

was no display attending it. Only Grand Master Bro. Potter, Deputy Grand Master Bro. Clark, Grand Treasurer Bro. Patton, and Grand Marshal Bro. Wood, were present, representing the Brethren. The presentation was made by Bro. Alfred R. Potter, G. M., in a pleasing address. Bro. Thomson was completely surprised, not having had the least intimation that such an affair was in contemplation; and he truly remarked that this was another proof that Masons can keep a secret. Indeed, very many of his friends knew nothing of it. It was the thought of a few, quietly conceived, as a surprise to him on the evening of his Golden Wedding.

The appropriateness of this testimonial to Bro. John Thomson is apparent to all, since he is known to every Mason in this Masonic jurisdiction, and to thousands of Masons all over the Union, as a model Grand Secretary, and with few equals as a Masonic jurist. He bears the fruits of a wide and honorable experience, and of a clear and vigorous mind. We trust that his life may yet be spared for many years to his family and his Brethren.—*Keystone.*

GRAND LODGE OF INDIANA.

THE *Masonic Advertiser*, for June, has interesting matter concerning the doings of the Grand Lodge at its Annual Session, on the 26th May. We extract from Grand Master Fetta's address, these items:

We find that since the organization of this Grand Lodge it has issued charters to *five hundred and forty-five* Lodges; of these, seventy-five have either surrendered, or their charters have been arrested; or, about one-sixth of all the Lodges constituted have been a complete failure.

Notwithstanding the rapid increase in the number of Lodges in this jurisdiction, we also find on examination a greater increase of membership. In the year 1850 we had 112 Lodges, with an average membership of 28 per Lodge. In the year 1860 we had 269 Lodges, with an average membership of 36 per lodge. In the year 1870 we find in 421 Lodges an average membership of 55 per lodge. In 1873, in the 467 Lodges at work in this jurisdiction, we have an average membership of over 57 per Lodge, Nor is this all. While the increase of membership has been greater than that of Lodges, the increase of the Fraternity as per population has been equally great. In the year 1850 we find one member to every 315 of the population. In the year 1860 we have one member to every 139 of the population. In the year 1870 we have one member to every 72 of the population. The rapid increase, then, is based upon the favorable opinion the people entertain of Masonic institutions.

The further increase in population of the State, with the development of her resources and the advancement of civilization, will demand an increase in Masonic Lodges; but the health and prosperity of these Lodges will greatly depend on the enactments of the Grand Lodge, and the spirit in which they are administered.

MALLET.

ONE of the working tools of a Mark Master, having the same emblematic meaning as the common gavel in the Entered Apprentice's degree. It teaches us to correct the irregularities of temper, and, like enlightened reason, to curb the aspirations of unbridled ambition, to depress the malignity of envy, and to moderate the ebullition of anger. It removes from the mind all the excrescences of vice, and fits it, as a well-wrought stone, for that exalted station in the great temple of nature, to which, as an emanation of the deity, it is entitled.

The mallet or setting maul is also an emblem of the third degree, and is said to have been the implement by which the stones were set up at the temple. It is often improperly confounded with the common gavel.

The French Masons, to whom the word *gavel* is unknown, uniformly use the *maillet*, or mallet, in its stead, and confound its symbolic use, as the implement of the presiding officer, with the mallet of the English and American Mark Master.—*Mackey's Encyclopædia.*

THE GRAND LODGE OF CONNECTICUT.

ITS EIGHTY-SIXTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

ON Wednesday, the 13th May, the Grand Lodge of Connecticut convened in the Masonic Hall, at Hartford. M. W. Grand Master, Luke A. Lockwood and the other Grand Officers were present, besides several representatives and brothers from sister jurisdictions. The lodge was opened in ample form by the Grand Master, and prayer was offered by W. Grand Chaplain, Rev. Bro. Charles R. Fisher, of Hartford.