

respective degrees. It required the combined "wind" of the whole lodge to straighten the mistakes of these candidates, though we all appreciated it. A most excellent time we had, particularly with the cigar smoke, the result of which was that several of our members have punkas under construction. The Pages were H. K. Esling, J. Krippner, A. Penhart, J. Pendrick, J. McNamara, F. G. Morin, J. Chase, D. M. Campbell, F. C. Campbell, E. Mills, R. B. Graham, W. T. Stewart, E. D. Murphy, Alex. Hector, A. Reith, Wm. Bug, Leo Chameron. Esquires, James Hutson, J. H. Fox, T. T. Henderson and Allan Campbell.

Last Thursday No. 23 witnessed a genuine "rob-letter" meeting. We had eight applications for the rank of Page: one for Esquire, and fourteen for the rank of Knight. Preparatory to the commencement of the evening's work, a delegation from Rossland, No. 24, composed of members of the amplified team, rushed in upon us, and were gladly received with outstretched hands. After conferring the first and second ranks, the entire lodge was given over to the disposal of the Rossland visitors. Lunch was served, after which they proceeded to arrange the hall and themselves. The Monitou, Pythajoras and Senate was exemplified in a commendable style, it being the first amplified work ever seen in this lodge, and to say that we appreciated it is putting it mildly. Our lodge never had a better time, and all the Knights went away expressing their highest appreciation of the reception they had received. The visitors were J. W. Graham, S. C. Davis, Martin Gills, C. W. Lurty, T. Shipley, Chas. Lyke, A. G. Creelman, G. H. Hull and E. M. Grace. They are a fine looking set of fellows and every inch as good as they look, and can work the degree with anyone in the order. We are in hopes that they will soon again visit us, for their splendid ceremonial work will ever remain in our memory as the greatest event that has ever been the lodge's good fortune to witness.

Now, as to you, my honored brothers, who have just been initiated into the mysteries of the order, who know and appreciate its objects, it is unnecessary for me to urge upon you their importance. I may be permitted, however, with great humility, to press upon you the necessity of strictly adhering to its principles. This portion of Pythian's vineyard is committed to our keeping, and oh! may we be enabled to give a good account of our stewardship. We are acting not only for ourselves and country, but for the cause of Pythianism. Men, as we are, and fallible as we must be, subject to many temptations, may divine assistance enable us to avoid them all. May we live together in unity and peace, and may the endeared appellation of brother prove to us something more than a name. May all bickerings and contentions be banished forever from our associations, and may brotherly love always prevail in our lodge.

Next month the True Knight may expect a subscription from each of these members, together with an order for an insertion of our lodge card, which we are glad to say will assist this paper to a little extent, and we sincerely hope that our efforts in extending the same will be appreciated.

We hope True Knights will pardon the writer for using his tongue so extensively this time, but we are actually crazy-happy down here, and wish our sister lodges were in the same mood. I will

now bring this lengthy epistle to a close, but before doing so Trail Lodge wishes me to gratuitously extend to the order at large a merry Christmas and a most prosperous New Year.

Yours in F. C. and B.,
THOMAS E. ABBOTT,
Trail, B. C.

A GRAND MISSION.

Editor True Knight.

Owing to my trip through the Kootenay District I was absent from two of our lodge meetings, and have not much to report from our lodge this time that would prove of general interest to the brother Knights of this province. I will try to make up for it by giving you a short account of my trip. As I stated in your December number Major-General Jas. R. Carnahan commissioned me to muster in Sandon Company, No. 5, U. R. K. of P., and being informed by Bro. G. W. Grimmer that everything was in readiness in Sandon, and that they had set the date of institution for Dec. 8th, I left Vancouver on Wednesday, Dec. 7th, via the C. P. R. Now, as I do not desire to weary your readers with a detailed description of the journey, which has been described time and again by the pen of far more able writers, I will briefly say that after a most pleasant trip I arrived early Thursday morning in Revelstoke, where I had to change trains for Arrowhead: at this place I had to change from the train to the C. P. R. steamer Rossland, from which I landed at Nakusp at 12.30, where I had again to change to the train for Sandon. The train between Nakusp and Sandon is what I would call a go-as-you-please accommodation train, for although it was scheduled to leave at 1.30 it was nearly 2.30 before the train left Nakusp, and while it is only about 40 miles to Sandon it was 5.15 before we arrived at our destination, taking nearly six hours to make the distance of 40 miles. At the depot in Sandon I was welcomed by a large number of brother Knights, who received me with open arms and escorted me to the Hotel Sandon, kept by Bro. Robt. Cuning, and who spared no effort to make me comfortable during my stay in Sandon. After a substantial supper, I was escorted to the Castle Hall, where everything was in readiness for the ceremonies of mustering in the Company. I hereby desire to inform you that Sandon Company, No. 5, was mustered in under the new ritual, and as the same were sent to me by the Major-General as soon as he received them from the printers' hands, this Company was one of the first, if not the first, to be mustered in under the new ritual. The ceremonies concluded, under the command of Capt. Geo. M. Spencer, we were marched to the Hotel Reco, where a banquet was prepared for us fit for a king, the tables being loaded down with all the heart could wish for. After the Knights loyal had done justice to the good things placed before them, our brother Knight loyal, Rev. Sanford, arose and in a very eloquent speech proposed the health of "Our Queen," which was responded to by the whole company rising to their feet and singing "God Save the Queen." Capt. Spencer proposed "Our Guest," to which I responded, thanking the officers and members of Sandon Co., 5, for the honor and the reception accorded me. Knight loyal Culver proposed the "Order of Knights of Pythias," which was answered