

don residence on the 11th May. Deeply interested in Freemasonry, under his fostering care the local charities of the Fraternity rapidly increased, while his splendid residence at Alton Towers was thrown open with liberal hospitality for brethren from many parts of the globe. Presiding at the annual festival of the Boys' Masonic School in 1872, the proceeds of the grand feast realized £5,510 sterling for that splendid charity. In 1875 he occupied the chair at the festival for the Asylum for Aged Masons, when £7,020 sterling were collected, and in February of the present year, at the same festival, he again presided, when the sum of £12,656 was realized. We honor brethren who are eminent, as Masonic writers, jurists, and who reach high position. Let us drop a kindly tear as well for the illustrious dead who amid many pressing cares work fervently and earnestly to advance the splendid charities of our ancient Fraternity.

The report of the Board of General Purposes and the reports of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary will be laid before you, and will afford you the fullest information relating to the material progress of the craft during the past year, and the work accomplished in the chief Executive Departments of Grand Lodge.

The limited accommodation in this small room where we to-day assemble, brings to our attention the urgent necessity that exists for the erection, at an early day, of a Masonic Hall in this city. The destruction by fire of the rooms occupied for many years by the craft in this city, on the eastern side of the harbor, renders immediate action imperative. You will be glad to know that the New Brunswick Masonic Hall Company are taking prompt action in the matter, and I cannot too strongly urge upon Grand Lodge the importance of giving every assistance to the Company in furtherance of the work to secure at an early day the erection of a building suitable to the requirements of the Fraternity, and worthy of our ancient Craft.

Masonry Abroad.

AUSTRALIA.—The *Australian Freemason* reaches us at regular intervals. We are pleased to learn from its pages that the Craft is lengthening its stakes, and gathering strength in that distant part of the British Empire. We see, by the way, that they have on their Register a Lodge rejoicing in the name of "Woolloomooloo."

ILLINOIS.—At the thirty-eighth annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, held in the City of Chicago, on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th days of October, A.L. 5877, amongst the elected officers for the ensuing year were: M. W. Joseph Robbins, Quincey, Grand Master; R. W. W. J. A. DeLaney, Centralia, D. G. M.; R. W. Archibald Glenn,

Mt. Sterling, Grand Treasurer; R. W. John F. Barrill, Springfield, Grand Secretary.

DELAWARE.—The 71st annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the State of Delaware was held in the Masonic Hall at the City of Wilmington on the 3d and 4th of October. M. W. Bro. Thomas N. Williams was elected Grand Master, and R. W. Bro. William S. Hayes, Grand Secretary, for the ensuing year.

NEW MEXICO.—We have received from R. W. Bro. David J. Miller, Grand Secretary, copy of the proceedings of a Masonic Convention held at Santa Fe, in August last, for the purpose of organizing a Grand Lodge for New Mexico. The proceedings seem to have been regularly conducted, and the business transacted of a constitutional character. M. W. Bro. William W. Griffin, of Santa Fe, was chosen Grand Master; R. W. Bro. Wm. L. Ryerson, Deputy Grand Master, and R. W. Bro. D. J. Miller, Grand Secretary. We wish the new Grand Lodge a long and prosperous career.

Too many think they are good Masons if they are able to work their way into a lodge. Ask them any questions about the principles of the institution and they exhibit inexcusable ignorance. Many of our members never read a Masonic book or paper, and while they thus continue we must expect them to be ignorant. When candidates are prepared for advancement nothing but ritual is explained to them, and generally only just enough of that to enable them to pass a tolerable examination. We permit them to grow up without proper instruction in the principles and tenets of the Order, and they become drones in the hives of Masonry.—*Grand Master Idaho.*

AN INFIDEL FREEMASON.—The *Keystone* (Philadelphia) thus expresses itself in regard to the "Bro. Jacob Norton," to whom we had occasion to refer in our October Number as a heretical Mason, who ventures to give his opinion that the denial of the Divine authenticity of the Scriptures and the immortality of the soul were the "progress of common sense." It appears that this Bro. Norton is troubled with a *cacoethes scribendi*, and has been making himself ridiculous in other respects. This is the opinion of the *Keystone*: "Bro. Jacob Norton has grown weary of attacking the Mother City of Masonry in America—Philadelphia, and he is now attacking the First Great Light in Masonry, the Holy Bible. He intimates that he does not believe in the existence of the Devil, nor in the inspiration of the Old Testament Scriptures. We do not know that it makes any difference to any Mason as to what a non-affiliate of over twenty years' standing believes. Besides, if the whole truth were told, we doubt if Bro. Norton believes in anything except himself."