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AN ADDRESS, &c.

COMPANIONS,

THE Annual period for assembling the *Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter*, having elapsed by mistake, is the reason for my calling you together at this unusual, though I hope not inconvenient season of the year. Besides the incident alluded to, the Council expected to have been able to have laid before you some interesting information from the *Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of England*. It is with regret I have to state that this information has not arrived.

I cannot however meet you on the present occasion without congratulating the companions present, as well as the members of the Craft generally, on the auspicious prospects of our institution in the Province.

The connection formed, and completed by the exertions of the *Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master*, and the able administration of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, in procuring the subordinate Lodges acknowledged by the *United Grand Lodge of England*, is a circumstance peculiarly favourable to the interests of Free Masonry, as it has not only already procured for the Lodges a high degree of countenance and respectability, but bids fair to raise our Ancient and venerable institution to that eminence among the various modern institutions of the present age of benevolence, and which have been so singularly blessed by Divine Providence in diffusing the light of truth, and ameliorating the afflicted condition of the human family. Assembled as we now are, surrounding this sacred altar, and linked in the bonds of fraternal love, what fervour of devotion—what sentiments of gratitude should rise to the Divine Author of our being! for filling our cup with the richness of His goodness. And what a glow of sacred charity should be excited in our