

Through the infinite mercy of Divine Providence we have again been permitted to assemble together, to legislate in "Friendship, Love and Truth," for the welfare and advancement of our Noble Order.

1.—It affords me much gratification to preside over your deliberations at this time, and to meet so many old familiar faces. But that pleasure is alloyed with sorrow, at the removal from this earthly encampment of those devoted and time honored Brethren, P.G. Master C. Yale, and P. D. G. M. Henry Sewell. While we mourn over their demise, let us hope that our loss is their everlasting gain, and that, though these pillars of Odd-Fellowship have been removed from this earthly Lodge, the memory of the good deeds they have done, will long be green and fresh in the memory of the Brotherhood. The loss of Bro. Yale is severely felt in the St. Catharines District, where he was regarded as a patriarch indeed, and a connecting link in the chain of our fraternal existence. Long and sincerely he labored to build up and extend the influence of Odd-Fellowship, and in the evening of his days, he had the proud satisfaction of seeing that his life long labors had not been altogether in vain.

2.—Since we last assembled our country has been subjected to an invasion by a horde of ruffians styling themselves Fenians, who endeavoured to render our homes desolate, and deprive us of that beneficent system of government under which we have been so abundantly blessed as a people; we have reason to feel proud of the spontaneous response given by all classes of the people, to repel the invaders and drive them back in disgrace from whence they came. How marked a contrast does there exist between the Fenian organization and our own, there is a fellowship in each, but while theirs is avowedly for exciting the worst of human passions, ours is calculated to cement together the kindest feelings of our nature, to succor the widow and orphans to relieve the distressed, and so act under the divine providence of God, as to attain as nearly as possible the summit of human happiness.

On a former occasion my predecessor had the pleasure of submitting to you a communication from Bro. Schuyler Colfax, of Indiana, through whom was transmitted an address to His Excellency Andrew Johnston, President of the U. S., referring to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, late President of the United States. His reply was couched in very complimentary language, and dwelt upon the friendly and brotherly feeling expressed in our letter. I regret to state that I have since learned that this Brother has openly countenanced the Fenian organization, and thus placed himself in a position of antagonism to us, and also to the well known principles of our Order.

3.—On June 5th, in company with P. G., A; Purves, and according to arrangement with D. D. G. M., A. Frew, I paid a visit to Excelsior Lodge, No. 44, Hamilton. This Lodge is one of the