

THE MASONIC ASYLUM.

We really think the time has arrived when, within this jurisdiction, there should be a Masonic Home or Asylum for our aged brethren in distress, and the widows and orphans of those who died in want, penury and poverty. Here in Ontario, on the roll of the Grand Lodge of Canada, are the names of eighteen thousand Sons of Light. Year after year, we quote the immense sums accumulating in the coffers of our Supreme Body. We cheerfully admit that our position compares favorably with many older and larger Grand Lodges—we know that our charities exceed many others. The time, however, has now arrived when we should have some place of comfort for those who have borne the heat and burden of the day, and now weary and impoverished, need a home with home-comforts in their declining years.

We feel confident it only requires united action to bring this happy result to a pleasing conclusion, but it requires a steady and systematic movement—spasmodic efforts are of little or no avail. Why not have a committee selected from amongst our leading Craftsmen, and let them have sole control of the management of the place. Let them investigate the systems pursued in other countries in similar cases. Let them solicit subscriptions from lodges, chapters, preceptories and members. These subscriptions need not be cash—they might cover three or even four years. Many a Hiramite in this Province would cheerfully give ten or twenty dollars per annum for, say three, four or five years. Others would subscribe

in proportion, but few, we think, would “put down their names” for less than five or ten dollars.

We believe if such a plan as this were adopted one hundred thousand dollars could be raised within eighteen months. Besides the Grand Lodge of Canada could donate liberally. There is no reason why this should not be done. The senior Grand Lodge in the Dominion has a duty to perform in this respect, and, judging from many communications we have received, we feel certain that the time has arrived for the leaders in the Craft *to move—to act*.

We ask our friends in all parts of the country to take up this subject. Discuss it amongst the brethren in their neighborhood, and introduce it in their lodge-rooms. Canadian Masons will prove themselves able and willingly to work in so righteous a cause, if those whose duty it is to *lead* only do so and point out a *practical* path for their brethren to follow. We rely upon our Grand Master, Past Grand Officers, and others, whose names are household words to the fraternity, to perform their duty, by putting into tangible shape, some scheme by which funds can be raised for this holy cause—a cause in which any true Freemason will join with heart and soul. We say—God bless the founders of our Canadian Masonic Home.

Bro. Sereno D. Nickerson, Grand Secretary, will please accept our thanks for copy of proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, at the Quarterly Communication, September 13th, and specials September 18th and October 20th, 1882.