

It seems to me, Brethren, that our Council has in the past year suffered by death more, in proportion, than other Councils. Out of a total membership of thirty-six all told, we have lost two, or nearly six per cent., and out of a membership of eighteen active, two, or eleven per cent. In the Northern Jurisdiction with a total membership of all ranks of 603, their loss has been but thirteen, or a little over two per cent. and of their active membership of forty-seven, a loss of two, or four per cent. In view of the fact that in 1892 we had twenty-one active members, and to-day have only sixteen, it becomes urgently necessary that we should strengthen our Council in that direction by increasing the number of the members of this rank, up to at least what it was when I took the sceptre of this Council.

FOREIGN MATTERS.

There seems to have been the past year a dearth in the way of foreign Masonic news, nevertheless, the most perfect harmony prevails between this and all other Councils.

Naturally we come more in contact with our neighbors to the south of us, and there being so much personal communication between us by the interchange of fraternal visits, we learn more of their doings than we do, or can learn of the doings of more remote jurisdictions.

THE NORTHERN SUPREME COUNCIL U. S.

This Supreme Body held its annual meeting in the City of Buffalo, N. Y., on the 17th, 18th and 19th of last month, and was as usual very largely attended; all but four or five of its active members being present. The session this year being held so near to our boundary line, enabled a number of the members of our Council to visit this great body, and I rejoiced at being accompanied by Ill. Bro. MURRAY, our Secretary-General, and Ill. Bros. BALLARD, ALLEN and MALONE. We were received with open arms and our Council was honored by the courteous, cordial and dignified reception which was accorded to our delegation. With one or two exceptions all the old dignitaries of the Council were in their places, and it was exceedingly pleasing and inspiring to witness the great interest taken in the work of the Rite by men of the age, standing and attainments of those who compose the membership of this Grand Body. The reports of the various committees were models of diction and I particularly commend their perusal, as they shall appear in the Proceedings of this Council shortly to be issued.

Financial matters in the United States having improved during the past year, a corresponding improvement in the progress and prosperity of the Rite was produced.

The Council was very generous in electing to the Honorary