

"In Texas a plan looking to the establishment of a Masonic Home was submitted to the constituent lodges in 1867, and adopted by the Grand Lodge—

"So that the establishment and maintenance of a Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home, and a strict economy in its expenditures, with the view of accumulating a fund (\$100,000) for this great object, is now the settled policy of the Grand Lodge— *Report of Directors, Texas, 1889.*

"In Virginia, in 1680, it was resolved:

"That it is expedient to establish a Masonic Home, and that the work may be commenced at once.

"The snug little sum of \$5,000 was given by Bro. A. G. Babcock, to start the enterprise.

"At the Grand Communication of California in 1889, a resolution was adopted to the effect that the Grand Lodge take such measures as may be proper to establish and foster an institution for the care of destitute orphan children of Masons, and a committee of five was appointed in accordance with the resolution.

"As the question of the feasibility of establishing a Masonic Home in Wisconsin will no doubt at an early day receive attention, it is well that brethren should know what sister jurisdictions are doing or attempting, how the charity is supported or planned to be supported, what outside help is obtained, and what are the difficulties in the way of success of such an enterprise."

M. W. Bro. N. M. Littlejohn (Whitewater), G. M.

R. W. Bro. J. W. Lavin (Milwaukee), G. S.

WYOMING.

16th Communication, Cheyenne, Dec. 2nd, 1890.

M. W. Bro. Leroy S. Barnes, G. M.

He decided very properly that the initiation fee should be returned to a candidate who through fright refused to submit to the ceremonies of preparation.

North Dakota and Tasmania were recognized.

The Grand Secretary has a capital report on correspondence. He is a born "condenser." His comments are clear and forcibly expressed, and there can be no mistake about what he means. We copy some of his remarks on the landmarks:—

"If we understand a few of our brother reporters, everything in the form of old charges, regulations, customs and usages of long standing, have through and under the common law of Masonry become landmarks, and like the laws of the Medes and Persians are unalterable and cannot be changed by any Mason or combination of Masons. Such being the case, we suppose they will hold that an applicant for Masonry who is seventy years old is a youth; also one under twenty-one years of age. If the latter (which we trust some one will deny) then what becomes of the Landmark? It has certainly been set aside under above decision and is completely ignored in nearly every state! This also applies to the perfect youth doctrine, which it is claimed (and we deny) means physical perfection. It is a perfect treat to read after our brethren who preach the common law of Masonry, and that Landmarks cannot be set aside when the fact is every jurisdiction has ignored what this or that Mason claims to be such. These brethren of sublime faith stand powerless to prevent innovations in the body of Masonry in an adjoining state, at the same time declaiming loudly in favor of every jurisdiction being a law unto itself, and against a supreme body that would prevent such innovations."

"He still hangs to the perfection doctrine, notwithstanding all the time and labor that has been expended in trying to convince him of the error of his way. He still insists there is a landmark that a candidate must be a perfect youth. We have never read or heard of such. There is something like it in the charges of a Freemason; but unfortunately the closing words dispose of perfection. Our brother seems to think Masonry would go to pieces but for Landmarks. Our opinion is that it would be better off if the word could be entirely eliminated for Masonry. There are certain fundamental laws recognized by all Masons in this country that cannot be changed without destroying the institution. Such laws are very few indeed and will never be changed, for there is no disposition to do so and never will be. With all the respect for, and the very kindest feelings toward all of our prescriptive, perfection and Landmark brethren, we are compelled to charge them with being the cause of Masonry shaking off the shackles. Specification: In this that our brethren have claimed that a Grand Master is a law unto himself and is endowed with numberless inherent powers; that when called upon they have failed to produce any law or evidence defining specifically the number and extent thereof. That they claim in their championship of physical perfection next to an utter impossibility and twist the law or regulation com-

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