

Presentation to R. W. Bro. Bell.

At a recent Communication of Hiram Lodge, No. 5, under the Registry of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, R. W. Bro. John H. Bell, the able and popular Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of that Province, was presented with a handsome Past Master's Jewel and the following address. The R. W. Brother highly deserved the compliment paid him, not only for the valuable service he has rendered Hiram Lodge, but to the Craft of Manitoba generally:

KILDONAN, Dec. 27, 1878.

JOHN H. BELL, Esq., P. M. Hiram Lodge,
No. 5, G. R. M.

R. W. SIR & BROTHER,—The members of Hiram Lodge here assembled, in celebrating the anniversary of St. John the Evangelist, take this opportunity of expressing our high appreciation of you as a friend and Brother, and our earnest solicitation for your future welfare and happiness.

Looking back a few years into the past, we observe you occupying the responsible and honorable position of first Master of this Lodge, and as time rolled on, we marked, with feelings of pleasure and pride, the success which attended the Craft under your constant care and guidance.

To your untiring zeal in advancing the interests of Hiram Lodge we owe our prosperity; with an increasing membership of active workers we are making rapid strides toward the highest ranks of Masonry in the Province. We certainly, O Worshipped Sir, only regret that you are not here to your long and noble career, for that the Sublime Architect of the Universe may bestow wisdom upon you through all the perplexities of life.

If you are ever on behalf of the Craft of Hiram Lodge, in saving your presence at this Past Master's Jewel, as a token of our esteem and veneration for your many services and our prayers for your long and happy life in an hour of need, and when the battle threat of death may be summoned to the aid of Love above, to enter upon an immortal incorruptible, unfiled, and shall never fade away.

The jewel was made by Bro. Forest, of Winnipeg, was neatly executed, bearing the following inscription: "Presented to R. W. Bro. J. H. Bell, 1st P. M. of Hiram Lodge, No. 5, G. R. M., A. F. & A. M., by the P. M's., W. M. Officers, and Brethren, as a token of their esteem for him as a man and a Mason. Dec. 27, A. L. 5878."

The presentation and address were delivered by M. W. Bro. Newcomb, to which Bro. Bell replied in a fitting and touching manner.

Review.

"A CONCISE HISTORY OF THE ORDER OF THE TEMPLE, WITH SOME MENTION OF THOSE BODIES WHICH CLAIM TO BE DERIVED FROM IT," by SIR PATRICK COLQUHOUN, M. A., L. L. D., Q. C. R. Hill & Co., Bedford, England, 1878.

In the "Concise History" lately issued by Sir Patrick Colquhoun, the Excellent Grand Chancellor of the United Orders of the Temple and Hospital, in England, the author displays a commendable knowledge of his subject, and, as far as his historical descriptions are concerned, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to differ with him. He has brought to the task he has undertaken not only historic but legal and antiquarian lore, and however we may differ from some of his deductions, we must respect the talent, learning, and ability so conspicuously set forth in the small work before us; still, in some respects, we must assert that Sir Patrick's reasoning savors more of the straight and narrow groove of the lawyer than of the broad and liberal plan of the historian; that he seems inclined to believe nothing and to trust to nothing that cannot be proved by *verba legis*, altogether rejecting that unwritten law of custom or tradition, without which all information respecting points of remote antiquity would be vague indeed. In speaking of the so-called extinction of the Order of the Temple, page 108, the author says: "The Order having been abolished by cancellation of the charter by a competent authority, namely, the Great Council, it ceased to have any legal existence." Now it is not historically correct that the Emperor above spoken of, by which the Great Council of the Papal power, was in any sense the source or origin of the Order. It commenced sometime previous to 1118, by a long list of nobles, who had been distinguished by a combination of a brotherhood in which no knights who had recently distinguished themselves at the siege and capture of Jerusalem, who entered into a solemn compact to aid one another in clearing the highways, and in protecting the pilgrims through the passes and divide of the mountains to the Holy City. The brotherhood called themselves the "Poor Fellow Soldiers of Jesus Christ." At first, they had no particular place of abode, but in 1118 (nineteen years after the conquest of Jerusalem by the Crusaders), King Baldwin II., granted them a place of habitation within the sacred enclosure of the Temple on Mount Moriah, whence they came thenceforth to be known by the name of "Knights of the Temple of Solomon" or "Knights Templar." In 1228, ten years after the brotherhood had assumed the name of Knights of the Temple, and probably twice