

His report is always pleasant and courteous, but we have not space to note further some of his interesting remarks.

Membership, 12,355 ; increase, 386.

James B. Youngson, Pittsburg, Grand Commander.
William W. Allen, Philadelphia, Grand Recorder.

SOUTH DAKOTA—1899.

Sixteenth Annual, Yankton, June 16th.

R. Em. The Grand Commander Wm. I. Doolittle, together with the other Grand Officers, were escorted from the hotel to the asylum where the Sixteenth Annual Conclave assembled.

The Grand Commander in his address grew grandiloquent over the war with Spain, and Monarchy, Tyranny, etc., and remarked that "Kings are tyrants at best." This last century appellation can hardly govern the case in question, for the Spanish King being a boy in his teens can scarcely be called a tyrant over his subjects.

The Spanish people are governed by a "Cortez" or Congress, and they make the laws, and declare war, etc. Cuba was a milch cow. Official corruption and military despotism have been at the base of Spanish cruelty and oppression, and the time came that a halt should be called, and the Spanish government, the want of education and enlightenment, and not its boy king, are the responsible parties. The Star and Stripes have taken up the "white man's burden," they will find it will take years before they can be relieved of it in Cuba. To leave the island to a mob or semi-military tyrannism would be a crime, for the tyranny of a mob or even oftentimes a majority over a minority is in these days as bad as the tyranny of some of history's mediæval kings. But we are getting off the trail. The Grand Commander's address, take it all through, is a well written paper.