

the maintenance of those fraternal relations which should characterize the whole family of Grand Lodges throughout the world. To myself, personally, (being an honorary member of the Grand Orient of France) this difficulty is matter of deep regret, and I do sincerely trust that that August Body may see its way clear to a speedy and honorable restoration of amicable relations with the Grand Lodge of Louisiana.

On the 25th of March last, addresses of congratulation were transmitted, on behalf of the Craft of Nova Scotia, to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen and our illustrious Brother His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, on the merciful recovery of His Royal Highness from recent dangerous illness.

The foregoing is a brief synopsis of my official doings during the past year. In all other matters affecting the general interests and progress of the Craft throughout the Province, I would respectfully refer Grand Lodge to the reports of the several Committees having such matters in charge, and would fraternally bespeak for the same your earnest and careful consideration. To the report of the Committee on the benevolent fund I would especially recommend the attention of Grand Lodge, being very desirous that such measures should be adopted as would lead to the formation and sustentation of such a fund as would be alike creditable to the liberality of this body and beneficial in promoting the great object of our charitable institution.

During the year just closed, the hand of death has removed from our midst some of our dearly beloved brethren and most faithful fellow laborers, whose names will duly appear in the published obituary. All these brethren, having "passed on before" in the prime and vigor of manhood, forcibly reminds us that "here we have no continuing city," and exhorts us to "work while it is called to-day," exemplifying in our daily walk and conversation those great Masonic principles which mark us as candidates for the "Grand Lodge above."

With devout hearts let us therefore, Brethren, one and all, whilst paying an affectionate tribute to the memory of the departed, offer up our grateful thanks to the Divine goodness which has so mercifully spared us to come together once more, "in the bonds of Love, Peace, and Harmony," and let us pray that our deliberations at this time may be conducted by such enlightened zeal and fraternal love as shall conduce to the highest good, and best results generally, to the Craft throughout this jurisdiction.

Finally, beloved Brethren, having, as already stated, through the kind Providence of our Grand Master above, arrived at the advanced age of 77 years, it is not probable, according to the ordinary course of nature, that my connection with you as Grand Master can be of much longer duration; and the present may not improbably be the last