

will lack neither interest, encouragement, nor support to become the cherished monument of the spirit of Masonry."—p. 400.

In the second, the M. W. the Grand Master in his annual address gives his views thereon as follows:

"A report from the Trustees of the Masonic Asylum trust, will be submitted for your consideration. This important subject was first officially brought forward in 1859, but up to this period no decided action has been taken in the matter. I venture to express a hope that during the present session the subject will receive your careful consideration, and that you will decide either at once to give instructions for the carrying out of the suggestions made by the trustees, as to the purchase of lands and the erection of a suitable building, or to abandon the scheme altogether, for it does appear to me that (as expressed in the report) the protracted delay in carrying out a benevolent project, almost invites reflection injurious to the craft. When the scheme was first submitted, it was received with universal approbation, and a liberal support was promised; but it was subsequently argued by many of our leading Masons, that the class of persons in this country requiring this kind of benevolence, were very different from those for whom the great charities of England were established, and that but very few of them would be found willing to accept a home which would separate them from their children and relatives. From my own personal knowledge I may say, that there are many whose hearts are now gladdened by your bounty, that would rather relinquish it altogether than accept it upon the terms suggested. There are a few, however, who do not thus regard it, and as our country increases in population, so will these cases increase also. From our ample sources a commencement on a limited scale might now be inaugurated, the land required for this purpose may be obtained at a comparatively low price at present, and I am inclined to believe that the fund now at the disposal of the trustees, would be found amply sufficient to purchase the land and supply a home which, for some years to come at all events, would be large enough to meet the necessities of our present position. I leave the whole matter in your hands, firmly believing that you will take such action as will seem to you to be the most wise and prudent. Appeals from *poverty* and *distress* have never been disregarded by this Grand Lodge. The open hand, prompted by the generous heart, has ever been cheerfully extended to relieve the wants of our poor brethren, their widows or orphans; and the delay which has occurred in the matter of the Masonic Asylum, has really arisen from the anxious desire of the members of this Grand Lodge to ascertain the best way of directing the stream of their benevolence so as to secure the greatest good to the greatest number. And I am proud to say that the Grand Lodge of Canada not only appreciates but practises that beautiful sentiment of Galt, 'that whenever we do an act of justice or kindness to another, it is the benevolence of heaven directing us to achieve some good for ourselves.'"—p. 348.

In the third, the Board of General Purposes report on the above paragraph of the Grand Master's address as follows:

"With reference to the Masonic Asylum, the Board agrees that there is much in the condition of Canada and Canadian Masons to render advisable a different mode of applying and distributing their benevolence from that adopted by their brethren in England, and that among us 'few would be found willing to accept a home which separate them from their children and relatives.' The successful establishment of such an asylum, and the erection of stately buildings in connection therewith, in which Masons and their wives and widows might find the comforts of a home, would no doubt be gratifying to Masonic pride, and might be pointed out to the 'profane' as conclusive evidence of Masonic benevolence and zeal; but to produce an effect on the uninitiated is not the Mason's mission, and it may well be questioned whether such a gratification would not be bought too dear. The sole question for Grand Lodge is how best to dispose of its funds available for purposes of benevolence, and there can be no doubt that the establishment of such an institution would be a severe tax for all time on the resources of Grand Lodge, that its benefits would not, in the present condition of Canada, be availed of to any very large extent, and that little would be left, after paying the yearly expenses of maintenance, to be distributed amongst equally deserving out-door applicants for relief. 'The greatest good to the greatest number' should be the object aimed at in the distribution of our benevolence, and there can be little doubt that present mode of affording relief is at the same time the most economical for the donors and the most acceptable as well as beneficial for the large majority of the recipients. The Board adopts the suggestion of the M. W. Grand Master that some definite action should be taken at the present session of Grand Lodge, and would therefore recommend that for the present the scheme be abandoned, and the money with its accumulated interest returned to the donors.—pp. 501 to 502.

In the fourth, The Grand Lodge resolved as follows:

*Resolved.*—That the consideration of so much of the report of the Board of General