

ODD-FELLOW HOSTS.
Sovereign Grand Lodge Within
the City's Gates.

THOUSANDS ALREADY HERE.
The Visitors Are Delighted With Their
Cordial Reception.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WEEK.
Sermon at Grove-Avenue Baptist
Church To-Day; Official Welcome
of the State and City To-Morrow—
Various Festivities of the Week.

This week will make history in the distinguished order whose representatives are assembling within the city's gates. The advance guard of the great host is here, and from the North and South and the far West the stream of inward travel is continuous and strong. The grand officers are on the ground, and many of the grand representatives are here. All Richmond is in gala array in honor of the event, and true to her traditions, she may be relied upon to "give the grin."

For twelve months past members of local lodges have planned to make the meeting as hearty and warm as it is possible to make it, and for weeks past over twenty committees have bent their energies to the development of plans for the most cordial reception and entertainment of guests, who are most welcome, not only to the members of the order, but to the citizens of this city and Commonwealth.

Odd-Fellowship makes no claim to antiquity of origin. Its strong point is the principles underlying it—"the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man"—the great principles of organized charity and mutual helpfulness.

In these principles exists a special reason why a bridge of sympathy should connect Richmond and the Odd-Fellows. Our guests represent fraternity and broad-souled humanity. They look forward and not backward; upward and not downward; and they lend a hand. The fact that much that they accomplish is a secret to the world cannot diminish respect for their principles. It is the principles that entitle an organization to admiration or disapprobation.

LARGEST FRATERNAL ORDER.
The importance of the order can best be understood from the fact that it is the largest fraternal organization in the world. Its branches spread to fourteen nations, with a membership of 1,065,829. Under its jurisdiction there are, besides the Sovereign Grand Lodge, six quasi-independent grand lodges, sixty-six grand lodges, fifty-five grand encampments, 11,328 subordinate lodges, 2,929 subordinate encampments, and 6,347 Rebekah lodges.

These are days of widespread reunion, and the heart of Virginia goes out with unusual warmth to these "brothers" from the North, South, East, and West.

Only the United States and the Dominion of Canada will be represented at this session of the Sovereign Grand Lodge, but there will probably be 300 representatives present, and as it is the great rallying time for the order, the number of visitors expected runs well up into the thousands.

If the Odd-Fellows had done nothing except collect and distribute their charitable funds, they would always be entitled to warm national recognition. The

THE SOVEREIGN GRAND LODGE WELCOMED.

Chairman Montague Extends Greetings on Behalf of
The Committees and Our People Generally.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:
On behalf of the Executive Committee—the General Committee of 20 sub-committees aggregating 200 members—I extend a cordial welcome to the officers and Representatives of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd-Fellows, their families, and all members of the Three Link Fraternity who may visit Richmond the coming week.

For twelve months preparations have been going on. We believe that every detail has been arranged as far as practicable for the successful entertainment of the great gathering of the largest secret fraternity of America. By the tenets of the Order, Odd-Fellows are accorded a warm welcome in every land they may visit where there is a lodge, but here in Virginia we propose to add to that fraternal friendship the Virginia hospitality that is to the manner born.

The gates of fair Richmond have been thrown open. We bid our visitors from every State in the Union, and every Province of Canada, come in and make their home as long as they can make



GRAND SIRE A. S. PINKERTON.

sum of \$4,545,558.59 has been expended by the order in relieving distress. The decorations throughout the city are profuse. Along the line of march set for the parade, given in honor of the Sovereign Grand Lodge, buildings generally will be festooned. "Welcome to our guests" runs the legend on many a building throughout the city, and it finds an echo in every heart. The emblems of the order are seen on every hand.

SERMON TO ODD-FELLOWS.
This morning the Sovereign Grand Lodge will be escorted to Grove-Avenue Baptist church, where the eloquent Dr. Hawthorne will preach a sermon to the Odd-Fellows.

At the first session tomorrow Hon. J. Hope Tyler, on behalf of the Commonwealth, and Mayor Richard M. Taylor, on behalf of the city of Richmond, will welcome the visitors to the State and city, and speeches will also be made by Grand-Sire Pinkerton, Deputy-Grand-Sire A. C. Cabell, of Ohio; Grand-Master W. T. Baldwin, of Virginia, and other prominent members of the fraternity.

Other prominent features of the week will be the banquet to the Sovereign Grand Lodge, the great parade, the reception to the officers of the Sovereign Grand Lodge by the ladies of Rebekah degree, the reunion of the Past Grand Representatives, the prize drill of the Patriarchs Militant, the conferring of the Decoration of Chivalry, the public installation of officers, and various other social functions, including a grand concert and ball at the Auditorium.

The ladies of the Rebekah degree have undertaken the responsibility of entertaining the visiting ladies, and at the headquarters in the Masonic Temple there will be good cheer as well as a hearty welcome.

DELIGHTED WITH RECEPTION.
The Reception Committee will be divided into details, and some of the members will be at the Jefferson all the time to look after the visitors. Already the visitors who have arrived have had a glimpse of the genuine welcome for the Odd-Fellow host, and they have expressed themselves as delighted with the reception.

With flags and music and the picturesque regalia that distinguishes the order, the sights and sounds will furnish pleasant variety to the citizens of Richmond. A spectacle is always agreeable, and this will be one of the best of its kind. But the Odd-Fellows gathering has a larger and a better purpose than a mere exhibition, acceptable as that may be as an incident. Its aims are vital and healthy, and it has a record for practical benevolence that ought to be an inspiration to all other fraternities, whether secret or open.

The opening event of the social side of the present meeting was the excursion to Old Point yesterday. Odd-Fellows to the number of 500 left the city on a special train at 9 o'clock, and besides enjoying

the natural pleasure afforded by the resort, enjoyed a sumptuous luncheon at the Chamberlin.

The city is rapidly filling up with Odd-Fellows. (CONCLUDED ON PAGE SEVEN.)

Features of Each Day.
Monday—Welcome to the Sovereign Grand Lodge, in Jefferson Roof-Garden. Reception by Grand Sire and staff at night at the Jefferson.

Tuesday—Massachusetts Patriarchs' Militant dress parade in Capitol Square at 5 P. M. Past Grand Representatives reunion at the Jefferson at 8:30 P. M.

Wednesday—Great Parade of Odd-Fellows at 2 P. M. Decoration of Chivalry in Capitol Square at 5 P. M. Cake-walk at Auditorium at 8:30 P. M.

Thursday—Brilliant concert and ball at the Auditorium, 9 to 12 P. M. Prize drills during the day at hours to be announced. Dress parade of Ohio Patriarchs' Militant at 5 P. M.

Friday—Prize Exemplification Degree Work at 8 P. M.

Saturday—Public installation of officers at the Jefferson.



MEN AT THE HELM

THOSE WHO PRESIDE OVER AMERICAN ODD-FELLOWS.

SUCCESSFUL MEN OF AFFAIRS.
They Have Opportunity to Exercise the Finest Qualities in Guiding the Destinies of Odd-Fellowship in the United States.

An organization of the magnitude of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Odd-Fellows requires that the men at its head should possess many of the qualities that go to make successful men of affairs. As a matter of fact the Sovereign Grand Lodge officers are men who have achieved success in various fields, and have been equally successful in the conduct of the affairs of the great order over whose affairs they preside.

Men of prominence in their several communities, many of them are prominent in the affairs of the country. Professional men and business-men are among the number—lawyers and lawmakers, politicians, merchants.

The Grand Sires.
The Grand Sire, Grand-Sire Alfred S. Pinkerton, of Worcester, Mass., is one of the most prominent public men in the Bay State. He is a lawyer and politician, and his services to his State as a member of the State Senate and House of Representatives have been of the most distinguished character.

Mr. Pinkerton is a practicing attorney in Worcester, Mass., and has been a member of the order since 1878. He is a native of Lancaster, Pa. His early training was a mercantile one, but he afterward studied law, and was admitted to the bar in December, 1881, and has since been engaged in active practice.

He was a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1887, and chairman of the Committee on Towns, which that year was a particularly conspicuous one by reason of the several popularly contested and legally important town division cases heard before the committee and Legislature. He was the spokesman of the committee on the floor, and was successful in maintaining the



DEPUTY GRAND SIRE A. E. CABLE.

committee's contention. He was returned in 1888, was a member of the Committee on Judiciary, and of Constitutional Amendments, and a member of the special committee to represent the State in connection with the celebration commemorative of the settlement of the northwest territory. In 1889 he was again a member of the Judiciary Committee, and the House chairman of the Committee on Water Supply, and was the member selected to present Senator Hoar's name for re-election to the Republican caucus. Elected to the Senate in 1890, he

was made chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, and was a member of the Committees on Judiciary, Probate, and Insolvency, and was a member of the special committee to whom was referred the first contested election arising under the Australian ballot law, so called, the report of which committee has been followed in the construction of that law. In 1891 he was chairman of the Committee on Judiciary, and thereby leader of the Senate, a member of the Committee on Probate and Insolvency, and chairman of a joint special committee to consider State commissions and their relation to State governments.

The last-named committee was one of great importance under the circumstances. Democratic Governor Russell, in his inaugural, had made a violent attack upon the system of State commissions, and contended for a greater degree of executive authority. In consequence of his inaugural address the general subject of State commissions, their powers, duties, authority, and relation to the State government were referred to a special committee, of which Mr. Pinkerton was chairman, and of which Josiah

Location of Headquarters.
Sovereign Grand Lodge official offices at the Jefferson Hotel.
Annual communication of 1900 in Jefferson Roof-Garden.
Executive Committee and sub-committees at the Jefferson.
"The Rebekahs," Lee Camp Hall, Broad, between Fifth and Sixth.
Patriarchs Militant, official staff and rendezvous, Murphy's Hotel.
Grand Lodge of Virginia, and Grand Master Baldwin, Grand Secretary's office, Ninth and Main.
Grand Encampment of Virginia, official office at the Jefferson.
Hotel Committee and Bureau of Information, Smithfield Hall, Ninth and Broad.

(CONCLUDED ON PAGE FOUR.)

CORDIAL WORDS FROM GRAND SIRE PINKERTON

He Extends Cordial Greetings to the Odd-Fellows of Richmond and Virginia, and Discusses the Order and Its Growth.

Sovereign Grand Lodge of the I. O. O. F., Office of the Grand Sire, Worcester, Mass., September 10, 1900.
To the Editor of the Dispatch:
In replying to the courteous invitation of the Dispatch, I write you just as I am about leaving home en route for Richmond.

During the ten years that I have been a member of the Sovereign Grand Lodge we have had but few meetings in the Eastern States, and I am pleased that our last meeting in this century will be held in one of the oldest States of the Union. The birthplace of our order was in Baltimore, and it seems a little strange that during the eighty-two years of the order's existence its supreme body has never met in your State, but the representatives gladly accepted the invitation last year extended, and are looking forward to the Richmond gathering with great interest and expectation, for we have learned to know and to like the men Virginia has sent to our national body, and the membership of our order in Virginia have done so well that we willingly meet amid this brotherhood.

Our route from Boston to Richmond will carry us through many historic towns, and across fields memorable in our country's history, and it is a good thing for men who stand for something in their various communities to gather in historic Richmond and historic Virginia, to learn something by personal inspection of the places that have become famous, and by personal contact to know something of your generous people. I have been in Richmond, and Virginia, and am looking forward to a renewal of my acquaintances and friendships that I have made there.

This is hardly the place to recite the story of our order, but it may be well to state for the information of those of you who are not members that the Odd-Fellows are the largest fraternal organization in America, and that during the last sixty-nine years it has distributed among its members, in relief, the sum of \$8,545,558.59, and that over a million American citizens are enlisted in its ranks.

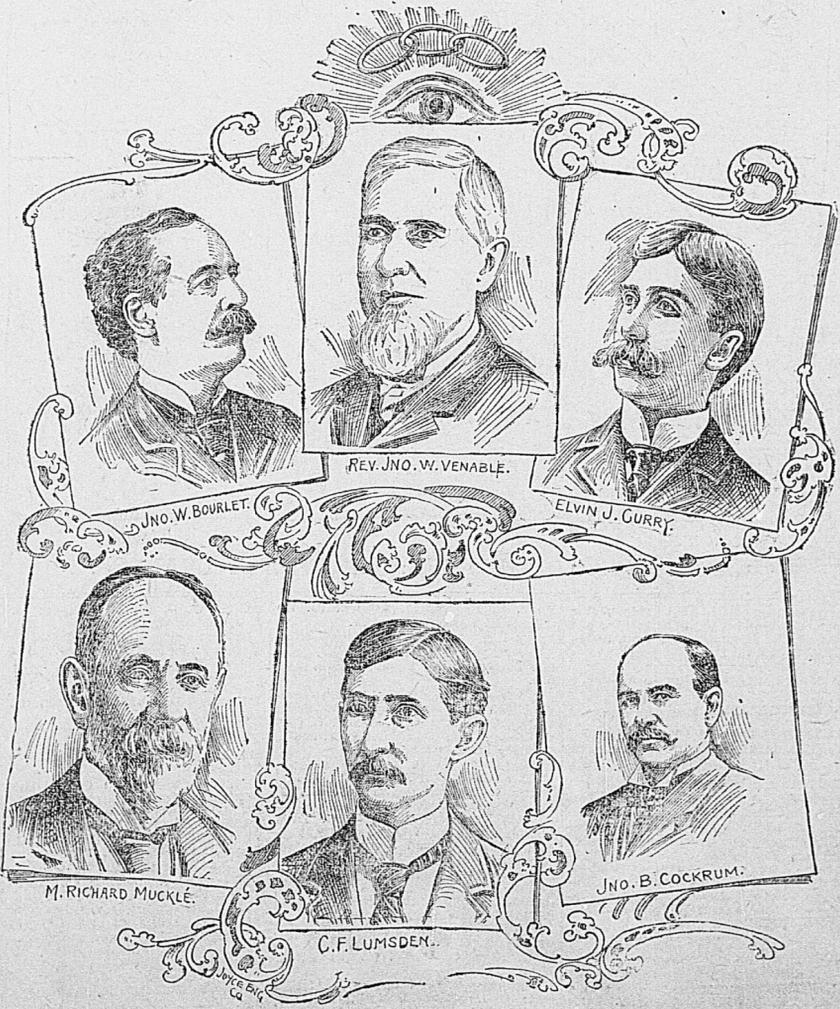
The subordinate lodge is the basis of the order, and no member can enjoy any of the privileges of the other divisions of it unless he retains his membership and good standing in the subordinate lodge, of which there are over 11,000 in existence, scattered all over this country and Canada, with many in European lands. In addition to the subordinate lodge, there is another division of the order, known as the encampment, which has 120,000 members; a uniformed branch, known as the Patriarchs Militant, and numbering 18,000, and a Rebekah branch, open to Odd-Fellows, their wives, daughters, sisters, and mothers, and to unmarried white women of 18 years of age, which has proved a very popular division, and to which over 20,000 ladies belong.

While the subordinate lodge is the great foundation, all the divisions of the order are engaged in charitable work, and in caring for their own members. During the last ten years nearly every large jurisdiction has erected a home for the care of their aged and infirm members, and the widows and orphans of Odd-Fellows, and these homes have proved to be very powerful auxiliaries to our fraternal work. It is difficult for a person not a member of the order to understand the amount of good that is done by the quiet work of this, and of similar organizations. Small lodges scattered throughout the various communities are carefully visiting their sick members, giving them financial aid in times of distress, teaching them to be good citizens and thus in every way exerting a good influence in the community in which it is, while ministering to the wants of their own unfortunates, and thus lessening what might possibly become a public burden by reason of the representative, professional and business men of these sections sitting down together and discussing questions in which they have a common interest.

We of New England are coming to Virginia filled with an earnest regard for the Virginians we have met, and some of us, at least, are specially desirous of visiting its ancient settlements. Be it remembered that during the unhappy days of 1861 to 1865 Odd-Fellowship held its organization together, and was not dismembered. I do not think this can be truly said of any other secular or fraternal organization. No pages of our journal contain words of recrimination, and when the contest was over in September of 1865, representatives from the Southern and Northern States met at Baltimore, and side by side, as of old, legislated for our order, and worked in the same old fraternal spirit, and this without any period of reconstruction, and never since that session have we known what division meant.

I am sure that we shall have a royal welcome to Virginia and to Richmond. We know that we are going among a hospitable people, and we are anticipating a most enjoyable meeting, and hope that the order will be strengthened by our visit.

Fraternally yours,
ALFRED S. PINKERTON.



OFFICERS OF THE SOVEREIGN GRAND LODGE.

THE WEEK IN OUTLINE.

Diversified Programme Arranged by the Odd-Fellows.

TO INSTRUCT AND ENTERTAIN

These Dual Purposes Accomplished in Symmetrical and Pleasing Order.

GREAT PARADE; CONCERT; BALL.

The Two Events of Primary Popular Interest—Dress Parades and Decoration of Chivalry Bestowals in Capitol Square.

A sermon will be the fitting prelude to the seventy-sixth annual communication of the Sovereign Grand Lodge, Independent Order of Odd-Fellows, to be held in Richmond all this week commencing to-morrow. This morning Dr. J. B. Hawthorne, the gifted pastor of Grove-Avenue Baptist Church, will welcome the visiting Odd-Fellows in a discourse upon the suggestive theme, "Applied Christianity." The large church, which is conveniently situated to the Jefferson headquarters, will be thronged at 11 o'clock, when the special sermon is delivered.

AN ELABORATE WELCOME.

To-morrow morning elaborate welcoming exercises in honor of the Sovereign Grand Lodge will take place in the Jefferson Convention Hall, distinguished officials of State and city, and eminent Odd-Fellows from the ranks of Virginia taking part, and Grand Sire Pinkerton responding. At night, a brilliant reception will be tendered the Odd-Fellows and their ladies at the Jefferson, from 9 to 11. Grand Sire Pinkerton and staff will receive. On Tuesday afternoon the public will

(CONCLUDED ON PAGE TWO.)