

Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

The annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Canada, having been postponed from July until September, owing to the absence in Europe of the M. W. the Grand Master, Grand Lodge was opened on Wednesday, 12th ultimo, in the City Hall, St. Catharines, M. W. Bro. J. K. Kerr, Grand Master, presiding.

After reading the rules and regulations for the government of Grand Lodge, and confirmation of the minutes of several special communications and the last annual meeting of Grand Lodge, Grand Master Kerr read the following able address, which was listened to with marked attention.

GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS.

BRETHREN,—We are now brought together on the occasion of the twenty-second Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge, to review the transactions of the past, to consider the present situation, and to make provision for the future welfare and prosperity of our time-honored institution.

Before entering upon the business which is to engage our attention, it is fitting that we should unite in the joyful praise to Almighty God for His protecting care over us, and that we should invoke his aid and guidance in the future, that the spirit of harmony may prevail in all our deliberations, and that whatever we do may be to His honor and glory.

Having been unexpectedly called upon to go to Britain in the latter part of the month of June, I found that it was impossible for me to attend the meeting of Grand Lodge, if held at the accustomed time in the month of July, and I was apprehensive that I should be obliged to commit to the charge of others the duties devolving properly upon me, connected with our annual assembly. I was, however, most reluctant to cast upon others responsibility and trouble which I had assumed when accepting this high office. Upon my attention being called to the resolution passed at the last Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge at Ottawa, in July of last year, to the effect that "this Grand Lodge considers that the time of holding its meetings might with great advantage be changed, so that the Annual Communication be held in a cooler month," it appeared to me that it would be in accordance with the spirit of the above resolution, and with the wish of the Grand Lodge as thereby ex-

pressed, to arrange for the postponement of the business to come before Grand Lodge until the month of September; while such a course would relieve me from the necessity of throwing upon the shoulders of another duties with which I had been charged by the Grand Lodge upon my election as your Grand Master.

After ascertaining, by such inquiry as the limited time at my disposal enabled me to make, that no great inconvenience would be occasioned by such a course, I directed the Grand Secretary to notify the members of Grand Lodge and all concerned that the Communication of Grand Lodge to be held on the 11th day of July would be simply a formal meeting, at which no business would be transacted, and that it was intended to postpone all the proceedings until this day.

In furtherance of such determination and notice, our Annual Communication was formally opened in this city on Wednesday the 11th day of July last, by M. W. Bro. James Seymour, P. G. M., and called off to meet to-day at this hour for the transaction of business. Such step made it necessary also to adjourn the meeting of the Board of General Purposes in like manner, which was accordingly done. I venture to hope any the course which I thus adopted will not that, caused inconvenience or annoyance to that of the members of Grand Lodge; but have on the contrary, the comfort as well as the convenience of all will be promoted by our assembling at this delightful season of the year, and not under the blazing rays of hot July's sun.

During my absence I was the recipient of many courtesies at the hands of the Masonic Fraternity in England, Ireland, and Scotland, in all of which I was enabled to see the good will entertained towards us by our brethren in the good old land, as well as the interest taken by them in our proceedings.

The year just ended has contributed largely to the marked prosperity which has uniformly attended our Grand Lodge. Notwithstanding the continued depression in trade and business of all branches during the past year, affecting all classes of the community, Masonry has advanced and prospered. New lodges have been formed in improving sections of the country, and give promise of successful operations. Old lodges have increased their membership and spheres of usefulness. Resources and pecuniary means have been improved. The attention which is being given to Masonic matters by its membership is greater than at any previous time. The moral and financial state of the Order is better than it has ever been within our jurisdiction. The position which Masonry occupies throughout the length and breadth of the land furnishes ample reason for proud congratulation on the part of all connected with it.