

to believe that the Canadian Craft was never in a more prosperous or happy condition than it now is.

SAFETY OF RECORDS.

Believing it important that some steps should be taken to secure the valuable papers belonging to the Grand Lodge, and now in the custody of the Grand Secretary, I authorized that Officer to purchase a suitable fire-proof safe in which he might deposit the Records, and other articles of value in his possession; this expenditure will, I hope, meet with your sanction and approval.

GRAND TREASURER.

I have also to announce to you that shortly after the last annual meeting, I prepared the necessary bond required by the Constitution to be taken from your Grand Treasurer, which was duly executed by that Officer and his sureties; with whose sufficiency I was well assured. I have also much pleasure in stating, for the information of the Grand Lodge, that the manner in which the Grand Treasurer has discharged his duty during the past year, merits your approval.

Finding that a certain sum of money in his hands would not, in all probability, be required immediately for Grand Lodge purposes, I advised that it should be deposited in a Bank, so as to draw interest; on examining his accounts, I believe you will find that this additional sum has been placed to the credit of the Grand Lodge.

GRAND SECRETARY.

It gives me also great pleasure to bear testimony to the careful and efficient manner in which our worthy Grand Secretary has performed his arduous duties during the past year, and I congratulate you, brethren, in having secured the services of one who has proved himself so competent and trustworthy.

UNION MEDALS.

At the especial communication of Grand Lodge, held in the city of Toronto in January, 1859, it was resolved, that in commemoration of the happy union of the Craft, a medal should be struck, and the Grand Secretary instructed to procure the requisite number, at the cost of Grand Lodge. It gives me pleasure to announce that the committee to whom this duty was assigned have completed the labors, and are now prepared to exhibit specimens for your approval; I did not, however, feel justified in authorising so large an expenditure of money as the resolution is apparently intended to sanction, and I have therefore delayed the issue of those interesting souvenirs, until this matter should again be submitted for your consideration. I would therefore now suggest that, instead of using Grand Lodge funds for this purpose, that the subordinate Lodges be called upon to contribute a sufficient amount to pay for the medals which they are entitled to receive; it would also be advisable to define with more certainty the parties who are to be permitted to wear them.

HAMBURG.

I regret to learn that a serious difficulty has arisen between the Grand Lodges of New York and Hamburg, on the subject of the exclusive territorial jurisdiction of Grand Lodges. It appears that the latter grand body has granted Charters authorising the establishment of two Lodges in the State of New York, and asserts that, in doing so, she has done nothing either unlawful or un-masonic. On the other hand, the Grand Lodge of New York has pronounced these Lodges as irregular and clandestine, and has suspended all intercourse, with the parent body. I feel it unnecessary to occupy your time with any lengthened expression of my views upon this subject, as I am confident that the course adopted and persisted in by the Grand Lodge of Hamburg is not only likely to prove most injurious to the peace, harmony and prosperity of the Masonic fraternity, but is one which cannot be sustained by any intelligent Grand Lodge in the world.

REPRESENTATIVES.

I have now great pleasure in announcing to you

that, since our last communication, I have received official intelligence of the appointment of our distinguished brother, the M. W. Wm. C. Stephens, as the Representative of the Grand Lodge of England to this Grand Lodge. A more judicious selection, in my opinion, could not have been made, and I am quite sure that when he presents his credentials, he will be most cordially received and acknowledged by you. I cannot here deny myself the pleasure of expressing my warmest acknowledgements to the Right Hon. Lord de Gray and Ripon, the distinguished brother who occupies the position of our representative at the Grand Lodge of England, for the prompt, courteous and able manner in which he has discharged the various duties entrusted to him, on behalf of this Grand Lodge.

A GENERAL COMMITTEE SUGGESTED.

During the past year, I have been called upon to decide many questions of Masonic law and usage. My decisions in these matters, [should any reference be made to them,] will be found in my correspondence. I would, however, suggest for your consideration the propriety of appointing a general committee to whom all such matters might be referred.

MASONIC CHARITIES.

It is one of the proudest of duties of Masons both in the individual and collective relations, to embody and give practical value to the noble principles upon which masonry is founded. In the regular order of affairs, a sublime necessity of this character now devolves upon this Grand Lodge; and its existing members may well congratulate themselves upon being called upon to execute a work so benignant and holy. The difficulties which beset the early movements of the Grand Lodge of Canada, have all disappeared as morning dews. Its course has been blessed by unexampled prosperity. Honored abroad, advancing at home, free from all disturbing or counteracting influences the sheen of its glory undimmed by any cloud of discord, it is surely the time to remember those who are called to suffer; to wipe tears from sorrowing eyes; and raise a monument of gratitude and to devote it to God and distressed brethren. The report of the Committee to which was referred the generous admonition on this subject from St. Andrew's Lodge, Toronto, will, I presume bring up this matter in some tangible shape for your consideration. Whatever form your benevolent efforts may assume I am assured that they will be worthy of yourselves, of the circumstances of our history and the principles which it is our duty to exemplify. We have the example of the venerable Grand Lodge of England, as an incentive and guide, and although we may not hope to equal the regal magnificence of her charitable institutions, animated by the same spirit, we may imitate her zeal, piety and devotion, and do for our brethren for their widows and their orphaned descendants, all that England does for hers.—We can give to Canadian Masonry "a local habitation and a name," and teach the outside world to regard masonry and Benevolence as interchangeable and synonymous terms.

THE PRINCE OF WALES' VISIT.

The approaching visit to Canada of the heir apparent to the throne of the British Empire, is an event of such absorbing interest, that I need make no apology for alluding to it on this occasion. Indeed, I should be surprised if the matter were not introduced formally before you for discussion, assured as I am that this most worshipful body will desire to testify their affection to the royal family of England by every proper and constitutional means. It will probably be asked in this Grand Lodge, whether the precedents and customs of Masonry will justify the presentation of an address to His Royal Highness. The presence of so many worshipful brethren, skilled in the royal art, and well versed in Masonic lore; as I am proud to recognize around me to-day convinces me that should the question be raised, it will receive a full and satisfactory reply. I will only say at present with reference to it, that, in times of extraordinary interest Masons, in their collective character have

addressed august personages — not Masons — in order to set forth the fact that the institution enforces upon its adherents the quiet performance and firm maintenance of all the duties of good citizens and loyal subjects. Apart from his exalted position, and his important relations to the members of this Grand Lodge as members of the body politic, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has especial claims upon our regard on account of his Masonic connexions; his illustrious grandfather, the late Duke of Kent, was a Grand Master in our ancient and venerable Order, and one of the most interesting episodes in the history of Masonry in England, is that which recounts the solemn reconciliation of two branches of the Masonic family, under the auspices of His R. H. the Duke of Kent and His R. H. the Duke of Sussex.

Having now briefly referred to the various subjects which I considered it my duty to bring under your notice, I will not trespass further upon your time, but will conclude by again expressing the pleasure I feel in meeting you all in the interesting and beautiful City of Ottawa.

WM. M. WILSON, G. M.

ITEMS.

The following is a speech made by the manager of an Irish theatre. There were only three persons composing his audience:

"Ladies and gentlemen;—As there is nobody here I'll dismiss you all; the performances of this night will not be performed; but the performances of this night will be repeated to-morrow evening."

A HORSE-DEALER had a son, who being a lad of spirit, proposed, as a novel experiment, to open a stable on strictly honest dealing; but the father, who was a prudent man, discouraged the idea, observing to his son, that "he disliked speculation."

As in India one day an Englishman sat
With a smart native lass at the window,
"Do your widows burn themselves? pray
tell me that?"
Said the pretty, inquisitive Hindoo.
"Do they burn!—that they do," the gentleman said,
"With a flame not so easy to smother—
Our widows, the moment one husband is
dead,
Immediately burn—for another!"

It is not the nursing of wealth or fortune who has been dandled into manhood on the lap of prosperity that carries away the world's honors, or wins its mightiest influence; but it is rather the man whose earlier years were cheered by scarcely a single proffer of aid, or smile of approbation, and who has drawn from adversity the elements of greatness.

Upon coming into the office the other day, we asked the "devil" his rule for punctuation. Said he, "I set up as long as I can hold my breath, then put in a comma; when I gape, I insert a semicolon; when I sneeze, a colon; and when I want another chaw of tobacco, I make a paragraph."

A rash and somewhat deluded young man has threatened to apply the Maine law to his sweetheart, she intoxicates him so.

It is harder to avoid censure than to gain applause; for this may be done by one great or wise action in an age; but to escape censure a man must pass his whole life without saying or doing one ill or foolish thing.