

our fellowship, and many have sought the acquisition of our Mysteries. While moral and numerical strength has been added, the Grand Lodge and its dependant Bodies have, with probably but few exceptions, attained a sound financial foundation and are seeking in the erection of Public Buildings, the adornment of their Halls and Lodge rooms, and by other proper means, to enhance the comfort and prosperity of the Craft. All the while, moreover, the Craft has practically remembered that peculiar and essential element of true Masonry, *Charity*; and, realizing and appropriating the blessedness of giving, has remembered the widow and the orphan: not with ostentation, not grudgingly, but with Masonic sincerity and simplicity. Meeting with these memorials of the goodness of the Craft surrounding us, and now called to participate in legislation to conserve what has been achieved and to secure what is yet to be attained, let us approach our work with a becoming appreciation of the beneficence of God and the grandness of our Masonic Mission, and labor so zealously and so fraternally that all who have knowledge of our ways shall be constrained to exclaim "Behold how good and pleasant a thing it is for Brethren to dwell together in Unity."

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PRINCE.

Pursuant to the unanimous Resolutions of the Special Communication of Grand Lodge, held on the Twenty-seventh day of February last, I directed the V. W. Grand Secretary to transmit to our M. W. Brother, H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, the congratulations of the Craft in New Brunswick upon his merciful restoration to health. I have now the pleasure of submitting the gracious answer of our Royal Brother, received by this Office through His Excellency the Governor General of the Dominion.

We will all hope that His Royal Highness, now restored to health, may long be spared to His illustrious Mother, our Craft and the Empire, and adorn his exalted station near the Throne of our Gracious Queen, whom may God long preserve.

## GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.

It is with very great pleasure I have to announce to you officially that the M. W. the Grand Lodge of Scotland has, by unanimous voice, recognized the sovereignty of this Grand Lodge.

## SAINT ANDREW'S LODGE.

Consequent upon this recognition which now secures to Grand Lodge its cordial welcome within the family of all Grand Lodges, and reasserts its supremacy without challenge or dissent; and pursuant to the power vested in me, I granted a Warrant to Saint Andrew's Lodge, No. 29, on our Registry, hitherto hailing from the Grand Lodge of Scotland; and, in company with the V. W. Grand Secretary, and other members of Grand Lodge, duly organized the Lodge under the authority of this Grand Lodge, on the evening of the 20th inst., at the city of Fredericton. I am happy to know that this Lodge will be a valuable addition to our roll; and, while from reasons no doubt weighty in the minds of its members and conscientiously held, it has been the last Lodge to enroll under our Banner, I am sure, my Brethren, you will all agree, that it is none the less welcome at this time. I trust we all, Brethren, shall so zealously and fraternally labor to cement and strengthen the ties of Union and Harmony in this Jurisdiction, that there shall be no desire, as there assuredly is no power, to destroy the sole supremacy of this Grand Head in New Brunswick.

## DISPENSATIONS.

I have found the disposition increasing too rapidly to ask the authority of this office to enable Candidates to obtain "at short intervals," the mysteries of our Degrees. There are, no doubt, occasions when the power should be granted to do this, but when I have found that the influences of the Craft have been sought by persons to enable them to prosecute with greater ease and advantage a temporary tour of mere business or pleasure, I have felt constrained to withhold the Dispensation. I have always thought that Dispensations should not issue in such cases, with rare exceptions. Gentlemen frequently live for years in close proximity to a Lodge,—they never seek admission,—they never investigate the claims or commend the purposes of the Institution,—they contribute no moral or material support to it,—they go on from year to year ignorant or forgetful of its very existence, until, when duty or inclination calls them abroad for a little while, in the pursuit of business or pleasure, they desire all the machinery of the Craft shall be accelerated, that their promotion may be rapid, that they may obtain in time a Card of Introduction abroad. Thus far I have drawn a marked distinction between intended *temporary* and *permanent* absence, although my