

M. W. Bro. Wm. B. Taliaferro, elected Grand Master: R. W. Bro. John Dove, re-elected Grand Secretary.
205 Lodges, with a membership of 8798.

WEST VIRGINIA—1874.

The Tenth Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge was held in the City of Wheeling, on Nov. 10, 1874; M. W. Thos. H. Logan, Grand Master; R. W. Odell S. Long, Grand Secretary; 60 of the 63 Chartered Lodges represented.

The Grand Master presented a very excellent address, abounding in fine thoughts clothed in choice language.

He deplores the evils arising from the abuse of the ballot, as shown occasionally by a determination on the part of certain discontented and mischievous members of Lodges, who, failing perhaps to get some friend admitted into the Fraternity or elected to office, immediately "obstruct the successful working of the Lodge, and destroy its harmony by rejecting all candidates, without regard to moral or other qualifications, who do not belong to their party:" expresses astonishment that any brother can so far forget his duty to the Craft as to take part in such proceedings, and points out the inevitable result,—the destruction of the Lodge in due time if these black beaners faint not.

Another serious evil is referred to:—that of the rejection of an E. A. or F. C. by the ballot on an application for advancement.

The Grand Master thinks this use of the ballot a violation of the regulations, and very justly adds:

"If there are sound reasons apart from the question of his proficiency, why a brother should not be advanced, there is a legal and more honorable way to stop him. As an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft he has rights superior to those of a profane; a right to be heard in his own defence, and it is not only dishonorable but cruel to deny him the opportunity of vindication.

"I respectfully suggest that inasmuch as occasional trouble has arisen from the abuse of the regulation referred to, requiring a ballot on each degree, the same be amended so as to provide that a majority or two-thirds vote shall determine the question of a candidate's proficiency."