

their warmest thanks to the audience for their attendance, and for the encouragement and assistance thus given the Board in their efforts to raise the means wherewith to practice that virtue which always had been, and he trusted always would be, the crowning virtue of every Freemason's heart—charity; that virtue which carries with it a double blessing—blessing him who gives as well as him who receives. He also desired to express the gratitude of the Masonic Fraternity to the kind friends who had voluntarily and gratuitously placed their valuable talents at the disposal of the Board. He would take the present opportunity to explain that the Board of Relief was comprised of or rather was intended to be comprised of a representative from each lodge in the city. Each lodge so represented was assessed in a certain annual sum, proportionate to its income, and the money thus derived and that derived from other sources—such as entertainments like the present—was employed by the Board in relieving the wants and necessities, not of the Masons resident here, who were attended to by their own lodges or by Grand Lodge, but of transient Masons; also, the wives, widows, brothers, and sisters of Masons, such Masons not being members of any city lodge. It would thus be seen that the Board had a large field to work in, and he would assure them that their work, like that of all charities, was only limited by the means at their command. He hoped one and all would spend a pleasant evening, and derive additional satisfaction from feeling that they had contributed to a good work.

The programme was a lengthened and varied one. Messrs. Percival Tibbs and Charles Bourne fittingly inaugurated the musical performance by singing a duett, "Love and War," a beautiful composition by T. Cook, with marked effect, for which they were loudly applauded. They also sang another very charming duett in the second part entitled, "The Sailor Sighs." A finer or more pleasing composition they could not have selected, and their rendering of it was admirable, their fine voices blending well together and affording decided pleasure to the audience. The Mozart Club—a quartette of stringed instruments—gave a specimen of their quality in compositions by Mozart and Haydn. The execution was artistic in the highest sense. Mrs. Manger, a lady well known in the Lower Provinces, gave a reading, entitled, "The Burning of Chicago." She has a good voice, pronounces her words clearly and forcibly, and at times with marked effect. Her second reading later on—a selection from one of Max Adeler's papers, entitled "Obituary Factory"—afforded a good illustration of the variety of her powers. It occasioned much merriment, and was loudly applauded. Mrs. Scott's solo, "Dermott Asthore," was sung

with expression, grace, and feeling, and was loudly encored. Mr. Stancliffe's song, "My Old Friend John," an old-time composition, was also awarded a similar honor. Mr. Ernest Lavigne's cornet solo was one of the features of the programme, and he was loudly applauded for the masterly manner in which he performed the intricate variations in a difficult solo composed by Z. Arban, entitled "*Pietro il Grande*." Mr. Lavigne shows himself to be a perfect master of his instrument. The conclusion of his solo received an enthusiastic encore.

The Chairman then introduced M. W. Bro. Thomas White, P. G. M., who, on coming forward, was received with demonstrations of applause. Bro. White said he could heartily congratulate the Board of Masonic Relief of the City of Montreal upon the splendid audience here this evening. He knew that there were a great many people who were very curious on the subject of Freemasonry, and that possibly that fact might have induced a great many to come here to-night. Singular ideas were entertained in relation to this ancient and honorable fraternity. It was associated as to its initiatory services with the riding of the goat. [Laughter.] It was associated with certain branding irons, with fires, with all kinds of curious things, which had tended very much to make every Mason an object of great curiosity to those who are uninitiated. The ladies, for instance, not being allowed to enter the lodge room, were naturally very curious to ascertain what takes place there, and he had heard—he did not know whether it was true or not—of an initiated Mason undergoing a very careful scrutiny by his wife to discover where the branding iron was put. [Laughter.] Masons had their secrets. He did not propose to-night to tell all of them, but he did propose to tell his hearers one secret, and it was this which had brought them together to-night, or rather, which prompted the Masonic fraternity to invite them to come here. It was a secret of Freemasonry which they were all willing that the public should know, and that was the secret of doing good as far as the opportunity presented itself to them. [Applause.] He could not better fulfil the object which the committee had in view in inviting him there than by giving a few facts in relation to what Freemasonry is doing in the great work of benevolence. He would take his own great mother Grand Lodge—the mother Grand Lodge of most of the Freemasons present, the Grand Lodge of Canada,—as an illustration, and he thought he could draw lessons of encouragement therefrom for the Grand Lodge of Quebec, under whose auspices they were assembled here to-night. He found as a fact, a very simple fact, that it had been in operation for nineteen years, and that during these nineteen years the Grand Lodge of