

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

The thanks of Grand Chapter are due to the Sister Grand Chapters who have favoured us with copies of their valued and interesting proceedings, and to R. E. Comp. Henry Robertson, (Representative of the Grand Chapters of New York and the District of Columbia,) is she again indebted for his almost invaluable synopsis of their varied contents, a task involving labor and discrimination, which can only be appreciated after a careful examination and perusal, which I earnestly commend to Chapters and Companions, both in justice to the compiler and from its intrinsic merits.

GRAND DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS.

The Reports of the Grand District Superintendents on the details of work in their several Districts leave me little to add on that head. I cannot however refrain from remarking that so smoothly does the machinery of our Order appear to work that during the year, beyond the applications for dispensations to which I have had occasion to refer in another place, but one case was referred to me by way of appeal from the judgment of a Chapter, (No. 42, Montreal,) in dealing with a matter of difference between two Companions. I at once transmitted this to the Grand Superintendent of the District, whose return, as well as all papers connected therewith, will be laid before Grand Chapter.

GENERAL INFORMATION IN CHAPTERS.

It occurs to me to urge on all chapters a literal compliance with the regulations printed prominently on the title page and cover of the Annual Proceedings, namely, that they are "ordered to be read in chapters, and preserved." While Grand Chapter is composed, from a necessary limitation of numbers, of the principals and past principals of chapters, they are present in the light of representatives of constituencies, to whom on their receipt of the proceedings they are thus enjoined to impart their contents, thus keeping the entire body informed of the general working of the order, and inciting an interest therein, which is apt to flag when companions have little to promote it beyond the repetition of the ritual, however ably exemplified. I feel confident that compliance with this regulation would be well received. It need not entail tedium by being over lengthily carried out; but, on the contrary, by a judicious introduction, as opportunity served, many an hour of tedium might be profitably relieved. And while these remarks relate primarily to an enlargement of ideas arising from enlarged information respecting our own Grand Chapter that enlargement might be still further promoted by reference to the synopsis to which I have already alluded, of the returns from sister Grand Chapters, a compilation, I say advisedly, teeming with interest of the most varied and useful character.

EXCHANGE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

NOVA SCOTIA.

In the month of March I was in receipt of a courteous intimation from the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia of their desire to appoint as their representative in Canada, M. E. Comp. T. Douglas Harington 33°, our esteemed P. G. Z., and offering the name E. Comp. Arthur Fletcher 32°, to be your representative in Nova Scotia. Comp. Fletcher was formerly a resident of Quebec, P. Z. of Carnarvon chapter, Montreal, and of the local chapter since its removal to Halifax. Pursuant to the provision of the Constitution "on Grand Officers, Article 3," I felt pleasure in at once announcing in your name, that the appointment of M. E. Comp. Harington would be enrolled with honor, and in desiring that the usual credentials be issued to E. Comp. Fletcher, from whom I have received letters of cordial acknowledgment, announcing his warm reception at the recent convocation of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, and "that he was desired to communicate how welcome and how warmly reciprocated were the expressions of good feeling" with which I charged our G. S. E. to accompany his credentials.

CALIFORNIA.

I have also recently received an intimation of a like desire to exchange representatives from the Grand Chapter of California, and proposing to nominate as their representative in Canada, R. E. Comp. Robert Ramsay, and E. Comp. Charles Louis Wiggin 32°, Gr. Recorder, R. & S. Masons, San Francisco, to be your representative in California; but as Grand Chapter was so soon to meet, I have asked G. S. E. to lay these last on the table for the direct action of Grand Chapter.

RECOGNITION OF THE HIGHER MASONIC GRADES.

Referring to the Constitutions (on regalia, page 46), of the many higher grades of masonry, the orders of Knights Templar and Knights of Malta appear alone to have received the formal recognition of Grand Chapter. At the last annual convocation