

The Canadian Craftsman.

Port Hope, March 15th, 1880.

Annual Report of Grand Lodge.

Every year there is issued, as, no doubt, most of the brethren are aware, a Report of the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge during the previous twelve months. Most of the brethren, we venture to assert, are aware that there is an annual issue of these Proceedings; but we would not be so rash as to say that these Reports are read, or even seen, by *one-tenth* of the members of the different Lodges, and consequently little or nothing is known of the work done from year to year by Grand Lodge. Would it be an incredible statement to aver that there are many hundreds of Masons (*affiliated* we mean, for we have nothing to do with such "shams" as *unaffiliated* Masons) in this jurisdiction, who do not even know the name of the Grand Master, and if they should happen to be travelling in some sister jurisdiction, could not give even this evidence of their interest in Masonry.

And yet every copy of the Report is endorsed on the cover and title page with the edict of Grand Lodge, "*ordered to be read in all Lodges and preserved.*" And when this is not done there is a plain neglect of duty by the Master of the Lodge, who is responsible, and is bound by his oath of office to see that all the laws relating to private Lodges are duly observed.

We believe that it is the practice to send *three* copies of the Report to each Lodge, but what becomes of them, in many cases, is a mystery. And yet Grand Lodge requires that it is not only to be read in Lodge, but *preserved*. It is plain, therefore, that *one* copy, at least, is to be kept among the re-

ports of the Lodge, so that members may have access to them for information and reference. But this, we believe, is rarely done; and a search into the archives of the Lodges throughout our jurisdiction, for the reports of Grand Lodge for past years, would be a fruitless one.

Nor is this deplorable ignorance of the Grand Lodge confined to its proceedings, but extends also to the Book of Constitution of that Body, including as it does the Constitution also of private Lodges. Indeed, the ignorance of many of the brethren would be incredible, were it not so constantly betrayed by the numerous questions which are submitted to the Grand Master, or to the District Deputy Grand Masters for their consideration, many of them of such a simple character as an ordinary reading of the Constitution would have settled. Every Brother, on his initiation, is presented with a copy of the Constitution of Grand Lodge, and also of the By-laws of the particular Lodge of which he is becoming a member; both of which are recommended to his serious contemplation; as, by the former he is instructed in the duties which he owes to the Craft in general, and, by the other, in those which he owes to his Lodge in particular. For a Brother's ignorance, therefore, of the Constitution, or of the By-laws of his Lodge, there is not, nor can there be, any excuse, beyond that of listlessness and indifference, very bad qualities so soon to show themselves in the entered apprentice. It would have a very beneficial effect, if candidates for passing were required, in addition to the usual examination, to pass an examination in the Constitution and By-laws of their Lodge.

We purpose, shortly, to take up the Constitution, for consideration, and refer especially to those parts with which every Brother should be familiar, shewing what, if any, amendments have been made since the organization of Grand Lodge to the present time.