

think all men are so base and vulgar as to place woman on the degraded plane to which you have assigned them.

We who live "out west" among the savages have a few of the principles of enlightenment and honor within us which our beloved Order teaches, and which, we are sorry to say, some of our brethren living on the eastern side of the river appear to have lost sight of.

We deny the assertion that the "indiscriminate mingling of males and females in a secret organization," such as we refer to, will in any way cause scandal, and still insist that the principles taught in the Order of the Eastern Star, "if sown in good ground," will bring forth good results and be elevating to the mind, but if planted among the wreck caused by "tares" no effect can come of it.

Commanderies, 10; members, 626; increase, 22.

Jacob Weatherwax, (Aberdeen,) G. C.

Yancey C. Blalock, (Walla Walla,) G. R.

WEST VIRGINIA.

Twenty-third Conclave, Wheeling, May 12, 1897.

John C. Riheldaffer, G. C.

The Grand Commander congratulates the members on the prevailing harmony and on the absence of any dissension or grievance. He issued one dispensation for a new Commandery. He decided that a non-affiliated Royal Arch Mason was eligible for knighthood. On the result of his official visitations, he says:—

The officers are as a rule proficient and the Commanderies in generally good condition, showing an active, healthy growth, as will appear in the tabulated reports.

I would call attention to the deplorable lack of proficiency in tactics and drill, and suggest that all Commanderies pay more attention to such sword exercises and movements as are necessary to a proper conducting of the ceremonies.

I note also some irregularity in uniform, which should be corrected. And in some of the Commanderies the conferring of the Order of Malta is deferred to a more convenient season, which in some instances I fear never comes. This should be corrected.

The following resolution was adopted, and thereupon Frater Hugh Sterling was unanimously elected Grand Inspector for the term of five years. This is the first instance we have seen of such a long term of office. It will certainly have its advantages in securing uniformity of inspection, and avoiding contradictory rulings:—