

ship—but on these points the Grand Secretary will no doubt give more information.

MORE ENERGY REQUIRED.

I cannot, however, forbear remarking that whilst the increase in the number of new warrants and also in the membership of Primary Lodges is gratifying, it might have been much more so had officers of Primary, District, and County Lodges all shown the energy and discharged the duties devolving upon them as they should. I do not make these remarks in a fault-finding or carping spirit, but with the hope that by drawing attention to the dereliction of duty on the part of the officers I have mentioned, amendment may take place, and result in such benefit to the Association that it will be an incentive to every one in future to work with all zeal in furthering the interests of Orangeism. It too often happens that in our organization brethren seek position for the honour conferred, but do not stop to consider that there is work to be done; and it too frequently happens that the honour once won, the work is neglected. The officers of the Primary Lodges should remember that it is their duty, whether the night be stormy or fair, to be at their post, because carelessness in this respect on the part of officers begets the same spirit in the members, and with that a lack of interest ending in a decrease of membership and then in the lodge becoming dormant. I am fully convinced that if an investigation were made as to the reason leading to lodges becoming dormant, the cause I have just mentioned would be found to be the one most fruitful of disaster. The same remarks apply to the District Masters. It is their duty twice at least in the year to visit the Lodges in their District, but in only too many instances they fail to do so, and I feel confident that where you find a weak District or decaying energy in the Masters and members of Primary Lodges, it will be found that the District Master has failed in discharging his duty. It is really wonderful the good an energetic, zealous and capable District Master can do in visiting the Lodges, correcting abuses, securing uniformity in the work, and infusing new life and spirit into the officers and members. The County Masters, of course, would in many cases find it impossible to visit the Lodges in their respective counties; but even they can and should visit as often as possible. In view of these facts and of the hostility manifested toward our beloved Institution, our progress in the past has been marvellous, and goes to prove, at least to my mind, that the Association has within it Divine germs of life that neither the carelessness and apathy of friends nor the increasing enmity of unscrupulous foes can destroy.

THE ORDER ELSEWHERE.

I am happy to be able to say that the Order in the United States and in the dear Old Land of our fathers is in a highly prosperous condition. In Great Britain and Ireland, no doubt, an impetus was given to our Society by the terrible outrages of the dynamite fiends, full accounts of which you probably have read in the press, and with the recital of which I need not detain you. In our day it has been the policy of Rome to preach tolerance, and to excuse the persecutions and massacres perpetrated by her, on the ground that they were done