

WASHINGTON TERRITORY.—1887.

The Grand Lodge of Washington Territory held its thirtieth Annual Communication at Vancouver on June 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1887, Grand Master Louis Ziegler presiding, and all the Lodges of the jurisdiction being represented.

This Grand Lodge has 43 subordinate Lodges on its register, and they claim a membership of 1,807 master masons. The Grand Master delivered an eloquent and businesslike address, from which we extract the following timely reference to the undue haste in which some Lodges initiate candidates :—

"Indeed, 'There is something rotten in Denmark.' The desire to make Masons with all modern speed, without regard to law or time, is fraught with danger, and threatens the downfall of our institution. In this inordinate desire to make Masons with undue haste, the ordinary mail facilities prove inadequate, and the process of the lightnings are invoked to be allowed to override the law and, in my judgment, with lightning speed should that permission be refused in ninety-nine of every hundred cases.

I am constrained to believe that all the troubles existing and arising in our Lodges are due to this baneful desire to swell numbers instead of raising high the standard of quality. There are too many Lodge organizations and too few Lodges; too many members and not enough of Masons; entirely too many in numbers, too few in quality. Too much attention is given to the enlargement of membership, and entirely too little attention is paid to the elevation of the moral standard which proclaims Masonry to be a moral and intellectual science.

Masonry is too cheap and too easily attained, and as a distinguished brother in a sister Jurisdiction, which evidently (yes, I know,) sweats under the sting of this moral stricture, said : 'Masonry is dog cheap, and they still want it cheaper.' This sounds harsh, yet it has the ring of truth in it, because constant endeavors are made to change the law, reducing the minimum of fees still lower, in order to admit as it is claimed, the poor man.

Brethren, we have poor men enough; too many, now. I speak in a mental and not in a physical sense. Therefore, let us pay all possible attention to quality and ignore quantity. Let us see to kind instead of numbers; and see well to it that this intellectual legacy left us by our fathers keeps pace with the times and does not deteriorate in our hands."

The proceedings of this communication were of local interest only

Bro. Louis Ziegler presented an admirable report on Foreign Correspondence. From his introductory remarks we extract the following :—

"The doctrine of Grand Lodge sovereignty and independence is involved in the very unpleasant relations existing between the Grand Lodges of England and Quebec. In the solution of this problem, measured by the American doctrine of exclusive Grand Lodge sovereignty and jurisdiction, there can be but one sentiment and one voice. England should recede from her unwarranted position and Quebec's rights must be respected."

Quebec for 1886 is fraternally noticed, and after quoting our edict of non-intercourse with the Grand Lodge of England he remarks :—