

whose valuable services in the early history of this Grand Lodge will be found recorded in our printed proceedings. Our esteemed and reverend brother was suddenly summoned from the scene of his earthly labours to his great account in the month of March last, while engaged in the public celebration of divine worship; may we not, my brethren, confidently hope that these services so suddenly arrested on earth are now continued in heaven. But, though we thus mourn for the departed, we mourn not as those without hope, for we rejoice in the belief that we shall again meet them in the Grand Lodge above, there to partake in peaceful re-union with the souls of all our departed brethren who have kept the faith—the mysterious and unspeakable happiness of thine everlasting kingdom. Brother Spence as Chairman of the Masonic Asylum Trust, devoted much of his time and talents towards the successful carrying out of that truly masonic scheme, and it will not be easy to supply his place. Brother Walker occupied at his death the important position of District Deputy G. M., of the Toronto District, and to my knowledge had visited many of his lodges previous to his untimely decease; but we shall not have the pleasure of listening to his report, or to the valuable suggestions which he would doubtless have submitted for our consideration at this meeting.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Among the public events of the past year, which, although not especially connected with us as Masons, still interest us as fellow subjects, there are two, to which I will very briefly refer.—I allude to the foul murder of the Hon. D'Arcy McGee at Ottawa in the month of April last, and the dastardly attempt to murder His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, while paying an official visit at Sidney, Australia. The occurrence of these events, sent a thrill of horror through the civilized world. McGee, the able statesman, the eloquent speaker and the talented writer, had but returned from the House of Commons, when he was most foully murdered by the pistol of the assassin—without warning, without a moment for preparation, sent into the presence of his maker and his judge: "unhoused, unannealed."

The attempt to murder the son of our beloved sovereign most fortunately failed, and although he was severely wounded, we have reason to thank God that his life was saved, and that our Queen and Nation has not to mourn his untimely death. It has been alleged that the murder of the one, and the attempt on the life of the other, emanated from the same vile source, and formed but part of a plan of assassination, which we are told may yet be more fully developed. Our peaceful country has again been threatened with invasion, and the brave and loyal youth of the Dominion have once more been called out for preparation to resist any piratical attempt that may be made against us. Aided by the soldiers and sailors of the empire, our brave volunteers and the militia of the country will promptly rally around the old flag, and will speedily crush down all who dare attempt to place a hostile foot upon our free soil.

In consequence of Brother Bull's inability to undertake the superintendence of the Montreal District, I requested the Grand Registrar to assume the duties of that position, and I have no doubt, that during the present session, we shall receive, from that able and energetic brother, an interesting

account of the state of Masonry in that part of our jurisdiction.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVE OF ENGLAND.

I have much pleasure in announcing that the Most Worshipful the Earl of Zetland, Grand Master of England, has been pleased to appoint our distinguished and eminent brother, the Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, K. C. B., D. C. L., Minister of Justice for Canada, &c., as the representative of that august body near this Grand Lodge. In selecting one so well known and so universally popular, as the leading statesman of the Dominion, the Most Worshipful Grand Master has not only secured the services of a most talented brother, but, at the same time, he has also made an appointment which will be received with unmixed satisfaction by every member of this Grand Lodge. I have great pleasure in recommending that the rank of a Past Grand Senior Warden of Canada be conferred upon Brother Sir John A. Macdonald.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Formal information has been received of the establishment of an independent Grand Lodge for the Province of New Brunswick, and I was honored by an invitation to visit them at St. John's, for the purpose of installing their first Grand Master, a request with which I would gladly have complied, as I entertained no doubts as to their right to Masonic self-government, had I not felt that it would have been improper for me, as your Grand Master, thus to have anticipated the action of this Grand Lodge, with reference to their recognition as a supreme Masonic authority. The official documents in connection with this matter will be laid before you, and I have no doubt that the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick will receive a prompt and cordial recognition at your hands.

SPECIAL GRAND LODGES.

I have also to announce that during the recess, two special meetings of Grand Lodge were called for the purpose of assisting in the ceremony of laying the corner stone of two churches, one at Port Dalhousie, in the Province of Ontario, the other at Dundee, in the Province of Quebec. As my other duties prevented my personal attendance, I was most ably represented at the former ceremony by R. W. Bro. James Seymour, and at the latter by our Right Worshipful Brother A. A. Stevenson. To both of these distinguished brethren my thanks are due for the very efficient and satisfactory manner in which they discharged the important duties imposed upon them.

TESTIMONIALS.

I had much pleasure in carrying out the expressed wishes of the Grand Lodge with reference to the Testimonials ordered to be presented to Our Most Worshipful Brother Thomas Douglas Harington, Past Grand Master of Canada; and to our worthy and efficient Grand Secretary, the Right Worshipful Thomas Bird Harris, Esq. The correspondence between Bro. Harington and myself, on this subject, will be laid before you, and also an account of the very pleasing incidents which took place at the presentation to Bro. Harris, in presence of a large assemblage of the fraternity at Hamilton. While on this subject, I may venture to suggest for your consideration, that as yet, no recognition has been made