

# THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN,

AND  
MASONIC RECORD.

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## RETROSPECTIVE.

Under this heading, M. W. Bro. John Headley Bell, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, thus eloquently discourses in his address at the recent communication of that Grand Body:—

"It is well at times to pause and consider our ways. We should sometimes review the past and make careful estimate of the present, to the end that better progress and larger attainment be assured for the future. Thus the merchant takes an account of stock, makes investigation of his business, and reckons up the gains or losses to which he has been subject. Thus the shipmaster takes a daily observation that he may ascertain the distance which has been sailed over, the course that has been kept and his present position. Individually. It is our duty to take frequent observations, that we may know just where we are, what we have been doing, whither we are tending. The retrospect cheers or pains us as a calm reflection upon our conduct shall convince us whether we have striven to perform well and wisely in our respective stations what was given us to do, or whether we have not left undone the actual duties incumbent on us. When we are about to cross one of those lines by which time is divided into annual periods, it is natural to halt, to send a glance backward over the way that has been

travelled, while some thoughts are evoked in regard to present condition and future prospects.

• Just now, as a Masonic Grand Lodge, we are crossing one of those suggestive lines. It is appropriate, then, that we take a retrospective glance over the ten years of our past history. In doing so, we shall find abundant cause for congratulation in the progress made and the position now held by the craft.

At our organization in May, 1875, a pamphlet of ten pages was sufficient to record our proceedings; last year it required seventy-eight for the same purpose. There were then but three lodges in this jurisdiction, with 208 members, and the receipts of the Grand Lodge for the first year were \$981.75.

On the 11th of February, 1880, when I was elected to the Grand East our numbers had increased to ten warranted lodges and one lodge under dispensation, with 360 members, with \$446.95 of Grand Lodge revenue, an increase during the first five years of eight lodges, 157 members and \$115.20 of receipts. During the five years that I have had the honor to preside as your Grand Master, our numbers have increased to 28 warranted lodges, with 1,246 members, and \$1,698.21 of Grand Lodge receipts, an increase in the five years of 20 lodges, 886 members, and