

NOVA SCOTIA.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE, No. 1, R. N. S.

LADIES' NIGHT,

The old Masonic Lodge Room never held a more brilliant assemblage than was gathered together on Tuesday evening, the 16th of January, last. For the first time in the annals of the Craft, its old walls resounded with the happy laughter, and its mystic landmarks grew bright with rainbow tints of fair women, the mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of masons, who had come together by invitation from St. Andrew's Lodge, to receive their first real lessons in masonry, and to listen to an exposition of its mysteries, from men alike eminent and eloquent in the order. The Lodge was most tastefully and appropriately decorated for the occasion. Festoons of bunting, encircled the room, and mottoes peeped from evergreens on all sides. The craftsmen were clad in their richest attire, and all the regalia working tools and paraphernalia of the order, were brought from their dim recesses to do honor to the occasion. The gentlemen who had kindly consented to speak were the Hon. H. W. Smith, Attorney-General Hon. Wm. Garvie, Commissioner of Public Works, and Hiram Blanchard, Q. C., whose several speeches were models of genuine eloquence, and were listened to with well-merited attention throughout.

The meeting was called to order by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Hon. Alex. Keith, who occupied the chair, and the opening hymn announced.

Blest are the Sons of peace,
Whose hearts and hopes are one;
Whose kind desires to serve and please,
Through all their actions run.

Blest is this happy place,
Where Zeal and Friendship meet;
Where Truth and Love and heavenly grace,
Make our communion sweet.

Thus on the heavenly hills,
May we be blest above;
Where joy, like morning dew distills,
And all the air is love.

Prayer was then offered, after which the Grand Master proceeded to the work of the evening. He had been associated with the Craft as Master and Grand Master for more than half a century, and never before had it been his good pleasure to find himself in so happy and interesting a position. He would say but very little, for, as he had never spoken in a Lodge Room except to a body of Free and Accepted Masons he might possibly let something drop that his good natured and inquisitive lady friends ought not to know—So not to trespass upon the feelings of the audience or wander from the path of duty he would introduce the Hon. H. W. Smyth, Attorney-General, and resume his seat.

Past Master Smyth, was received with applause and apologized for the embarrassing position in which he found himself.

He spoke of the great antiquity of Masonry, and the important part it had played in every part of the world's history; the great moral principles by which Masons were guided, and of the influence it had exerted in moulding and framing the tone of society. Masonry is neither understood nor appreciated by the community, or if the rigid adherence which binds Masons to the proper administration of the moral law were but faintly known, more generosity of feeling would be accorded them and less of harshness and discontent. It would be unnecessary for him to go back into the earliest history of the Craft when amid the burning sands of the Arabian Desert, or around the howling waste of the ruined Baalbec, the representatives of that Masonic Body under whose kind auspices we had to-night assembled, lived and moved. The time when Masonry had first saw that clearer light, and newer dispensation was at the building of King Solomon's Temple, where 50 000 craftsmen, under the leadership of their Grand Master, Hiram, King of Tyre, were gathered together, in harmony, peace and concord. At this time, the moral law was not known outside the limits of Judea, but when upon the completion of the temple, and its dedication to God these 50,000 tried and trusty craftsmen, were each entrusted with a copy, that it might go with them whither they went and might guard their actions, rule their conduct, and through them mould the frame-work of all Society. Thus it was that the Masonic body then entrusted with it, have ever kept this law sacred and inviolate, and have handed it down to society to-day fresh and green as when it issued from the hand of