

Purposes upon the address of the M. W. Grand Master, referring to the Masonic Asylum, be postponed to the next annual communication.—p. 504.

The whole matter would, therefore, appear to stand over for consideration at the present Grand Lodge, on the Grand Master's reference to the Report of the Trust for 1873, and the Report of the Board of General Purposes thereon. And, in furtherance of such consideration, your Trustees, as the committee to whom the project has been so long and specially referred by Grand Lodge, and who have necessarily given it the gravest attention, beg leave to offer the following remarks:—

*First*—In the matter of The M. W. The Grand Master's address. They submit that the M. W. The Grand Master conveyed his remarks on the Report of the Trustees with great fairness and under a two-fold aspect.

I. From the stand-point, held by some, of the requirements of Masonic benevolence in Canada, so far differing from those in England, that the majority of those availing of the same, would prefer an external or out-door dispensation as at present carried out, to an internal or indoor system of relief, such as an Asylum would furnish; but,

II. That, as there *are* those who do not consider this an exposition of the *entire* masonic mind, "from our ample resources, a commencement (of the proposed institution) on a limited scale, might now be inaugurated, the land required for the purpose being obtainable at a comparatively low price, while he was inclined to believe the fund now at the disposal of the Trustees, would be found sufficient to acquire the land and to secure a HOME which, for some years to come, at all events, would be large enough to meet the necessities of our present position."

*Secondly*—While your Trustees regret that the Board of General Purposes of last year, were not prepared to do so, they trust the present Board may, on consideration, see their way to a recommendation of this latter *most moderate* course of action, which would thus, by adopting the M. W. Grand Master's view of commencing on a limited scale, afford an opportunity for testing the utility of a scheme which even, if not unanimously entertained, is still, *from a large and influential advocacy*, open to respect and consideration; and they must repudiate, though always in a becoming masonic spirit, the entirely false argument, as however reluctantly, they are compelled to term it, that, "the carrying out this scheme, would be the mere gratifying of masonic pride to be pointed out to the profane as conclusive evidence of masonic benevolence and zeal; that "it might well be questioned whether such gratification would not be bought too dear." And, "that there could be no doubt that the expense of such an institution would be a severe tax for all time on the revenues of Grand Lodge." From such reasoning, your Trustees entirely differ as both an unfair and an unjust reflection on *the large portion of the craft in Canada who conscientiously advocate the movement*; nay more, on Masonry in general, wherever such expositions of its principles are to be found in every portion of the masonic world; and as well might it apply to any other efforts of the benevolent outside the craft, to rear enduring monuments of piety, charity and benevolence, and the founders of hospitals, orphanages, and even schools and seminaries for the succour of the afflicted, and the improvement of our race, might be thus erroneously charged with false views in their inception. As to the argument of expense and its being a severe tax for all time on the revenues of Grand Lodge, it will be presently shown that such a result is entirely imaginary.

To deal, however, practically with the main question of Masonry in Canada having an institution of a permanent character to supplement in extreme cases, the present system of masonic aid, (*and with a view it has never been for a moment contemplated to interfere*.) your Trustees would now ask of Grand Lodge to permit them to assume the responsibility of instituting a commencement on a limited scale, as recommended by the M. W. the Grand Master, and towards such commencement, all they would require is the sanction to make an appeal to the Lodges for support, *quite apart from other contributions to Grand Lodge funds*, and to act on the response, which under the blessing of T. G. A. O. T. U., they have a full confidence, will be such as will tend to promote as well His glory, as the benefit of their fellow creatures, by liberal and hearty contributions. They speak advisedly in saying that to "return the funds already received with the accumulated interest," as proposed by the Board of General Purposes, would be not only most distasteful to the subscribing Lodges, but to numbers of other Lodges and Masons who are anxiously awaiting a call on them to follow in the course of those who subscribed in 1861, and who are known to regret the delay. And the appeal can be the more confidently made when it can be pointed out to the Lodges that the Trust has carefully husbanded the funds committed to their charge, the accumulated and reinvested interest alone amounting to nearly \$2,700 or more than a third of the present fund of the Trust. The opportunity for founding the institution at Niagara, as set forth in the report of last year, is they believe, still open and, from pecuniary inducements so liberally offered in that old town, the birth-plac