

The business of the past year has, I am happy to announce, been conducted in a manner creditable alike to the officers of Grand Lodge, and the Craft generally over whom I have the honor and pleasure to preside.

The reports of the several Executive Officers and Committees of Grand Lodge, now to be submitted for your consideration and approval, will doubtless prove the satisfactory and healthy progress of the Order throughout this province during the past masonic year.

The following resume of such matters as have come under my own immediate attention since I last addressed you, is now fraternally submitted for your approval and confirmation :

The act for the establishment of District Deputy Grand Masters having limited the powers of those officers to official visitations, instruction in the work of the degrees, and the granting of dispensations for public processions other than funerals, I issued my authority to the District Deputies to consecrate, dedicate and constitute the Lodges, "Taylor," No. 62, "Corinthian," No. 63, "Richmond," No. 64, and "Freeport," No. 65, chartered by you at the last annual communication, and to install the officers thereof.

The following Dispensations to establish Lodges have been issued during the past year, viz :

July 11, 1872.—"Minas" Lodge, Parrsborough, Cumberland Co.

Mar. 17, 1873.—"Hopewell" Lodge, Hopewell, Pictou Co.

On the 7th^o September last, I authorized R. W. Bro. Taylor, Past Deputy Grand Master, to lay the foundation stone of the new Masonic Hall at Liverpool, with Masonic honors, and on the 23rd October, R. W. Bro. Robert D. Clarke to dedicate Masonic Hall at Chester.

Albion; No. 5, Keith, No. 23, Eastern Star, No. 51, and Orient, No. 49 have with my approval amended their By Laws.

The original Charter of Harmony Lodge, now No. 52, having been destroyed by fire on the 17th of September last, I immediately directed the Grand Secretary to issue from the registry of Warrants a duplicate Charter, fearing that the interests of the craft in that section of our jurisdiction would suffer if the labours of the Lodge were suspended from that date until the present Communication of G. Lodge.

In October last I received a petition from a number of brethren, praying for a dispensation to open a new Lodge at Farmington, in the township of Wilmot. Having satisfied myself that the interests of the Craft would not be promoted by the establishment of a new Lodge in the same locality that had so recently witnessed the decadence of the late Davies Lodge, and that those influences which resulted in the