

SCOTTISH RITE CONVOCATION.

THE recent Annual Convocation of the A. and A. Rite bodies of this city, was an interesting event in the progress of this branch of Masonry in Indiana. There were a large number of brethren in attendance, from different parts of the State, a goodly number of visitors from cities in the adjoining States, all of whom expressed themselves as highly pleased with the manner in which the work was done. The number of candidates for the degrees was not as large as was expected, some being prevented from coming by business, and others by the trains failing to make connections. Among those who put in an appearance were several prominent York Rite Masons, while the entire class was composed of those well known for their Masonic zeal and intelligence. The officers, and all those taking part in the ceremonies were well posted in their respective parts, and with better facilities for conferring the degrees than ever before, the work throughout was done in a superior manner. The convocation was a complete success in every particular.—*Masonic Advocate, Indianapolis.*

CANADA MASONIC RELIEF SOCIETY.

WE have been requested to publish the following circular letter:

LONDON, ONT., June 1st, 1876.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—By book post you will receive a few circulars of the "Canada Masonic Relief Society," which please bring before the members of your Lodge. The scheme is that offered to the "London Masonic Mutual Benefit Association," at the last annual meeting, by Bros. Hendry and Gill, and rejected by a small majority. Though defeated, the scheme was declared to be the only feasible one to produce the desired end, viz., an immediate and permanent Reserve Fund out of which the claims of deceased and disabled members may be paid, without harassing the members of the Society with continual "calls." The "Canada Masonic Relief Society" will form its Reserve Fund from—

1st.—The entrance fees (which are graduated according to the age of the applicant, for every year from 22 to 60).

2nd.—Excess of "call" over the amount required to pay a death claim. Take for example—a "call" made on 1250 members of all ages, during the second year, on the occurrence of a death; the amount received by the Society would be over \$1700, the money paid by the Society would be \$1000, consequently \$700 on each death would be added to the Reserve Fund. These "calls" are also on a graduated scale, agreeing with the age of the member.

3rd.—By a small annual assessment on each member at the end of his second year of membership, and annually thereafter as long as required.

4th.—By the interest on the accumulating entrance fees, calls and assessments, compounded yearly.

By these means the Directors hope with ordinary success to have a Reserve Fund of \$100,000 in four or five years, the interest on which will then pay 6 claims of \$1000 each. Thus the Fund will go on steadily increasing year after year, there being no limit to the number of members.

The Society has also provided for the payment of additional sums of \$1000 each (as per circular) as the number of members increase; but this part of our plan can be explained when the Society reaches 2500 members. Our Reserve Fund being thus established, the Society will always be able to pay a claim without having to depend on the number of members who will pay the "call." Any member not paying his "call" will be struck off the list. Calls will be made quarterly. The death claims will be very few, as no applicant for membership will be accepted unless he passes the medical examination required by the Board. Our Society should be liberally patronized by the Craft, as the benefits to be derived from it are placed within the reach of all, and no brother need be struck off because he cannot pay up. The Society will in 10 or 12 years be entirely self-sustaining, and after the 3rd year the cost to members will begin to diminish as the Reserve accumulates. The affairs of the Society will be conducted with the least possible expense, and on proper business principles. Our Board of Directors (who are all prominent business men) will feel obliged by your sending me the name of a brother who will act as our local agent for your Lodge, and ask him to communicate with me. Trusting to be enabled to visit your Lodge at no distant day, to further explain our objects if necessary,

I am, dear sir and brother, yours fraternally,

W. C. L. GILL, Secretary.