

the purposes of the Order, and dedicated it to the principles of the Craft. This being done, he offered up a suitable prayer.

R. W. Bro. J. J. Mason, D. D. G. M. and Grand Secretary, read letters of apology for the absence of M. W. Bros. A. A. Stevenson, P. G. M., Montreal; James Seymour, P. G. M., St. Catharines; A. Bernard, P. G. M., Montreal; T. White, Jr., P. G. M., Montreal; W. B. Simpson, P. G. M., Montreal; T. D. Harrington, P. G. M., Ottawa; and R. W. Bro. James Bain, P. G. S. W. Toronto.

The Deputy Grand Master then delivered an inaugural address. In the course of his remarks he took occasion to congratulate Hamiltonians in general, and the Fraternity in particular, on their possession of so magnificent a Masonic Temple, which bids fair to be the finest in Canada. He was very happy to notice so large a representation of the fair sex of the city, and after a few graceful allusions to their kind attendance, spoke of the principles of the Masonic Order, showing that its influence was beneficial upon all its members, who were admonished to be good parents, husbands, brothers and sons. While the beliefs and teachings of the Fraternity inculcated pure morality and the practice of all the virtues, yet the Order was not a religious one in the sense of dictating what should be a man's religious belief, allowing him to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. The society was also non-political, in the strictest meaning of the word, and everything that could possibly give rise to strife was excluded. Whatever might be the turmoil or bitterness of the outer world, nothing but harmony was known within those walls. The right worshipful speaker went on to speak of the general teachings of the Order, and his remarks made a very favorable impression upon those within hearing distance, many of whom had never before been in a Masonic Hall. Bro. Kerr feelingly referred to the absence of the M. W. Grand Master, and hoped that in a few days he would be restored to his usual activity and health. The address was very appropriate to the occasion, and was listened to with the utmost attention.

THE GRAND BALL.

THIS was not merely the grand centre of attraction, but the great event of the season, for we believe it is admitted on all hands to have been far in advance of any similar thing of its kind that has taken place in "the ambitious city," for at least a decade. Its success was assumed from the first, owing to the indefatigable exertions of the committee, and it passed off in splendid style. The ball was held in the second and third flats of the building, the Blue Lodge Room and the Encampment rooms being used for dancing, while the smaller rooms were used for dressing, all of them being fitted up in the most tasteful manner. The stair-cases and landings were dressed with evergreens and scarlet cloth. The card room was also supplied with the requisite equipments; but the crowning achievement was the banqueting hall—the Rose Croix Chapter Room—which was furnished to the heart's content with as glorious a repast as ever mortal could desire, the purveyor being mine host Cass of the Royal Hotel, who fairly outdid his former self in catering to the devotees of one of the grandest Masonic Balls ever given in Hamilton. The floral decorations of the rooms were much admired, the same having been brought from the well known establishment of Bro. W. J. Palmer, Buffalo. The Encampment Room was suitably arranged, so as to resemble a bell-shaped tent in various colors, the whole being decked with the choicest flowers. The music in the Blue Room was furnished by the String Band of the Thirteenth Battalion, and in the Encampment Room by the String Band of the Volunteer Artillery. Among the principal guests present were D. G. M., J. K. Kerr, Toronto; P. G. M., James Seymour, St. Catharines; P. D. D. G. M., W. H. Weller, Cobourg; P.