

everywhere by the almost numberless hospitals, asylums and kindred institutions founded for the alleviation of "numerous ills to which flesh is heir," and it must surely be a source of sincere gratification to all good citizens to observe that the Government and Legislature of this, the most important Province in the Dominion, are entirely in accord with the spirit of the age in this respect, and that, while adopting measures for the opening up of communications and otherwise developing the material resources of the country, they are nevertheless not unmindful of the moral responsibility devolving upon every enlightened community, in relation to a large number of our fellow beings whom God has seen meet to visit with affliction. It certainly reflects the highest honor upon those in authority that within a year or two there have been erected within this Province a spacious asylum for the deaf and dumb, and that now another splendid building has been commenced on this beautiful hill, for the purpose of ameliorating the condition of the blind, that most unfortunate of all classes.

Although deprived of sight (that inestimable of all blessings) the inmates of this institution about to be erected, will, through the training they will receive, be enabled to lead more active and useful lives, and thereby to experience much greater happiness than under other circumstances, they could ever have hoped to enjoy. In both instances the services of our fraternity have been called into requisition, and what good or true Freemason could refuse to assist to the utmost of his power these humane and praiseworthy efforts? The day chosen for this celebration—the anniversary of the birth of our good Queen—is likewise a most appropriate time to begin this good work. It suggests to us how grateful we ought to be for the blessings of civil and religious liberty which we enjoy under her benignant sway, and I think it may with safety be affirmed, that in no portion of her vast empire are these blessings more highly appreciated, and nowhere is Her Majesty held in higher regard than in this Dominion of Canada. Let us hope that the wisdom of her councillors may be blessed of God in securing to the British Empire peace and prosperity, and that the privileges we enjoy as an integral portion thereof may tend to deepen, strengthen and perpetuate those sentiments of loyalty and patriotism which actuate us all, and that on every recurring anniversary we may with increasing fervency, give fitting expression to our feelings in those spirit stirring strains of our noble National Anthem:—

"God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen;
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long, long to reign over us,
God save our Queen."

The acting Grand Chaplain implored a blessing from G. A. O. T. U.

The Grand Secretary, R. W. Bro. T. B. Harris, read the inscription, which was beautifully engrossed on vellum, by Mr. Wm. Bruce, of Hamilton, to be deposited in the cavity of the stone—as follows:

By the Grace of Almighty God,
On the Twenty-fourth day of May, Anno Domini,
MDCCCLXXI; of the era of
Masonry 5871, and in the Thirty-
fifth year of the reign of our