

OAK BRANCH LODGE, INNERKIP.

An exceedingly pleasant meeting of the members of "Oak Branch Lodge, A. F. & A. Masons, was held in the Masonic Hall, Innerkip, on Thursday evening, of the 13th March. The regular work having been finished, W. Bro. Robert Stark, Past Master, was presented with a beautiful and costly Past Master's jewel and an address. After the Lodge was closed the brethren partook of an oyster supper in an anti-room, when after the usual kindly remarks and toasts, they separated at an early hour. Happy to meet, Sorry to part, Happy to meet again.

ADDRESS.

TO W. BRO. ROBERT STARK, P. M., OAK BRANCH LODGE, NO. 261, A. F. AND A. MASONS, INNERKIP.

Dear Sir and Worshipful Brother :

The brethren of this Lodge not being unmindful of your services for the past year, (and may we add the first year of our existence as a Lodge) beg to present you with a Past Master's jewel, although it is but a trifling present in consideration of the inestimable services that you have rendered us during the past year, and the great inconvenience which you have undergone in travelling so far. Notwithstanding its insignificance as to value, we all feel that you will fully appreciate it even more than any contribution that we could make, for the reason that it is a token of our great esteem for you, who so nobly aided us in the organization of our new Lodge, and so cheerfully consented to become master of it. Your kind forbearance and the pleasing way in which you filled the duties of the chair, as well as the state of dignity in which our Lodge has been sustained by you, gives us an incentive to persevere and try to make it as strong as the tree from which its name is derived. It is usual to present testimonials to worthy men, and we feel that we are fully justified in placing this badge upon your manly breast, and may you long be spared to wear it, and finally with us be permitted to enter the Grand Lodge above.

(Signed,) CHAS. E. FOSTER,
THOS. BAIRD,
S. S. FOSTER,
Committee.

Innerkip, March 13, 1873.

REPLY.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER, OFFICERS AND BRETHREN OF "OAK BRANCH" LODGE NO. 261, OF A. F. & A. MASONS, INNERKIP, ONTARIO.

Worshipful Sir and Brethren.

I am quite unable adequately to express the gratitude and pleasure I feel as the recipient of the, by far too flattering address with which you have now presented me, and I also feel that you, in your kindness, have greatly overestimated the value of my services as the first master of Oak Branch Lodge. I assure you I have derived from the pleasure of "working", your Lodge, and fraternal intercourse with its members, much more than payment for the trouble I have had in travelling to and fro from Woodstock to Innerkip.

I as the Past Master, and one of the charter members of "Oak Branch" Lodge, rejoice greatly in its prosperity, in producing which you are so kindly pleased to assign me such an ample share, but my feeble services would have been of little avail if you, one and all, had not so ably seconded my endeavours to make "Oak Branch" Lodge worthy of its name, and I trust that through the blessing of the great Great Architect of the universe it may continue to flourish, and that many scions from the parent tree may become rooted and grounded in other places, and help on, as the handmaid of christianity, the great principles of brotherly love, Relief and Truth.

I was aware that you intended to present me with a mark of your regard, but was perfectly unprepared for the exceedingly beautiful Past Master's jewel which you have given to me. I assure you I shall ever keep and prize it for much more than its intrinsic value, as it will be to me a memento of the many happy hours I have spent within these walls, and the numerous marks of respect, kindness and consideration I have received from the members of this Lodge.

And now Brethren, I can only again thank you for all your kindness and forbear-