

The Canadian Craftsman.

Port Hope, December 15th, 1880.

This number concludes the fifteenth volume of the CRAFTSMAN, and we take the opportunity of addressing a few words directly and personally to our subscribers.

We have endeavored, since we undertook the editing and publishing of this journal, to provide for members of the Masonic Order throughout Canada a periodical which would furnish for them interesting and instructive reading on those subjects which it is supposed every Mason would give attention to. That we have succeeded in our endeavor we are assured by the frequent testimony of learned and erudite Masons, as well as by the flattering encomiums of our contemporaries. We regret, however, that we have not received as liberal support as we hoped for, and as we think we are entitled to receive from such a large constituency as the Dominion of Canada—for we have no competitor with whom to divide the favors—we must therefore conclude either that Canadian Masons are not a reading class, or, if they are, that they take very little interest in Masonry; and we are inclined rather to the latter conclusion, for in this age and country almost every body reads their paper and magazine. That Canadian Masons take very little interest in Masonry is a fact with which we are becoming every day more firmly impressed by observation and experience. The very large number of unaffiliates throughout the country, as also the increasing number of annual suspensions for non-payment of dues, are an evidence of this. The cure for this evil is greater care and caution in selecting material for the Masonic superstructure; and the inculcation of Masonic principles, and the extension of knowledge; and to this work the CRAFTSMAN devotes its pages.

In addition to the comparatively small list of subscribers, we have to complain of the indifference with which those, whose names are on our subscription list, treat our gentle reminders that they are in arrears. When a subscriber owes for two, three and four years, it is time that he should be aroused to a sense of his delinquency; and we fear that we shall have to take such proceedings as will draw from them the money which lawfully belongs to us. We are not unreasonable; we have waited long and patiently; but *they are most unreasonable* in supposing that we can afford to supply them with such a periodical as the CRAFTSMAN, *gratis*. We think that the annual subscription of \$1.50 is very low, and few magazines of equal worth can be had for the same price; and if they do not think our journal is worth that amount, we are quite willing to remove their names from the list, upon the usual conditions.

And to those who have been prompt and punctual in paying their subscriptions we return our thanks, and hope that their strict business proceeding in this case, carried into their own business and profession, will beget prosperity and success. To those brethren who have kindly contributed to our columns, we offer our hearty thanks, and hope that they may long continue to favor us, and enlighten and instruct our readers. And to all we extend a hearty greeting at this season, wishing you "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

Roman Catholicism vs. Freemasonry.

An instance of the bigotry and intolerance of the Church of Rome towards Freemasonry has been made public within the last few days in Toronto. It appears that a man named Riley, an old soldier who had served in the British army in China and Africa, and now a pensioner living in that city, but who has lately