

SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE THIRTY THIRD DEGREE FOR IRELAND.

To the Inspector-General of the Thirty-Third Degree for Ireland and the several members of all other Masonic Bodies of the jurisdiction.

VERY DEAR BROTHER,—

I have again to fulfil the painful duty of my office by notifying to you the death of a member of our Council. It has pleased the Almighty to call from this life the spirit of our esteemed brother, EDWARD C. F. HORNSBY, who died on the first of February, instant. On the previous day he had been apparently in the full possession of his usual good health and spirits

On such an occasion we should be silent. Who are we that we should speak? Let us rather bow in submission to the will of our Creator, and strive to throw ourselves more confidently on His inexpressible love and mercy, which never fail, although we cannot always distinguish them in the sorrow, darkness and ignorance of life. Let us "watch and pray," for we know not the hour. It is a command often forced upon our attention, and, alas! too often disregarded.

Our late brother had been employed in an important function as Secretary of the Board of Works. As such he was well known over all this kingdom, and respected as an intelligent and efficient public officer. After many years service he had retired to enjoy in private life the well earned honours of his public career. It seemed that of all men he was most likely to enjoy them long.

He was known amongst the Masonic Brotherhood as a zealous Mason, but chiefly as the active and indefatigable Secretary of the Original Red Cross Chapter. It is not likely that any member of that Chapter can forget its obligation to the kind-hearted and genial gentleman who guided it so long and so well. He was also a diligent and efficient member of our Supreme Council.

For myself, I lament his loss, not merely as a member of the Council, but as a valued friend. In the evening of life we cannot easily replace the companions of former years, who drop away so rapidly as time advances.

He has gone,—but he lived honoured and respected, and has died without previous suffering or decay. According to Thy mercy think Thou upon us, O Lord

I direct that this letter be read aloud in all Bodies of our Obedience at the next meeting of each after receipt thereof, and that the Supreme Council and all its Subordinate Bodies do wear the usual emblems of Masonic mourning for thirty days from the date hereof. And so I bid you farewell

May our Father, who is in heaven, have you in His holy keeping.

J. F. TOWNSHEND, 33^o,

Commander of the Council.

OR. OF DUBLIN, 2nd February, 1888.