

Brethren, it is that which has induced me for many years to take an active participation in the working of the Craft, and that not merely in attendance at the meetings, but an anxious wish to keep up and preserve the most interesting and imposing ritual of our Order. It is that which is the real strength and backbone of Freemasonry; it is for that which we rejoice this evening. We have heard from our Most Worshipful Grand Master how Freemasonry is thriving in England. I am happy to say it is everywhere so. On the other side of the Atlantic, indeed, there is scarcely a country in which it is not thriving, whether on the continent of Europe or in the East. We have had this evening, though he is not here now, the representative of the far distant Empire of Persia; and it may be interesting to some of you to know that I believe I had the honor of receiving and initiating his predecessor in the Lodge to which I had the pleasure of belonging. I will not detain you further. I think I have given, what at all events to us appears, and I trust to the world, a sufficient reason why we meet here this evening. We see the Craft prosperous in Scotland; it is the same in Canada, in Australia. I can tell you from my own personal experience, it is the same in all foreign countries. We see the same increasing prosperity of the Craft throughout the world, and it is because we feel that there is one institution, permeating throughout the whole world, in which we can meet on the level and part on the square.

CAPITULAR MASONRY.

It affords us pleasure to record the opening of a new Chapter of Royal Arch Masons at the Town of Niagara, and in doing so, congratulate the Companions in having again recovered the "lost word," and revived the working of this supreme degree. If our information is correct, Royal Arch Masonry flourished in this ancient town so far back as 1798, and the degree was then conferred under sanction of the old Niagara Lodge Warrant, and it is to be hoped that our Companions of Niagara will make an effort towards recovering the early history of the order in their midst.

It having been intimated to the Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Masonry for the Hamilton District that a *Dispensation* had been obtained from the Most Excellent the Grand Z., by the Companions of Niagara, and that they were desirous of being organized into a regular Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. In compliance with the request made, R. E. Comp. E. Mitchell, accompanied by R. E. Comps. T. B. Harris and James Seymour, and Comp. Wm. Forbes, proceeded to Niagara on Thursday, the 20th March, and formally opened and constituted the "Niagara" Chapter, and regularly installed the following Companions as officers, viz: E. Comp. Alex. Servos, Z., E. Comp. S. J. J. Brown, II., E. Comp. G. A. Clement, J., Comp. Jno. M. Clement, Scribe E., Comp. H. J. Brown, Scribe N., Comp. Thos. N. Ball, Principal Sojourner, R. E. Comp. James Seymour, Treasurer, Comp. Robt. M. Willson, M. D., 1st Asst. Sojourner, Comp. Robert Best, 2nd Asst. Sojourner, and Comp. Rich'd Radcliffe, Janitor.

Several petitions were received and accepted. A vote of thanks of the Chapter was unanimously accorded to Comp. Robt. H. McMullen, of St. Catharines, for his presentation of a beautiful engraved Triangle for the use of the Chapter.

The Chapter having been closed, the Companions of Niagara Chapter