

The nature of this Rite, with its beautiful and impressive degrees, so many of which are highly dramatic, affords a scope in the work for awakening an interest in the minds of those who participate, whether actors or audience, which insures the success of these gatherings in a manner that I think nowhere else obtains in the Order. Brethren become fascinated with the work when artistically done, and with the sublime lessons taught in every degree, and I consider therefore that these re-unions have wrought a great good to the Rite and have been one of the most effective means that could have been adopted to insure its propagation and success. We are indebted to the Northern Jurisdiction for their conception and the practice of holding them has spread rapidly there and in the South, followed by the bodies of our obedience.

To various gatherings of this nature I have been invited during the year and have attended several in the United States as well as in our Dominion, and in every instance I witnessed improvement and progress, and I earnestly urge the brethren of this jurisdiction everywhere to take up this question and promote these excellent gatherings.

HOME MATTERS.

Our jurisdiction, extending over so few Bodies, naturally there will not arise many questions of Masonic law demanding a ruling, and I have therefore nothing of this nature to report. The utmost harmony prevails everywhere. The Rite is undoubtedly prospering and becoming more matured in the various places where we have placed it. It is no longer an experiment anywhere, but is looked upon everywhere as the "*ne plus ultra*" of Masonry, not only by its members, but by the Craft generally.

In speaking of the numbers of the Bodies of our obedience as being comparatively small, it is well to explain that these have been somewhat reduced since I took the command of this Council by having the warrants of three or four effete Bodies withdrawn which have not been made up by the organization of any new ones. There has been no lack of energy on the part of anyone to extend the Rite, but I now think a too conservative spirit has obtained with us all, the past three years, arising from the fact that the several Bodies mentioned above, which were placed in small towns had proved failures, and we came to the conclusion that to extend the Rite to any other than large cities would be in like manner unsuccessful. On looking over the list of cities, and towns of our Dominion, I am convinced that there are places in each Province where it will be desirable to plant at least one Body of the Rite, and where there is no good reason to believe it will not prove a success. I am sure in Ontario there are several prosperous cities where a Lodge of Perfection would flourish, and I would suggest that special effort be made by the Deputies of this Council during the coming year to extend the Rite in this way. I should certainly