

together again, and, thanks to His mercy, we all are here, and I can once more say that not a link of our "Chain of Union" has been severed. It is pleasant to me to look upon your kind and familiar faces again, and exchange with you the Brotherly Grip.

But, although death has not entered our own immediate circle, the destroyer has been busy elsewhere, and we have to chronicle and deplore the departure of many good and worthy Brethren.—Nevertheless, while tendering our sympathy to sorrowing relatives and friends, and offering to them our condolence, we know that the dead are "at rest.—Death hath no more dominion over them."

There is one however, whom I deem it to be my duty to bring especially to your notice. I allude to our late Ill. Bro. Dr. ROBERT HAMILTON, 33°, our honored Representative near the "Supreme Council of the A. & A. S. Rite for England and Wales, &c.," of which body he was an active member. He died at Jamaica, on the 20th May last, at the ripe age of sixty years. From the very beginning of our career he was our staunch friend and upholder. Some of us had the pleasure of making his personal acquaintance, when he was passing through the country not very long since. I was one of those who were so fortunate. None who were thus privileged can forget his very genial and sociable appearance and characteristics, and the warmth of his expressions in regard to our then infant body. But it was at Jamaica where he was so well known and appreciated, and I cannot improve upon his description, as given by a Jamaica newspaper, the *Tri-Weekly Gleaner*, as follows :—

"He was well known to a large circle of Masonic friends as an ardent worker in the craft, as a man of high intellectual attainments and cultivated tastes. He held high positions in the craft. He took the warmest interest in all that concerned Freemasonry. He was deeply versed in Masonic lore, and was frequently consulted on disputed and difficult points. He was a man of geniality and tenderness—hospitable and generous. Jamaica loses in him a man who it will be hard to replace. His funeral was attended by Masonic high officials, and the craft was there largely represented, to demonstrate, though feebly, the high esteem in which so worthy a man and Brother was held by those over whom he had presided as their chief for many years, and was by them styled the most learned and distinguished Mason in Jamaica."

I would suggest that we send letters of condolence to his surviving family and to the Supreme Council, 33°, for England and Wales, &c., expressive of our sympathy, and of our own great regret for the loss of his services to ourselves. He was elected one of our honorary members in 1874, at our establishment.

I propose to replace Ill. Bro. Dr. HAMILTON, as our Representative, by appointing our Ill. Bro. Colonel SHADWELL H. CLERKE, 33°, his successor, who has always shown himself a true friend to our Supreme Council, and holds, at this time, the very honored office of Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England, and with whom, with your approval and consent, I will communicate without delay.

As respects the present condition of the A. & A. S. Rite in the Dominion, the Reports of your several Illustrious Deputies will furnish trustworthy

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