

Royal Solomon Mother Lodge, 293, Jerusalem, Palestine, and suggested the appointing a D. D. G. M. to look after its working and obtain information regarding it.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

I have during the year appointed the following brethren as representatives near foreign Grand Lodges:—W. Bro. Wm. Knox, near the G. L. of Connecticut, U. S., in place of R. W. Bro. Wm. Fysh, deceased; and M. W. Bro. Elihu Edmundson Pulaski, near the G. L. of Tennessee, in place of R. W. Bro. George S. Blackie, deceased.

Credentials have been received, and will be presented to Grand Lodge, by V. W. Bro. Robert Lewis for the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island, in place of R. W. Bro. Chauncey Bennett, deceased; by R. W. Bro. George S. Birrell, for the Grand Lodge of Louisiana; by R. W. Bro. Geo. J. Waugh, for the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia; by R. W. Bro. Robert Mackay, for the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and by M. W. Bro. Mofat, for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, in place of M. W. Bro. Harington, deceased; by R. W. Bro. Hugh Murray, for the Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island, in place of M. W. Bro. W. H. Weller, deceased, and by W. Bro. L. J. Jarvis, for the Grand Lodge of Ohio, in place of R. W. Bro. Robt. Ramsay, resigned.

THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS OF GRAND LODGE HAVE BEEN HELD:

After enumerating four special meetings the Grand Master speaks as follows:—

On March 7th, 1882, I consecrated the new hall in the Temple Building, London. This was an occasion long to be remembered by those participating in the ceremony, as well as those who were listeners. The Masonic procession was a grand demonstration of Masons from all over the country. A special effort was made by the committee of arrangements to make the whole affair a success. Reduced rates on railroads and hotels were secured; these and other inducements tended greatly to increase the number present. The day's proceedings closed by a grand banquet and operatic entertainment in the new Opera House, Temple Building. At the banquet the city brethren did me the honor of presenting me with a life-size crayon portrait of myself, in regalia as Grand Master; the likeness is said to be most faithful, and the frame which contains it is of the most artistic description. This kindness, with others, can never be forgotten, and at the time of presentation was duly acknowledged by me. I have to thank the brethren who delivered addresses on the occasion, especially the Grand Chaplain, who is a most enthusiastic Mason. Altogether the day's proceedings were instructive as well as pleasant.

DISPENSATIONS.

Applications for dispensations have been numerous, chiefly from lodges that have desired to initiate candidates without the jurisdiction. I believe, in every instance, I have refused to grant a dispensation unless the lodge within whose jurisdiction the candidate resided had first given its consent. At the same time, while I have adopted this mode as the correct one, I can see no good reason for lodges refusing their consent if the candidate has a preference; and his character will stand the strictest investigation. A certificate of character should, in all cases, accompany the lodge's consent. I have also been asked to grant dispensations to confer the degrees in less time than the Constitution provides. These dispensations I have also refused, as I hold it would be difficult indeed to find a case that would warrant the Grand Master in setting aside the constitutional period. To my mind, it is quite short enough at present.

Here follows a list of dispensations.

There seems to be intentionally a restriction placed upon Grand Masters as to granting relief, with, however, two exceptions, and these are not found in our Constitution, but in Resolutions and Rulings, 1875.

It is not my intention to find fault with the present state of the law in this respect, although I have found it rather inconvenient upon one or two occasions during the past year, especially when applications are made of a pressing nature.

On the death of Past Grand Master Harington, I ascertained, while in Prescott at the funeral, that his widow required assistance, and that it was absolutely necessary that the Grand Lodge should assume the liabilities in connection with the funeral. I satisfied myself that such was the case, and authorised the Grand Secretary to supervise the bills, and see that they were paid. I did so, believing that the Grand Lodge would fully approve of my action under the circumstances.

The public prints put the world in possession of the information regarding the destruction by fire of the Ring Theatre in Vienna, and the terrible loss of life caused thereby. Late in the month of March I received, through the Grand Secretary, a communication from the Lodge Humanitas, Vienna, appealing for aid for the distressed widows and orphans of deceased Masons. This appeal was strong and urgent, and one that it was impossible to resist, and as I was aware that our Grand Lodge had never yet turned a deaf ear to the cry of the widow and orphans, I assumed the responsibility and authorized the Grand Secretary to take the necessary steps and forward the sum of twenty five pounds