

inasmuch, that not one of our small circle has been called to his last account, and thanks to the Divine favor, we are all still in a position to devote our care and attention to the welfare of our beloved Rite.

May the incense of grateful hearts be wafted upward to the Heavenly throne, in humble yet hearty thanks for all the blessings which have been so undeservedly showered upon us.

You are all aware of the reasons for the omission of the session of last year.

The good city of Montreal was suffering under the scourge of that loathsome disease, smallpox, and though we who are residents of the city, knew that the pestilence was confined to one quarter alone, and that there was practically no danger in visiting the city, yet it is not to be wondered at, if members at a distance did not share in that confidence, and so it was deemed better to omit the session rather than to call upon brethren to incur even a fancied risk.

The two years since we last met have passed by all too quickly, and, at the same time very peacefully.

We are in perfect accord with all the legitimate Supreme Councils in the world, and, so far as we are concerned, have been very little troubled by the spurious body, which carries on a precarious existence in this jurisdiction.

By the power vested in me, I called a special meeting of the Supreme Council in the City of St. John, N. B., on the 9th of April, 1885, and on my way to that place, I passed through the City of Halifax, Nova Scotia, where I had the pleasure of being unexpectedly present at the Easter Sunday ceremony in Keith Chapter of Rose Croix, and was both surprised and delighted at the excellent way in which the ceremony was performed, and at the very large attendance of members.

From Halifax, accompanied by Ill. Bro. Rev. Canon PARTRIDGE, 32° and Ill. Bro. GEORGE T. SMITHERS, 32°, I proceeded to St. John, and there, on Thursday, the 9th of April, conferred on these two brethren the 33rd degree, or Sovereign Grand Inspector-General, and on Ill. Bro. W. H. THORNE that of Honorary-Inspector-General.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies, a banquet was tendered to me by the brethren of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and the Knights Templar of St. John, New Brunswick, and a very pleasant evening was passed. Indeed, I may say that during my stay of several days, nothing was left undone to make my visit as pleasant and profitable as possible.

During the past two years, but two dispensations have been granted, one to Winnipeg Lodge of Perfection to proceed to Brandon to confer the degrees up to the 14th, and one to the Ill. Bros. J. H. BELL, and C. N. BELL, to confer the 15th and 16th on the first Thrice Puissant Grand Master of Brandon Lodge of Perfection.

I also issued commissions to Ill. Bro. the Rev. Canon PARTRIDGE, 33°, as Deputy for the Province of Nova Scotia, and the Ill. Bro. GEORGE T. SMITHERS, 33°, as Deputy for Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.