

State. The Grand Master refers to the difficulty which is sometimes experienced by Grand Masters in determining questions of Masonic law, and suggests "that hereafter the Grand Master prepare a brief abstract of every question submitted to him for official decision, and of the judgment he pronounces, with permission to assign the reasons for such judgment, and that he forward the same to the Grand Secretary, quarterly, who shall record the decisions, and at each Annual Communication report the same to the lodge which will thus be informed, and if errors should be committed, the constitutions may be amended so as to guard against their subsequent recurrence."

CANADIAN MASONIC ITEMS.

A correspondent from Lucknow, County of Bruce, sending a list of subscribers for THE CRAFTSMAN, says:—"We have just opened a Lodge of the Craft under dispensation, and as there is some good material in the neighborhood, there is every prospect that we will soon have a good and strong Lodge."

We learn that on the 1st March, R. E. Comp. James Seymour, G. Supt. of the District, accompanied by four other E. Comps. from St. Catharines, visited the McCallum Chapter, Dunnville, lately authorized under dispensation from the M. E. G. Z., and installed the officers elect.

DALHOUSIE LODGE, A. F. & A. M., No. 571, E. R.—Regular meetings 1st Tuesday of every month. Established at Ottawa, 8th June, 1848.—Officers: Frank D. Tims, W. M.; H. Merrill, P. M.; J. Macdonald, S. W.; J. T. Bartram, J. W.; N. S. Blasdell, Treasurer; W. Hay, Secretary; H. P. MacCarthy, S. D.; A. N. Peck, J. D.; Rev. S. G. Stone, Chaplain; W. Morrison, A. Matthewman, Stewards; E. Spencer, I. G.; I. Sweetman, Tyler.—COMMUNICATED.

On the 27th February, the annual convocation of the Tecumseh Chapter, No. 24, was held at the Masonic Hall, in Stratford, on which occasion a Council of installed first Principals, composed of R. E. Comps. T. B. Harris, Chas. Kahn, and V. E. Comp. John Clark, assembled for the purpose of installing the newly elected Principals. E. Comps. Thomas Winter, Z., John Rennie, H., and W. Buckingham, J. The Chapter met in the evening, and exalted five Companions, after which they repaired to the Albion Hotel, where a sumptuous repast had been prepared. R. E. Comp. Kahn occupied the chair, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and heartily responded to. We are glad to learn that this Chapter is in a most prosperous and thriving condition.

An emergency assembly of the Richard Cœur de Lion Encampment was held at headquarters in the east, at London, on Friday, the 1st March, on which occasion E. Frater Thompson Wilson, assisted by E. Fraters James Moffat and Thos. B. Harris, installed and proclaimed the following officers for the ensuing,—Thomas McCracken, E. C.; James Moffat, P. E. C.; Rev. Henry Bartlett, Prelate; F. Wolferston Thomas, 1st Captain; G. T. Barnwell, 2nd Captain; Thos. F. McMullen, Treasurer and Registrar; W. G. Chambers, Almoner; A. G. Smyth, Expert; Wm. Reid, Captain of Lifes; Wm. Smart, 1st Herald; D. Borland, 2nd Herald; J. B. Smyth, Jas. Stephenson, Standard Bearers; James Heron,

The labours of the Encampment being closed, the fraters repaired to Bro. Dutton's, where an excellent supper was spread. A couple of hours were most pleasantly spent in fraternal and social intercourse.

We are pleased to observe the steady growth of Freemasonry in Canada. During the last month the M. W. the Grand Master has been pleased, in answer to petitions, to grant his dispensation for four new Lodges as follows:—Plantagenet Lodge, Plantagenet, in the County of Prescott, with W. Bro. William Nesbit Barrie as first W. M.; the Royal Canadian Lodge, Sweetsburg, in the County of Missisquoi, with W. Bro. Thos. D. Pickle, as first W. M.; the Ascot Lodge, Lennoxville, County of Sherbrooke, R. W. Bro. J. H. Stearns, G. J. W., to be the first W. M.; the Filius Viduæ Lodge, to be held at Adolphustown, in the County of Addington, with — as first W. M. We are also pleased to learn that there is a prospect of the Simpson Lodge, at Delta, being speedily put in active operation, the brethren have nominated an energetic and skillful brother, under whom the Lodge is certain to prosper, and which nomination the M. W. the Grand Master has been pleased to approve.

EGYPTIAN MYSTERIES.

According to Herodotus, the secret institution of Isis, with its wonderful mysteries and imposing ceremonies, made its appearance simultaneously with the organization of Egyptian society and the birth of Egyptian civilization. At first the initiation into these mysteries was, probably, simply a mystic drama, representing the progress of man, from a barbarous to a civilized state, and his advancement, and struggles through gloom and toil, toward the supreme perfection, whether in time or eternity. This is seen in the hieroglyphical representation of the Judgment of Amenti. It is a picture of an ordeal or scrutiny to which the candidate was subjected preparatory to initiation. The ceremony of initiation itself was a progress through gloom and terror, and all possible mortal horrors, to scenes of indescribable beauty and glory.* At a subsequent period the mysteries were augmented by the introduction of the tragedy of Osiris. The ceremony consisted of funeral rites, expressive of the wildest grief on account of his death; a search for his body which is at last found, the return of Osiris to life, and the destruction of Typhon, his assassin. Osiris was the symbol of truth or goodness; Typhon of error or evil—the murder of Osiris signified the temporary subjugation of virtue, and his resurrection the ultimate triumph of the good. This was the parent of all those Grecian rites which represent a death and a resurrection, and whose principal features are perpetuated in the legend of the Sidonian builders. These mysteries exercised a powerful influence over the Egyptian mind. They gave unity to the Egyptian character, consistency to their religious establishments, stability to their political institutions, and vigor and directness in the pursuits of philosophy, science, and art.

* The ceremonies were performed at dead of night, generally in apartments under ground, but sometimes on the center of a vast pyramid, with every appliance that could alarm and excite the candidate. Innumerable ceremonies, mild and romantic, dreadful and appalling, had by degrees been added to the few expressive symbols of primitive observance, under which there were instances in which the terrified aspirant actually expired with fear.