

faced from its mind. It is the foundation upon which something is to be erected to withstand the troubled waves of life's tempestuous sea.

The novice is as a child. He is entering a new life by assuming new duties. There is something expected of him besides that which had been observed before his novitiate, and the impressions of the first lessons will shape his mind and heart for his usefulness to the Craft in future years, which will be measured by the interest manifested by him in the first lessons, and the degree of solemnity and reverence attained during the same. Those who learned to reverence the Masonic Institution and its members on admittance, will respect them when old.

I have never been able to discover, in written or oral laws, or in any writings, where a member can conscientiously practice such ignorance, levity and frivolity within the Lodge-rooms. He should receive the strongest admonition possible for such an offence. "Draw not nigh hither; put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."

CANADIAN MASONIC MEDAL.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

Prior to the year 1855 the Masonic lodges of the provinces now known as Ontario and Quebec held their warrants from three several Grand Lodges, namely, those of England, Ireland, and Scotland. This system was productive of much evil to the craft, creating a diversity of interests and allegiance, and an absence of harmony in action and working. To apply a remedy to this hurtful state of affairs, a preliminary meeting of delegates was held on July 19, 1855, at the Clifton House, Niagara Falls, when it was decided to call a convention to assemble on Wednesday, October 10, at the city of Hamilton, Canada. At this convention it was unanimously resolved to form a "Grand Lodge of Canada." Officers were chosen on the 2nd of November, they

were installed by Hon. H. F. Backus, P.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of the State of Michigan. The Grand Lodge was thus fully constituted under the name of "The Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of F. and A.M. of Canada."

It was hardly to be expected that all the masons in Canada should be satisfied with this movement. Foremost among its opponents were those who formed the body then known as the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada (a branch of the Grand Lodge of England). They took strong grounds against the new power, and by their efforts several of the Grand Lodges were led (for a time) to refuse recognition.

In 1856 steps were taken to unite the two bodies, and at a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge, held at Toronto on the 30th of June, 1857, it was resolved "that the interests of masonry required that perfect unity of the craft should be restored and maintained throughout the province (Ontario)." and a committee was appointed to take such measures as they might consider necessary and expedient to effect such unity, and to meet any committee which might be appointed by the Grand Lodge of Canada. The latter body having appointed such a committee, a meeting of the two was held at Toronto on the 5th of August, when a plan for the union of the two bodies was presented, but no satisfactory decision was arrived at, and in the following September the members of the Provincial Grand Lodge assembled and dissolving that body declared themselves an Independent Grand Lodge under the style and title of "The Ancient Grand Lodge of A.F. and A.M. of Canada."

During the year several conferences were held between representatives of the rival Grand Lodges which resulted in a basis of union acceptable to both parties, and on the 14th of July, 1858, the "Ancient Grand Lodge" was declared dissolved and the union of the craft was perfected. Ten days later it was resolved "that a medal be struck