

much reduced in her circumstances, as to require assistance, and I trust that the Grand Lodge will see that the daughter of a man who, I am told, did more for Masonry in this province than any other single individual, who, in fact, spent a lifetime in its service, shall not want for the necessaries of life.

A Lodge of Instruction, at which I was present, was held by R. W. Bro. B. Shortly, D.D.G.M., at Peterboro', in December last, which was well attended and could not fail to be of service. It would be well if these lodges were held at least once a year in each district, when instruction could be given, not only in the ritual, but in the other subjects that I have referred to.

At the last meeting of our Grand Lodge the following resolution was adopted:—"That this Grand Lodge request the M. W. the Grand Master to enter into correspondence with H. R. H. the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of England, and the M. W. the Grand Master of Quebec, looking to the end that harmony and brotherly love may prevail between England and the Craft in this Dominion."

Bro. Walkem then related what he had done towards effecting a settlement of the difficulty, mentioning his visit to the Grand Lodge of Quebec when in session, and quoting the resolution adopted by it, which appeared in the February number of THE CRAFTSMAN. This resolution, it will be remembered, authorized him to conduct negotiations leading to a settlement of the troubles. In concluding his remarks under this heading, Bro. Walkem said:—

"I do not feel at liberty to say more at present than that I have entered upon the task committed to me, and am hopeful of carrying it to a successful issue. Meanwhile I must ask the brethren, both in Ontario and Quebec, to exercise forbearance, and to refrain from criticism respecting the matters in dispute.

"As the result, I assume, of the policy of discountenancing the unnecessary multiplication of lodges, adopted by my predecessors in office, I have

during the past year received only three applications for dispensations to establish new lodges, none of which I felt at liberty to grant. Two of these were for the establishment of lodges at Waubauskene and Havelock respectively, but neither was recommended by the District Deputy Grand Master, by whom it was submitted, and I quite concurred in the reasons given by these officers for their refusal to recommend the applications. Weak lodges cannot usefully exercise their functions. They soon cease to work properly, and they bring discredit upon the Order. I would, therefore, advocate the union of existing lodges instead of the creation of new ones, unless, in any particular case, the latter course is plainly desirable.

"The third application, from some brethren at Jaffa, in Syria, I had no hesitation in rejecting. It is unwise, even if we have the right to do so, to establish lodges in places where they cannot be efficiently supervised, and we have no officers whom we could spare to send to Syria on a tour of inspection."

Bro. Walkem then took up the special communications of Grand Lodge, held for the purpose of laying corner stones, and the consecrations and dedications of lodges, and lodge rooms, which have been referred to in former issues. Continuing he said:—

"A large number of questions were submitted to me during the year for my decision. I suppose that my experience in this respect has been the same as that of my predecessors. I was obliged, in many cases, to decline to answer the questions submitted, on the ground that there was a possibility of their coming before me for adjudication, and it would be unwise to accept *ex-parte* statements or to give *ex-parte* decisions. I do not think the decisions I have given of sufficient importance to be reported. There are really very few unsettled questions, and if the brethren who desire information would look carefully into their book of constitution, and the decisions which have from