

Grand Lodge of A. B.

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

. Most Worshipful Grand Master Mc-Nichol opened the 22nd annual communication of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick in St. John, on Tuesday, 23rd April, in the presence of about fifty members of the Craft.

In opening his address the Grand Master said he desired to call their attention to a matter that has been referred to by previous Grand Masters. He referred to the desirability of Grand Lodge making arrangements to attend divine service in a body at least once a year.

By reference to the return in the Grand Secretary's office, it is found that there is a gratifying increase in the membership as compared with last year. This is encouraging; he thought that the number of suspensions for non-payment of dues might be materially reduced and the lodge membership retained if the secretaries would endeavor to, as far as possible, make prompt collecting of dues. And when occasion required they might be allowed a little discriminating power in settling with delinquent members. He asked the lodges to give the matter their serious consideration.

After devoting considerable space in his address to the illustrious dead at home and abroad, the Grand Master referred at length to the financial affairs of the Masonic Hall Company. He then alluded to the history of Freemasonry in the province about to be issued, and spoke as follows:—

"I deemed it a duty and it is with pleasure that I call the attention of the Craft to a work entitled "Freemasonry in New Brunswick," about to be published by M. W. Brother William F. Bunting. P. G. M. Brother Bunting in the prospectus of his work states that the need of a compilation embracing the past and present of Freemasonry in New Brunswick has long been felt by the Craft. The great mass

of the brethren of the present day have had few facilities for gaining information of the lodges and other Masonic bodies instituted in New Brunswick in the latter part of the last century and the early portion of the present. The object of the intended volume is to supply this want and afford such information. Brother Bunting has spent a large portion of the past six years in gathering his facts and arranging them for publication. The proposed publication will comprise a volume of nearly 500 pages, royal octavo, substantially bound in cloth, and will be illustrated. From the well-known ability of the author to produce such a work, I am confident that it will prove of surpassing interest to the Craft in this jurisdiction. As the cost of publication will be very large—and the risk correspondingly serious—the compiler does not feel warranted in assuming such an expense and risk unless he receives sufficient encouragement to guarantee him against loss. I trust, therefore, that every brother will avail himself of the opportunity to secure a copy.

The Grand Secretary's report showed that the total receipts for the year were \$2,228.10. From the statistics furnished by the Grand Secretary, we glean the following:—

Initiated.....	107
Passed	112
Raised.....	111
Joined	10
Reinstated.....	23
Withdrawn.....	55
Died	20
Total membership, Dec. 27, 1888,	1,880.

The returns show an increase in membership of 47 as compared with the returns of the previous year.

For the information of the Craft there has been prepared the following statement showing the membership each year for the past ten years, together with a similar return made by the Grand Secretary. This statement will show the annual membership of Grand Lodges from its organization:—