

To the Right Worshipful, the Grand Master and Members of the Grand Orange Lodge of Western Ontario, in Grand Lodge assembled. Sir and Brothers:—

By the permission of a kind Providence we are again assembled in Grand Lodge to deliberate on the most effectual means of disseminating the principles of our beloved Order, and may our Great Grand Master above so guide and govern our thoughts, words and actions, as to promote the spread of true religion, liberty and charity to all mankind.

Amongst the events of the past year might be mentioned as a cause of congratulation, the erasing from the Statutes of Ontario, of the obnoxious clause prohibiting members of the Police force being connected with our Association. For this we are indebted to the indefatigable exertions of our very Worthy Right Worshipful Grand Master.

I need not now refer to the attempted assassination of Prince Alfred, second son of our beloved Queen, by the murderous hands of Fenian miscreants, who are the curse of the fair island that gave them birth, and a sufficient proof, if any were needed, that nothing will satisfy Rome, short of the complete extinction of British Protestantism.

I am happy to be able to inform you that the "Old Orange Tree" is beginning to take root in the neighbouring Republic, by the rapid establishment of Orange Lodges under warrant from the Grand Master of the Empire, and by the extension of the kindred society called the American Protestant Association. In that city from which the Fenian cutthroats invaded our borders, there exists a Lodge of the American Protestant Association numbering over nine hundred Members.

In our own Province I cannot report as many applications for new warrants as last year, only four were issued, as follows:—

No. 1268,	to the County of	Essex.
" 1274,	" "	Brant.
" "	" "	Kent
" "	" "	Bruce.

Four Lodges, many years dormant, have been renewed, viz.: No. 329, County of Oxford, to the same County; No. 634, renewed from South Wellington to North Simcoe; No. 905, County of Welland, to the same County, and No. 73, County of South Simcoe, to the same County. All traces of this last number had been lost for years, till through the exertions of Brother Joseph Doupe, D. G. Secretary, who applied for the number, it was ascertained that the original was destroyed by fire over eighteen years ago, together with the Worshipful Master Brother James Whyte, who perished in the burning of his house. Two warrants, No. 197 Brant and No. 244 North Grey, very much defaced, were also renewed.

Yet from the reports and returns received it is manifest that in many Counties there is a large increase in membership of Lodges already organized, and apparently an increasing interest taken in our association. There is also a manifest improvement in connexion with the annual returns, more having been sent in this year than for several years past; yet there are a large number of defaulting officers and Lodges in this respect.

The Worthy County Master of Toronto reports considerable improvement and reviving interest in the good old cause. He says "It is with much pleasure that I am able to say that we are steadily on the increase, notwithstanding that several lodges are dormant. I find from the District returns that we have as many good members in connexion as at any other time."

This from the County, from which, a few years ago, came loud complaints that the present system of Provincial Grand Lodges was ruining the order, and that in consequence their membership was rapidly falling off, shows sufficiently that the fears of our brethren in that respect were without foundation.

The County Master of North Simcoe says "the order is prospering in my County; the march is still onward, not rapid, but steady and healthy. Orange Halls continue to be erected, and it is pleasing to note that in many places they are used as places of worship, schools, &c., and of course Orangemen are thankful for it. Peace and good will among ourselves, sobriety and good conduct still characterize the Society in North Simcoe, and we are

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