

tions exceeding six hundred dollars. I was affected almost to tears when I heard of this widow, and that infirm brother, and that orphan child, comforted, relieved, cheered. Among other things, that lodge had distributed twelve Christmas turkeys ("plump, fat, heavy, and tender," was the report of them), to as many widows and distressed relatives of Masons.

Does the reader enquire whether the visitations to the sick are as regular as in those societies where the duty is perfunctory? I reply, that I have not heard a complaint on the subject.

The Commanderies of this city have called together immense audiences, and made entertainments this winter, quite regardless of expense. Palestine, York, Clinton, Ivanhoe, and Dewitt Clinton, have done wonders in this way. Sir Loder, from Rochester, admittedly one of the finest drill-masters in the Order, brought with him sixty Sir Knights as guests of Ivanhoe Commandery, and gave a display on January 26, superior to anything witnessed in this city, previously.

I think the system of District Deputies in this State, is carried to a greater perfection than in any other jurisdiction. Every one of the thirty officials of that name, is expected to make at least one official visit through his official year to each lodge. In that, he witnesses the manner of doing work, the character of government and conduct, etc.; responds to inquiries that may be made, and serves as a divert medium between the lodge and the Grand Master. His report is elaborate, suggesting praise and blame, as deserved; and when published, makes a complete history of Masonic affairs for the year. After seeing this, I am the more anxious to see the plan disseminated in Kentucky. But every effort of that sort is opposed.

The re-building and re-fitting of the Masonic Temple, which you will remember was badly damaged by fire a year since, goes on, but slowly. It is,

however, nearly completed now, and by Grand Lodge session, in June, will doubtless be ready. In the mean time, all the rooms on the first three floors are in use, most of them every night. The structure is one of which the craft here are justly proud.

The quarrel in the Scottish Rite is very bitter here and in Massachusetts. In Boston there are four parties working that system, and a man who cannot become a thirty-third there, must, indeed, be despicable. Here, the "Cerneau Party" are active, and by their delegates in all parts of the State, are swelling their numbers of the thirty-seconds into the thousands. Thus far the strife has not affected Blue Lodge Masonry, save in a few lodges; but there are serious intimations, calculated "to give us a pause."

The establishment of a Masonic Reading Room, under the zealous administration of Deputy Grand Master Lawrence, is an event worthy the attention of all. By a voluntary collection, a commodious room in the Temple has been furnished and carpeted. Ample tables and desks are there, full files of all Masonic and literary publications are free to every (Masonic) visitor, while the great library belonging to the Grand Lodge, fills the book-cases against the walls. The permanent success of this effort, is something for us all to wish. If only Freemasons could be set to reading! You know how hard is the task. None know it better than you and I!—*Masonic Advocate*.

MASONIC LAW.

We are frequently asked for our opinion as to various matters concerning Masonic law and usage, but believing that the most of such questions are fully settled by the Jurisprudence Committees of the various Grand Lodges, and further being of the opinion that it is not the province of a journalist to define what is law, and