

fulfilling the mission on which it started twelve months since, under so many trying circumstances and amidst such determined opposition."

INTERESTING MASONIC RELIC.

A Western paper says that Capt. Thompson, Paymaster of H. M. 53rd Regiment, has brought before the Masonic fraternity of London an interesting episode, which came under his personal observation. While on the battle-field of Cawnpore, after the engagement between the Gwalior contingent and the British forces, on December 6, 1857, he observed a parchment which he picked up. It proved to be the Masonic certificate of William Hyde, member of the Edinburgh and Leith Celtic Lodge, No. 291, working under the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Capt. Thompson possessed himself of the document, and has given it to R. W. Bro. F. Westlake, D. D. G. M., for transmission to Scotland. The document was stained with blood—doubtless the blood of poor William Hyde! He had carried the parchment in his coat pocket, and on meeting his death-wound it became sprinkled with the ebbing stream. It is possible that some camp followers, engaged in robbing the dead, came across the certificate, and threw it out as of no value, and so it remained on the battle-field till Captain Thompson chanced to find it. Bro. Westlake at once communicated with the Lodge where William Hyde was raised, and the following correspondence passed between him and the Secretary of the Celtic Lodge. Of course the wish expressed will be complied with, and the document returned to those who granted it:

To the W. M., Officers and Brethren of Celtic Lodge, No. 291, G. L. S. :—

WORSHIPFUL SIR, AND BRETHREN,—This is to inform you that I have in my possession a certificate, given under the seal of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, to William Hyde, a member of your Lodge, dated December 27, 1854. Whether the owner is dead or not I cannot say; if he is, there may be some of his friends or your Lodge would like to have the certificate. It was picked up during the Indian Mutiny on the battle-field of Cawnpore, stained with blood, by Capt. Robert Thomson, Paymaster of the 53rd Regiment, on the 6th December, 1857, which fact he has endorsed on the back of the certificate. [The following is also inscribed on the back :— "Visited the Lodge of Pythagoras, No. 654, on the 12th of February, 1855, at Corfu. B. W. Heathcote."] Captain Thompson has handed the document to me, with the request to communicate the same to you, and if you or his friends wish to get it please write and inform me.

Yours truly and fraternally,

F. WESTLAKE,

District Deputy Grand Master, Lon. Lon District.

Ship Hotel,
Lodge "Edinburgh and Leith Celtic,"
EDINBURGH, Feb. 7, 1867.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—The R. W. Master of the "Celtic" Lodge has received your letter of date 17th December, 1866, narrating matters of a sad nature, and has instructed me to state that on reference to our roll of members, belonging to our Lodge, we find that Bro. W. Hyde, to whom you refer, was initiated as a Fr. mason passed and raised to be a Master Mason in due and regular form. We also think he, if alive, or any of his friends, might probably find his certificate of some use. It would be right that you should transmit it to his mother Lodge. I will, therefore, take it kind if you will be so good as to do so at your convenience, and state any expense you may be put to in the matter, which will be arranged for.

I am, Dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

A. COCKBURN,

Secretary, Celtic Lodge.

FOREIGN MASONIC ITEMS.

Our Masonic brethren of Victoria, Australia, recently gave a most magnificent ball in the old Exhibition building, at which His Excellency the Governor General, Lady Manners Sutton and family were present. The Hall was elegantly ornamented with all the emblems peculiar to the mysteries of Masonry. A handsome dais was placed beneath the Organ, and was decorated with emblems of Rose Croix, Knights Templar, Royal Arch and Craft Masons. Three large wax tapers on Corinthian pedestals, were kept burning in front of the dais.—Tracing boards of emblematic Masonic paintings were attached to the pillars supporting the building; Masonic banners were fixed to form the springing of the various arches, and Chinese lanterns were pendant by evergreens from the roof. In front of the organ, over the dais, was suspended the Royal Standard, which formed the background for a large Square and Compass, in the centre of which was the letter "G," magnificently executed in flowers and shrubs. On the arrival of the Governor General's party, the Knights Templar formed the "arch of steel," and paid the highest honors to the Vice-Regal party that Masons can bestow. There were about 500 persons present at the Ball, comprising the elite of the Colony, and altogether the affair is pronounced the grandest and most successful that has ever taken place in that part of Her Majesty's dominions.

UNITED STATES MASONIC ITEMS.

The Masons in the state of New York are about establishing Masonic Mutual Life Insurance Companies on this principle: Each member subscribes a certain sum, say \$8 or \$10 at the start, which is invested for meeting ordinary expenses. Afterwards on the death of a Brother, each member is required to pay a fixed sum, say \$1, which goes to the legal representatives of the deceased. Thus a membership of 1,000 would produce \$1,000. The principle is a very simple one.

A new Masonic Hall has just been opened at London, State of Ohio, of which the brethren are justly proud. The main hall is 58 feet in length, by 34 in width, 17 feet in height. The ceiling and walls are handsomely ornamented with the various Masonic emblems in fresco. In the south is a large picture representing Jacob's Ladder, on the opposite side of the room is the broken column, in the east nine arches, and in the west is the pot of incense. Imitations of statuary upon brackets are distributed through the room, and the carpet represents the Mosac floor. It was manufactured in Springfield, Mass., especially for this Lodge, at a cost of nearly seven hundred dollars.

The Grand Lodge of South Carolina met in the City of Charleston on Tuesday, 20th November. The Grand Master, James L. Orr, delivered a very interesting address. In it he acknowledges the great kindness exhibited to the Grand Lodge by other Grand Lodges. That of Pennsylvania donated \$1000. Some worthy brothers in Britain presented a set of Jewels to one of the Charleston lodges, and some jewels abstracted during the war had been recovered and restored. During the year dispensations have been granted for seventeen new lodges, a larger number than in any previous year in that