

surer of the Masonic Board of Relief, and several members of the Board.

The elements, though in an angry mood, were unable to deter lovers of music and literature from attending this concert at the Academy, and the inconvenience and discomfort attendant on a sortie amidst torrents of rain, were lost sight of in the pleasure derived from the entertainment provided. The audience was large and brilliant, and also appreciative, as evinced by frequent applause.

Melbourne M. Tait, Esq., Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, A. F. and A. M., delivered the following introductory address:—

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our Masonic concert, and it is a special gratification to me to see so many present. There have been so many musical and literary entertainments held lately, and so many still to be held, that we hardly dared to hope our effort would have been met with so much success, and I assure you, the Masonic fraternity, for whom I speak, is very grateful for the encouragement you have given it on this occasion. (Applause.) In these hard times—and in view of the winter now at hand—it behoves every charitable society, among which the Masonic Society claims a prominent position, to put forth its best efforts to obtain means wherewith to alleviate as far possible the distress and suffering which many will have to endure. (Applause.) The charitable work done by the Board of Relief, by whom this entertainment is given, is of a different character from that done by private Lodges or by Grand Lodge. The two latter endeavor to the extent of their ability to assist their own members and their families. But there are many Masons who do not perhaps belong to any lodge, or are only in the city transiently, and who require assistance. The Board of Relief has been formed with a view to render assistance in such cases, and its funds are derived from amounts contributed to private lodges and by efforts of this kind. Having said a few words with respect to the work of the Board you will permit me perhaps to say a few words regarding our society in general. There seems to be an idea in the minds of some people that because we are a secret society, and obligations are required from our members, that there is necessarily something alarming about us, and something which does not entitle us to hearty support. It is undoubtedly true that we have certain secrets, and administer certain obligations to those who join us, but there is nothing in these secrets or obligation which conflicts with a man's duty to his God, his church, to the State, or to his fellow-man. On the contrary, they are intended and calculated, as is the whole system of Masonry, to make

a man more faithful in the discharge of these duties, and to inculcate and induce the practice of the highest virtues. (Applause). That our Society is a loyal one, I have only to appeal to the fact that Our Most Gracious Sovereign the Queen is a patroness of the Order, so declared to be by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, on the occasion of the banquet held after his election, for the fourth time, as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England. I will read you the very words made use of by him on this occasion. In proposing "The Health of the Queen," the M. W. Grand Master said:—"Brethren, the first toast th. it will be my privilege to give you to-night will be one which will require but very few words from me, as I know it is a toast which is drunk with enthusiasm by all loyal Englishmen; and I think I may safely say the craft are as loyal as any community in this country. I have the pleasure of giving you, 'The Health of Her Majesty the Queen, the Patroness of our Order.'" (Prolonged applause.) In addition to this we have the fact already mentioned, that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has been elected four successive years, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, while Their Royal Highnesses the Duke of Connaught and Prince Leopold both hold high positions in Grand Lodge; and in looking over the names of those occupying high positions in the Masonic Order in England you will be struck with the fact that so many of them are noblemen and others of the highest social position. (Applause.) The Masonic Society is also a charitable one. It would be impossible to enter at large into the many charities which are supported by Masons, or to speak with any particularity of the charitable work done by them, nor is it customary for Masons to indulge in boasting in this respect, but I intend to depart from the usual custom on this occasion by calling your attention to some of the most prominent charities of the Grand Lodge of England last year. At the beginning of last year, on the occasion of the return of the Prince of Wales from India, and as a thank offering for his safe return, the Grand Lodge of England voted a sum of £4,000 stg. to be devoted to the building and maintenance of two Life Boats; later on it voted a further sum of 1,000 guineas towards the Indian Famine fund. In addition to these sums there was raised in support of the three great Masonic charities in England a sum of £42,627 8s. 11d. stg. These three charities are:—

1. "The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for aged Freemasons," for which a sum of £16,411 19s. 5d. was collected. In this institution there were 145 aged Freemasons receiving annually £140 each; 130 widows receiving annually £32 each, and 13