

ROYAL AND ORIENTAL FREE- MASONRY.

Installation of Officers.

At a regular Conclave of Phoenix Rose Croix Chapter 18°, No. 27, held in the rooms of the Rite, corner of Sparks and O'Connor streets, Ottawa, the officers of the flourishing chapter were duly installed by Rt. Ill. Bro. Jas. Burritt, Provincial Grand Master of the Ottawa District, assisted by Rt. Ill. Bros. John Moore and Amos Chatfield. The following are the officers for the present year.

Ill. Bro. John B. Wright, Most Wise Sov.; Ill. Bro. F. E. P. Aldrich, Past Most Wise Sov.; Ill. Bro. Jas. A. Corry, Sen. Warden; Ill. Bro. Ed. C. Raper, Jun. Warden; Very Ill. Bro. E. Colston Bennett, Archivist; Ill. Bro. John Huckell, Treasurer; Ill. Bro. Carl Maas, Orator; Ill. Bro. J. J. Burrows, Prelate; Ill. Bro. P. H. Varney, Conductor; Ill. Bro. D. J. Smith, Guard of the Tower; Ill. Bro. Wm. Moeser, Capt. of the Guard; Ill. Bro. A. Wheatley, Organist; Ill. Bro. John McCarthy, Sentinel.

At the close of the proceedings the Ill. Brethren adjourned to mine host Huckell's, where upwards of twenty-five members of the Rite sat down to supper, gotten up in first class style.

When the volunteer toasts were in order, the newly elected M. W., John B. Wright, on behalf of Phoenix Rose Croix Chapter, presented Rt. Ill. Bro. John Moore, Past Provincial G. M., Ottawa, with a very handsome Jewel of the Rite, with an appropriate address, which Ill. Bro. Moore very suitably and modestly received and feelingly thanked the brethren for.

Ill. Bros. Burritt, Jno. Satchell, Varney, Chatfield and others, enlivened the evening with song and toast, and the Warden's toast, "Happy to Meet, Sorry to Part, Happy to Meet Again," brought the proceedings to a close, all feeling that a pleasant evening was spent.

THE GRAND LODGE ABOVE.

"The Grand Lodge Above" is a sonorous phrase, much affected by Masonic mortuary eulogists. Much as it is abused, it has its just use, and then is full of meaning. Freemasons while they make excellent use of time present, are not forgetful of time to come. The royal art in which they are initiated points to eternity as well as time, to the great hereafter as well as the little now. We see this in the Master Mason's Degree, and at the interment of the fraternal dead. As Refreshment follows Labor in the earthly Lodge, so we are taught that earthly Labor shall be followed by heavenly Refreshment, in the experience of those who may be admitted to the Grand Lodge above. Freemasons do not theorize about this Grand Lodge; they do not classify seven heavens, as did the Rabbins; nor speculate in poetic guesses, as did Milton and Dante. The Grand Lodge above is to us simply the presence chamber of the Grand Architect of the Universe, where he sits enthroned, with ministrant spirits for His messengers—with ten thousand times ten thousand angels before Him, to execute his will and their pleasure.

While Freemasons do not speculate concerning the number of the heavens, or their situation, they necessarily imply by their statements concerning the Grand Lodge above that it is a place—a vast and sublime region of ineffable light and unspeakable love; the sphere of immortality, where the Great I Am, the Cause of Causes, the Light of Lights, without a frown, without a cloud, without a veil, may be seen in all his glory and majesty; a place where the soul may revel in ecstatic bliss; where the intellect may understand itself and its Maker, and go forward endlessly in its acquirement of knowledge; a place of tranquility and harmony, where there are no clashings of interest, no impostors, no clandestines; a place where there is no stagnation, but endless progress.