

our laws. Not satisfied with this, they have so far exceeded all ordinary practice, that Odd Fellowship has almost become a business, to which not merely a few men devote their time and talents, but in which whole Lodges are zealously engaged. The greater difficulties and burthens seem to be overcome with the greatest ease. It seems more than ever true that the practice of virtue is a two fold blessing, and especially has it proved true of the benevolent and charitable practices of our Order, blessing both the giver and the receiver, for in those Lodges and Jurisdictions where most has been required by far the most has been done, and as a consequence we invariably see in those cases the greatest prosperity. I believe the necessity for our Order was never more strongly felt than at the present day, and that its attendant blessings were never so gratefully appreciated and acknowledged.

In September last all the Grand Lodges and Grand Encampments of the North were fully represented in Grand Lodge at Baltimore, with the exception of the Lower Provinces and Vermont and Tennessee, and through her Representatives were again welcomed by one and all to the Grand Council of our Order. Western Virginia too is seeking recognition as a Grand Jurisdiction, while from every quarter of the South, through sometimes very difficult channels, come up to us words of good cheer and hope, regarding the perpetuity of the Independent Order, as an undivided brotherhood upon this Continent.

By way of relief to the Order in Tennessee, the Rep. taxes for 1861 and '62, still unpaid, were cancelled, and a quantity of supplies were also voted, free of cost, to enable the Lodges there to resume work if possible.

In the raid upon the City of Lawrence in Kansas, last year, the Treasurer of that Grand Lodge was killed and robbed of all his own money, together with the entire Fund of that Jurisdiction, and as a temporary aid the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the United States was authorized by note the Representative Tax of Kansas for the year 1864, if so requested.

The Wildey Monument Fund already assumes very respectable proportions, amounting in September last to \$5,922 28, and from accounts received during the current year, I doubt not, very nearly as large a sum will be added thereto this Fall. It is expected that plans for a monument will be submitted in September next.

The whole number of Lodges and Encampments represented at last Session was 3,262, with a membership of 151,177; Initiations for the term ending July 1863 numbered 12,636; Brethren relieved 17,348; Widowed families relieved 2,158; total amount expended in relief of Brothers, Widows and Orphans, Education and in burying the dead was \$434,395 28. Add to this the ordinary and incidental expenses of the different Lodges for Rents, Taxes, Insurance, Light, Fuel &c., &c., of which we can all judge from the records of our respective Lodges and we shall have an expenditure for the year, under the provisions of our Laws for benevolent purposes, considerably exceeding \$1,000,000; while indirectly and informally, through the instrumentality of Odd Fellows and their Lodges, I believe fully as much more is contributed, of which our Order preserves no record. And all these figures, we must remember, (on account of the war) represent but little more than half of our real numbers and work in America.

Several ineffectual attempts at Constitutional amendments were tried. The following new amendments were proposed:

1st. To amend the second paragraph of the 14th Article of the Constitution, by striking out "75" and inserting "50."

2nd. Amend Article 16 as follows—Provided also that such Jurisdictions as choose to do so may re-admit to membership within their respective Jurisdictions,