

much credit on their energy and zeal in the cause, and is an example well worthy of imitation by brethren in other sections of the country.

My correspondence with the brethren has been large, and the labor of revising by-laws much more than I anticipated at the commencement of the year, but I have endeavored to discharge my duties in these respects as promptly as possible, and if I have failed to respond within a reasonable time, I can assure the brethren whose cases have been overlooked, that the delay was attributable to causes over which I had no control, and not to any wilful negligence on my part.

Our Constitution and Laws are open to the public, and all classes of Protestants of good reputable character are welcome to join our ranks without question as to their particular creed, and notwithstanding what some say of us, without regard to political associations, whether Tory or Grit.

An Order, founded on the principles of the Orange Association, which inculcates the doctrines of the Reformation, instructs its members in their duties and responsibilities to their fellow men, encourages the young to form habits of diligence, and impresses by all its ceremonies and teachings the golden rule "do unto others as you would they should do unto you." Justice to all, oppression to none. Liberty, equity, fraternity, cannot fail to command the esteem and respect of all who understand its teachings and wish to be governed by these golden maxims.

In many of the outlying districts the members, by reason of their isolation, find it difficult to keep themselves fully up to the times in the working of the several degrees, and I would recommend to your consideration the advisability of adopting some means of helping them on in their work, by the assistance of the Grand Lecturer, or some other officer, who could attend and hold Lodges of instruction in central localities.

I consider it of the greatest importance to the welfare of our Order that we should, in our Grand Lodge meetings, lay down such rules for the guidance of our members in matters pertaining to our Association, that no misunderstanding can occur or any friction be caused by members having taken the same obligation pulling in opposite directions expecting to attain the same end. The Roman Catholic hierarchy never makes such a mistake, for when Rome wants to accomplish an object her plans are laid with great care, and then everyone under her rule, and acknowledging her sway, will work with untiring zeal to carry out her designs, following the rules laid down for their guidance, none daring to exercise his own judgment or think for himself.

In a country so democratic as Canada, governed as it is, by political parties, and where the party lines in the past have been so closely drawn, we have many lessons to learn. The first and only one to which I will now call your attention is that when great issues and principles are involved, we should stand by our mottoes "Union, Love and Truth; Our God, Our Country and Our Queen," and let political parties and past associations be laid aside for the use of men void of the principles we profess to teach and practice. By so acting on all occasions our influence for good in the government and councils of our country, as well as in the other relations of life, cannot fail to be felt and acknowledged.

Our educational system in Ontario, the plans and foundation of which were laid by that great and good man, the late Dr. Ryerson, has been justly acknowledged to have no superior, but alas, it has been tampered with by