

political questions, and refer to our prominent men in much the same terms as our leading politicians are abused and blackguarded. All I have to say is, that such a course cannot fail to have a very prejudicial effect on Masonry, and will induce many to leave the ranks whom we cannot afford to spare, while the better class of the people will hesitate to connect themselves with an organization in which their names are likely to be connected, without their knowledge or consent, with the schemes and vagaries of a designing few, who think, because they reside in the metropolis of the jurisdiction they should have everything done to suit their views. The "Toronto ring" has been guilty of many very doubtful tricks,—and more than once their conduct has put to shame their more honorable brethren,—but as it is known that this ring only works for the aggrandizement of its own little clique, its influence is waning, and I hope the day is not far distant when it will be powerless. The Masons of Toronto repudiate the ring and its actions, and those composing it do not gain their objects through Toronto votes, but by playing their cards so as to catch the votes of the country lodges. The Masons of Toronto are perfectly satisfied that Grand Lodge will at all times give them fair representation in the distribution of offices, and they feel that they have been placed in a false position by the injudicious references made to Hamilton, with a view of injuring R. W. Bro. Murray's prospects of election to the highest position in Grand Lodge. It is claimed that because the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer reside in Hamilton, Toronto should furnish the Grand Master permanently. Anything more absurd could not be urged, and the raising of the sectional cry is, in my judgment, a very great mistake, and not calculated to either advance the interests of the craft in general or Toronto in particular. In the election of Grand

Master, the fitness in every particular of the aspirants to the position should be the one thing of importance in making the selection, and I sincerely hope this view will prevail. I fail to see why R. W. Bro. Murray should be cast aside for any Past Grand Master in Toronto, or for that matter for any other member of Grand Lodge. He has been an active worker for a number of years, and as a member of the most important committees has evinced a zeal and capacity which was recognized by his election as Deputy Grand Master. I do not see that, because the brother resides in Hamilton, he should be excluded from filling an office which he has proven by his past services he is well qualified to fill, and I am confident, with but few, if any, exceptions, he will have the cordial support of the Toronto lodges. It has been customary in the past to elect the Deputy Grand Master to the Grand Master's chair, and I am sure no petty feeling of jealousy will be the cause of a departure from this rule.

I could say much more on this subject, if I considered it necessary, but will not further intrude on your valuable space, further than to warn the delegates against the insinuating manners of the office-seekers, and the persistent efforts of the obsequious canvasser.

Yours Fraternally,

P. G. OFFICER.

Toronto, June 9, 1884.

The more youthful and energetic Fraternes of Richard Cœur de Lion Preceptory, Knights Templars, of London, are about to move in the matter of engaging a drill instructor to perfect them in the Templar tactics. Twenty-two brethren have already secured uniforms, and before July it is expected that the Preceptory will be able to turn out thirty swords. Those desirous of joining the drill corps should consult with Sir Knight Hawthorn without delay.