

Letters of excuse from R. W. Bro. Miller and V. W. Bro. John Shaw, for non-attendance at the present meeting, were read, also a letter from R. W. Bro. Edwin Morris to the same effect, and ordered to be placed on file.

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master then delivered the following Address :—

*To the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the Province of Quebec :*

BRETHREN,—Assembled at the eighth annual communication, you will all be glad to be informed of the growth in numbers and financial prosperity of this Grand Lodge. The Dominion, of which our jurisdiction forms part, this year celebrated the first decade of its existence, and when we shall be able to mark a similar period in our masonic history as a separate and distinct Province, the Craft will no doubt have equal cause of thankfulness for its share in the general success.

The increase of Freemasonry during the past few years has been very remarkable, and particularly in the United Kingdom, where, according to recent authority, it has been computed that nearly one out of every four or five men of the upper and middle classes is a Mason. The Grand Lodge of England has now three Princes occupying the three first chairs,—the Prince of Wales being Grand Master, the Duke of Connaught Senior Grand Warde, and Prince Leopold Junior Grand Warde.

In the month of May last the gratifying intelligence was received that at their previous quarterly communication, held at Edinburgh, the Grand Lodge of Scotland unanimously resolved to open fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Quebec. Regarding this resolution as extending to our Grand Lodge the recognition we asked for in the early part of the year, as a legally constituted and established Grand Lodge, having and exercising supreme Masonic jurisdiction in and over the Province of Quebec, I cheerfully acquiesced in the suggestion, by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, of the name of Brother Robert Wylie, of Mother Kilwinning Lodge, as representative of this Grand Lodge near the Grand Lodge of Scotland; and Sir Michael Robert Shaw Stewart, Baronet, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Scotland, has honored me with a commission appointing me to be the representative in this Province of his Grand Lodge. The correspondence on the subject of this important recognition has been printed, and will be submitted for your consideration.

A copy of the proceedings of this Grand Lodge, at its seventh annual communication, was forwarded in February last to the Grand Lodge of England, but no action seems to have been taken with reference to the question raised by your resolutions.

Neither has the Grand Lodge of Missouri as yet receded from the position it assumed towards us, though I have every reason to believe that if Brother Gouley, the well-known Secretary of that Grand Lodge, who lost his life at the destruction by fire of the Southern Hotel, at St. Louis, had been spared, he would have endeavored to have secured for us a fair and satisfactory settlement, if not the full advantages of the North American doctrine as to exclusive jurisdiction.