

this grand old city, which is the See of this Council, our meeting to-day seems like coming home, and it is therefore with that feeling of love and attachment due to the Old Home that I greet you all to this our triennial session.

It seems but yesterday that we were gathered together in the City of Toronto, the Queen City of the West, and the recollection of that pleasant occasion is fresh and green in our memories, but this rapid revolution of time reminds us that another year has gone to be numbered with the past and we ourselves are so much nearer the goal of our existence. Therefore while we rejoice in the present, let us be thoughtful with regard to the future and ever bear in mind that the "shores of life are shifting, and we are seaward drifting" every year. That life is short and in it there is much to do, and that we must not loiter by the wayside, but press onward to the performance of the duties of life, "so that we neither be surprised by death nor leave behind us uncanceled obligations."

"To the past go more dead faces every year." This line of the immortal Brother PIKE brings forcibly before us the melancholy fact that during the past year loved ones of this Council have been numbered with the dead—their places are vacant in our Council.

Shortly after our last session our Deputy for New Brunswick, Ill. Bro. BENJAMIN L. PETERS, was stricken by paralysis and after a short illness expired on November 25, 1894; and early in this year our Deputy for Ontario, Ill. Bro. FREDERICK JOSEPH MENET, fell a victim to that terrible Bright's disease and died on the 4th April last. The latter Brother was with us at our last meeting held in his native city (Toronto), and we were witnesses of a presentation made to him on that occasion expressive of the love and devotion of his brethren. These deceased brethren were among our most valued and active members, men in the prime of life and of whom we had the right to expect very many more years of active labor and intimate association. They have gone to their rest and their works do follow them. The usual memorial letters were issued, copies of which accompany these remarks, and I suggest that the Secretary-General do publish them in the appendix to these proceedings.

From various Councils we learn that death has been busy. Our nearest neighbors, the Northern Jurisdiction of the United States, have lost a number of their members, among whom we find the names of Ill. Bro. A. V. H. CARPENTER, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, active member and the Deputy of that Council for the State of Wisconsin; Ill. Bro. JOHN HODGE, of Lockport, N. Y., Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York, active member of that Council and Deputy for that State; and Ill. Bro. CHARLES BROWN,

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