

Several dispensations were asked for to confer degrees in cases claimed to be those of 'emergency.' I fully concur in the views expressed upon this subject by our former Grand Masters and declined to accede to these requests."

He issued four dispensations for new lodges.

The D. D. G. M. of the 1st District reports as to one lodge in these terms :—

"*Liberty Lodge No. 26.*—This Lodge has been laboring under great disadvantage during the past year on account of financial embarrassment, it being compelled by a decree of the Circuit Court to pay a debt and costs amounting to over \$800,00. Said debt was paid once before by a draft on a bank, which failed during the time the payee carried the draft in his pocket. I am pleased to state that the Lodge is temporarily relieved, by having paid part out of Lodge funds and borrowing balance on good time, which it is hoped will be ultimately paid off, without injury to any brother. The Lodge did a little work, and had some increase of membership. Average attendance at communications is good. Peace and harmony prevail."

The Special Committee on Education presented the following report :—

"Brethren, for some years past earnest and philanthropic Freemasons in West Virginia have felt that some wider scope should be given to the benevolence which is the corner-stone of our revered institution, than was possible to the Lodges in their individual and segregated capacity. Our brethren in other States are erecting and endowing colleges for the free education of the children of Masonic sires, or providing homes where the widows or orphans of the fraternity may be sheltered and protected. In nearly every other of the Masonic Grand Lodges of the United States is there some such benevolent institution, maintained by the voluntary contributions of men who have connected themselves with the Masonic fraternity, 'animated by a sincere desire of being serviceable to their fellow men.' In West Virginia we have hitherto been content with the development of the minor benefits of the institution; the promotion of true brotherhood between the members of our Lodges; benefits which accrue mainly to ourselves and are in their nature more selfish than benevolent. Good and true Masonry has a wider aim, a broader scope. It looks first to the happiness of the household of the faithful, but contemplates also the good of the whole human race.

Feeling that the fraternity in West Virginia is as yet too weak, both in numbers and in wealth to establish and conduct successfully a school for the education of the young or a home for the maintenance of the old, and yet believing that it is capable of accomplishing more good than has yet been done through its agency, Brother Martin, President of the West Virginia University, addressed a letter to the Grand Master which was read at the last communication of the Grand Lodge, proposing a plan for the extension of the benefits of the Masonic fraternity in this State. In pursuance of that plan, which received the unanimous approval of the Grand Lodge, this committee was appointed, and an appropriation of \$150 was made from the funds of the Grand Lodge for immediate furtherance of the purpose indicated.

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