

WISCONSIN—1875.

The M. W. Grand Lodge of Wisconsin met at Masonic Hall, Milwaukee, 8th June, A. L., 5875, M. W. Jedd P. C. Cottrill, G.M., presiding.

176 Chartered Lodges represented, 3 under dispensation. The Grand Master refers pathetically to the death of P. G. Master Henry S. Baird, for fifty years a devoted, zealous member of the Craft, and one of the pioneer Masons of Wisconsin. He pays glowing tribute to the character of the deceased. He also refers in feeling language to the death of Grand Marshal Ferrin and P. G. Chaplain Rev. Robt. Langley, familiarly known as Father Langley.

Seven new Lodges constituted during the year and dispensations granted to four. Three dispensations were granted to Lodges to advance candidates without their exhibiting proficiency. He says:

"I granted these dispensations upon the unanimous votes and request of the Lodges, after considerable reflection, but finally deeming that if they were willing to receive the applicants they might be permitted to do so; inasmuch, as it was not likely that the applicants could ever make themselves sufficiently known to enable them to visit elsewhere."

Bad for the Candidates, worse for the Lodge, worst for the Craft. Adoptive or Androgynous Masonry, which was being introduced by a travelling pedlar, received its quietus from Bro. Cottrill, who very evidently does not believe in women's rights, in a Masonic direction. He closes his remarks on the subject by saying "that there is enough in Free Masonry proper for all exercises of brotherly love, relief, truth and charity." Correct. He recommends that recognition of the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory and the Grand Orient of Hungary be withheld.

Of his decisions we quote:

"1. A Lodge in this jurisdiction cannot request a Lodge in Colorado (or elsewhere) to confer for it the E. A. degree upon one of its elected candidates who has removed there.

"2. One Lodge cannot confer degrees *as a matter of favor* to another, upon the material of the latter."

"3. A non-affiliate cannot, as of right, prefer charges and insist upon trial of the brother charged; but should such charges be preferred, the Lodge, for the good of the Craft, should investigate them, and if probable cause be shown, charges should then be preferred as provided in the Constitution."