

in the prosecution of those schemes of practical benevolence which are among the most cherished aims of the Craft, in due time, a rural Asylum and Home for the helpless and aged—the indigent and the infirm ;—and a School of Training and Industry for the Orphan youth—will be among the blessed fruits of the seeds that are now being sown ; and may the God of the needy—the widow, and of the fatherless, prosper you in your laudable designs.

OTHER SUBJECTS.

There are other subjects, to which, if time permitted, I would be glad to call your attention, such as the exemplification of the great principles of our Order in our daily lives,—the care and relief of the sick and needy,—the exercise of circumspection in the selection of materials and of master-builders for our temples,—the careful instruction of novitiates,—the duty of liberally supporting able, friendly Masonic journals at home and abroad, the establishment of Grand Lodge and private Lodge Libraries from the abounding literature of the Craft—the desirableness of lodges of instruction in private lodges, in district assemblies, and in Grand Lodge, &c., &c.,—but there are two or three topics to which I must briefly refer.

PUBLIC DIVINE SERVICE AND BANQUET.

In accordance with a goodly custom of the Fathers, at their annual and other Assemblies, and in consonance with the well-known wishes of many of the officers and members of this Grand Lodge—and with a profound sense of our duty and privilege as a Grand Lodge of Freemasons, publicly to acknowledge the Most High,—it has been arranged to have public Divine Service conducted by several of our Reverend brethren, and to have an appropriate Discourse delivered by the Grand Chaplain, who has kindly consented to perform that important duty ; and I am also sure that you will unite in expressing your gratification that it has also been arranged to have the Grand Lodge Banquet conducted on total abstinence principles.

HON. B. B. FRENCH.

It is my sad duty to announce to the Grand Lodge, that M. W. Brother the Hon. Benjamin Brown French, of Washington P. G. M. of the G. L. of the District of Columbia, is no more. He died on the 12th day of August last, universally beloved. His funeral obsequies and the other tributes to his memory were grandly commemorative of his exalted worth. In sad but grateful remembrance of this renowned Prince in our Israel, the illustrious and faithful friend of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, I beg to suggest that this Lodge be draped in mourning throughout this Grand Lodge communication.

CLOSING CONGRATULATION.

With thirty (or thirty-one) prosperous lodges on our registry, and with every prospect of continued healthy increase with prudence, zeal, and the spirit of self-sacrifice among our members—with peace, concord, and unanimity of purpose at home, and receiving consideration, recognition, and support from distinguished brethren, and from sister Grand Lodges abroad, it well becomes us thankfully and gratefully to rejoice in such prosperity ; and cannot be otherwise than that every true Masonic heart is gladdened to learn of the wondrous advancement of our fraternity everywhere throughout the civilized world, and that multitudes of every clime, kindred, and tongue are crowding our temple gates, and that our brethren everywhere are earnestly engaged in the prosecution of our grand design of honouring God, and promoting peace, union, prosperity, and goodwill among men, as “all true Masons have done, from the beginning of the world, and will do to the end of time.” And now, brethren, in closing, let me assure you that, while I have not been unmindful of the distinguished honour which you conferred upon me by electing me the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, contrary, as most of you are aware, to my proposals relative thereto, I have to regret that the arduous duties of my profession have left me but little time to perform satisfactorily to myself the important duties of this office, especially in such a crisis as we have unnecessarily been called upon to pass through ; and whatever mistakes may have been made, they are but renewed illustrations of the old, old truth, that “to err is human,” and, whatever have been our successes, let them all be ascribed to Him by whom “kings reign, and princes decree justice ;” and while, with renewed vigor and unswerving fidelity, we carry onward and upward to completion this our grand Masonic edifice, till the cope stone shall have been placed amidst shouts of universal rejoicing—let us all faithfully execute the grand designs drawn by the Almighty Hand upon the trestle board of our existence, and delineated for our guidance in the volume of the Sacred Law, so that at last our work may be found worthy the acceptance of the Grand Master above, the Great Architect and Supreme Ruler of the universe—Amen, and Amen.

Richmond, P. Q., Oct. 19th, 1970.

J. H. GRAHAM, Grand Master.