

designing politicians for the purpose of pleasing and currying favor with the Roman Hierarchy. This is a question on which, above all others, all Protestants should unite to guard against further encroachments of Rome, whose campaign against our public schools is now thoroughly organized and conducted with that tenacity of purpose and subtle policy which characterizes all her schemes. Our politicians when they first granted separate schools, let in the thin end of the wedge, and the Roman Ecclesiastics have ever since been driving it still further, every success giving them renewed energy, and unless arrested by the strong hand of the people, in a short time we will find the efficiency of our public schools very materially and injuriously affected.

The Irish question is still the all absorbing problem in the Mother Country. We deeply sympathize with our Brethren and Protestant friends in the Emerald Isle in their struggle to maintain their freedom from the grasp of the Parnellite party, and we venture to express the hope that the day is far distant when the British House of Commons will consent to any measure tending to a severance of the brightest jewel from the rest of the Empire. Yet it is our earnest desire that every extension of freedom may be granted to the people of that unhappy land, which is consistent with the maintenance of the integrity of the Empire.

The Triennial Council will meet in July next at Carrickfergus, in Ireland, where it is expected delegates will attend from all parts of the world, to consider the various subjects affecting the prosperity of the Order.

The success of the Orange Mutual Insurance Department is now an accomplished fact. All death claims have been fully settled, and means have been adopted to create the nucleus of a reserve fund, so as to always have on hand sufficient to pay one or more claims promptly, as soon as they are proved, without waiting the usual time necessary for collecting an assessment, thus rendering assistance to the widow and orphans of a deceased brother at a time when it is most needed. I would urge all brethren to use their influence in promoting this useful branch of our association.

Our Constitution, Laws and Ritual, while they contain all that is necessary for our government and guidance, I feel constrained to say could be greatly improved by revision and by the introduction of some new features, bringing the working of the Order more in harmony with modern ideas. I would particularly refer to our present system of organizing new lodges by drawing away members from existing lodges; a system which, in my opinion, is not well calculated to advance the spread of our association and increase our membership; and I would recommend that a petition be presented to the M. W. G. L. of B. A. praying for a revision of the Ritual in the manner thus indicated, and for such amendments of the Constitution and Laws as may be necessary to enable any number of Protestants (not less than 6) to organize a new Lodge under dispensation from the M. W. G. M. of B. A. or the R. W. Provincial G. Master, the County Master in the locality or some other officer being appointed to obligate them and instruct them in the working of the Order in its several degrees; a warrant to be issued as soon as the Lodge is placed in good working order.

At the last meeting of this R. W. G. L. you were pleased to grant a prize for the purpose of promoting the circulation of *The Sentinel*, the organ of our Association. At the request of several of those engaged in the work, I concluded to postpone the time for payment of the prize, and I trust the

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