

\$1,251.26 of Grand Lodge revenue, or a total increase in the ten years of 28 lodges, 1,043 members, and \$1,866.41 of Grand Lodge revenue. In the early history of our Grand Lodge we passed through a storm that threatened to destroy it, but the light broke forth and the sun of peace very soon shone as brightly as before. But shall we delude ourselves with the idea that all our trials are past, and that henceforth we are to go on conquering and to conquer; that do what we will our skies are henceforth to be unclouded? I trust not, and hence I raise my voice—not to point out any immediate danger—not to play the part of spectre at the feast—but to invite you to a careful scrutiny of all your Masonic acts, and to lay wise plans for the future. No man of ordinary prudence conducts his affairs with a simple regard for the necessities of the day, and less than all others should the Grand Lodge lose sight of the important trust confided to them, with the knowledge that as that trust be well or ill fulfilled, just so will those who are to succeed us, revere or condemn our memories.

Not only has our Grand Lodge prospered, but taking the whole world into survey the Masonic institution in numbers, resources, character and influence, was never stronger than it is now. In Great Britain Masonry has made vast strides during the past ten years. The secession of the late Grand Master of England proved a blessing in disguise, for by filling the place thus made vacant, by the election of the heir-apparent to the British throne, a fresh impetus was given to the institution, and from that day to this it has prospered as never before. English Masonry is especially strong, not only in numbers and wealth, but in the character of its membership, composed as it is quite largely of the more influential classes in society. Masonry is in theory a democratic organization. It puts men upon a common level. Never-

theless it loses nothing when it attracts to its membership cultivated minds,—when its course is shaped by men of recognized ability and character, and when it gathers large means into its treasuries and expends large sums in the furtherance of the most charitable objects.

In the other parts of the British Empire Masonry has also vastly flourished. In Australia and in our own Dominion of Canada, new Grand Lodges have been formed, Masonic Temples of spacious dimensions and elegant appearance completed. Lodges have secured better quarters and more hopeful appointments for the rendering of the work. From India also come glowing statements of the forward steps taken by the craft since the visit of the Prince of Wales, and in never-to-be-forgotten Lucknow a Masonic Temple has been erected at a cost 150,000 rupees.

On the continent of Europe, Masonry has also flourished. In Germany, under the patronage and favor of the Emperor and Crown Prince, lodges have multiplied, and a condition of great prosperity is evident. In Hungary and also in Spain Grand Lodges have been formed with every prospect of successful careers. In Italy Masonry has made wonderful progress, and the last few years have witnessed large accessions to the ranks of the fraternity and the organization of numerous lodges. In France, where Masonic societies have been multiplying, and where outward progress has been great, I regret to say that attempts have been made to pervert the institution from its intrinsic character. If our brethren in France persist in carrying out the proposition to eliminate a recognition of God from the Masonic ritual, they will be cut adrift from the craft generally. Masonry is not atheistic, nor is it to be used as an engine of opposition against either Church or State. When it takes on that character it is not Masonry.

Good reports also reach us as to