

seat. This was a very pretty sight, the members having been ranged in open line on the platform and up the centre of the passage of the house. The brethren having taken their seats, the programme was at once commenced by the band of B Battery playing a selection of national airs in a style which elicited very complimentary criticism. The speech of M. W. Bro. Jas. A. Henderson, P.G.M., came next. He said:—The Free Masons of Kingston extend a kindly welcome this evening, not only to those who in Masonic language are "nearest and dearest," but also to their many friends. By the rules of our ancient Order, the mysteries are confined to our lodges, and the secrets are kept secure and inviolate within our breasts, and hence by those outside the Craft we are deemed exclusive, because the good we profess to discover by being Free Masons is kept to ourselves. Be that as it may, it is a source of much gratification that we can and do occasionally give to those who are not members of the Order a pleasing entertainment, as I trust the present one will prove to be. This evening we attempt to renew those enjoyable meetings which a few years ago the Free Masons of this city afforded to their friends. As to the Order of Free and Accepted Masons, to which we are proud to belong, thousands daily attest to its benefits and charities. The purity and soundness of its principles are well and sufficiently endorsed by the continuance in the ranks of the Order of men who, as citizens, are distinguished for their standing and noted for their worth. So long as our Order observes the ancient landmarks

and teaches a man to reverence his Creator, to love his brethren and to relieve their distresses, it must meet the approbation of all. It is the great charm of Free Masonry that it tends to enlarge the mind, to render a man more useful to his fellow beings, and to instil into his breast that blessed gift from heaven—"Charity." My friends, I could enlarge on this theme, but I will not further test your patience, &c, glancing at the programme, I am warned to conclude, so that we may enter on the many and varied subjects provided for this evening's entertainment. Again, on behalf of the Free Masons of this city, I offer you a heartfelt and cordial welcome."

MASONIC NOTES.

BY M. E. COL. W. J. B. MACLEOD MOORE,
G.C.T., GREAT PRIOR OF CANADA.

We are favored, by the kindness of the Great Prior of Canada, with extracts from his "Masonic commonplace Book," being selections from all reliable sources on Masonic subjects, added to, from time to time, for many years. The following notes on the history of Templary in the United States, etc., containing facts and dates not generally known or easily procurable, will, we feel assured, be acceptable to our Templar fratres:—

"The basis and fundamental principles of the ancient Order of the Templars, and of the society of Builders or Stone Masons, sprung from the "Divine Mysteries" preserved in the early centuries of the Christian dispensation by the order of "Benedictine Monks." The Masonry of to-day is derived, 1st. From the lay brethren of the Benedictines; 2nd,