

We close this paper with a remark that ought to be an axiom: No lodge was ever prosperous when the work was ill-done; no lodge long declines when the work is well performed. From this fact the importance to Masonry of good work may be inferred.—*Masonic Trowel*.

AMERICAN GRAND BODIES.

The St. Louis *Freemason*, for September, gives the following sketch of the business which will probably come before the Grand Bodies meeting in Baltimore next week:

"In the Grand Encampment, we know of no special business to be brought forward beyond the general tenor of legislative affairs and adopting reports, and we anticipate that that body will get through with its labors in a very reasonable time and in perfect harmony.

"Unless the time of the meeting is changed to some other season of the year chosen, we nominate either Philadelphia or San Francisco as the next place of meeting—we think the former clearly entitled to it.

"In the General Grand Chapter, several important measures will be brought forward, especially that of voting on the amendment to eliminate the Past Master's degree (so called) from the Chapter, and leaving it under the control of the Grand Lodge as it is in Pennsylvania. The Grand Chapter of Missouri has already adopted the amendment and instructed its representatives to vote accordingly.

"There is also an amendment proposed to make all Past Grand High Priests members of the General Grand Chapter, which we think should be adopted, not that we ever expect to be a G. H. P., but we think the law would be more in harmony with the usages in all other bodies, both grand and subordinate. The argument on the other side, that it will enable contiguous States to overrun the body with Past officers, we do not acknowledge as a good one, for two reasons: 1st, experience is against it in the Grand Encampment, and 2d, that as both national bodies meet at the same time and place, and as nearly all the members of the Grand Encampment are Past Grand High Priests, each State will be amply represented.

"All the State G. Chapters in the United States are in allegiance to the General Body, except the States of Rhode Island, North Carolina, Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama, Texas, Pennsylvania and Virginia, eight in all, which leaves twenty-six entitled to representation.

"It is contemplated to make a motion to dissolve the General Grand Chapter for two reasons—1st, that it has accomplished all it was intended to do, and secondly, that many State bodies are fearful of encroachment upon their sovereign rights. Relative to the first reason, we are not prepared to discuss, because we have never found out what it was created for, except to produce uniformity of work and a general interchange of ideas once in three years for the purpose of improvement. As for the 'uniformity' business, it certainly has not and cannot accomplish that, any more than a State body can, and we all know that to be impossible. As for the 'interchange of ideas,' it has undoubtedly accomplished much by bringing companions together from every quarter of the Republic, whereby they become acquainted and help thereby to cement more strongly the fraternal ties of Royal Arch Masonry.

"Relative to the second reason for dissolution, we have no such fear,