

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

DEATH OF THE GRAND MASTER.

ANOTHER of our brightest Masonic luminaries has been quenched in the night of death. Less than six months ago it was our melancholy task to announce the translation of our late lamented brother the Grand Secretary, from this mortal to an immortal sphere; and now it becomes our sad duty to chronicle the departure to the Grand Lodge above, of the Most Worshipful Brother William Mercer Wilson, of Simcoe, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada. Those who participated in the ceremonies, on the occasion of the interment of Bro. Harris, will remember the prominent part taken in them by Bro. Colonel Wilson, in his capacity of Grand Master. He was then in the enjoyment of good health, with the apparent prospect of a long continuance of the same, but a few months later he was taken down with a severe, yet not dangerous illness, which, however, terminated fatally on the morning of the sixteenth of last month. The Craft has lost one of its brightest ornaments in Ontario, and the fraternity a shining light, whose large experience, sound judgment, and just decisions commended him as a Masonic authority of the highest order. His services to Masonry have been great, and are fully appreciated, though they can never be adequately rewarded, for no man could have done more to advance its interests. He was among the first to aid in the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Canada; and so highly were his services at that time regarded, that he was chosen the first occupant of the Oriental Chair, which he held uninterruptedly for several years. In 1850 he was permitted to retire, and chosen again in 1866, holding the position for two years, which he only relinquished on account of acceptance of office under the government. Five years later he was again elected, and finally, at the Annual Communication in July last. The interest the late Grand Master manifested in the advancement of Freemasonry was such as to entail upon him much arduous labor, but he never faltered, on the contrary, he was most indefatigable in the work. He visited most of the United States Grand Lodges, with a view to whatever improvement could be effected in our own, and likewise devoted a great deal of time to an examination into the working of the lodges throughout what were then the two Provinces of Canada. His efforts were crowned with the greatest success, and the result was not merely a further accession to the ranks, but an infusion of greater vitality into the Masonic bodies generally.

The late Grand Master was initiated in St. John's Lodge, Simcoe, on the 11th June, 1840, and elected Junior Warden in the same year, reaching the Master's Chair in 1842, and filling the same at intervals for ten years. Exalted to the sublime degree of a Royal Arch Mason in the Hiram Chapter, Hamilton, he was, on the revival of the Provincial Grand Lodge, under patent issued by the Grand Lodge of England, R. W. Bro. Sir Allan Napier Macnab being Grand Master, appointed Grand Pursuivant, and officiated as Grand Orator at the laying of the cornerstone of the St. Catharines Town Hall, in 1848. When the Grand Chapter was organized, in 1857, he was elected First Principal. In 1862 he was installed Knight Companion of the Order of Knights Templars in the *Richard Coeur de Lion*, at London, Ontario. On the 21st October, 1864, he was enregistered as a Knight of Malta, and subse-