

The M. W. Grand Master said—as we learn from the *Masonic Home Advocate*:—"R. W. Brother: It affords me much pleasure to have the honor of introducing you to the Grand Lodge of Indiana. Although previously unacquainted, you come among us not as a stranger, for your masonic reputation has preceded you, and with the honors bestowed upon you at home we are not unfamiliar. We recognize the honor conferred upon us by your presence here, and hope that a remembrance of your visit to this Grand Lodge may ever awaken in your breast pleasant recollections. I most cordially welcome you among us, and now invite you to a seat in the East."

R. W. Bro. Seymour, before taking his seat, responded in very appropriate terms, returning thanks for the kind reception extended to him, and hoped that the fraternal feeling now existing between the Grand Lodges of Indiana and Canada, might never be severed.

#### GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

The annual communication of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was held at Masonic Temple, Boston, on Wednesday, December 8, 1869. M. W. Bro. William Sewall Gardner (by a unanimous vote of 392) was re-elected Grand Master, and R. W. Bro. Solon Thornton re-elected Recording Secretary.

On the 28th December, the Feast of St. John the Evangelist, a stated communication was held in same place. From the M. W. the Grand Master's address, on which occasion we learn that during the past year 1960 Lodge Diplomas, and 57 Past Master Diplomas, had been signed and transmitted. Dispensations for 11 new Lodges, including one (Aconcagua Lodge) at Valparaiso, Chili, had been issued. Hiram Lodge, of Copiapo, Chili, had been removed, at request of its members, to the Port of Caldera, in the same republic. We make the following extract from the address, upon a point of jurisprudence:

"I have been requested to present for your consideration and determination the following decision:

If a candidate is accepted by a clear ballot, and a brother afterwards objects to his advancement, what course is to be pursued?

I have decided that, if the candidate was regularly accepted by a clear ballot, in a Lodge where notices were sent to the members with the name of the candidate upon the notices, or in a Lodge where no notices are sent, but where the ballot was at a regular meeting, that no new ballot can be had.

That if a brother objects, the W. Master has the right to refuse to confer the degrees.

If the Master does not so decide, it is his duty—under Section 7, Article 3, Part 4 of our Constitution, which provides that 'Every member of a subordinate Lodge may object to the initiation, passing or raising, of a candidate at any time before the degree is conferred; and it shall be the duty of the Lodge to investigate such objections before proceeding with the candidate.'—to appoint a committee to consider the objections, and to report thereon to the Lodge, and that the Lodge is to decide by a majority vote of the sufficiency of the objections. That the ballot once fairly and regularly taken, by which the candidate is accepted, cannot be repeated, unless the Lodge, by vote, decide so to do.

Such I understand to have been the rule practically adopted by this Grand Lodge."

The M. W. Grand Master then goes on to remark that the day was the centennial anniversary of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge, of the formation of which he gives a highly interesting narrative, which we regret that a want of space forbids us from re-producing.

We have also received the report of the communication of the M. W. the Grand Lodges of Michigan and North Carolina, a review of which is precluded this month by want of space.