

The R. W. Grand Master then proceeded to deliver his Annual Address, which was well received.

ADDRESS:

To the R. W. the Grand Orange Lodge of Ontario West, in Grand Lodge assembled:

DEAR BRETHREN,—Through the blessing of Divine Providence I am permitted to meet you once more in Grand Lodge, and congratulate you on the continued prosperity of our Order in this Province.

A great many new Lodges have been started within this Province for the past year, some in very remote parts of the country; therefore, you will see that our beloved Order is spreading all over the Dominion. It will not be necessary for me to say anything on this subject, as the report of your Grand Secretary will inform you on this matter.

But while we have some good reasons for congratulation on the prosperity of our Order, we cannot but be alarmed at the rapid strides Popery is making in our land. The stand taken by the priests in Montreal and elsewhere, show to us that Popery is the same to-day as it was in the days of our forefathers, therefore let us be more closely united than we have ever been before, that we may be enabled to stand firm for our Protestant principles.

Since our last meeting we have applied for an Act of Incorporation for this Grand Lodge, and have been again refused. I need not mention the names of those members who voted against it, as you have all seen the accounts of it in the various newspapers. I trust some action will be taken by this Grand Lodge to let those men know that we must have justice. We claim equal rights for our Order, and shall be satisfied with nothing less.

There is another matter I wish to bring before the notice of this Grand Lodge, and that is the destitute circumstances of the widow of our late Grand Master, Brother D'Arcy Boulton. Having occasion to visit her during the year, while attending the meetings of our County Council, I found her in very poor circumstances. If it had not been for some of the old friends in Barrie, who provided a home for her, I cannot say what would have been her lot. I trust some action will be taken by this Grand Lodge to provide for the widow of one who, when living, spent both time and means in advancing the principles of our beloved Order.

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