

the past year, and humbly supplicate a continuance of those mercies as far as we may be found worthy to receive them.

"A year ago you conferred the highest honour as well as the most responsible position you could bestow upon me, and it is but right that I should now render an account of my stewardship.

"Shortly after assuming office I received from R. Ex.-Comp. McLellan, G.S.E., a list of Chapters which were not in a flourishing condition. I immediately communicated with the Grand Superintendents of the districts in which those Chapters were situated, asking them to make a special report upon their condition. I also urged upon them to make every effort to induce the members to take such an interest in Royal Arch Masonry as would force their Chapters into activity and life.

"The report of the Grand Superintendents will be presented to you, and I feel confident you will be pleased with the success they have obtained. And just here, companions, I do not hesitate to recommend the Grand Chapter to withdraw the warrants from those Chapters that have not strictly complied with the constitution. Too much leniency becomes license, and when the members of a Chapter show little or no interest in its welfare, the privilege of having one should most certainly be withdrawn. For myself, I would rather see fifty active Chapters in our jurisdiction than twice that number with many of them drifting into lethargy and inaction.

"It has given me pleasure during the past year to grant dispensations for the following new Chapters:—St. Lawrence, U. D., at Brockville, Ont., Nov. 5th, 1888; Vancouver, U. D., Vancouver, B. C., Nov. 16th, 1888; Keystone, U. D., Portage la Prairie, Man., Jan. 22nd, 1889; St. Mark's, U. D., Trenton, Ont., April 7th, 1889.

"During the year I have been asked for a number of dispensations, and as they were in the interests of Royal

Arch Masonry I could not but comply with the requests.

"I have approved of by-laws presented by the following Chapters:—Ancient Frontenac and Cataraqui No. 1, Kingston; Carleton No. 16, Ottawa; Mount Horeb No. 20, Brantford; Prince Rupert No. 52, Winnipeg; Georgian No. 56, Owen Sound; Orient No. 79, Toronto.

"Vacancies have occurred near this Grand Chapter of Representatives of the Grand Chapters of South Carolina and Iowa. I had the pleasure of nominating Rt. Ex. Comp. E. H. D. Hall, of Peterborough, as Representative of the Grand Chapter of South Carolina, and Rt. Ex. Comp. Geo. J. Bennett, of Parkdale, of the Grand Chapter of Iowa.

"I have also had the pleasure of confirming the nomination of Most Ex. Comp. Will. H. Whyte as our representative near the Grand Chapter of Quebec."

Comp. Hungerford then referred to his official visitations, and the deaths during the year, his closing allusion to the latter reading as follows:

"Companions, year by year we are called upon to draw the attention of Grand Chapter to those who have passed away since our last meeting. This should be a solemn reminder that our own time is coming with unknown swiftness. May we who are spared to meet together to-day so live our lives that when we shall be summoned within the veil we may be found worthy to remain throughout eternity at the foot of the Great White Throne.

"The financial statement of Grand Chapter bears evidence of prosperity, and as a detailed statement will be presented to you I shall only mention that the receipts for the past year have been \$3,067.67. This, with the balance on hand from last year of \$1,486.05, makes a total of \$4,553.72. The total expenditure for the year has been \$2,348.05, leaving a balance to carry forward to next year of \$2,205.67, which is an increase of \$819.62 over last year.