

DeGrassi, owing to his affiliation with St John's Chapter, No. 75 S. R. which up to 1870 adhered to its allegiance to the G. Chapter of Scotland was not a participant in the proceedings of G. Chapter, or so well known there as he was in G. Lodge, where his high masonic merit and ability caused his selection to fill for four years the distinguished rank of D. D. G. M. of the Toronto District. I am nevertheless prompted especially to refer to the demise of this worthy Comp. in the hope that others may follow him in what I may term his specialty, namely, the collection and investigation of the early records of Canadian freemasonry. A reference to the proceedings of G. Lodge in 1862 names the appointment of a Committee of G. L. to collect masonic documents, with a view to the compilation of a history of masonry in Canada; and in 1863 and 1866 reports by E. Comp. DeGrassi and the late E. Comp. Fowler, of Kingston, were presented on this most interesting subject. In 1867, my respected predecessor in his annual address, called the attention of Grand Chapters to this matter as one "fraught with interest to us all," (see proceedings, pp. 100 and 25), and as we are aware, that in the earlier times, many lodges were known as R. A. lodges, which were by their charters enabled also to open and work chapters, it will be seen that as much valuable data may be gleaned from the archives of our chapters many of which hail from the earliest period of the settlement of Canada, as may be obtained from lodges. E. Companions DeGrassi and Fowler were kindred spirits in the love of such research, and in their Reports to Grand Lodge and their writings on the Ancient Frontenac Chapter of Kingston, and the old St. John's of Toronto, have left works that will follow them, though it has pleased T. G. A. O. T. U. that they should have ceased from their labors. I have almost necessarily been led in this connection to allude to the late Comp. Fowler; and it is with pleasing though melancholy recollections, that I add this passing tribute to that offered to his memory last year, in recording the more recent removal of my equally valued friend and Comp. Alric DeGrassi.

NEW CHAPTERS.

During the year I have had the pleasure of issuing Dispensations, subject to the confirmation of Grand Chapter, for opening three new Chapters styled and located as follows:—

THE DEWARRENE,.....	ST. THOMAS, ONT
THE NIAGARA,.....	NIAGARA, ONT.
THE GEORGIAN,.....	OWEN SOUND, ONT.

While all are well and worthily recommended, and are opened under the auspices and guidance of companions of zeal and ability, I may especially refer to the last named, which testifies in its organization to the unrelaxing efforts of that true mason and respected judge, R. E. Comp. Henry Macpherson, whose energy, long the life spring of Masonry in his district, has found in this chapter but another field where, surrounded by faithful companions, he may disseminate with his wonted fidelity the principles of capitular masonry.

AFFILIATION OF ST. JOHN'S CHAPTER, NO. 209, I. R. LONDON.

I have also, in this connection, to refer to a somewhat exceptional case, namely, St. John's Chapter, No. 209, I. R., which has finally surrendered its warrant to the Grand Chapter of Ireland, and received a dispensation of affiliation with the Grand Chapter of Canada; I say, finally, for this chapter was one of those which took part in the organization of Grand Chapter, and received a warrant, afterwards numbered 3, on our roll; subsequently, for causes to which it is not necessary now to revert, a number of the Companions withdrew and reorganized as No. 209, I. R. (the warrant not having been returned), and the residue, after working as No. 3, until 1863, surrendered that warrant and amalgamated with St. George's Chapter No. 5. While it has ever been one of the planks in the platform of the Grand Chapter of Canada, since her organization, to respect the conscientious desire of the companions of any chapter to adhere to their old allegiance until such good time as they might desire themselves to leave it, it cannot but be an occasion for cordial welcome when, feeling no longer prepared to continue an allegiance which isolates them from the now important Canadian governing body in capitular masonry, they enter our portals, and are enabled to participate in our deliberations and strengthen our councils. In this spirit I have had the pleasure of welcoming the enrollment, or re-enrollment of St. John's, and by a generous abnegation of any right of priority or precedence on the part of the only chapter which might have made claim thereto, namely, the chapter of St. Andrew and St. John, No. 4, Toronto, which has recently established the trace of its original organization to the early date of 1800, I have had the further pleasure of acceding to their desire, and awarding to the chapter under mention the sometime dormant number three.