

all along, as I believe steps should be taken at once to build a new Temple that would be a benefit to the Craft not only in Toronto but in Canada.

COSMOS.

MASONRY IN MUSKOKA.

From the *Free Grant Gazette*, Bracebridge, we learn that Bro. Rev. W. G. Howson lectured here recently on the "History and Mystery of Freemasonry," before a large audience in the Town Hall. The lecture was delivered under the auspices of Muskoka Lodge, 360, the members of which turned out in full force, Masonically clothed. The following is condensed from the *Gazette's* report:—

The W. M. Bro. Whitten occupied the chair, and after a short speech, during which he heartily welcomed the large audience, he introduced Bro. Howson, who was received with prolonged cheers. Commencing with the 19th century, the rev. lecturer traced Freemasonry by a few long steps backward to the Garden of Eden, and retracing his steps more slowly, he marked the progress of the mystic order from its earliest times down to the year 1000, A.D. Freemasonry was said to be "A science which includes all others, and teaches mankind their duty to God, their neighbors and themselves." Masonry during the Antediluvian times was referred to; the great pyramid of Egypt was said to have been a grand Masonic temple, and the three degrees of Masonry it was said, originated at Babel. Howson gave a description of the grandeur of Solomon's temple, its cost, being placed at \$34,521,621,500, and of Hiram, King of Tyre, who when he visited Solomon, and congratulated him on his accession to the throne, consented to send skilled workmen (Masons,) to superintend the work on the temple, he touched on the mysteries of Egypt, India and Greece, and referred to Zoroaster (by some supposed to have been the prophet Daniel), and Pythagoras, the

Grecian philosopher, both of whom were eminent Masons in their time. The charge made that Freemasonry was anti-Christian was vigorously repelled. The rev. gentleman argued that instead of its being anti-Christian it was the means in the providence of God in nursing and defending the religion of Christ in the early days of the Christian era, Christians having been hidden in the Catacombs of Rome and other places; that the best doctrines of Christianity are taught and symbolized in the lodge; and he asserted that there was not a doctrine of the Christian religion which did not find its place in Masonry, and he believed that the time was coming when Freemasonry would become an auxiliary of the church, that as religion and Masonry both flowed from the same fountain, forming two rivers, so these rivers would again unite. Of course, the lecture would have been incomplete had not the lecturer referred to the interesting question, why are ladies not admitted to membership? so the audience were enlightened on the subject. The rev. gentleman, in concluding, spoke eloquently of the splendid structures Operative Masonry had raised in years gone by, but which now are in ruins; to the work of Speculative Masonry in chiselling out of the rough man, a noble manhood, and the increased interest which attaches to the great pyramid as a Masonic relic. The time occupied by Mr. Howson in the delivery of the lecture was one hour and fifty five minutes. From the first until the last he kept the undivided attention of the large audience. The lecture was thorough and exhaustive. On the streets, and in the stores, the sole topic of conversation was the lecture. Many persons whose judgment and experience make their opinions of value, say it was the finest and most eloquent lecture they ever listened to. A feeling was expressed by the Masonic brethren that they wished that all the Masons in Canada might have heard the lecture.