

I am glad to report that applications for dispensations during the year have been few, and that the Lodges are endeavoring to conform to the well established law of the Order as laid down by our Constitution. The dispensations asked for and which the M. W. the Grand Master has been pleased to grant, have been mostly for festivals, and attending Divine Worship, which latter practice, I am glad to say, is becoming quite universal and, I fully believe, beneficial.

It is also pleasing to me to report the removal of Ashlar Lodge, No. 31, to their new and spacious hall, which has been fitted up very neatly and tastily.

This is now one of our best Lodges, thanks to the untiring zeal and energy of some of the Brethren in that locality.

I beg also to report that in several of my visitations I have had the honor of the company of the M. W. the Grand Master, and I have no doubt that it was equally as pleasant for the Lodges as it was for myself.

I beg most respectfully to recommend that Excelsior Lodge, No. 46, Acton Vale, be changed from St. Francis District to Shefford and Brome.

My reason for this recommendation is because Acton Vale is more in the vicinity of Shefford and Brome and easier of access, now that the Railway has opened up that section of the country, and also because this new district has not a very large area as compared with St. Francis, which occupies a large territory, and no doubt before long will have to take up the eastern part of Compton County, as that section is rapidly developing since the opening up of it by the railway.

While it is my pleasing duty to report progress and prosperity, it is also my painful duty to allude to the many deaths which have occurred during the year in this district. Perhaps at no time in the history of this Grand Lodge have so many distinguished and eminent brethren gone to their long and final rest as during the year just closed. It certainly should awaken in each of our hearts that sense of duty we owe to ourselves and our Maker, for death is sure to visit us all, and at a time when least expected. The following are those I have personally known of, and I think there are others of which I have not been notified :

V. W. Bro. Jas. W. Wiggett.

R. W. Bro. Henry J. Martin.

“ Edward Lothrop.

“ John J. Christie.

“ W. R. Philbrick.

“ J. M. Chapman.

No doubt the Grand Master will more ably refer to their many virtues and the great loss which the craft will sustain by their death. May their good deeds ever remain fresh in our memory.

In closing my report, allow me to thank the brethren for their kindness and the courtesy extended to me while I have had the honor to preside over their district, an honor which in after life I can look back upon with pride and pleasure to the new acquaintances formed and pleasant hours spent in our social gatherings.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

H. E. CHANNELL,

D. D. G. M. St. Francis District.

STANSTEAD, January 11th, 1886.