

in time. I had hoped also that my noble friend and brother, Lord Skelmersdale, might, as Deputy Grand Master, have also been present on the occasion. He has, unhappily, as I mentioned in Grand Lodge, been obliged to absent himself in consequence of a great family affliction. The task, therefore, suddenly, and without notice, fell upon me, and I regret to say that business over which I have really had no control, obliges me at this moment to ask your indulgence and to leave you. It is personally a matter of extreme regret to me—I can hardly say how great regret. At the same time I know that all of you in this room know me so well that they are aware how reluctantly I tear myself away from such an assembly, and that I would not do so were it not that the necessity were absolutely imperative. Brethren, in taking my leave of you, I will only venture to express the hope which I know exists in the mind of every Mason in this room, that before very long, His Royal Highness may once more be with us. (Hear hear). I am satisfied that whenever he does return he will receive one of those cordial and enthusiastic welcomes such as he can receive nowhere out of the Craft. Brethren: His Royal Highness has during the last few months not merely pursued a journey of great personal interest, but he has also performed a great and high political duty. (Applause). He has passed through the length and breadth of our Indian Empire. He has conciliated affections; he has cemented those blocks—those colossal blocks—of empire by his happy temper, by his kindly consideration, by his political tact; and he has come away from the East, having discharged and successfully discharged, a great public duty. (Hear hear). On the other hand, we may also feel, and feel with great satisfaction, that while discharging those great political duties, he has never been forgetful of those Masonic obligations which he undertook here. Through the length and breadth of India he has received deputations; he has attended spectacles with reference to Masonry, which have given us all the greatest delight. He has discharged Masonic duties at Gibraltar; and he is, I observe, about to do the same at Lisbon; and if, as I saw lately in the newspapers, he has deliberately omitted to perform a Masonic duty in Malta, it was due to his political tact, and his knowledge and appreciation of the political circumstances of the Island. In a single word, I am satisfied that wherever His Royal Highness had been during the last three or four months he has maintained, and he has raised to a still higher point the credit and the character of English Masonry. (Cheers.) Brethren, I have nothing further to add except to express my deep personal regret at being obliged to absent myself, and I hope that under the presidency of my Right Worshipful brother on my right (Col. Burdett) who will now take my place, everything that is good and everything that is agreeable will ensue during the course of the evening. I wish you all an extremely good night.

MASONIC BRIEFLETS.

At a largely attended meeting of Masters, Past Masters and Wardens of the Toronto Lodges, held on the 26th ult., the following resolution, moved by R. W. Bro. S. B. Harman and seconded by W. Bro. the Rev. J. G. Robb, was unanimously adopted:

"That the Master, Past Master and Wardens of all the Lodges in the city of Toronto now assembled, having seen a paragraph which appeared in a morning paper of the 16th instant to the following effect:—'Masonic.—An influential meeting of gentlemen connected with Masonry in this city, consisting of Past Masters and others, was held last evening. The new features adopted by the Grand Lodge of A. F. and A. M. of Ontario were fully discussed and carefully considered; the meeting being unanimously of the opinion that the general adoption of the said new features by the Masonic Order will prove beneficial to Masonry in general. It was decided forthwith to organize a Lodge in this city working under the Grand Lodge. The Lodge will be in working order in the course of a fortnight, when the Masonic fraternity of the city will receive due notice, and a cordial invitation will be extended to all to attend.' And having ascertained that no Past Master or other gentlemen of influence connected with Masonry in this city attended any such meeting, desire to express their surprise and regret that a statement so unfounded in fact should have been furnished to the press. They repudiate in the most unqualified manner the un-Masonic and unwarrantable effort adopted by certain London brethren to create a disruption of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and they unanimously express their determination to uphold the same in its fullest integrity."

MASONIC veteran associations are being formed in various jurisdictions in the United States. The chief object, it appears, is to place upon record a his-