

Only two other instances prior to 1885 are on record, where Grand Lodge conferred the honorary rank of Past Grand Master, the first being in 1860, when M. W. Bro. Thos. D. Harrington was elected Grand Master, the rank of Past Grand Master was conferred upon R. W. Bro. A. Bernard, Past Deputy Grand Master of Grand Lodge; and the second being in 1874, when that rank was conferred upon Deputy Grand Master Thomas White, upon his departure from the Province of Ontario, by which the Grand Lodge was deprived of the privilege to elect him Grand Master.

Brethren, when I reflect upon the fact that Grand Lodge has placed me in the same rank with these eminent, illustrious and worthy brethren, I can, at least in some measure, estimate the great value of that exalted position, though language is not at my command to express in words my deep sense of gratitude.

You have also been pleased to mention the year 1864, as that in which I became a member of the Board of General Purposes. No one could have been more surprised than myself, when Grand Master Simpson announced that he had appointed me to that honorable and responsible position. However, I accepted the appointment, and endeavored to perform my share of the numerous and important duties of that Board; and after that first appointment, I have enjoyed the exceptional honor of having been elected by Grand Lodge a member of that Board up to the present time.

You are so kind, to say that I have often taken more than a due proportion of the labors of that Board. To this I beg to reply, that whatever labor I may have performed during the past twenty-one years, while a member of that Board, I feel convinced that I have never done more, and often less than the duty imposed upon me, and upon every ruler in the craft, and more especially upon every member of the Board of General

Purposes, upon which rests the greater share of the responsibility of the effectual working of Grand Lodge affairs.

You are pleased to emphasize especially my labors as the Chairman of the Committee on Benevolence; but, brethren, while in a measure identified with our present system of benevolence, I have never looked upon the labors connected therewith, as labor in the ordinary sense of the term; for whatever I have done in establishing and working that system, has been to me a work of love and of pleasure, never a burthen. And, brethren, if I look upon the numerous proofs received by letter and otherwise, of the appreciations of Grand Lodge aid, in ministering to the relief of want and sorrow, in comforting the mourners, in carrying good tidings to the habitations of poor brethren in the sere and yellow leaf of old age, of sorrowing widows and of orphans, left destitute by the untimely death of the bread-winner, the father; then, brethren, I feel ample compensation for all the little I have done in bringing about those happy results. Brethren, that is a satisfaction—a pleasure and a gratification—which can only be felt in its full force and importance, but cannot adequately be described by me in words.

And if my compilations of the resolutions of Grand Lodge, and rulings of Grand Masters, has, as you assure me, proved of service to the craft in this jurisdiction, my aim has been fully accomplished. In like manner do I feel fully compensated for all I have done in perfecting our Ritual, and in revising the Constitution, by your assurance that the brethren appreciate that work. All this has also been to me a work of love and of pleasure, and I have myself largely increased my Masonic knowledge by those compilations.

To you, my dear brethren of Barton Lodge, I tender my sincere thanks, for having permitted this presenta-