

the Grand Lodge of British Columbia. But although we shall pre-eminently be a Canadian masonic journal, we intend at the same time to use every effort to secure the goodwill, esteem and friendship of our noble cousins across the line, who always welcome a brother with the hand of love and receive him as "one nearer and dearer than a friend." At the same time we expect to have the assistance of several European brethren, and consequently hope to be able to give a brief summary in future of European news, especially such as may more particularly interest the brethren upon this side of the water.

In the second place we desire at once to let our brethren thoroughly understand our views regarding ancient craft masonry (by which we mean the first degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow-Craft and Master Mason), and those so-called higher degrees or grades which at the present time attract so much attention throughout the craft, especially, we might add, in Canada. Our position is this, that the Blue Lodge is the grand parent trunk from which all others spring and have their life and soul; but whilst we willingly admit that it is the foundation of all masonry, we at the same time do not admit that *les hautes grades*, if properly conducted, are in any way injurious to the welfare and prosperity of the craft. Every brother in our estimation has *the right* to follow any particular branch of the parent stem that may best suit his temperament or inclination. Some prefer to climb the Holy Royal Arch and study those wonderful mysteries that have been handed down to us from the building of the Second Temple; others intent upon the Christian orders prefer the simblime traditions revealed in the Preceptory of the Templar and in the study of those sacred tenets taught regarding the Blessed Immanuel in the hallowed precincts of the Priory; another brother reveres the history of the great Constantine and enters with enthusiasm into those delightful grades in which a sketch of his conversion and after life are vividly portrayed; whilst yet another class search for the "True Word" through those grand and ineffable degrees, which have rendered the Ancient and Accepted Rite the most powerful and universal in the world; a few others devote their attention to Cryptic masonry, the Rite of Mizraim with its bewildering number of degrees, the Rite of Memphis, or that of the Royal Ark Mariner. We believe then that every member of the fraternity has the right to ally himself with any one of these, so long as they clash not with the edicts and principles enunciated by the Grand Lodge to which he has sworn allegiance. The moment that occurs he must throw aside the withered branch and cling for assistance to the parent stem.

This is the basis upon which we propose to build up THE CANADIAN