

THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN,

AND MASONIC RECORD.

J. B. TRAYES, P.D.D.G.M.,
Editor & Proprietor.

"The Queen and the Craft."

{ \$1.50 per annum
in advance.

VOL. XXI.

PORT HOPE, ONT., OCTOBER 15, 1887.

No. 10.

OBJECTS AND DUTIES OF FREEMASONS.

Read before the Brethren of Stirling Lodge, No. 69, May, 1887, (ordered to be published in THE CRAFTSMAN.)

BRETHREN,—When I promised you at our last session that I would at this regular communication present you with a dissertation on the Objects and Duties of Freemasonry, believe me, such promise was given with but one wish, and that was to instruct more fully those members of this lodge whose time and opportunities have in a measure prevented them from surveying the vast and attractive field of Masonic literature.

Egotism my part was not entertained, yet candidly assert that "no reasoning or hypothesis can be more untenable than that which forbodes evil to our institution by publication or discussion of scientific publications illustrative of its philosophical or moral tendency."

Although a member of the Craft for many years, I have failed to see its members endeavor to make that daily advancement in the sciences, which is not only praiseworthy but in keeping with our precepts, and I am of the opinion that our gatherings should at times be enlivened by the interchange of ideas relative to Masonry, and that in every lodge energetic and well informed brethren should be chosen to entertain the brethren with articles of

a nature similar to this; and thus, brethren, would we be fulfilling the injunction of our time-honored society in making scientific progress. It is needless to say that greater attraction would be afforded us to attend our monthly sessions, and those who complain that there is "too much work" would rejoice at an innovation such as this. The zealous and veteran Mason, too, would be pleased and enlightened. I have for years entertained the idea of such lectures being productive of much good and entertainment to our society, and having consulted several Masters and D. D. Grand Masters in regard to the matter, who have given me their hearty approval, I feel it my duty, as you, brethren, have so kindly requested me, to undertake the presenting of this article, and I hope that we all may profit by it and be led to further investigations.

In ancient Greece there existed a city named *Eleusis*, famous as the seat of the magnificent and elaborate *Eleusinian Mysteries*. So distinguished were they that historians give them conspicuous and lengthy mention, and minutely describe the ceremonies, &c., besides mentioning their manifold advantages to the initiated, who at once became the special care of the gods, not only through life but beyond the grave,—in fine their rest was in Elysian fields. This great festival or society, for so it may be appropriately termed, flourished nearly 1800 years before the Christian Era,—its