

Acacia Lodge, at Amherst, N. S., to be present at the dedication of their new hall by the Grand Master and Officers of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, an invitation endorsed by the venerable Grand Master of Nova Scotia. I accepted the invitation so endorsed in the fervent hope that I would be able to meet our distinguished brother on the borders of our respective jurisdictions, but unexpectedly, and to my very great regret, I was prevented from carrying out that intention.

Application was made to me by the Union Lodge, No. 18, Halifax, for authority to raise to the Third Degree, three initiates of that Lodge, residents of the city of Saint John, and men of color. These parties had been admitted in Halifax in violation of our jurisdictional rights, and the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia had, on the matter being brought to its notice promptly disavowed the error of its Subordinate. In reply to the request the Grand Secretary informed the Union Lodge that, "as this subject had been formerly remitted to the Grand Master of Nova Scotia, it would seem to be proper and courteous to him and to his Grand Lodge, that you prefer your application through the Grand Secretary of Nova Scotia,"—and added an intimation that, if made in this way, it would probably be granted. Since that reply was sent nothing further has been done in the matter.

A communication has been received from Worshipful Brother D. E. Seymour, our Representative at the Grand Lodge of Maine, informing us that the Alley Lodge at Upper Mills had been making Masons of persons whose residence is within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Maine. The Grand Secretary has brought the matter under the notice of Alley Lodge, asking for information, and has assured the Grand Master of Maine that no such invasion of the territory occupied by his Grand Lodge will be permitted by the Masonic authorities in the Province of New Brunswick. The correspondence is not yet closed; but there is nothing in the matter to call for immediate action on the part of Grand Lodge. It is but just to state that the position of Alley Lodge is very peculiar. The community in which it is located may fairly be stated to exist on both sides of the boundary line, which is here but a narrow stream; and a man at one time of the year may reside on one side of the line, whilst at another time he may reside on the other. On a recent visit to the Lodge I found to my surprise that the Worshipful Master and many of the officers were residents in the United States. The greeting that I received from them was most cordial, and the fact that they hailed from different nationalities seemed to intensify our fraternal regards for each other. I exhorted the Worshipful Master to be exceedingly careful in respect of the candidates whose applications he received.

An application was made to the Grand Secretary on behalf of certain gentlemen claiming to be Masons, and working on the line of the Intercolonial Railway, in the Province of Quebec, for Masonic instruction. They thought that as they were over 200 miles away from the nearest Lodge in the jurisdiction within which they lived, and that as Restigouche Lodge, No 25, was only seventy miles distant, some opportunity might be given to secure for them the instruction through that Lodge which they desired. While fully appreciating their zeal for Masonic knowledge, I felt that as they lived within another jurisdiction, no official steps could be taken to meet their wishes. The Grand Secretary so informed them.

There is a difference between the "clothing" recognized in the work and that required by the Constitution. It would be well to have that difference harmonized, not only for the sake of uniformity, but because it is liable to lead to awkward results. I respectfully urge upon Grand Lodge to direct the Ritual Committee to take the question into its consideration, and to report at our next annual session if any change is desirable to harmonize this difference, and, if desirable, how it can be effected.

Grand Lodge is deeply interested in the Masonic Temple which it is proposed to erect in the City of Saint John, and for the building of which a Company has been incorporated under an Act of the Provincial Legislature. In such a Company Grand Lodge should, for many reasons, be the principal and controlling stockholder. A Masonic Temple is required not only for the accommodation of the private Lodges in this city, but for the accommodation of Grand Lodge at its annual assembly, and for the proper care of our records and other rapidly accumulating property. It seems almost useless to devise plans for founding a Grand Lodge Library, or for procuring portraits of our Past Grand Masters, until there are suitable apartments in which these may be placed where they can be accessible to every member of the fraternity. I earnestly recommend this matter to the careful consideration of Grand Lodge at its present Session, with the suggestion that it would not be a heavy burden to assume the responsibility of stock to the extent of ten thousand dollars in the Masonic Hall Company. I believe that a scheme could be devised to raise the funds as fast as required; and that an appeal to the Lodges in the jurisdiction to this end would be