

interested will concur with me in regarding this as the shortest and most certain way of putting an end to conflicting claims for property, now being made or held in abeyance.

The attendance of the Grand Secretary and myself at the dedication ceremonies at New York, the more recent dedication of the new Temple at Albany, and the laying the foundation stone of a new Masonic Hall at Halifax, Nova Scotia, impress me with the conviction that the time has arrived when I should urge the erection of a Masonic Temple in Montreal. The necessity of a lasting home for our Grand Lodge is apparent, and I am confident it requires only to be brought prominently under your notice to secure the requisite funds to purchase the building lot (for which I am told the times are favorable) and to start the project.

While awaiting the erection of such an edifice it would be conducive to a knowledge of all that appertains to our Craft were our Grand Lodge to have a library such as most other Grand Lodges possess. A step has been made in the way of Masonic literature by the publication of *The Canadian Masonic News*, which well deserves the patronage of all readers of what is interesting to the Fraternity; and I bespeak for it and for the suggestions I have just made, the consideration which I believe they merit.

I am glad to say that during my administration of the office of Grand Master I have not had submitted to me for decision any matter requiring my direct interference. I am compelled to remind brethren that all matters of Masonic complaint and jurisprudence should by the Constitution be referred through the Grand Secretary, and that his opinion, however valuable, is not that to which official weight is attached. The District Deputy Grand Master is the direct channel of communication in such matters.

Shortly after the last Communication of Grand Lodge, the following old jewels were presented by our esteemed Most Worshipful Brother Harington, Representative of the Grand Lodge of Quebec near the Grand Lodge of Canada: 1st, Square—the gift of H. R. H. Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, father of our Queen; 2nd, Key—the gift of Prince William Henry, Duke of Clarence, and William the Fourth. I now lay these relics before you, and I am sure they will be carefully preserved, both out of regard to their original and illustrious donors, and to him who has now given them to us.

The Grand Lodge Regalia, the purchase of which was authorized at the annual communication of 1873, has at last arrived and enabled the officers and brethren to appear in their proper jewels and clothing. I am informed it has cost £200 sterling, but it was an indispensable outlay.

In terminating this address I am bound to acknowledge the great assistance I have received in the discharge of my office from the Deputy Grand Master, who has been most attentive to his duties as President of the Board of General Purposes, and from our experienced and indefatigable Grand Secretary and our very careful Grand Treasurer.

And now, Brethren, having thus briefly brought before you the various subjects likely to engage your attention during the present Communication of Grand Lodge, it only remains for me to express the hope that whatever be your decisions all things may be settled upon such sure foundation that none of us may have cause hereafter to regret any of our proceedings, and