

haste which inspires the desires of divisions, classes and organizations to grow in numbers and to increase in wealth affects the Masonic fraternity. None of the institutions of the American continent grow fast enough to satisfy the aspirations of the people. What one of us would not say that the Masonic life of Ill. Bro. ALBERT PIKE has been crowned with success? Yet Bro. PIKE only last year said: "In the endeavor, faithfully persisted in for thirty years, to propagate a Rite of Masonry which appeals only to the intellect, courts not popularity, desires not to rapidly multiply the number of its initiates, and relies wholly upon the teaching of its degrees and its world-wide extension for its titles to the consideration of intelligent men, much has necessarily been encountered of a nature to chill, discourage and dishearten us." But, these are merely the words of one whose desires to do great work are larger than the possibilities, for he tells us that he finds compensation "in the high appreciation of our degrees and the continually increasing testimony to their value and intrinsic excellence enthusiastically borne by Masons of rare intelligence and scholarly acquirements," which make it impossible for him to be discouraged and disheartened, and that is the true feeling. We would all be pleased very much if the official returns showed a large increase of membership, many initiations and flourishing financial conditions in all our bodies; but a sound feeling of conservatism prompts the thought that the true strength of an institution like this does not lie wholly in numbers, and that a society whose teachings require study and whose principles require mental vigor to extend them depends upon moral and intellectual forces as much at least as it does upon a long roll of members.

Dispensations were issued during the year to establish three new Lodges of Perfection:—one at Quebec, one at Ottawa, and one at Kentville, N. S., and all of these have been organized with very good prospects. Of the organization of the lodge at Ottawa the Ill. G. Secretary-General sent me a very interesting and graphically written account. I know personally several of the Brethren who have been active in founding it, and am quite confident of their devotion to and interest in the Rite. The brethren at London, soon after our last annual session, came to a decision gratifying to us all, to surrender the powers which they possessed to confer under their Rose Croix warrant, the degrees from the 4th to the 14th, and to take out a new warrant for a Lodge of Perfection, which was issued to them. A new Rose Croix Chapter was organized at Windsor under powers given last year. We have, therefore, added five new bodies to our subordinates since our last session. In addition to this our membership shows an increase, our financial condition is better, and altogether, surveying the whole field, we have cause for thankfulness.

We are still weak in Manitoba and British Columbia. I found it utterly impossible to carry out the strong determination I had made to visit the latter Province, for business pressed me closely and I have a good many cares, my only holiday this year being the short visit made to New York. The Lieutenant Grand Commander fared no better as regards his proposed visit to Manitoba, although he was quite as desirous as I was to keep the promise of last year. As

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