

MICHIGAN—1878.

The Thirty-fourth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Michigan, convened in the City of Grand Rapids, January 22nd, 1878. The M. W. Grand Master, Wm. Dunham, presided, and he was cheered by the presence of eleven Grand Officers and no less than eight Past Grand Masters. The Grand Master's address is a very clear business-like document, thoroughly prepared and well digested, both as to substance and style. Eight new Lodges were constituted during the year past, and six masonic halls were dedicated. Schools of instruction are urged upon the attention of District Deputies and Masters. Eighteen decisions are furnished by the G. M. As to most of them we think the questions might have been spared the G. M. the time and trouble of answering, but we have no criticism to make upon the decisions themselves. The G. M. concludes with a few words of congratulation upon the honorable position which the Institution of Freemasonry continues to occupy throughout the world, and urges his brethren to see to it, that they continue worthy of the respect thus gained. The brief reports of the ten District Deputies shew a prosperous state of things on the whole, harmony prevailing, interest in masonic work and literature increasing, and a proper masonic spirit being cultivated.

The report of the G. L. Committee on Temperance contains some wise observations. They say that the practice and observance of the virtue of temperance is inculcated in a most impressive manner on our first admission into the Lodge. It stands at the head of the cardinal virtues, and to violate its principles subjects the offender to the contempt of all good masons. They deprecate any additional legislation. The neglect of these reciprocal duties and obligations which rest upon all Masons may be to blame for some violations of this principle. Do brethren, animated by that fraternal regard for a brother Mason's welfare, stretch forth their hands to assist and save the falling brother? They conclude by saying that the blame of the evil of intemperance among the fraternity does not rest upon the intemperate alone, nor with the law givers, but with the brother who has disgraced himself, and perhaps with the Lodge in that they did not try to save him from falling, or failing in this that they did not wipe out the disgrace to the Fraternity by expelling or suspending him from all the rights and benefits of masonry.

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