

## OBITUARY.

It is with feelings of sincere regret that we announce the death of William Comben Stephens, Esq., formerly Secretary to the Great Western Railway of Canada, and brother-in-law of Thomas Reynolds, Esq., of Ottawa, and F. J. Rastrick, Esq., of Hamilton. The sad event took place at his late residence, Granville Park Terrace Lewisham, England, on the 19th December last, and was caused by a rupture of a blood vessel in the lungs.

Our late M. W. Bro. Stephens, shortly after his arrival at Hamilton in 1853 to take charge of his duties on the G. W. Railway, affiliated with the Lodge of Strict Observance, then No. 833 on the Registry of England, he having been initiated in England, and at once took an active interest in Freemasonry by inaugurating the formation of "The Acacia" Lodge, of which he was the first Worshipful Master. At the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada in 1855, he rendered much valuable assistance, which body, as a mark of its appreciation of his zeal and talents which had been devoted to the welfare of the Order in Canada, accorded him the rank of a Past Grand Master, and for many years our esteemed Brother held the distinguished position of being the representative of the United Grand Lodge of England in the Grand Lodge of Canada, and resigned it only after he had left Canada to reside permanently in England.

Our Brother's labors were not solely confined to Craft Freemasonry. His love and zeal for the Order carried him into Capitular, Chivalric, and finally into the Ancient and Accepted Rite, where he had advanced to the Rose Croix or 18°.

Bro. Stephens was gifted with great intellectual powers, a genial disposition, and most gentlemanly and courteous in all his associations with those he came in contact; and with such rare qualities it is not to be wondered at that he should have attracted friends who will long cherish the recollection of the happy hours spent in his company, and will, like ourselves, mourn the irreparable loss the entire Craft have sustained; but we have this consolation, that he has only gone to join the members of the Grand Lodge above, and where we shall hope to meet him, in that "temple not made with hands; eternal in the heavens."

**THE LESSON OF LIFE.**—Of all the lessons that humanity has to learn, the hardest is to learn to wait. Not to wait with folded hands that claim life's prizes without previous efforts, but having struggled and crowded the slow years with trial, see no result as effort seems to warrant—nay, perhaps, disaster instead. To stand firm at such a crisis of existence, to preserve one self-poise and self-respect, not to lose hold or relax effort, this is greatness, whether achieved by man or woman—whether the eye of the world notes it, or it is recorded in the book, which the light of eternity shall alone make clear to the vision. Those who stand on the high places of the earth understand not what necessity, what suffering means. They know not what it is to noble souls to be obliged, like worms, to crawl upon the earth for nourishment, because it has not the strength to endure famine. Life moves around them with so much grace, splendor and beauty; they drink life's sweetest wine, and dance a charming intoxication. They find nothing within them which can enable them to understand the real sufferings of the poor; they love only themselves, and look at mankind only in their narrow circle.