

THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN,

AND

MASONIC RECORD.

J. B. TRAYES, P.D.D.G.M.,
Editor & Proprietor

"The Queen and the Craft."

{ \$1.50 per annum
in advance.

VOL. XVI.

PORT HOPE, ONT., JUNE 15, 1882.

No. 6.

THE FUTURE OF THE FUND OF BENEVOLENCE.

At the last Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, Brother Clabon, who then appeared for the first time since his resignation of the post of President of the Fund of Benevolence, made some few remarks as to the position of that fund, pointing out that something like 2,000*l.* had been spent last year in excess of the income. While he did not oppose, but rather supported generous gifts, he reminded Grand Lodge that a continuance of such practices must of necessity lead to the ultimate extinction of the Invested Fund (which now amounts to something like 45,000*l.*), and he therefore felt it was time some provision was made to meet the deficiency. He personally suggested the increase of the quarterages paid by brethren to the Fund—in the case of London brethren, from four to six shillings a year, and in the case of Provincial brethren, from two to three shillings—but as no notice had been given to Grand Lodge of any alteration being proposed, and further, as Bro. Clabon was desirous that brethren in all parts should have time to consider the question, he had adopted the course of mentioning his intention to bring the matter under the notice of Grand Lodge at the June Communication, by which time he hoped the members of

Grand Lodge would be in a position to discuss the subject.

That some alteration in the Constitutions which affect the Fund of Benevolence should be made, the experience of the more immediate past would seem to demonstrate, but whether the course now proposed by Bro. Clabon is the right one is matter for consideration. We, like the brother who has given notice of his intention to bring the matter formally before Grand Lodge, should be sorry to deprive the Fund of Benevolence of its power to relieve applicants in as tangible a manner as their circumstances might warrant, but at the same time we very much question if the time has come for an increase in the amount of quarterages—not because the additional tax would be begrudged, but because we think it a mistake to offer further inducements to unprincipled persons to join the Craft.

It has long been urged on behalf of Freemasonry that it is not a benefit society, while, on the other hand, it has been argued in many quarters that the exceptionally large grants recently made from the Fund of Benevolence really places it on some such basis. Personally, we question the propriety of the course taken by the brethren who form the Board. Some