

of the dispensations I have issued during the year, I cannot do better, I think, than quote the words of M. W. Bro. Day, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine, every sentiment of which I endorse most heartily, and would recommend them to your most earnest consideration:—"There seems to be an idea in the minds of not a few brethren (Masters of lodges, too) that the Grand Master has power to set aside for the time being any provision of the book of Constitution of the Grand Lodge, and that in their case he ought to do so. I have tried to explain that, while the Grand Master has almost unlimited power to do what he thinks best for the good of the whole fraternity, he is as much bound to observe and obey the Constitution of the Grand Lodge as any member of a subordinate lodge, in fact, more so, for he is specially obligated to obey them, and he could not consistently punish others for violating laws which he has himself disobeyed." Allow me also to express the hope that the brethren in future, when applying for dispensations, will apply only for such as are not a clear setting aside of the Constitution, thereby relieving your Grand Master (being a constitutional one) of the pain of having to refuse to allow them to issue.

"I am glad to be able to inform you that the action of Grand Lodge last session in doing away with an affiliation fee, has had a marked tendency in inducing a very large number of non-affiliates to renew their fealty and resume labor with us, to the subordinate lodges also which abolished the joining fee, much credit must be given. May the day soon come when a joining fee will be unknown in this jurisdiction. * * * * *

REPRESENTATIVES.

"During the year the following brethren have received commissions representing Grand Lodges near this Grand Lodge:

"England—M. W. Bro. Alfred Pearson.

"Alabama—R. W. Bro. James Leslie.

"British Columbia—W. Bro. Hough, vice R. W. Bro. W. G. Scott, resigned.

"Iowa—R. W. Bro. Thomas Clark, re-appointed, triennial period ending October 1st, 1889.

"Kansas—R. W. Bro. James Ovas, vice V. W. Bro. S. R. Marlatt, term of office expired.

"South Australia—R. W. Bro. Peter McGregor.

"In this connection it is with much satisfaction that I am able to report that the United Grand Lodge of England has at last consented to an interchange of representatives, and have appointed me their representative near this Grand Lodge. The patent of appointment, under the hand of H. R. H., the Prince of Wales,

Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, came duly to hand on January 19th, ultimo.

"The Grand Lodge of Ireland is, I believe, the only English speaking Grand Lodge with which we have not an interchange of representatives. I have instructed the Grand Secretary to open up a correspondence with it about the matter, and I have no doubt that in a very short time it also will be consummated.

"Representatives appointed near other Grand Lodges:—

"Alabama—W. Bro. Jesse W. Carmichael.

"Arkansas—W. Bro. A. A. Gibson, vice Bro. John W. Rison, deceased.

"Kansas—W. Bro. Abijah Wells.

"I congratulate these brethren upon the honors they have received, and commend to them the interests of their respective jurisdictions, trusting that they will not follow the example, in many instances, of their predecessors, but will officially report after each session of the Grand Lodge near which they may be placed, such matters of interest as may concern the Grand Lodge whose accidental representatives they are. I would also urge upon all representatives from or near this Grand Lodge to take this unto themselves and go and do likewise.

"Owing to the decision of the Privy Council in the disputed territory case, which gave a large portion of Keewatin to the Province of Ontario, thereby placing Pequonga Lodge (which until this time owed its allegiance to our Grand Lodge) in the Province of Ontario, and placing us in the position of having a lodge in occupied territory. Being a firm believer in the Sovereignty of each Grand Lodge in its own territory, I would recommend that Pequonga Lodge be notified to return its warrant to us, and make application to the Grand Lodge of Canada for one from that Grand Body. A great deal of correspondence has passed in this matter, but from the assurances I personally received that full justice would be done in the premises, I feel certain that none of the members of Pequonga Lodge will have any cause to feel themselves aggrieved. * * *

GRAND SECRETARY.

"I cannot, I think, in a more appropriate place than just here, express through you to our able and efficient Grand Secretary, R. W. Bro. W. G. Scott, the high appreciation I have of his invaluable services, not only to me personally, but to the whole jurisdiction. I have no fear of contradiction when I say that never in the history of our Grand Lodge has it had so efficient an officer occupying the Secretary's desk. After much correspondence to and fro, grave errors and irregularities have at last