

Dutchman, who having undertaken to perform a certain leap, took such a long race, that when he came to the fence, or the hedge, or the wall, or whatever it was that he undertook to clear, found himself fairly out of wind. I hope, however, Mr. Editor, that you see my drift. I have been trying to portray to the mind's eyes of your readers, an Englishman at dinner; and if one such man presents such a spectacle, how much more pleasant must it be to see twelve or twenty or thirty such men sitting at a table enjoying themselves, and each other? It is perhaps too much to expect that in such a mixed community as yours, all the members of any one of your lodges are Englishmen; but I have no doubt that the majority of them are, and as for the others, why, by being masons—which in my young days was but another word for good fellow—they are as nearly assimilated to that corinthian capital of the pillar of humanity as their natures will permit, and must not be denied the privilege of sitting down with those who claim an inheritance in the "Glorious Charter!"

You will observe, Mr. Editor, that I say nothing about the peculiarities of lodge dinners. These every mason knows for himself, and I do not think it right that any of the things which only masons know—should be put in print, and be thereby submitted to the eyes of the uninitiated.\*

\* I will perhaps give you at some future time my opinion, as a old mason, about the number of Books, &c., which are being published now-a-days, on masonry.

I have said nothing concerning masonic dinners, but I must be allowed to say a few words about balls,—not masonic balls, for I do not like to write against anything which comes before the world coupled with that honorable adjective—but about such assemblages in general.

If the balls now-a-days were anything like what a ball used to be—if people would dance Contre dances and Minuets instead of Polkas, Galops and Cotillions, there might be some excuse for even a sensible man hesitating in his choice, but between a modern ball and a good dinner, it seems to me no man, except a Frenchman or American, would pause one moment. The fact is, every one can enjoy a dinner, and I put it to you, sir, whether there are not some brethren in Montreal, who, whatever they may think to the contrary, had better not try to dance?

In my young days dancing was defined as "the poetry of motion." The definition was really a good one (I have heard Mr. Upton approve it) but it certainly does not suit the "dancing" of these times. Motion should now be written commotion and poetry should give place to panic.

I must close. I am much afraid this letter is too long for your columns; but even with this probability before my eyes, I must give vent to my fears that the brethren in Canada are becoming too fond of adopting customs and ideas originating over "the line," and too anxious to let it be seen that they have left the Grand Lodge of England. They have started a paper—a decidedly Yankee idea—and now they propose abandoning the old English custom of a St. Johns Dinner, for the Franco-Yankeeism of a Ball. I beseech the brethren to be cautious—cautious did I say? nay rather to be firm! and by a decisive vote not only put down this movement for the present, but prevent such a dangerous innovation ever being proposed again. American masons make great ado about the Landmarks of the order; I bid them pause ere they ruthlessly remove

one so important as the dinner Table—redolent as it is with pleasant memories to all old masons such as

Your humble Brother,

RICHARD B. HARDING.

St. Cathrines (Montreal)

### Golden Rule Lodge.

M. W. Brother Wilson, Grand Master, accompanied by Bro Bernard, D.G.M., and Bro Browning, of the Ottawa Hotel, Montreal, visited Golden Rule Lodge on Monday evening, the 22nd ultimo. Notwithstanding the unfavorable state of the weather, the attendance was large, and highly respectable, and the proceedings extremely interesting. The reception of the Grand Officers by the brethren of Stanstead, was most cordial, and the work exhibited in the first degree very correct and impressive. Our highly esteemed and venerable Brother Gustin, the charter-master of the lodge—under whose fostering care it has existed nearly half a century—delivered to the G. M., and the D. G. M., the following address:

Most Worshipful Grand Master, and Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master:

It is with unusual diffidence that I attempt to express to you the lively emotions and peculiar sensations which inspire the breasts of the officers and brethren of Golden Rule lodge on this new and interesting occasion.

New, as being the first instance, since the organization of this lodge in 1814, a period of forty-two years or more, that its hall has been honored by the presence of any officer of the Grand Lodge under which it was hallowed, and but seldom favored with familiar and fraternal written communications exceeding the ordinary requirements of regular returns and prompt payment of dues.

Interesting as, inspiring high hopes and fond anticipations, and, at the same time, affording assurances that we are now attached to an independent head, whose guardian care, and paternal solicitude for the prosperity and well-being of its subordinates are by this visit ostensibly manifested. To behold the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Independent Grand Lodge of Canada, after devoting time and treasure, in travelling south and west, securing friendly relations, for the benefit of the craft in Canada; and, like masters of ancient days, "in pursuit of a more perfect mode of work." Here, to-day, we meet him in the east, some eight hundred miles from home, with his faithful coadjutor, the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, solely for the purpose of visiting and inspecting the work of a poor humble unpretending lodge of freemasons; who, after struggling through long years of adversity, its means exhausted by the continual exorbitant demands of the former Grand Lodge, has little to offer in return except the pure incense of devoted hearts. To us this kind and unmerited attention of our Grand Officers seems auspicious of better days, and proclaims in unmistakable terms that a new era has dawned upon the history of masonry in Canada.

To the uninitiated these zealous labors of distinguished and eminent men, declare emphatically that freemasonry is something more than a mere nominal institution; that it is not

wholly confined to the individual benefit of its members, but is wisely calculated to exert a salutary influence throughout the different departments of civilized life—the expansion of intellect, refinement of taste, improvement of morals, cultivation of the social virtues, alleviation of distress, drying the widows tears, and succouring the helpless orphans, being among its legitimate objects.

Notwithstanding this is the first personal visit with which *Golden Rule lodge* has been honored, yet she has been favored with many friendly epistolary communications from the Right Worshipful D. G. Master; and has witnessed with satisfaction his planting the germs of masonry around our borders, which under his fostering care we hope and trust will soon produce fruits demonstrating the vitality of the order.

We fear that in your extensive circuit through the province you will involuntarily arrive at the conclusion, that, while masonry has achieved much, an extensive field is still open requiring its active and energetic operations; and while you find many things to cheer and induce patience and perseverance, you will on the other hand meet with frequent obstruction rendering your path rugged and your sojourning wearisome, you will undoubtedly "find the mason in templo, in many instances defiled by the lips of the profane, uttering the sacred name of deity without reverence or respect! While from its walls you will perceive, now and then, a loose stone projecting from its sides indicating an untimely downfall; and even our ground floor or mosaic pavement on which we tread, in many parts, exhibits a soiled surface; and sorry I am to say, even alcoholic stains; while the rage of party politics, religious dissensions, and bitter sectarian animosities threaten an invasion of the most holy place.

Under your wise and skilful guidance it is the work of masonry to restore its primitive order and beauty; to thoroughly cleanse the sanctuary; cast out and purify till every lodge under your extensive jurisdiction can proudly chant—

"Hail mysterious, glorious science,  
That to discord bids defiance,  
Harmony alone reigns here.  
Let us sing to him who raised us,  
From the rugged paths that mazed us,  
To the light that we revere."

We are not insensible of the arduous task and high responsibilities devolving on you as head of the craft in Canada, still we trust your course will be upward and onward; and we shall consider ourselves fortunate if, in our humble sphere with our limited means, we can become co-workers with you in elevating the character of freemasonry in this province, to a high and prominent standing, securing it an extension and rendering it a lasting and perpetual blessing, to be transmitted as such, to succeeding and remote generations.

To you Most Worshipful and R. W. Sirs, is intrusted the accomplishment of this grand design. And, as Solomon King of Israel, and Hiram King of Tyre, by their united wisdom and masterly skill, erected that superb model of excellence which immortalized their names—so may your united labor on the mystic temple—prosecuted with energetic zeal, and impressively enforced both by precept and example prove equally successful. May you long live to behold it in a finished state, reflecting from its gilded sides, in brilliant beams the pure rays, profusely shed, by the great lights of masonry: while numerous Masonic Halls reverberate with the loud laudatory com-