

6. At Kincardine, on the 15th August, 1877, to lay the corner-stone of a new, Methodist Episcopal Church.

At Hamilton, on the 17th August, 1877, to lay the corner-stone of the new Court House for the County of Wentworth and City of Hamilton.

All of the above ceremonies were duly conducted, and as will be seen from the minutes they were largely attended by the Craft. The favorable esteem in which our Order is held by the people of this Province generally may be fairly deduced from the numbers of persons of all ranks of society who attended on these public occasions.

The special Communication held at London calls for more than passing notice. Notwithstanding the unfavorable state of the weather—for with only a slight cessation, it rained heavily—one of the largest, perhaps the largest Masonic procession ever seen in Canada, then turned out to celebrate the occasion. It is said that over fifteen hundred Masons marched past and attended the ceremony, whilst an immense concourse of the citizens of London and its vicinity gave their countenance to the proceedings by attending to witness the same. The music furnished was good; the arrangements were in all respects perfect, and everything was commenced in order, conducted in peace, and closed in harmony. This demonstration gave ample proof that neither the Craft belonging to the Forest City of the West, nor the good people of that locality, have any sympathy with the action of the little band of discontents, whose misguided action has entailed such disastrous consequences upon themselves, without in any way inflicting injury upon this Grand Lodge.

In the evening, the brethren of London did me the honor of entertaining me at a grand banquet at the Tecumseh House, when R. W. Bro. Isaac Waterman, the Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements presided. The evening was most enjoyable, and, we venture to hope, profitable to all present.

The special Communication at Hamilton was also an important one. More than one thousand persons assembled to witness the proceedings, which were ably conducted by M. W. Bro. Seymour, P. G. M., attended by more than two hundred members of the Lodges of that city and of that neighborhood. During the afternoon, the members of the Grand Lodge were entertained by the County and City Councils, on whose invitation the Craft were called together to perform the ceremony of the day, whilst the hospitalities of the Hamilton brethren were extended to the members of the visiting Lodges.

Amongst other important gatherings of the Fraternity, the records of the following have been received, and are now submitted:

1. At Highgate, on the 11th January,

1877, when that Lodge, No. 336, and Masonic Hall were dedicated.

2. At Blenheim, on the 15th January, 1877, when the Masonic Hall for Kent Lodge, No. 274, was dedicated.

3. At Guelph, on the 20th April, 1877, when the handsome Masonic Hall, erected by the united exertions of the brethren in Guelph, was dedicated.

Our relations with foreign Grand Lodges have been extended. We have exchanged representatives with the five Grand Lodges with whom we have not yet been in direct communication.

I have had the pleasure of appointing the following as our representatives near Grand Lodges where we have heretofore been unrepresented:

1. W. Bro. A. Doty, jr., near the Grand Lodge of South Carolina.

2. M. W. Bro. George W. Blount, P. G. M., near the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

3. R. W. Bro. Joseph H. Jochum, D. G. M., near the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia.

4. Bro. Henry A. Woolf, near the Grand Lodge of Alabama.

5. R. W. Bro. Jos. W. H. Watson, near the Grand Lodge of Delaware.

And I have made the following further appointments to supply vacancies which have occurred in our representatives:

6. M. W. Bro. Chas. A. Woodward, G. M., near the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

7. M. W. Bro. Z. Rylands, G. M., near the Grand Lodge of Missouri.

8. M. W. Bro. T. S. Parvin, G. S., near the Grand Lodge of Iowa.

The following brethren have received credentials appointing them representatives near this Grand Lodge:

1. R. W. Bro. Thos. C. Macnabb, from the Grand Lodge of South Carolina.

2. R. W. Bro. L. H. Henderson, from the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

3. R. W. Bro. Henry Robertson, from the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia.

4. V. W. Bro. the Honorable T. B. Pardee, Q. C., from the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick.

5 and 6. R. W. Bro. S. B. Harman, from the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, and from the Grand Lodge of Alabama.

7. R. W. Bro. John B. Traves, from the Grand Lodge of Delaware.

8 and 9. The Grand Lodges of New Jersey and Indiana have done me the great honor of accrediting me to represent them respectively near this Grand Lodge.

The fraternal action of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, referred to in last year's proceedings, having enabled us to resume those friendly relations which formerly existed, I was glad to re-appoint our highly esteemed and widely respected Rt. W. Bro. Batchelor, the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of