

who have passed from earth away, and in all these duties I have been so aided and encouraged by my brethren everywhere, that no language of mine however eloquent could sufficiently express the thanks I desire to convey.

We have been called upon to mourn the loss by death of two of our distinguished Grand Lodge Officers, both of whom were honorable brethren, who gave promise of great usefulness and whose kindly counsel and cheering words will be missed by all, and whose lives we should all cheerfully strive to emulate. We all feel that when Bros. Rev. Dr. Clarke and Rev. H. J. Nott, passed away from earth, this Society lost two of its best men, others too have been called away, men who perhaps occupied a lowlier place in our Order and in the walks of life but whom we remember, with affection, and whose memory we will ever revere, all of which afflictions ever remind us who are left to follow, that

“There is a stream whose narrow tide
The known and unknown worlds divide,
Where all must go.”

During the year six new Lodges have been instituted, viz., at Woodstock, Orillia, Trenton, Peterborough, Galt and Toronto.

I have been called upon from time to time to decide upon a variety of questions arising in the different Lodges, and to place a construction upon various clauses in our Constitution and By-laws, and in a few cases to decide differences existing between members, and to answer voluminous correspondence from all quarters, upon a multitude of technical questions, and it affords me no small degree of satisfaction to find that, thus far, there has been but one appeal entered against any ruling that I have given.

Early in April, after duly receiving tenders, I instructed the Right Worthy Grand Secretary to order five hundred members' certificates from a firm in the city of Hamilton. The design and workmanship I think were well executed and seem to have been satisfactory to all as they were readily taken up by our members, and were a source of profit to the Grand Lodge. I also in this connection, instructed the Right Worthy Grand Secretary not to issue them directly to members but to place them in the hands of subordinate Lodge Secretaries for disposal.

During the year we have introduced the New Ritual of the Second or White Rose Degree. I have carefully watched its workings and have gathered information from all sources, both *pro* and *con*, and I have become convinced, that where it has been heartily entered into, with a Lodge fully equipped for the work, it has proven itself to be not only more solemn and impressive in its character than the old, but of immensely greater value to its members.