

to the once distracted Grand Lodge of Manitoba, not to publish the letter referred to. We believe that the difficulties between the rival factions in that Province were healed by mutual concessions, and both parties deserve credit for their action which brought about the happy result, and the removal of a Masonic scandal. As we are assured that the address presented to M. W. Bro. Newcomb expresses the sentiments of a large number of the Brethren in that Province, and we cannot see anything objectionable in it, we have great pleasure in giving it publication:—

ADDRESS.

To M. W. Bro. George F. Newcomb, P. G. M.:

The occasion of the dedication of this spacious hall to the purposes of Masonry is regarded as a suitable one upon which to express to you the high estimate your brethren throughout the Province have formed of your Masonic and private character, as illustrated by your official and personal bearing during the trying period you presided over the craft of this Province as Grand Master.

Your efforts to establish Masonry in this Province on a creditable and constitutional basis, consistent with the recognized principles of A. F. & A. M. throughout the Masonic world, have resulted profitably to the craft, and are, consequently, now recognized.

Your unwavering determination to check the careless, not to say reckless, manner in which you found the craft in this Province tending to drift, and insisting upon a system of strict constitutional rule at a critical period in the life of our Grand Lodge, is worthy of all praise.

The favorable reception your addresses to Grand Lodge have uniformly met at the hands of all the foreign Grand Lodges that have taken any interest in our existence as a constitutional and permanent Grand Lodge, is gratifying evidence that your administration of the high office of Grand Master, during two terms, is generally approved.

Your firm attitude against forcing an issue on the Ritual question, and your steady adherence to what you felt was for the best interests of Masonry in Manitoba, and the world in general, was fully justified as events have proven.

Your interest in the craft while Grand

Master, as shown by your promptitude in visiting all the Lodges throughout the Province, and administering advice and counsel wherever and whenever needed, regardless of personal considerations or popularity, has resulted in permanent benefit to the cause of Masonry in Manitoba.

In all your efforts to settle Masonic difficulties in Grand Lodge, on a fair, honorable and constitutional basis, without jeopardizing our existence as a Grand Lodge, or lowering our standing with other Grand Lodges, it cannot be said that Masonry was disgraced to meet the convenience of any party or faction or even sacrificed by you for personal popularity.

You will, therefore, kindly accept this address and the accompanying gift as a slight recognition of the value the donors attach to the Masonic work you have accomplished, and of their appreciation of your Masonic and personal character.

On behalf of the subscribers.

A. J. BELCH.

Winnipeg, April 6th, 1880.

We have not seen the reply, but if there had been anything in it which reflected upon the happy settlement of the Masonic difficulties in that jurisdiction, we should have declined to publish it, as we believe the past should be forgotten: reference to the old disputes would only serve to open the trouble.

On the evening of the 21st ult., several of the officers and members of the Kingston Masonic Relief Association proceeded to the house of R. W. Bro. Geo. M. Wilkinson, P. D. D. G. M., president of the Association, and presented him with a beautiful silver Ice Pitcher with goblet, upon which was an inscription stating that the gift was a tribute to Bro. Wilkinson's great zeal in behalf of the Association. We have not received any further particulars of the proceedings, consequently we cannot lay them before our readers.