

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

VALEDICTORY.

Nearly seven years have passed since I acquired from Messrs. T. & R. WHITE, their interest in the "CRAFTSMAN." I confess that I under-estimated the time and labor and means that were necessary to carry it along, but all these I have since learned, and have paid for my experience.

I do not regret the money I have spent and lost, except that perhaps it might have been spent and lost in a less worthy cause, but I do regret that part of the loss is attributable to the fact that my time has been so fully taken up with matters that were more remunerative, that I have been utterly unable to maintain that constant personal supervision over, and preparation of, the contents of the CRAFTSMAN, so necessary to keep it up to a proper standard, and to render it attractive. I now hand it over to R. W. Bro. J. B. TRAYES, of Port Hope, and I do so all the more gladly because I know that Bro. TRAYES possesses the energy, experience and liberality which should enable him to publish it with satisfaction to the Craft and with credit and profit to himself. I believe that there is room for a first-class Masonic Journal in Canada, and I sincerely trust that Bro. TRAYES, in his efforts to revive the drooping fortunes of the CRAFTSMAN, will receive that encouragement and support from the Fraternity that he has a right to expect. I am well aware that a paying Masonic Journal is one of the wonders of the world, but it does exist in more than one quarter of the globe, and there is no reason why it should not exist here. The *Keystone*, an excellent weekly paper, recently related the story of a tramp who was arrested somewhere in New Jersey, taken before a magistrate, and "sent up" for three months, the Justice explaining that while there was no evidence that the prisoner had been guilty of any crime, he thought it prudent to commit him, as he had the wild, haggard look of a man about to start a Masonic periodical. I do not vouch for the credibility of this story, but the universal experience of Masonic publishers goes to prove that it is almost impossible to establish a Masonic magazine on a permanent basis. I retire from the management of the CRAFTSMAN with the kindest feelings, both to those who have aided me in my struggles to keep the ship afloat, and to those who have been either unable or unwilling to lend a helping hand. What was denied to me I ask for my successor at the helm, so that thoroughly overhauled, and new rigged and manned, the old ship may make many another monthly trip before she becomes a thing of the past.

One parting word to my brethren of the press. I lately received a letter from Bro. Berry, of the *Masonic Token*, in which he says: "I shall do myself the honor to continue your copy (of the *Token*) if you have no objection, on the ground that any man who will sacrifice himself to the Craft by publishing a Masonic journal, deserves well of it forever after." Bro. Berry does me the honor, and I gratefully accept his kind offer. If my brethren of the press feel inclined to go and do likewise, they will confer a deep and lasting favor on their friend and brother,

J. J. MASON.

Hamilton, 15th June, 1877.