

APPENDIX.

J. O. O. F.

R. W. GRAND LODGE OF THE UNITED STATES, }
 SEPTEMBER SESSION, 1866.

Among other proceedings, the following was had :

Rep. Garey, of Maryland, from the Legislative Committee, made the following report, which was considered and unanimously adopted :

To the R. W. Grand Lodge of the United States.

The Legislative Committee, to which was referred that portion of the report of the M. W. Grand Sire, setting forth the misfortunes and desolation of the jurisdiction of the Southern States, and recommending some effective plan by which aid may be extended to them and the welfare of that portion of our beloved Order promoted, beg leave respectfully to report that the language of the M. W. Grand Sire truly represents the sad condition of our Southern brethren. "The destruction of their halls, lodge rooms, furniture and regalia by the ravages of war was in some sections almost total and complete." During the session we have freely conferred with these brethren, and have obtained valuable information regarding the condition and prospects of their respective jurisdictions. In many places large and zealous Lodges and Encampments have been left utterly destitute, without books, regalia, funds or places of meeting, and so needy are the members that, with every disposition to reorganize and push on the work, the means are wanting for the bare necessities which are required for a working Lodge or Encampment. Places have been cited where an organization might easily be effected and a nucleus formed for a new career of prosperity with very small pecuniary assistance, and where Grand Officers cannot go to gather up these fragments for want of money to pay their necessary expenses. In the meantime, the orphan, the widow and the destitute have increased beyond all precedent on their hands, and exhaust at once all the resources which they are able to command. The Order has been put back for years by these misfortunes; and will suffer yet more, unless speedy and effectual help be supplied, when, upon the other hand, by prompt effort and action much that is lost may be repaired and the Order started on a new and yet more prosperous career.

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