

Louisiana, as our Representative, and you will be pleased to learn that M. W. Bro. Harington, P. G. M., has received the renewal of his Credential as that Grand Lodge's Representative near this Grand Lodge.

I regret that M. W. Bro. Harington is unable to visit us on this occasion, but he may assure the Grand Lodge of Louisiana of our hearty appreciation of the generous and fraternal course which that Grand Lodge has adopted to bring about the restoration of intimate terms of amity on the part of the two Grand Lodges, which we trust may prove as enduring as time.

Shortly after our last Annual Communication, information was received that the Grand Lodge of Texas had recognized the so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario. Upon enquiry it appeared that such recognition had been granted upon the strength of the representations made by the leaders in that ill-judged movement. But so soon as the facts connected with that organization became known, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas, upon being apprized through our able representative M. W. Bro. Philip C. Tucker, of the action taken at our last Annual Communication referred the question to a committee who, after making themselves acquainted with all the circumstances, reported to the effect that the so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario was a spurious body, and recommended that the resolution of the Grand Lodge of Texas, recognizing the so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario, should be repealed, which was accordingly done at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Texas, held in December last.

This prompt action on the part of our old ally, the Grand Lodge of Texas, in thus retracing its steps in order to do justice to our Grand Lodge, will, I am sure, elicit your warmest admiration. I cannot let this opportunity pass without acknowledging the services rendered in this matter by M. W. Bro. Tucker, whose able exposition of the case established that the organization in question was made in violation of every acknowledged principle governing the formation of such bodies.

The so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario is now without any recognition from any Masonic authority. A large number of Grand Lodges have declared this organization spurious and clandestine, and have prohibited all communication with its members, while the Grand Masters of the Grand Lodges of Quebec, Maine, New Jersey, and of other jurisdictions, have prohibited the Craft under their direction from any association with persons hailing from the unrecognized and illegal society.

Many of those who allied themselves to the so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario have severed their connection with that body. Some have desired to be placed in good standing, and others have strongly expressed the

regret they feel at having been misled into that clandestine association.

I would venture to suggest that the Grand Master, for the time being, might be empowered by this Grand Lodge to take such action as may prove just and proper with individual cases of those who, through misunderstanding on their own part and misrepresentation on the part of others, have been induced to join the above organization, so that not even the appearance of injustice may be done to any through the operation of our much loved Institution.

The brethren may have every confidence that in exercising the prerogative, which may thus be conferred upon the Grand Master, nothing will be done to compromise the dignity or affect the rights of the Grand Lodge.

It will be remembered that when we closed our last Annual Communication at Ottawa it was to repair to Montreal, there to take part in the last sad offices to be paid to the remains of our late Past Grand Master, Bro. Bernard. The funeral ceremonies were conducted by the M. W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, attended by an immense number of the brethren of that jurisdiction, who were summoned to meet in Special Communication in order to bear testimony to the high esteem in which our departed brother had been held by the Craft at large.

The respect thus paid by the brethren of the Grand Lodge of Quebec to our honored dead, while it marks their appreciation of the universal brotherhood of Masonry, demands our warmest acknowledgment. Let us assure them that the fraternal spirit thus evinced will long be remembered by their brethren throughout this jurisdiction, and it will serve to remind us of the close and intimate relations existing amongst the members of our Order wherever dispersed over the face of the earth.

The returns now to be submitted admonish us of the uncertainty of life. The hand of death has been busy in our midst, many having been cut off who have been useful in society, as well as honorable members of our Order.

Amongst those who have been called away from their earthly career, we find the name of R. W. Bro. John Dove, of Richmond, Virginia, who died on the 16th of November last.

I take the following account of him from the address of a well informed Grand Master:—

"At the time of his death he was the oldest native born citizen of Richmond, being in his eighty-fifth year. For sixty-three years he had been a Freemason, for fifty-eight years Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, fifty-six years Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of the State, for thirty-one years Grand Recorder of its Grand Com-