

Grand Lodge of New Brunswick.

The tenth annual communication of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick was held in the city of St. John on the 26th and 27th days of September, ultimo.

The Grand Master read a very able address, which will appear in our pages next month.

The Board of General Purposes presented their annual report for 1876-77, from which we extract the following:—

The Board, in presenting their report, were under the painful necessity of referring to the death of the late Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Bro. W. H. A. Keans, so long an active and devoted member of the Craft, and at the time of his death the President of the Board. Honored by the community in which he lived for so many years with various positions of trust, rendering the City of St. John important services in the Legislature of the Province, discharging every duty faithfully, earnestly, and carefully, our Right Worshipful Brother left behind him an honorable record and one that will long live in the memory of all who knew him.

The Grand Secretary reported to the Board an irregular proceeding on the part of the Worshipful Master of Sussex Lodge No. 4, he having, in the year 1875, conferred degrees upon two candidates at shorter intervals than the Constitution allows. The matter was referred to a sub-committee of the Board, who, after giving it careful consideration, and making due inquiries, submitted a lengthy report to the Board, setting forth the case very fully, but in view of the fact that some time had elapsed since the act was committed, and believing that it was done through ignorance, and not wilfulness, the committee were not disposed to recommend such extreme penalty as the case would seem to demand; but suggested that the Grand Secretary be directed to convey, in the name of the Board, a reprimand and censure to the Worshipful Master and Secretary for that year (1875), with a caution to the lodge against a repetition of so grave an offence. And further, the Master was required to have such reprimand, censure, and caution entered in full upon the records of the lodge.

This report and the suggestions were adopted by the Board, and the Worshipful Master of Sussex Lodge notified accordingly.

Reference was made to the disastrous fire of 20th June last, whereby Grand Lodge lost everything belonging to it which was in the Grand Secretary's office, except the

regalia, two seals, and some books. The whole of the library belonging to Grand Lodge was also destroyed, as also all the copies of the proceedings of Grand Lodge from the date of its organization. The Board recommended to Grand Lodge the desirability of having 500 copies of the proceedings of Grand Lodge up to 1876 reprinted.

The finances of Grand Lodge were reported in a satisfactory condition, and the report of the Audit Committee was presented, showing balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer \$847.37, and the assets of Grand Lodge, \$1,729.43.

From the Grand Secretary's report the following information is gathered:—

The receipts of the year amounted to \$1,669.96, for the following items:—

Registration fees.....	\$152 50
Certificates.....	137 00
Annual dues.....	838 00
Dispensation for a new lodge.....	15 00
Dispensation for other purposes.....	30 00
Duplicate warrant.....	10 00
Constitutions.....	77 50
Funeral services.....	6 25
Blank demits, &c.....	3 65
Fund of benevolence.....	382 06

Total.....\$1,669 96

He has collated from the returns the following for the information of Grand Lodge:—

Number initiated.....	141
Number passed.....	149
Number raised.....	139
Number joined.....	40
Number reinstated.....	7
Number withdrawn.....	104
Number suspended.....	100
Number excluded.....	1
Number died.....	20
Total membership.....	2,236

By authority of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, he issued 13 dispensations for the following special purposes:—

To open a new lodge.....	1
To confer degrees at short intervals.....	6
To bury a deceased brother.....	1
To wear regalia in public.....	4
To install officers at a special meeting.....	1

After referring to the destruction of the Masonic Hall in Woodstock by fire, the Grand Secretary alludes to the memorable fire in St. John, and the losses to the Craft entailed thereby:

On June 20 a most destructive fire occurred in the City of St. John, completely annihilating the largest and most valuable portion of the city. The Masonic Hall in Judge Ritchie's building and the office of the Grand Secretary were among the places destroyed, and the charters, jewels, regalia, banners, and all other paraphernalia of the Masonic bodies of all grades were consumed, except a portion of the property of Grand Lodge, which, being kept in the Grand Secretary's office, he was enabled to save from the general ruin.

He saved the regalia and jewels in a mahogany box, the regalia and jewel of the