

## GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS.

*To the Officers and Members of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia :*

BRETHREN,—

It is with feelings of unfeigned gratitude to Almighty God, that I am permitted the pleasure of meeting you once more in Grand Lodge, a pleasure which was denied me at your last annual Communication, in consequence of my absence in New York, undergoing a severe and trying operation on my eyes, which, under the blessing of a Merciful Providence, has, I am happy to say, proved very successful, considering my advanced age.

Fifty-six years have now rolled round since I was first "brought to light" in a Masonic Lodge, during fifty-four of which I have uninterruptedly been a subscribing member of Virgin Lodge, in this city. For upwards of thirty years I had the honor and pleasure of presiding over the Craft as Provincial Grand Master, while under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland, and though now some seven years beyond the "threescore and ten," my zeal for the welfare and prosperity of our ancient and honorable institution, has not in the least degree abated—my chief regret being that my advanced age and consequent infirmities prevent my meeting you oftener at your stated assemblies; but though absent in body I need not assure you my heart is always with you.

It is matter of mutual congratulation that during the past year, the progress of the Lodges generally throughout the Province has been "upward and onward," that "Peace has been within our walls, and Prosperity within our borders."

With our sister Grand Lodges throughout the world this Grand Lodge is on terms of the fullest accord and fraternal sympathy, which I sincerely trust may long continue.

The following Dispensations to establish Lodges have been issued during the past year, viz :

Sept. 27th, 1871, to Taylor Lodge, Lockeport, Shelburne County.

Oct. 26th, 1871, to Corinthian Lodge, Great Village, Colchester County.

Jan. 6th, 1872, to Richmond Lodge, Arichat, Cape Breton.

Jan. 26th, 1872, to Freeport Lodge, Freeport, Digby County.

I have refused, in many instances, to grant dispensations to confer degrees at short intervals. A few, however, were granted in extreme cases, and these for the third degree only, after satisfying myself of