

Spry, Past Grand Master, and the Sovereign Sanctuary by M. Ill. Bro. Daniel Rose, Grand Master General.

The Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of the Royal and Select Masters of Canada, issued the following circular to the members of the Order:

DEAR SIR AND RT. ILL. COMP:—It is with feelings of deep regret that I announce to you the demise of our Most Illustrious Companion, Robert Ramsay, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Canada. This sad event took place in this city on Monday evening, the 4th instant; the cause, heart disease. At one moment our beloved companion seemed in perfect health, the next, the pallid messenger who approaches with silent foot-fall beckoned him to come, and our friend, brother and companion had passed into the Beyond—to the shore of that mysterious sea that never yet has borne on any wave the shadow of a returning sail. We bow our heads in grief and mourn his loss.

"The path of sorrow, and that path alone,
Leads to the lands where sorrow is unknown."

Our companion as a man, a citizen and brother, had all those qualities which endears a man to men, and his presence will be sadly missed from our counsels. His ready pen, which for the past quarter of a century has brightened the pages of almost every Masonic publication in the world, will answer his will no more. His fund of knowledge, gained by years of study and reading, always at the disposal of his brethren, will enrich the minds of the brethren he has left behind, and the interest he was wont to take in our fraternal gatherings makes his loss to us one that words cannot express.

The Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master, E. H. Raymour, of St. Thomas, will assume the functions of the Grand Master until the next annual election, and all communications for him should be sent to his address at St. Thomas, Ont.

Yours fraternally,

J. ROSS ROBERTSON, *Grand Recorder.*

A MASONIC PARLIAMENTARIAN.

BY BRO. ROB MORRIS.

The Speaker of the New York House of Representatives, Governor Husted, was a Past Grand Master in the olden time, and in his day one of the best disciplinarians the Grand Lodge of New York ever had. When elected Speaker, he found himself in a place where his former training seemed to be of little use. He hammered his desk until he broke various handles, fractured much ivory, and mutilated the mahogany before him to an alarming extent. Upon one occasion, the whole House was in a ferment over some inexplicable question of parliamentary usage, and the patience of Bro. Husted was quite worn. It occurred to him, instinctively, to tune the Masonic notation. He rose solemnly and struck his desk with three distinct knocks! Naturally, every member who was a Freemason rose up. So many of them were there, that the other members naturally followed their example. Amidst the profoundest silence, the Speaker looked around as though about to communicate a piece of his will and pleasure, and then, without uttering a word, gave one knock and sat down. The House seated itself with the precision of a thunder-clap. After that Bro. Husted found less difficulty in keeping order.

A writer in the *Albany Evening Journal* enlarges upon Speaker Husted's use of the gavel, declaring that "he understands it as no one else does; as if he was born with one, or had a gavel given to him at the age when other babies get their rattles. He does not hammer with