

ers upon it, as we can only aim at moderate relief for present necessities.

I therefore lay down the following as a good and sufficient basis to operate.

THE GRAND LODGE BENEVOLENT FUND AND TRUSTEES.

1. There shall be set apart annually by the Grand Lodge, beginning with the present session, ten per cent. of its income to be added to the sums already voluntarily contributed and voted in response to the Grand Master's appeal.

2. There shall be a Board of Trustees, consisting of three members, called Trustees of the benevolent fund, who shall be appointed by the Grand Master, and shall hold their office three years.

3. At the present session of the Grand Lodge, the G. M. shall appoint one Trustee for one year, one for two years, and one for three years, and they can appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer. This fund shall be loaned by the Trustees at interest, on first Mortgages on improved Prince Edward Island farms of at least double the value of the amount loaned or invested in the Dominion, Provincial or City bonds legally issued, and they shall make an annual report to the Grand Lodge.

The above is a sufficient working basis to quiet the fears of anyone disposed to cavil, as the chief requirement is to procure the fund, husband it and increase it, until the annuity arising therefrom can be disbursed to supplement the benevolence of the Lodge and its members. The succeeding Grand Lodge sessions will doubtless as experience and wisdom may determine, require to define the manner of receiving applications for relief; but until the sum invested is sufficient to produce an annuity large enough to meet our requirements, I deem it premature to define particulars. Our first concern is to get the fund and increase it. It is an easy matter to take care of it, provided willing and harmonious hearts will make a good pull, a strong pull and a pull altogether in aid of this

much desired fund, to strengthen the corner stone of Masonry (charity) in this Province.

The command "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven," should ever be the watchword of Masons. A neglect of the great Masonic light, has led to a fearful departure from the truth, has brought our institution under adverse remarks. The formation of character is each one's own work, the persons with whom one associates, the books that are read, as well as the advantages for education to which one has access, all have an influence in moulding and fashioning the souls of men. Masons may use their talents and thus increase them, or like the slothful servant may bury them in the earth. As a Grand Lodge we should be up and doing, and lay a good foundation for those who come after us to continue the work already begun. The splendid and beautiful example of sister jurisdictions is an object lesson for us to arise and take courage.

The Grand Master touched on the question of "Sovereignty," and the still more burning question of "Unaffiliated Masons," "Ritual," and a "Library," and wound up his able address as follows:—

In conclusion, I have to thank you one and all for the consideration and support which you gave me during the year, in the discharge of my official duties. A manifest progress has been made during the year. In addition to the symbolic degrees and Capitular degrees, we have now the Cryptic and Knights Templar, and I trust ere long we shall have a Lodge of Perfection in this jurisdiction, so that it will not be necessary for young and progressive Masons to leave the jurisdiction to obtain those degrees that are now universally acknowledged as legitimate degrees in Masonry. The baton of authority which you placed in my hands, I now return to you. Doubtless you will notice errors, many by commission and omission, but I ask