

more, I hesitate not to say, that if all men were to connect themselves with our Order, and act up to its principles, peace and good will would everywhere prevail, and war and oppression and slavery, with all their attendant evils, would be banished from our world.

Brethren of the Order, let us be true to ourselves. Let us live up to and do justice to our principles in Masonic conduct, and we will successfully refute the calumnies of our enemies, if any such there be. Let us but exemplify our professions in our daily practice, and we need not fear that we shall vindicate for ourselves a position and a name in the estimation of all right-thinking men, secure that our mysteries shall be handed down in all the integrity in which we have received them from those who have gone before us, to our children and children's children to the latest generation of those to come.

The PROVINCIAL GRAND SECRETARY, Brother Prescott Emerson, then said:—

E. W. Substitute Grand Master, Brethren, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I feel very much like the man bidden to a feast without a wedding garment. How can I hope to please an audience whose ears have been charmed by the eloquent address which has just been delivered by my Rev. Brother, the Acting Grand Chaplain. Like him I would have desired a little leisure to prepare some observations for this occasion, but unfortunately that has not been vouchsafed me. Permit me, Sir, in the first place, to congratulate you and Lodge "Harbour-Grace,"—in fact, I may say, your city, in the possession of a building so creditable to your community as the one in which we are at present assembled. It is, indeed, a circumstance worthy of mention, that although Masonry has existed in this colony for over one hundred years, with your city rests the privilege and the honour of erecting and consecrating the first Masonic Hall in the Island. It is true that it is not built entirely by the Masonic body: that highly honourable and charitable institution, the British Society, have equally borne their part with you; and to your united labours and enterprise your city is indebted for the erection of a building in which the graces and beauties of Architecture have been harmoniously blended with simplicity of design and stability of structure. That beautiful anthem, illustrating the dawn of pure Masonic light upon a world of darkness, seems not inapplicable to that progress which you, as Masons, have made in a period of little over twelve months:—

"This lovely creation was once all enshrouded
With darkness like midnight and gloom like the grave,
When Light from the East, with effulgence unclouded,
Beamed bright on the mountain and danced on the wave.
Now Nature, all stillness, awakes from her slumbers,
Young Music first speaks with her soul-cheering numbers,
And Darkness no longer with night-cloud encumbers
The beautiful Temple where Masons reside.

The Sun, Moon and Planets were then put in motion,
Describing their circles in bright beaming fire;
And laws were prescribed to earth, air and ocean,
By nature's Omnipotent, Omnipotent Sire.
Then the Plumb-line was hung from the centre of Heaven,
And the Gauge told the hour from even to even,
And the Compasses marked out the path of the seven,
That shone on the Temple where Masons reside."

—May then this "beautiful temple" ever continue a monument of Masonry in our land, and may the pure principles of our Order "wing their flight" from one end of it to the other, until all our countrymen are bound together by the mystic link of Masonic brotherhood. It does not become us as Masons to praise ourselves, yet our Order is of that antiquity that we may be pardoned if we, upon an occasion such as this, speak in flattering terms of the utility and excellence of our Royal Art. Coeval as Masonry is, with the creation of man, it has attended his steps ever since, has been the hand-maid of civilization, and the pioneer of science and art. It has soothed the sorrows and relieved the wants of the widow and the orphan, and in the march of philanthropy has ever borne inscribed upon its banners, the mottoes of "Brotherly Love," "Relief and Truth." Aye, and even upon the field of battle and of carnage, the blood-thirsty weapon of the conquerer has been dashed aside by the mighty ægis of Masonic Charity. Even in heathen lands let Masonry once exert her Heaven-descended talents—let her rear the dwelling and teach the lofty temple to emulate the clouds—and see what a train of arts immediately enter and join in ample suite to give their patron, Architecture, completion and glory. Lo! at their head, Sculpture, with his animating chisel, bids the forming marble breathe! See Painting with his vivid pencil, steal Nature's fairest tints, while the glowing canvass starts beneath his touch into beauty and life! See the long hours of the loom, the storied tapestry and the rich wrought silk, employed to decorate the habitation which every exertion of the manufacturer and mechanic are busied to complete! Our Order excludes women, and why? It is not because we doubt their capability to obey our laws, or that the duties of Masonry could not be efficiently discharged by them. But if they were admitted our Order might lose

that harmony and brotherly love which are among its chief attributes. We know how to pay a proper respect to those who have been ordained our help-mates, but if they were admitted within our Lodge, jealousy might inflame our bosoms, and that "green-eyed monster" would at once transform loving Brothers into hated and detested rivals. With this explanation, I must ask the fairer portion of the audience to be satisfied. Whence come these tasteful and elegant decorations which add so much to the attractions of this Hall to-day? Are not the delicate fingers and purer taste of our fair friends traceable in these almost fairy-like festoons. But I must pause. I recognise in your proceedings, Sir, of this day, merely an index of what is yet to come. You have given a great impetus to Masonry, but your good work has only commenced. Continue it in the same broad catholic spirit of enlightenment and enterprise, and justify the noble apostrophe of the poet—

"Men, my brothers, men the workers, ever reaping something now,
That which ye have done but earnest of the things that ye shall do."

Brother RUTHERFORD, R. W. Master of Lodge "Harbour Grace," also addressed the assemblage in a fervent and enthusiastic manner. He felt proud of the position which he occupied, and of the rapid progress which Masonry had made in Conception Bay since the establishment of a Lodge here. He spoke at length of the purity of Masonic principles, and the benefits which a strict adherence to them conferred upon all classes of men, but more especially upon those who were members of the order. He vindicated the purity of Masonic principles, and the dignity and reputation of the brotherhood over the whole world; and concluded a speech which elicited great applause.

The SUBSTITUTE GRAND MASTER, Brother RIDLEY, then said:—

I must first express my great regret that we are not favoured here to-day with the presence of the Right Worshipful our Provincial Grand Master, who by his skill in the arts and mysteries of Masonry, would have worthily filled the place which I occupy. He mentions in a telegram how sorry he is that he cannot be with us. I am sure that all the brethren will regret it equally with myself, as his experience in the usages of the Craft would have stood him good stead in the sacred ceremony to be performed here to-day, in the consecration of this building.

In his absence I have the honour to hold the elevated position of his Substitute; and I must say that I am proud to be in this position, supported as I am by so many brethren of experience and zeal for our Ancient Order. It is not an every day occurrence that we are called upon to celebrate, but we are here to assist at the consecration of a building which shall be a habitation for worthy men meeting together for good. In conjunction with the British Society, this fine structure has been initiated and completed, and it speaks highly for the enthusiasm of both their body and our own, that the work should have been carried on with such energy that in less than six months, from its inception, we are all enabled to meet under its roof to-day.

May the structure be devoted to the sacred interests of morality and religion! I trust that its members will always act in conformity to the rights of our venerable Order, and the constitution of our Ancient Fraternity. The wayfaring Mason will here find comfort as he goes along, and to the brethren generally I hope that it may be the cause of promoting brotherly love and harmony amongst us. I will conclude with the aspiration that this structure may be preserved for the purposes of Masonry till time shall be no more!

The ceremony then being concluded the ladies and guests retired. The Hall was then tyled and closed in due form.

In the evening a public Ball and Banquet, in honor of the occasion, were given, when upwards of 200 participated in the festivities, which were highly pleasant and successful. After supper the following loyal Masonic and other toasts were given, viz:—"The Queen and Royal Family. The Grand Master Mason of Scotland. The Craft all over the World. The Provincial Grand Master of Newfoundland. The Substitute Grand Master. The St. John's Lodges. His Excellency the Governor. The Judges of the Supreme Court," to which Judge