

Sanctuary of the A. & P. Rite. Both these bodies exist in Canada, and each is the supreme and legal governing body of its respective rite over the Dominion. Each Rite, so far as it goes, is as legitimate as the other. Both are mushrooms so far as Ancient Craft Masonry is concerned, and both have able brethren attached to them, and both are presided over by gentlemen of Masonic knowledge and integrity. Ill. Bro. T. D. Harington, 38°, over the A. & A. Rite; Ill. Bro. Geo. C. Longley, 38°, over the A. & P. Rite.

Now, we are also in a position to state, as we are acquainted with the work of both, that there is a *great similarity in their rituals*, that much of the exoteric portion of their work is nearly analogous. Such being the case, would it not be better, instead of carrying on a war of words, to form an *alliance offensive and defensive*, or better still, *unite under one supreme governing body?*

As at present situated, both parties are laboring under a disadvantage, and if the fight should go on we will find bodies of both Rites soon running in opposition to each other in the same city, town or village; this is not advisable.

It appears to us, therefore, that considering the elements that compose the two governing bodies, it would be a very easy matter to arrange a settlement. The Chiefs of both Rites are Masons of high standing and gentlemen of unquestioned ability, and the same can be said of their adherents. What then is to prevent these brethren meeting on a mutual basis and arranging a union. As it is, there is more than rumored danger ahead, which, by the exercise of a little forbearance on each side, could easily be brought to a satisfactory termination. The A. & A. Rite, through their Supreme Council, first foolishly, and we might add insultingly, attacked the Sovereign Sanctuary of the A. & P. Rite, which brought down upon it the batteries of certain writers, who evi-

dently knew whereof they wrote; since, therefore, the A. & A. commenced the battle, let it be the first to hoist the flag of truce and extend the laurel branch of peace.

We will only say, in conclusion, that this should be done at once as it is an *open secret* that a number of Masons in different cities throughout the Dominion are discussing the propriety of instituting bodies of one or other of these Rites, and should this be done the difficulty of a friendly amalgamation would be greatly increased. Wisdom demands that there should be a speedy union and friendly amalgamation of these so-called high degrees.

#### Masonic Benefit Association.

The annual meeting of the Kingston Masonic Benefit Association, (says the *Whig*, published by our esteemed W. Bro. E. J. B. Pense) was held last evening in the old Masonic Hall, King street. An unusual interest attached to this meeting, as the affairs of the Association recently reached a crisis. The annual report was presented, stating the efforts made last year to advertise and popularize the Association and increase the membership, but the desired result was not attained. Nevertheless, the directors confidently state that the Association is in a better condition than ever. The members in good standing have every reason and inducement to continue their connection. The Association has already paid \$6,000 to relatives of deceased members. Call 24 has been reached. The receipts for the year were \$820.50, and the payments \$763.81. Thus a surplus remains on the year's business, notwithstanding the expenses incurred as above. The economy of management led to this good result. A saving was effected by the President and Messrs. Oldrieve and Waldie doing the work of the Secretary since the vacancy created in the Secretaryship. A touching reference was made