

dealing with affairs of this kind; it appears to me has not been the part, either of wisdom or justice. Let us see to it at once, by our decision now, that we offer no license or premium for future misconduct and dishonor among Odd Fellows.

In January last I had the pleasure of Instituting Excelsior Lodge, No 44, located at Hamilton, for which a Charter was granted at our last Session. I was most ably assisted throughout the entire ceremonies of the session, by Grand Officers Woolyast and Smith, and by Past Grand Officers Bissell, Peel, Brown, Read, Partridge and Wigmore; as also by a very creditable number of earnest and talented Brethren from Union, Eureka, Gore and Forest City Lodges.

On account of the size and importance of the City of Hamilton, the necessity for a Lodge of our Order there; has long been felt; and our meeting for the purpose named, was an occasion we were all delighted to honor, as in conclusion we were proud to acknowledge, the happiest reunion in our experience as Odd Fellows. For the first Representative of that Lodge, Past Grand Archibald Frew, I bespeak from you all, the welcome to which, if you do not already, you will soon concede he is really entitled.

During the year just ended, I have visited every Lodge of our Order in this Province. In most cases this has been done in connection with the execution of the special orders of this Grand Lodge, or in the pursuit of my private business. It would be impracticable to give you the details of my visit to each Lodge; their Representatives here, to talk *with* and *to* you, and their Semi-Annual Reports soon to be laid before you, will inform you of all that is most important concerning them. The reception I met was invariably gratifying to me and creditable to the Fraternity, and the Lodge meetings were well attended, by Brethren, who with scarcely an exception were ready to renew with me their pledges of zeal and fidelity to the principles of the Order. In each Lodge I endeavored to have a thorough rehearsal in the Secret Work, making such correction, imparting such advice as I deemed necessary, and conveying from one Lodge to the other, those items of information with regard to Lodge rooms and appurtenances, Finances, Membership, efficiency and zeal, as I thought best calculated to increase fraternal interest and incite laudable emulation.

In this connection, I must particularly commend to your notice the action of Union Lodge in the erection of a beautiful and spacious Odd Fellows Hall. The Brethren of St. Mary's Lodge, whose Hall we now occupy, are also the owners of their Hall. These are examples, which can and should be followed by many other Lodges immediately, and in time by all.

On account of the distance and consequent draft upon our limited Funds, I had not thought a visit to Brock Lodge advisable; but, business unexpectedly calling me to Montreal, afforded an opportunity which I gladly improved. Notwithstanding the lateness of my arrival there, quite unexpectedly to them, a meeting was speedily improvised, at which I had the pleasure of exchanging congratulations with several former associates in Grand Lodge and of forming some new acquaintances. Our meeting was quite informal, but was improved to the best advantage, both in conveying and receiving information pertinent to the occasion, and proved, I believe, mutually agreeable and satisfactory to all present. Most of you are aware that Brockville was the home of our first Grand Master, the lamented Dr. Reynolds, the originator, and until his death, the master spirit of our present organization as a Grand Lodge. Brock Lodge, of which he was a member, is the oldest of our subordinate Lodges. Bearing these things in mind, you will readily appreciate the strangely mingled feelings with which I approached, and sought familiarity with the scenes and associates of his life and labors—feelings of sorrow for his loss; of respect almost amounting to devotion for his memory, and of fraternal sympathy and love for his co-laborers who still cluster around the altar consecrated by his words and conduct, to the works of Friendship, Love and