

interest in the prosperity of the Craft. Saint John's Lodge is now nearly a century old, is one of our most prosperous Lodges and without a link being missing has come down to the present time, through the Anti-Masonic persecution of 1826 to 1836, when many Lodges on this continent went down. When I had the privilege of being made a mason, now nearly half a century ago, Saint John's Lodge was only recovering from that vile persecution. The total number of affiliated masons then on the Island being some eighteen, and the funds in a low condition. For sixty years (save a few years of the existence of Sussex Lodge) Saint John's Lodge was the only Lodge on the Island, Victoria, No. 2, being organized in 1857.

I am also pleased to note that among the distinguishable features of the Craft in this jurisdiction, is the disposition in the brotherhood to reduce its beautiful precepts to practice. None of these have higher claims than of visiting the sick, sympathizing with and aiding those upon whom disease has laid its heavy hand; and as funds are often required, it is to be regretted that we are not in a position to set apart annually a sum for charitable purposes. Cannot something be done in this direction? Would it not be advisable to appoint a committee to report on this subject at our next annual communication?

There is another subject that should engage the attention of this Grand Lodge. I allude to non-affiliated Masons. Some action should be taken with the view of inducing them to return to their first love; it should be distinctly understood that no brother has a right to the charities or privileges of the Craft, who withdraws from the Fraternity, and does not in any way contribute to its support when he has the ability to do so.