

which will be a means of bringing the institution more prominently before the public than any previous event. I refer to the semi-centennial celebration which takes place in the city of Toronto during the month of June, and which will surpass any previous effort of the kind. As far back as a year ago. Bro. Venables, then Grand President, with myself, were invited to attend a meeting of representatives of all societies to act in concert in celebrating the 50 Anniversary of the incorporation of the city of Toronto. Things had not assumed any very definite shape at that time, consequently I did not feel it my duty to report, since then however, things has taken a most decided form, all societies similar to our own are actively engaged in preparing for a grand demonstration on that occasion. The Committee of Management has set apart a certain day during the week for the special parade of National and Benovolent Societies, and it is with the view of getting the institution well organized and prepared to take our proper place on that occasion, that I ask the sanction of the Grand Lodge now in Session, for any steps that the city Lodges with the assistance of all other Lodges, may deem it necessary to take for the proper representation of our Order, on the day set apart for that purpose. After a careful consideration of the matter, I have thought it advisable to suggest that a Committee of four from each Lodge, consisting of the President, Secretary, and two other members be appointed, to carry out the arrangements for our Society. No time must be lost. I respectfully ask the approval of this Grand Lodge in the matter. I propose to call two mass meetings of our members, one in the east and one in the west, and take immediate steps to organize the same, as hundreds and thousands of Englishmen will be visiting Toronto during that week. I suggest the greatest energy and spirit on the part of our officers and members, and we may reasonably expect a very large increase.

I desire to call your attention to matters more closely connected with the Order, and which shows to what extent the order has progressed during the past year. The printed statistics will prove I am convinced, interesting and valuable, and compiled as they are, with the very greatest care and accuracy, from the returns of the Lodges, give reliable information, though I must admit that some of the returns are not so complete as they might be. We have initiated during the past year, about 500 members, which is within four of the preceding year 1882. This is not so encouraging, considering that out of this number, seven new Lodges were dedicated, the number outside of these new Lodges being only 415, or 39 less than 1882. Middlesex stands first as having initiated most members, the number being 63, Oxford next with 45, Victoria 41, Albion 38, Kent 29, Warwick 26. The increase of members in good standing for the year is 264. There is an increase of three who are six months in arrears over the