

NEW YORK—1885.

The one hundred and fourth annual communication of the Grand Lodge of F. & A. M. of this State was opened in the Grand Lodge room, city of New York, on the morning of June 2nd, A. L. 5885, the Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Wm. A. Brodie, in the Grand East; a very large number of members and delegates being present thereat.

The address of the Grand Master touches upon various subjects of interest to the craft in his jurisdiction, treating them with marked skill and ability.

The report of the Board of Relief is especially interesting.

The receipts for the year contributed by individual lodges were as follows :—

Balance on hand last annual report.....	\$ 567 28
Received dues from lodges.....	\$1,314 07
“ donation from Scotia Lodge.....	20 00
“ “ monies returned.....	267 50
Interest on deposits.....	36 60
	1,638 17
Total.....	\$2,205 45

The disbursements of the year were as follows :—

For charity to persons applying.....	\$1,128 48
“ printing, books and stationery.....	28 50
“ rent of safe three and one-half years.....	17 50
“ salary of Secretary.....	300 00
“ postage, etc.....	5 92
Total.....	1,480 40
Balance in hands of Treasurer.....	\$ 725 05

The report publishes the names of imposters who have claimed, in vain, assistance. Looking through the list we observe the names of *Alexander Fairley*, claiming to hail from *Elgin Lodge, Montreal*, and *John Darrah*, from *Montreal Lodge, No. 37, Montreal*.

The great desirability of establishing a thoroughly organized system throughout Canada and the States to expose and defeat fraudulent applicants for relief is now one of the most important questions before the craft. For the information of Grand Lodge, we quote as below from the report now before us :

“ This large number of fraudulent applicants for relief is a startling exhibit of the business carried on by impostors, and is the very best argument for the existence of Masonic charitable organizations. We are in regular communication with numerous boards and lodges of relief in the United States and Canada, from whom we receive, and to whom we send, such information as may be necessary to the proper transaction of our business. Our notes of ‘warning’ had been published regularly for some time, when one of them attracted the attention of an earnest and systematic brother in Baltimore, Maryland. This brother, Dr. D. F. Pennington, was and is the able president of the lodge of relief in that city, and has earned the title his brethren give him. The follow-