

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

For the purpose of inculcating perfect uniformity of text and knowledge of the floor work in exemplification, I have held seven District Lodges of Instruction. The work was exemplified with absolute accuracy in every respect by a staff of officers carefully selected. These lodges were especially for the benefit and guidance of W. M.'s, Wardens and Deacons, as it has been frequently found that, at Lodges of Instruction, too large an attendance of the craft at large hampered the work by irrelevant discussions.

The Lodges of Instruction were held as follows:—

1st. At the Toronto street Hall, Toronto, 27th Oct., 1886. The E. A. was exemplified by V. W. Bro. Geo. Tait, of St. Andrew's, the F. C. by W. Bro. Davison, of Zetland. On the 29th Oct., the M. M. degree was exemplified in the same hall, by W. Bro. W. S. Jackson, of Ashlar. The attendance was very large, 120 members of lodges being present on the 27th, and 40 officers of lodges, 25 lodges being represented. On the 29th 132 members were present, and 60 officers, 28 lodges being represented. At the conclusion of the work questions were invited, and interest was evinced by the intelligent manner points were discussed.

2nd. At the Masonic Hall, Aurora, 26th Nov., 1886. The E. A. was exemplified by R. W. Bro. G. J. Bennett, G. R., of Zeta; the F. C. by W. Bro. S. Davison, of Zetland; the M. M. by V. W. Bro. George Tait, of St. Andrew's. The attendance was large, 60 members being present, including 40 officers of lodges, 12 lodges being represented.

3rd. At the Masonic Hall, Markham, on the 13th Dec., 1886. The E. A. and F. C. were exemplified by W. Bro. John Fletcher, and the M. M. by R. W. Bro. G. J. Bennett. The attendance was small, 28 members being present, 18 of whom were officers, 12 lodges being represented.

4th. At the Masonic Hall, Lambton Mills, 17th Jan., 1887. The E. A. was exemplified by W. Bro. C. F. Mansell, of Zeta, the F. C. and M. M. by W. Bro. J. Fletcher, of Zetland. The attendance was fair, 30 members being present, including 13 officers of lodges, and 8 lodges were represented.

5th. At the Masonic Hall, Richmond Hill, on the 24th Jan., 1887. The E. A. and F. C. were exemplified by W. Bro. F. M. Morson, and the W. M. by V. W. Bro. Geo. Tait. The attendance was large, 90 members of lodges were present, including 26 officers of lodges, and 15 lodges being represented.

6th. At the Masonic Hall, Sharon, 31st Jan., 1887. The E. A. was exemplified by V. W. Bro. Geo. Tait, the F. C. by W. Bro. F. M. Morson, of Ionic, and the M. M. by R. W. Bro. G. J. Bennett. The attendance was small, 21 being present, including 10 officers of lodges, 5 lodges being represented.

Selections only of the F. C. and M. M. were given.

7th. At Masonic Hall, Stouffville, on the 28th Jan., 1887. The attendance was small, and assisted by W. Bro. F. M. Morson, of Ionic Lodge No. 25, Toronto, I gave instructions in the opening and closing in the three degrees, with sections of the floor work, especially those portions in which the Wardens and Deacons are concerned.

It is but fair that I should mention the brethren who acted as officers at these Lodges of Instruction, for at much personal inconvenience many of them accompanied me in my visits, and all vied with one another in their efforts to give a perfect exemplification:—R. W. Bro. G. J. Bennett, V. W. Bros. G. Tait, A. W. Carkeek, G. O., W. Bros. W. S. Jackson, C. F. Mansell, F. M. Morson, A. D. Ponton, of Ashlar, R. Cuthbert, Jno. Fletcher, Bros. Benjamin Allen, of Ashlar, W. H. Taylor, M. Macleod, W. R. Cayell, of Zeta, Gilbert Percy, of Ashlar, Jackson Blizard, of Zeta, R. J. Barwick, of Ionic, Jas. Glanville, of St. Andrew's.

While I think that these Lodges of Instruction have done a certain amount of good in securing uniformity of work, yet from the character of the work in the various lodges, especially those outside the city, I am convinced that individual instruction in each lodge by a skilled Master, with a permanent Lodge of Instruction in Toronto, which would meet on stated dates say once every two months, would render a far greater amount of benefit, than the holding of Lodges of Instruction in different parts of the District. I suggest Toronto, as it is central, easy of access, the halls commodious, the appointments perfect, and a staff of officers can always be selected, who can be depended upon for skill and expertness. With such lodges, or schools of preparation, due notification being given, I am sure officers from all parts of the District would only be too anxious to attend, and thus gain the required knowledge, and perfect themselves in the duties of their respective offices. These lodges might be attached as is usual to a warranted lodge or specially licensed by the Grand Master.

St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 16, Toronto.

This lodge has 182 members on its roll. The average attendance is 23. The W. M. was not present, owing to absence from the city at my second official visit. He opens and closes in all the degrees, and exemplifies correctly the E. A., but not the F. C. or M. M. The work of the wardens, deacons, and I. G. is excellent. The books of the secretary and treasurer are well kept, the cash is paid over promptly and deposited in a chartered bank. The hall is leased from the Masonic Hall Trust. The lodge share of furniture is \$650, is insured by the Trust. There are 23 members over one year in arrears, four