

"Apparently some of our Brethren are dissatisfied with the present taxation and wish for a reduction, not thinking for a moment that a Grand Lodge of Masons ought always to have a reasonable fund on hand for charitable purposes, as well as for her own safety, in time of need. We must look to it that we add annually a small balance to the Grand Lodge Treasury, and any legislation opposed to this policy is not a wise legislation, and not a sound financial operation.

"It has been said that the Grand Lodge must reduce its expenses and retrench, but where and how shall it be done? It is true you can instruct your Grand Secretary not to write any more letters, even not to answer any, and save thereby about twenty-five dollars per annum; you need not have any printing done, another big saving, and you can be without many other things too numerous to mention, but is this your wish? Is it the desire of this Grand Lodge to stand isolated, solitary and alone? Do you like to see her in the dark north, overshadowed by a cloud of mist, while her sisters on this continent form so bright and shining a constellation? Ha! What a mistake that would be in these latter days, where every firm, every corporation, every church and every State, writes, prints and reads, to be enabled to keep pace with the spirit of the age. Retrenchment in the right time and place is an excellent virtue, but its practice in this case would be equal to retrogression.

"It is well known that the undersigned opposed the formation and organization of the Grand Lodge of Utah, and he did so mainly on the ground of the costs and expenses, that naturally had to follow such an undertaking. He was out-voted by a large majority, and told that 'money was no object.' Well it is an old saying, 'he who dances must pay for the fiddler.'

"Let us see how others do; we perhaps can learn by it. The following table shows the revenues, expenses, etc., of our Sister Grand Lodges on the Pacific slope, whence our members can convince themselves that they have no reason to complain:

	Organized.	Lodges.	Members.	Dispensation	Charter.	Degree.	Affiliation.	Dues.	Receipts.	Expenses.
Brit. Columbia	Dec. 1871.	8	282	\$ 30	\$50	\$1	\$1	\$4 50	\$1,281 20	\$ 898 04
California.....	April 1850.	192	10,725	75	50	1	...	1 50	16,842 18	13,375 91
Idaho.....	Dec. 1867.	8	276	75	25	1	1	5 50	1,460 52	1,442 40
Montana.....	Jan. 1866.	19	667	50	50	...	...	3 00	2,450 22	2,473 00
Nevada.....	Jan. 1865.	17	1,243	100	75	1	...	2 00	3,551 44	3,046 33
Oregon.....	Aug. 1851.	44	1,918	75	25	1	1	1 50	6,962 12	6,552 42
Washington....	Dec. 1858.	16	608	50	25	1	1	1 00	1,781 30	1,173 00

He closes his report with a strong appeal to the Brethren on behalf of their Library, in which he has, during the year, taken a great interest. We make our extract: