

XXXVI. GRAND CHAPTER OF CANADA.

We take leave of this excellent report by quoting his remarks on the ladies:—

"Well, if woman isn't the Eastern Star she is the star of human destiny:

'The star that shines with brightest ray
Wher'er our footsteps roam;
The only sovereign we obey.
The angel of our home.'

"In the very nature of our Institution woman cannot be a member. Our Order originated with a Craft of practical builders. Woman's delicate organization shows that she was never designed by the Great Creator to quarry stones, to wield the shaping chisel and setting maul, and lift the ponderous ashlar to their places in the buttressed walls. Who would see the velvet of her hand turned into horn, her fair cheek bronzed by the sun, her beautiful tresses whitened with stone dust? The speculative Craft is in imitation of this practical guild. The whole symbolry of the Order proceeds upon the traditions of the temple construction. Think of calling her an Entered Apprentice, a Fellow Craft, a Master Mason! etc.

"The ancient charges say: 'The persons admitted members of a Lodge must be good and true *men*, free-born, and of mature and discreet age, no bondmen, no *women*, no immoral or scandalous men, but of good report.' This indubitably sets forth the fact that only males can be made Masons. And without violating a landmark we cannot change the rule. 'It is not in the power of any man or body of men to make innovations in the body of Masonry.'

"But woman's exclusion from our retreats is the living compliment of Masonry to her exalted worth. One great reason why we do not admit her to our Order is she is too good to require the rigorous restraints of Masonry. Man is prone to evil as the sparks fly upward. He needs to be bound in the stronger than adamant chains of obligation. Woman cherishes the principles, and performs the deeds of virtue and charity as the flowers bud and blow and fill the air with sweetest fragrance. The light that shines on woman's soul breaks not out in the Masonic East, but pours down upon her in sheets of shining splendor from the face of the Sun of Righteousness. When we attempt to dress the lily in a surplice of white and ordain it priest of the flowers by canonical forms; when we attempt to brighten the sunbeam with the brazier's art; when, with artificial odors, we essay to sweeten the aroma of the rose; when we attempt a flight to the sun on wings of wax, on the foolish errand of ornamenting its golden face by tying ribbons to its shining disc—then will we attempt to improve woman by the arts of Freemasonry.

"If, in a stretch of gallantry, we were to admit ladies, we could have no assurance that Miss Susan Smith, in less than a month after being raised, wouldn't become Mrs. John Jones, and, if it be true, that when a man and woman marry they twain become one flesh, then every time a brother Mason married a sister Mason we would lose a member. At any rate the change of names would cause confusion in calling the roll of the *workmen*. Then if we admitted the ladies to our Lodge-rooms we would become so engaged with their charms that we would forget our work.

'The light that lies
In woman's eyes'

would eclipse the musical voice so transfix the heart to Masonic duties may know that action, and that our defend them from

"And we would do not become M we do not serious mothers, wives, d forms, and rules, for works of cha should be known, that this is not M guile the fair will serve sharp rebu requires that a m that the ladies sh consanguinity, an upon is that the of her Order, so t from asserting in Mason."

M. E. Comp.
Priest.

R. E. Comp
Secretary.

Held at New
M. E. Comp.
Number of C
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31st.

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