

Grand Secretary the late R. W. Grand Master's Address, given him by Mrs. Boulton, but which she desired to be returned, and therefore he had it copied.

The R. W. requested the Grand Secretary to read the same to the R. W. Grand Lodge, which was received with deep sympathy amidst profound silence.

ADDRESS :

To the Right Worshipful the Grand Orange Lodge of Western Ontario in Grand Lodge assembled :

DEAR BRETHREN,—By the blessing of Divine Providence I am permitted to greet you once more and offer my congratulations on the continued prosperity of our Order.

The year which has passed away has been marked by events some of which afford room for rejoicing, others for regret and prayer that the dark clouds which are lowering on the horizon of our beloved country may soon pass away.

We cannot but view with alarm (no matter to which branch of the great Protestant Church we may chance to belong) the rapid strides which Popery, under the guise of Ritualism, is making in our land. A few short years ago it was a mere speck, no bigger than a man's hand, to-day it overshadows the whole sky and is fast shutting out the light of Protestant truth and bringing back the darkness and superstition of times when those who did not believe as priests told them were delivered over to fire and sword.

So great did the danger appear that zealous and earnest Protestants were constrained to form themselves into an association the better to defend those great Truths which have come down to us from the Reformation, sanctified by the blood of Martyrs, and I much fear that ere peace is restored and men allowed to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences, the bone of contention must be removed by Parliament, and all churches left to the care of God's own people.

We had hoped that persecution had spent itself with the downfall of Rome, but we have had a rude awakening from such a dream ; nine martyrs, ministers of the Protestant Church of England, now stand at the Bar of an Inquisition—and for what crime? Because they have associated themselves with the Judges of our land and other sterling Protestants to preserve the faith once delivered to the Saints, or, as their Inquisitors say, because they are *disturbing* the Church by making a stand for the Bible and for conscience.

One of these victims, the Rev. Alexander Sanson, Rector of Trinity Church, Toronto, has sought shelter from the storm in our ranks, and having passed through the Orange Order has entered the Irish Black Institution of which he is now a Chaplain. Let us stand by him even at the stake, and cheer and comfort him with our prayers for his success in the great conflict in which he and his fellows are engaged on behalf of the Protestant Faith, and the very