

and one store not yet rented, and 124 feet front of land at the disposal of the shareholders.

"Most Worshipful Brother Harrison received valuable assistance from Most Worshipful Brother Williams, Past Grand Master; the Board of General Purposes; Brother Teague, the architect, and the Brethren generally took great interest in the work. Amongst the last named was his son, Eli Harrison, Junior, who at that time was the Very Worshipful Grand Secretary, and the Grand Lodge has duly recognized his services by electing him Junior Grand Warden.

"Most Worshipful Brother Harrison was the third person initiated in the Province of British Columbia, and has seen many changes amongst the Brethren of the Order in the Far North-west during the last nineteen years.

"In January, 1861, at the first annual banquet of Victoria Lodge, there were about forty-five of the Brethren present; Brother Harrison was present on that most interesting occasion and duly represented the Neophyte.

"Most Worshipful Brother Harrison, accompanied by several of his Grand Lodge Officers, had the pleasure of installing the officers of his mother Lodge in January, 1879. There were about sixty Brethren present at the banquet, and only one, except himself, who was at the banquet in 1861. Such have been the changes in the Province that few institutions have had the opportunity of becoming prosperous. It is only since the formation of the Grand Lodge in the Province that the Order has become united. Such measures have been adopted as prove beneficial to the Craft in general, and particularly to the Lodges under her jurisdiction at the organization of this Grand Lodge.

"They assumed a debt of several hundred dollars which was due by the District Grand Lodge on the English Register. It was duly paid, and at the present time the Grand Lodge

has over four thousand dollars out at interest, and the fund is steadily increasing. This interest they find very useful, in connection with the Fund of Benevolence, for the relief of the needy and distressed, and no worthy brother applying for relief has been sent from the Province without receiving such aid as his necessities required.

### Masonic Lodge Charity.

BY BRO. J. F. BRENNAN.

I take it as somewhat strange that it does not occur to Bro. Robert Ramsay that the Masonic Lodge, as such, does not promise anything to the brother, in distress, or to bury him, if he dies, or to his widow or orphan, as if, dying, he leaves such behind him. This being so, and every Freemason must acknowledge that it is so, why upbraid Masonry for lack of Lodge charity?

I grant you the individual Mason obligates himself to do certain things looking charity-ward, but the Lodge, or congregation of Masons, does not. The Lodge is not an individual, nor does it take an obligation; hence it breaks no promise by refusing relief, because it makes none to relieve. Bro. Ramsay, than whom no man should be better acquainted with this fact, seems to completely overlook it in his excellent (otherwise) article on this subject, in a late number of the *New York Corner Stone*.

Let us begin at the beginning. First make the Lodge, as such, engage to do certain things, and then enforce the engagement. At present the matter of relief to be extended to any of its members is not, and so far as I am acquainted with the history of Freemasonry in America, never has been a Lodge engagement. Boston may be said to be the mother of Freemasonry on this continent. Well, let us examine its history in that city.

The first Grand Lodge was organ-