

Hambly, W. Bros. Daniel Rose, Ex-Mayor McMurrich, Ald. J. E. Verral, Capt. Thompson, City Auditor W. Anderson, C. A. B. Brown, W. R. Doane, N. T. Lyon, and Bros. G. F. Shepley, G. S. McConkey, A. R. MacDonald, Charles L. Edmonds, John Pearson, Samuel Toy, etc.

The large room was handsomely draped and decorated, and no effort spared by the committee of management to make the "At Home" a success.

PERFECT RITUALISM.

When Grand Master Walkem visited St. George's Lodge, Toronto, he expressed the opinion that it would be wise for lodge officers to give more of their attention to the teachings of the Order, because a knowledge of the ritual was not all that was required, as there was something else in Freemasonry besides words and forms. THE CRAFTSMAN has held that perfect ritualism is not the mainstay of Freemasonry, while it may be a very good feature in its way, believing that there are grander lessons to be learned from the teachings and traditions of the Craft than from the rehearsal, in a parrot style, of our ritual.

Comp. J. H. Brown, Grand Recorder of the Grand Chapter of Kansas, in his report on Foreign Correspondence, thus refers to what we may justly term "machine ritualism," as much of our work is imparted in such a slovenly and meaningless manner as not to make the slightest impression on a listener:—"One thing is certain. parrot work will no longer satisfy companions, otherwise intelligent. Lecturers must be prepared to give reasons founded in truth, and clearly enunciated, for every doctrine inculcated. The why, the wherefore, must be made plain to each and every inquirer, else he will go away with the feeling that something has been wilfully withheld or that there is sham in the work, and give up the attempt to make further inquiry or attainment."

Grand Master Elliott, of Wisconsin, in his address to Grand Lodge, recently said:—"The impression is too generally entertained that a 'bright Mason' is he who with glib tongue can rattle off the ritual, while the brilliancy of his brightness is too often measured by the length of his memory. That officers and members should be learned in our ritual is essential to the interests of our work, but, it should not be forgotten, that the ritual is of modern date, while the principles it is used to illustrate are beyond the memory of man. To these principles, that appeal not less to the hearts than to the heads of mankind, Masonry owes its wonderful tenacity of life."

"WOMEN AND FREEMASONRY."

Bro. J. S. Dewar, in the Masonic column of the London *Free Press*, says:—"Masonic Lodges composed exclusively of women, are said by a late Paris publication to be carried on in France numerously and with the completest ceremonial." Here is a pointer for Bro. Hambly, of THE CRAFTSMAN to enlarge upon the introduction of the 'fair sex' to Masonic privileges. Of course, sticklers will crop up who will aver that the bestowing of such privileges upon women would cause a break up of the Craft; but, personally, we are of a different opinion, and would like to see them eligible to come within the portals and receive the various degrees. But the great drawback to our mind would be that of—equality!"

Is not our respected contemporary, the *Free Press* a little too previous in trying to saddle the modest editor of this paper with the responsibility of "introducing the fair sex to Masonic privileges." THE CRAFTSMAN has not done that. We simply ask our brethren to discuss and help us to discuss the advisability of establishing an outside order, not for the "fair sex" indiscriminately, but for the wives, sisters and daughters of Masos. We do not absolutely endorse the proposal ourselves, but we are anxious to hear what can