

Virginia.—1891.

NO less than 223 Subordinate Lodges made returns in 1891 to the Grand Lodge of Virginia, as against 216 in 1890, and the membership increased from 9,930 in 1890 to 10,574 in 1891. This is indeed an excellent showing.

The 114th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge was held at Richmond, on the 15th, 16th and 17th December, 1891, Grand Master J. HEWARE WAYT, presiding.

In his address to Grand Lodge, the Grand Master reported the laying of a number of corner stones, and recorded the following interesting incident :—

"On the 14th of May, an incident of great interest to the members of our Fraternity occurred, in the presentation of a gavel by Worshipful Brother Woodbury, of Liberty Lodge, Massachusetts, to Alexandria Washington Lodge, No. 22, Alexandria, the historic Lodge over which our illustrious Brother, the immortal Washington, presided as Worshipful Master. The gavel thus presented was made of a piece of the elm tree at Cambridge, Massachusetts, under which Washington took command of the Continental armies on July 3rd, 1775."

The following truism sparkles in the same address :—

"As we review the past, and remember how very ancient is our Order, we are forcibly struck by the permanent stability of Masonry. No other human organization has so successfully defied, through long ages, all the mutations of time. Men die, empires fall, but Masonry, like the everlasting hills, remains. Why, my Brethren, is this? It is because the corner stone of our institution is the Word of God, that Great Light in Masonry, the Holy Bible. Without it there can be no Masonry, and this insures its growth, its prosperity and its permanency."

The legislation at this Communication was all of local importance only. There is no Report of Foreign Correspondence this year, but we hope for one next year, as our distinguished Brother, W. M. Bro. William F. Drinkard, is again Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence. The volume contains a great deal of statistical matter and a report on the Home, all of which is no doubt of great local importance.

M. W. BRO. WM. HENRY PLEASANTS,
Grand Master.

R. W. BRO. WILLIAM B. ISAACS,
Grand Secretary.