

to-day under the constitution, by reason of his absence, held by the Worthy Deputy Grand Sire.

The R. W. Grand Marshal, Bro. E. D. Farnsworth, of Tennessee, is not found in his place, and the voice of Virginia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Florida, Arkansas and Tennessee, which we have been for so many years accustomed to hear within these walls, participating in our councils, enlightening, instructing, and animating us by their experience, is not now heard, and will not be heard during our deliberations.

The seats which the Representatives of these Jurisdictions in our Brotherhood were wont to occupy, are not now occupied, and when the Recording Secretary shall call the roll from time to time, his familiar voice will not be heard by our brethren from the South, nor will there come up any response from their vacant places. We shall not grasp their hands in friendship, nor read their inward joy, as it sparkles from the eye when friends and brothers meet. We shall not meet with them in committee labor, nor measure lances with them in the arena of debate as heretofore. Why this spectacle? I dare not trust myself to answer, however choice and prudent may be the language employed, or however pure the motive, lest the answer should offend that consecrated law of our ritual, which ignoring with vestal honor, the divisions and classifications of human society, studiously avoids all affinity, with systems of faith or sect whether religious or political. The answer leaps nevertheless spontaneously from our saddened hearts, and invokes us to measure up in this crisis, to the full standard of Odd-Fellowship.

You, Representatives, are the great heart of that order, from you her life-blood passes into all her veins. In the language of one of our distinguished and ever-beloved Patriarchs: "You are the watchmen on her towers, the rulers in her palaces. Her destiny is with you. Her fortunes are in your hands. God grant that her unity, her prosperity, and her perpetuity, may come forth from your councils; strengthened and assured by the light of wisdom, attempered and chastened by the broad spirit of brotherly love."

The several amendments to the constitution which were in order, were laid over in consequence of there being so few Representatives present, until the next meeting of Grand Lodge, all present feeling a disposition to do as little business as was possible. There were some decisions made by Grand Lodge, which may be of sufficient importance to include in this report. A brother suspended for non-payment of dues, and the Lodge afterwards surrenders its Charter, may be admitted to membership upon such terms, as the State Grand Lodge may by law prescribe. The Grand Lodge of the United States having no law applicable to the case. (Journal 3,350.)

The Grand Lodge Degree being by the laws of the Order a reward for official services, and not to be conferred for any other consideration than the regular performance of the duties of the Noble Grand's chair, brothers are