

While Cryptic Masonry has not made any rapid strides in Ontario during the past year, I am quite satisfied with its steady progress. We do not desire to confer these Degrees upon any but those who can fully appreciate the honor bestowed upon them in being admitted among the "select and happy few" who, in their search for Masonic knowledge, have penetrated the secrets of the Ninth Arch. It is our desire to advance the Cryptic rite in such a manner as will reflect credit upon all who are admitted to these degrees, and I am glad to know that our Councils have kept this very important point steadily in view and have guarded well the portals against all unworthy intruders.

During the year I have granted Dispensations to open new Councils as follows:— In September last I received a petition from Ex. Comp. Wm. Hay, and a number of Companions residing in the City of Ottawa, for a Dispensation to constitute a Council in that city, to be named "Gedaliah" Council. I issued a Dispensation to V. Ill. Companion Wm. J. Morris, Inspector General, authorizing him to constitute said Council, which he did on 24th October, 1872, ably assisted by Illustrious Companion Joseph Purvis, of Adoniram Council, Toronto.

Application was made to me by Companions Wm. Gibson, Richard Brierley, and and the requisite number of petitioners, resident of the City of Hamilton, for a Dispensation to open a Council in that city, to be called "Salem" Council. In compliance with the prayer of the petitioners, I issued my Dispensation, proceeded to that City accompanied by R. Ill. Comp. N. G. Bigelow, R. P. D. G. M., and kindly assisted by R. Ill. Comp. Thos. Bird Harris, Past R. P. D. G. M., and David McLellan, Grand Treas., duly opened the Council on the 7th August, 1873. I beg to recommend that Warrants be granted to these Councils during the present session.

A letter in reference to the formation of the Grand Council of R. S. and S. E. M. of Nebraska, has been received by me, and I now submit the same for your consideration and would strongly recommend that immediate and hearty recognition be extended to our young sister.

At last Annual Assembly, the Grand Council confirmed the appointment of several representatives; since then I have appointed:

R. Ill. Comp. Jno. C. Batchelor, near the Grand Council of Louisiana.  
R. " " John R. Proctor, " " " of Nebraska.

And the following Representatives have been appointed near this Grand Council:

Grand Council of Maine,	M. Ill. Comp. T. D. Harington.
" " New York,	" " Daniel Spry.
" " Pennsylvania,	R. " " N. Gordon Bigelow.
" " Nebraska,	" " " Thomas Sargent.

When these Ill. Companions present their credentials, we will extend to them a hearty welcome.

Immediately after the formation of the Grand Council in 1871, the following communication was addressed to the Grand Council of New Brunswick, and from the action taken thereon, I consider it my duty to bring the matter under your notice:—

*The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Ontario, sitting at their Grand East in Toronto.*

Office of the Grand Recorder, ORILLA, ONT., Oct. 16, 1871.

To M. Ill. Comp. J. C. MATHEWY,

M. P. G. M. of the Grand Council of New Brunswick.

**MOST PUSSANT SIR:—**

I am instructed by the M. P. G. M. of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Ontario to inform you that on the eighth day of August, 1871, duly appointed delegates from Shekinah Council, No. 5, G. R., N. B., Adoniram Council, No. 6, G. R. B. B., Harington Council, No. 8, G. R., N. B.; and Zabud Council, No. 9, G. R., N. B., did meet in convention in the Masnic Hall, Toronto, and after mature deliberation, did organize "The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Ontario" and duly elected Rt. Ill. Comp. T. D. Harington, 33<sup>d</sup>, M. P. G. M., Ill. Comp. Daniel Spry, 18<sup>d</sup>, R. P. D. G. M., and other officers (Vide enclosed report of proceedings).

I am also directed to say that this action on the part of those Councils holding allegiance to your Grand Council was not intended as a slight to our Mother Grand Council, from whose officers we have always received the greatest courtesy and kindness. It was done however, believing that by having a Grand Body in our midst, we