

Bro. Spry read the following reply to the address:—

REPLY.

R. W. Bro. Robert Ramsay, W. M. Thorne Lodge, No. 231, G. R. C., Orillia:—

R. W. SIR AND BRETHREN,—It is with more than ordinary pleasure that I visit your lodge in my official capacity this evening, and receive the hearty welcome which you have been pleased to extend to me and the brethren who accompany me.

I am fully aware of the great difficulties you have had to contend against in removing to Orillia your lodge that had been in a weak state for a considerable time, but it reflects the greatest credit upon your members for the zeal and efficiency which they have shown under their able guidance, in placing your lodge, and Masonry generally, in such a high state and in so short a period. I have heard of the more than ordinary care which has been exercised in the admission of members, and am gratified to know that the strict guard which has been kept on the ballot box, has resulted in having only those upon your Member Roll that are an honor and a credit to the fraternity. In a lodge composed so largely of young and zealous brethren, I am sure there is an honest desire to practice Masonry as it is taught to all those who enter our portals. May you ever keep in view the principles of the craft, brotherly love, relief, and truth. Brotherly love in forgiving those who may traduce you, and in exercising the kindest regard and deepest interest in your brother's welfare. Relief, in extending to him aid and assistance in the dark hour of his adversity, and Truth, by defending his fair name on all and every occasion when envious tongues assail him, or malice traduces him. And guard well your own expressions, avoid giving offence to others, and be slow to take offence yourselves. We are all engaged in the same great work,—the elevation of our fellow-men,—and let us see to it that we perform our whole duty, with honor to the craft and credit to ourselves.

I am indeed gratified to meet you this evening with the many friends and brethren who surround me, for two reasons; first, because it is particularly pleasing to find that your lodge has made such great progress in so short a time; and secondly, because I personally desire to do honor to you, R. W. Sir, my friend and co-worker in the broad field of masonic labor, where there is room enough for all, even if they are not of the same school of thought, and do not always agree as husbandmen as to the methods of performing their allotted task.

I am afraid, R. W. Sir and Brother, that your generous feelings have prompted you to think too highly of my official conduct,

and to place too great a value upon my labors. As my term of office will soon expire, it is a source of more than ordinary pride to me personally to receive such a flattering expression of opinion so near the end of my official career. That the G. A. O. T. U. may ever guide, protect, and bless you, and those near and dear to you, is my earnest wish.

Bros. Rogers and Morgan then sang a vocal duett,—“On the Field of Glory.”

Bro. J. L. Tipping next gave a charming harp solo, followed by Bro. Barraud's song,—“Sailing,”—which fairly brought down the house.

The next toast,—“The Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge of Canada,” was responded to by R. W. Bro. Henry Robertson, Past District Deputy Grand Master, and V. W. Bro. R. L. Patterson, Grand Director of Ceremonies, G. L. C.

R. W. Bro. Robertson, after expressing the pleasure he felt in being here to do honor to “Our Chief,” and pointing out how he had worked with him in almost every branch of Freemasonry, and every Committee of Grand Lodge, he could not help saying that he thought the marked change, and “the thorough business system” adopted now by G. L. was principally due to his energy and business habits. He congratulated his friend, the Worshipful Master, on, what to him, appeared the “entirely unparalleled success of Thorne Lodge,” and wished it a continued prosperity.

V. W. Bro. Patterson, in a short speech, (for which he fully made up by two excellent recitations), which he kindly gave later on in the evening, viz.:—“A September Gale,” and “Santiago;” referred to the “Progress of the Craft,” under the rule of Grand Master Spry. He gave great praise to the brethren of Thorne for their work.

Bro. J. C. Morgan then gave one of his delightful piano solos, followed by “I heard a spirit dream,” by Bro. G. Smith. The last toast by the Chairman was “The Worshipful Masters