

WEST VIRGINIA.

Thirteenth Annual Communication.

Held at Martinsburg, November 13, 1877.

M. W. Bro. G. W. Atkinson, Grand Master.

Lodges, 76; represented, 72; initiated, 158; members, 3,865.

The Craft is in as prosperous a condition as can be expected during the prevailing hard times. "Men do not spend money these days unless it is a matter of positive necessity." Bro. Atkinson also says:—

"It is said that when Napoleon had marched his victorious legions into Egypt, and as they passed up the valley of the historic Nile, beheld those grand old monuments which carry the mind back to a period almost coeval with the flood, and when his soldiers were fainting from fatigue, he electrified them with this glowing utterance:—"Soldiers, remember, from the summits of those pyramids forty centuries are looking down upon you." This expression, my brethren, affords a striking illustration of the solemnity and reverence of age; and we might truthfully add that the beauty of the sentiment applies to Freemasonry more forcibly than to any other institution, either living or dead. Masonry comes down to us hallowed not only with the reverence of age, but it is connected also with blessed associations, and is mantled in eternal glory. Its associations are indeed covered over with the dust of centuries, and are hallowed with memories dear to those who have been industrious enough to study out its mysteries and master its precepts.

"We glory in the antiquity of our Institution not so much because it has continued to live amid the storms of forty centuries or more, but because it has survived all opposition, and presents itself to-night as a monument of victory over error and superstition, which none but a worthy and an honorable institution could have accomplished. During that time Empires have perished, Thrones have crumbled, and grand Cities have mouldered into dust; but through all the persecutions that wicked men could bring to bear against it, the grand old edifice of Freemasonry stands unshaken, as bright as a pillar of fire, and as glorious as an army with banners. Ours, then, is an aged institution, and yet it is not too old to do good. While it is more ancient than the civilization of both Europe and America, and its organization even ante-dates by centuries the language which we speak, still its mission is not yet accomplished, nor will it be until sorrow and suffering shall have left the world, and men and nations need no longer to fellowship together."

Nothing of particular importance appears in the Proceedings

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