

GRAND LODGE OF CANADA.

Grand Master's Address.

The Grand Lodge of Canada, A. F. & A. M., opened in ample form at the Opera House, Ottawa, on the 11th inst., M. W. Bro. Daniel Spry, Grand Master, on the throne. The following representatives from the Grand Lodge of Quebec were in attendance and were received with grand honors: M. W. Bros. E. R. Johnson, Stanstead, Grand Master; Dr. J. H. Graham, P. G. M.; Geo. O. Tyler, P. G. M.; and R. W. Bros. I. H. Stearns, Grand Treasurer; J. Frederick Walker, D. D. G. M.; Timothy Leet, P. D. D. G. M.; P. A. Crossby, P. D. D. G. M. The Grand Master of Quebec acknowledged the compliment paid to the Grand Lodge of that Province in an eloquent and appropriate address, and referred briefly to the continued invasion of his territory by the Grand Lodge of England, expressing the hope that matters would soon be arranged satisfactorily. He spoke encouragingly of the state of the Order in Lower Canada. M. W. Bro. J. H. Graham also delivered an address, and was enthusiastically received, this being his first visit to the Grand Lodge of Canada since the formation of the Grand Lodge of Quebec. The Grand Master then delivered his annual address, which is as follows:—

BRETHREN OF GRAND LODGE:

Standing upon the threshold of a new Masonic year, we may pause for a moment, before commencing the work which our hands will find to do, and take a retrospective glance at the events which have occurred, and the progress which Masonry has made in our jurisdiction since last we met to take counsel together.

The year which has gone has had its pleasures and its trials, its doubts and its difficulties, and yet, through all, the sun of prosperity has shone brightly, and the future is full of hope. Many have been added to our ranks, while here and there a gap tells of a well-beloved comrade who fought the good fight ere being called away to the undissolving Lodge above. It therefore becomes those of us who have been spared, to return thanks to the Great Architect of the Universe, for the protecting care and manifold blessings which He has permitted us to enjoy. That He will so guide our deliberations that they may redound to His glory, the benefit of the Fraternity, and the good of mankind, will, I am sure, be the heartfelt prayer of every member of the Craft in this much-favored land.

DEATHS.

We are again reminded of the uncertainty of all earthly things, and are called upon to mourn the departure of some of the prominent members of the Order.

M. W. Bro. William Benjamin Simpson, died at his residence, Coteau du Lac, Province of Quebec, on Sunday, the 3rd June, 1888. He was born, of English parentage, on the 26th July, 1818, at Augusta, then in Upper Canada. He was initiated into Freemasonry in Sussex Lodge, Brockville, 2nd March, 1853, and soon became an active and energetic Craftsman, having held various offices in the lodge of which he was a member. He was present at the meeting held at Niagara Falls, in July, 1855, for the purpose of considering the propriety of forming Provincial Grand Lodges for Upper Canada, and at his suggestion it was decided to call a convention which resulted in the organization of a Grand Lodge at Hamilton, on the 10th October, 1855. M. W. Bro. Simpson was then elected D. D. G. M. for the Central District; in 1860 he was elected D. G. M., and held that office until the 15th of July.