

having removed from the Jurisdiction of that Grand Lodge. I also restored to M. W. Bro. the Hon. W. N. Kennedy, his Credentials as our Representative near the Grand Lodge of Manitoba.

A detailed statement of our finances will be laid before you. It shows that our monetary affairs are in a flourishing condition. A sum of \$2,594.48 has been added to our available cash balance over and above the amount existing at our last annual return. With \$55,400 placed in good securities, and \$7,094.95 standing to our credit in the bank, the members of the Grand Lodge may truly feel assured that while our charity is judiciously extended not only to Brethren within, but also to those beyond our Jurisdiction, our finances are economically and faithfully managed. In no boastful spirit, but with feelings of thankfulness, I am able to announce that during the past year no less a sum than \$10,986 has been expended by the Grand Lodge in relieving the necessities of the widow, the orphan, and the distressed Brother.

The widow's tear—the orphan's cry—
All wants our ready hand supply
As far as power is given;
The naked clothed—the prisoner free—
These are thy works sweet charity,
Revealed to us from Heaven.

I desire to see our funds largely increased not for the mere sake of accumulation, but that our circle of Benevolence may be still more enlarged. With that view may we ever go on as we have so far continued, clothed with the mantle of charity and guided by prudence.

Within the Jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge the past year may truly be mentioned as one of peace, harmony and good will. Nothing of general importance has transpired to disturb or hinder the progress of our Order in numbers or influence. One matter only has arisen which compelled me to take decisive action; but I trust that a satisfactory explanation will be made. A brother of St. John's Lodge, No. 63, Carleton Place, com-

plained of an irregularity in reference to the ballot taken for the initiation of a candidate. Under instructions the D. D. G. M. proceeded to the Lodge, after notice to the Master, for the purpose of inquiry and investigation, when the authority of the Grand Lodge, as represented by the R. W. Brother, was set at defiance, and the candidate initiated. The D. D. G. M. suspended the brethren who had taken part in such proceedings, and he reported the occurrence to me. I confirmed the suspension, and at once directed the Grand Secretary to summon the brethren to appear before this Communication of the Grand Lodge, and answer the charges laid against them.

I attribute the general successful working of our Order in a very great measure to the many intelligent and able Masons elected to fill the important offices of District Deputy Grand Masters, who have been able to settle amicably questions which arise, without reference to higher authority, and also to the zeal and careful attention of Masters of Lodges who, as a rule, make themselves conversant with our Constitution and Proceedings.

In pursuance of the authority granted at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in 1877, I have, after taking care that the proper safeguards were observed, restored, on a petition expressing due contrition, Brother Joseph Iredale, who had been expelled from the Order on account of his having attached himself to that spurious organization of the past, the Grand Lodge of Ontario. A number of persons, who through ignorance or inadvertence had become members of that body, have been healed and affiliated under, and following out the regulations prescribed by my predecessors. I have every reason to believe that these brethren who have thus attained their present recognized position, having stood the test of the ballot, will prove good and worthy Masons.