

Ample justice having been done to the liberal repast provided, the W. M. delivered an address on "the principles of Masonry," which elicited the applause of the Brethren, and pleased and enlightened the uninitiated guests. The W. M. then proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, which were suitably responded to, and at a reasonable hour gave the concluding toast—"Happy to meet, sorry to part, and happy to meet again."

The ceremonies were closed by Bro. Sir Wm. Colles, giving an original Masonic version of the National Anthem; and the company adjourned to the hotel whilst the tables were being removed, and the Hall prepared for "The Ball." The Elora Band (specially engaged for the occasion) performed for dancing, which was kept up to a late hour; when all separated in "Peace, Love, and Harmony, having passed an evening which will be long remembered with pleasure by many who never before witnessed a Masonic festival, and who departed with feelings towards the Craft very different in many instances from those with which they entered.

**NOVA SCOTIA.**

The Quarterly Communication of the new Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia was held at Halifax on Friday the 11th inst., thirteen Lodges being represented. The business transacted was principally of a local nature. Three charters were issued, viz:—

- WESTERN STAR.....Weston, Picton Co.
- PHILADELPHIA .....Barrington, Shelbren Co.
- EASTERN STAR.....Dartmouth.

A communication was read from the M.W. Grand Lodge of New Brunswick, appointing R. W. Bro. Taylor as the representative of that M. W. Grand Lodge, with the rank of a Past Senior Grand Deacon, at this Grand Lodge.

The credentials of R. W. Bro. Taylor were presented, and he was received and welcomed as such with customary honors. This is a fresh tie which will unite the two Grand Lodges in closer and more intimate fraternal relations. A petition was presented from a Mr. John T. Macalpin, a member of the so-called Athole Lodge, No. 361 R. S., praying to be reinstated to his former masonic privileges, the said so-called Athole Lodge, with two others, having been declared illegal and clandestine by the Grand Lodge in June, 1866.

The prayer of the petitioner was granted, and Mr. Macalpin was restored to his former masonic privileges. Although there were three Lodges declared illegal and clandestine at that time, one only is working; yet there are members hailing from the three, and perhaps it would be as well for our brethren in the Dominion and elsewhere to understand. They claim to be the Athole, No. 361 R. S.; Keith, No. 365 R. S.; Scotia, No. 411 R. S.

The reasons which led to their being declared clandestine were, that the above Lodges participated in the formation of the Grand Lodge, and surrendered their charters to the Grand Lodge of Scotland through the Provincial Master; but instead of their being forwarded to Scotland, they were re-issued to a few members of the former Lodges, who commenced working under the former warrants, although masonic law is very clear on the point that the surrender of a warrant is the extinction of a Lodge. I enclose you a copy of the address made

by the R. W. District Grand Master of England on the occasion of the installation of the District Grand Lodge officers on St. John's Day. I make no comments; it speaks for itself.

The District Grand Lodge of Freemasons met at Masonic Hall yesterday at high twelve, the Hon. Alexander Keith, District Grand Master, presiding. The following officers were installed:—

- B Wor Bros James Forman, D D G M; Hon R A McHefey, S G W; George M Johnston, J G W; V W Bros Rev David C Moore, G Chap, John Woodill, G Treas, Henry C D Twining, G Secy; Wor Bros James Gossip, S G D; Thomas R Fraser, J G D; Robert Waters, G Dir of Cer; David Stirling, G Supt of Works; Robert R Morris, G O; Charles Dillon, G Sword Bearer; James McGuire, G Stan Bearur; W Thomas Woods, G Pur; W John M Taylor, G Tyler.

Stewards, Bros N I Herbert, J W K Johnson, W Caldwell, Jr, W J Erby, John McLean, John R Thomas.

Committee of Charity, W. Allan H. Crowe, P. M. St. Andrew's Lodge; W. Henry C. D. Twining, P. M. St. John Lodge; W. Wm. A. Hesson, P. M. Virgin Lodge; W. Thomas Micklowright, P. M. Royal Standard Lodge; W. Philip G. Valot, P. M. Royal Sussex Lodge; W. Robert R. Morris, P. M. Union Lodge.

The District Grand Master then addressed the Lodge as follows:

BRETHREN,—

Circumstances have occurred since last St. John's day, which render it probable that this may be the last occasion on which I shall have the opportunity of addressing you as District Grand Master of Nova Scotia. A resolution, unanimously adopted at the quarterly Communication on the 4th inst., has called for a special meeting of all the English Lodges on the 13th January next, for the purpose of forming an independent Grand Lodge, assurances having been given that such Lodge, when formed, will receive sanction and recognition from the parent Grand Lodge of England. This Independent Grand Lodge, I hope, will not only embrace the Scottish Lodges, but eventually will be the means of uniting under one head the Masonic Fraternity of this Province, and of blotting out all past differences which have hitherto unfortunately divided the Order.

That such may be the case is my sincere wish; and under that impression I have not deemed it advisable to change my present Grand Lodge officers, whose tenure of office will be but brief if my anticipations are realized, and the new Grand Lodge duly formed.

I do not deem it necessary now to refer to the causes which have rendered the contemplative change imperative upon us,—these have been thoroughly canvassed and considered,—and but one opinion appears to prevail amongst the English Lodges as to the advisability of the proposed movement.

I naturally take a very deep interest in the result of the meeting in January, and whatever may be the decision arrived at, you may rest assured that it shall receive my most careful consideration.

I now wish you all a happy New Year, thanking you for your numerous attendance to-day, as also our visiting brethren, this being the twenty-eighth year I have had the honor of presiding over you as your Provincial and District Grand Master.

Notices have been sent to all the Lodges for the 13th January, agreeable to the resolution of Grand Lodge.

On motion of the W. M. of the Senior Lodge, the Grand Honors were given to the Hon. Mr. Keith. The Grand Lodge then closed.