

The Grand Master then addressed the Architect and Builder as follows:

BRO. STIRLING AND BRO. BROOKFIELD.—“Let me congratulate you on the successful completion of your arduous labors, and to assure you of the entire approval of the Grand Master of the manner in which you have executed the important trust confided to you, and to thank you, in the name and on behalf of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, and the Craft throughout this jurisdiction, for the skill, industry and fidelity which you have displayed during the entire progress of the erection of this edifice.”

The choir then sung Psalm cxxxiii:—“Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.”

The Grand Master then delivered his address, as follows:

BRETHREN,—During the last few years, in several neighboring jurisdictions, the Brethren have had the satisfaction of erecting and dedicating to Masonic uses buildings, noble in themselves, and nobler still on account of the purposes to which they have been appropriated. In Boston, Philadelphia, and New York, the Masonic Temples are amongst the finest buildings, even in these magnificent cities.

We here have long felt it was but due to our capital city and Province, and to the Craft therein, that Masonry should have a home here; a building meet for the purpose, and worthy of the Craft; and, to-day, our work ended, the building committee have handed over to Grand Lodge the edifice we are now assembled to consecrate; a building not emulating the grandeur of those just referred to, but an ornament to our city, a credit to the Grand Lodge which has built and owns it, and a decided boon to the Craft in this city, giving them a place of meeting of which they may well be proud.

And as the erection of such a building is a fair indication of the prosperity of the Craft, it is not out of place to take a retrospective view of the progress of Masonry in Nova Scotia, as indicated by the accommodation deemed necessary for the members. In the year 1800 old Masons' Hall was erected, the foundation stone being laid by the father of our beloved Queen—the building is still in existence; the room then deemed so ample would not now be considered sufficient for the youngest and weakest of our rural Lodges. In 1850 the building, removed to give place to this structure, was erected under the auspices of our lamented Brother, the late Grand Master Keith. We find then that for half a century Freemasons were content with the small hall in Barrington Street; that then their progress justified the erection of a larger building; and now, at the reduced interval of a quarter of a century, the growth of the organization has called for the erection of the present building; and, should we maintain the same rate of progress, it will be but very few years before this building becomes insufficient for our requirements. May very many of us live to see a larger building erected, but till then we may all, I trust, feel proud that we have aided at the erection and dedication of this, for which, true to our old traditions, we have retained the old English designation of Freemasons' Hall; and true to our higher principles, we have in the splendid procession of to-day carried in the hands of two venerable Masons in full public view, as our great Light of Masonry, “*The open Bible.*”

I have already, in a previous address to Grand Lodge, alluded to the financial arrangements under which the New York Temple was built—the rents, after discharge of all liabilities, forming the endowment of a Masonic Asylum.

The idea is so happy and thoroughly Masonic that I commend it to you to be adopted in our case, with such modifications as our different conditions may require, keeping always before us the main idea, that Charity is one of our principal Masonic duties.

We have long talked of, and to some extent have carried out, the establishment of a Masonic Library; in our new building provision has been made for this. We seek to make this a place of social intercourse and pleasant recreation; in fact, a home for our brethren, where they may gather of an evening, may make the acquaintance of, and cordially welcome, brethren from the country and other jurisdictions, who may by business or pleasure be brought to the city; in fact to all intents and purposes be a sort of Masonic Club.

I would urge that a contribution from Grand Lodge funds be granted for the