 recognitions already and others promised.—ED.) it is the duty of all lodges in that territory to surrender their foreign charters, and give in their adhesion to the new Grand Lodge.—[This is very much Bro. Hughan's way of thinking.—ED.]—So says the *Sydney Freemason*, and it is right.—ED. CRAFTSMAN.

From the report of Bro. L. T. Itzlar, District Deputy Grand Master of South Carolina, we make the following extract, which is worthy of being read in every Lodge in the land:—"There is a great falling off in the attendance of the members, and a growing disposition to allow themselves to be erased from the books for non-payment of dues in some of the Lodges. This conduct is very hurtful to the Order in this vicinity. I have given the subject much thought, and have concluded that the prime cause of the evil of non-attendance and failure to pay dues, is that the brethren, outside of the Lodge room, are not squaring their actions towards one another with the square of virtue. They are so absorbed with the universal desire of 'getting gain,' that they forget their duties and obligations as Masons, and the world looks on, and seeing no dis-