

ceedings, and the high respect for authority manifested throughout the session. The reports presented gave unmistakable evidence of the prosperous condition of Freemasonry within the jurisdiction of that State. From M. W. Bros. Canning, Rusling and Whitehead, and R. W. Brothers Pine, Corson, and others, I received the greatest fraternal courtesy.

In pursuance of an invitation extended to me by the Committee of Arrangements, I had the honor of being present at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of New York, held on the 7th of last month and following days, and of assisting at the laying of the foundation stone of the proposed Masonic Hall or Temple, now being erected at the corner of 6th Avenue and 23rd streets, in the city of New York. Representatives were present from about 600 Lodges, besides many distinguished visitors from sister Grand Lodges, amongst whom were two highly esteemed officers of our own Grand Lodge—R. W. Bro. Seymour, Dep. G. M., and R. W. Bro. McCabe, D. D. G. M. Ontario, M. W. Bro. B. L. Peters, G. M. of New Brunswick, and several of his Grand officers, were also present at that interesting ceremony. The procession was said to be the largest and most imposing Masonic demonstration ever witnessed in the city of New York. The numbers present in the ranks, were variously estimated at from 8,000 to 15,000. The marshaling of this vast number was accomplished with marvellous ease, the column being in motion promptly at the hour agreed upon, reflecting great credit upon the Committee of Arrangements, and especially upon R. W. Bro. Herrick, the acting Grand Director of Ceremonies. From the Grand Master downwards, the Brethren were all clothed alike—the regalia consisting of a white linen apron, white gloves, and the jewel of office attached to the left breast. No collars or other insignia were permitted to be worn in the procession. The foundation stone was laid by the Grand Master, M. W. Bro. James Gibson, of Salem, N. Y., ably assisted by R. W. Bro. Anthon, Dep. G. M., (now G. M.) and R. W. Bros. Fox, and Judson, respectively G. S. W. and G. J. W. The visiting Brethren were most courteously received by the Grand Officers just mentioned, and by M. W. Brother Simons, and R. W. Bro. Dr. Austin, Grand Secretary, and others. The Banquet was held at the Apollo Hall, on the evening of the 8th, to which all visitors from abroad were invited.

During the year a great variety of questions have been submitted to me for opinion or decision, to all of which I gave such attention as the respective cases seemed to require; and it occurred to me, while performing this duty, that if it were possible to preserve and publish, in a condensed form, the various decisions of Grand Masters from year to year, and the action taken by Grand Lodge on subjects not embraced within the scope of the provisions of the Book of Constitution, it would form a very valuable Canadian Masonic Jurisprudence, which might be often referred to, and prove exceedingly useful alike to Grand Lodge Officers and those of subordinate Lodges.

During the past two years, several *District Grand Lodges of Instruction* have been organized within this jurisdiction, which have been attended with most beneficial results. Two of these were held since our last Annual Communication—one in the District of Toronto and the other in the Ontario District. R. W. Bros. Kerr and McCabe, the D. D. G. M.'s for these Districts, conducted the business with great ability, and the marked success which crowned their efforts must have been extremely gratifying to these R. W. brethren, and to all who had the good fortune to be present at those meetings. I trust that the good example set by these zealous brethren will be followed in every District throughout our jurisdiction. I regard such meetings as one of the most effective methods of imparting masonic instruction, and under proper management they might be made conducive to the speedy accomplishment of what has long been a desideratum—*entire uniformity of work*.

The Reports of the various District Deputy Grand Masters, on the state of Masonry, are on the whole satisfactory. But for the unhappy differences existing in the Province of Quebec, the Craft might be said to enjoy almost undisturbed harmony. Since the Emergent Communication of this Grand Lodge, held on 1st December last, the members of several of our Lodges who had been deprived of their masonic rights and privileges by the action of some of their number, whose sympathies were in favour of the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, made application to me to be maintained in the rights guaranteed to them by our own Book of Constitution; and as my action in regard to these Lodges has been sadly misrepresented, I deem it necessary to give, in full, the documents I issued, so that the Grand Lodge may be placed in possession of the facts, and thereby be enabled to understand the true position of affairs. To prevent repetition, the applications are not given here, as the action taken indicates their purport. The following was issued in reference to Victoria Lodge, No. 173: