

necessary for this Grand Lodge at this time either to confirm or set aside my action. In January last, while taking an official tour among the Lodges, I had much pleasure in proceeding to Stratford and instituting Avon Lodge, No. 41, which has since continued to work and their reports show that they have not been idle, and I here take the opportunity of returning thanks to those Brothers from London and St. Mary's, who were present on that evening, and also Brother Bingham, of Brantford, and the Grand Secretary; they all being good and efficient members, enabled me to conduct the whole proceedings in a becoming and satisfactory manner.

The official tour taken by me may appear to some to have been unnecessary, but it was a duty which I considered I was called upon to perform, which, however, I did not undertake until I had consulted all the D. D. G. M's. in our jurisdiction, as to the propriety of such a visit; they all having approved of my intentions, I proceeded in January last and visited all the Lodges, excepting Brock and Ontario, and I must say that I found everything as well as could be expected. I had the pleasure of installing the officers of Forest City and Chatham Lodges in public, but would here recommend that, in future, public installments do not take place oftener than about once in five years. I went to Amherstburg and made an effort to revive Rose Lodge, and supposed I had succeeded, for nine members signed a petition requesting to be reorganized, I immediately granted the request, and installed their principal officers and left them, under the full conviction that they would work and try to make themselves into a prosperous Lodge as they once were, but I have not heard from them to this day, and I now believe that all future effort there will be in vain. The expenses connected with this visit will not draw very heavy on the receipts of this Grand Lodge, as they will be mostly met from the sale of blanks, which I furnished to the different Lodges for the purpose of introducing a uniform mode of working, realizing therefrom the sum of thirty-eight dollars, the printing of which cost eleven dollars and fifty cents.

Another great inducement I had for making the official visit was that I might personally present before each Lodge the necessity of disposing of the Charter question. I felt as though the funds of our Grand Lodge were not sufficient to allow any money to be taken from them for that purpose, and I am glad to say when it was properly laid before the Lodges, that they have liberally responded, and in most cases informing me if what they gave was not sufficient they were ready at any time to pay their share to make up the balance.

I have great pleasure in stating that Brother Peel furnished the design for Charter, which he freely and voluntarily offered to do, at the last session of our Grand Lodge, which was unanimously approved of by your committee. It certainly was a very beautiful design and highly spoken of by all who have seen it, and reflects great credit upon Brother Peel as an artist, and certainly must have cost him many hours of anxious thought and labor, and I was in hopes that this Grand Lodge would be in a position to tender to Brother Peel some testimonial of their appreciation for his valuable services. From the moment I saw the design, I was more convinced of the necessity of making a personal appeal to the Lodges, in order that so beautiful a piece of workmanship might be properly lithographed. The whole cost of which will be \$161.25, including expenses, &c., for which I have received from Lodges \$127, making nearly enough to cover all without using the \$50 appropriated by this Grand Lodge at the last session.