

The Grand Secretary superintended the printing of the Proceedings of last Annual Communication, under the direction of the Board of General Purposes, and distributed them in the usual way.

The order of Grand Lodge, requiring the Lodges to send in to this office copies of their warrants, has been complied with. They have been written in a register provided for the purpose, and can be made available at any time, should a Lodge unfortunately lose its warrant.

He has received nearly all the printed Proceedings of Sister jurisdictions, and has also, by the courtesy of the Editors or Publishers, been furnished with the monthly numbers of several Periodicals, devoted to Masonic literature and general information.

The following special donations have been made to Grand Lodge and have been suitable acknowledged:—

From R. W. Bro. Robert Gowen, of Fredericton, a handsomely bound volume of "Laurie's History of Freemasonry and the Grand Lodge of Scotland."

From Bro. Leon Hyneman of Philadelphia, a volume entitled—"Ancient York and London Grand Lodges, a review of Freemasonry in England from 1567 to 1813."

From R. W. Bro. Joseph H. Hough, Grand Secretary of the State of New Jersey, a large volume of 700 pages entitled—"Origin of Masonry in the State of New Jersey, and the entire proceedings of the Grand Lodge from its First Organization, A. L. 5786."

In this connection the Grand Secretary begs fraternally to urge upon Grand Lodge the desirability of a strong and continued exertion in furtherance of a Library under the control of Grand Lodge. Between the present and the time when Grand Lodge shall occupy more ample and convenient accommodation in the new Temple about to be erected, much may be done in the way of purchase and collection, even though the books, &c., should not, for the present, be conveniently arranged on the shelves of a Library in the strict sense. When opportunity offers for securing works suited to the purpose, it should be embraced;—it may never offer again—for, it is well known that the field open to the masonic scholar and student does not cover an extensive range. Feeling confident that the brethren will enter heartily into so important and valuable an undertaking, the Grand Secretary would suggest, in order more perfectly to carry it to a successful end, that a Grand Lodge Library Committee be appointed, annually or otherwise, and that funds (however small) be placed at their disposal, for furthering this object.

He begs to bring to the notice of Grand Lodge the idea of forming a Cabinet of portraits of Past Grand Masters. Such a desirable project might be commenced at the present early existence of the Body at an expenditure reasonably small, in comparison to what would be required in after years when the number of the ex-rulers of the Craft would be proportionately increased. The portrait of R. W. Bro. Balloch—the only Past Grand Master who has departed this life—is fortunately owned by Grand Lodge and now adorns our walls. To the members of the Craft who knew the deceased Right Worshipful Brother, and to the brethren in general as well, this souvenir possesses a value difficult to convey in words; and in after years when, by the addition of the paintings of others who have or may wield the gavel, a goodly array of life pictures will be held by the fraternity, such a cabinet will not only be prized for its historic and intrinsic worth, but will be an adornment to the walls of our new Temple.

These matters are suggested to Grand Lodge in the hope that Representatives may give them a favorable consideration at the present annual communication, and that steps may be taken to carry them to a successful issue.

In conclusion, the Grand Secretary desires to express his gratification at the present flourishing condition of the Lodges throughout the jurisdiction, to the cordiality and fraternal feeling which generally exists among the individual members, to the promptness with which the requirements of Grand Lodge as usually carried out, and to the willing co-operation and ready support accorded by the Masters, Secretaries and other officers in all matters affecting the prosperity and welfare of the Craft.

Fraternally submitted,

W. F. BUNTING,

GRAND SECRETARY.