

this great recommendation—it is a neutral ground for us all—an open platform on which the most differing and the most distant may happily meet together in peace and good will, a little green oasis in this arid wilderness of toil and strife, in which the genial and the friendly, and the tolerant and the true, and the scholar and the statesman, may find alike rest for their bodies and refreshment for their minds. Many of us, who day by day are toiling at “the form” or in the counting house, in the senate or in the camp, or are laboring as bread winners, by the energy of our bodies and brains, to cheer and sustain those nearest and dearest to us, can find in Freemasonry many an hour of intellectual improvement, many a season of faithful work, many a pleasant moment of social relaxation.

Around the portals of our Lodges and on the pediments of our stately halls, seem still engraved, in words of light, that good old English motto, “Friendship, Good Will, and Brotherly Love.” For there we all can gladly resort, after the toils of the busy day are over. There, when we meet once within the Lodge, the divisions and separations of social, political, and denominational life, end, for there the echoes of political war cries do not penetrate, and there the acrimony of sectarian controversy is unknown. So, despite all our boasted publicity of life and thought and ways and words to-day, the tyled Lodge room of us “Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons,” has a great attraction for many a wandering and weary child of earth.

And, again, Freemasonry is recognized as a medium of doing good. The idea was, that we were a club of good fellows, a convivial and benevolent order, whose very best aspiration was a good dinner, and whose chief qualification was a Masonic speech. But now we, like others, have “lived down” an ancient jest or the childish calumny, and can point with laudable pride to our charitable institutions which emulate, if they do not excel any similar ones in the land, and so, many of the public are beginning to believe, what we have proclaimed in our good old formularies, to be the chief characteristic of a Freemason’s heart is his charity.

Each new Lodge, then, that we found to-day is meant to be a centre of light, Friendship, toleration and charity to its members. From it, we trust, some rays of brightness may fall on our fellow men. And if, alas! it be true, that all things here are at the best but ephemeral and transitory, that they fade like the dying flower, and pass like some pageant of the day, yet let us hope that, from the crumbling fragment of many an earthly Lodge, there may emanate a spirit of truth, and love, and loyalty, and benevolence, which shall outlive both the material fabric and the earthly members, and be perpetuated in a happier scene of perfect knowledge, of undimmed light, and of eternal love.—*London Freemason.*

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## MASONIC RECORD.

### AT HOME.

A NEW Masonic Hall is about to be erected at Port Stanley, in place of the one destroyed by fire there. The corner stone was laid with Masonic honors, on the 2nd November. There was a large concourse of spectators present. R. W. Bro. W. D. McGloghlon, D. D. G. M., London, officiating as Grand Master; R. W. Bro. F. Westlake, P. D. G. M., London, as Deputy Grand Master; W. Bro. Peel, London, as Grand Senior Warden; W. Bro. Edgecomb, Iona, as Grand Junior Warden; and W. Bro. Baxter, London, as Grand Secretary. They were assisted by the brethren, officers, and members of the various Lodges in the vicinity. At the conclusion of the impressive and interesting ceremony, short and expressive speeches were made by Chas. Roe, Esq., St. Thomas, and James Stewart, Esq., Port Stanley. The day’s proceedings concluded with a grand ball and supper in the school house, music being supplied by Drayton’s Band from London. Mr. Roe was requested to auction off the remains of the feast, which was so kindly provided by the ladies of Port Stanley, and realized the handsome sum of \$149. The party broke up at about four in the morning, well pleased with the whole proceedings. The size of the new hall is to be 26x42, built of white brick, two stories high, and it is to cost \$3,000.

MASONIC PRESENTATION.—There was a large attendance of members and visitors at the regular meeting of the Lodge of Strict Observance, A. F. & A. M., No. 27, Hamilton, on the evening of the 2nd October, it having been intimated that a deputation from King Solomon’s Lodge, No. 22, Toronto, would visit the Lodge of Strict Observance, for the purpose of making a presentation to R. W. Bro. David McLellan, for some time Master of the former Lodge, and now a member of the latter. The following leaders in the Craft were present, viz: R. W. Bros. J. J. Mason, D. D. G. M., and Grand Secretary *pro tem*; H. B. Bull, P. D. G. M.; Hugh Murray, G. J. W.; H. A. Mackay, P. G. R.; W. T. Munday, P. Asst. G. S.; R. Brierley, P. Asst. G. S.; C. R. Smith, P. Asst. G. S.; F. R. Despard, W. M. Strict Observance Lodge; C. David-