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The Faults of our Brothers we Write upon the Sand, Their Virtues on the Tablets of Love and Memory.

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Office of

GRAND EXALTED RULER,

B. P. O. ELKS, U. S. A.

WATERLOO, IA., Aug. 28, 1901.

To the Benevolent and Protective Order of
Elks of the United States of America,
Greeting:

DEAR BROTHERS:

In addressing you for the first time through the medium of an official circular, permit me to felicitate the Order at large upon its splendid progress during the past year, upon its harmonious and vigorous present, and, above all, upon the evidences of continued growth, unity of purpose and high-minded fellowship among our members.

The growth of the Order during the past year is unparalleled in the history of fraternal organizations; an increase in the number of lodges of 113 and in the membership of over 23,000. But the growth evidenced by these figures is not its greatest triumph. The *Standard of Elkdom* is higher today than ever before. To Brother Jerome B. Fisher, Past Grand Exalted Ruler, too much credit can not be given for these beneficent results.

While acknowledging my grateful appreciation for the high honor conferred upon me and the great confidence which the same implies, permit me to invoke a

continuance of that fraternal loyalty and enthusiasm that has characterized the relations between the Order and my predecessors in office, and which has enabled them to carry forward so grandly the banner of Elkdom.

I deem it proper at this time to call your attention to a number of matters of importance considered during the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge in Milwaukee and to make some suggestions and observations for the good of the Order. Your attention is first directed to the amendments to the Grand Lodge Laws, as follows:

Section 54, by inserting after the word "application" in the 19th line of said section, the following:

"And shall have been residing within the jurisdiction of the lodge in which he applies for a period of not less than six months immediately prior to said application."

Section 12, by striking out the words, "one Grand Lodge year," and inserting in lieu thereof the words "three Grand Lodge years."

Section 55, by adding thereto the following:

"And in the event that any lodge shall knowingly or wilfully violate any of the provisions of this section, it shall be reported by the District Deputy or by any Elk in good standing, to the Grand Exalted Ruler, who shall investigate the same, and if he shall find the charge true, he shall forthwith suspend the Charter of such lodge and report his action to the next meeting of the Grand Lodge for its approval or disapproval."

Section 75, by adding thereto the following:

"And the Tiler or other officer of the home lodge shall request and require any brother to exhibit his Visiting Card, showing that his dues have been paid in full to date, before he shall be entitled to admission into said Lodge."

(This amendment takes effect on and after October 1, 1901.)

Section 88, by adding thereto the fol-

lowing: "Any lodge member who is a party to such deceit shall, after trial and conviction, be expelled from membership, and in the event it shall appear after investigation by the Grand Exalted Ruler that any lodge has knowingly been a party to such fraud or deceit, the Charter of such lodge shall forthwith be suspended by the Grand Exalted Ruler and his action reported at the next meeting of the Grand Lodge for approval or disapproval."

Sub-section A of Section 24, by adding thereto the following: "And such other tax or assessment as may be legally levied by the Grand Lodge."

Section 54, by striking therefrom the following: "If the application shall be received from a person who has been expelled or suspended from the Order, it shall not be competent for any subordinate lodge to take action thereon without first securing permission from the lodge from which said applicant was suspended or expelled."

Section 18, by inserting after the word 'grievances' therein the following words: "Consisting of five members of the Grand Lodge."

Section 19, by inserting after the word 'Laws' the following words: "Consisting of five members of the Grand Lodge."

Section 20, by inserting after the word 'credentials' the following words: "Consisting of five members of the Grand Lodge."

Section 66, by adding thereto the following: "Upon the written consent of a lodge in which a candidate is elected, a sister lodge may, within the time prescribed by law, initiate such candidate for the lodge granting such consent, but before a sister lodge can initiate such candidate, the consent to do so, herein provided for, must be filed with the Grand Secretary of the Order."

Sub-section 18 of section 39, by striking out the word "sixty" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "ninety."

Section 45, by adding thereto the following: "Special sessions may be called