

THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN,

AND

MASONIC RECORD.

J. B. TRAYES, P.D.D.G.M.,
Editor & Proprietor.

"The Queen and the Craft."

{ \$1.00 per annum
in advance.

VOL. XXI.

PORT HOPE, ONT., SEPTEMBER 15, 1887.

No. 9.

ROYAL ORDER OF SCOTLAND.

There have been many Provincial Grand Masters appointed from time to time in connection with the "Royal Order of Scotland," but it seems to have been left to one of the youngest in that capacity, albeit a veteran Mason, to deliver an allocution at an annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge. We refer to the "Ninth Annual" of the Provincial Grand Lodge for the United States of America, Gen. Albert Pike being the Provincial Grand Master of the "R. O." and Orator on the occasion (October 18th, 1886). The remarkable Address was delivered to "Dear Friends and Brethren" who are members of that curious Degree (or Degrees)—with such quaint ceremonials and customs—and who assembled in the city of Washington to greet their beloved and honored chief. Bro. Pike told his hearers that "Our Freemasonry is not all that it ought to be to us, or we should welcome our annual reunions with a greater gladness, be more saddened at parting from each other at their close, and permit only grave impediments to prevent our being present at each." Considering that General Pike has been for long the Grand Commander of the A. and A. Rite, 33°, for the S. J. of the United States, we desire to emphasize his declaration—"We are all debtors to Freemasonry. Our first-allegiance

is pledged at the beginning to Symbolic Masonry; and it always remains paramount. This is a truism which everyone admits, but the conduct of a vast number of Masons is inconsistent with it, and reject it. Too many forget that they are debtors of the Symbolic Masonry." We trust that the "old man eloquent" will be spared for another year, indeed, for many years, for he promises "that he will entrust to the keeping of the Provincial Grand Lodge a treatise upon the Symbols of the Blue Lodge, containing the results of his studies and reflections thereon, and so discharge in part the debt which, as a Knight of the Rosy Cross (Royal Order) he owes to the Symbolic Masonry." This is good news for those who delight in the "Science of Symbolism," of which General Pike is, beyond question, the *facile princeps*. The orator unhesitatingly declared that "the day will be long in coming when Masonry will be no longer needed by humanity, and the day will never come when any other Order will take its place." In his opinion the dawn of the reformation and reinvigoration of Freemasonry will witness "the errors and mischiefs that have grown insolent and strong shall flee away as the mists before the north wind. Fraud and imposture, scorched by the hot flame of its righteous indignation will be shrivelled up and perish, and the parasite organisms that have clung to it, and had their life from it, will be shaken off and left behind to die of inanition."—*London Freemason.*