

Bro. F. Sowden as its Representative here.

The Grand Lodge of Canada at its last meeting passed resolutions:—1—That the bequest of the late Brother Edward Moss, towards the erection of a Freemasons' Widow and Orphan Asylum, should be drawn and paid over to this Grand Lodge, and, 2—That the amounts contributed to the Asylum Fund by the Lodges in this Province, then holding warrants from the Grand Lodge of Canada, should, with interest, be placed to their credit respectively. This honorable mode of dealing with both those benevolences cannot but meet with your admiration, and deserves, as it will doubtless secure, your warmest thanks.

I have granted dispensations for the establishment of three new Lodges:—Rouville Lodge at Rougemont; Onslow Lodge at Onslow; and Corinthian Lodge at Montreal. Before granting the prayer of the applicants for Corinthian Lodge, I requested and obtained the respected and unqualified recommendation of the R. W. District Deputy Grand Master of the Montreal District. If, by the reports to be submitted, it will be found that these Lodges are working well, and that it can be shown they will be of benefit to the craft generally, I recommend that charters be granted to them.

The Committee on Numbering Lodges made its report to the Board of General Purposes at the semi-annual meeting in March last, and the same will come before you for confirmation.

The proposed amalgamation of Lodges has succeeded in some instances only. I commend the subject to your further attention.

Among the notices of motion given for this Communication is one to provide for the establishment of the office of Grand Lecturer. The requisite amendments to the Constitution have been prepared and will be submitted to you.

To carry out the resolution of the Grand Lodge, "That it is expedient that so far as practicable the same ritual should be followed in the different Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, and to that end the Grand Master be respectfully requested to appoint a Special Committee to enquire into the matter and report thereon to Grand Lodge at its next regular communication." I appointed M. W. Bro. Graham, R. W. Bro. Bull, and V. W. Bro. Hobart Butler, whose

report will merit your serious consideration.

I also desire to have read the reports of the Committees on the Masonic Temple, forms and jurisprudence, &c.

As this Grand Lodge has had no report on foreign correspondence for some time, owing to the removal from Montreal of the brother who had undertaken that duty, I cannot too strongly urge the desirability of having such a report, and I shall be glad if Grand Lodge will provide the necessary outlay to secure it without delay.

The obituary for the year includes the names of W. Bro. T. G. Farmer, a well-known member of the craft, in the District of Three Rivers, and three times W. Master of Milton Lodge; V. W. Bro. G. L. Kempt, of Prevost Lodge; Bro. Colquhoun, Past Grand Tyler; Bro. E. K. Patton, M. D., of Royal Albert Lodge; Bro. J. Gibson, Past Master of Montreal Kilwinning Lodge; Bro. G. Lynch, Sen. Warden of Montreal Kilwinning Lodge, who lost his life at the St. Urbain Street fire in Montreal, and W. Bro. Kemp, Past Master of Ascot Lodge.

My predecessor, M. W. Bro. Graham, in his address last year, so ably and elaborately expounded the principles of our craft, that I need not refer to them further than to repeat that we do not allow any political or religious question to ever intrude itself; that (to use the words of one of our beautiful public services,) "we have proper respect to the established customs of the country in which we live; we have due deference for our superiors in Church and State, and unlimited good will to all mankind. We publicly express our perfect submission to the laws of the land, our unceasing devotion to peace and order, and our ardent desire, as far as in our power, to promote the welfare of our fellow men." You are thoroughly conversant with our tenets, and the rules that govern our Craft, under the British Constitution, and wherever Masonry is rightly understood and properly practiced; you know how excellent are the precepts, how perfect the doctrines of our ancient and widely-spread institution, and that he who is really a good mason cannot be a bad citizen.

In retiring from office, after two years' service as Grand Master, and three years as Deputy Grand Master, I cannot but express to Grand Lodge my most sincere thanks for the honors conferred upon me, and for the assistance given me, especial-