

MASONIC GREETING TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

At the recent meeting of the Grand Chapter, the following greeting was sent to our beloved Queen:—

BROCKVILLE, 15th July, 1887.

To Her Majesty the Queen.

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada, in annual convocation assembled, send their respectful and loyal congratulations to your Majesty on the successful celebration of your jubilee year. Long may you reign over a loyal, happy, contended and prosperous people.

ROBERT HENDRY, JR.,
Kingston, Grand Z.
DAVID McMILLAN,
Hamilton, Grand Scribe E.

To which the following has been received:—

Office of the Governor-General's Secretary, Canada.

OTTAWA, 16th August, 1887.

SIR.—I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor-General, to convey to you on behalf of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Canada, the Queen's thanks for the loyal congratulations contained in their telegram. I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

CHARLES J. JONES,
For the Gov.-Gen. Sec.

The Grand Scribe, Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Hamilton.

MASONIC ARBITRATION. — Inherent and inalienable rights cannot be made subjects of arbitration.

K. T. PEERS.—H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, Grand Master of Convent General; the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, K. T., U. S. A., and the Grand Master of the Great Priory K. T. of the Dominion of Canada, are officially K. T. Peers.

THOUGHTS ON THE NATURE OF FREEMASONRY.

WHAT IT IS, AND WHAT IT IS NOT.

BY GIFFORD HORACE GREELEY M'GREW.

When one considers the ideas that still prevail in many quarters concerning the nature of our Fraternity and the ceremonies of initiation into its mysteries, it would seem that a plain though brief statement of what Freemasonry is, might not be a useless task.

No doubt there are very many people who seriously believe in the reality of the traditional goat and his various reputed gambolings, who have a firm conviction that every candidate for Masonry is obliged to climb a greased pole, or, on failure thereof, to feel the end of a hot poker applied to his naked body, who candidly and honestly believe that every Mason carries with him, on some part of his person, the peculiar "brand" of the Institution. Then there are others who, while not placing any reliance in these stories, yet believe that they are but the exaggerations of what does really take place. They are sure in their own minds that some trick would be played on them, if they should become candidates. In fact, I know of one man (and no doubt many other similar instances might be adduced), who entered a lodge with such feelings of foreboding that at almost every step he would turn quickly, as if to surprise some one in the act of springing upon him or striking him from behind.

And so the misconceptions pass through the various gradations, from the grossest and most superstitious to the more refined, but just as erroneous, of the man who thinks the whole thing is a good joke and that every Mason is ashamed to acknowledge how he has been sold, and so helps to perpetuate the Institution in order that he may get his revenge for the outrage perpetrated upon himself by