

been rectified, and now he, (the Grand Secretary), is able to present for your inspection a set of books in his office that, I firmly believe, are second to none, and may the Most High long spare him to us in that position which he now so worthily fills." *

OPENING AND CLOSING.

"Owing to our Constitution requiring business to be done in the third degree, and the bulk of our lodges working what is commonly known as the "Canada Work," a great deal of time is taken up in lowering and raising into the different degrees, and as our ritual does not allow of any short form being used, I would ask the Grand Lodge to consider the advisability of appointing a committee of well skilled brethren to adopt a short form, or allow lodges to open directly in the degree. I found my predecessor allowed a short form of lowering and raising, which I continued, provided always that the lodge opened regularly in the first, second and third degrees, and then when closing down for that communication, doing so regularly in the third, second and first degrees."

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

"Immediately on taking office I determined to hold Lodges of Instruction, knowing, as I did, the great benefit they would be to all concerned, and what an impetus it would give to the better rendering of the work. The enthusiasm manifested at each meeting was most gratifying to me, and the evident desire to get the work up correctly warrants me in the belief that the good done by this means is beyond estimation. The only cause for regret was the fact that there were so few attending from the country lodges, by whom these Lodges of Instruction are needed much more than by the City Lodges. * * *

FRATERNAL RELATIONS.

"It affords me very much pleasure to be able to inform you that the fraternal relations of this Grand Lodge with that of the other Grand Lodges throughout the world are of the most fraternal and satisfactory character. During the year there has not been the slightest approach to a cloud in the skies to mar the peace and harmony which should at all times characterize not only Masonic lodges but Masonic Grand Lodges. Long may this continue."

"This is the year in which nearly the whole civilized world is celebrating the fiftieth year of the reign of our beloved Sovereign, Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, over that Empire which, during her reign, has attained that position amongst the nations of the earth which warrants us in calling it the leader of civilization and progress, and of which, I am proud to say, this Canada of ours forms no

inconsiderable part. The progress of that empire during the last fifty years makes our hearts pulsate with a pardonable pride, and its future destinies, we believe, this our adopted land will have no small share in making as brilliant as the past has been."

"I would recommend for your consideration the propriety of appointing a committee to draft and forward, through the Board of General Purposes, an address of congratulation to our Queen, indicative of our loyalty and love for her. More especially do I think it would be appropriate from the fact of her high and gracious appreciation of our Order, as evinced by her sanctioning the acceptance by H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, of the position of Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, further testified also by the admission into our ranks but a short time ago of the Prince of Wales' eldest son, the heir presumptive to the British Crown. * *

"Let us with all reverence express the hope that the fraternal dead of all jurisdictions, who have been summoned from this earthly Lodge, have given the Pass-word and been permitted to enter the Celestial Lodge above, which knows no East, West, South or North, but where all bask in that radiant glory emanating from the effulgent Centre, and are now seated at the right hand of our Heavenly Father."

"The God who hath made mankind
one common brotherhood,
Himself their Master, the world
their lodge."

"In conclusion, brethren, my official relations with you are now about to terminate, a large volume of most important business awaits your consideration. It has been my desire to make the report of my acts as concise as possible, but owing to the variety of subjects that I have deemed it my duty to bring to your notice, I have not been able to accomplish the object aimed at; however, for this I crave your indulgence. Finally, for my part I can honestly say that I have performed the duties appertaining to my high office to the best of my ability, and with a full sense of their importance, and an earnest desire to prove myself not quite unworthy of the trust you reposed in me but a year ago. As I return to you the emblem of authority, thankfully, reverently realizing how far short I have fallen from the ideal I set up, let me offer up a prayer to Him who doeth all things well, imploring a blessing on your deliberations, that you may be so guided in all your acts as will redound to the honor and glory of His holy Name, the Builder of Heaven and of earth, the Most High."

The D. D. G. M.'s made very in-