

notice, and also knowing the importance of having a proper constitution adopted for our guidance hereafter. The disappointment was also heightened by the absence of the Grand Secretary.

In my capacity of Grand Master, much of my time has been required in keeping up the necessary correspondence with the several Lodges. I have endeavored as promptly as possible to reply to every communication, and have the satisfaction of knowing that no letter has remained in my hands more than a day unanswered. Many of the queries addressed to me were easily answered by reference to the Digest and Laws of the Order presented to me at Baltimore: but few of them required much consideration. I shall not now take occasion to enumerate them, as all my correspondence will be laid before you if thought desirable.

In the choice of D. D. G. Masters made at our first session, I have to congratulate you in having such efficient men of business and brethren so devoted to the interests of the Order. Without wishing to particularize I cannot refrain from speaking of the ready and able assistance rendered me by Br. B. F. VanBrocklin, of Brantford, who upon every occasion has proved himself prompt and energetic in the cause of philanthropy—whose good judgement has guided him in casting oil upon the troubled waters without sacrificing correct principle—he is eminently entitled to your thanks for his good offices. May he ever feel the consciousness of having faithfully discharged his duty, and of having proved himself a good warrior in the crusade against selfishness and vice in which we are engaged.

In consequence of some troubles existing in Victoria Lodge, Caledonia, application was made to D. D. G. Master, Brother VanBrocklin, to visit that Lodge, at that time scarcely able to assemble a sufficient number of members to form a working quorum. He at once suggested a course which I as readily approved of, that they should surrender their old charter and apply for a new one; the new charter was granted, and at the desire of the brethren the name has been changed to Caledonia Lodge No. 27. I am sorry I cannot report to you upon its working. I have the gratification of reporting to you the opening of a new Lodge at Ingersoll, to be known and hailed as *Samaritan* Lodge No. 35; this Lodge was also instituted by Br. Van Brocklin, assisted by the Brantford Brethren, and in its first report we have a good earnest of its future usefulness and success; the papers relating to these new Lodges are now laid before you for your approval.

To our American brethren we are much indebted for assistance, counsel, and advice; upon more than one occasion have we been under obligations to our brethren in Michigan, for the opening of lodges in the Far West and their subsequent instruction. Dr. Smith of Detroit, very kindly undertook the duty for me of opening Lodges, and also instructing our brethren. I shall be glad upon some future occasion to know that we can make some adequate return for the repeated kindness shown us.