

Out in Australia the brethren are "doing the handsome" to each other. The Grand Master of South Australia was entertained at dinner by the Grand Master of Victoria, on May 13th last, at Pine Grove, the residence of the latter. The guests numbered some ten of the principal officers of the Grand Lodge of Victoria, together with the representative of South Australia, Bro. Patterson, and Past Grand Registrar Padley. The only toasts proposed were those of the principal guest and host.

Masons should be better than other men, for otherwise Masonry will have no vindication, no excuse for its existence. We should carry out from our Lodges into the world that sobriety, that reason and circumspection in our lives, that sense of the separation which exists between us and those who have not walked in our pathway and learned the significance of our tasks, which will mark us from the uninitiated throng, and be evidence that we have a possession, a calling, and a consecration apart from other men.—*Bro. E. A. Calkins.*

The Northwestern Masonic Aid Association, of Chicago, has been remarkably successful. It has already paid to the wife and heirs of deceased Master Masons \$2,000,000, and has at the present time over 30,000 members. The growth of the Association has been enormous, and it has received, since Jan. 1, 1885, 7,000 applications. Every claim has been paid to the entire satisfaction of its beneficiaries. This is a record of which its members may well be proud, and we take pleasure in recommending it to any of our brethren as one of the best and cheapest in the land.—*Ex.* The success of this Association shows there is no good reason why our Canadian institution, with economical and judicious management, should not do as well, and do a grand and noble work for the craft in the Dominion.

Among the oldest Masons in this country, Bro. Sylvanus Hatch, Port Lavacca, Texas, heads the list, having been initiated in the year 1809. This venerable brother celebrated his 97th birth-day on the first day of June last, surrounded by his children, grand-children, and great-grand-children, forty in number. His sight is growing dim and his hearing almost gone, but upon this occasion he was in good health and spirits, and greatly enjoyed the interesting family reunion. May many more anniversaries still find his name at the head of the list of old veterans.

It has been brought to my notice that some of the brethren have been using and exposing in the Lodge-room a cipher work. Such actions cannot be too strongly condemned, and a Master that will use, or suffer such work to be used, in his Lodge, should be suspended from office, and the brethren using them should be disciplined. These, however, are only vague reports; but I thought it best to bring the matter before you, as there is a great deal of truth in the old saying, an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure."—*Grand Master Walter, of New Mexico.*

We beg to direct the attention of Rt. Em. Frater Jas. A. Henderson, G.C.T., Grand Representative of the Grand Encampment of the United States near the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, to the visit of the Sir Knights of St. Omer Commandery, of Boston, to the Scottish Preceptories of St. John, New Brunswick. If the Grand Encampment of the United States acknowledges the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada as the Supreme Templar Body in Canada, its subordinate bodies have no right to fraternize with organizations declared by us to be "illegal or clandestine."

Our old friend, Bro. John D. Caldwell, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, has gone out of his