

a membership on the roll at the close of 1888 of 1,704. The session occupied two days; the business was of the usual routine character, and was transacted in a satisfactory manner. The date for the annual communication of the Grand Lodge was changed from February to June, the next annual meeting to be held in this city the second Wednesday in June, 1890. The Brandon Masons announced their intention to immediately reconstruct their hall on a much grander scale and wished the next meeting to be held in Brandon. Just before closing, the lodge passed a resolution appreciating the courtesy, impartiality and Masonic knowledge exhibited by Bro. Ovas in the chair.

GRAND LODGE OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

We have already remarked on the almost complete unanimity with which the proposal for the establishment of an independent Grand Lodge of New South Wales was received by the lodges and brethren of the several constitutions in the colony, and the conspicuous success which attended its inaugural meeting, when Bro. Lord Carrington, Governor-General, and a Past S. G. Warden of England, was installed its first Grand Master; nor have we the slightest doubt that its future career will harmonize well with the brilliancy of its commencement. But the ramifications of English Masonry are so great and the colony of New South Wales itself is so remote from our shores, that it will not be amiss, perhaps, if we take stock of the lodges—now constituting a large proportion of those on the roll of the new organization—which only a brief year since paid a willing obedience to the United Grand Lodge of England. The number of such lodges as have thus passed from their old allegiance is very considerable, being, we believe, 82; but, as may easily be imagined, there are not many among them which can boast of anything like a protracted existence, the highest on the

roll being the Australia, No. 390, which was warranted by the late Duke of Sussex in the year 1828. However, considering the facility with which other lodges, even in the Old Country, have disappeared from the roll, an existence of 60 years must not be spoken of lightly, and we dare say the lodge will remain in the future what it has been in the past—a very stronghold of the craft and an example of all that is wise and excellent in Masonry to its younger sister lodges. Next in order of seniority, but following at an interval of nearly 20 years, is the Maitland Lodge of Unity, No. 547, which was warranted by the late Earl of Zetland, G.M., in 1847, and close to it, having been constituted only the year following, is the Australian Lodge of Harmony, No. 556, which, like the Australia, No. 379, is located in the capital of the colony, the intermediate lodge being located at West Maitland. The Armidale Lodge of Unity, No. 595, quartered at the town of Armidale, was founded in 1851, the year of the Great Exhibition; and then we have the Independent, No. 621, Lithgow, warranted in 1853; the Zetland and Cambrian Lodges of Australia, Nos. 650 and 656, respectively, both founded in 1855, and both meeting in the capital of Sydney. The Wellington, No. 741, Mudgee, and the Ophir, No. 759, Orange, date from the year 1858, and the Robert Burns, No. 817, Sydney, from 1860; while the Balmain, No. 868, meeting at a town from which it derives its name, is of 1861 creation. The Mountain Lodge of Bombala, No. 920, marked in the 1888 calendar as being in abeyance, was constituted in 1862, and the United Service, No. 937, Sydney, in the same year; and then we have a group of three lodges, numbered consecutively Nos. 980, 981 and 982, and named respectively the Yass Lodge of Concord, the Union Lodge of Berri and the Queen's, of Penrith, all founded in 1863. The Cooma, No. 1081, was warranted in 1865; the Hope, No. 1123, Murrundi, in 1866; the Palmerston, No. 1148, Grafton, in