

CONCLUSION.

I now surrender to you the emblem of authority with which you have entrusted me for the past three years. The honor and responsibility thus conferred have been very great. To the best of my judgment and ability I have discharged the duties of this high trust. During this period I have received valuable aid and counsel from my predecessors. From my associate officers, assistance at all times when required; from the brethren at large, courtesy and forbearance. From abroad, many kind tokens of recognition. All this places me under a deep debt of gratitude which I can never repay, except by earnestly imploring kind Heaven to shower upon you and the Craft everywhere, her choicest blessings. Let fraternal love and forbearance be your watchwords in the future. Let all labor with an eye single to the accomplishment of a noble destiny for himself and for the honor of this Grand Lodge. I had fondly hoped that ere this, we should have found a quiet haven of rest, and been at peace with all the world. Such, unfortunately, is not the case. What I have done, and what I have refrained from doing, in connection with our position towards England, has been with the sole desire to serve your best interests. Personally, I would have assumed any responsibility could I have been confident of the results. Our future will be in the hands of skilled, prudent Craftsmen. And may He, the supreme Grand Master, who has led us safely thus far through many trials, dangers and difficulties, still continue to be our strength and support, is my fervent prayer.

E. R. JOHNSON,

G. M. G. L. of Q.

STANSTEAD. 26th January, 1886.

It was moved by M. W. Bro. John Hamilton Graham, P. G. M., seconded by Rev. Bro. Robert Kerr, Grand Chaplain, and resolved,

"That the address of the M. W. Grand Master be forthwith referred to the Committee on the State of Masonry, with instructions to report thereon as soon as possible during the present session of this Grand Lodge."

GRAND SECRETARY'S REPORT.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Quebec, A. F. & A. M.

I have the honor to submit the following my report :

During the last past year terminating on the 23rd January inst., no matter of unusual interest has transpired in connection with the affairs and business of this office, my report therefore will of necessity be brief, I trust, however, it will be found satisfactory, as showing that the Craft in this province continues to progress notwithstanding the impediments of a hostile population, and a divided jurisdiction.

Since our last meeting, two dispensations have been issued for the erection of new lodges, one at Aylmer, the other at Portage du Fort, both in the Ottawa district, each has complied with the requirements of the Constitution, and has

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