

and fixed the arch of steel with their swords, under which passed V. Sir Kt. N. T. Lyon, and E. Sir Kts. Malone, Field, Stone, and Hood, who took their places on the dais. E. Sir Kt. Malone delivered a short address of welcome, which was responded to by E. Sir Kt. Field, of Hamilton. Sir Knights McConkey, Taylor, and Cooper, then advanced, and on behalf of the members, presented the Preceptory with a richly-designed banner, the receipt of which was acknowledged by V. E. Sir Kt. N. T. Lyon. The standard is in crimson velvet, richly embossed in gold, with the arms of the Preceptory in gold and silver, and mounted on silver poles, topped with battle axes of the same metal. The cost of the banner was in the neighborhood of \$500, and it is one of the finest specimens of that class of work in the city. Dancing was then commenced, and continued until the intermission, when a musical programme was presented, which was carried through most successfully, and gave great satisfaction. Supper was served at midnight, and in keeping with the other arrangements, was faultless both in menu and service. The caterer was Thomas Webb. After supper the dancing was resumed, and eagerly participated in. A special feature of the occasion was the presentation of a costly marble clock to the Past Eminent Preceptor, V. E. Sir Kt. N. T. Lyon, who responded in a very neat speech. The programme was something quite unique, and, as a souvenir of an entertainment unsurpassed in Toronto, will be preserved by those who were fortunate enough to be present. Great credit is due to the committee for the very successful manner in which the whole affair was carried out.

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MASONIC BAPTISM.—A lodge in San Francisco baptized thirty children! Where was the Grand Master? While the ceremony may have been harmless in itself it is no part of the work

of Craft Masonry. It is officially unknown to Grand Lodges. There is great danger in permitting it, not only because it will place us in a doubtful position before the world, but because we thereby depart from the usages of the Order. Masonic Baptism is a ceremony used in the "higher degrees," but has no allusion whatever to the Church Sacrament. It is an ancient ceremony and consists of symbolic washing, typical of internal or moral purification. A lodge may, with as much propriety, adopt any other ceremony of the "higher degrees" as this. We regret that any lodge should place itself in the attitude of "making innovations on the body of Masonry." If brethren want to attend a baptizing—go to church, or meet as anything but a Masonic lodge. "Remove not the landmark."
 —*New Home Journal.*

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THE PAST YEAR'S CHARITY WORK IN ENGLAND.—The year 1884 has been one of great prosperity to the Masonic Charities, as a cursory glance at the figures we are now able to give, and a comparison with the receipts of past years, will amply prove. It is true that the amounts do not total up to so large a sum as did those of the previous year, but it must be borne in mind that the special efforts then made on behalf of the Boy's Preparatory School Fund raised the total of that Institution far above the average, and it would hardly be fair to compare an ordinary year with one of such a special character. The totals of last year reach the grand amount of £48,823 17s 7d as compared with £55,994 14s 3d are for 1883, announced by us in our first number of 1884, so that there is an actual falling off last year of upwards of £7,000; but as the special appeal on behalf of the Boy's School in 1883 realized between \$10,000 and £12,000, it follows that last year's total shows an actual increase over that of its predecessor of something like £5,000.—*Freemason's Chronicle.*