

It was moved by R.: W.: Bro. Rev. J. A. Newnham, seconded by V.: W.: Bro. H. D. Moore,—

“That the reports of the several District Deputy Grand Masters, now presented, be referred to the Committee on the State of Masonry, to report thereon to this Grand Lodge as soon as practicable.”

The motion was carried.

GRAND CHAPLAIN'S DISCOURSE.

R.: W.: Bro. Revd. Robert Kerr delivered the following discourse :—

MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER AND BRETHREN,—

In resigning into your hands the insignia of the high office with which at the last annual communication of this Grand Lodge you were good enough to invest me, I believe it is expected that I should follow the laudable example set me by my eminent predecessors, and address you on some point bearing upon the welfare of the craft ; more particularly as it appears in relation to the all-important questions of religion and morality. The Right Worshipful Brethren who have preceded me in the high office of Grand Chaplain of this Grand Lodge have been, as you are aware, craftsmen of profound experience, wide Masonic culture, and zealously interested in promoting the principles of our Order ; and, therefore, while I should greatly like to emulate their devotion to your interests, I can only hope to follow at a distance the wise and well-balanced lessons which their wisdom has from time to time imparted since the foundation of this Grand Lodge. At our last annual communication we had the advantage of hearing from the retiring Grand Chaplain a very earnest and eloquent address on one of the great lights of Masonry, and I am sure we shall all remember with gratitude the helpful teaching contained in that discourse. For my own part I shall, perhaps, best contribute my mite towards promoting the interests of the craft if I venture to examine briefly the value of certain important truths when placed under the illuminating influences of Masonic lights. This will involve a limited discussion of our relationship to the non-Masonic world, and more particularly to that part of it in avowed hostility to our Order. It appears an almost unnecessary repetition to affirm that we have over and over again demonstrated the purity of our motives, and that we have more or less successfully produced a conviction in the minds of unprejudiced men of the absolute beneficence of our objects. Nevertheless, we will repeat that we have pledged ourselves in the most solemn manner possible that we only seek to co-operate with all the influences that work for good ; and yet we are still compelled to say that “those who hate us wrongfully are many in number.”

IGNORANCE AND MALICE HAVE ASSAILED US

with equal virulence, but fortunately with an equal lack of success. Calumny and misrepresentation—those twin children of the vicious and evil-minded—have taken up their parable against us and cried, “Down with it, down with it, even