

the Craft and Royal Arch, including in the system adopted throughout Canada, the Past Master, Mark and Most Excellent degrees—the propriety and necessity of their adoption he most fully and satisfactorily explained, and also showing that to Christian Masons the Templar Order, as established in Canada, and practised in Great Britain and Ireland, was the final completion of the Rite, concluding with the remark, that the Masonic Body of the Province of Quebec fully intended loyally to adhere to and uphold the system derived from the Mother county; for however interesting and instructive the various other existing Rites might be to the Masonic student who had time and means at his disposal, they possessed no greater practical utility, or indeed information, and had no authority beyond their own immediate sphere.

There cannot be a doubt that the inauguration of a system of District meetings, such as this, will be of incalculable benefit to the Craft in the Province, by giving an impetus to research and free discussion on all points of Masonic interest, and to this end the Grand Master strongly and particularly recommended the CRAFTSMAN, our only Masonic organ, in the most complimentary terms, as a Masonic periodical to be supported, patronized and read by the whole Masonic body of Canada.

Apologising for the length of this letter.

Very faithfully yours,

W. J. B. MACLEOD MOORE, 33°,
Great Prior K. T. of Canada.

Laprairie, Q., March 24th, 1880.

Masonic Ceremonies at St. Thomas.

Thursday, the 19th March, 1880, was a gala day with the Masons of St. Thomas and vicinity, the occasion being the consecration and dedication of the new Masonic Temple recently erected in that town. There are in St. Thomas two Lodges, St. Thomas, No. 44, and Elgin, No. 349; the former, one of the oldest in the western part of the Province, being constituted in the year 1853, under Charter from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, the Duke of Leinster being at that time Grand Master. The Hall is described as one of the finest in the country, and the furnishings and general appointments are all first-class, no expense having been spared to provide every necessary to comfort. The entrance to the Temple is from Talbot street. At the summit of the spacious stair-case is a large ante-room, 58x18 feet, which, by means of folding doors, ingeniously contrived, can be converted into three rooms when desired. The Hall, or Lodge room, is 64 feet long, 32 feet in width, and 16 feet in height. The Master's chair is a piece of splendid workmanship, in black walnut and oak, and finished in blue leather. The carpet which covers the floor is of suitable design, manufactured to order by the Crossley firm, Yorkshire. The ceiling is divided into four different panels, and from the centre hangs a magnificent gasolier with twenty-four lights. The walls are frescoed in the Japanese style, and, owing to the skill and taste of the designer, the Hall presents a magnificent and attractive appearance.

The ceremony of consecrating and