

PUBLIC PROCESSIONS.

The occasions on which Freemasons may becomingly appear in public, clothed in their distinctive regalia,—are funerals, the laying of foundation and cope stones,—Divine worship,—and at certain social festivals. Hitherto, within our jurisdiction, Royal Arch Masons, as such, have generally been present along with Craft Masons, at funerals only. There do not appear to me to be good and sufficient reasons why they should not be, in like manner, associated with their brethren on the other public occasions mentioned.

Craft and Capitular Masonry have ever been held to form and constitute the substance of pure ancient Freemasonry,—the latter being the complement and perfection of the former,—and as all their fundamental principles, customs and symbolism are substantially the same, and of kindred and cognate origin, and both having the same elements of universality, it does seem well in such like ways to show their practical unity. And it should constantly be borne in mind that their separation as to grand governance, is purely a matter of convenience.

Moreover, if it is of advantage to one section of the Craft at times to appear publicly in the performance of such like time-immemorial duties, why should not the complementary section of our ancient fraternity be alike sharers of the same?

I noticed also that in the sister jurisdiction of Nova Scotia the companions of the Holy Royal Arch, by special invitation of the Grand Master, formed a notable part of the Masonic procession at the laying of the foundation stone of a public building in the city of Halifax. This appeared to be the general acceptance of the Craft there.

It also appears to be the general custom among the grand jurisdictions throughout the United States for Craft and Royal Arch Masons in their distinctive regalia, and in their allotted positions, to unite in the processions on all such public occasions.

For these and other like reasons, I cheerfully acquiesced in the proposal for Companions as such, to be present at the laying of the foundation stone of a church edifice under the immediate auspices of the sister Grand Craft Body of our jurisdiction, at the village of Freightsburg, on the 8th of June last.

To my mind, it appears as though it would be well, should the precedent adopted on that occasion, seemingly to the general acceptance, become the fixed policy of the Grand Lodge and the Grand Chapter of Quebec.

RELATIONS WITH VERMONT.

Having learned that brethren of our Province, situated near the boundary line between the jurisdiction of the sister Grand

Chapter of Vermont and our own, had occasionally been accustomed to make application to, and be exalted in Chapters located in that State, and that perchance in some instances the reverse also might have been the case, I therefore addressed a communication to the Grand High Priest of Vermont, M. E. Companion A. A. Hall, apprising him of these facts. A most courteous, fraternal reply thereto was received by me, and the First Grand Principal of that Grand Chapter at once forwarded communications to their several constituent Chapters situated near their northern borders, admonishing them to their duties thereanent and requiring them for the future to be strictly mindful of their international obligations. Letters of like import were sent by me to the Chapters of our obedience similarly situated on our southern borders.

It is, therefore, to be expected that from hence the strictest heed will be given to this very important matter, so that not even through inadvertence, anything may arise to mar in the slightest degree the perfectly harmonious relations so happily existing between this Grand Chapter and our intimate fraternal ally and nearest southern neighbor, the Most Excellent the Grand Chapter of the Green Mountain State.

INTERNATIONAL CRAFT MEDIATION.

In accordance with the resolution of Grand Chapter requesting me to do what was possible to aid in bringing about a satisfactory adjustment of the unhappy differences existing between the Grand Lodges of Quebec and North Britain, I have to report that chiefly by means of correspondence with eminent Companions in the mother country, and in which I had the hearty concurrence of the other members of our Grand Council, I have diligently sought to aid in attaining the object so devoutly to be desired, and I am not without hopes that some satisfactory progress has been made, but as the correspondence thereanent is at this time necessarily incomplete, and as efforts are still being made, the results of which are not as yet fully manifest, and which may to a very considerable extent materially affect the final issue of our fraternal mediation, I do not deem that it would be prudent or wise to submit these papers to the Grand Chapter at the present time, but to give the assurance that the greater part of all the correspondence will be laid before the Grand Chapter at a future Convocation, if the general welfare of the fraternity so demand.

I, therefore, beg the Grand Chapter to grant the continuance of its confidence, and fraternally to acquiesce in the decision arrived at by me, as above stated.