

been a kind and loving parent, and I have endeavored to make Him the Man of my counsel, asking him to make me worthy, in every particular, of the high and honorable position which I am now about to surrender.

Brethren, let this be a harmonious and profitable session. Let the love we bear our Order silence all personal differences, and by so doing, perpetuate the grandest Order that ever was established by human hands. Let us join hands and hearts, and make our "circle of unity" so strong, around our temple of virtue, that no *enemies from within or without*, shall ever desecrate or deface it; and from its dome let our spotless banner wave in the pure winds of heaven, with its beaming galaxy of stars undimmed for ever. I love this banner, because under its shadow we have rent asunder the cords that bound the aspiring wings of thought, and torn the manacles from the sturdy limbs of labor. Under its folds many battles have been fought, and gallant victories won, by our cold water army, as they have "swept over the land like the bright march of dawn," leaving peace and joy in their path. Under this banner, let us continue to fight, until the liquor traffic shall be utterly and for ever overthrown, and *Prohibition* be the written and realized law in every land.

I now return you this banner, with the nine additional stars. I need not repeat that I love it, for next to life itself, I hold it to be the honored emblem of all that is good and true in man—and all that is lovely and virtuous in women. While life lasts, and memory holds her place, I shall ever feel grateful for your confidence, and will cherish the position I have held as one of the most honorable ever bestowed upon man.

Fraternally Yours,

J. J. HICKMAN, R. W. G. T.

The R. W. G. Secretary read this Annual report as follows:

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