

West Virginia.—1892.

THE 20th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of West Virginia, was held at Charleston, on the 15th November, 1892.

Grand Master LEWIS N. TAVENNER delivered an interesting address, reporting several decisions and quite a number of official visits.

The 94 working Lodges in this Jurisdiction report a membership of 4,767, showing a net gain during the year of 232.

Very generous notice is given to Quebec's proceedings for 1891, in the exhaustive Report on Foreign Correspondence from the pen of Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary, Geo. W. Atkinson, who speaks of our Foreign Correspondence Report of that year as "full of interest and displaying decided talent and ability;"—for which many thanks. He quotes from the introduction, the paragraph relating to the Fraternal Congress in Chicago, and also our entire summary of the action of Grand Lodges on the subject of Masonic Homes.

In order to reply, we quote the following from his review :—

"On the action taken by our Grand Lodge in 1890, on physical requirements, Bro. Chambers thus expresses himself :

We note with some surprise, and not without a certain amount of regret, the whole army of physical perfectionists, to the contrary, notwithstanding, that the Grand Master's decision, that only such physical defects as prevents a candidate practicing the precepts and complying with the ritual should render him physically ineligible for initiation, was reversed by Grand Lodge, after two or three divisions had occurred on the subject."

He follows this up by saying that we are not in sympathy with the "old liners" on this much debated subject. We are with those who hold to a belief in the necessity for a maintenance of all the old essentials in respect to the principles of Freemasonry, but with the views of those old liners who trace the fraternity back to the time when the morning stars first sang together, and who talk of Adam as the first Freemason, we have but little sympathy. And what of Adam's lost rib? Was he physically perfect?