

The representatives to this Grand Lodge cannot fail to find themselves surrounded with congenial Masonic friends in Lunenburg, among the members of the fine old Lodge, whose guest we are to-day.

I desire to express my own gratification at being the elected head of the Fraternity on this pleasant occasion, one of the most interesting in our history, and to repeat to Grand Lodge my thanks for the great honour thus conferred upon me.

Freemasonry is one of the noblest and grandest of human institutions, actuated as it is, by pure and unselfish aspirations, and containing within the ranks of its active supporters and workers about one and a half millions of the most intelligent, high-minded and forceful men among the citizens of the civilized countries of the world.

#### THE FRATERNAL DEAD.

The passing year, though freighted with much good work done, and many high hopes fulfilled, yet leaves its sad memories of those good and true brethren who have been called to pass from this earthly scene. In some cases it seems as if the ripened sheaf was garnered, and in others that the blow which bereft us fell too soon—but we have unbounded faith that, in every instance “all is well.” The wisdom and graciousness of the Almighty Architect cannot be questioned. We submit to the chastening hand and pause a moment to pay a loving tribute to our dead.

In our jurisdiction 41 brethren have died during the past year, while abroad among the Grand Bodies with whom we are in fraternal intercourse, the brethren have had to mourn very many losses, among them brethren of great prominence and distinction. In Nova Scotia we have lost the following Past Masters, most of whose names are very familiar to Grand Lodge; Robert A. Walker, Albion, No. 5; J. N. S. Marshall, Zetland, No. 9; John Overy, Burns, No. 10; James H. Palmiter, Scotia, No. 28; Wm. H. Gibson, Kentville, No. 58; Rev. Simon Gibbons, of Minas, No. 67; and Dr. Charles Gray, Charity, No. 69; while among well-known Master Masons deceased are Bros. J. Nelson Gardner, of Hiram, No. 12; and Dr. Robert McFatridge of Acadia, No. 14. These, as well as others whose names make up the melancholy roll for the year, are sincerely mourned by this Grand Lodge. A memorial page will be inscribed with their names. The Grand Lodge of Arkansas has lost P. G. M. James M. Harkey, while the brethren of Manitoba mourn the passing away of P. G. M. John H. Bell.

Masonry has also to regret the demise of the Past Grand Master of North Dakota, William H. Best; of Daniel Sticker, Past Grand Master of Michigan of James R. Boyce, Sr., Past Grand Master of Montana; of Wm. Tabarero, P. G. M. of Virginia, and of John Quincy Adams Fellows, P. G. M. o

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