

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF GRAND LODGE.

The nineteenth annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of A. F. and A. M. of Canada, was held in the Music Hall, Church St., Toronto, commencing on Wednesday, 8th July.

Grand Lodge having been opened in ample form, the following Grand officers were present: M. W. Bro. W. M. Wilson, Grand Master; R. W. Bros. Thomas White, jr., Deputy Grand Master; B. E. Charlton, Grand Junior Warden; James Bain, as Grand Chaplain; David McLellan, as Grand Treasurer; John Nettleton, Grand Registrar; Thos. B. Harris, Grand Secretary; V. W. Bros. N. G. Bigelow, G. D. of C.; Hugh Murray, as Assistant Grand Secretary; John Midgely, as Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies; Wm. Niven, as Grand Organist; C. A. Sippie, Assistant Grand Organist; A. G. Muir, as Grand Pursuivant; John L. Dixon, as Grand Tyler; D. R. Booth, D. M. Mallach, S. H. McKittrick, Edward Allworth, G. B. Reede, A. R. Boswell, John Hoshell, Grand Stewards.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS:—R. W. Bros. Thos. C. Macnabb, D. B. Birch, John E. Harding, W. S. Burnett, Robert Kemp, Henry Robertson, J. B. Trayes, F. Richardson, James Reynolds, William Mostyn, William Niven, and representatives from 152 Lodges.

After the usual preliminary proceedings the Most Worshipful Grand Master delivered the following

ADDRESS.

BRETHREN OF GRAND LODGE,—I avail myself of the earliest moment to announce to you officially that the long pending difficulties between ourselves and the Masons of Quebec have now been happily arranged.

Under authority of the resolution adopted by this Grand Lodge in July, 1871, and after certain preliminary arrangements had been made by which all concerned were bound to accept, abide by, and carry out, all the conditions and terms which might be agreed upon by a joint committee, taken from both bodies in the Province of Quebec. A Masonic Conference of the members of committees appointed respectively by the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and by myself on your behalf, met at Montreal on the 17th of February last, and after much careful consideration, agreed upon terms of union between our lodges in Quebec and the lodges already affiliated with and composing the Grand Lodge of Quebec.

Copies of the official protocols of this Conference were, by my directions, promptly forwarded to all our lodges, so that you were at once placed in possession of the important intelligence, that a satisfactory settlement of these unhappy difficulties had at length been arrived at.

In order, therefore, to give full effect to the arrangements thus entered into, all that now remains to be done on your part, is to pass a resolution to formally withdraw from the territory and recognize fraternally the Grand Lodge of Quebec as the supreme Masonic Authority in that Province, and extending to her the right hand of fellowship, with our best wishes for her future prosperity and usefulness.

In concluding my remarks upon this very important matter, I avail myself of the present opportunity to express my warmest acknowledgements to our R. W. Bro., the Deputy Grand Master, for his valuable co-operation. His advice and assistance largely contributed to bring about a peaceful solution of these unhappy troubles, and I would be pleased to see his valuable services upon this and other occasions suitably acknowledged by Grand Lodge. The truly Masonic spirit and feeling which existed and was evinced on both sides enabled our brethren to overcome all obstacles, and eventually led to a union, which I hope will prove perpetual. We shall part from our brethren of Quebec with unfeigned regret; we will miss their "familiar faces" and pleasant voices at our annual meetings, but they carry with them our best wishes and heartfelt prayers for their happiness and prosperity. The link that bound us in the chain of brotherly love remains unbroken, and we shall still continue working together for the promotion of the great cause which lies near all our hearts. The change about to take place is, after all, only a change of jurisdiction, and can make but a very slight change in our fraternal relations.

The intelligence that the Quebec difficulties were on the eve of arrangement was promptly followed by edicts from Grand Lodges of Vermont and Illinois, revoking their former edicts of non-intercourse with this Grand Lodge. These were met in a fraternal spirit by me as your representative, and all bars to the resumption of fraternal relations have thus been removed. I have again assumed the office of Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, and had much pleasure in appointing R. W. Bro. Wiley M. Egan, of Chicago, as our representative near that Grand Body.