

to represent the results of the experience of our predecessors in this Grand Lodge for thirty-three years, engrafted on the code transmitted to us by our ancestors, in the Grand Lodge of England. Now we find ourselves to-day, brethren, in a most enviable position, amongst the Grand Lodges of the world. We are free from internal troubles; our relations with foreign Grand Lodges are satisfactory; the brethren throughout our jurisdiction are loyal, happy and contented; we have an ample benevolent fund at our disposal, which is freely dispensed; and administrative work undertaken by Grand Lodge is, I believe, being well and effectively performed. When we look for the causes of this prosperity, are we not bound to attribute it in large measures to the excellent administrative system, and to the wise laws adapted by our predecessors and now embodied in our book of constitution? I have no hesitation personally in referring much of our success to these causes, and I therefore feel bound to express the hope that the Grand Lodge will, unless there is a clear and well ascertained necessity for change, discountenance all attempts to alter or amend a system which has in the past worked so well and produced such admirable results—that we shall in fact have no tentative legislation.

In accordance with time-honored custom, I propose, as your presiding officer, to invite your attention to a retrospect of the important events affecting our Order, which have occurred during the past year, and to bring before you such matters as I think need your consideration.

I cannot more fitly open this part of my address than by a reference to those brethren who have past away to their rest since last our Grand Lodge met.

Philosophers have told us that death is by no means to be regarded as a calamity—that it is “the Liberator of him whom freedom cannot release; the Physician of him whom medicine cannot cure; and the Comforter of him whom time cannot console.”

The fable of Tithonus, endowed by Aurora with the fatal gift of immortality, staggering beneath the weight of years and infirmity, praying the goddess to recall her fatal gift, and to permit him to return to the dust from whence he sprang, is an illustration of the light in which the Ancients, who had not our hopes and consolation, regarded death.

Truly it may be said, that

“Death is the crown of life;

Were death deny'd, poor men would live in vain.

Were death deny'd, to live would not be life.

Were death deny'd, even fools would wish to die.

As Freemasons we are particularly taught to regard death as the avenue of entrance to a better world; to raise our eyes from the darkness of the grave and to fix them upon the light of the resurrection which shines beyond it—not to sorrow at the grave as men without hope.

Reference was then made to the death of Dr. Rob. V. Morris, of Kentucky, and the following Canadians:—C. D. Macdonnell, P.D.D.G.M., of Ontario District, who died on the 29th July, 1888; C. Doebler, P. G. Steward, who died on the 7th August, 1888; T. B. Bain, P.D.D.G.M., of Wilson District, who died on the 10th November, 1888; J. S. Loomis, P.D.D.G.M., of Prince Edward District, who died on the 28th January, 1889; D. Curtis, P.D.D.G.M., Wilson District, who died on the 18th February, 1889; Robert Robinson, P. G.S.W., who died on the 9th March, 1889, and Henry Bickford, who died on the 23rd April, 1889.

Bro. Walkem then alluded to his visit to British Columbia, and the reception given him by the brethren there and elsewhere, while on that trip. He then referred as follows to the official visitations made by himself during the year:—

I visited Port Arthur on the 21st August, 1888; St. George Lodge, Toronto, on the 7th Dec., 1888; Peter-