

THE eighty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island was held on May 15. Nearly two hundred members were present. On the subject of colored Masonry, the Grand Master says :

"The Grand Lodge or the subordinate Lodges of Ohio, may make as many Masons out of the negro race as it pleases, and we must and will recognize those so made as Freemasons—but we deny its power to give any Masonic vitality to any other Grand Body, it cannot delegate its jurisdiction, nor exercise it jointly with another, but must exercise it itself and for itself. We may be permitted to hope that wise counsel may govern its action."

Among the officers elected are M. W. G. Nicholas VanSlyck ; R. W. G. S. Edwin Baker.

THE ninety-fifth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of New York met on the 2nd June, 755 representatives of subordinate lodges were present. The receipts for the year foot up \$100,849.25, but the treasury is empty. We make the following extract from the Grand Master's address :

'Our foreign relations remain about in the same condition as last year. The Grand Orient of France has made no sign during the year, and evidently considers the friendship and correspondence of the American Grand Lodges as a matter of no consequence. This is to be regretted ; but, until there is a willingness on the part of that body to recognize the right of this and other Grand Lodges to exclusive jurisdiction within their own territories there can be no change, and we shall regretfully, but none the less firmly be obliged to treat as strangers, those whom we would gladly welcome to our Masonic homes.

The course of the German Grand Lodges is scarcely, if at all, more satisfactory. Claiming for themselves the very right for which we contend, and proclaiming that no lodge can be formed on German territory without their consent, they have thus far shown no willingness to concede the same right to us, or withdraw the lodges located in this and other States. They propose to compromise the matter by a series of treaties, looking, however, only to their own benefit, since they propose to have us recognize the establishment in the country of subordinate lodges owing them allegiance, but saying nothing of a reciprocal privilege on our part, even were it possible that we could profit by such a concession, or our policy allow us to proceed in that direction.

One further step has been taken by them through their Grand Lodge League, which is the declaration that the organization of colored persons in this country, now trespassing on various of the American Grand Lodge jurisdictions are regular, and hence that their invasion of the territory of this and other Grand Lodges in the United States, meets the approval of our brethren in Germany, although at latest advices they had not gone so far as to offer direct recognition and interchange of representatives. This, however, is a matter of time, and it is far from certain that the League now in session, will not take this concluding step, and thus by indiscretion place its constituents in open denial of our right to govern our own affairs without foreign intervention and dictation. There can be but one ending to all this, which I refrain from indicating at the present time, in the hope that wiser councils may yet prevail, and that harmony and peace may be secured to our brotherhood wherever dispersed.

Another question has been presented, not for immediate action, but for calm consideration, by the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

At the annual communication of that body last October, a special committee reported favorably on a proposition to admit a number of confessedly clandestine organizations and to divide the jurisdiction of the State with such irregular bodies. The point of the whole matter is, that this is simply a proposition on the part of the committee of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, to abandon the American law of sole jurisdiction, claimed by Grand Lodges on this continent, and, if adopted, to open the whole of our territory to the incursions of such organizations as may choose to invade it, and thus by destroying our authority at the same time to put an end to the peaceful and harmonious progress we have so long enjoyed.

No action appears to be required at this time, because the Grand Lodge of Ohio has not definitely passed upon the report of its committee, and, it is to be hoped that when it does, it will remain in full accord with the other American Grand Lodges and with the best interests of Masonry on this continent.

Meanwhile, I repeat, it should receive your careful attention so that, if action should be taken in Ohio, adverse to the general well being, your duty may be plain and your action prompt."