

Crue Northerner.

PAW PAW, MICHIGAN, JAN. 26, 1871.

S. T. CONWAY, EDITOR

PAW PAW, Jan. 20th, 1872.

FRIEND CONWAY:

Having just returned from attendance at the annual session of the Grand Lodge I. O. O. F. of Michigan, it may not be uninteresting to yourself and many of the readers of the NORTHERNER to give a synopsis of the doings of that Grand Body, and of the progress and prosperity of the order in this jurisdiction. The Grand Lodge convened in the city of Grand Rapids on the 16th inst., and continued in session to and including Friday, the 19th.

The old members pronounce it by far the largest and most interesting session of any ever held in this jurisdiction, and from the official reports the progress of the order in the State is unparalleled in its history; thirty new lodges and about fifteen hundred members have been added during the past year. The membership in the State is now between 9,000 and 10,000.

There were upwards of 300 delegates in attendance, and a stranger on entering the Hall when they were in session, would at once be impressed with their high character and intelligence. They came from all the towns and counties of State, and represent all professions and trades, and would be an honor to any State or society.

From the Grand Representative's report, I take the following statistics of the condition of the order in the United States. During the past year 430 new Lodges have been added, and 27,700 members, so that there are now over 330,000 members of the order in the U. S. The revenue of the Grand Lodge of the United States is \$3,060,650, an increase over last year of \$415, 802.—There was paid for relief during the year \$1,090,051.57. This exhibit of the prosperity of this order must be gratifying to its members.

On the second day of the session the following named members were installed into office for the present year.

- M. W. G. Master, F. H. Hanlin, of Flint.
- D. G. M., Thos. H. Dougherty, of E. Saginaw.
- G. Warden, Geo. W. Griggs, Grand Rapids.
- G. Secretary, F. M. Foster, Jackson.
- G. Treasurer, R. H. Morrison, Sturgis.
- G. Marshal, Cas. Kelley, Fentonville.
- G. Conductor, J. M. Servoss, Paw Paw.
- G. Guardian, P. C. Bird, Lake Superior.
- G. Herald, J. O. Mehek, Detroit.
- G. Chaplain, Rev. Geo. Taylor, Ann Arbor.

The Grand Sire of the G. L. U. S., Fred D. Stuart, was in attendance the entire session as the guest of the G. L. of Michigan, and by his advice and exemplification of the work, did much to enhance the interest of the session.—Many distinguished members of the order from other jurisdictions were present, who by stirring speeches added greatly to the interest; prominent among them were G. Master Linsley, of Wisconsin, a polished scholar and fine speaker.—Grand Master Smith, of Illinois, not an orator but abounding with good common sense, and P. G. M. Ellis, of Chicago, who, in an off-hand speech, held the entire G. L. for more than an hour as if spell bound, except when making the old Hall ring with their applause. The commissioners of the "Odd Fellows" institute of Michigan," made a lengthy report, setting forth that on the 8th day of August last, notice having been published, they met in East Saginaw and opened the propositions submitted for the location of the institute devoted to widows and orphans of Odd Fellows, and found the following result: from

- Three Rivers, cash \$25,000.
- Sturgis, " " 25,000.
- Fentonville, 100 acres of land value \$10,000.
- Owosso and Corunna, cash \$20,000.
- Ovid, cash or 200 acres of land, valued at \$20,000.
- Lansing, 45 acres of land, which includes the "Rogers Female College," valued at \$45,000.

Whereupon the commissioners adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That we accept the proposition submitted by the brothers of the city of Lansing, and locate the institute at that place.

The lands which were given by the large hearted brotherhood and citizens of Lansing are situated in the corporate limits of the city, upon which a building was erected a few years since, said building being one of the wings only of the Female College building. This wing is built of brick, 40x60 feet; four stories high, and finished complete in every part. From the report of Grand Secretary Foster we find that from \$50,000 to \$75,000 have already been donated

to the institute. It is the intention of the Grand Lodge to make this one of the first educational institutions in the State, beside making it a home for all of the widows and orphans of Odd Fellows, and indigent Odd Fellows in the jurisdiction. On the 15th day of November last, the corner stone of the main edifice was laid, and the work of erection will commence early in the spring. On the 19th day of June next, the stakes will be driven for the first (Odd Fellow) widows cottage in this country, and the chairman of the commission has extended an invitation to all Odd Fellows in the State to be present on that occasion.

I cannot at this time forbear mentioning the large hearted hospitality of the citizens of Grand Rapids, as exhibited by them during our short stay in their beautiful city.

On Thursday, the 17th, the hospitalities of the city were extended to the officers and members of the Grand Lodge and invitations came pouring in upon us to visit the many places of interest in the city, accordingly the G. L. took a recess during Thursday afternoon for that purpose. Carriages were furnished the members free of charge, and we were carried from place to place with the pomp of a Duke Alexis.

Space does not permit us to enumerate the many places of interest which we visited, but will only speak of our visit to the High School buildings. We were shown through its several apartments by Prof. Daniels, and although the school was not in session, we were exceedingly pleased and interested in the arrangement of the different rooms, and in viewing the natural curiosities, of which they have a very fine collection. After being shown about the several apartments we were invited to ascend the cupola, and as the building is situated on a hill we had a fine view of the city and the surrounding country, and many were the expressions of admiration to which we listened from the members of our party while we were enjoying the rich view spread out before us. The L. S. & M. S. R. R. Co. furnished a special train to carry to the plaster caves and mills all who had a desire to go and see them. Although we did not avail ourself of the privilege we learned from those who did, that the visit was an interesting one, and judging from the amount of plaster rock specimens, which the party brought away with them, we predict an advance in the price of that article the coming season.

We were surprised to find Grand Rapids so much of a manufacturing town, and as it is the second city in the State in population, we must regard it as among the first, if not the first city, in the State in manufactures, thrift, and enterprise. The city abounds in costly edifices and beautiful residences, and we are compelled to say that our first visit to the busy, beautiful city of Grand Rapids has impressed us so favorably, that it will long be remembered by us with pleasure.

Success to the Valley City and its good people; may their shadows never grow less.

Yours &c., J. M. S.

For the True Northerner.

THE TOLLING BELL.

By RAY RISTON.

Round about us, upon every hand, silent and grand, rise the majestic hills of Circumstance. Here in the valley ever surrounded by their unseen shadows "day by day we turn life's pages," each succeeding morn opening a new unspotted page in the Day book and Ledger, which the fleeing moments dot with the record of our joys and sorrows, and as the page prove smooth or marred, so we in our blind ignorance attribute our loss or gain, our joys and pain alone to chance; forgetting that in deeds and objects, are we to find the key to the mysterious history which reveals the powers that govern the minds of men.

How strange it seems, ten minutes ago we were talking and laughing, with never a thought of care, and now, a painful silence reigns. Suddenly out upon the morning air slowly sounds the tolling bell, and with half whispered tones came the chorused words, "Hush! somebody's dead." Oh, how long it tolls, who can it be? One glance from the window and we are answered—just over the way from our neighbor's door flutters the sable emblem of their grief. Poor senseless bit of crape, what eloquence those folds contain—eloquence no words can portray—the eloquence of woe.

Citizens hastening to their business places seeing that bit of fluttering crape meet friends and clasp hands in silent sympathy. The thoughtless school-boy

comes along the street at the top of his speed, with dog and sled close at his heels, but that silent witness floats out before him, and instantly he pauses, and for a moment looks upon it with an awe struck gaze, then with a twitch at his cap, as if to place it less awry upon his uncombed head, he walks slowly, almost reverently, away; even the sun declines to shine upon our streets to-day, and all without seems cold and gray: for in the early morning an unbidden, and an unwelcome guest, had visited our little village and borne away a loved and honored citizen. And there, just over the way, the lips, that have spoken words of counsel, then again those of encouragement and cheer, are mute and motionless—eyes that looked their calm and kindly greeting, sleep in unbroken slumber—hands ever extended in friendship's greeting, and filled with charity for the suffering and distressed, now lie cold and motionless upon a pulseless breast.

Over the bier through the long, long day, anguished friends shed affection's holy tears. Slowly the sad hours go by and, as welcome night again draws nigh, with outspread dusky wing, the record for the day is closed; yet through the gloom seems to gleam a light, guiding our way over the river toward the spirit home, and as the stars come faintly out, wind voices seem singing,

"Things seen and unseen have their times
And tides of feeling; and the years
When fitting, pause, to let the chimes
Which fill the stars' bright eyes with tears."

From the Lansing Republican.

Gubernatorial.

The discussion in relation to the nomination of a Republican candidate for Governor has commenced early, and has become quite general throughout the State. Among the names presented are those of Col. P. B. Stockbridge of Allegan, John J. Bagley of Detroit, Auditor General Humphrey, S. M. Cutchson of Washtenaw, H. G. Wells of Kalamazoo, J. P. Thompson of Kent, R. E. Trowbridge of Oakland, J. J. Woodman of Van Buren, and many others. Several papers strongly favor the re-nomination of Gov. Baldwin for the third term. The Western press of the State urge the nomination of a Western man, on the ground that during the 17 years of Republican rule, Western Michigan has not had a Governor. In addition to the names that have been presented we have heard those of Charles Upson of Branch, and T. D. Gilbert of Kent. The prospect is that the Convention will be allowed a choice among a score of candidates, and the excitement will be more intense in relation to the nomination of Governor than at any time since the organization of the party in this State.

The Allegan Journal strongly espouses the claims of Senator Stockbridge, and other Western papers also endorse him. As a legislator he has made an excellent record, and would make a capable and efficient Executive. John G. Bagley of Detroit has many friends throughout the State, is well and favorably known as an influential politician, and will have many friends in the Convention. The argument that will be used with the greatest effect against his nomination, is the fact that Detroit has had the Governor for the past four years, and that all our Republican Governors have come from the Eastern portion of the State. Several papers advocate the claims of General Humphrey, who has been Auditor General of the State for five years past, and has proved a faithful and efficient officer, discharging his duties to the general satisfaction of the people. Several papers urge the re-nomination of Governor Baldwin, claiming justly that Michigan has never had a better Governor, especially in all that relates to the financial interests of the State.

While it would be a new precedent to nominate a Governor for a third term, it would only be following the custom lately established in regard to other State officers, and in a close contest between the several candidates, it would not be improbable that he should be accepted as a compromise over all other candidates.

Besides, Michigan has a thousand men who would make capable and efficient Governors, not only among those who have held Legislative and State positions, but those who have never held political office whatever.

It will be at least six months before the nomination for that office is made. The discussion in relation to candidates we regard as premature, and will add nothing to the strength of any candidate who has been named, in the coming Convention. Regarding it as far too early to take any position on this question, we are content to read what our contemporaries will have to say on the subject. Republicans of Michigan will demand ability and honesty in whatever candidate they may select, and the desire of any man for place or position should, and we believe will, have but little weight with the convention. For the present we are content to watch the shadow of coming events.

For Lieut. Governor we hear the names of H. H. Holt of Muskegon and A. B. Wood of Saginaw, among others, either one of whom would make an acceptable and strong candidate for that position.

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