

To those of you whom I have met in past years I am bound in ties of grateful affection which it is a delight to renew, while to those who for the first time meet in this assembly, my heart goes out in words of welcome, as I invite your earnest and loving participation in the duties and moral responsibilities of the session. May you all be knit firmly in the bonds of unity and brotherly love, and may the seed of Odd Fellowship sown at this meeting of the Representatives of the Order in this Jurisdiction be fraught with more good than any yet scattered since the first organization of this Grand Body. Let us implore that Providence who moves in a mysterious way to assist us.

On the fourteenth of December last I had the pleasure of presiding at a Festival and Dedication under the auspices of Eureka and Forest City Lodges in the City of London. The members of those Lodges have united in fitting up a beautiful Hall for their common use. A large and pleasant company were in attendance. In the ceremony of dedication I had the honor to be assisted by the Grand Representative to the R. W. Grand Lodge of the U. S., Bro. H. C. Bingham, Deputy Grand Master Browne, G. Sec. Wigmore, Past Grand Master Bissell, P. D. M. Skinner, D. D. G. M. Bro. McAfee, and many other leading members of the Order from London, St. Marys, Stratford, and Windsor. Everything passed off pleasantly, and seemingly to the satisfaction of all present, and I believe has been the cause of great good to the Order in London.

On the 21st of the same month I enjoyed a similar pleasure in dedicating a new Hall in Windsor, belonging to the members of Frontier Lodge. D. G. M. Browne, G. Sec. Wigmore and other brothers from London accompanied me. We were assisted by several eminent brothers from the Lodges in Detroit. At the conclusion of the Dedication ceremony, Bro. McAfee, the founder of the Lodge there, assumed the control of things and under his guidance we were soon partaking of the good things of earth, at the table of mine very hospitable host, Bro. Cheater. The brothers of this Lodge are noted for their zeal and enthusiasm, and I believe have accomplished a greater amount of work since their organization than any other Lodge in this Province.

In January last on invitation from the members of Gore Lodge Brantford, I publicly installed the officers thereof, assisted by Deputy Grand Sire Bingham, P. G. Master, James Woodyatt, D. D. G. M. Wm. Woodyatt. I believe every member of the Lodge was present. The Installation was followed by one of the happiest unions of Brothers and of the wives and children of Odd Fellows that I ever witnessed.

On Good Friday last, according to arrangement, the D. G. Master and Grand Secretary accompanied me on a visit to Avon Lodge, Stratford. The occasion was thoroughly improved in the instruction of the Lodge, of whom a goodly number were present. "Good Friday" has generally been kept as a Fast day, but judging by the bill of fare set before us after our business was concluded, I am fully of the opinion that a question of Orthodoxy might be raised! Notwithstanding this, from my observation of the kind of men Avon Lodge is composed of, I have every reason to believe that a prosperous future lies before them.

In May last I paid a visit to "Excelsior." Although a new Lodge, several old and well tried Odd Fellows belong thereto. They are steadily gaining ground and as they have a fine field for labor I feel confident that they must continue to prosper.

About the end of June last the Grand Secretary and I visited Union Lodge, St. Catharines. This is one of the oldest and strongest Lodges, and the character and conduct of its members are too well known to require any compliment from me. In every respect Union Lodge maintains and deserves the good repute of former days. May her shadow never grow less.