

The M. W. Grand Master then delivered the following address :

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the Province of Quebec.

BRETHREN,—In opening the Sixth Annual Communication, on the day fixed by the Constitution, it is my pleasing duty to congratulate you upon the steady progress and continued prosperity of this Grand Lodge. Five more Grand Lodges have established fraternal communication with us during the past year, making in all forty-three Grand Lodges by which this is recognized as the sovereign Masonic authority in and for the Province of Quebec. We have now sixty lodges and more than three thousand members in good standing under our jurisdiction.

Two important events in the history of Masonry have occurred since our last meeting. The first was the installation, in the month of April, of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales as Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Freemasons of England. This ceremony took place under circumstances of unsurpassed splendor, in the presence of 8,000 brethren. In this Dominion, and especially in this Province, where His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, the grandfather of the Prince of Wales, honored the Fraternity by accepting the office of first Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of Masons in Lower Canada, the announcement that the Heir Apparent to the Throne of the great British Empire had openly patronized our mysteries and joined our assemblies, was received with feelings of peculiar gratification and pride. It affords the highest testimony to the merits of our Society, and is the best answer to those who endeavor to traduce and detract from it, not knowing its legitimate objects or benefits. That auspicious occasion enabled Most Worshipful brother the Earl of Carnarvon, Secretary of State for the Colonies, thus to speak : "Freemasonry presents many titles to respect, even in the eyes of the outer world. It is, first, of great antiquity—an antiquity extending into the sphere of immemorial tradition; secondly, it is known and practised in every country, in every clime, by every race of civilized men; and, lastly, in this country, above all, it has associated itself with human sympathies and charitable institutions. Let me say further that, while it has changed its character in some respects, it has lost nothing which can claim the respect of men who formerly, through the dim periods of the middle ages, carved its records upon the public buildings, upon tracery of the mediæval windows, or the ornamentation of palaces. Now it is content to devote itself to works of sympathy and charity, and in them it finds its highest praise and reward. Let me draw one further distinction, and that is an important one. In some other countries it has been unfortunately the lot of Freemasonry to find itself allied with faction and intrigue, with what I may call the darker side of politics. In England it has been signally the reverse. Now the Craft here has allied itself with social order and the great institutions of the country, and, above all, with monarchy, the crowning institution of them all." His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales also stated in unmistakable terms his opinion of the Craft, saying : "It is difficult for me to find words adequately to express my deep thanks for the high honor that has been bestowed upon me—an honor which has already been bestowed on several members of my family, my predecessors—and, brethren, in whose footsteps it will always be my most ardent and sincere wish to walk, and by God's help to fulfil the duties of the high office to which I have been called to-day in the same way that my illustrious predecessors fulfilled them. It would, brethren, I feel sure, be useless for me,

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