

Corner Stone of the Magnificent Town Hall proposed to be erected in their prosperous and beautiful Village, I summoned an Emergent Communication of Grand Lodge on Thursday, the 27th day of July, for the purpose of performing that interesting ceremony in accordance with the ancient customs of our Fraternity. The officers and Brethren responded in large numbers. The day was favorable, and the concourse of spectators from the surrounding country and from different parts of the Province was large. The officials and people of the vicinity were unbounded in their hospitality, and the exercises appear to have given general satisfaction.

This event will not be without historic interest as being the first of its kind under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Quebec.

The report of the ceremony, if printed in the Proceedings of Grand Lodge, may be useful for the future.

OFFICIAL VISITATIONS.

Shortly after the last annual communication, a happy combination of circumstances enabled me to visit the city of Quebec, for the purpose of installing and investing the officers of Grand Lodge resident there. I need hardly say to you that the Brethren of the Ancient Capitol were, as usual, most kind and courteous. It was an occasion long to be remembered for many reasons, but especially as affording a much-desired opportunity of uniting with the Brethren of that city in doing deserved honor to the highly esteemed efficient and Grand Lodge officers in that District. But I need not assure you how much our P D G M, R W Bro J S Bowen (who during the past year had removed from the city of Quebec to the city of Brooklyn, N. Y.) was missed on that occasion, as he has been in all the deliberations of Grand Lodge.

Early in the Summer, I had the pleasure of formally constituting *La Loge des Coeurs Unis* in this city, to which Grand Lodge granted a Warrant of Constitution at last communication. Being obliged to leave, however, before the close of the ceremony, the work was well completed by the co-operation of several Grand Lodge officers present. I have reason to believe that this Lodge is doing a good work, and will, I trust, prove a lasting honor to this Grand Lodge and to the fraternity in general.

It also afforded me much satisfaction to be able to accept the repeated hearty invitation of the Officers and Brethren of Corner Stone Lodge at Cowansville, about mid-summer, and witness the presentation of several valuable donations to the Lodge, by its efficient master, and other zealous Brethren,—and it was also a great pleasure to meet there so many of the Grand Lodge Officers of the Montreal and Bedford Districts, and the officers and other members of various Lodges in the vicinity. The hospitality of the Lodge was most generous, and all present seemed to enjoy themselves in a becoming manner.

My informal visits to Montreal have been frequent and of the most pleasant character, and you need not be told that our Brethren here, Masonically and otherwise, ever prove themselves worthy of the metropolitan city of the Dominion.

It has been to me a source of deep regret, that I have not been able to make more numerous official visits, in all parts of our jurisdiction; but the numerous duties devolving upon me in the guidance and direction of G. L. affairs, required my almost constant presence at home, that no opportunity for promoting its welfare might be neglected, and that no important correspondence from home or abroad might remain long unanswered. The brethren will, therefore, kindly exercise due forbearance and overlook these and other shortcomings.

GRAND LODGE OF BELGIUM.

A communication has been received from the Grand Orient of Belgium requesting the establishment of fraternal intercourse between that Grand Body and the Grand Lodge of Quebec,

Having reason to believe that the Royal Grand Master of that Grand Orient has caused to be enforced in all Lodges within his jurisdiction a strict adherence to the ancient landmarks of the Fraternity in eschewing all interference in religious sectarianism and party politics, and is otherwise making that Grand Body worthy of universal recognition and fraternal fellowship, I have no hesitation in saying to Grand Lodge, that it is my hope and expectation that full inquiry into all the circumstances will lead to the establishment at an early day, of fraternal intercourse between and the interchange of representatives with the Grand Orient of Belgium, and thus help to strengthen the ties which should bind America and Europe more closely together, and so aid in the establishment of peace on earth and good will among men.