

## GRAND SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET.

BARRIE, February 8th, 1887.

*To the Most Worthy Grand President, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge  
Sons of England Benevolent Society :*

SIRS AND BRETHREN,—In compliance with the requirements of our Constitution I have great pleasure in submitting my Sixth Annual Report and Financial Statement, with Balance Sheet marked Appendix A, showing the receipts and expenditure to February 1st, 1887, also statistics marked Appendix B, compiled from the returns of the various lodges during the year. Copies of which are printed and distributed to the representatives of this Grand Body.

Immediately after the close of last Grand Lodge meeting, by direction of the Executive, I invited tenders for printing the Grand Lodge Reports, issuing specification for the same, which was duly acknowledged; the tender of Bro. J. W. London, of Oxford Lodge, being the lowest, was accepted. The reports were prepared with every dispatch, and distributed without delay proportionately to the various lodges free of charge. An official copy of the alterations and amendments passed at last Grand Lodge meeting were printed in fly sheet form and sent to every lodge.

In compliance with report of Committee on Law and Constitution (see printed Proceedings, page 41) I notified District Deputy Grand Lodge Officer Bro. M. H. Spence that the By-laws of Victoria Lodge, Port Elizabeth, had been approved by this Grand Body, also that the recommendations from Bro. Spence to adapt the Constitution to the South African Lodges, were approved and sanctioned. I also conveyed to Bro. Spence the sympathy and condolence of this Grand Body in his late severe losses. I also forwarded to Bro. Spence, as directed, a copy of the original dispensation constituting him the Grand Lodge representative in that District, also charters for the opening of two other lodges, which, I fully expect, are in a fair way of completion. I have also forwarded to Bro. Spence the new Red and White Rose Degree Rituals and Aggenda, also marked explanations, which, after considerable time and labour bestowed by our esteemed Bro. Dr. J. S. King, were sent in registered packages. I am pleased to report that Bro. Spence has from time to time acknowledged receipt of these parcels, and expressed himself as highly pleased with the change, and the possibility of his being able to make out all the secret work without any great difficulty. I am also pleased to report that I have received a copy of the Constitution and By-laws of the South African Branches, as revised in accordance with the directions and approval of this Grand Body. Bro. Mowat, the esteemed Worthy President of Victoria Lodge, Port Elizabeth, deserves great credit for the care and trouble bestowed in preparing a very elaborate Index to this Constitution, of which we shall take advantage in our new issue. Bro. M. H. Spence is still working heartily and energetically for the spread of our Order in South Africa, and deserves honourable mention in this Grand Lodge meeting.