

with comfortable homes, their children educated and reared up to honorable stations, their own hearts cheered and comforted by the blessed influence of Masonry! To you ladies, are given all the advantages of the society, its protection, its hand of relief, its voice of sympathy, while it does not require of you any of the labor or expense of sustaining it. The only privilege denied you is that of visiting the Lodge, and this could be of no advantage to you, if it were possible to grant it. But, ladies, do not anticipate me and suppose I am going to say it is because you are unable to keep a secret. Not so; you are excluded simply because the same necessity does not exist with you for the controlling influence of Masonry as with the sterner sex. Our rugged passions need discipline to keep them within due bounds and to develop those pure feelings of our nature which cause us to sympathize with the distressed and relieve their wants. Woman needs no art to be able to subdue her passions, to urge her to deeds of charity, her ear being ever open to the cries of distress, her hand ever ready to relieve want. Ladies need none of the implements of the Craft, as there is that within her bosom which causes the chords of sympathy to vibrate without the aid of such symbols. Admit them into the Lodge, our labors would be abandoned, jealousies would arise, peace and harmony would be destroyed. In a word, ladies, it is your charms that exclude you.—*Robert Clark.*

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

CELEBRATION OF ST. JOHN'S DAY.

THE festival of St. John was observed by Masonic bodies in several places with much *eclat*. We give brief accounts of the observances as far as we have received them:

TORONTO.—The various city lodges met in the Masonic Hall, St. John's Lodge being the only one out of the seven that installs its officers on St. John's day, the following were regularly installed and invested by W. Bro. Menet: W. Bro. Seymour Porter, W. M.; W. Bro. John Erskine, P. M.; Bro. R. J. Hovenden, S. W.; Bro. Hugh Blain, J. W.; Bro. John Richey, Treasurer; Bro. John Eastwood, Jr., Secretary; Bro. U. Boddy, S. D.; Bro. G. O. Hunton, J. D. After the installation, W. M. Porter, on behalf of the officers and members of the lodge, presented W. Bro. John Erskine, P. M., with a Past Master's Collar Jewel. A supper followed, at which a large number were present.

KINGSTON.—The officers of Minden Lodge were installed in the evening, and a supper took place, at which the usual toasts were given.

PICTON.—The festival of St. John's Day was celebrated by a Masonic procession composed of Prince Edward Lodge, No. 18, Royal Arch Chapter, No. 11, and several Knight Templars, headed by a band. They marched to the Agricultural Hall and partook of an excellent dinner, at the conclusion of which Worshipful Bro. Dr. Platt, W. M., gave a number of toasts, which were heartily responded to. The dinner was graced by the presence of a large number of ladies, who gave much *eclat* to the occasion.

COBOCONK.—A large party of Masons, numbering about four hundred, including their ladies and friends, went on an excursion train from Markham, Toronto, and stations along the line. The new, large, and commodious hotel, the Shedden House, being in full working order, excursionists found everything handy for fishing, boating, &c. They returned at 4.30 all highly satisfied with the day's proceedings.

NORWICH.—The members of St. John's Lodge, No. 104, in celebration of the festival of St. John, entertained their brethren from the neighboring Lodges in Oxford, Norfolk, and Brant, to the number of about 200. After the usual initiation and installation ceremonies, the brethren marched in regalia to the Agricultural Grounds, where a sumptuous repast was prepared by Bro. Brown. The tables were twice filled, and during the repast those who were not thus engaged were entertained by speeches, music and recitations. After dinner the M. W. Bro. E. C. McLees, took the chair, and several of the visiting brethren contributed much to the enjoyableness of the affair by music and songs. Bro. Arthur Fletcher, P. S. G. D., of Nova Scotia, rendered efficient services during the ceremonies of initiation and installation, as well as at the literary part of the entertainment, and by request of the Lodge presented to P. M. W. Bro. Haken, a Past Master's Jewel, for long and faithful services in the Lodge. Bros. Wood, from Woodstock, and Sorley, from Ingersoll, also did good service in the day's proceedings. The whole affair was Masonic in every way and respect, beginning in order, entertained in peace, and closed in harmony.