

REPORT
OF THE
Right W. G. Secretary

BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS, U.S.A., May 25th, 1875.

To the Right Worthy Grand Lodge :

WORTHY OFFICERS AND MEMBERS :—Before entering on the statement of facts—exclusively of a business character, and partaking of the dryness commonly attributed to statistics, it would be doing violence to my own feelings were I to withhold the expression of extreme gratification afforded me on the occasion of meeting so many warm-hearted Brothers and Sisters, fellow-workers in the glorious cause of emancipation from the direst thralldom which has, for long and weary centuries, enslaved our common humanity. The aspect of such a gathering is most cheering, whether we consider various nationalities represented, or the grand purpose contemplated by our organization. The highest interests of society, considered morally, socially or politically, are involved in our operations; human freedom and the truest forms of civilization are inseparable from our success. Heaven has smiled on our efforts and earth is reaping the fruit of our toils.

The passing year has witnessed marvellous successes, while even reverses have tended to the consolidation of our forces, or to the dissemination of our benevolent principles. The seal of the Right Worthy Grand Lodge, once prophetic of design and typical of hope, is now beautifully emblematical of the existing fact, "Our Field is the World." The faith, hope and charity which animate us, encircle the many nations of which it is composed, and if there remain any in the darkness of superstition, our movements are so decidedly progressive, that we shall, by God's help, encompass and penetrate the whole. Thus joyously and hopefully are we assembled undismayed by any ruffling of the waters, and encouraged by the inherent vitality of our doctrine and Constitution.

The official statements and statistical tables embodied in my report, now to be presented, will abundantly verify these general observations. The extending, various and responsible duties of this office have been discharged with impartiality and to the best of my judgment, although experience, so necessary in this department, has enabled me with some facility to respond to regular and unforeseen correspondence, yet it is possible that, contrary to my wish and purpose, some may have been