

cordial manner in which the right hand of fellowship was extended to me by all present, from the youngest member of the Lodge up to the venerable founder of the Order in America, P. G. Sire, Thomas Wildey, who with a firm English grasp, welcomed his youngest son from the North, will not readily be forgotten.

Until our Charter was confirmed I was not entitled to a seat, but by courteous vote of the Grand Lodge, the Representative from Nova Scotia and myself were admitted to the floor of that R. W. body. There were present upon this occasion Representatives from the luxurious South, the cold regions of the North, the enterprising hardy sons of the West, and the not less distinguished wisdom of the East; a phalanx of warriors armed with the glorious weapons of our Order, *Friendship, Love, and Truth*, and ready to stand forth in the strife in which our brotherhood is engaged—the cause of unselfish, generous benevolence—the cause of common Philanthropy—ignoring all party and political views, and endeavouring to unite all in a cause in which honesty of purpose is a prominent characteristic, a bond of union which requires not traditional lore to give antiquity to its origin, for in all ages those alone have been the recognised *Odd Fellows* who have proved themselves to be *honest men*.

Many of the deliberations of the Grand Lodge were of great importance, and I have already laid before the Lodges in this jurisdiction copies of the minutes of the last communication, from which you will have learned what was done. The financial condition of the Order occupied much attention, and in this connexion I may appropriately introduce to you the subject of vital statistics: this subject has deservedly engrossed much deliberation, and where parties are desirous of making ends meet, it is of manifest importance that our expenditure should be closely regulated by the income as well as the probable casualties we have in the human course of events to expect. I would particularly direct your attention to the able reports of the M. W. Grand Sire, and the R. W. G. Secretary. To both these officers we are greatly indebted for their warm interest in our branch of the Order, and to them personally I feel under many obligations. Referring to their flattering notice of our proceedings, I need only express a hope that we may in time to come prove ourselves worthy of the trust reposed in us—that we may guard, as the apple of our eye, the jewel confided to our care.

It was an occasion of no small regret to me, that I was unable to be present at the short session held in Brantford; the reasons of my non-attendance are known to most of you, and it was quite out of my power to leave home at that time, having been so recently away from my private duties and engagements. I regret it the more from the known and tried worth of the Brethren of Gore Lodge, whose acquaintance I had previously made, and whose services to the Order I shall have occasion presently to