

meets, to make such arrangements as may be necessary to bring us together again, consistent with the dignity of this Grand Lodge, and the brethren appointed are a sufficient guarantee that any arrangement which may be made, this Grand Lodge shall not be compromised. This is the second effort we have made to effect the same object, and if again unsuccessful, (which I trust not) no blame will attach to us for perpetuating a state of things, which is most unnatural and subversive of all good, which would otherwise flow from our Association, and it will then be our duty to follow our own destiny with renewed vigor and determination, strengthened in the belief that we have acted the part of true Orangemen, with respect to the existing misunderstanding and schism.

COMPANIONS AND BRETHREN, I am happy to be able to state, that notwithstanding the many difficulties to be surmounted, our beloved Order is steadily progressing and the seeds of Orangism are being sown far and wide, and not the least remarkable feature of the times is, that many Protestants, hitherto estranged from us, and who had probably for political reason, fraternized with Roman Catholics, and who regarded us with distrust and aversion, have by the occurrences of the last twelve months had their eyes opened to the necessity of such an organization as our association presents.

I would also call your attention to suggestions contained in the address of the last past Grand Master, Br. Whitehead, which arrived too late for action to be taken last year. You will find the address printed in the report of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge for last year.

There is a matter of some moment, to which I think it my duty to direct your attention. I allude to that part of our Constitution establishing a Grand Committee, and the privileges conferred on its members of sitting and voting in the Grand Lodge. I am persuaded that to the existence of the Grand Committee, may be attributed in some measure, some of the difficulties under which we labor. This is owing to its members being apparently unlimited, and the facility with which brethren may become members, and thus, without being called upon to perform any particular duty, (the Grand Committee being scarcely ever summoned together) secure privileges and power equal to those of the Master representing 60 to 100 men, the District Master representing 200 to 300 men, the County Master representing 500 or 600 men, and it is feared that it is liable to be improperly used, as a means of influencing the deliberations of the Grand Lodge. I throw out the suggestion, whether it should be continued in a modified shape, or abolished altogether, remarking that there can be no doubt, if the privilege of being a member of the Grand Lodge were confined to the heads of Lodges, Districts and Counties, a greater emulation would exist among the Brethren to qualify themselves for these offices, and thus a good effect produced; besides, would not greater weight be attached to the proceedings of the Grand Lodge itself?

I would remark Brethren, that considerable inconvenience arises in consequence of County Masters delaying sending in their returns to the Grand Secretary, and the payment of dues to the Grand Treasurer until the meeting of the Grand Lodge, by which the time of these officers is taken from their ordinary duties in session, and the business of the Grand Lodge in some measure interrupted.

In conclusion, Companions and Brethren, I charge you to be steadfast and vigilant, true to your principles. Let no personal consideration incline you from the path of duty. Let neither favor nor flattery cause you to swerve from it for an instant, or forget your high calling, as the defenders of Protestantism; and let no private feeling interfere with your public duty. Let your walk and conversation in life be such as may defy the traducer, and be ye wise and prudent, so that you may avoid the snares with which we are surrounded. Remember you have a subtle foe to deal with, and it is thus, alone, we may hope to successfully baffle her.

You will now proceed with the business before you, and let us fondly hope that the Great Jehovah will bless our proceedings, for our good and his glory.