

and money to further its progress. The results of our labor have not been as encouraging as we would desire, but, when we consider the financial depression, the falling off of business, the scarcity of work, and the dull times generally, which our country has just experienced, I think we have reasons to feel grateful for what progress has been made.

The lodges instituted, since the last meeting of Grand Lodge, compose men of prominence, men of business, men of high social standing, men of influence, integrity, intelligence and respectability, men who recognize and appreciate the cardinal principles on which our Order is founded, and consider it worthy of commendation. I have also introduced it in cities and towns, (particularly in the eastern district,) where we were practically unknown. There are already on the way lodges for institution at Ottawa, Brockville, Kingston, Clinton, Seaforth, Essex, Picton, and Peterboro. These cities and towns if properly looked after, will in the course of two or three months have established lodges, and be composed of a class of material that will do honor and credit to our Order.

We cannot over-estimate the importance of frequent visits by Grand officers to the subordinate lodges, to post the members in the ritual, and to encourage them in memorizing the work. In visiting lodges I have observed that when the work is exemplified without the use of rituals, those are the lodges that are well attended and are increasing in members. Nothing is so discouraging or will create a lack of interest among the members as to attend lodge and witness the exemplification of the work by those who use rituals and perform their duties in anything but a creditable manner. Too much stress cannot be laid on the necessity of enforcing officers to memorize the work. The first impression made upon a candidate on being initiated is a lasting one, let it be good or bad. For a man of society experience or a man of culture to be brought into our Order and initiated in the manner that is done by some of the lodges in this domain is simply disgraceful and detrimental to the progress of a noble and worthy Order.

My warm personal interest in the Order and anxiety to see it progress in our fair domain, prompts me to intimate that it would be wise for this Grand body to devise some plan and means to raise funds to be appropriated in furthering its interest and progress in Ontario. If a proper and qualified knight can be obtained to assume the chief executive office of this Grand Lodge for the ensuing term, one who is thoroughly experienced and conversant with our constitution, having a practical knowledge of the ritual and secret work, and who is qualified to properly introduce our Order to the best class of men in our domain, I feel sure that such an expenditure would be a judicious one, for the foundation is now already laid for the institution of a number of lodges if it is properly and promptly looked after. With the keen opposition now existing among secret societies it is essential that a duly qualified