

assembled in Grand Lodge. I have much pleasure in meeting you on this our Twelfth Annual Communication. Let us give thanks to the Great Giver of all Good for his protecting care in the past, and seek His blessing on our present deliberations as may best conduce to the welfare and advancement of our revered Order.

Fifty years ago Our Most Gracious and beloved Queen Victoria ascended the Throne of the British Empire, of which this Province forms so small a portion, but we can boast with pride that no more loyal people exist than the inhabitants of this, our beautiful little Island by the sea, and on this Jubilee year let us pray that God in His infinite goodness may grant to Her Majesty a continuance of good health and that she may long be spared to reign over us.

In the year that has passed we have had to mourn the loss of three members of our Grand Lodge, and several members of subordinate Lodges.

R. W. Rev. John H. Read, D.D., our Grand Chaplain, died at his native place, Penzance, England, (where he had gone with the hope of benefitting his health) on the 14th December last. Bro. Read was born in 1812, and came to this Province in 1849 as a clergyman of the Church of England. In 1868 he was appointed Archdeacon for this Island, which position he held till his death. He was initiated into Masonry in 1860, in King Hiram Lodge, No. 1123, R. E., then holding at St. Eleanor's, but now No. 3, R. P. E. I., at Summerside. He afterwards affiliated with St. John's Lodge, No. 1, of which he was a Past Master. At the organization of this Grand Lodge he was elected Grand Chaplain, and was re-elected to the same office each year since that time. Brother Read was an earnest and enthusiastic Mason, always punctual and regular in his attendance. Ever courteous and cheerful, he will long be remembered by all who knew him.

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