

of the valuable services rendered to Masonry by Our Most Worshipful and faithful Brother, Wm. B. Simpson, Esq., during the two years he so ably administered the affairs of this Grand Lodge as your Grand Master.

A GENERAL GRAND LODGE FOR CANADA.

The consideration of the subject of a General Grand Lodge for our New Dominion has not been overlooked by me during the past year, although no special action has been taken in the matter. The solution of this great question must be left to time, and to the calm consideration of the Craft generally. Any exhibition on our part, of too great a desire to secure this result, would, in all probability, only delay, if it did not entirely defeat, that union of the whole Masonic body in the British dependencies here, which so many are so anxious to secure.

NEW LODGES

I have also to announce for your information that, during the past year I have granted dispensations for the opening of 12 new Lodges within this jurisdiction, and as, in every case, the forms and requirements of the Constitution have been strictly complied with, I anticipate that you will at once direct the issue of the usual warrants. The dates, names and localities are as follows, viz.:—

- 9th August, 1867—Petrolia Lodge, Petrolia, Ont.
- 18th December, 1867—Tuscan Lodge, London, Ont.
- 18th December, 1867—Madawaska Lodge, Arnprior, Ont.
- 24th December, 1867—Saugeen Lodge, Walkerton, Ont.
- 1st January, 1868—White Oak Lodge, Oakville, Ont.
- 25th February, 1868—Frelighsburg Lodge, Frelighsburg, Quebec.
- 29th February, 1868—St. Alban's Lodge, Mount Forest, Ont.
- 7th March, 1868—Leeds Lodge, Gananoque, Ont.
- 8th April, 1868—Mount Royal Lodge, Montreal, Quebec.
- 13th May, 1868—Irvine Lodge, Elora, Ont.
- 5th June, 1868—Doric Lodge, Danville, Quebec.
- 24th June, 1868—New Dominion Lodge, New Hamburg, Ont.

BUSINESS OF THE PAST YEAR.

The Masonic business of the past year has neither been less onerous nor less important than that of those which have preceded it; the various matters which have come up before me, and which were either decided by myself, or referred to special committees, or to the Board of General Purposes, were not of a nature requiring special reference here; all documents connected with them, whether as involving questions of Masonic law or discipline, will be found on file, with the Grand Secretary, all of which are open to you: inspection.

THE ELECTION OF MASTERS.

In connection with these matters, there is one evil existing to which I trace many of the difficulties which are now of so frequent occurrence. I allude to the want of a proper care, and to the neglect of masonic law and principle too often evinced by the members of the craft, in the selection of those who are to govern our subordinate Lodges. Brethren are too often selected as rulers, merely because their social qualities may be of a high order, and often, also, from their general popularity, without duly considering their ability to work the Lodge, their administrative capacity to govern it, or their possession of those still higher qualities which are so essential to the successful carrying on of the great work of Masonry. In selecting your Masters, let me entreat you, my brethren, always first to consider your duty to Masonry and to your Lodge. This im-

portant duty can never properly be performed if you place in the chair one who has to rely upon others for doing that which he is incapable of performing himself

MASONRY NOT A MERE BENEFIT CLUB.

In the course of the discussions which occasionally take place at our annual meetings, sentiments are sometimes expressed by the younger members of the fraternity which have led me to believe that they neither fully understood nor appreciated the original design and aim of our institution, but had come to regard it as if the great and sole object of our association was the mere accumulation of funds for the relief of distressed masons, for the support of their widows, and for the education of their destitute children, forgetting, apparently, the explanations which had been given, and the lessons they had received at their initiation into our mysteries. Charity, in its largest sense, in its broadest signification, is a virtue dear to the heart of every true Mason, and that Charity, which is not only active, but passive, is freely exercised by the genuine brother; he is ever as ready to assist the distressed as he is to abstain from unkindness, uncourteousness, or the malicious construction of his neighbors' motives. The inculcation of every virtue—the improvement of our species—the advancement of learning and science—the study of the liberal arts, and especially the cultivation of brotherly love—these are some of the aims of the craft and of its votaries. If there is to be found in our ranks any individual who has joined us, actuated by no higher motive than self-interest, and influenced by the idea that he is thereby making a most judicious investment for himself and family, he will soon discover that he has not only deceived himself, but that he has altogether misapprehended the genius, the scope, and the great objects of Masonry; for our brotherhood is not for a moment to be placed on the same level with those mere benefit clubs, which have recently been established, with the sole and avowed intention of making to the contributor, or to his legal representatives, a full and equivalent return in hard cash for that which he has invested in their hands. Neither is Masonry to be thus shorn of her fair proportions, nor is she to be circumscribed or fettered as to the discharge of her numerous duties. We are told that the three great tenets of a Mason's profession are Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth: and to you, my brethren, I now say, cultivate them all.

THE WORK.

The disappointment felt by many at the non-exemplification of what we technically call the *work*, at our last Communication, was largely shared in by myself. The unavoidable absence of some of those upon whom I had relied for assistance, rendered it impossible for me to carry out the promises made on the subject. True, it was suggested that some of those able brethren then present might exemplify the work of the three degrees; but this, although of course instructive, would not at all have met the object which I had in view, or which you desired: which was to exhibit to you the pure and standard work, as adopted after much careful investigation and research by this Grand Lodge. I am happy to announce that a part of to-morrow will be devoted to this object, and I have to request for it your earnest attention and most careful considera-