

foundation of the Masonic Grand Bodies in this Dominion.

While Masonry has been marching onwards, clear as the sun, fair as the moon, smoothing discords, healing differences, uniting opposing forces, and like a messenger of peace, spreading harmony and prosperity everywhere; it has been playing no unimportant part in the "great drama of life."

What strides our beloved land has made, socially, morally, and politically, during the years that have passed away. Twenty years ago, this, the first Grand Chapter in British North America, was struggling feebly into life, with but three Subordinate Chapters, a weak membership, and an insignificant revenue. To-day we number *seventy* Subordinate Chapters on our roll (after omitting those who have withdrawn to form the Grand Chapters of Nova Scotia and Quebec), a large and increasing membership, and a respectable revenue. In addition to this, prosperous Grand Chapters exist in the Provinces of Nova Scotia and Quebec.

Twenty years ago, Canada comprised the present provinces of Quebec and Ontario, but by the act of Confederation our wide Dominion of to-day spreads from sea to sea—a vast and almost boundless continent, peopled by prosperous and united races and possessing one of the best forms of government in the world. Whilst we are thus prosperous and happy, other countries are convulsed to their centres by revolutions and reforms, but we have peace within our gates and prosperity within our borders.

Reviewing these circumstances, I feel assured that while you rejoice with me over our material and moral progress, you will also render an undivided tribute of praise to Him who thrust into the vineyard of Masonry husbandmen endowed with wisdom to comprehend, judgment to define, and ability to enforce our time-honored precepts and principles, so that we, the sons of such sires, may to-day go forth as reapers of their husbandry, and thrust in the sickle, for lo "the fields are already white unto the harvest."

I am profoundly grateful to the Great Disposer of Events that I have not to report to you the death in this jurisdiction of any of our prominent leaders during the past year. Our ranks are unbroken, no voice of mourning arises from the fall of any of the vanguard.

Before proceeding, however, to a review of my official acts, I cannot but pay a tribute of respect to one whose loss we deplore and whose memory we revere—whose name is a household word in the Masonic world. I refer to the late Companion George Frank Bouley, Grand Sec-

retary of the Grand Chapter of Missouri, and our representative near that Grand Body, who was one of the victims of the terrible conflagration at the Southern Hotel, St. Louis, on April 10th, 1877. His sudden and terrible death cast a gloom over the hearts of thousands of Masons on this Continent. He was widely known and deeply beloved; as a Masonic writer he was recognized as a keen reasoner, and well versed in and possessed of a thorough knowledge of all the grades of Masonry. His death is a great loss to the Grand Chapter of Missouri, to which Grand Chapter we, to-day, extend our heartfelt sympathy.

[Here follows several letters referring to a difficulty between the Grand Chapter of Canada and the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia in regard to the Canadian representative near the latter Grand body, to which the M. E. Z. refers to as follows:]

The matter was left in abeyance until 1st of March, when, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of your representative, I named R. Ex. Comp. J. S. McCoy, as our representative; whose appointment was entirely satisfactory to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and all misunderstandings were thus happily adjusted. I have also appointed M. Ex. Comp. John A. Harris, Past Grand High Priest, as our representative near the Grand Chapter of New Hampshire, and his credentials have been duly forwarded to him. I trust both appointments will be confirmed by Grand Chapter.

DISPENSATIONS.

During the year, I have been particularly careful in the granting of dispensations to form new Chapters. A number of applications have been forwarded to me; after very careful inquiry, and the strictest scrutiny into all circumstances, and being properly recommended by the several Grand Superintendents, I granted those whose names and localities are as follows:—

"Occident" Chapter..... Toronto
 "Park Hill" Chapter..... Park Hill
 "Orient" Chapter..... Don Mount
 "Ark" Chapter..... Windsor

I also received a communication informing me that St. Mark's Chapter, of St. Andrews, New Brunswick, had surrendered their English warrant, and a petition having been presented to me, I granted a dispensation on the third day of February, 1877, to enable them to continue their work as a Chapter.

This cannot fail to be a source of satisfaction to this Grand Chapter, and no doubt a cordial welcome will be given to this Chapter which has sundered old ties to connect itself with our Grand body.

These several Chapters are, I am informed, regularly organized and in good working