

The Grand Master's Address.

To the Representatives of the R. W. Grand Lodge of Canada West.

OFFICERS AND BROTHERS :

The period fixed by the Constitution of this Grand Lodge for the annual Communication having arrived, it becomes my duty to render to you a report of my stewardship and official acts. But first I would join with you in acknowledging our dependence and gratitude to an All-wise Providence, who has once more permitted us to meet under such favorable circumstances, for the purpose of reviewing the past, and to make such alterations and amendments as may in your wisdom be found necessary for the best interests and furtherance of the principles of our beloved Order.

In my last report, mine was the unpleasant task to call your attention to the long continued illness of the late Past Grand Master, Thos. Reynolds, Esq., who, it may be truly said, was the father of the Grand Lodge of Canada West, and whose untiring zeal for the well-being and prosperity of Odd Fellowship was ever uppermost in his thoughts and actions. Ever ready to relieve the distressed, to succor the destitute, and to advise the erring of his revered Brotherhood, that heart and hand that so often and so freely opened to relieve and sympathize with the distressed, now lies silent in the tomb. But his virtues remain, a lasting monument for our example. May we profit by the admonition that we too may "be also ready," when the Grand Master above shall call us hence. An extract from his last Report may not be inappropriate. He says : "We are all hastening to that bourne whence no traveller returns. The many emblems and symbols of our Order with which you are familiar, point to this great fact ; the hour-glass of Time is as steadily emptying its sands, as we are approaching that period hidden in the womb of Time, when all distinctions of society, all differences of blood, of class, and of creed, shall be mingled together in the dust." His love of peace and good will to man are exemplified in the Report referred to : "We hold the olive branch of peace in our hands, pointing to the links which bind us together, extending the right hand of fellowship to all mankind. May the great Anglo Saxon race never meet in contest or strife, other than in a friendly rivalry in the great and good influence of Friendship, Love and Truth." I would respectfully suggest, that some fitting testimonial of regard to his memory be presented his family, expressive of the high esteem in which this Grand Lodge and the members of the Order generally regard it, and in which all may unite in tendering their sympathy and condolence on the bereavement which his afflicted family and friends have sustained.

Several questions have been submitted for my opinion, on the law in relation to them and their application to Subordinate Lodges.

1st. Is not a D. D. G. Master's decision binding on a Subordinate Lodge in his jurisdiction, unless reversed by this Grand Lodge ?

My reply will pay due respect such by the com who, for the time jurisdictions, decisions ; but make decisions to this Grand 2nd. If a S. a D. D. G. Master answered, we as Odd Fellows or expulsion, 3rd. It has ed member, w time, if such pires ?

My answer the Lodge book imposed has brother to the 4th. Can a payment of dues My reply will term of suspension By-laws.

5th. D. D. G. a Subordinate ments of dues all their books destroyed their

My answer folio 509, sec "such arrang "the reinsta (Journal 1884)

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