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THE CRAFTSMAN

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HAMILTON, O., AUGUST, 1867.

NO. 12.

HISTORY OF MASONRY IN CANADA.—No. 3.

BY H. W. BRO. H. D. FOWLER, P. G. S. W.

(Continued.)

The following is a copy of the letter of instructions given to Bro. Laughton, and referred to by Bro. Dean in his communication to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England, dated 20th of Nov., 1821, both of which were laid before the Convention on the 11th Feb, 1822, and unanimously approved.

BATH, Nov. 1821.

"BRO. LAUGHTON.—I have received from Bro. Cushman a copy of your letter, dated London, 22nd May, 1821, concerning the business relative to the establishment of a Provincial Grand Lodge in this Province.

"I have prepared a communication to Edward Harper, Esq., Grand Secretary, upon the subject, which accompanies this, in which James Fitzgibbon, Esq., of York, is nominated for the office of Provincial Grand Master, and enclosed a copy of the old Grand Warrant, although, as it is in the hands of the Niagara party, I could not procure one which contains the title of the R. W. Grand Officers. In other respects I believe it is correct.

"It is the wish of the members of the convention that you should act as our agent in procuring a Grand Warrant, and as you are acquainted with the object and view in calling the convention, and with the general situation of affairs between the Brethren of York and Niagara, whatever information may be desired by the Grand Secretary or other officers of the United Grand Lodge, we wish you to give them.

"In your letter to Bro. Cushman, you did not inform him whether our petition had ever been laid before the M. W. Grand Master, or the Grand Lodge.

"This we consider a material point to ascertain, and for that purpose we wish you to spare no pains to obtain an interview with the Deputy Grand Master, or if possible to gain admission into the Grand Lodge for the purpose of ascertaining the precise proceedings in our case, if any, and if you find that our communications have never been laid before the Grand Lodge, we wish you to use all your interest to have it done, or to have the presiding officers made acquainted with our several communications and petitions, and particularly my last communication which accompanies this.

"There is a mystery in the business which must be developed. The amount of our Draft, remitted to the Grand Secretary, for £30 stg. has been paid, and we know not upon what principle our money has been received. The Draft is now in my

"hands, with the several endorsements, which of course shews the hands through which it has passed, but we wish to ascertain to what purpose our money was applied. I repeat there is a mystery in the business that I cannot fathom, and must entreat you to use every exertion to ascertain the true state of the business, and I presume you will be able to obtain an explanation that will prove satisfactory to all concerned.

"We wish you, immediately upon the receipt of this or as soon as you can make it convenient, to call upon the Grand Secretary and ascertain whether my communication of this date is received, and whether the copy of the Warrant enclosed is considered satisfactory, and if any obstacle appears pray lose no time in informing me what it is. I have mentioned in my communication to the Grand Secretary that we considered you as our authorized agent in this business.

"Should you not return soon after receiving this and gaining the necessary information, we wish you to inform us of your progress; but I am sanguine in the idea that if you return in the spring, you will be the bearer of a new warrant.

"In short, we wish you to do what you can for us in this business, and in doing so, you must be guided by your own judgment, as being on the spot you will know better what steps to take than we can direct, as our information upon the subject is very imperfect, and in acting for us you will consider yourself the authorized agent of the convention, and whatever expenses you may incur in transacting the business shall be paid you on your return. Feeling a confidence in your best exertions in our cause, I remain your friend and brother,

"(Signed,) JOHN DEAN,
Sec. of Convention.

The Grand Convention met for the fifth and last time on the 11th Feby, 1822. Present—

Z. M. Phillip, *President.*
Sam Shaw, } *Vice-Presidents.*
John Butterworth, }
John Dean, *Secretary*
Robert Walker, *Treasurer.*

together with Representatives from the following 15 Lodges,

Brockville,	No. 3.....	Brockville.
St. John's,	" 6.....	Kingston.
Addington,	" 13.....	Bath.
St. John's,	" 16.....	York.
	" 17.....	Belleville.
	" 19.....	Haldimand.
Rideau,	" 25.	Rideau.
Union	" 25.	Richmond.
McKay,	.....	Wolford.

Jarvis,	No. 26.....	Augusta.
North Star	.....	Hamilton.
Union,	.....	Ancaster, (late Dundas.)
United,	.....	Murray.
Prince Edward,	.....	Hallowell.
True Briton,	.....	Perth.

A good deal of business was transacted at this session, but chiefly concerning the internal government of the craft, and regulations for the guidance of the Lodges, &c.

The following relates to the position of the convention in regard to the Grand Lodge of England.

"The Secretary communicated information received from Bro. T. Laughton, acting as agent of the convention in laying our case before the United Grand Lodge of England. Also communicated the contents of his letter to the Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England, in reply to the information from Bro. Laughton, and nominating James Fitzgibbon, Esq., of York, as Provincial Grand Master, and of documents accompanying, which were unanimously approved and the thanks of the convention voted him for his exertions in their behalf.

Resolved—"That a committee be appointed to stand until our next communication, to the members of which the secretary shall communicate all news he may receive of our application to the United Grand Lodge of England and that such committee be ordered to report at our next meeting of the result of their correspondence and consultations. The object of appointing such committee being to concert such measures, hereafter to be adopted, as may be deemed proper, upon further learning the intentions of the United Grand Lodge of England."

So ended the Grand Convention, an association which during the five and half years of its existence did a vast deal of good and raised the Lodges which owned its rule from anarchy to a fair state of order and discipline. Nor were these Lodges by any means few, the total number represented being 24, and the average representation at each meeting 14. The patience with which the brethren persevered year after year in the desire to have their claims recognized by the Grand Lodge of England, hoping, as they did, almost against hope, is worthy of all praise. The several petitions to the Grand Master, and the communications of Brothers Ferguson and Dean, the successive Secretaries of the Convention well deserve preservation, but what can we say of the position taken by the Masonic authorities in England, to whom these documents were addressed, during these five and a half years? They never vouchsafed even an acknowledgment of the receipt of the important documents sent to them time after time, and how much longer this would have lasted we cannot tell, for it was only when advantage was taken of the visit of Bro. Laughton to England, who made personal enquiry on the spot, that it was discovered that because these Lodges did not happen to be registered on the books of the Grand Lodge of England, they were not considered worthy of notice; but the fault that this was so did not lie with the Canadian Lodges; it rested, such as it was, on the late Prov. Grand Master Jervis and his advisers, who never communicated to their superiors, the Grand Master and Grand Lodge of England, the

fact that they had ever constituted a single Lodge in Canada. No doubt Bro. Jervis greatly exceeded his power in conferring even one warrant; but the brethren who received these warrants in ignorance of his power, and in good faith, were not to be blamed for this, and moreover the laws regulating the government of Masonic Lodges were not at that time so well understood, even in England, as they now are; and in such a place as Canada then was, they were still less known. We are almost tempted to say, why did the Lodges in this country not declare themselves independent, and erect a Grand Lodge as they had every right to do? but perhaps it was much better they did not do so. Canada was not then ripe for that movement, and it is very questionable whether the Lodges would have then united under any independent head or government in this Province; the feud still ran high between those that acknowledged the Convention, and those that adhered to the Niagara Lodge, which still continued in active operation.

As regards which of the two were right, we certainly give the preference to the Convention, which, although it exercised most of the powers of a Grand Lodge, did so only temporarily, and as it were, under constraint, repeatedly declaring in a most solemn manner that this was done only for the purpose of keeping some sort of order and discipline among the Lodges, and until the Grand Lodge of England resumed the government of the Canadian Craft by appointing a Prov. Grand Master for the Province. While the Niagara section, whatever shadow of right it might have had during the lifetime of Bro. Jervis, (and this could not have been much, as the power was exercised without the consent and even against the will of the Prov. G. Master,) even this shadow departed at his decease in 1817. Again it must be remembered that the Convention was not called together until after his death, when it was well known that whatever power his patent might have conveyed lapsed, and became the same as if it had never been, so that during the whole time of its existence there was, as is tersely stated in the preamble to the minutes of the first meeting, no "Grand Lodge existing in the Province, nor any Board or Order vested with authority to perform the important functions legitimately pertaining to the office of Grand Master or Grand Secretary, and consequently no head to make or receive communications in the name or behalf of the Craft."

In the early part of July, 1822, R. W. Bro. Simon McGillivray arrived in Canada, having been appointed Provincial Grand Master for Upper Canada by His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, Grand Master of the United Fraternity of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of England.

His first Masonic act was to address the following letter to John Dean, Secretary to the Convention.

"MONTREAL, 20th July, 1822.

"SIR,—I have now before me your letter of the 20th of Nov. last, addressed to Edward Harper, Esq., Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of England, and signed by you as Secretary of a Convention of Free and Accepted Masons of Upper Canada.

"I have also before me a copy of the proceedings of the said Convention on the 8th February, 1819,

“and of their petition to His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, the M. W. Grand Master, and in reference to these several documents I have now to communicate to you the decision of the Grand Master, and of the Grand Lodge of England, upon the subject of your application to them.

“It has been an extremely unfortunate circumstance to the state of masonry in your Province that the late Prov. Grand Master Bro. Jervis, neglected to communicate to Grand Lodge, from which he had received his patent, any report of the proceedings which he had adopted, or the Lodges which he constituted under his authority. Therefore that Grand Lodge up to the period of the Union, to which you refer, and in which that Grand Lodge was, as you suppose it to have been, comprehended, and since that period the United Grand Lodge has remained ignorant of the existence of these Lodges, or the authority under which they acted, except in so far as the same has been stated in the recent application for constituting a Provincial Grand Lodge, and appointing a Provincial Grand Master.”

“Under these circumstances, the Most Worshipful Grand Master being desirous of acceding to the wishes of the Brethren of Upper Canada, so far as the same could be complied with consistently with the constitution of Grand Lodge, has yet felt considerable difficulty in the mode of proceeding to accomplish this object. His Royal Highness had no disposition to question or to doubt the respectability or the fitness of the individuals successively recommended to be appointed to the office of Prov. Grand Master, but His Royal Highness could not appoint to that office, a brother whose name did not appear as a member of the Fraternity in the Books of the Grand Lodge; and any Brother so appointed by the Grand Master, could not regularly exercise jurisdiction over the Lodges in Upper Canada, until their Lodges should first be constituted by or acknowledge the authority of the Grand Lodge of England.”

“H. R. H. the Most Worshipful Grand Master considering that these technical difficulties, as well as those arising from want of information in regard to the state of Masonry in the Province, might be obviated through the means of my present visit to this country, inasmuch as having been one of the Grand Wardens of England, at the time of the Union, and assuch holding a certain rank in the Grand Lodge, and being personally known to the Grand Master, and also from the circumstance of my name and connection being known to the leading persons in the Government and Society of the Province, it was supposed that I might have more influence than a stranger or a younger Mason, in reconciling any dissension or difference of opinion subsisting among the Brethren of Upper Canada. H. R. H., induced by these considerations, has been pleased to appoint me, the Prov. Grand Master, with power to appoint a Deputy, and to constitute a Prov. Grand Lodge, as well as to give the necessary sanction and authority to private Lodges, and especially I am instructed and charged to make particular inquiry into the state of Masonry in the Province, and on my return to England, to report the same, as well as my own proceedings to the M. W. G. Master.

“I am also by another patent, appointed Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch Masonry in the said Province of Upper Canada. And in order, amongst other duties, to pay every attention in my power to that of Masonry, it is my intention to make a tour through the Province, and to communicate personally with as many Lodges and Chapters as I can conveniently meet before I summon them to meet me in Provincial Grand Lodge.

“I have therefore to request that you will be pleased to transmit to me a list of those Lodges which you conceive to have been represented in the convention, and with which, as such you are in communication, specifying the place of meeting and the names of the Masters and Wardens of such Lodges, in order that I may know the person to whom I ought to apply.”

“I purpose being in Kingston in about three weeks, and I hope then to have the pleasure of seeing you; in the meantime, if there are any of your Lodges in Cornwall or Prescott, I could see something of them on my way up. It is my intention after conferring with you, to proceed to York, to Niagara, and probably to the Western District.

I have the honor, &c.

“P.S.—I further request that you will have the goodness to promulgate the knowledge of my mission and my intended visit to those Lodges and Brethren, who have been represented in your convention, and that you will particularly communicate the same to Brother Fitzgibbon, with my personal respects.”

The R. W. Bro. McGillivray, also addressed a letter to Edward McBride, Esq., of Niagara, the greater part of which we extract.

MONTREAL, 20th July, 1822.

“SIR,—I have now before me two letters, bearing date respectively on the 12th of August, 1818, and the 14th April, 1820, signed by John Burch, Esq. as Provincial Grand Secretary of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Upper Canada, and addressed to the Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Freemasons of England. I was about to write a letter to Mr. Burch in reply to these communications, when having the good fortune to meet Dr. Kerr, whose name I find quoted in the first of the above mentioned letters as Prov. Grand Master, and in the second as Past Grand Master, I am informed by him that the answer which on the behalf of the M. W. G. Master and the United Grand Lodge of England, I am authorized to give on the subject of the said letters, ought to be addressed to you.”

He then deploras the fact of Bro. Jervis, having neglected to report any of his proceedings &c., much in the same way as he does in his letters to Bro. Dean, and proceeds:

“These differences of opinion,” viz: between those holding with the convention, and those acknowledging the Niagara Brethren, “and the dissensions to which they naturally lead, are the consequences of imperfect information, arising from the want of regular communication, and they afford a proof of the necessity which exists for every friend of Masonry, to unite in forgetting local distinctions and prejudices, and to vie with

"each other only in contending which shall most zealously maintain and implicitly obey the principles and the Laws of the order to which they belong.

"I have delivered to Dr. Kerr, a copy of the constitution of the Grand Lodge of England, to which I refer you for information and by which you will find that in the Most Worshipful Grand Master alone is vested the right of appointing Provincial Grand Masters. Therefore if the Lodges of Upper Canada are, or are to be regularly constituted and are disposed to act under the authority of the Grand Lodge of England, they in the same manner as all the other Dependencies of the British Empire, must receive, and not elect their Provincial Grand Master.

"In the present instance His R. H. the M. Wor. Grand Master, although desirous to accede to the wishes of the Brethren of Upper Canada, has yet felt considerable difficulty in the mode of proceeding to open a regular communication with them. The existence of Lodges as regularly constituted, their knowledge of the laws of the Grand Lodge, and their disposition to obey them, were alike unknown to H. R. Highness. The Grand Master could not appoint to the office of Prov. Grand Master any Brother whose name did not appear as a member of the fraternity on the books of the Grand Lodge, and from the neglect which has occurred in reporting the Lodges as constituted and the masons made in Upper Canada, I fear they are all in that predicament. Where dissensions were known to exist there was a danger that they might be perpetuated by the appointment of any Brother belonging to, or identified with the feelings of either party, and where so much mischief had already arisen from the neglect of the late Prov. Grand Master in making regular reports of his proceedings, it was considered essential to appoint a brother whose attention to the duties of the office could be relied on, and whose early return to England would necessarily render him liable to be called on to account for his exercising the authority with which he should be invested.

"Such was the case of the individual who now addresses you. I have the honor to be personally known to the Grand Master, and by the favor of H. R. Highness, I have had the honor to fill the offices of Deputy Master of his own Lodge, and of Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of England. His Royal Highness has now been pleased to appoint me Prov. Grand Master of Canada, with power to appoint a Deputy, and to constitute a regular Prov. Grand Lodge, as well as to grant the necessary sanction and authority to private Lodges, until the same shall be confirmed by the Grand Lodge, to whom as well as to the M. W. Grand Master. I am especially instructed and charged to report my proceedings, as well as my observations on the state of Masonry in Upper Canada."

R. W. Bro. McGillivray concluded his letter, as he does that to Bro. Dean, by informing Bro. McBride that he has also been appointed Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Masonry in the Province, and requesting him to make known his mission to the Lodges, &c.

It does not appear whether Bro. McBride made any reply to this letter, but that to Bro. Dean is thus

referred to in the report of the Prov. Grand Master to the Grand Master in England. "My letter to the Secretary of the convention, Bro. Dean, produced a very satisfactory answer."

From its importance we here subjoin this letter,

BATH, 30th July, 1822.

"R. WOR. SIR,—I have received yours of the 20th inst., relative to Masonic affairs, and with pleasure observed that the attention of H. R. Highness, the Duke of Sussex, M. W. Grand Master of Masons in England, has been turned towards the situation of Masonry in this Province, as for a great length of time the necessity of such a measure as has been adopted has been experienced throughout the Province. Not being conversant with the constitution of the United Grand Lodge we were unacquainted with the precise manner of applying for a patent, or of the powers that could constitutionally be granted in the organization of a Prov. Grand Lodge. Much embarrassment has been experienced by the convention in consequence of receiving no answers to our several communications, and some on account of the difficulty we experienced in selecting a person whom we conceived to be properly qualified to fill the important office of P. G. M. We were aware that the person standing at the head of the fraternity of the Province ought to be a person of high rank in society and of unimpeachable moral character, and in Bro. Fitzgibbon it was thought a person was found of the requisite standing and character, and who we felt confident would fill the office with honor and dignity. The subject was, after consultation, proposed to him, he frankly consented to stand as a candidate, and the nomination was unanimously confirmed at our last meeting of the convention. We were not aware of the necessity of his name appearing on the registry of the United Grand Lodge. These remarks may be deemed superfluous, but I merely make them for the purpose of shewing that if any irregularity has appeared in our proceedings it has arisen from our ignorance of the constitution adopted at the Union.

"From the low ebb at which many of the Lodges were, in point of system and regularity of working, it was deemed necessary and proper, from the situation of the craft, to discourage attempts to work in subordinate Lodges upon the higher degrees, and as a measure best adapted to our situation, a Grand Royal Arch Chapter was formed, and the Lodges forming the convention have confined themselves to the three first degrees. This was deemed the more necessary, as system, order and regularity are the beauty of any degree in Free Masonry, and in the higher any want of method and uniformity would entirely destroy the solemnity and high import of the Degree. Great pains have been taken to establish a regular and systematic mode of work in our chapter, and I hope upon inspection it will meet your approbation.

"As far as I have communicated the contents of your letter, your appointment to the important office of Prov. Grand Master is hailed as an important era in the Masonic affairs of this Province, and I am confident a general disposition will be felt on the part of the Lodges forming the Convention to

"concur in measures of reconciliation, where dissen-
sion has formerly prevailed. This reconciliation
will be greatly facilitated by you, being clothed
with proper authority, and I sincerely hope and
trust that authority will be exercised in so judi-
cious a manner as to give general satisfaction.

"Agreeably to your request, I have communi-
cated per mail, the knowledge of your appoint-
ment and extended tour, to every Lodge forming
the Convention, and to the seven Chapters
composing the Royal Arch Chapter, and have
communicated a copy of your letter to James
Fitzgibbon, Esq. I also enclose, in conformity
with your wish, a list of the Lodges of the
Convention with their officers names, as far as
their last returns specify them, also of the chapters
and officers and the proceedings of the G. Rev. 1
Arch Chapter and Convention at our last
communication which I hope will prove satis-
factory.

"I fear you will find some of our Lodges in a
disordered state, but when you become acquainted
with our former state, I hope as a body you will
find the exertions of the Convention have not
been unsuccessful.

"Perhaps upon consulting the Grand High Priest
and President of the Convention, and the officers
of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter and Convention
at Brockville, it may be thought advisable to call
the Grand Chapter and Convention together.

"Pardon me R. W. Sir, for the freedom I have
taken in this communication, in thus familiarly
obtruding my opinions, but when addressing a
brother upon the subject of Masonry, I am such an
enthusiast in the cause that I forget all distinctions
of rank and fortune; and without derogating in
the least from the respect due to you, not only
from your rank and station in society, but the
high Masonic trust reposed in you, allow me to
plead the general principles of our order in
extenuation.

"If, upon your arrival at Kingston, I can be of
any service in forwarding your views, I shall be
happy to be allowed to wait upon you. The
Members of the Addington Lodge would be
greatly obliged in having a few days notice of
your intended visit, should you make it convenient
to call upon us. I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed,) JOHN DEAN,
Sec. of Convention.

SIMON MCGILLIVRAY, ESQ.

R. W. Bro. McGillivray had intended to visit as
many of the Lodges as he could in his tour through
the province before calling a Provincial Grand
Lodge, but was disappointed in his travelling
arrangements, and so far as the Eastern part of
Upper Canada was concerned he was obliged to
content himself with an interview with the brethren
of Cornwall, and on his arrival at Brockville he
fortunately met with Bro. Z. M. Phillips, president
of the convention, Rev. Bro. Smart, and several
other prominent brethren; he even missed seeing
Bro. Dean, in Kingston, from the above mentioned
cause, at which he was much disappointed. He
remained a few days at Niagara, and had an
opportunity of conversing with some of the principal
Masons in that vicinity. Having thus seen the
leaders of both parties and learned their opinions, he

decided upon appointing Bro. Dean as provisional,
Prov. Grand Secretary and requested him to call the
Masters, Wardens, and Past Masters of the various
Lodges to meet in Toronto, to form a Provincial
Grand Lodge.

We subjoin a copy of Bro. Dean's circular letter,
addressed to the Lodges, at the request of the
P. G. M.

BATH, 7th Sept., 1822.

"To the Masters, Wardens, and Brethren of
Lodge, No.— In a circular dated 25th July last,
I communicated to you (as Secretary of the Con-
vention), information of the appointment of
Simon McGillivray, Esq., to the office of Prov.
Grand Master for this Province, and the proba-
bility of his summoning a Prov. Grand Lodge, and
also of his intention of personally communicating
with as many Lodges, as he could conveniently
visit, which intention from unavoidable circum-
stances has been in some measure frustrated:

"Since that time the R. W. Prov. Grand Master
has been pleased, for the purpose of summoning a
meeting of the Lodges in the Prov. Grand Lodge,
to appoint me to the office of Provincial Grand
Secretary, and in conformity to his orders I shall
endeavour in as concise a manner as possible, to
give you such information as is necessary to
illustrate the views of the Most Worshipful Grand
Master of the United Grand Lodge, and of our
R. W. Prov. Grand Master.

"It may be necessary in the first place to state that
our late Prov. Grand Master neglected to commu-
nicate to the Grand Lodge from which he derived
his authority, any report of his proceedings, and
from this unfortunate circumstance much difficulty
has arisen, the Grand Lodge remaining ignorant
of even the existence of our Lodges, until our
application to them. In consequence of which the
M. W. G. Master has felt considerable difficulty in
the mode of proceeding to accomplish the object of
our application, as he could not appoint to the
office of Prov. Grand Master, a Brother whose
name did not appear on the registry of the United
Grand Lodge, neither could a Brother so appointed
by the Grand Master regularly exercise juris-
diction over the Lodges, until they should
first be constituted by or acknowledge the
authority and constitution of the Grand Lodge
of England. The Most Worshipful Grand Master
being desirous to accede to our wishes, and
conceiving that all difficulties might be obviated
by the above appointment, was pleased to make
it, and to give our M. Wor. Grand Master
instructions applicable to our case, and directions
to report his proceedings on his return to England.

"The object of the Right Wor. Grand Master in
calling a Prov. Grand Lodge, being the regular
reorganization of the craft in the Province, (which
cannot at the present be strictly considered
regularly constituted), under the authority of the
United Grand Lodge of England, and by patent
granted for that purpose by the Most Wor. Grand
Master, and as no Lodge can hereafter have a
constitutional power to work unless obtained
through him, it becomes necessary to state the
preliminary steps necessary for obtaining such
constitutional power.

"Previous to your representatives being received
in the Prov. Grand Lodge, a new Dispensation

"will be necessary, in order to obtain which, a petition, (a blank form of which you herewith have), signed by as many of your members as possible, and by seven at least, must be presented, accompanied by,—

"1. A copy of the Warrant or Dispensation under which the Lodge has heretofore acted.

"2. A list of the present actual subscribing members.

"3. A copy of your By-laws and Regulations.

"4. A payment of 11s. 8d currency for each member as the registering fee to the Grand Lodge and a further payment of 7s 3d currency each, for such members as may wish to obtain a Grand Lodge certificate.

"The Master or Representative of each Lodge must also bring up and exhibit the original Warrant or Dispensation under which it has acted. And upon complying with these regulations, the R. Wor. Prov. Grand Master, will either grant a sanction for the same or a new Dispensation, as the case may require, upon receiving which, and not before, the Master, Wardens and Past Masters of the Lodge will be qualified to be admitted and to vote in the Grand Lodge.

"The following extract from the instructions conveyed to the R. Wor. Grand Master, through the Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge, will no doubt prove satisfactory, as in it privileges prayed for in the last communication from Convention are obtained.

"In respect to the Lodges at present existing in Canada, and which it is presumed have been constituted by the late Brother Jervis, the Grand Master proposes that those Lodges should receive Warrants of Constitution from him, and that all the present members should be registered in the Books of Grand Lodge. In this case the Grand Master will propose to Grand Lodge that the several warrants of Constitution for the existing Lodges should be granted to them without the payment of the accustomed fee of five guineas, but the fee upon the registering the Brethren, 10s 6d sterling, each, cannot be dispensed with; also as follows:—In regard to 2s sterling, per annum, from each subscribing member towards the general fund of benevolence, I beg to state for the information of the Brethren, that the Grand Lodge, feeling that the Lodges in the Colonies, could not partake equally with others of its advantages, have resolved that the Lodges should no longer be required to contribute towards it, but their members being registered, should be entitled like all others to claim assistance from it."

"From the above extracts you will perceive that the Brethren of this Province are highly favored and that in compliance of our wishes, a considerable part of the usual fees are remitted in the establishment of a Prov. Grand Lodge here. Five Guineas being constitutionally required for each new warrant, 10s sterling, annually from each member joining or initiated in another Lodge. But from the Brethren in this Province, the usual registering fee is all that is required by the United Grand Lodge. From the above it is evident that the most direct constitutional means have been used by the M. W. Grand Master, to comply with our

wishes, and that the United Grand Lodge, are disposed to place us on the most liberal footing, by extending to us the benefits and privilege of masonic and fraternal communication, unencumbered with exactions, and with no intention of drawing revenue from the connection. The above facts are stated agreeable to the orders of the R. W. Grand Master, given me for that purpose, and whose own words are principally used in the fulfilment of his instructions. The following are extracts from the constitution of the United Grand Lodge.

"The Appointment of this officer, (Prov. Grand Master), for counties and for large and populous districts, is a prerogative of the Grand Master, by whom or in his absence, by his Deputy, a patent may be granted during pleasure, to such Brother of eminence and ability in the craft, as may be thought worthy of the appointment. By this patent, he is vested with rank and power in his particular district, similar to those possessed by the Grand Master himself. He shall be regularly installed at the first Prov. Grand Lodge aft. his appointment."

"He is empowered to appoint a Deputy and other Grand Officers for his Province, who must be resident and subscribing members of some Lodge within the District.

"The Prov. Grand Lodge has the power of framing By-Laws for its own Government, and of making regulations for the guidance of the private Lodges of the Province, provided that none of these are contrary to or inconsistent with the United Grand Lodge of England."

"Having thus executed the orders received from the R. W. Grand Master and in a brief manner endeavored to give such information as is necessary. It only remains to call your attention to the following summons, and I feel a pleasure in anticipating a prompt compliance with its requirements, which I am confident will be the case when I reflect upon my personal knowledge of the zeal which you have heretofore manifested in the cause, and the fair prospect of our most sanguine hopes being speedily realized and that your Lodge will be respectably represented."

I remain, yours fraternally,

JOHN DEAN,

Prov. Grand Secretary.

BATH, Sept. 7, 1822.

The following is the summons addressed to the Lodges:—

To the Wor. Master, Wardens and Brethren of Lodge No.

"In conformity to the orders of the R. Wor. Prov. Grand Master, you are hereby summoned to cause your Lodge to be represented in the Prov. Grand Lodge, to be held at York, on Friday, the 20th instant. It is desirable that the representation should consist of the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Past Masters of your Lodge, with your Warrant and your respective Jewels."

Yours fraternally,

JOHN DEAN,

Prov. Grand Secretary.

BATH, Sept. 7th, 1822.

(To be continued.)

"NAH-HAMI,"—AN IDYL OF JUDAH.

FOR THE CRAFTSMAN.

BY THE REV. H. STEWART PATTERSON.

BOOK III.—PEACE AND FAMINE.

Now spent with war and worried with its scenes,
Though they were gilded by the maddening drops,
By Victory poured from out her rubied cup,
Israel's bravo sons their dented swords exchanged
For peaceful ploughs—for pruning hooks their spears.

Then the broad land for fourscore years had rest
From Gentile foes, and Judah dwelt in peace,
Her borders blessed for many cloudless years;
Her valleys rich at happy harvest time
With waving crops of golden bearded grain;
Her garner filled with plenty, while the vats
With luscious grape-blood and smooth oil o'erflowed.
But sad change came, with hunger, want and woe;
The hopes of man—the staff of bread is snapped,
The field is desolate—all the Land is sad,
For weary Famine spread her ragged cloak
And hugged fair Nature to her wrinkled breast,
Who loathed the grasp, and struggled to burst forth
And veil from Earth, with soft embroidered robe
Of verdant grasses, or of stary flowers;
But the gaunt Beldame coiled her snake-like arms,
And held the captive in a foul embrace,
Until, o'ercome, the unequal combat ceased,
And Nature fainted as the great red sun,
From the mid ocean of a copp'ry sky,
Smote with a lurid heat the reeling world,
Whose parching cheeks gaped in a myriad chinks,
Each chink a mouth, to every mouth ten throats,
And every throat as drunkard craves for wine,
A drop of dew in to useless speech implored
From the un pitying and tearless air.
There lay the seed berotted in the clod,
And round the threshing floor no sound is heard
Of merry laughter or of pattering grain;
For corn has withered, and the cummin failed,
The vine dries up, the fig tree languisheth,
And joy has parted from the sons of men.
Now fall the birds all songless from the air,
With ruffled wings, and plumage lustreless;
While the lambs bleat, the cattle are perplexed,
Because no pasture for their lives are found;
And the ribbed kine low forth their sad appeal,
With glance half human in their piteous eyes,
'Mid the void channels of the dried up rills,
They hopeless stand in thirst-racked misery,
For Mother Earth denies her veins to ope,
And quench their cravings with her crystal blood.

Sad sit the elders on the ground and weep,
They gird their loins with sackcloth and keep still,
They scatter ashes o'er their tangled hair,
Their souls within them sicken and grow faint;
Virgins and matrons droop their lily heads,
Their tears fall fast, and bitter is their grief,
Because the children cry aloud for bread,
And little voices whisper in their ears
In tones more redolent of Death than Life—
So thin—so spiritual—the quivering sound—
And question why the mules no longer pass
With tinkling bells and panniers filled with grain?
And why the streets, like things of life bereft,

Lie confined 'mid the walls of joyless homes?
And why their Fathers with a rough caress
No longer throw them crowing in the air,
And catch them falling in their loving arms?
And why the tears gleam in their Mothers' eyes,
Where but the Love-glance once was wont to beam?

Thus, thus with thousand questions such as these
They make the hearts of listeners bleed afresh;
Though they poor infants oft in childish glee
Forgot an instant all their little woes,
And laugh, and clap their tiny little hands
To see the men with dust upon their heads,
Clad in strange garments, pass adown the streets;
But soon, alas, the brief-lived laugh is hushed,
The prattle dies in wailing, till at last
The pale cheeked mother, with a bursting heart,
Sees her fair darling passing from her arms
To mingle with the cherub Berds who tread
The star paved path which winds to Paradise.

BOOK IV.—BETHLEHEM.

The prowling jackals through the silent streets,
Like spectres flitting 'mong Beth-hayim's tombs,
Unchallenged pass when twilight's curtain falls,
For the fierce dogs no longer with deep bay,
As 'neath the moon they hold high carnival,
Startle the slumberers from Sleep's soft arms,
But crouch uneasy by the cheerless hearths
Through the bleak watches of the heavy night,
Till darkness pales before the saffron dawn,
Whose red wings shake no dew drops on the earth,
As they were wont in balmy days gone by.
The climbing sun soon gilds the shadowy hills,
But no glad voices from the homes of men
Greet his approach with the sweet morning hymn;
The busy house-wife, with her cheery call,
No longer wakes her maidens—heavy eyed—
And feeds her household while as yet 'tis night,
Or turns the distaff with her willing hands.

Her moody Lord broods with a breast sank head,
Nor cares to rise and view his empty fields,
Nor yoke the oxen to a useless plough.

And village damsels hasting to the well,
No longer carol as they trip along
With pitchers balanced on their comely heads;

All! all, in Bethlehem is sad and still,
As the mute city of the voiceless Dead;
By those tall yew trees near the pillared tomb,
When Jacob grieving laid his Rachel down,
E'en he pitched tent beyond Edarra's tower.

BEAUTY AND VIRTUE.

BY JOHN CLARE.

When Beauty fills the lover's eyes,
And lives like doubtful weather,
Her bosom seems to sleep with love—
They lie like birds together.

Love finds them angels, ready made,
So beautiful and blooming;
But time comes in, though half afraid,
And rudely calls them woman.

Time, like a robber, every year,
Takes all the same he gives,
While Beauty only goes away,
And Virtue only lives.

The Craftsman,
AND BRITISH AMERICAN MASONIC RECORD.
"THE QUEEN AND THE CRAFT."

HAMILTON,..... AUGUST 15, 1867.

GRAND LODGE.

The decision of the Grand Lodge on the report of the special Committee appointed upon that portion of the address of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, referring to the consummation of the confederation of the British American Provinces, and to the new relations in which the supreme Masonic authority of Canada was placed in relation to the other Provinces, will, we think, be generally conceded as the wisest that could under the circumstances have been arrived at. It is quite certain that any hasty action on the subject would have been exceedingly imprudent, whether that action had been in the direction of the immediate assumption of control over all Masonically unoccupied territory within the new Dominion, and the creation then of a supreme Grand Lodge for the whole, or whether it had been in the other direction of disintegration by the creation of an independent Grand Lodge for each of the four Provinces. And although, judging from the vote rendered in the Committee, there can be little doubt that many of the leading Freemasons of our sister Province of Quebec would have preferred the latter course, we believe that a little sober reflection will convince them that the step at this time, whatever the future may require, would have been a hasty and unwise one.

There are not a few very nice questions of Masonic law involved in the consideration of the future status of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and of Masonry generally in this Dominion. Whether the political change which has taken place can be said to have any influence on the position or territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, is a question which cannot be decided without very careful consideration. There is this peculiarity about the case that we have no precedent on record which presents any analogy to our present position. Each of the Provinces united had before a distinct government, and was as such, independent territory. It is not like the case of a territory in the United States being converted, under the constitutional machinery that exists there, into a State; nor is it the case of a mere territory, without any independent government being attached to a regularly organised State or Province. To illustrate what we mean: supposing the Hudson's Bay territory to have been acquired by purchase or otherwise, and attached to the Province of Canada as it existed prior to the Union, there can be no doubt that the jurisdiction of the

Grand Lodge of Canada would in that case, and by the mere Act of union have extended over that territory. But that is not the case in the present instance. The union is a union of regularly organised *quasi* independent governments, and they have been united by an authority which exercises no control over the Masonic institution. Besides this, the decision to be arrived at affects not only the Provinces now united, but others to be united to the Dominion hereafter. If we decide to-day, and that decision becomes recognised as Masonic law applicable to such a case, we are forming a precedent for Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland in the east, and British Columbia and Vancouver's Island in the west. It is this peculiarity which renders the case one of great difficulty, and in the decision of which the greatest caution should be exercised.

Under these circumstances we concur heartily in the wisdom of the decision of the Committee "that the present position, standing and name of this Grand Lodge, be maintained; trusting that the love of union and the sincere desire to promote the best interests of Masonry, will induce the members of our fraternity, residing in other parts of the new Dominion, eventually to unite with us in securing a harmonious and superior Masonic Government in Canada." We concur in it, not as an absolute and final settlement of the question, but as the wisest settlement that could be arrived at in the meantime, and in the hope that a fair and candid consideration of the position by the best minds among ourselves, aided by the advice and sound judgment of the best authorities abroad, whose opinions should by all means be sought, may lead to a conclusion which will tend to the promotion of the best interests of the fraternity, and the defusion of its benign principles, throughout British America.

MASONIC EXCURSION.

An exceedingly pleasant Masonic reunion; under the auspices of the Toronto brethren, took place at Niagara Falls, on Wednesday the 7th inst. The brethren from Toronto crossed over in the City of Toronto and were met on the dock at Niagara by the Niagara Lodge, No. 2, W. M. Bro. Clements, and several members of that lodge. At Suspension Bridge they were received by St. Mark's lodge, Drummondville. On both occasions suitable words of welcome and reply thereto were made. A procession of the members being formed at the bridge, as steady a march as was possible under a broiling sun was made to the Clifton House. Here the capacious grounds of Mr. Bush (formerly the Zimmerman property) were thrown open by its proprietor to the excursionists, many of whom pleasantly passed the time under the cool shade of the trees, either quietly

listening or dancing to the music of the 10th Royal's band, which accompanied the party; many others wondered about enjoying the beautiful scenery of this charming locality. At six o'clock the train left the Clifton station on its return; a brief stay was made at the bridge to take on those of the party who were waiting for it there; three-quarters of an hour was sufficient to cover the distance from the bridge to Niagara, where the steamer was ready awaiting the arrival of the train. There was no time lost in getting on board; the lines cast off, dancing was vigorously pursued on the after-deck, and soon after half-past nine the "City" arrived at Yonge street wharf, Toronto. The most perfect order was maintained throughout, and every one was pleased with the excursion and the good management on board the boat of Captain Milloy and his officers. Among those present we noticed M. W. Bro. W. M. Wilson, Grand Master; R. W. Bro. James Seymour, D. D. G. M., Hamilton; R. W. Bro. Graham, D. D. G. M., Eastern townships; R. W. Bro. T. B. Harris, Grand Secretary; Very Worshipful Br. James Bain; and Worshipful Brothers Wm. Hamilton, jr., John Sedgworth, Houel, Somers, and a number of other leading members.

MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

A correspondent in Brantford submits the following questions, about which he says some difference of opinion has arisen:—

1st. If the Tyler of a Lodge, who is also a member of the same, is exempt from paying dues, and also receives a stated sum for every night, he is actually present as Tyler, has he the privilege of voting when the Lodge is balloting for candidates?

2nd. If a member of a Lodge is suspended for non-payment of dues, is the Lodge of which he was a member, bound to admit him as a visitor, upon his making a demand to that effect, during the time he is so suspended?

3rd. A member of a Lodge asks his demit, the Lodge grants it, the reasons he had for asking it are removed, and before the minutes are confirmed at next regular meeting, he expresses a desire to continue his membership,—in such a case, is it necessary to ballot for his admission. Suppose the same case as the latter, and the minutes had been confirmed, does he require a fresh ballot?

ANSWERS.

1st. The Tyler is entitled to vote, if he so desires, under the circumstances stated.

2nd. Certainly not; nor can any other Lodge, notified of his suspension, admit him.

3rd. The confirmation of the minutes in no way affects this question. That is simply a declaration that they contain a correct record of what happened at the meeting, and in no way adds to their authority. A new ballot is necessary to re-admit a member in the case indicated. The moment the resolution is passed granting his demit, it being necessary that he should be in good standing and clear on the books when this is done, he becomes an unaffiliated Mason, and must be dealt with as such.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DONATIONS.

The committee of management tenders its thanks for the following donations of books and pamphlets, &c., to the Montreal Masonic Library, in connection with the lodges of the city, viz:—

From Bro. Wm. MacKenzie, Montreal: 1 vol. "Mackey's Correspondence," 1 vol. "Hyneiman's Masonic Register."

R. W. Bro. John H. Isaacson, Montreal: 2 vols. Freemason's Magazine, "London," 1855 and 1856; 2 vols. No. 1 to 8, Universal Masonic Library; 1 vol. No 1, Proceedings Grand Lodge of Canada, 1855 to 1857; 1 vol. Anderson's Constitution, reprint, 1723; 1 vol. Constitution Grand Lodge of Canada, 1856.

R. W. Bro. Thos. B. Harris, Hamilton: Copies of the Proceedings of Grand Lodge from 1858 to 1866, inclusive.

Copies of the proceedings of Grand Chapter, from its formation, 1857 to 1866, inclusive.

1 vol. Constitution Grand Lodge of Canada, 1866; 1 vol. Constitution Grand Chapter, 1866

R. W. Bro. R. Bull, Montreal: Copies of the Freemason's Magazine, "London," from 1843 to 1855.

THE Masonic Board of Relief, N. Y., has issued a circular warning the Masonic fraternity against one John Ely, alias Dr. Hunter, alias Dr. Geo. Levi, but whose real name is George Levison, who has been imposing upon Masons throughout the United States.

Our readers, we are sure, will readily appreciate our anxiety to complete in this volume the notes on the history of Masonry in Canada, furnished by R. W. Bro. Fowler, and the reports of the Deputy District Grand Masters, presented at the last Communication of Grand Lodge; and will understand, therefore, the reason for so little editorial matter appearing in this number of the CRAFTSMAN. We shall with the next number, the last of the volume, give a summary of the proceedings of Grand Chapter, assembled this week at Ottawa.

THE GRAND CHAPTER.

The Tenth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada commenced its sittings at Ottawa on Tuesday, the 13th instant. There was a fair attendance of members present. We present our readers with the admirable address of M. E. Comp. T. D. Harington, which was as follows:—

To the Most Excellent, The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada, Greeting:

COMPANIONS,—Once more it is my privilege and happiness to meet and address you in Grand Chapter, to render to you a brief account of my Stewardship for the past twelvemonths, to submit to your notice and consideration any occurrences of interest that may have transpired since our last Brotherly greeting, appertaining to our antient and honorable institution, and to await, with your other officers, your fiat of approval or disapproval of the discharge of our duties, and the fulfilment of the trust reposed in us.

COMPANIONS.—We are here assembled together to celebrate our "Tenth Annual Convocation," and if

we only cast a retrospective glance over the years that have passed, since our now well found and goodly edifice was commenced, and has gradually and successfully uprisen from *foundation to cope stone*, taking its position and share in the work of Capitular Freemasonry, as one of the pillars and supports of the General Grand Chapter of the world, I think I have good reason to congratulate you, on the happy and prosperous results of that "flight of time," and call upon you to unite in reverently thanking the "Great Giver of all good," for His protection, for the general prosperity of our order, and for permitting us again to meet together in harmony and pleasant companionship, and as participators still of His varied blessings of life, light and health.

It is with sincere pleasure that I am able to state that peace and harmony prevail within our borders, and as I could declare last year, so now I can repeat, my work has been easy,—a labor of love.—and conducive to much personal pleasure.

I have signed *Dispensations* in favor of the following *New Chapters*, viz :

- PENTALPHA.....*Oshawa.*
- MCCALLUM,*Dunnville.*
- HURON,*Goderich.*

They have been properly organized, and as the several Petitions came before me duly recommended, I advise their confirmation by Warrant.

All other *Dispensations* granted by me, have been simply those necessary in my opinion, for the welfare and good working of the Chapter making application, and the election of certain principal officers, worthily tho' not constitutionally qualified, without my dispensing power.

I am happy to say that one of our oldest subordinate chapters, "*St. Andrew's*" of Toronto, which has been in abeyance for some time, has become again alive, under the able superintendance of our R. E. Comp. S. B. Harman, on whom I conferred all the necessary authority to put that chapter into full working order, and restore its prestige and good old standing.

We have now on our Register, *twenty-seven Subordinate Chapters*, and as regards their internal economy and position, I refer you to the Annual Reports of the several Grand Superintendents of Districts, as well as the general development and progress of Royal Arch Masonry in the districts themselves.—The books of your able and energetic Grand Scribe E. R. E. Comp. Harris, will afford you other valuable statistical information, and the Reports of that excellent officer and your Grand Treasurer will furnish full knowledge of all matters relating to your financial affairs.

I have had the *By-Laws* of several chapters submitted for approval, all of which have been read and examined carefully, and, where necessary, they have been altered, so as not to conflict with the Book of Constitutions.

While on this subject, I would mention to Grand Chapter, that application was made to me for a dispensation to exalt *Military and Naval Brethren*, who are often only temporary sojourners with us, for a less fee, than those established by law. I did not, I conceive, possess any such power, but I promised to call your attention to the matter, because I think the law falls somewhat hard upon those brethren,

and especially upon that respectable body of men, the non-commissioned officers in the service of our Most Gracious Queen, and you might consistently amend the clause in the Book of Constitutions, by reducing the exaltation fee, as far as regards the two services.

The next subject I deem of importance, to submit to your notice, is our "*Work*." I gave this matter a prominent place in my address last year, and the necessity of its exemplification, for the purpose of ensuring uniformity, was endorsed by Grand Chapter. I again invite your attention to it, and would also suggest, that the *Ceremony of Consecration and Constitution of Chapters, and Installation of Officers* should be determined. Probably the most simple way of accomplishing this desirable object would be to appoint a committee to report and exemplify at our next convocation.

The *Proceedings* of several *Sister Grand Chapters* have been received, and the Grand Scribe E. by my direction, placed them in the hands of R. E. Comp. Seymour, as chairman of the committee on Foreign Correspondence, who I hope will be able to present his usually able report thereon, to be published with our own *Proceedings*. The Grand Chapter of Canada, is mentioned by these Grand Bodies in very kind and friendly language.

I have received an application for recognition and companionship from a new body, styling itself "*The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia*," but as its loyalty has been challenged by the "*General Grand Chapter of the United States*," and there is evidently a domestic difference in which it would undoubtedly be improper for us to take any part, I have taken no steps in the matter. The papers will be laid before you by the Grand Scribe E. I have also received a printed circular, under the Great Seal of the "*Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana*," warning all regular Masonic authority, that a Body styling itself *Supreme C. 33° for the Independent State of Louisiana*, and claiming therein certain special jurisdiction, is an irregular clandestine body, and quite unrecognized. I merely record this for general information as Grand Chapter has no knowledge whatever of this "*Thirty-third Degree*."

I conceive it to be my bounden duty to invite your attention to the account of the distress prevailing in the *Southern States* of the neighbouring Republic, and, as it has been recently well put by the Most Worshipful *The Grand Master of Canada*, "the startling account of the misery and want suffered by the widows and orphans of masons in the *State of Georgia*." Adopting his excellent example, I commend this subject to your benevolent consideration. Grand Chapter is not rich, but small separate subscriptions make large aggregates, and sympathy goes a great way with sufferers, and remember companions, that "ONE," who in his own person embodied every good attribute of our order, especially held up for approval and imitation, the gift of the "*Widow's mite*," accompanied as it was by a sympathetic and charitable heart.

I now return to our own "*home*," as I may rightly style our Grand Chapter. Last year I alluded to the near accomplishment of the *Confederation of the British American Provinces* on this continent. Now, as you all know, the "*DOMINION OF CANADA*," is an accomplished fact, and it forms a most important integral portion of the mighty empire, that renders

willing and heartfelt allegiance to our most beloved Queen, whom may God preserve.

It behoves us to consider the effect of this Confederation on our present position as a Grand Chapter. My own opinion is, that the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, now incorporated with Canada, and being hitherto "*un-occupied territory*," that is possessing no Grand Chapter of their own, rightly fall under the rule and supremacy of this Grand Chapter, and, as your presiding officer, I deem it my duty to claim Royal Arch Masonic Sovereignty there in your behalf. And I think formal notice of this should be sent, with your sanction, to the *Parent Bodies* of those subordinate Chapters now in existence in those Provinces, warning them against granting any new charters or warrants, and inviting those chapters to receive "*Canada*" warrants, at or before a certain fixed time, their numbers and precedence to be determined by seniority of original date; and calling upon them to appear, by their representatives, at our next Annual Convocation, if not at some previous special convocation, to be decided upon by you. The appointment of a special Committee with power to enter into all necessary preliminaries, and report fully to Grand Chapter, is probably the most advisable course to adopt. In this I only offer my individual opinion, and by no means desire to seem to dictate to Grand Chapter. The subject is one of paramount importance, and calls for cool and deliberate consideration. As soon as all initiatory arrangements are perfected, you will have of necessity to determine upon a permanent conveniently situated place of meeting, which, however, should for obvious reasons be located in some central City, and where the "*Grand Lodge of Canada*," establishes her dwelling place.

Another matter crosses my mind, as being fit and proper to be brought before you. I allude to "*unaffiliated companions*," whose status should be clearly defined. They should surely be compelled to contribute to our charities and their names might then appear in the Register of the Grand Scribe E, being included under a distinct heading in the annual returns from Chapters, within whose jurisdiction they may be residing.

I would likewise mention that I have official knowledge that a *Committee of the Grand Lodge of Canada*, under the auspices of our R. E. Companion S. D. Fowler, of Kingston, has been for some time engaged in collecting documents, with a view to compiling a *History of Canadian Freemasonry*. This Committee has already published some interesting and valuable information in a very creditable Masonic Periodical called "*The Craftsman*," and which I hope will receive good and successful support.

I would ask all Companions, if they have in their possession any old or valuable archives or Masonic documents, to assist that "*Historical Committee*" by giving or lending the same. It is a matter fraught with interest to us all.

Finally, my companions, I beg thus publicly to record *my thanks* to all officers for their services during their term of office now expiring. And I suggest to us all to resolve, during the times of excitement that must naturally be looked for, to avoid if possible, and as much as poor human nature will allow, anger and malice,—to bear in mind that other people have equal right with ourselves to

feelings and opinions,—to practice the "*charity*" of tongue that "*thinketh no evil and never faileth*,"—and let us *Fear God, Honor the Queen*, and those who are put in authority under her, and *Love the Brotherhood!* And may the "*Great Architect of the Universe*" spare us happy and happily to meet again, and continue His blessings to us and our common country!

So mote it be!

T. DOUGLAS HAJLINGTON,

OTTAWA, August, 1867.

Grand Z.

REPORTS OF THE R. W. DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

TORONTO DISTRICT.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of Canada.

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN:

I have the honor in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution to present this my fourth report of the Toronto District, which will be necessarily brief, as I regret exceedingly that from continued illness during the Winter and Spring, I have been unable to visit all the Lodges of this District. It affords me, however, the greatest satisfaction to report on the efficiency of the work and the fraternal courtesy and greetings which have at all times been extended to me in those Lodges which I have been able to visit, and to the sympathy expressed by the others to whom I explained my position.

It is with sincere happiness that I have to congratulate the Brethren on the "*confederation*" of the City of Toronto Lodges in one Lodge room, that on Toronto Street, known as the "*Masonic Hall*"; not only will it be a great saving in rent and other expenses, but it will tend to bind the members of the different City Lodges with one fraternal cord, bringing us all close together, and more in unison with our Masonic professions. It will also afford an opportunity of founding a Masonic library and reading room, thus furnishing a resort for the brethren, who can then mix more freely together and spend many an hour usefully which now hangs heavily on some of our younger brethren.

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master has most generously offered to present the United Lodges with many valuable volumes, reports, &c., which when added to the small libraries already in possession of St. Andrew's and St. John's Lodges, will form, if not a large, a very select library of Masonic lore.

I had much pleasure in giving permission to the brethren of the City Lodges to appear in Masonic clothing at a banquet on the Festival of St. John the Baptist to celebrate that auspicious event. About 400 brethren of the United Lodges spent the evening in "*peace*," "*love*," and "*harmony*."

I am happy also to report that a Constitutional number of Masons applied through me for a Dispensation to open a Lodge at Orillia, County of Simcoe, and I had great pleasure in recommending their petition to the favorable consideration of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master. He was pleased to order a Dispensation to issue to "*Orillia*" Lodge, and appointed Brother Malloch to be the first Master. I have no doubt that under the management of this able Brother the Lodge will be a success, as a

Masonic Lodge has long been required in this northern section.

I have also had the pleasure to grant a Dispensation to the Brethren of St. George's Lodge, No. 88, to celebrate the Festival of St. John the Baptist by their annual excursion to the "Indian Peninsula" and to appear thereat in Masonic clothing.

In the Toronto District during the year now closed, many old and worthy Masons have "passed away" from amongst us, viz:—Brothers John McAlpine Cameron and John H. Ritchy, of St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 16; V. W. Bro. G. B. Wyllie, and Bros. R. Parker, James Beachell, A. O. Fenwick and G. M. Hamilton, St. John's Lodge, No. 75.

Let us hope that these our departed brethren have attained the summit of human aspiration, a seat in the Grand Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe lives and rules for ever.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

A. DEGRASSI,

D. D. G. M., Toronto District.

PRINCE EDWARD DISTRICT.

To the M. W. the Grand Master and Grand Lodge of Canada

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, I beg leave to present my report for the Prince Edward District, over which I had the honor to preside during the past year.

I regret from unforeseen circumstances, I have not been able to visit many of the Lodges in this extensive district during the past year. However, it gives me great pleasure to state, that but few Masonic complaints have been brought before me and those of so trifling a character as to be easily adjusted without reference to Grand Lodge.

From information received from Brethren, and as far as I am able to ascertain, the Lodges within the district are generally in a prosperous condition, and adding considerable to their numbers.

I would respectfully urge upon Grand Lodge, the necessity of revising this Masonic District, and would recommend that the county of Renfrew be attached to the Central District, as Renfrew Lodge is over 200 miles from any other Lodge in this District.

I granted Dispensations for celebrating the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, to the following Lodges in December last. Renfrew Lodge, No. 122, Renfrew; Moira Lodge, No. 11, Belleville, and Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 146, Newburgh; also to Madoc Lodge, No. 48, Madoc, to celebrate the Festival of St. John the Baptist, and on the same day, to Prince Edward Lodge, No. 18, to attend a lecture delivered by Rev. Bro. McMechan, and dine together, which I am pleased to state gave the greatest satisfaction to the brethren.

Only one death among the brethren of this district has been reported to me during the year, that of Bro. R. M. Sawyer, of St. John's Lodge, No. 209, I. R., London, who was interred on the 17th of May, with Masonic honors.

In December last, I had the pleasure of installing the officers elect, of Prince Edward Lodge, No. 18. I likewise installed the officers of Star in the East Lodge, No. 164, Wellington, and for a young Lodge. I have great pleasure in saying, the officers are well up in their work.

Application was made through me, for a warrant to establish a new Lodge at Adolphustown, and on my recommendation, and certifying that the Master was skilled in the established degrees, the M. W. Grand Master was pleased to grant a Dispensation to open said Lodge, called Filius Viduæ, which I hope will be confirmed by the Grand Lodge granting their warrant of constitution.

Application was made to me to allow Filius Viduæ Lodge, to remove to Fredericksburg, temporary, until more suitable rooms can be obtained. After due consideration I granted it, finding it to be the unanimous desire of its members.

In concluding this brief report, I would express my thanks to the officers and Brethren of the Lodges within my District, for the kindness and courtesy shown to me while in the discharge of my duties.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

DONALD FRASER,

D. D. G. M.—P. E. D.

Pictou, 2nd July, 1867.

MONTREAL DISTRICT.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, and the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M., of Canada.

M. W. SIR AND BRETHREN—I have again the pleasure of reporting on the state of Masonry in the Montreal District, and which I am happy to say, may be summed up in a few words. The Craft is prospering: the younger brethren evincing an increasing interest, not only in the beauties, but in the philosophy of our Ritual, and a growing feeling is being exhibited in the necessity of "tying our ballot box" more closely than heretofore. Some instances, however, are observable, which show that in this particular there is still room for improvement.

Only one case has been brought before me for official adjudication. It was that of a P. M., who was proved guilty of gross deceit and duplicity, and a disregard of that truth, which it was his duty alike to practise and to inculcate. The only course open to me, under the circumstances, was to "suspend, until the decision of the Grand Master was obtained on the subject." My decision was sustained by the Grand Master, although appealed against. The suspension was dated on the 26th July, 1866, and under date, the 30th March, 1867, I received a letter from the Grand Secretary, from which I copy the following extracts:—"I am to state that the M. W. the Grand Master feels it to be his duty to approve and confirm the judgment pronounced by you in this matter," and "in the hope that the memory of the past will prevent a deviation from Masonic precepts and teachings in the future, he now directs that the suspension be removed."

I have only to add that a Masonic Library has been established, and that the librarian has now some forty-five volumes in his charge, which it is expected will shortly be increased by promised contributions, from some of our most eminent Brethren.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD BULL,

D. D. G. M.—M. D.

MONTREAL, 6th July, 1867.

LONDON DISTRICT.

To the M. W. the Grand Master, Officers and Members of Grand Lodge of A. F. and A. M. of Canada.

From the most remote period of antiquity it has been a source of real gratification to every devout lover of our now time-honored Institution, to learn that a healthy and favorable progress was characterizing our noble Order in any or every part of the world, while the gratification has always been intensified by progress in the Dominion in which we reside. On this occasion it becomes my pleasing duty in accordance with established usage to report to Grand Lodge the very satisfactory state of the Lodges in the London District, over which I have had the honor to preside during the past Masonic year. Since my promotion to the office of D.D.G.M. I have visited every lodge in the district, with but one exception that is working under dispensation at Port Burwell; the W. Master and the Officers of this one Lodge I have frequently met during the year, and from the information received from them I infer the satisfactory state of this Lodge.

The Lodges throughout the district on the whole are in a prosperous condition, and very uniformly working as near the system adopted by Grand Lodges as can well be expected from the limited facilities which some of them possess of obtaining it. The number not very efficiently worked is very limited and situated in isolated localities, where they have but few opportunities of meeting with Masons who can give them the information they require. There is but one Lodge in the London district (which, with every facility at its control,) but what has adopted the work of this Grand Lodge. This Lodge continues as when under the Grand Lodge of Ireland, to which they previously belonged. This is St. John's Lodge, No. 20, G.R.C., located in the City of London, in which there are two other Lodges working in accordance with our established ritual.

On the 14th of Sept. last, I received a communication from the W. Master of Alexandra Lodge, No. 158, Oil Springs, informing me that the lodge room and all its contents had been destroyed by fire. This calamity has given the brethren of Alexandra Lodge a great amount of anxiety and trouble; they could not obtain a room in the village suitable for them to meet in, and desirous of continuing their Lodge, they had no alternative but to build a hall for themselves. This the brethren have done, but not without embarrassment. The facts of this has been sent to all the Lodges in Canada by circular, with a sympathetic appeal to their charity.

COMPLAINTS.

During the past year I am happy to state but few complaints have come to my knowledge, and these of so trivial a nature and so easily adjusted satisfactorily to all concerned, that there is not any to claim attention of Grand Lodge.

MASONIC DOCUMENTS.

I may, however, be pardoned here for again inviting the attention of Grand Lodge to the imperative necessity of issuing blank forms and books suitable for subordinate Lodges, so as to secure a uniform system of book-keeping, &c., throughout this Dominion, the price to be arranged so as to be a source of reasonable remuneration to Grand Lodge

for time, expenditure, &c. This arrangement, in my opinion, would be a direct advantage to subordinate Lodges, for while it secured systematic uniformity, the documents would be procured at a much cheaper rate than at present.

INSTRUCTIONS.

Most Worshipful Sir, might I also be permitted to suggest to Grand Lodge the propriety of considering the necessity of devising some more efficient method of instructing the young Mason in the mystic art of Masonry, without in the least departing from the ancient landmarks of our Order. The propriety of doing this I think is evident to every Mason, from the fact that the short lecture accompanying the receipt of each degree, conveys at best but an imperfect knowledge of the manifold mysteries and morals of our Order, leaving it at the same time exceedingly difficult for the young Mason to gain admittance into other Lodges, while on some occasions they are totally rejected unless vouched for.

DISPENSATIONS.

During the past year the Most Worshipful the Grand Master has been pleased to grant three Dispensations for new Lodges in the London District, making now in the whole 25 Lodges in the District. The same time, I have granted two dispensations, one to Burns Lodge No. 153, Wyoming, to remove their Lodge to a new and convenient room in the same village, and the other, to St. Thomas Lodge No. 44, to attend Divine Service in the morning and a Festival in the evening, of St. John's Day, 27th December, A. L. 5866, A. D. 1866, in regalia.

DEATHS.

In obedience to the high commands of the Great Architect of the universe, many of our esteemed brethren have passed from labor to rest. Among the number is, W. Bro. Benjamin Ferguson, W. M. St. Paul's Lodge, No. 107, Lambeth; Bros. Alexander McDonald, L. W. Reece, and John Taylor, of St. George's Lodge, No. 42, London; W. Bro. P. M. James Thompson, of Albion Lodge, No. 80, Newbury; and Bro. George Turnbull, Wellington Lodge, No. 46, Chatham. These six have been duly reported to me, three of whom were members of St. George's Lodge, No. 42, London, with which I have the honor to stand connected.

THANKS.

Before closing my report, I beg respectfully to tender my sincere thanks to the Most Worshipful the Grand Master and Grand Secretary, for the very prompt and satisfactory manner in which they have responded to all matters which I have found necessary to bring before them during my term of office. And I also acknowledge with gratitude the kindly receptions and courteous friendship extended to me by all the brethren I have met while on my official tour through the District.

In conclusion, Most Worshipful Sir and Brethren, may it be our utmost endeavors to unite in strengthening our Order, by continuing to impress it with dignity, influencing with increasing vigor, and securing for it an unbounded respectability, not only in our own Dominion, but throughout the world. May civilization and friendship, with all their elevating influences, flow on and on till time shall be no more; and when we have performed our allotted task on this our sublunary abode, may we all with rapturous delight receive that celestial pass-word

which shall secure for us an abundant entrance into the Grand Lodge triumphant, where the Grand Master of the universe lives and reigns in effulgent light forever.

All of which I humbly submit to Grand Lodge, and remain,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

F. WESTLAKE, D. D. G. M.,
London District.

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS DISTRICT.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Canada of A. F. & A. M.
MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR, OFFICERS AND BRETHREN :

There are in the Eastern Townships District, in the Province of Quebec, *twelve* warranted Lodges, and *four* under dispensation.

By the favor of the great Architect of the universe, I am enabled to report that I have visited all of them, during the year now closing, and it affords me much satisfaction to inform you that they are enjoying a good degree of prosperity under the direction of able and zealous officers.

LODGES UNDER DISPENSATION.

The *four* Lodges referred to above, which have been organized during the past year by dispensation from the Most Worshipful, the Grand Master, are the following :—

- 1. Tuscan Lodge, - - - - - Levis.
- 2. Royal Canadian, - - - - - Sweetsburgh.
- 3. Ascot, - - - - - Lemoxville.
- 4. Ashlar, - - - - - Coatcooke.

As these Lodges have begun under very favorable auspices, and are presided over by talented and well-skilled Brethren, I have favorably reported them to the Grand Master, praying him to recommend this Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, at its present communication, to grant to them *Warrants*, in order that at an early day they may be solemnly constituted in due and ancient form.

GENERAL CONDITION OF FREEMASONRY IN THE EAST.

It will, no doubt, be especially gratifying to the Grand Lodge to learn of the healthy condition and increasing prosperity of the craft in this District, wherein Freemasonry was introduced at a very early period, and wherein are situated some of the oldest Lodges under the jurisdiction of our Grand Lodge; and on the excellent foundation thus laid in this "North East" corner by those veteran craftsmen, there appear to be not a few younger but not less worthy brethren, who are faithfully striving to carry on to completion the great work so well begun.

LECTURES.

During the year, I have delivered an address, or read a paper, before each of the Lodges, generally upon matters connected with the practical workings of the craft; and I beg to suggest that it seems to me there are not a few Worshipful Masters and other Brethren in the different Lodges, who might, from time to time, prepare and read short essays upon the principles, laws, constitutions, organization, workings or history of our beloved Order, and on many other subjects which are full of interest to the craft, and thus it seems that not a little benefit would accrue to these individual Brethren, and also that the respective Lodges would be greatly benefitted in many ways.

LIBRARIES.

It is highly gratifying to be able to report that a few of the Lodges in this District are possessed of valuable Masonic Libraries, and others are making commendable beginnings in the same direction. In my opinion, the importance of a good Masonic library, in each Lodge, can hardly be over-estimated.

SOLEMN MUSIC IN LODGES.

In one or two Lodges there is a cabinet organ, or melodeon, which is of great benefit as an accompaniment to the living voice in offering solemn praise to the Most High; and it seems very desirable that every Lodge should regularly use Masonic hymns of praise. The expense of procuring a sufficient number of suitable hymn books is not very great, and it would seldom happen that there is not some Brother present who could lead in such an exercise.

LODGE BOOKS.

It appears as though it would be very advisable for Grand Lodge to appoint a committee to co-operate with the Grand Secretary in preparing and getting published a supply of all the books required by the constitution to be used in private Lodges, so that new Lodges at least could procure at cost price a full and uniform set of suitable books.

COPIES OF THE CONSTITUTION.

It is a source of great satisfaction to know that some of the Lodges are faithfully complying with the requirements of section S, book of Constitution, under the head, "Of Proposing Members," and are presenting to every candidate, on his initiation, a copy of the Constitution of Grand Lodge; and it is to be hoped that the time is not far distant when every Lodge will fully comply with this very important law.

It also appears to me as though every member of a Lodge ought regularly to procure a copy of the annual proceedings of Grand Lodge, and it is believed that a little effort on the part of the Worshipful Masters, and other officers, would do much towards realizing this very desirable object.

DISPENSATIONS.

In accordance with an application regularly made to me, I granted a dispensation for the removal of "Browne" Lodge from Adamsville to West Farnham, where it is thought it will enjoy an increasing degree of prosperity. I have during the year refused two applications for dispensations to hold "Masonic balls." The reasons for my refusal were set forth at length in my replies to the applicants, and in my reports thereof to the Most Worshipful the Grand Master. On being regularly applied to the Grand Master was pleased to grant a dispensation to hold one of these "balls."

REGALIA FOR D. D. G. M.

All the Lodges in the Eastern Townships District have heartily responded to the recommendation of the Board of General Purposes, and also of their representatives at the last communication of Grand Lodge, and have liberally contributed the sum suggested for the purchase of regalia for the D. D. G. M., and his successors. This will be procured at an early day.

LODGE FUNDS.

Most of the Lodges in this District are keeping an exact account of their finances, and a few are carefully investing their surplus funds. There are some

however which ought to exercise more prudent circumspection in regard to this very important matter. It seems as though the secretary and treasurer ought to make a quarterly report to the Lodge of all the moneys received, and the disbursements made, and that the balance on hand should be safely put out at remunerative interest. Much good would result therefrom and many grave evils would be avoided.

BENEVOLENT FUND.

Some Lodges are pursuing a very commendable course in creating a fund for the purposes of benevolence, and making their appropriations therefrom through a Board appointed to consider and act upon all applications for relief. It is thought by many that even in the rural districts where private Lodges are contiguous, a joint Board of Benevolence might be formed such as now exists and works so well in some of the cities. Every available means should be adopted to detect and expose impositions, and to afford speedy and judicious relief to the really needy and deserving.

CLARENCEVILLE LODGE.

This Lodge recently lost its warrant, jewels, and all its furniture by fire. The Most Worshipful the Grand Master kindly caused a new warrant to be issued to it free of expense, and I hope that Grand Lodge may be disposed to take into favorable consideration the petition of these Brethren, and in some additional way, render a little timely assistance to them in their present extremity.

The very serious calamity which has befallen Clarenceville Lodge should forcibly remind all Lodges of the necessity of having their property fully insured.

LODGES IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC UNDER JURISDICTIONS OTHER THAN THAT OF THE GRAND LODGE OF CANADA.

As difficulties more or less serious are frequently arising in this district on account of what seem to be the unavoidable results apparently inseparable from the existence, in the same Province, of private Lodges under the jurisdiction of other Grand Lodges besides that of this Most Worshipful Body, it is thought by many that additional efforts to those already made, ought to be put forth to remove this generally acknowledged evil. Might not a committee be appointed to confer with the many excellent Brethren of these Lodges, or with committees appointed by them for that purpose? There seem to be no good reasons why such a conference might not be in the highest degree successful, and so be productive of the most beneficial results to the craft. For many obvious reasons the present appears to be an opportune time to endeavor, in a truly fraternal way and honorable to all concerned, to attain this very important consummation.

DIVISION OF THE E. T. D.

The Eastern Township District embraces all that portion of the Province of Quebec which lies south of the river St. Lawrence and east of the Richelieu, including the city of St. Johns. The extent of this territory, and the increasing number of the Lodges, render it extremely difficult for one District Deputy to perform all the duties, and hence a sub-division of the District appears to be necessary. But as there are some greater and more important questions which are necessarily about to come up for consideration and adjudication, the settlement of which had probably better precede that of the redistribution of the Lodges into two or more Districts, and in order that

more full consideration may be given to the subject by all the Lodges in the District, it seems most advisable to let the subject lie over till the next regular communication of Grand Lodge, unless some Lodge may present a petition in reference to the matter.

OUR LATE B. W. BRO. DR. SCOTT.

Prevoist Lodge, No. 1, G. R. C., having made a praise-worthy appropriation towards the erection of a suitable monument in honor of our late R. W. Bro. Joseph Scott, D. D., Archdeacon, &c., and other means also having been inaugurated by them for the carrying out of this laudable design, I had much pleasure in forwarding to the W. M. of that Lodge the cheque of the President of the B. O. G. purposes on the Treasurer of Grand Lodge, for \$50.00, the sum appropriated by Grand Lodge for that purpose. There is no doubt but that other Lodges in this District will contribute according to their ability towards this object, and I trust that this Grand Lodge will ere long be informed of the erection of a monument worthy of the memory of one of the most distinguished names in the *bright* roll of Canadian Freemasons.

DEATHS.

It is my melancholy duty to report the death of our Very Worshipful Bro. George Hope Napier, Grand Steward and Past Master of St. Francis Lodge, No. 67; and also the death of Bro. George Simpson, Secretary of the same Lodge. Both these Brethren were buried with Masonic and military honors.

In closing the duties of the important office with which my Brethren, the representatives of the Lodges of the Eastern Townships, honored me the past year by their unanimous suffrages, I beg to return to them all my hearty thanks, expressing the hope that my labors have in some degree at least met their approval, and have been to some extent promotive of the interests of the craft.

All of which is nevertheless respectfully submitted.

J. H. GRAHAM,

D. D. G. M., E. T. D.

Richmond, Province of Quebec, }
July, 1867. }

WILSON DISTRICT.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons of Canada.

In complying with the requirements of Grand Lodge, I beg to make a brief report of the state of Masonry in the Wilson District.

It would be wasting the time of Grand Lodge for me to give a lengthy report of matters regarding the statistics of masonry, as these are already in the hands of the Grand Secretary; suffice it to say that I have during the past year, visited most of the Lodges in my district, (*comprising seventeen lodges*), and have much pleasure in being able to say that I have found them all in a healthy condition, being presided over by able and zealous masons who have spared no pains in promulgating the genuine tenets and principles of the order.

These Lodges I have been unable to visit officially are known to have at their head some of the most expert craftsmen in the district, I have therefore reason to suppose they are in an equally flourishing state with those visited. I have had the pleasure of installing the W. Masters and Officers of several of

the Lodges during the year, and on these occasions our meetings have been interesting and profitable.

I have granted two Dispensations for the celebration of St. John the Evangelist's Day.

I had much pleasure in recommending the petition of a number of brethren for a new Lodge at Scotland, County of Brant, to be called the "Scotland" Lodge, and the M. W. the Grand Master was pleased to grant a dispensation for the same. This Lodge has been opened under the mastership of Brother F. Mudge, a man thoroughly qualified in every respect as a mason and a man of business to take the management of a new Lodge, and I look for this Lodge becoming one of the first in the district. Bro. Mudge will attend Grand Lodge, and I trust a Warrant will be granted to this Lodge.

In concluding this report, I have to congratulate Grand Lodge on the general prosperity and harmony prevailing in the Lodges, no complaints having arisen but such as have been easily arranged amongst the brethren in the true spirit of the institution, and finally I would express my thanks to brethren of the different Lodges for their uniform kindness and regard manifest on every occasion.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

D. CURTIS,

D. D. G. M. Wilson District.

ONTARIO DISTRICT.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of A. F. and A. Masons of Canada.

M. W. SIR AND BRETHREN :

I am happy to state that Masonry is steadily progressing in the Ontario District.

Having found from experience that it was impossible to visit all the Lodges in the District separately during the year, I called upon the W. Masters, the officers and brethren of the several Lodges to meet me at central points in order that I might illustrate the work and test the capabilities of those in authority in the subordinate Lodges. In this manner I have been able to meet all the Lodges in my district. I established during the year two lodges of instruction, one called the Western Lodge of Instruction of the Ontario District, composed of the W. Masters, the officers and brethren of the following Lodges:—

Composite Lodge, No. 30,	Whitby.
Jerusalem " 31,	Bowmanville.
Mount Zion " 39,	Brooklyn
Durham, " 66,	Newcastle.
Lebanon " 139,	Oshawa.
Prince Albert " U.D.,	Prince Albert.

Presided over by V. W. Bro. Wm. McCabe, P. G. S. The other called the Northern Lodge of Instruction of the Ontario District, composed of the W. Masters, the officers and brethren of

Corinthian Lodge, No. 101,	Peterboro'.
Peterboro' " 155,	Peterboro'.
J. B. Hall, " 145,	Millbrook.

Presided over by V. W. Bro. John King, G. S.

I granted dispensations to the Lodges at Peterboro' to wear Regalia while attending divine service on the 27th December last, St. John the Evangelist's day.

A dispensation has been granted during the year by the M. W. the Grand Master for a Lodge at Prince Albert, in this district, called the Prince Albert Lodge. The Lodge is in good working order, and I trust that it will be confirmed by warrant.

I cannot close my report without referring to the invaluable services rendered to me by V. W. Bro. Wm. McCabe, P. G. S., to whose Masonic zeal and experience I am indebted for the great success which has attended the Western Lodge of Instruction.

I have to thank the officers and brethren of the Lodges within my District for the kindness and courtesy shewn to me upon all occasions, and it affords me much gratification to bear testimony to the harmony and good will that pervades the district at large.

I regret that my absence in England will prevent my being present at the meeting of Grand Lodge this year.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. H. WELLER,

D. D. G. M. Ontario District.

CANADIAN MASONIC ITEMS.

The members of Harington Lodge No. 49, of Quebec, on the evening of the 16th ult., presented jewels of office to Bros. H. P. Reid, Senior Warden, and A. Smithson, Secretary of the Lodge—both these officers belonging to the Royal Artillery at present in garrison there, but under orders for immediate departure to Malta.

A warrant of constitution has been granted on the petition of certain Royal Arch Masons, empowering them to meet as a regular Chapter at the town of Goderich, to be called the "Huron Chapter," the following companions having been elected as the first officers: Isaac Francis Toms, 1st Principal Z; James Sommerville, 2nd Principal H; and Robert Booth, 3rd Principal J. We wish the new Chapter a prosperous career.

At a recent emergency meeting of Prince of Wales Lodge No. 161, A. F. and A. M., Iona, presentations were made to John Cascaden, Esq., M. D., M.R.C.S., &c., &c., England, and to Daniel Decow, Esq. To Dr. Cascaden a handsome gold Past Master's breast jewel, worth \$40, was presented, together with a supper, in honor of his return from Europe. By the Lodge, at the same meeting, Wm. Chisholm, Esq., presented to Daniel Decow, Esq., a beautiful Masonic apron in morocco case.

As per dispensation granted, a special convocation of Ezra Chapter, Simcoe, was held on Wednesday evening 31st July, for the election of officers for the current year, the following being the result:

R. E. Comp.,	John Clark, M. D., 1st Principal Z.
V. E. Comp.,	Jno. Wilson, M. D., 2nd Principal H.
Ex-Comp.,	D. M. Walker, 3rd Principal J.
Comp. A. J.	Donly, Scribe E.
"	R. Thoroughgood, Scribe N.
"	W. P. Kelley, Principal Sojourner.
"	S. Gardner, Treasurer.
"	Jas. Fisher, Janitor.

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