

this flat and the stairway and hall leading thereto, and for re-carpeting, etc., but principally because it is the custom of Masonic Lodges to give an entertainment of some kind on the evening after the installation of officers, which should occur on the day of our patron saint, St. John the Evangelist, the 27th day of December. As our Grand Officers could not be present on that day, they having been previously engaged by Leamington, Kingsville and Windsor Lodges, we concluded to postpone our installation and entertainment till this evening. I conclude by the appearance of this room this evening we have suffered nothing by the delay. This is the 30th anniversary of Thistle Lodge. The first preliminary meeting for the purpose of instituting a Lodge of Masons was held on the 21st of February, 1849, the promoters being J. W. Laughton, James Borrowman, James Gott, John Mentock, W. Griffiths, Richard Atkinson and John W. Campbell. Thistle Lodge, No. 19, Grand Lodge of Upper Canada, was finally formed, and the first officers installed in Christ Church in due and ancient form by R. W. Bro. Cook, D. G. M. of the Grand Lodge of Michigan on the 21st day of August, 1849. Its first meetings were held in the old Masonic Hall. There having been a Lodge in existence some years before, it is said about the year 1800, the minutes and record books are believed to be still in existence. In the latter are the signatures of Gen. Brock and Tecumseh, visiting brethren. The first officers of Thistle Lodge were: W. M., J. B. Laughton; S. W., J. W. Campbell; J. W., James Gott; Secretary, J. B. Boyle; Treasurer, J. Borrowman; Chaplain, Wm. Ritchie; Tyler, Wm. Griffiths; S. D., George Dunan; J. D., John Mentock; I. G., Richard Atkinson. The brethren first initiated into Thistle Lodge were J. McVety, Alex. Jones, M. Maloney, and John G. Collage, and in the evening of the same day Bros. G. Gott, John MacLeod and John Greenfield were also added to the list of the members. Mr. Greenfield having come away from Bruce Mines, Lake Superior, a distance of 300 miles expressly for the purpose of seeking the benefits of Masonry. After receiving the 1st degree he returned home and after sufficient time had elapsed, came again to Amherstburg to receive the Fellow Craft and also the Master Mason degrees. The strength of this veteran Lodge increased rapidly, till at the end of seven months I find no less than 30 members present at a regular meeting. Numerous Lodges throughout Western Canada owe their formation to members and brethren who had been members of Thistle Lodge, and we claim it to be the pioneer Lodge west of London. It has met with varied success up to the present time and like most of the institutions of this ancient burgh has had a rugged road to travel.

We now number 54 members in good standing, the current hard times having thinned our ranks, many worthy brethren having allowed themselves to be suspended for non-payment of dues, I trust only temporarily though. As an out-growth of our Lodge there is now Prince of Wales Chapter of R. A. M., in a fairly prosperous condition. We have resolved to establish in the rooms in the rear public reading room, which we hope will be appreciated and patronized by the community in general and the youth in particular.

The address was followed by a selected programme of music and reading; and also an address by P. D. J. G. M. McNab. After the close of the entertainment a number of the members of the Lodge, with several invited guests, sat down to supper, when the usual Masonic and other toasts were given and responded to. After the Junior Warden's toast the party broke up.

#### Obituary Notices.

On the 2nd January ult., Bro. Thomas H. Close, of Lindsay. The deceased Brother was interred with Masonic honors on the 5th. After the usual Masonic ceremonies at the residence, the funeral proceeded to St. Paul's Church, where service was conducted by Bro. Rev. Dr. Smithett, after which the procession, which was a very large one, reformed and proceeded to Riverside Cemetery. On the conclusion of the Church burial service, the impressive ritual of the Order was performed.

We regret to have to notice the death of R. W. Bro. Col. John Kennedy, a member of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, who died a few days ago at Winnipeg. Our deceased Brother resided in Peterborough for about forty years, where he was much esteemed and respected, and in 1874 went to Manitoba, where he has since resided. It was mainly through the energy and zeal of our R. W. Brother that Verulam Lodge, No. 268, Bobcaygeon, was organised. He was the first Master of that Lodge, and although living in Peterboro', he regularly went to Bobcaygeon every month to attend the meetings of the Lodge; and his courtesy and affability will ever be gratefully remembered by those whom he initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry. Since Bro. Kennedy went to Manitoba he has taken an active interest in the Craft, and has been an officer of that Grand Lodge since its establishment. Bro. Kennedy was also a Royal Arch Mason and a Knight Templar. Col. Kennedy was also an active member of the Volunteer force, in which he always took a great interest; and it was to his untiring energy that a battalion was afterwards formed in Peter-