

*To the R. W. Grand Lodge of British North America of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows :*

**BRETHREN,**—I have much pleasure in meeting, in Annual Session, the Representatives from the various Lodges and Encampments, comprising the Grand Lodge of British North America, convened in accordance with the Legislative Provisions adopted at its first Session in January last.

It is usual for the Grand Sire upon such occasions to make communication of the proceedings which he has adopted in relation to the matters committed to his charge during the recess, to review the present condition of the Order, and at the same time to submit for consideration such matters as may be deemed conducive to its future welfare.

It affords me pleasure to be able to congratulate you on the general prosperity of the Order, which is receiving a steady and healthy increase as will, appear by the documents which will be presented to you.

By the 10th Legislative Provision of this Grand Lodge, adopted at its last Session, it was made the duty of the Grand Sire to appoint District Deputy Grand Sires for the respective Districts; and, in conformity therewith, I issued commissions appointing P. G., Peter Sheppard, for the Quebec District; P. G., E. Murney, for the Kingston District; P. G., S. B. Campbell, for the Toronto District; whose previous valuable services eminently entitled them to that honorable distinction. The reports of these several officers will be laid before you, showing the manner in which they have performed the various duties devolving upon them under the Legislative Provisions and otherwise, and which I have no doubt will sustain the high reputation which they have already acquired as efficient officers and zealous members of the Order.

I also deemed it advisable that the Grand Lodge should continue to be represented in the District of St. Francis, and, consequently, issued a new commission to D. D. Grand Sire Chase, continuing him in that office—a Brother who deservedly enjoys the marked approbation of the Order in that vicinity, for his indefatigable zeal in promoting its best interests, in any capacity in which his services were needed or could be made useful.

The several subordinate Lodges in the respective Districts not having, in any District, severally petitioned for the erection of a District Grand Lodge in accordance with the 2nd of the Legislative Provisions, elections have taken place, in each District, of Representatives to this R. W. Body, in conformity with the 16th and 17th of the said Legislative

Provisions, particulars of which will be laid before you.

In compliance with the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th of the Legislative Provisions already referred to, I issued a Charter for the constituting of a Grand Encampment of Canada, which was duly established in this city, on the 22nd of July last, under the most favorable auspices.

I stated, in my address in January last, that I had issued the necessary documents authorizing two esteemed Brothers of the Patriarchal Branch, C. P. Conger, and H. P. Taylor, to open an Encampment at Belleville, which duty you will perceive by their Report, which will be laid before you, they satisfactorily performed; and Moira Encampment, No. 8, was constituted in that place, on the 25th February last, under the most encouraging circumstances. The occasion chosen for constituting this Encampment was most opportunely fixed upon the day set apart for celebrating the opening of a new and elegant Hall, built for the use of the Order, in which the worthy Patriarchs, to whom the duty of opening and constituting the Encampment had been confided, participated, and H. P. Taylor delivered an eloquent and suitable address upon the occasion; and the whole proceedings reflect much credit upon all parties concerned. While upon this subject, I may add that celebrations of an equally gratifying nature have taken place at Quebec, Stanstead, and Cobourg, which cannot fail to have been attended with advantage to the Order in developing its principles.

At the last session of your R. W. Body, the petition from certain members of Oriental Lodge, No. 7, for an Encampment to be established at Rock Island, Stanstead, was acceded to, and in pursuance therewith, the requisite documents were furnished to D. D. G. Sire J. C. Chase, by whose report it will be perceived, that he opened and constituted Tomifobi Encampment, No. 7, at that place, on the 30th March last; and if we may judge from the steady and healthy progress which the other branch of the Order has made in that vicinity, we may confidently rely upon similar success attending the Patriarchal branch.

Applications having been made in due form, through D. D. G. Sire S. B. Campbell, for Dispen-sations, to authorize the establishing of two new Lodges in the Toronto District confided to his charge, they were transmitted to him accordingly, and you will observe by the report of that intelligent and indefatigable officer, that he opened and constituted Home Lodge, No. 21, at Toronto, on the 18th March last; Phœnix Lodge, No. 22, at Oshawa, on the 29th of the same month, under the most favorable prospects.