

thought that with increase of brethren throughout the country they ought also to see a progressive increase in their charities. The brethren would say he was reading them an oft-told tale, and he believed he had spoken on the same subject before; but it was one he had at heart, and he would never stand up in that hall, or any other Masonic place in the world, without saying a word about charity. He had said before that Her Majesty took great interest in everything that was charitable, and he might say of Freemasons that without charity Freemasonry was nothing. They were a grand and magnificent body, increasing day by day; therefore let them see that their charities increased also day by day. His lordship after again thanking the brethren for the toast they had drank, gave "The Health of the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland," and coupled with it the name of Bro. Laurie, Grand Master of Nova Scotia.

Bro. Laurie, in reply, said he was an old English Mason himself, but had gone abroad in the course of his duties, and at the request of a large number of Masons in one of our colonies, where a new Grand Lodge was lately established, had accepted the position of Grand Master. The matter of forming Grand Lodges had come before the brethren, and finally they came to the conclusion that it was best to encourage it. The R. W. D. G. M. had spoken about the increase of Masonry at home. He (Bro. Laurie) could tell them a great deal about the increase of Masonry on the other side of the Atlantic. It had been his duty and his pleasure to visit Grand Lodges in America. He had seen 8,000 in one State of the Union, and 25,000 present at the dedication of a Masonic temple. That was in one State, the State of New York, and the other States had something like a proportionate number. Masonry was strong and very progressive on that side of the Atlantic. Referring also to the fact of recognizing Colonial Grand Lodges, it was, he believed, following the policy which was politically followed by our government in giving self-government to the colonies. Instead of being opposed to the mother country they felt that they had the hearts of Englishmen, and they were a group of children growing round their parent, and willing to take a share when need be in the burdens of the Empire. And so it was Masonically and in the Grand Lodge over which he had the honor to preside, the lodges held fast to the register of the Grand Lodge of England; they had their number from their own Grand Lodge, but they preferred more—he was staking his own authority when he said so—the number they held on the register of England. He could only say he should do his best to keep them to that duty. With that view, with their desire to build up Masonry, to perpetuate in English colonies the holding fast their allegiance to England, our Queen and our old country, as Masons as well as citizens, they would always strive.

Bro. W. W. Beech, M. P., proposed the toast of "The G. Wardens and other Grand Officers, Past and Present." It marked a auspicious era in the annals of Freemasonry when the Royal Princes were appointed as Grand Wardens of Grand Lodge. He hoped it would be an incentive to additional interest on their part in Masonry. He would say "May Freemasonry flourish under their auspices." They had been told the great English Princes were promoters of the Order; but never he thought in the more palmy days of Freemasonry were two Princes made in one day recipients of office in Grand Lodge. He trusted that those appointments would have one effect at least on the outer world, and particularly that section of it who were traducers of the order, might be convinced that there could be nothing very essentially mischievous in a society of which the Heir Apparent was placed at the head, and in which two of his brothers were glad and proud to take high office. Let the brethren then drink their health with all enthusiasm. As they were un-