

but when we remember the small community amongst whom we labor, and the extraordinary dullness and depression that have attended all branches of industry during the eventful year 1848, we can have no other feeling than deep gratitude to Almighty God, that during a period of distress and gloom, almost unparalleled, our noble institution has been permitted steadily, though slowly, to increase, both in numbers and prosperity. We have an increase of Members good on the books, of about 5 per cent. ; and a more marked proof of the advancing prosperity of the District, is the steady increase of payments. For instance, the March returns show the contributions of one penny a week from each Member, for the quarter, to amount to £45. The June returns amount to £50; September, £53; and those for December last to £57; shewing an advance of upwards of 25 per cent. between the first and last quarters of the year.

The annual balance sheet for 1847, showed a balance belonging to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, amounting to £334 16 8½
This year has been collected for that fund, 276 6 2

Making in all £611 2 10½
Of this amount, during the year there has been paid to Widows
and Orphans, £69 10 6
For a Registration Book, 1 7 6
70 18 0

Leaving the Widows' and Orphans' Fund worth, £540 4 10½
Of this there is in present possession of Lodges £94 17 7½
Stock, British North America Insurance Company 91 8 9
Stock, Bank of Upper Canada 145 0 0
Leaving in the Bank a balance of 208 18 6
£540 4 10½

We would recommend to your consideration the propriety of investing a further sum of £200 in some safe and profitable stock.

We regret to announce to you the death of six Brothers and four Brothers' wives, since 1st January, 1848. These have involved an expenditure of £90 for Funeral Donations.

Subscriptions to a considerable amount have been received for the relief of Brethren from other Districts; and we cannot but congratulate Lodges generally on the alacrity they have shown in stretching forth the hand of friendship and benevolence toward the stranger in distress.

We much regret that we are compelled to refer to a painful event that lately took place in the Niagara District, whereby the Order generally has been outraged in the person of a Brother.

Brother TOLL, of the Loyal Niagara Lodge, was refused Christian burial, according to the ritual of his Church, by the resident Roman Catholic Priest, because our Brother refused on his death-bed to renounce this Order; and thus

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