

THE GRAND CHAPTER.

THE nineteenth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada, was held in the Masonic Hall of Royal Albert Chapter, Montreal, on the 9th August. The following is the Grand Z's.

ADDRESS.

To the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada,

GREETING :—

COMPANIONS, another year has passed away, and by a dispensation of Divine Providence we are once again permitted to assemble together in Annual Convocation, to review the proceedings of the past, and to determine upon such a course for the future as will be most conducive to the interests and welfare of our beloved order.

Before proceeding, however, with a summary of our doings for the past year, let me digress for a few moments for the purpose of paying a tribute of respect to the memory of one of our members, who the Great I Am has, in his infinite wisdom, called away from among us, to his eternal home; I allude to the death of the late R. Ex. Comp. Aldis Bernard, which occurred on the 4th day of July last, at San Jose, in California, whither he had gone but a few weeks before hoping to recruit his health. His remains were brought to this city, and on the 15th ulto., were conveyed to their final resting place by a large concourse of sorrowing friends and distinguished Masons. For his distinguished services, and great zeal in the cause of Craft Masonry, the rank of Past Grand Master was conferred upon him by the Grand Lodge of Canada in 1860, and at the formation of the Grand Body he was elected to the high and honorable position of Deputy G. M., and by virtue of that office he occupied the position of Grand H. in the Grand Chapter in its early days. In his private life, the esteem and regard in which R. Ex. Companion Bernard was held in this city, where he for many years resided, is fully evidenced by his having been, on several occasions by his fellow citizens elevated to important positions of honor and trust, the duties of which were by his great ability, and earnest zeal, successfully accomplished, both with credit to himself and advantage to the city. But he is gone; we shall all miss his kind and cordial greeting; the place that knew him once shall know him no more forever.

I have to congratulate myself upon the comparatively small amount of work that has devolved upon me during the year that I have occupied my present position, and attribute it wholly to the prosperous and rapid strides Capitular Masonry is at present making within our jurisdiction.

It is also a matter of general congratulation that the bond of union in this particular branch of Free Masonry throughout the Provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario, and Manitoba, is still quietly and carefully maintained, and preserved, and no desire is manifested to disturb or mar the harmony and good feeling so happily existing among us.

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS OF DISTRICT.

You will no doubt be better advised of the prosperous condition of Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction after hearing the reports of the several District Grand Superintendents, to which I direct your attention, as many valuable statistics and much useful information will, no doubt, be furnished you in regard to the working of the order, which has not been brought under my immediate notice.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

The Annual Report on Foreign Correspondence will, as usual, be laid before you by our distinguished friend and R. Ex. Companion Henry Robertson, for your consideration. It will be found replete with much valuable and useful information, and will repay a careful and attentive perusal. The ability and zeal at all times displayed by this talented Companion in performing his arduous duty, is deserving of the highest commendation, and I regret to say that the time and labor necessarily employed by him in preparing and compiling this valuable record is not sufficiently appreciated by Grand Chapter.

FINANCE.

The Financial exhibit of Grand Chapter will, as usual, be laid before you for your consideration and approval, by R. Ex. Companion McLellan, Grand Treasurer, and which, with the statements furnished by R. Ex. Companion Stephens, Grand Scribe E., will enable Grand Chapter to see at a glance the steady and marked improvement in this department. As these statements will be submitted in detail, it is quite unnecessary for me to refer to them further than to express a hope that they may prove satisfactory to Grand Chapter.