

Lodge of England as St. John's Lodge, No. 579, and which grew so rapidly, that they were able to spare from their ranks, a sufficient number of worthy brethren to organize a second lodge, named "Avalon Lodge," No. 1078, on the same registry, and I am happy to say, that the utmost cordiality and harmony has subsisted between the two lodges, since their formation, till the present time. The Masons of Newfoundland, can boast of as fine a lodge room as you will find in any of the Provinces, and in fact a finer one than many lodges have. It may appear to some, that the number of members is small, but this is to be accounted for by the fact that the population of Newfoundland is ever changing, and that many who reside there at present, will (taking the past as a criterion,) in a year or two have taken up their residence elsewhere, and thus many a good mason is lost to the Craft in Newfoundland, while it is represented by these birds of passage, in almost every portion of the Globe. The evil of non-affiliation, too, does a good deal in reducing the numerical strength of the lodges. Masonry, there too, as elsewhere, meets opposition from the head of the Roman Catholic church, although the Pope is a mason; and even the Bishop of the Church of England will not suffer the brethren to perform their burial service at the grave of a deceased brother, and I have seen the brethren accompany the remains of a departed brother to its last resting place, and silently and sorrowfully drop their evergreen into his grave,—this being the only tribute they were allowed to pay his memory in the cemetery of the Church of England. This latter fact will appear strange no doubt to the Masons of Canada, when they remember that we have as brethren Archbishops as well as Bishops of the Church of England.

The first D. P. G. M. for the Island was a worthy Brother Frazer, who having been a year or two in office, left the colony for Australia, and the office was then worthily and well filled by the late much lamented D. P. G. M. Patrick Tasker, who for years as Master and Grand Master had dispensed light and knowledge to his less informed brethren, and so much was he beloved, that men came from 100 miles distance to attend his funeral, which was such a procession as was never witnessed in the Island before or since; and still the memory of Patrick Tasker the Good, lives in the hearts of those who experienced his widely dispensed charity, and of those who found his ear never deaf to the tale of want, nor his hand slack to relieve it. His portrait adorns the Lodge Room, and was procured by the brethren at an expense of about \$500. Thanks to his liberality, St. John's Lodge possesses a Library of all the standard works of the Craft, which boon is justly prized by every member of the Lodge, and affords to the studious mason an opportunity to satisfy his thirst for knowledge. His name is likely to be long remembered for another reason, viz:—The establishment of "The Tasker Education Fund," which institution was originated with the idea of perpetuating his memory by educating the orphans of deceased Master Masons who died or may die in full connection with the Lodge, and whose children might otherwise be deprived of education. Is it not a source of satisfaction for a worthy brother to know that the future welfare of those near and dear to him will be looked to when he is no longer near to assist them? As regards the success of this effort I may say that some two years ago the committee of man-

agement of the fund reported that some fourteen children were being educated by them. Some few months after the burial of D. P. G. M. Tasker, the Craft assembled and marched in procession to erect a column to mark where the remains of the good man now lay, which interesting ceremony was performed according to ancient form and custom by his successor in office, the Hon. James S. Clift, the present D. P. G. M.

In connection with one Lodge there is a fund of benevolence to relieve ordinary cases which do not call for taking up a subscription from the whole body. The latter course is, however, often resorted to, for this committee never has any large amount on hand, so many are the demands made on it, especially as it is entirely supported by the lodge devoting half the amount of moneys received as monthly dues. It is gratifying to be able to state that the charity of the Newfoundland Masons is of an extended kind, of which I could name many an example, and never does the worthy distressed brother seek in vain for relief, which fact can be corroborated to some extent by any visitor reading the acknowledgements of the Lodges whose members have been thrown on their iron-bound shores by shipwreck or other calamities. Nor do they forget the aged or infirm brother or the widow and orphans, as each receives a share of their care and attention.

Several of the brethren, who have distinguished themselves by their assiduity, have received substantial and gratifying testimonials of the esteem of the Craft, among whom I may notice Past Masters Goldsmith and N. S. Stabb.

Their work of making, passing and raising is well done, and the candidate feels that there is something sublime and awfully grand in Masonry; and I can safely say that wherever T. G. A. O. T. U. may direct my lot, memory will frequently carry me back to the pleasant hours of intercourse I enjoyed among my brethren of Newfoundland. May they long continue to show forth in all their splendour, those truly masonic ornaments, Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

COSMOPOLITE.

December, 5866.

P. S. Since writing the above, I have received a Newfoundland paper, dated 28th November, containing the following under the head of

MASONIC.

"OPENING OF A NEW LODGE.—A meeting was held in the Masonic Hall of this town, on Thursday evening last, the 22nd inst., when a lodge was formed, bearing the name of Tasker, No. 454, and under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. The Right Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England, (Hon. James S. Clift,) being in attendance, duly installed the following brethren, according to ancient form and custom, as the first office bearers, viz:—

Right W. M., Bro. W. J. Parsons; Senior Warden, Bro. J. N. Finlay; Junior Warden, Bro. T. McKenzie; Treasurer, Bro. J. McL. Muir; Secretary, Bro. W. A. Marrett; Senior Deacon, Bro. G. Dicks; Junior Deacon, Bro. A. Martin; Stewards, Bros G. Gillespie and W. I. McKenzie; Inner Guard, Bro. H. Snow; Tyler, Bro. W. Smith.

This lodge has been formed in honor of the late Patrick Tasker, Esq., a gentleman who, while he lived, was highly respected in this community, and was a most enthusiastic mason. It has our warmest wishes for its success.