

During the year just passed, many obstacles have been placed before the members of the Pythian Order in this Province. For instance, the absence of so many brother Knights in the golden north; and more notably still, that sad disaster, the Westminster fire, which proved such a heavy blow to our brethren of the Royal City. These have been in themselves difficulties not easily surmounted. But, withal, Pythian loyalty and determined courage have proudly conquered all difficulties. And with the ushering in of the year of grace 1899, proudly marching under our tri-colored banner, let the grand army of Pythian Knights of B. C. enter their Castle Hall to consider the events of the past year, and to formulate and determine upon plans for the advancement of our beloved Order. Thus, Mr. Editor, do I feel called upon to add my few feeble words of praise to the noble band of knights who have in the past so untiringly labored for the propagation of Pythian principles in this Province. Mr. Editor, no lines that I can pen at this time will, or can, increase the glory, or add laurels to the wreath of honor of those brothers. In no part of the Supreme Lodge jurisdiction has loyal, chivalric Knighthood more zealously sustained their leaders, or more persistently worked for the advancement of the Order of the Knights of Pythias as in this Province. Again, Mr. Editor, 1898, in many instances, is noted, for our Supreme Lodge met at Indianapolis, Ind., during August last. And we must, as true members of our Order, feel that the Supreme Lodge legislated most ardently and untiringly for the advancement of our Order throughout the Supreme Domain, and it would seem like a duty not performed were I to pass this opportunity by without congratulating our Supreme Representatives, Bros. H. J. Anstie and T. Ackerman for the able and efficient manner in which they discharged their duties as the representatives of our Grand Domain. And we can come to no other conclusion than that the efforts of the last Convocation of the Supreme Lodge must be answered with success all along the line, and that our noble fraternity will go ahead and reach a position second to none in the world.

In Pythianism we have the grandest institution the world has ever known. It exemplifies the words of a great philosopher over and over again, namely: "The soul of the truly benevo-

lent does not seem to reside much in this outer body. Its life, to a great extent, is a mere reflection of the lives of others. It migrates into other bodies and identifies its existence with their existence, and finds its own happiness in increasing and prolonging their pleasures, and extinguishing and solacing their pains." Thus, in my own feeble way, I have tried to enunciate what a true Knight of Pythias should be.

I have heard with much pleasure of the institution of Sandon Company, No. 5, of the Uniform Rank, by Bro. C. L. Behnsen, P. S. R.

I hope, Mr. Editor, that I shall not trespass upon your time and space to give this beautiful rank of our beloved Order the praise and commendation it so richly deserves, but still I feel that I have not sufficient power at my command to perform the task I have undertaken.

The Uniform Rank, to my mind, is one of the most potent powers for good in our Order. To those who doubt my assertion I simply say, go into any city or town in the Supreme Domain that has a company of the Uniform Rank and you will quickly find that the members most constant in attendance at the conventions of their respective subordinate lodges and the most ready to respond to the call of Pythian duty are members of the Uniform Rank. No effort of mine can add lustre to the fidelity and devotion to the Order of the brethren of the White Lily. Their interest in the lodge is what the lodge interest is in them. In other words, it is a united interest. Ever since the institution of the Uniform Rank its relation to the subordinate lodge, to use the language of a poet, is

Our two selves grew like two buds that kiss
At lightest thrill from the bees. The chime;
Because the one so near the other is.

Nelson and Rossland will soon have companies of the Uniform Rank, and I hope to see a full regiment in British Columbia before the close of the century.

I will, Mr. Editor, dwell upon the next, but

Chas. Kendall

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