

THE WINTER FESTIVAL.

Tuesday, December 27, 1887, will soon come round, and at the forthcoming regular meetings, the lodges throughout the Dominion will generally consider and decide how they will celebrate the festival of St. John the Evangelist.

We trust the celebration will be general. Lodges cannot well afford to omit it. How best to celebrate this Winter Solstitial Festival, must of course, be left to each lodge to decide for itself,—but whatever the manner, let it largely be of a thoroughly Masonic character, and not, as is sometimes the case, wholly secular; and especially wherever it is practicable, let these festivities be graced by the presence of the ladies! and thus do much towards helping to eradicate from feminine minds, the tolerably well grounded idea that there exists too much of Masonic masculine selfishness somewhere.

May the forthcoming festival be general and joyous, with kindly remembrances of "auld lang syne," the bountiful blessings of the present, and with hopeful anticipations of future happiness and prosperity; and above all, may divine "Charity" visit the sick, the poor and the needy.

The progress of Cosmopolitan Freemasonry in the United States is without a parallel in the history of the Craft throughout the world. Genuine Freemasonry is the bulwark of human freedom everywhere and is a main-stay in the support of all enlightened states. May the time soon come when "man to man the world o'er, shall brothers be and a' that."

A. & A. S. RITE.

The Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, 33°, for the Dominion, assembled in annual session at Montreal, on the 19th inst,

Illustrious Brother J. V. Ellis, of St. Johns, N. B., Sovereign Grand Commander, presided. There were also present Ill. Bros. J. W. Murton, of Hamilton, Lt. Grand Commander; Hugh Murray, Secretary-General; Daniel Spry, Barrie, Grand Chancellor; Wm. Reid, Hamilton, Grand Master of Ceremonies; I. Henry Stearns, Montreal, Grand Marshal, and David McLellan, Grand Captain of the Guard. There were also present as visitors—Ill. Bros. Geo. O. Tyler, King, Bascom, Tracy, &c. There were several regretted absences of 32nds and 33rds from Quebec, Ontario and elsewhere.

S. G. C. Ellis delivered a very able and interesting address which we purpose laying before our readers in our next issue.

We wish the A. & A. S. Rite abundant success throughout the Dominion and we anticipate for it much prosperity under broad-minded, enlightened and efficient management. The Rite is capable of doing a great amount of good. We hope to see more of our ablest craftsmen among its active and honorary 33rds.

We give an article this month, furnished us by Bro. Rob. Morris. He writes us that his health is very greatly mended, and that he has given the summer in his Kentucky home to throwing into shape the mass of materials long collecting, for an annotated edition of Burns' poems.