

ing day. Dr. Millman does great work, both as to quantity and quality. **

And again it is New York with 491 accepted applications for December. Michigan is a close second with 470; Illinois third with 317, and California fourth with 311. **

For December the applications numbered 5,066; of these 4,501 were accepted and 565 rejected. We wish the "old liners" a happy new year. We are at peace with the world. **

To-day! it is the only day of which you are sure. Even a day is given us moment by moment—a kind of call loan, that may be recalled without any notice. What you purpose doing, do now. **

The West is coming rapidly to the front. California has always been in the van. Now Washington, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories are making large and steady gains. Keep the good work going. **

There is lots of life in Old Ontario still. The Province, which was divided into three jurisdictions a little over two years ago, gave 598 accepted applications for December. The figures are 257, 160, 181, for Centre, East and West, respectively. Keep it up. **

"We are coming, great Chief Oron.,
One hundred and fifty thousand strong."

So says a Western brother, who writes in couplets. We accept the sentiment, and forgive the omission of a few syllables from our honored leader's name. **

Our good resolutions are still fresh in our memories. The world will only know and understand them as we reduce them to practice; then they belong to humanity. The value of a good intention is in the act of which it is the forerunner. Many mean well, fewer do well. **

"Every day is a beginning," and should find us not only further on in life's highway but further up in life's achievements. Don't delay the good you would do. To delay securing a new member for the I.O.F. would be to undervalue the advantages of membership in our great Order. **

We commend the kindly practice of some courts in remembering the family of a departed brother with some token of good will, during the holiday season. Such deeds are beautiful and tangible illustrations of the benevolent and fraternal spirit. The custom deserves to become general. **

This will be an epoch-making year in the history of the I.O.F. The Supreme Court will meet in

Toronto in August. The "Temple" will be formally dedicated. The surplus will reach and pass the \$3,000,000, and the membership on Aug. 1st, 1898, is to be at least 150,000. **

A net gain of 25,000 for the first eight months of 1898. Let no one say it can't be done. It can. All that is requisite is the will. Every five members working together for eight months and only securing one member, and the number will be gained. Double the number might be gained. **

The "good times" are doubtless returning. The many are more hopeful than they have been for years. To a few the times are no better; for them it is still the same arduous struggle for bread. The aged, infirm, unfortunate and discouraged are with us. All call for the exercise of the high principles cherished by our Order. **

During the year just closed you have seen changes—friends and acquaintances have gone beyond your sight and ken. You have noted the difference in the circumstances of the family of the man who was a member of the I.O.F. and the man who was not. You will prize your membership more and you will lose no opportunity to persuade others to join. **

What important duties remain unperformed? Remember there is a year less of time for you than there was twelve months ago. What about the benefits that you thought of securing by joining the I.O.F.? Hurry up and secure membership. Thoughts and intentions have a value only as they become crystallized into life and conduct. Hand in your application. **

Members everywhere will note with satisfaction the marked increase in the applications for membership from Great Britain. Some people have been a little impatient of the slow growth in the old land, forgetting that four or five years do not count very much in the history of a great enterprise. The progress of the Order in Great Britain has been greater than it was in Canada during the first few years following its introduction. **

How many of those who began the year just ended full of life and hope failed to see its close! History is continually repeating itself. The same will be true of not a few to whom this year opened full of promise and opportunity. To provide for the future with all its uncertainties is a first duty. A benefit certificate for one or more thousands in the I.O.F. is within the reach of every insurable man, and he should secure it for the protection of his loved ones without a day's delay.