

The returns from the several local Boards of Relief, for the half-year ending 30th June, 1876, shew as follows:

	<i>Receipts.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
Toronto.....	\$1,140 00	\$1,157 00
Hamilton	312 93	394 56
London.....	241 00	233 50
Ottawa.....	82 50	75 00
Kingston.....	65 50	60 00

The Board recommend that in future all grants to local Boards of Relief be made only in accordance with the principle adopted by the Board of General Purposes, in the resolution passed at the City of Toronto, 4th February, 1873, namely:

Resolved—"That hereafter no grant be made to any local Board of Relief, unless such local Board makes a regular return in detail, to the Board of General Purposes, of the amounts received and expended for relief during the preceding six months; and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Chairman of each local Board of Relief."

REPORT ON CONDITION OF MASONRY.

The Board have had laid before them and have considered the Reports from the following Districts: St. Clair, Wilson, Huron, Hamilton, Niagara, Toronto, Prince Edward, Ottawa, London, Wellington and St. Lawrence.

It is much to be regretted that the District Deputy Grand Masters did not send in their Reports within the time specified by the Constitution.

The Board report with pleasure that the progress of Masonry in the different Districts has been on the whole highly satisfactory, and that the District Deputy Grand Masters have exerted themselves in carrying on the many duties entrusted to them.

Lodges of Instruction have been held in Ontario, Wilson and St. Lawrence Districts, and with highly satisfactory results. It is hoped that during the ensuing year Lodges of Instruction under the guidance of zealous and competent Brethren will be held in every District.

In nearly all the reports, mention is made of dispensations being granted for the purposes of laying corner stones of edifices devoted to either Masonic or Religious purposes, showing that the order is advancing in public estimation, and is obtaining a well deserved popularity. It is pleasing to note that several dispensations have been granted by District Deputy Grand Masters for the Brethren to appear in Masonic clothing for the purpose of attending Divine Service on the Festival days of our patron Saints.

In some of the reports allusion has been made to the so-called "London Difficulty," but they show that the recusant Masons receive no encouragement, and that the Lodges under the Grand Lodge of Canada in spite of blandishments showered on them, remain firm in their allegiance. This matter has been so fully considered by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, and by the Special Committee appointed by him that it is unnecessary to make further allusion thereto.

The craft has sustained a loss in the death of V. W. Bro. W. H. Supple, Past G. S. D., and your Board would recommend that a memorial page recording the sad event be inserted in the *addenda* to the proceedings of Grand Lodge.

The D. D. G. M. for London District recommends that the dues of Ionic Lodge, No. 328 should be remitted on account of loss sustained by fire, but your Board regret, as the G. M. in his address to the Grand Lodge in 1874, strongly advised that every Lodge should insure, and so protect itself against loss, that the Lodge had not availed itself of the G. M.'s advice.

In conclusion it is satisfactory to be able to report that the decisions of the D. D. G. M.'s appear generally to have given satisfaction, only one appeal therefrom having been brought under the notice, either of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master.

REPORT ON GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS.

The Board feel assured that but one feeling will pervade Grand Lodge with regard to the address of the M. W. the Grand Master—that of congratulation to himself, and satisfaction on the part of the craft, at the able, clear, and lucid manner in which he has dealt with the important subjects it embraces, and the guidance and assistance it will prove to Grand Lodge in dealing practically with them.