

ROYAL ARCH.

The Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada, held its Annual Convocation at Kingston, commencing on Wednesday, the 13th inst., the representatives from fifty Chapters being present.

ADDRESS

*To the Most Excellent the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada,*

GREETING :

COMPANIONS :—

Excuse me, I pray you, for commencing this address on the anniversary of my election to the office of your Grand Z., by an allusion to that election. Conscientiously, can I say, that during a masonic career extending now over thirty years, my truest masonic pleasure has been derived from listening to instruction imparted, and in the course of time endeavoring to impart the same in the quiet and familiar haunts of lodge and chapter, apart from any seeking to attain those higher honors in the craft which combine the responsibility of official administration with the distinction of official position. Under these circumstances, and having generally and openly enunciated such sentiments on leaving Grand Chapter for a time on urgent business at its last annual convocation, my election, during my absence, to fill the chair, from which I now address you, while inspiring in the first instance, an inclination of grateful withdrawal, I felt, on reflection, implied an expression of confidence so exceptional, as to leave me no option, no right to allow private considerations to interfere with my placing my services, so kindly regarded and so generously required, entirely at your disposal; and I trust the year that has passed has witnessed no diminution, at all events, in the zeal that has characterized the previous occupants of the chair, and to whose eminent services the Grand Chapter of Canada is so largely and lastingly indebted.

ADDRESS AND TESTIMONIAL TO M. E. COMP. HARRINGTON, P. G. Z.

I turn, in almost necessary connection with the foregoing remarks, to the distinguished Companion whose voluntary retirement, after an incumbency of eleven years, alone created the opening for a change in the presidency of Grand Chapter.—In carrying out the trust enjoined by the resolution of Grand Chapter, of preparing and tendering to M. E. Comp. Thomas Douglas Harrington, P. G. Z., “an address, accompanied by an appropriate testimonial,” it has been the pleasure of the Grand Council to endeavour to indicate “the high regard entertained for our M. E. Companion, and the eminent services he has rendered to capitular masonry,” and I now embody herein copies of the address, the inscription on the testimonial, and the reply of the esteemed recipient, which I feel sure will be carefully cherished as valued memorials in the archives of Grand Chapter.

(ADDRESS.)

“To M. E. Companion

THOMAS DOUGLAS HARRINGTON, P. G. Z., &c., &c., &c.

*Most Excellent Sir and Companion,—*

The Grand Chapter of Canada desire, on your voluntary relinquishment of the Sceptre of Grand Z., to present you with an expression, however inadequate, of the sentiments with which your retirement, after the administration, for the extended term of eleven years, of the highest office in their gift, is universally regarded.

They are sentiments of the highest personal esteem, the result of personal intercourse and communication, which has been characterized by the kindest freedom from all unnecessary reserve, the most genuine courtesy, and the truest friendship.

They are sentiments, at the same time, of the fullest recognition of the dignity which the public administration of so high an office demands, and has always received at your hands, in your presidency over their deliberations, and your official intercourse with Grand Bodies and their rulers.

They are sentiments of further recognition of the most unwearied care in considering, and a mature judgment never questioned by Grand Chapter in ruling, on the numerous questions and matters submitted to you in the interest of capitular masonry.

They are sentiments of congratulation to yourself on having fulfilled so high a trust with such marked honor.

They are sentiments of regret that even honor is accompanied by an official burden, which having been long sustained, must inevitably be relinquished.