

NEW YORK, 1884.

The transactions of the Grand Lodge of the Empire State, at its 103rd annual communication held in the city of New York, on the 3rd, 4th and 5th June, 1884, under the presidency of M.: W.: Grand Master J. Edward Simmons, are with us; we have perused them with great interest.

The address of the Grand Master is at once practical and replete with excellent ideas, suggestions, and advice, its inductive remarks convey the gratifying intelligence that the greatest degree of quietude has prevailed during his administration in the Craft. May it ever continue so, say we, and may no foreign elements, encouraging discord and contentions, ever find way to destroy fraternal love and courtesy amongst the brethren of New York. So mote it be!

His remarks on "New Lodges" are so *apropos* to this jurisdiction that we venture to transfer them to this report. He says, "Several applications have been received for dispensations for the formation of new lodges. I have in all cases refused to grant such dispensations, believing that we already have as many lodges in the State as are necessary, and in many portions of the State the territory is more than fully covered. The fact of an actual necessity for a new lodge, and that the interests of the entire Craft will be best subserved by its establishment, should be clearly demonstrated before any dispensation is granted. While certain advantages may accrue to a few by the establishment of a lodge 'near home,' we must be governed in our judgment by the welfare of the many, and never lose sight of the fact that one prosperous lodge is better than two whose life is sustained only by constant struggle, the tendency of which is to dampen the ardor of brethren by creating burdens which a few are sometimes obliged to carry to save the lodge from serious embarrassment. In the City of New York it is conceded that many of our lodges are unable to meet their current expenses, and the reason assigned for this unfortunate condition is that the available material is not sufficient to properly sustain the number of lodges that now occupy the territory. If this be so, the granting of a new warrant would be manifestly detrimental to the lodges to whom the territory has already been ceded, and which they ought not to release, as it would deprive them of the material upon which their maintenance largely depends. Encouragement should be given to those desiring new affiliations to resuscitate and build up impecunious lodges, and I sincerely hope this policy will prevail in the future, and that, for many years to come, the number of lodges in the city of New York will not be increased."

On the subject of "Charity," one of so all pervading an interest with our fraternity he thus discourses, and we desire to call attention of all concerned to the remarks: "The Board of Relief of the City of New York, organized under the authority of this Grand Lodge, has performed an

" of
" a
" is
" in
" in
" al
" n
" h
" si
" ex
" O
" ce
" re
" lo
" T
" w
" al
" in
" su
" ex
" it
" ol
" th
T
stat
not
Bro
un
T
sho
dev
his
may
add
pro
V
low
des
feel
Gra
"
" or
" as
" in