

I regret exceedingly the disturbed and warlike spirit that now prevails to such an alarming extent between the Northern and Southern sections of our neighboring Republic. God grant that the spirit of peace and good-will may ever prevail in Canada, our beloved country. May we live up to and cherish the principles of our Order, and retire at a good old age to where no bloody battles will be fought, or malice arrows hurled, but purple waves of living thought, surge through the angel world, and the widow's wail, the orphan's cry are changed to songs of praise.

During the recess, Dispensations have been issued for three Subordinate Lodges, viz: first Simcoe, second Thames Lodge, and the third for Hamilton, which last has not been organized as yet. The two first are respectfully submitted for your approval and confirmation.

From my correspondence with the Grand Secretary I learn that in the Village of Ayr, active preparations are being made for the organization of a Lodge of our Order, with a fair prospect for the future.

Brothers, we should all unite in giving encouragement to the daughters of Rebecca, for women in past ages, have almost invariably laid the foundation for great enterprise and great reforms. Then let us multiply her social advantages, enhance her dignity, minister to her intelligence, and by manly gentleness be the champion of her genius, the friends of her fortunes, and the equal, *if you can*, of her heart.

An application was made to me by the N. G. of Olive Branch Lodge of Detroit, Mich., to allow a certain party residing in the Village of Windsor, C. W., desirous of joining the Order, to connect himself with Olive Branch Lodge, inasmuch as our nearest Lodge was situated some fifty miles distant. I felt much pleasure in granting the necessary permission, and hope in time to receive an application for a Charter from that source.

Application was made to me for my decision, as to the legality of expulsion of members, for the non-payment of dues. The decision that I gave was, that it is a custom at variance with the principles and spirit of Odd-Fellowship, and of course I must pronounce it illegal. The digest, our highest authority, declares the practice impolitic and unjust, to visit misfortune with the extreme penalty of the Law, designed for criminal offences. Brethren, I cannot sanction a wrong in my jurisdiction, and hope the Representatives present will respect my motives if they condemn my decisions.

Elgin Lodge, No. 32, has surrendered her Charter and working Books, a report of which will be laid before you during the present session.

The following will show that the cause of Odd-Fellowship has not been slumbering within the past year:

There have been ninety-two initiations, twenty-seven withdrawals, fifty-six suspensions, thirty-five expulsions, four deaths, three re-instatements, seven admissions by card, and an average of contributing members as shown by Reports for Dec. and June of 500.