



*A Monthly Journal devoted to the interests of the Anglo-Saxon race in Canada.*

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CONTENTS:

Editor's Salutatory	57
The Grand Lodge	57
Obituary	58
The British Army	59
The Labour Commission	59
The Murder League	60
Sons of England	61
Fear God, Honour the Queen—Poetry	63

EDITOR'S SALUTATORY.

Sons of England everywhere will regret to learn that the increased work imposed on him, by the commencement of the session, has compelled our late editor, Dr. Richard J. Wicksteed, who has held for several years a very prominent and important position on the permanent staff of the House of Commons, to retire from the editorial chair of the ANGLO-SAXON. The brotherhood will not however be altogether deprived of the advantages to be derived from reading the productions of Bro. Wicksteed's facile and fearless pen, as he will continue, whenever his public duties permit, to contribute to the ANGLO-SAXON.

In assuming the editorship of this journal, the writer feels that in thus undertaking to speak to and for so large a body of his countrymen, he is incurring responsibilities of no ordinary magnitude. These responsibilities are not lessened by his succeeding in the editorial chair a man of Dr. Wicksteed's high character, literary attainments and dauntless temperament. Nevertheless he approaches his task, resolved to do his best for the interests of the Order, and requesting only that his championship of its interests be judged by his brethren in that spirit of fairplay characteristic of Englishmen.

ATKINS SPENCER JONES.

Ottawa, March, 1888.

THE GRAND LODGE.

The recent meeting of the Grand Lodge (a detailed account of which will be found elsewhere) was all that the most enthusiastic Son of England could desire. A truly brotherly spirit was everywhere manifest, and the banquet given to the brethren from a distance proved that Englishmen amid Canadian snows have lost none of the ancient hospitality of their race. The speeches were above the customary after-dinner average, and were marked by that spirit of loyalty, practical good sense, and kindly feeling for which men of our nationality are everywhere noted. The progress made by our Order is something to be indeed proud of, but a cause for still greater pride is to be found in the character and appearance of its members. In the fine old ballad of Chevy Chase we are told how King Henry received the news of Earl Percy's death: "God rest his soul," King Henry said, "that valiant Earl Percy; I trust I have within my realm five hundred good as he." And in like manner the delegates visiting Toronto, though they everywhere attracted and deserved attention by their respectable and intelligent appearance, were only average specimens of the many hundreds of our members, whom their avocations had detained at home.

A great French writer and close observer of our national character says: "Every Englishman is an island." He refers to those qualities of independence and self-reliance of which Englishmen are so justly proud. But as "men's vices are but virtues run to seed," so Englishmen in Canada have too frequently permitted the national virtues of independence to run to such extremes as to keep them, like human islands, apart from each other. As Goldsmith says in his fine poem—"The Traveller":

The independence Britons prize so high  
Parts man from man and rends the social tie.

Our society is intended to overcome this tendency; and the growth of our membership shows how rapidly it is succeeding. It shows, too, that the possession of social and genial qualities, and of that brotherly and kindly feeling which very properly prefers a fellow-countryman to a stranger is not incompatible with the strongest feelings of self reliance and independence. We can learn some lessons from our Scottish fellow subjects in such matters. The Scotchman is as self-reliant as the Englishman, and yet, whenever we see a young Scotchman at the bottom rung of the social ladder, we may be sure that, if deserving, he will find some "kindly brither Scot" a step or two higher up to lend him a helping hand by procuring for him work, or giving him a chance in some way to rise in the world. We Englishmen have been far too remiss in this respect; and if our society, by bringing us more closely into contact, makes us better known to each other and more capable, by the increased strength that union gives, of rendering material aid, it will honourably fulfil the chief purpose of its existence and the hopes and aims of its patriotic and benevolent founders.