



MONTREAL, NOV., 5860.

The past month has indeed been a gala day for our illustrious order; the communications of the various lodges have been regularly held, while several notices of emergencies indicated a steady and onward progress in the Craft. We have had a R. A. Chapter Meeting; the presentation of a beautiful testimonial to R. W. Bro. Bernard, for his indefatigable exertions in the cause of Canadian Freemasonry; and last, though not least, an interesting and instructive lecture from M. W. Bro. Tucker, Grand Master of the State of Vermont. At the last convocation of the St. Paul's R. A. Chapter, the following election of officers took place:—1st Principal, V. W. Bro. Strachan Bethune; 2nd Principal, V. W. Bro. R. D. Collis; 3rd Principal, V. W. Bro. A. H. McCalman; Scribe, E. Comp. Scott; Scribe N., Comp. J. W. Hopkins; Principal Log., Comp. A. C. Hooper; Assist. Log., Comp. T. Cunyngame; Treasurer, Comp. J. Walker. The work of exaltation was beautifully performed by M. E. Comp. O. Moffatt, and tended much to impress upon the minds of all present, that in the appropriate words of Pope—

"Great was the cause; our old solemnities,
From no blind zeal or fond tradition rise."

A new regulation, now permitted by the Grand Chapter of England, which we nevertheless think premature, was also read; it is to the following effect:—That the conferring of the R. A. degree can be performed, after a period of one month from taking the M., instead of as formerly requiring a period of 12 months to intervene. We are now aware, through the kindness of an exchange, that such was the case in the United States, but must confess that the probationary period as M. Mason seems in our mind to be much too short. As there are only two Chapters in Montreal, neither of which works under the Grand Lodge of Canada, there seems to be a growing desire among the Canadian brethren that there should be a Chapter under that registry established here, and we trust ere long to hear of its organization. The presentation to Bro. Bernard was a marked success, and has indeed been justly earned. Though comparatively a young mason, Bro. B. made it his study day and night, and few indeed are there so well posted in the ancient landmarks of our order, or more capable of going through the ritual with satisfaction to himself and the brethren. Possessing a good address, and a large command of language his speeches are invariably characterized by a terseness and an applicability of mind to matter not frequently found in the possession of one individual, and which at once compels us to think how in so short a time, Bro. Bernard had picked up such a store of masonic knowledge.

On Friday Evening 26th ult., Bro. Tucker, M. W. G. M., Vermont, delivered a most interesting lecture on the General History of Freemasonry. The audience, composed chiefly of Masons, their wives and families, was large, and seemed much

interested in the worthy brother's remarks. Among those present we noticed V. W. Bros. Ladd and Morrison, P. M., St. Lawrence Lodge; V. W. Bro. A. McCalman, M. St. Paul's; V. W. Bro. Humes, P. M. St. George's; and V. W. Bro. Smith, Elgin Lodge, together with a large number of masters and their officers from the different lodges in the city.

R. W. D. D. G. M. Bro. Stevenson, W. M. of St. George's Lodge, C. R., presided, and in a neat and appropriate speech introduced Bro. Tucker to the audience. The lecturer then proceeded to give a succinct outline of the history of the order; he stated there were two classes of Masons, first those who possessed pre-adamite ideas and dating the history of the craft, even prior to the known history of the world, while there was also another class, to which he himself belonged, who recognized it as a human institution, though peculiarly favoured, and existing no further back than the building of the temple of Solomon. That it was to the Jews we were indebted for this best of all secret institutions, and laid great stress upon the value of Masonic traditions, illustrating in several instances their parallelism with the old Testament. The Brother also instituted a comparison between this and other societies, discoursing in most appropriate and eloquent language respecting the complete preservation of every essential even during the most troublous times, and in plain terms stated that if not what he represented it to be, it surely would have been made patent prior to this time, since it did not require a period of over two thousand years to discover a lie. No other society had suffered as much from persecution during the middle ages, and even prior to that date, and in no other organization had so much been written in explanation or defence. Bro. Tucker finally traced the order down "to a period within the memory of men still living," and after a few concise remarks relative to the position of American Masons with those of the Grand Lodge of Canada, closed a most interesting and instructive lecture in the words of a beautiful Masonic Ode.

V. W. Bro. Stevenson, D. D. G. M., returned thanks, and the lecturer was greeted with loud applause.

We have received from Bro. Hill, the following Masonic Pamphlets, and from the excellence of the matter and the beautiful manner in which they are got up must command a ready sale. "The Juryman Mason." "A Mason in High Places, Bishop Griswold and the Anti-Masonic Vicar." "The great outlines of Speculative Freemasonry." "The Beauties of Freemasonry Exemplified" by Dr. Oliver. Time has not permitted us to more than glance at these little bijoux and we shall in our next number refer to them more particularly.

The prices of the several pamphlets will be found on our advertising page.

In the report of the Grand Commandery of the State of Ohio, we are indeed happy to notice an anxious desire for that uniformity of working, which ever shows to the best advantage. The success attending the encampment is marked, and we shall at all times be happy to hear of its continuance.

Annual Conclave, Grand Commandery, William Phelan, R. E., Grand Commander; Francis

King, Grand Recorder. Seven Encampments are mentioned, and in this report we are happy to learn that the much disputed question in regard to the Templar uniform has been definitely settled. May they continue to prosper.

In reply to "Inquisitor's" note, we have received as an answer that in none of the States is the period of 12 months probation as a M. M. required, we shall however, again refer to this.

We have received from Bro. Rayhouser, Proceedings Grand Lodge of Indiana, Proceedings Grand Chapter, Proceedings of Annual Conclave of Knight's Templar, Proceedings of Grand Council of Royal and select Masters,

Also from Bro. Beadslee the report of the Grand Encampment for the State of Ohio for which they will please accept our thanks.

We copy the "Ashlar's" excellent condensation of the reports.

We have received from Bro. Jas. Lockhart, of Brantford, C.W., a beautiful engraving of the celebrated Lady St. Ledger, the only woman who was ever admitted into our order: with it is an accompanying pamphlet, containing a full and true account of her initiation into our mysteries, together with the number of degrees she received. The engraving is copied from an old family picture, and though at first sight impressing the observer with an idea of masculinity incompatible with female beauty, nevertheless the features bear the stamp of an exalted intellect strictly educated in moral principles, and a mind shadowing forth true benevolence to all mankind. This estimable lady ever took an interest in the craft, and in her death, at the advanced age of 80 years, the poor, indeed, had lost a friend. Bro. Hill, No. 2 Place d'Armes, has been appointed Agent here, where the engraving and pamphlet may be obtained, price \$2.00. We trust ere long to be able to say it has found a place in every mason's house.

The opportunity of subscribing to Bro. Hyman's Masonic Register is rapidly drawing to a close, and we would heartily recommend every Brother who is anxious to have an insight into the strength and character of our order to subscribe. It is got up at great expense and should at least remunerate the publisher for his time and material. The list closes on the 10th November proximo.

The moral qualifications for initiation into our order, require that the candidate shall neither be an atheist, an infidel nor an irreligious libertine; that he must practice the four cardinal and three theological virtues; he must be a humble believer in the wisdom, power and goodness of God, because this constitutes the religious creed of Freemasonry, and acts as a check upon vice, and a stimulus to virtue."—*Masonic Dictionary*.

The lesser lights or luminaries are used to light us to, at, or from labour. They are situated in the east, west, and south, in allusion to the apparent course of the sun, which rising in the East gains its meridian in the South and disappears in the West. These luminaries represent emblematically the Sun, Moon and Master of the Lodge.—*Idem*.