

I issued a dispensation authorizing the brethren to meet as a lodge, and on the 4th of April R. W. Bro. Bunting, Grand Secretary, accompanied by the Grand Treasurer, visited St. Mary's and organized the lodge called Alexandria Lodge under dispensation. I submit for your consideration the satisfactory report of the Grand Secretary, and recommend that a warrant be granted to constitute the brethren at St. Mary's into a regular lodge.

To M. W. Robert T. Clinch, Esquire, Grand Master of Masons:

M. W. SIR AND BROTHER.—Acting under your authority, and accompanied by V. W. Bro. James McNichol, J., Grand Treasurer, I visited St. Mary's, York County, April 4th instant, and instituted Alexandria Lodge under a dispensation granted by you March 27th ultimo, W. Bro. James Boone being the Worshipful Master, Bro. Benjamin Close, Senior Warden, and Bro. John V. C. Wetmore, Junior Warden.

The lodge starts under favorable circumstances, and the brethren appear to be influenced by the true principles of the Fraternity.

They have a very good hall to meet in, and have provided themselves with suitable paraphernalia to conduct the work and business of the lodge.

I am very hopeful of the future success and prosperity of this lodge, and have no doubt it will prove a valuable addition to the roll of lodges in the jurisdiction.

(Signed) WM. F. BUNTING,
Grand Secretary.

April 11th. 1877.

I have appointed the following named representatives of this Grand Lodge at Sister Grand Lodges: R. W. Bro. Coote M. Chambers, of Victoria, near the Grand Lodge of British Columbia; R. W. Bro. Edgar P. Snow, of Cheyenne, near the Grand Lodge of Wyoming; W. Bro. Thomas H. Lynch, of Indianapolis, near the Grand Lodge of Indiana.

The Grand Secretary will submit to you the papers connected with the organization of a Grand Lodge for the Island of Cuba, with an application for recognition, which I commend to your careful consideration.

Upon the invitation of the M. W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, I visited Halifax at the meeting of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia on the 6th June last, accompanied by R. W. Past Grand Master Peters, and was present at the dedication of the new Masonic Hall in that city, and installed the grand officers for the year.

We mourn the death of one brother who has been a constant attendant at all our sessions, and who possessed many qualities to attract men towards him. I allude to Bro. Henry Card, the Grand Organist, whose death occurred suddenly. Brother Card

was an Englishman by birth, and received a special musical education, which long maintained him in the front rank of musicians in this city. To some eccentricities of nature and disposition, he added a keen sense of the humorous, and he loved the companionship of sunny natures and minds sparkling with brilliant thoughts. The warm companionship which grew out of close masonic association was very dear to him, and in all his connection with his Masonic brethren, he exhibited the gentleness and tenderness of a child. We cannot allow his place to become vacant in this Grand Lodge without marking in some way our sense of the loss we have sustained by his death, and without an expression of our tender sympathy for his family.

About the time of our last annual session there died a brother with whose reputation the older Masons of every jurisdiction on this continent was intimately acquainted. I allude to the venerable Brother John Dove, who for fifty years was Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, a position he held when the pen dropped from his fingers, and he answered the summons which all of us must obey—a sage and teacher in the craft, the nestor of his Grand Lodge—never missing in his fifty years of service one annual meeting. Acquainted with the love of Freemasonry, and in his daily life exemplifying its teachings, we can scarcely mourn that in the fulness of time such a brother readily answers the demand made of him and lays down his well-rounded life, which has been glorified by unflinching devotion to the cause of mankind.

The whole world was startled by the calamity which, in the early part of the year, destroyed the Southern Hotel at St. Louis, causing a loss of many lives. Among those who fell victims to that calamity was one of the best known Masons in America—George F. Gouley, the Grand Secretary of the State of Missouri. As a writer on Masonic principles, a teacher of Masonic law, Bro. Gouley had no superior. As a warm-hearted man, a devoted Mason, his fame was everywhere, and the words of his own Grand Master over his remains fully express his character—"On many a hard fought field he has contended for the purity and the perpetuity of the great principles of Masonry, and high over all the tumults of human passion he has borne the white banner of peace with faith, hope and charity, and has at last fallen at his post with it firm in his grasp, with not a single blot upon its folds." To our sorrowing brethren in Missouri we can at least extend assurances of our appreciation of our deceased brother's work, and of respect for his memory.

In England the fraternity mourn the loss of an eminent brother, the late Earl of Shrewsbury, the Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire, who died suddenly at his Lon-