

of you know, he has worthily held for more than a quarter of a century, and now vacates owing to ill-health,—to the great regret and sorrow of all over whom he has ruled for so long and arduous a period. I think the Grand Chapter would honor herself by sending home to England a complimentary address to that courteous and kind hearted Nobleman and Companion, expressive of our high esteem and good wishes for his restoration to health and future comfort.

Before concluding, I cannot help making reference to an existing unfortunate condition of affairs in the Province of Quebec. I do not know *officially* as your presiding officer, what has occurred there in relation to Craft Masonry, and therefore I have nothing *officially* to submit to Grand Chapter. But we are none of us blind to the plain fact, that there is in that Province, division in our ranks, and an unhappy state of things, attended with much personal bitterness, which actually precludes brotherly recognition of many most estimable members of our Institution, and which ought not to exist amongst Freemasons! I am sure Grand Chapter will, with me, truly regret all these untoward circumstances, and pray for a harmonious and brotherly arrangement of matters that have caused so damaging a shock to our otherwise perfect structure. You all know to what my present allusions point. Let us not, however, permit discord if possible to arise out of those events, in our high Branch of the Order. Let us hope and trust that all difficulties will shortly disappear, or be removed. Let us work for that end! and let us bear in mind, that as we have hitherto steered clear of personal differences, so there need be no future ill-will, or angry feeling,—and Grand Chapter can remain, as now, in a condition to look on calmly,—and quietly accept any result,—always desiring prosperity and God speed to all; ever looking to the good of our Institution; and aiding to establish and perpetuate general harmony, Masonic Union, and Brotherly charity and good-will! Such should be the true sentiments of every member of our order. Added to which, should be devoted loyalty to our sovereign and country! This should be *one* of our beacons and watchwords!

Since we last met, the Dominion has been threatened, I will not call it invaded, by another Fenian horde. They went back faster than they came, and let it be a fair subject of pride to us, that their earliest opponent is a *Freemason*! I allude to Bro. Lieutenant Colonel Chamberlin, who hurried to the defence of the frontier, and was so fortunate as to command the first of our brave fellows, who made the worthless scoundrels regularly bolt out of Canada! So also was our Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Stevenson, one of the foremost, in proceeding with his battery, to meet the Fenian vagabonds, who had once more insulted the territory of our glorious and beloved Queen! And, Companions, you will find Freemasons are ever ready to be in the van on such occasions,—and so they ought,—and they should remember their peculiar tie, and bear and forbear, and drive away discord, even as the Fenians were sent to the right about! I am sure that we all think alike.

And now in conclusion, let me thank you for your many kindnesses to, and the honors you have conferred upon me. I find I have been elected to preside over Grand Chapter for the past seven years continuously,—and also during 1859 and 1860. I now ask you to relieve me from the duties of my high office. I have endeavoured, to the best of my ability, to promote your interests, and I hope I have not failed.