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THE CRAFTSMAN;

AND

CANADIAN MASONIC RECORD.

Bro. J. J. MASON, 18*, } 'The Queen and the Craft.' } \$1.50 Per Annum,
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RUTH RAY'S CONFESSION.

CHAPTER II.

"Come out of the shadows, Letty, and dry your eyes," said Ruth. "See, mine are dry."

"Oh Ruth!" I sobbed as I crept shivering to the rug at her feet. "It is not true; Dr. Baylis is mistaken. I cannot believe it."

Her hand rested fondly on my bowed head for an instant ere she answered.

"If Dr. Baylis could be mistaken, I could not, Letty. I have known this for months."

I dried the tears from my eyes the better to look up at her.

"You have known it?" I repeated. "How could you have known it? You do not look very ill even now."

"No; I shall not look 'very ill,' I expect, when I lie in my coffin. For a while after people will go on wondering what it could be that killed me so suddenly in the flush of my youth; but the comfort is, Letty, they will none of them guess that; no, not even my husband."

She spoke softly, more to herself than to me. She seemed to be thinking deeply of some matter as she sat there, her fingers tightly locked together, gazing intently into the blazing coals, utterly forgetful of me and of my sorrow.

On the very day of his return Rupert Ray brought a physician, a man famed in his profession and out of it, to see his wife. Ruth, looking in the great man's face with her clear eyes untroubled, bade him tell her openly his opinion of her case.

"It will not shock me," she said to him, simply, "whatever it may be. I only want to hear the truth. Let me hear the whole truth, if you please."

The whole truth was that she was dying.

How her husband bore the blow I neither knew nor asked. His voice, as I heard him bid Dr. Baylis "Good bye" in the hall, was firm and clear as it had ever been. When the carriage had rolled away, I still listening, heard his study door sharply locked, and then all was silent. To me the news was like the wrenching asunder of my own heart-

strings. The bitterness of the pain was changing me from a restless girl into a quiet woman as I sat there.

"She may live a year," Dr. Baylis had said, in his melodious professional voice, that was harsher in my ears than the clang of iron, "or she may die before morning. Her life has been wasting away for some considerable time—I could almost think for years. Now it has come to be the matter of a short space, more or less, and then——"

He did not speak out the harsh truth again. Perhaps he thought the grave-faced man before him might not be able to bear its repetition. I however thought him capable of bearing anything that touched not himself too closely.

The evening shadows gathered round us, wrapped us in and about, till the little spot on which we sat was the only patch of light in the mass of surrounding blackness—heavy November darkness, that brought no stars. Ruth, rousing from her reverie, was the first to break the silence.

"How dark the room is, Letty! Surely it cannot be night already!"

I rose hastily, and stirred the fire into a blaze, making the flames leap up. Then I felt my way slowly through the darkness, to draw the curtain across the windows before lighting the gas. I did not care to ring for it to be lit, as usual. I felt it were both better to be undisturbed. Ruth stayed me.

"There is something I should like to tell you to-night, Letty, and I can talk best in the dark."

Then I sat down again on the rug at her feet, and prepared to listen. When she spoke I knew her thoughts were in the past, and a memory thrilled me of how the soul, when it nears its journey's end, often travels back to that journey's beginning. I had heard more than one person say this, and I thought of it now with a pang.

"You never knew my father, Letty; but your Aunt Janet could tell you that he was one of the kindest men that ever lived, and one of the most generous, I think. I was not his only child, but I was his darling. He had one other, a son, but he scarce knew where he was, whose conduct was the trouble of his life, and whom I had never seen since I was a little baby. He never came home, but he wrote often, and every letter had the one burden—money. Though I was little more than a girl, I grew to shudder at the postman's knock, and dread the sight of my brother's writing more than I dreaded anything else.

"One morning my father came out into the garden to me, carrying one of these ill-fated letters open in his hand. His face was very pale and gray—ashen gray—and his lips trembled. It seemed as much as he could do to speak, and his voice sounded strangely harsh and husky.

"The money your mother left you, the few hundreds I relied on to keep want from you when I shall be gone, could you give them up to me to-day, Ruth, if I were to ask you for them?"

"I could give up my life to-day, father, if it would save you pain," I said.

"He laid his hand—an old man's hand it was that day—on my head, and blessed me softly, looking at me with eyes dim with tears.

"I would never touch one penny of your little all, child, but to save our name from disgrace."

"He spoke sternly, and I saw something terrible had happened, but I asked no questions, and he told me little more.

"My money was drawn out from the funds, and sent to my brother.

I knew it was to him, though my father never said so openly. Three thousand pounds of borrowed money went with it. And from that miserable day we were in debt. I only knew that the loan had been a stern necessity, and that the name of our creditor was Rupert Ray.

"Often and often, while my father and I talked over our difficulties—for we were not rich, and the payment of this money hampered us greatly—I have sat and pictured the man who held us in his grasp, so to speak, for we were proud, and the chain of debt galled us both more than either would have owned to the other. Always in my dreams he was old and ugly, and harsh, ill-bred and vulgar; and I sighed for the day to come, when, our debt paid, his name need trouble us no more.

"Do you know what it is to hate a person whom you have never seen, Letty?—to loathe the sound of his name—the very mention of his existence? I don't suppose you do; but that was the hate with which I hated Rupert Ray."

The words were spoken clearly, almost loudly, and I looked up, half doubting if this bitter, defiant woman could be my tender cousin, Ruth.

"We never had a trouble until that miserable time," she said; "not a real trouble, that is. We had our difficulties, our pressing cares often, but I have since learned that those were not troubles.

"One day a foreign letter came to us, deeply edged with black. It was directed in a stranger's hand; and at first my father doubted if it were for us. But within was a blurred and blotted note from my brother, telling us that he was dying, humbly praying my father to forgive him for the pain and the trouble he had brought him all his life long.

"An enclosed and longer letter from a friend of his, who, it seemed, had been very kind to him through his brief illness, told us all about his death, and that he was buried in a corner of the little Protestant Cemetery at Boulogne. They had put a tablet above him, too, with his name and age, so that if ever we went there we should be able to pick out his grave from among the strangers' mounds.

"We mourned for him, as was natural; but I think my father's heart was more at rest from that day. He felt almost thankful, I think, at times, to know that the fevered, sinful life was over, that the prodigal was gone home.

"So the weeks and the months passed quietly over till my father died—sickened and died suddenly, without warning of any kind.

"On that terrible day, as I stood and saw them lay his white face back on the pillow, I neither sobbed nor cried. The life froze at my heart, the sight left my eyes, and I fell on the bed in a fit. For days I lay as one dead, and when I came to myself it was to find that my father was buried.

"I cannot bear even now to think of that awful time. For weeks I saw no one but old Lizzie, our faithful servant. Friends called with kind words begging to be let into my room; but I would not see them. Your father had not come to me then, and I sat alone and battled with my sorrow as best I could. I was like one dazed; and through all, my heart was hard and cold, it lay like a stone in my breast; and I told myself often in my bitter pain it would be well if I too was at rest under the sods by the side of my father; for that whether I died or lived, there was no one in the world to care for me now he was gone.

"One day Lizzie came up with an important face, bringing a card,

with the message that a 'gentleman on business from Manchester would be glad of a few moments' interview.'

"'Rupert Ray' was the name on the card. Holding it in my hand, I knew well who my visitor was, and what his business would be. I knew, too, that the roof which covered me, the little strip of lawn before the door, white with the first snow-fall, the belt of trees at its foot; all these things which we had been wont to call ours, were mortgaged to this man, and belonged to our name no more. Yet I did not dream of avoiding the interview, now that he had sought it of me.'

"Without one flutter of fear, I went down to the parlor, where he was waiting for me. The shadow of the grave was over me; I could know no deeper blackness; the pain at my heart could be no keener, let what would come. So I thought then. I dare say I looked very ghastly and wan in my long black dress; for when the tall gentleman, who stood warming his hands by the fire, saw me, he seemed to repent of his errand. He apologized for his early call. 'Another day would perhaps be more suitable, and he could wait.' But I would hear of no delay. I told him I knew the debt we owed him, and that it was my intention to pay it off in full.

"'Perhaps you are not aware,' said he, 'that, to do so, this house and furniture would have to go? However, we will let the matter rest for the present. In a month or two we will see what arrangements can be made. It is not my wish to inconvenience you in any way.'

"He rose to go, but I stayed him.

"'I would prefer everything to be settled now,' I said.

"He was very different from what I had pictured him, very different, but with all I could not take a favor at his hands."

The light from the fire flickered and fell; as it sank, the shadows crept closer and denser round us; the roll of carriages on the road below seemed a sound from another world. The diamond brooch at my cousin's throat shone like a watchful human eye with each heavy breath she drew. When she ceased speaking, the silence in the house beat upon my ear more painfully than any sound could have done.

"Do you know, Letty," she said, a little while after, opening her eyes, and looking down on me, "I have often and often wished since that he had taken me at my word; but he was not to be moved from his resolve; he went away, and left me still his debtor in my old home.

"Four months after that he came to your father's house, where I was staying, and asked me to be his wife. Your father was not a rich man then, Letty, any more than he is now. I knew I was welcome as his own child, yet I knew, too, that he could ill afford to keep me a burden at his fireside; so I told Rupert Ray I would be his wife.

"What else could I do? He was rich, and honorable, and true-hearted, I do believe; and yet what did it all avail, when I hated him as I hated no other living creature?"

Her face was white now, and the hard lines that no one suspected of lying there stood out rigid and blue about her dainty mouth. The struggle and the pain of that past time were in her heart, and my own ached as I watched her.

"I felt that my father might have been living if this man had been a generous creditor, but he was not. He was harsh, exacting, pitiless—business-like, men of the world might call it—and the fear of him ate into my father's life, and sapped his strength away.

"The night before I married him I told him this—that the memory of

it would stand between him and love of mine for ever and ever, did we two live till the world was old.

"I had sickened over my promise by that time, and wanted to draw back—but he would not let me. I do think he must have loved me, Letty, else my bitter stinging words would have driven him away from me for ever. They, however, did not, and I really think hethen loved me in his own peculiar way."

She seemed to take a strange sort of pleasure in remembering that, and in trying to convince herself or me (which was it?) that it was true. Looking at her as she lay back in her easy chair, I too, believed that he must have loved her then. She was not a "fine woman," as the phrase goes,—far from it. She was little, and slender, and fragile-looking as a bent lily. Her grave, fathomless eyes, usually so cool and still, were flashing and restless to-night, under the lash of these old memories; and her mouth, with its sensitive scarlet lips, fresh and tender as a child's, had a grieved quiver round it as she lay there, thinking. She had a low, full brow—the brow of a poet and a dreamer, and thick, heavy lashes, dark and long, that swept her cheeks when the eyelids drooped, as they were doing now, so wearily. Her hair, a deep bronzed brown, was pushed off from her face, and over her little ears, as though its rippling wealth oppressed her; and, sitting looking at her, with the violet velvet cushion of her lounging chair for a back-ground, the blackness of the early night framing her in, as it were, I thought no earthly eyes had ever seen a more exquisite picture.

I heard the clocks in the house chime nine, and then a quarter-past, and she still sat silent. I was very still too. I sat, staring blankly into the gloom that filled the rest of the room like a presence, trying to realize the time, so near, it might be, when this fair face and sunny hair would be gathered away from my sight for ever.

It seemed, as I had cried out in my first sharp pain, that this could not be true. She was so fresh, so fair, so free from any outward token of decay, that death, as applied to her, seemed only a terrible, ghastly word that had no meaning. If she was dying slowly but surely, as the physician had said, I could not see it. All I knew was, that my darling was young, and exceedingly beautiful, and that to see her slipping, fading from me, was more than I could bear.

"There" she said, abruptly, just as I had begun to think she slept, "you are crying again. Child, child! you will break my heart with your tears. Why will you?"

"I cannot help it," I said, when I could speak. "Oh, Ruth, I feel as if my heart must break!"

"Ah, but it won't, Letty. Sorrow rarely breaks the heart at one sharp wrench, or I should have been sleeping under the grass long ago. I am not the one to cry for, Letty. If I were a loved wife and mother you might weep then; but to me death will be a blessing, and life is a weariness too great to bear."

I knew she had grieved sorely when her baby had been carried out in its tiny coffin; but I never dreamed that the wound was so deep and new, as her bitter, fast-falling tears showed me it must be.

"When my boy lay dying," she said, "I prayed for his life as only those can pray who feel they are losing all they have to love and cling to in the wide, desolate earth. My prayer was not granted—my darling was taken. The night he lay in my arms, stiff and white, with the awful beauty that comes only after death, on his baby face, I felt

I could not live long after him. I could have told you then what Dr. Baylis has told you to-day, and I could tell you the reason, which he could not—I had nothing to live for.”

“Oh, Ruth,” I said, “you had your husband.”

“My husband!” she replied. “Have I not told you I hated him the day I married him? Perhaps I hate him even now. Sometimes I think I do. Whenever I wanted to learn to love him I knew he would not let me. You are young, Letty; as yet your life is full of loving faces; but if ever you are left so that you have to listen dumbly for a loving word, and never hear it, you will know a little of the aching want that has been eating my heart out through all these weary years.

Her face seemed stiffening as she spoke; my heart thrilled at the awful change that had crept into it, and I sprang to my feet in dismay.—As I did so, a step sounded near, and Rupert Ray came forward into the circle of light from the fire, stood out at once like a ghost from among the shadows, and I did not even wonder that he should be there.

“You have let her talk too much to-night.”

That was all he said; then he stooped, and lifting her in his arms, carried her out into the hall, and up to her own room, as if she had been an infant; and I followed, the tears frozen at my heart by sudden, terrible, overmastering fear. Were Dr. Baylis's fateful words about to become true? Was she to die ere morning.

CHAPTER III. AND LAST.

We laid her down in her death-like faint, and sent for Dr. Baylis; an hour later he was standing by her bed-side, watch in hand, counting her pulse with face grave and inscrutable.

“She has been disturbed, excited,” he said. “I warned you she was not able to bear it.”

He looked at her husband, as though to charge him with the neglect, but he did not see the look, scarcely seemed to hear the words even. He was standing mute at the foot of the bed, his clasped hands resting on the carved board, his eyes bent on his wife's white face.

After some time—a time that to me seemed hours long—the hands I was chafing closed on mine with a little feeble pressure; then her eyes slowly opened, but only to close again wearily. The doctor, watching keenly, seemed relieved.

“She has recovered from the faint now,” he said. “All I can recommend is silence—perfect silence, and rest. Keep her lips moist with wine, and let her sleep as long as she will. I will come again in the morning.”

He looked at his watch with the air of a man who had many calls on his time, and went down to his carriage attended by Rupert Ray.

When the carriage wheels had rolled away into the stillness and fog of the November night, my cousin Rupert Ray came softly back and stood at his former post in his former position almost, save that now his head was more bent, as beneath a weight of sudden grief, and his face was as white as the still face he watched so earnestly. I feared to stir. He never moved, and so the hours slipped by us, faint-hearted watchers in that weary room.

Later on, when the night was almost gone, in that awful silent hour that comes before the dawn, when the darkness was a thing to be felt,

and no pulse or stir spoke of life in the world, a sudden fear fell on my heart, and I looked silently with blanched face at the quiet mute figure keeping watch, and it seemed to me that Ruth was dying in her sleep, slipping from us in that awful silence without sign or token. He read my look, or else his own heart felt the fear, for he bent above her, trembling. I put my hands to my lips to force back my terrified cries, yet neither spoke; no speech was needed; we understood each other all too well. The shaded lamp threw a dull, gray light on her quiet face and the heavy shadows of pain lay thick upon it. So we stood, breathlessly watching, very cowards in our love and fear.

Slowly, as it seemed with the growing day, the ashen hue left her face, and its rigid lines softened. My heart leaped gladly up.

"She is not worse," I said, and for that I was thankful.

Her husband stole back to his place, looking old and haggard, I could not but see, with his long night vigil. She had been ordered rest and quiet, so he watched patiently on. Suddenly, with a convulsive start, when we least expected it, her large eyes opened.

"Where is my husband?" she asked.

He came forward at the unlooked-for call, and bent over her; then, with one glance at his face, changed and marked through strong emotion, she stretched out her feeble hands to meet his, yearningly, whispering softly to him in her low, faint voice.

"At last, Ruth!—my own love—my wife!" he cried; and the sudden flush of joy, breaking like a blessed light over his stern face as his soul went out in that passionate cry, I saw my cousin Rupert in a new character, and knew how cruelly I had misjudged him.

I stole softly out, leaving them alone with their new-found joy, my heart throbbing with thanks all too deep for words, for this great good, which I looked upon already almost as a granted blessing.

"She will not die—she will not die!" so I told myself over and over again in my overwhelming joy and gratitude, as I stood by my window and watched the pale pink and opal dyes deepening in the gray sky, till at last, as I stood there, all the east grew affame with crimson.

And I was right—the Angel of Death had turned aside from our darling, called back, ere his work was done, by that same tender, all-pitying, all powerful voice, that of old bade the dead arise.

* * * * *

Once more I was at home. It was Spring again, and the gardener was busy among the flowers, as he was on that past Spring morning, when I had stood looking out at him, so weary and listless. But this Spring all was different. I was weary and listless no longer, nor was I alone, as before; Cousin Ruth was with me,—Ruth our darling, our household treasure, whom we had been so tenderly and carefully nursing back to life during the past three months; and not Ruth only, but cousin Rupert also. He had left his counting house and warehouse to the care of others, and come down to our quiet house, to keep his young wife company. He no longer urged that business must be attended to; and Ruth, a very tyrant in her new-found power, would not have listened to him if he had.

Standing there in the sunshine, with the breeze from the hills coming to us, and the sweet, subtle scent of the honey-suckle and jasmine stealing up from their nooks by the brook-side, we two, Ruth and I, stood and talked of the day her letter of invitation came to me; and after a while we talked, too, of events which had followed it.

"Do you know Letty," she said, "poor Rupert heard all the hard things I said of him in my blind pain that night? But he has forgiven me for every one of them," she added, softly. "All our married life we had been like strangers to each other, cold and proud; but now all that is over and done with forever. We know each other, at last."

Her face brightened with its old radiant smile; and Rupert Ray, coming into the room at that moment, saw it, and smiled back, as I had used to think he never could have smiled. "No more confessions, Ruth," he said.

She blushed rosily, as any shy girl might, and half-sighed as she looked up at him.

"I have no more to make, Rupert," she replied "except that I have been very blind all these years, and very thankless."

Blind and thankless! From how many hearts among us might not the same cry arise! Blind we too often are to the great joys lying at our feet; thankless, cruelly thankless, for the love and the care and the full heart-store lavished upon us. It would be well for us if our plea were always met by the same loving-kindness and patient long-suffering, strong to endure and to forgive, that our Ruth read in her grave-faced husband's eyes that day.

When our charge was over and done with, and Ruth was looking her bright self again, the two, husband and wife in heart as well as in nature now, left us, and went back to their city home. Then the little gray stone house fell back into its accustomed quiet.

Reading the merry, piquant letter, brimful of joy and content, that Ruth sent to us on her arrival at home, my father pushed his glasses back and looked at my Aunt Janet.

"Did I not tell you, Jenny, it would do Ruth good to have Letty with her? Something seemed urging me to let the child go, and I am thankful now, more than words could tell, that I yielded to it."

"Still John, as I said then I say now,—it was a risk."

"Letty has come back to us: our own Letty still, Janet."

"She might not have done so."

"Might not," said my father, thoughtfully. "Our lives are ever full of those mysterious 'might not's' and 'might have beens.' Let us be thankful that things are as they are. We have our own girl here—unchanged."

Was I. No: the same girl I never could be—never had been, from the time that a certain pair of blue eyes, and a tangle of fair golden hair stole my heart away during those quiet days that I kept Ruth company in her grand city home. The world called the owner of the blue eyes and the fair curls, Gordon Shaw, partner in my cousin Rupert's business; but I called him—my love. My own he was, and I knew it. I knew, too that a long letter was shortly coming to tell my father all about it. And when the letter came, and immediately after the letter, the writer of it, eager to enforce his claim, my father, as usual, looked to Aunt Janet for counsel in the emergency; and I looked, too, expecting not counsel but reproof.

We got neither; only my quiet, stately aunt seemed to lose her voice for a second, as she softly smoothed my hot cheeks, and smiled on me through a mist of tears.

"She must have left us some day, John; I think she has chosen well," she said, when the mist had cleared, and her usual calm had come back to her.

Gordon bowed gratefully over her offered hand, while I loved her more than ever, if that were possible. And thus the greatest and most blessed change of my life came to me, for Gordon and I were engaged, and the restless longing of my heart was stilled forever. I no longer asked to roam; I no longer wearied for gaiety. I was content to stay in my home and wait—wait with glad hope for the time when I should have one of my own, with Gordon Shaw for its head and master.

Often, sitting dreaming in the quiet, my thoughts would go back to that November night, when I listened, in wondering silence, to Ruth's strange story. Out of these thoughts strong lessons and warnings rose, that my heart did not fail to cherish. Dangerous places showed out clearly in the light of her bitter experience: pitfalls, that had well nigh proved fatal to her feet, shone as lights before mine,—so that through all my life I think I shall have cause to be thankful that ever I heard "RUTH RAY'S CONFESSION."—*Keystone*.

P R E S E N T A T I O N S .

OTTAWA.

At a meeting of the Lodge of Fidelity No. 231, Ottawa, held on the Festival of St. John the Baptist, the brethren of that Lodge presented to their (first) retiring master, W. Bro. D. S. Eastwood, a handsome cake or fruit stand, suitably inscribed. The presentation was made by R. W. Bro. E. C. Barber, D. D. G. M., O. D., who after a few appropriate remarks read the following.

ADDRESS :

To D. S. Eastwood, Esq., W. M. Lodge of Fidelity, No. 231, C. R.

Dear Sir and Worshipful Brother, We, the brethren of Lodge of Fidelity No. 231, A. F. & A. M., G. R. C., appreciating the valuable services you have rendered to this Lodge, cannot permit you to retire from the Chair, you have so ably filled as the first W. M., without expressing to you our heartfelt thanks for your zeal and labor in the cause of masonry and particularly of this Lodge.

"Accept, with fraternal wishes for your future welfare, from your Brethren, this gift, as a slight mark, of the esteem in which you are held by them.

"May the G. A. O. T. U. bless and protect you and your family, and may he long spare you, guide us with your good counsel and advice.

Ottawa, Ont., (St. John the Baptist), June 24, A.L. 5871. A. D., 1871.
On behalf of the Brethren.

A. H. MATTHEWMAN, S. W. and W. M. elect.

G. LEVIN, Secretary.

To which W. Bro. Eastwood delivered the following

REPLY.

Worshipful Sir and Brethren of Lodge Fidelity.

"In retiring from the chair of Master of Lodge of Fidelity, knowing that I had done no more than my duty, I certainly did not anticipate the presentation of your too flattering address, and this handsome gift. For both, accept my hearty thanks. Your gift shall be preserved by me as a much valued memento, your kind expressions of esteem and confidence I cordially reciprocate. I have ever regarded my position as Master of Fidelity Lodge as one of high honor, and the discharge of the duty appertaining thereto has been to me a labor of love, made easy by the truly Masonic spirit at all times evinced by the members of the lodge. Permit me also to thank you for your kind expressions of interest in the welfare of my family, and to assure you that any service that I can render to you, Worshipful Sir, or to the Lodge, in future, will be performed with great pleasure.

"That the G. A. O. T. U. have you—one and all—in His safe keeping, and grant to Fidelity Lodge prosperity, is my earnest prayer.

I am, yours fraternally,

D. S. EASTWOOD."

R. W. Bro. E. C. Barber, D. D. G. M. complimented the Lodge on the harmony that had always prevailed among the Brethren and on the efficiency of its officers, after which the installation of officers was performed.

SCHOMBERG.

At the conclusion of the recent installation of the officers of Union Lodge No. 118, Schomberg, W. Bro. Summers who has presided over the lodge during the past two years, was presented with an address and a very handsome past master's gold jewel, suitably inscribed. The presentation was made on behalf of the members of the lodge by W. Bro. R. Jamison.

The brethren adjourned to Hulse's Hotel, where an excellent banquet had been prepared, and where a very enjoyable evening was spent.

UXBRIDGE.

On the evening of Monday, the 29th May last, the brethren of the mystic tie in the above village presented W. Bro. G. H. Dartnell, of Whitby, with a handsome gold chain and locket, as a token of their appreciation of his zeal in assisting the craft in Uxbridge. A large number of the brethren were present from different parts of the county. The presentation was made by W. Bro. Hillary who accompanied it with the following address:—

UXBRIDGE, Ont., May 29th, 1871.

To W. Bro. G. H. Dartnell, I. P. M., Zeredatha Lodge, No 220 G R C, :

The pleasing duty has devolved on me of presenting you with this chain and locket—a mark of esteem from the brethren and officers of Zeredatha Lodge. We cannot speak too highly of your energy and zeal in the cause of masonry, nor of your untiring efforts and indefatigable exertions in forming and bringing forward to its present successful state this our lodge. On the part of the brethren. I trust you may long live to wear this token of their regard, and enjoy your share of success and happiness in this world.

On behalf of the lodge,

J. J. HILLARY, W. M.

The following reply was made.

To the Worshipful Master and Brethren of Zeredatha Lodge, No. 220, G. R. C.

WORSHIPFUL SIR AND DEAR BRETHREN,—In accepting at your hands the fraternal address and accompanying gift this evening presented to me, may I be permitted to say that no such token of your esteem was needed to perpetuate in my memory the fraternal feelings which I entertained towards the brethren of a lodge, which it has been a pride to me to preside over as its first W. Master.

Deeply convinced as I am and always have been of the benefits of Freemasonry, it has been a labor of love to me to endeavor to diffuse its tenets, and my best reward has been the satisfaction of being instrumental in founding and establishing a lodge so fruitful in all masonic good works, and so strong in numbers as Zeredatha lodge.

I have resigned the gavel, and placed it in your hands, Worshipful Sir, in the firm confidence that under your rule and governance, assisted by your able officers, you will preside over the lodge in a manner alike creditable to yourself and the brethren who have chosen you as their W. M.

With all kindly and fraternal expressions of good feeling and thanks, I now sever my more immediate connection with you, and I heartily wish a continued career of success and usefulness for Zeredatha Lodge, No. 220, G. R. C.

GEORGE H. DARTNELL, P. M.

The chain is a valuable gold one; the locket was engraved—on one side a Past Master's jewel, and on the other the following inscription:—“Presented to W. Bro. George H. Dartnell, by Zeredatha Lodge, A. F. A. M., No. 220, G. R. C., in approval of his zeal in masonry.” After the presentation a large number sat down to an excellent repast. The

greatest cordiality and good feeling existed, and the party broke up about 12 o'clock, expressing the sentiment, "happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again."

PORT BURWELL.

At a recent meeting of Oriental Lodge No. 151, Port Burwell, W. Bro. S. Leybourne, who has very creditably discharged the duties of Master of that Lodge for the past two years, was presented, on the occasion of his retiring from the Oriental chair, with an elegant Past Masters' Jewel

FORT GARRY.

At a meeting of Prince Rupert's Lodge, U. D. Fort Garry held in May last, W. Bro. Patterson was presented with a Jewel, and the following very flattering

ADDRESS.

To W. Bro. R. S. Patterson, W. M. Prince Ruperts Lodge, U. D.

We the members of Prince Rupert's Lodge, understanding that you are about to leave us, cannot allow you to do so without expressing to you our gratitude and brotherly regard for your great services in the cause of Masonry in this Province in general and to our own lodge in particular.

To you belongs the great honor of being the founder of Masonry in the Province of Manitoba the young sister in the Grand Confederation. Through your great exertions four Lodges have been organized since in the order of Providence you have been called upon in your capacity of Chaplain of the Dominion Forces, to reside in this country. In the prosperity which attends our Lodge we recognize the efforts of your watchful care and unwearied zeal, under the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe. You have proved yourself not only a Master of Men, but a Master of work.

In parting from you we do so with sincere regret and we trust that to whatever station you may be called, or in whatever country your lot may be cast, the blessing of the Most High may attend you.

We take this opportunity of acknowledging the debt of gratitude we owe you, and of expressing the kindly and fraternal regard we individually bear you as a brother.

Allow us to present you with *this jewel* which we hope you will accept and wear as a genuine token of our esteem, and which when you look upon, will remind you of the many happy hours spent by us together, and that neither time nor distance can sever the tie that has so firmly bound us to each other.

We trust that when we shall be summoned to leave this sublunary abode, we may meet each other in that Grand Lodge above, where the Worlds Great Architect lives and reigns for ever.

Signed on behalf of Prince Ruperts Lodge, A. F. and A. M.

G. B. SPENCER, S. D.
J. GRAHAM, T. D.
J. G. MILNE.
J. M. SWETMAN.
R. B. ALBERTSON.

A. R. MACDONALD, P. M.
WM. N. KENNEDY, S. W.
M. COYNE, J. W.
S. P. B. MOUCE, TREAS.
H. T. CHAMPION, SEC.

Committee-

On being presented with the jewel and address, W. Bro. Patterson replied as follows.

W. Past Master and Brethren,

With mingled feelings of surprise, pleasure and regret I have listened to your truly masonic address. *Surprise*, because I had not the slightest expectation that the little I have been enabled to do to forward the interests of the craft is in any respect worthy of such high commendation as you have bestowed on it. *Pleasure*, because esteeming you all I rejoice to have such abundant proof that the regard is mutual. *Regret*, because I am reminded by the words of farewell contained in your address, that the time is fast approaching when the cordial intercourse we have now held with each other, for many months, must be interrupted.

I assure you brethren that no such testimonial and symbol of your feelings was re-

quired to convince me of your affection and fraternal regard. I accept however your valuable gift with pleasure and will wear it for your sakes, cherishing your parting words in my memory as long as I sojourn on earth.

I do not desire to trespass on your time with a long reply, though there is much regarding our order and its rise in this Province to which, did the occasion permit I would wish to draw your attention.

I must say however, that I take not the least credit to myself for what I have done, I simply acted on principle, for is it not the duty of every Mason to plant though others may gather? to sow that others may reap; to build that others may inhabit; to endeavour to tinge the coming days with the bright rays of Masonic illumination so that generations yet unborn, the future inhabitants of those fertile prairies may walk in the light of those good influences which we have projected, and thousands be thus benefited by our work who may never hear our names mentioned or know where our mouldering bones repose?

Commanding you, brethren, to the safe keeping of Him whose all seeing eye is ever upon us; of Him who was rejected of the builders but who has now become the head stone of the corner, and praying that the same Holy Spirit which moved on the face of the waters where God pronounced the words of power "Let there be light," may illuminate you on your passage through life, may illuminate you on your voyage through the valley of the shadow of death and finally guide you to that glorious Land which in your address you call the "Grand lodge above" and which we all as Masons know as the Kingdom of God and of his Christ.

FESTIVAL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST.

INSTALLATIONS.

NIAGARA LODGE, No. 2, NIAGARA.—W Bro D Servos, W M; W Bro Robert Best, P M; Robert G J Miller, S W; John Best, J W; S J J Brown, Chaplain; Robert Shearer, Treasurer; Lawrence Stockman Secretary.

BARTON LODGE, No. 6, HAMILTON.—W Bro Richard Bierly, W M; W Bro William Thos. Munday, P M; Bro Gavin Sewart, S W; S F Lazier, J W; A McCallum, Chaplain; E S Whipple Treasurer; Reginald Kennedy Secretary.

UNION LODGE, No. 7, GRIMSBY.—W Bro Wm Forbes, W M; W Bro R Kemp, P M; N I Teeter, S W; Joseph Chamber, J W.; Rev R B Montgomery, Chaplain; W E Millwood, Treasurer; J A Nelles, Secretary.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE, No. 15, ST. CATHERINES.—W Bro D W Dixby, W M; W Bro Albert Chatfield, P M; Bro Levi Yale, S W; Robert Kane, J W; V W Bro Samuel G Dobson Treasurer; Bro Charles P Mills, Secretary.

ST. ANDREWS LODGE, No. 16, TORONTO.—W Bro William H Hawland, W M; R W Bro George Hodgetts, P M; Bro Lionel York, S W; Alexander Mackenzie, J W; W D Wilkinson Librarian, V W; Bro James Bain, Treasurer; Bro Alexander Murphy, Secretary.

KING SOLOMON'S LODGE, No. 22, TORONTO.—W Bro David McLellan, W M; R W Bro Daniel Spry, P M; Bro Thomas Langton, S W; Robt William Purvis, J W; R W Bro Rev Vincent Clement, Chaplain; Bro Charles Gaspe Fortier, Treasurer; Wm J Hambly, Secretary.

RICHMOND LODGE, No 23, RICHMOND HILL.—W Bro Mathew McNair W M; W Bro A M Hood, P M; Bro Isaac French, S W; James McCormell, J W; James M Lawrence, Treasurer

ST JOHN'S LODGE, No 35, CAYUGA.—W Bro Joshua Mason, W M; W Bro J Hoshal, P M; Bro J Corlis, S W; Thomas Bridger, J W; W Bros D Cameron, Chaplain; G A Gibson, Treasurer; Bro James Mitchell, Secretary.

WELLAND LODGE, No 36, Fonthill.—W Bro N C Holcomb, W M; W Bro David Killins, P M; Bro Wm Anderson, S W; Eligah E Thomas, J W; A K Scholfield, Chaplain; W Bro Henry Hansler, Treasurer; Bro Jos C Page, Secretary.

BRANT LODGE, No. 45, BRANTFORD.—W Bro Hugh McKenzie Wilson, W M; V W Bro Frederick Mudge, P M; Bro Robt Morton, S W; Humphrey Davis, J W; John Bishop, Treasurer; Solon W McMichael, Secretary.

VICTORIA LODGE, No. 36, SARNIA.—W Bro James F Lister, W M; W Bro R S Gurd, P M; Bro Louis Ernest, S W; Wm Taylor, J W; Rev D Armstrong, Chaplain; John A Mackenzie Treasurer; D James Secretary.

ALMA LODGE No. 72, GALT.—W Bro Walter Shiel Burnett, W M; Bros John Allan, S W; Peter Gillies J W; Rev James Barclay Muir, Chaplain; Alexander Gardner, Elmslie Treasurer; John Cavers, Secretary.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, No. 75, TORONTO.—W Bro B Saunders, W M; W Bro N L Steiner, I P M; Bros Jno Erskine, S W; S Porter, J W; John Ritchie, Treas; Edward Tyner, Sec; Geo Massey, S D; Wm Sinclair, J D; R J Hovenden, I G; Hugh Blain, D of C; F J Phillips, M Boddy, Stewards; John Dixon, Tyler; A Gunther, Organist; A Wiesner, M B C; George Graham, J Neil, jr; Auditors; R W Bro Jno Kerr, W Bro F J Menet, Rep at Board; R W Bro Jno Kerr, Wm Hamilton, jr, Trustees.

ALBION LODGE, No. 80, NEWBURY.—W Bro William D Hammond, W M; W Bro George Mansfield, P M; Bros Donald Angus McQuigan, J W; Ebenezer Aitchison J W; William Clementz, Chaplain; Robert Adair, Treasurer; Andrew Wilson, Sec'y.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, No. 82, PARIS.—W Bro W Winter, W M; Bros R B Harris, S W; Geo W Bailton, J W; John Walker, Chaplain; C Flanagan, Treas; Lewis Maus, Sec'y.

VALLEY LODGE No. 100, DUNDAS.—W Bro N Greening, W M; V W Bro. W B Irving, P M; Bros A H Walker, S W; W C Niblett, J W; T H Hunter, Chaplain; D McMillan, Treas; T S Baillie, Sec'y.

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ST. MARK'S LODGE, No. 105, DRUMMONDVILLE.—W Bro James McGarry, W M; Bros M B Morris, S W; John Wills, J W; S Barnett, Chaplain; G S Duncan, Treas; Theo W Woodruff, Sec'y.

ST. PAUL'S LODGE, No. 107 LAMBETH.—W Bro Jas M Banghad, W M; W Bro David Borland, P M; Bros Wm L Odel, S W; Jas Kermham, J. W; Jas Armstrong, Chaplain; D B Burch, Treas; Ely L Davis, Sec'y.

UNION LODGE No 118, SCHOMBERG.—W Bro H G Summers, W M; Bros Arthur Armstrong, S W; John E Bond, J W; W Bro W R Jamison, Chaplain; Bros F D Ramsay, Treasurer and Secretary; Wm Nelson, S D; A McMinin, J D; Wm Munsie, I G; John Pinkerton, Tyler.

FRANK LODGE No 127, FRANKFORD.—W Bro G F Byam, W M; W Bro John N Lee, P M; Bros A Rockwell, M D S W; Samuel Gunter, J W; Malcolm McPhail, Chaplain; John Chapman, Treasurer; John W Byam, Secretary.

LERANON LODGE No 139, OSHAWA.—R W Bro John Boyd, I P M; W Bro W T Brown, W M; Bros A M Chisholm, S W; Sylvester E Briggs, J W; Chas w Smith, Secretary; Dr F Rae, Treasurer; R W Bro John Boyd, Chaplain, Bros Martin Gilbrunson, S D; Wilson Henderson, J D; Wm Taylor, D C; W J Hare, J G; Fred Neace, Alex N McLean, Stewards; Geo Usboine, Organist; Wm Hurle, Tyler.

SIMPSON LODGE No 157, NEWNORO. - W Bro Thomas Camm, W M; W Bro Robert H Preston, P M; Bros W H Fredenburgh, S W; Robert S Davison, J W; F L Stephenson, Chaplain; Hiram S Davison, Treasurer; A W Bell, Secretary.

GOODWARD LODGE No 159, RICHMOND.—W Bro Daniel Beatty, W M; W Bro Chas B Pettit, P M; Bros Henry McDougall, S W; Thos V Tyson, J W; C B Pettit, Chaplain; John McLaren, Treasurer and Secretary.

SPARTAN LODGE No 176, SPARTA. - W Bro F A Henderson, W M; W Bro H Kirkland, P M; Bros Geo Boddington, M D S W; G L Dill, J W; J A Eakins, Chaplain; E Moore, Treasurer; W D Dill, Secretary.

BUILDERS' LODGE 177, OTTAWA —W Bro D Wilson, W M re-elected; Bros W Timbers, S W; G Levin, J W; J Salmon, T; W Rea, S; H Michaels, S D; S Mix, J D; W Mills, I G; J H P Gibson, D of C; W McPhee, Organist; John McCarthy, Tyler.

ORIENTAL LODGE No 18', PORT BERWELL.—W Bro Geo W Puntine, W M; Bros Wm Halsted, S W; Wm Backhouse, J W; V S Mills, Treasurer; Geo W Hare Secy.

EVENGREEN LODGE No 209, LANARK.—W Bro Thos Watchorn, W M; W Bro Robt Pollock, I P M; Bros F M Dinwoodie, S W; W J W Findlay, J W; Rev James Wilson, Chaplain; Alex G Dobbin, Secretary.

LAKE LODGE No 215, AMELIASBURG.—W Bro Wm G Stafford, W M; W Bro Scarring Johnson, P M; Bros N A Peterson, S W; E Sprague, Chaplain; Wm DeLong, Treasurer; M A Johnston, Secretary.

HARRIS LODGE No 2 G, CRAIGVILLE.—W Bro S H McKitrick, W M; Bros John Fletcher, S W; S S McCormick, J W; Wm Parsons, Treasurer; R Q McKitrick, Secy.

CREDIT LODGE, No. 219, GEORGETOWN.—W Bro Solomon Page, W M; Bros Milton H

Starr, M D, S W ; S H McKinnon, J W ; Rev Anron Thurston, Chaplain ; Thomas Ruston, Treasurer ; John R Barber, Secretary.

NORWOOD LODGE, No. 223, NORWOOD.—W Bro William Eweing Roxburgh, W M ; Bros John Moore, S W ; P P Cope, J W ; Rev W M Pettyson, Chaplain ; Joseph Burgess Pearce, Treasurer ; John Almus Butterfield, Secretary.

SUTTON LODGE, No. 227, SUTTON FLAT.—W Bro Israel P Hunt, W M ; W Bro Ernest Račić, P M ; Bros Albert T Dyer, S W ; Robert A Cook, J W ; Charles Thorpe, Chaplain ; George C Dyer, Treasurer ; Eugene A Dyer, Secretary.

FIDELITY LODGE, No. 231, OTTAWA.—W Bro A H Matthewman, W M ; W Bro D S Eastwood, I P M ; Bros S Michaels, S W ; J H P Gibson, J W ; Wm Young, Treas ; G Levin, Sec ; Wm Rea, S D ; D P Williams, J D ; James Stewart, R G Nichols, Stewards ; E Miles, D of C ; John Walsh, I G ; John McCarthy, Tyler.

DORIC LODGE, No. 233, PARK HILL.—W Bro G B Reeve, W M ; W Bro John Dawson, P M ; Bros Wm Caw, S W ; Jas Bell, J W ; C Martell, Chaplain ; T Powell, Treasurer ; R Porte, Secretary.

HAVELOCK LODGE, No. 238, WATFORD.—W Bro J A Somerville, W M ; Bros George Shirely, S W ; R L Hawkin, J W ; Jas S Rose, Chaplain ; Jesse Kinward, Treasurer ; A L Leitch, Secretary.

ST. GEORGE LODGE, (U. D.).—W Bro Edward E Kitchen, W M ; Bros Charles F Bell, S W ; William A Mullen J W ; Rev James C Caswell, Chaplain, Joseph N Kerfer, Treasurer ; Benjamin Bell, Secretary.

ASHLER LODGE, (U. D.).—W Bro Thomas Ferguson Blackwood, W M ; Bros Charles Damorcan, S W ; James F Fielde, J W ; William S Robinson, Treasurer ; William Chaplain Pridham, Secretary.

EUREKA LODGE, (U. D.).—W Bro Jno Pickup, W M ; Bros Ithel Bostwick Royce, S W ; James Ellis, J W ; Rev Charles P Emery, Chaplain, Henry Drummond, Secretary.

DALHOUSIE LODGE, 571, E. R. OTTAWA.—W Bro J J Radford, W M ; W Bro A H Matthewman, S W ; Bro T P Stiff, J W ; W Bro David Scott, T, re-elected ; Bros C S Scott, Sec'y, do ; P Christie, S D ; S Rogers, J D ; J Stacey, I G ; J McCullough, George Blasdell, Stewards ; D W Coward, James Campbell, B of G P ; J Sweetman Tyler, re-elected.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

RED CROSS OF ROME AND CONSTANTINE.

The McLeod Sanctuary of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre was duly organized in connection with the McLeod Moore Conclave, No. 53, at the Masonic Hall, Princess Street, City of St. John, last month, by Ill. Bro. Robert Marshall, Inspector General for New Brunswick, under and by authority from the *Grand Imperial Council of England*, of which the Earl of Beclive is Grand Sovereign. The number of members of this order in that Province is limited to ninety-nine, as in London. The following is a list of the Sir Knights of this Order belonging to the above named sanctuary at date:—

Robert Marshall, James Danville, David R. Munro, Wm. Dickson Forster, John Melick, Henry Duffel, Geo. Frederick Ring, Edward Lawrence Barteaux, Bela Reynolds Lawrence, Alfred Dandson Goodwin, Wm. Edwin Everett, Edmund Edward Kennay, Wm. Henry Thorne, John Mellin, Wm. Creighton Godsoe, Geo. H. Whiting, Charles Upham Hanford. Dr. Joseph C. Hatheway, Charles Edward Potter, William Colebrook Perley, Edward Willis, Robert Shires, Richard R. Page, Hugh William Chisholm.

ROYAL ARCH MASONRY.

GRAND CHAPTER.—The Fourteenth annual convocation of the Grand Chapter of Canada will be held in the city of Hamilton on Wednesday the 9th August. The following resolution, of which notice was given at the last annual convocation by R. E. Comp F. M. Sowdon, will we presume come up for discussion, viz. “That the constitution be amended, so as to provide that the annual convocations of the Grand Chapter shall in future be held at the same places as the annual communications of the Grand Lodge of Canada are held, and during the same week, say on the Monday preceding the annual assembly of that Grand Lodge.

NEW CHAPTER.—A dispensation for a new chapter, dated 29th May 1871, at Napanee, Ontario, to be named Mount Sinai, R. A. chapter, has been granted by M. E. Comp T. D. Harington, Grand Z. The officers appointed are Comps, Frederick Richardson, Z; Henry L. Geddes, H.; and David H. Preston, J. Regular convocations will be held on the wednesday after full moon of every month.

“DEAD MASONS.”

There are those alive who do *not* live. In almost every Lodge can be found Masons who are dead to all the highest purposes of a Mason's life. They simply vegetate—eat, drink, and absorb what they can get of the substance of others. They add nothing to the common stock of pleasure or good in the Society in which they claim membership. They have no hand to help on any occasion, no word of cheer for the brethren of activity and enterprise, in fact, very little, if anything, commendable.

They sit still, or if they show signs of life at all, it is to drag themselves across the path of progress in such a way as to check the passing current. If such brethren have their use, as they doubtless have, it is, in the economy of affairs, that of testing the strength and patience of live brethren in passing over and around their dead bodies.

Masonry! what is it, if it is not a progressive profession? The end at which it aims is human perfective, and in striving to attain it, there must be a constant battle with ignorance, prejudice, passion and superstition. If we have abundance of charity, with plenty of zeal, we dare to stand in the open field ready to move upon the opposer of our institution, drive back the foe, capture his strong hold, and dictate peace to him as a conqueror. The living *dead* Mason is no where so much out of place as in the Lodge; and yet we have dead Masons in New York State; some in every country; one or more in every Lodge. Notice the marks by which we know them. Masonry now has a creditable literature. It is easy to collect a hundred volumes in English, appertaining directly to the craft. Some twenty magazines are published throughout the country, and as many more papers, filled with the doings of our institution throughout the globe, besides abundant reading matter for the most fastidious.

The Master, or any officer who take an interest in the growth of his Lodge, feels interest in the one who says, “I come seeking, and want more light.” If he can feel in the slightest manner that this mission is to benefit that one, he will surely find means of procuring and reading

some of these books and papers. But there are those who do not, and who would not if they grew spontaneous, go to the trouble of picking them off the trees that stand by the highway or street along which they crawl on their way to the Lodge. Their whole life seems to tend to dry up the streams of life in others.

These *dead* Masons seldom attend regular meetings if they can help it, but if forced to attend, their ears are deaf to what is said, and their eyes are blind to what is done; they sit, but do not listen or even look. The two pillars with the pedestal placed before the Master, could not be more indifferent; and yet these brethren are not without knowledge, while, like the miser's money, it is corroding for want of use.

Those who sit next to one of those torpid fellows in the meeting, invariably grow cold by the contact. Even the eye of the Master, full of life and fire, as he urges the brethren, or inspires them with greater zeal in the performance of known duty, necessary for the elevation of the order, loses its lustre as it rests for a moment on the cold, blank countenance of the dead Mason before him. The dead Mason has a certain amount of exercise that he follows day after day with as little variation as if he was turning the crank of a grindstone. If the Lodge runs he has no right to have any anxiety, only he don't want too many members to get sick, or die, for fear the *funds* may run short.

The joys and sorrows, wishes and wants of his Lodge are nothing to him. He hopes everything will "come out all right." If he is placed on a committee, he attends to it with the most melancholy interest, and is sure to forget the report at the proper time.

I often think my dear *dead* brother, that you made a great mistake in thinking the institution "called" you as a member, or that it is benefitted thereby; and I fear when the Master calls for the designs upon the trestle board of your life, it will be found unfinished!—*Masonic Tidings.*

THE DUTY OF SILENCE

It is the duty of every Mason to be silent on all things that transpire in the Lodge, that nothing may be known by the profane. We would admonish all brethren to be careful of their everyday walks in life, to let their conduct be such that it may at all times be imitated, and in so doing the duty of silence will be inculcated. We do not like to see a member of the Order take every opportunity that may offer, to impress upon others that he is a Mason. The institution teaches silence, and does not send their members forth to the world to say that he is a Mason; they are not so sadly in want of new material, as to advertise in this way for more. A silent tongue, and listening ear, are admonitions that a candidate first receives, and he should ever bear it in mind that it should be a watchword through life. The Mason of olden times was not the Mason of to-day. Then every thing was secret, even, at many times, their places of meeting. Now how changed. Public parades, emblems of all kinds, advertisements of the work to be done, and a hundred other ways, which serves to make public everything that ought to be known to the brethren only. If a brother is satisfied with the Order, that is sufficient, and silence will teach him to let it end there. If there are those who do not believe in this teaching it will be better for the society that they withdraw from it.—*Landmark.*

GRAND LODGE.

Whatever may be the result of the proceedings of the recent annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Canada, it will at least stand remarkable for an earnest attempt to find a solution for difficulties, which for the last two years have done much harm to Freemasonry in this jurisdiction. It is to be regretted that any difference of opinion should have occurred between brethren whose objects and motives are alike. Our own feeling inclines to the belief that the appointment of a committee as proposed by the Board of General Purposes, would have been the better form of procedure Grand Lodge would, in such appointment have assumed the responsibility of attempting a settlement of the question, and on the report of its own special envoys would have been in a position to judge more accurately of the position of affairs within the Province of Quebec. The brethren who have formed the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, would also have found themselves compelled in self-defence to accept negotiations in a spirit of mutual compromise, when those negotiations were offered by means of a special committee of conference. Grand Lodge, however has determined otherwise, and we are bound to say that it would have been difficult for members to come to any other decision than that arrived at. Our loyal Quebec brethren have undoubtedly the greatest interest in the settlement of the dispute which separates Freemasons in that Province; and when they asked, with almost absolute unanimity that they might be permitted to settle the question themselves, it would have been but scant courtesy to refuse the request. They have assumed, in making it, a very grave responsibility; but we have every confidence that the responsibility has not been taken without due consideration, and that having been assumed, the work will be entered upon in a spirit of earnestness and of conciliation.

Nothing was more gratifying in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge than the hearty and generous chivalry with which the representatives of Lodges stood by the integrity of the Grand Lodge of Canada and were resolved to protect all its loyal constituents. To us who have from the first uttered no uncertain sound upon the question, this strict adherence to the decisions of December 1869, is in the highest degree pleasing. Unquestionably the feeling of Grand Lodge was more strongly marked in relation to the loyal brethren of Quebec than it was either in December 1869, or in July 1870. The very violence of

the tone of those who have pleaded for the recognition of the so called Grand Lodge, has resulted in weakening their cause. Even the resolution moved for recognition reserved the rights of the loyal lodges in the Province of Quebec. That tribute at least was paid to the overwhelming sentiment of Grand Lodge; and although we have had official notification that recognition upon such terms would not be accepted, it is something to know, and we commend the fact as worthy of consideration, that upon no other terms dare any one attempt to ask Grand Lodge to grant it.

We trust that now that a first step towards settlement has been made, no one will attempt to mar the result, which we all hope for, by indiscreet discussion. Much harm has already been done in this way. An abstinence from acrimonious debate is essential to success, and success is essential to abiding peace and prosperity. The matter is now in the hands of those who have the largest interest in its settlement; and all true lovers of Freemasonry will, without hesitation, leave it to them.

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF GRAND LODGE.

The Sixteenth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of A. F. and A. M. of Canada was opened at the Rink Music Hall, Ottawa, on Wednesday the 12th inst. About 300 delegates were present, representing 202 Lodges. The usual motion accepting the minutes as read and confirmed, having been passed, and the rules for the government of Grand Lodge read, the Grand Master delivered the following

ADDRESS.

BRETHREN OF THE GRAND LODGE OF CANADA :

Having once more been permitted to assemble here in annual communication, and having already, as is most meet, invoked the blessing of the Most High upon all our proceedings, let us now, with hearts overflowing with profoundest gratitude to Him for His manifold Goodness, and with breasts aglow with the flame of fraternal love and affection, calmly turn our attention to those subjects which may require our consideration, and let us fervently hope that our legislation thereon, will be productive of the highest possible good to that Most Ancient and Honorable Institution, of which we are privileged to be accounted members.

The performance of my military duty, along with nearly 5,000 of my fellow volunteers, in the camp at Laprairie, having completely absorbed the time which would otherwise have been employed in preparing for this occasion, I am compelled to ask your indulgence, being painfully conscious that the imperfect manner in which the brief record of my official actions for the year must be placed before you, will contrast sadly with the polished addresses annually delivered from this chair by my illustrious predecessors.

The duties appertaining to my office during the year just closed, were of an exceedingly onerous nature, demanding from me an amount of study and correspondence, which I often found to be very difficult to overtake.

The number of new Lodges established by Dispensation during the past year was 18. Two Lodges which had long lain dormant, were resuscitated, and one of the seceding Lodges returned to its allegiance, making a total increase of 21 Lodges.

The names of Lodges under Dispensation, with their location and date of organization, are as follows:

NAME.	WHERE HELD.	DATE OF DISPENSATION.
Tweed	Tweed, Ontario	3rd October, 1870.
Prince Ruperts	Winnipeg, Fort Garry, Mani.	21st November, 1870.
Quinte	Shannonville, Ontario	16th December, 1870.
Macey	Mallorytown "	17th " "
St. George	St. George "	21st " "
Manitoban	Lower Fort Garry, Manitoba.	4th January, 1871.
Tecumseh	Thamesville, Ontario	26th " "
Union of Strict Observance..	Montreal, Quebec	27th " "
Ashlar	Yorkville, Ontario	28th " "
Eureka	Pakenham "	20th " "
Caledonian	Angus, "	27th February, 1871.
Thistle	Embros, "	8th March 1871.
Assiniboine	Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.	18th April, 1871.
The International	North Pembina	19th " "
Minden	Kingston, Ontario	20th " "
Clifton	Clifton, "	16th May, 1871.
Sydenham	Dresden, "	14th June, 1871.
Farran's Point	Farran's Point, Ontario	15th " "

As in former years the greatest care was taken to ascertain the need for more Lodges in the several localities from which applications were received, and in no case did a dispensation issue, until satisfactory evidence was adduced on this and other points, and a certificate furnished by the District Deputy Grand Master, or other competent Brother named by him, that the several Brethren selected to fill the office of Worshipful Master were fully qualified to confer the three established Degrees. I trust that they have performed their work in such a manner as to entitle them to receive Warrants of Confirmation, at this session of G. L.

The two Lodges resuscitated, were:

Rehobotham, 65	Toronto, Ontario, resuscitated	November 18, 1870.
St. Francis, 24	Smith's Falls, Ontario, " "	March 22, 1871.

The circumstances attending the return of Prevoist Lodge, No. 1, Dunham, to its allegiance to this Grand Lodge, will be gathered from the terms of the document which I issued to the Brethren composing that Lodge, and which is as follows:

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME.

GREETING:—

WHEREAS, a memorial has been presented to me signed by fourteen members of Prevoist Lodge, No. 1, G. R. C., representing that in the month of October, 1869, whilst only a few members were in attendance at the meeting, the allegiance of that Lodge was transferred to the would-be Grand Lodge of Quebec, and that since that time, they have continued to hold the warrant of said Lodge, and that in consequence, the memorialists "remaining loyal to the Grand Lodge of Canada, and refusing to recognize the authority of the would-be Grand Lodge of Quebec, are "deprived of meeting in said Lodge;" and the memorial further represents, that the "petitioners are desirous of carrying on the work of the Lodge as heretofore, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and they now pray that a Duplicate "Warrant or Dispensation be granted to enable them to do so," &c., &c., and Whereas, in my judgment, it is my duty to comply with the prayer of the memorialists I do by these presents, authorize and empower Brothers Allen Hogaboom, James Oliver, S. W., Henry Pagnell, S. D., Levi Stevens, P. J. W., Charles Edward Cotton Brown, P. Sec., A. R. Terrill, Alexander Duff Stevens, P. S. W., Eugene Nelson Brown, Oscar Burton Woodard, James McElroy, G. R. Longway, B. A. Longway, M. R. Bowker and D. A. Bowker, and such others as may be associated with them, to continue the work of Prevoist Lodge, No. 1, as heretofore, under the jurisdiction of

the Grand Lodge of Canada. These presents are also to give authority to Prevost to proceed at once to elect a Worshipful Master, Wardens and other Officers. The District Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Bro. H. D. Pickell, will, until such election is held, take charge of the Lodge. And for the performance of the acts above mentioned this shall be sufficient authority until the restoration of the original Warrant, or a duplicate thereof be granted.

Thus done at the Office of the Grand Master, in the City of Montreal, this 12th day of January, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one.

A. A. STEVENSON, Grand Master.

Three applications for dispensations to open new Lodges respectively, at L'Original, Galt and Guelph, were also received, but after careful consideration, I felt it to be my duty to decline granting a dispensation in either of these cases. The applications will receive the consideration of the members of the Board of General Purposes, who will, doubtless, in presenting their report, give such details as will enable the members of Grand Lodge clearly to understand the merits of the questions involved.

The Brethren composing the Lodges under our jurisdiction in Manitoba, feeling the need of some local authority, to whom they could refer, forwarded to me a memorial, praying that the Rev. Robert Stuart Patterson be appointed to act in the capacity of District Deputy Grand Master, and believing that such an officer was indispensably necessary for the good government of the craft there, it afforded me very great pleasure to comply with their request, and accordingly I nominated the Rev. Brother recommended in their memorial, to fulfil the duties and exercise the functions of a D. D. G. M., until this meeting of Grand Lodge.

The high talents and well-known zeal of that experienced Brother, warrants the conclusion, that his appointment to such an office could not fail to exert a most beneficial influence upon the Lodges recently established in that distant Province of the Dominion.

Four Emergent Communications of Grand Lodge were convened during the year, at the places and dates following, viz.:

At Ottawa, 23rd September, 1870, to lay the foundation stone of the County Court House.

At Cayuga, 11th May, 1871, to lay the foundation stone of Canada Air Line Railway Bridge.

At Brantford, 24th May, 1871, to lay the foundation stone of the Blind Asylum.

At Thornhill, 1st July, 1871, to lay the foundation stone of a public hall.

At Ottawa and Brantford, I had the honor of being present and officiating. At Cayuga R. W. Bro. Seymour, Deputy Grand Master, acted as Grand Master; and at Thornhill, R. W. Bro. Kerr, D. D. G. M., for the Toronto District, officiated in that capacity. On all these occasions there were assembled large numbers of our fraternity, many of them from great distances, and the proceedings were characterized by that dignity and decorum which should ever attend Masonic gatherings.

In accordance with the resolution adopted at last session of Grand Lodge, I had the pleasure of presenting to our highly esteemed and M. W. Brother, W. B. Simpson a testimonial, consisting of an elegant epergne with suitable inscription, and two fruit stands, with cut glass dishes and plateaus to match, which had been procured by the Committee named last year for that purpose.

I had also the pleasure of forwarding copies of the resolutions adopted at last Grand Lodge, to the Right Honorable the Earl of Zetland, P. G. M. of England, and the Right Honorable Earl de Grey and Ripon, Grand Master of England. The former acknowledges receipt in the following terms, viz.:

(Copy.)

To the Most Worshipful Brother Alexander Allan Stevenson,

Grand Master, Grand Lodge, Canada.

8th June, 1871.

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I have received with feelings of very great gratification the resolutions passed at the meeting of your Grand Lodge on the 13th July last, and transmitted to me with your kind letter of the 15th May, expressive of the regret of the Fraternity of Canada, at my retirement from the position of Grand Master of England.

After presiding over the English Craft for more than a quarter of a century, it is a matter of intense satisfaction to me to see the extension of the Order, not only in this country, but over the entire globe, and I trust my efforts have in some measure contributed to its prosperity.

I beg to request the favor of expressing to your Grand Lodge, how much I appreciate the cordial expression of good feeling to myself, conveyed in the resolution, and my warm thanks for its fraternal wishes for my future health and happiness.

Accept Most Worshipful Brother, my best acknowledgments for the kind terms made use of in your private letter, and wishing you and the members of the Grand Lodge of Canada all prosperity.

I have the honor to be,

My dear Sir and M. W. Brother,

Yours truly and fraternally,

(Signed,) ZETLAND, P. G. M.

Having been absent from home for some time after the arrival in the United States of the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon (the Grand Master of England) as a member of the Joint High Commission, I had not an opportunity of conveying to him then, the congratulations of the Craft within this jurisdiction, but when the Commission closed its labors, I addressed to him the following letter:

(Copy.)

GRAND LODGE OF CANADA,

OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER,

Montreal, May 15th, 1871.

To the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, M. W. Grand Master of Masons in England.

MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER,—Absence from home deprived me of the opportunity of extending to your Lordship, on your arrival, the fraternal congratulations of the Craft within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and during the progress of the important negotiations in which the Joint High Commission were engaged, I could not presume to intrude upon your Lordship matters of Masonic import; but now that the labors of the Commission have been happily concluded, I venture to express the hope that the M. W. the Grand Master of England will afford the Canadian Craft, the pleasure of a visit, and permit them to extend to your Lordship, such hospitalities as befit the high position which your Lordship so worthily occupies and adorns

Our next annual Communication of Grand Lodge takes place at Ottawa, the capital of the Dominion of Canada, on the second Wednesday of July, and I need not say that it would afford us inexpressible pleasure to be honored with the presence of your Lordship on that occasion; but should that be impossible, I trust that you will have the goodness to name any other place or time which would answer more conveniently.

I have the honor to be, M. W. Grand Master,

Yours most fraternally,

ALEX. ALLAN STEVENSON,

Grand Master

The following is the reply, viz.:

HER MAJESTY'S HIGH COMMISSION, }
Washington, May 20th, 1871. }

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BROTHER,—I regret exceedingly that I cannot accept the invitation to visit the Grand Lodge of Canada, so kindly sent me by you in your letter of the 15th instant, as I sail for England on the 21th of this month.

Please accept my best thanks for your kind attention, and convey them also, to the Lodge of which you are Grand Master.

Yours most fraternally,

[Signed,]

DE GREY AND RIPON,

G. M. England.

During last winter I made a short tour through the Bedford District, accompanied by the D. D. G. M., R. W. Bro. H. D. Pickel, and was much pleased by the fraternal feeling manifested everywhere, and the harmony which seemed to characterize all the proceedings of the various Lodges which I had an opportunity of visiting. From the Brethren of St. John's, Waterloo, Mansonville, Knowlton, Durham, Sweetsburg, &c., I received a most cordial welcome, and the warmest hospitality. I also made several visits to the western portion of our jurisdiction, and experienced similar kindness at the hands of the Brethren at Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton, Brantford, &c., &c. Indeed, in every city, town or village which it was my good fortune to visit, the Brethren generally extended to me a most hearty reception, and

manifested towards me as your representative, the utmost kindness and consideration.

Amongst the many subjects which have come under my notice during the past year, there is one which it seems to me, should receive the earnest consideration of the Grand Lodge, viz.:—The practice of permitting Brethren to become ordinary members of more than one Lodge. Dual membership has been productive of very much mischief, and in several of our Lodges. Take one of the many instances in which this is made manifest—a Brother is a member of two or more Lodges. By and by he ceases to pay up his dues in one of them, and is, in due course, suspended from the Lodge in which he is in default. He claims to be a member in good standing in the other, and demands the privileges of membership. Perhaps the W. M. is not very clear as to what his duty really is, under such circumstances, and thinking that so long as the Bro. is in good standing in *his* Lodge, he has no right to take any notice of the suspension by the other Lodge, which, in its turn, complains of its suspension being disregarded, and in the discussion of such subjects, a feeling of acrimony is often engendered, which it takes months, or perhaps years, to allay. In some jurisdictions, duality of membership is forbidden by constitutional enactment—ours is silent on this subject. I trust that Grand Lodge will consider the question, and adopt such a regulation as will effectually prevent a recurrence of the evils which have for years resulted from the practice in question.

Another matter, to which I think attention ought to be directed, is the habit—becoming far too common—of members of our Order rushing into print, on a most every occasion, and concerning all sorts of subjects in connection with Freemasonry. This is a practice which cannot be too strongly condemned. Freemasons ought to recollect that respect for the Institution should deter them from continually ventilating real or fancied grievances through the columns of journals devoted to other matters, as this course seldom produces any good effect, and very often tends to lower Freemasonry in the estimation of the outside world.

The state of Masonry throughout the jurisdiction will be more fully presented in the reports of that most useful class of officers, the D. D. G. M's, for the various districts. It will, therefore, be only necessary for me to say, that so far as my knowledge extends, the Order is steadily progressing, both in numbers and influence and our Lodges are working so harmoniously that at the semi-annual meeting of the Board of General Purposes, held in February last, there was not a single case of grievance presented. Freemasonry is accomplishing a vast amount of good in numberless ways, chiefly, however, in promoting fraternal affection amongst its members, and in extending to the unfortunate and distressed, in the warm and invigorating atmosphere of *Brotherly Love*, that *Relief* in their necessity, which, in truth, contrasts strangely with the chilly cheerfulness of the world's *Charity*.

Brethren, I have not time left to advert to many other subjects, which I, perhaps, ought to have brought under your notice, but, before closing, I consider it advisable to direct your attention to the position at present occupied by this Grand Lodge. At the outset, I may state candidly that, notwithstanding all that has transpired, I see no reason, whatever, to change, or even modify, the views I formerly expressed as to the strict legality of that position. I maintain still that the Grand Lodge of Canada, legally established and universally recognized as having lawful jurisdiction over this territory for a period of 15 years, cannot be deprived of that jurisdiction on account of any political division of territory by any Government or Legislature whatsoever, nor can she be superseded therein by any other Masonic authority, unless by her own act, or under her own sanction or consent. Neither on the score of expediency can any solid argument be adduced, for there exists no valid reason why the Brethren throughout this jurisdiction should not continue to work together in harmony and peace in the future, as they were wont to do in the past. Indeed, the feeling gains strength on every fresh examination of the subject, that it would be infinitely better for the Brethren of both Provinces to remain united, for, most assuredly it is true that "In unity there is strength."

But the fact exists that in one portion of our jurisdiction, a number of Lodges and Brethren refuse to recognize our authority, or to acknowledge our sway, and the organization which they have set up there has been eagerly embraced and officially recognized by some of the Grand Lodges in the United States, whilst professing great friendship and regard for the Grand Lodge of Canada, although others—and amongst them some of the most influential—have withheld recognition, and continue to support *our* position. Nor should we ignore the fact that there exists within our own body, a number of active and energetic sympathizers with the move-

ment in question, who lose no opportunity of forwarding the interests of the seceding Brethren, and who seem willing to go any length to accomplish their object, even though that should be obtainable only at the great cost of the destruction of their own Mother Grand Lodge. This being the state of affairs, the question arises—What remedy can be found for such an undesirable condition of things? There exists no Masonic High Court of Appeal, or other competent tribunal, before which matters of this nature could be adjudged and determined, according to the strict principles of Masonic law and equity, where even-handed justice would be meted out to every suitor, and the rights of all, protected and preserved. Were it so, our path were plain, our duty clear. But in the absence of such provision, it devolves upon you, Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Canada to determine whether it be necessary to adopt any measures whatever—and if so, what these measures shall be. You, Brethren, have by far, the deepest interest at stake in this matter, and you must yourselves be guided by your own convictions of duty, utterly regardless of what others may think or say. Very many Brethren, no doubt, prefer to remain as we are, trusting to time and the good offices of Brethren concerned, to heal, at no distant day the breaches which have been made in our ranks. Others again, prefer the idea—the promulgation of which gave rise to all this difficulty—of the formation of a Grand Lodge for the Dominion, with Provincial Grand Lodges in each of the Provinces. A third class see the feasibility of continuing the Grand Lodge of Canada, with its present jurisdiction, and establishing three or four Provincial or District Grand Lodges for local purposes. A fourth class favor the idea of referring the whole question to arbitration, on principles somewhat similar to the recent International Joint High Commission. Whilst a fifth class advocate the adoption of a measure, whereby permission might be granted by this Grand Lodge to the Lodges in the Province of Quebec to form a Grand Lodge for that Province; to the Lodges in Ontario, to form a Grand Lodge for Ontario; the Grand Lodge of Canada consenting to withdraw jurisdiction from both Provinces, cede her territory to these new Lodges, distribute equitably her funds and property to these her successors, cancel her warrants, and *cease to exist!* In which of these alternatives lies the best solution of the problem, it is not for me to say. There are, no doubt, difficulties to be overcome in the attempt to carry any one of them into practical operation.

Candour compels me to say, that personally I would greatly prefer the first, and were it not for the element at work in our midst, I see no reason to doubt of its success in due time. The second calls to our mind the vast extent of this Dominion, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, and presents the practical difficulty of the existence of other Grand Lodges within its bounds, whose consent to such an arrangement it might be impossible to obtain. The third, feasible enough, if the brethren concerned were desirous of acting together in harmony, but there lies the whole difficulty. The fourth seems fair and honorable, but whether it would be accepted by the brethren who have seceded from us, yet remains to be seen. The fifth plan, if a separation must take place, and if a Grand Lodge can dissolve itself, is undoubtedly a Masonic method of separation, and dissolution without involving either the idea of revolt or secession. What ever course you see fit to adopt, will doubtless form a precedent for future guidance. How important then that the conclusions you arrive at shall be in strict accordance with correct Masonic principles, tending to preserve the independence, maintain the sovereignty, and secure the perpetuity of Grand Lodge organizations.

Finally, Brethren, may the Most High bestow upon you all such wisdom as he sees meet to enable you to deliberate aright upon all questions which may be brought under your consideration, and may you be led to such conclusions as will tend to promote His glory, and to advance the interests of our fellowmen. So mote it be.

ALEXR. ALLAN STEVENSON,

Grand Master.

Ottawa, July 12th, 1871.

The address was on motion referred to the Board of General Purposes to report thereon.

The Reports, 16 in number, of the D. D. G. M.'s, were read, including one from the Province of Manitoba. They were all of an interesting nature, and gave evidence of the continued prosperity that has attended the workings of the craft during the past year. That from Manitoba was especially gratifying, as it reviewed the successful efforts that had

been made by W. Bro. R. Stewart Patterson in extending Masonry in that newly erected Province.

The following Reports were then submitted by R. W. Bro. Seymour, President of the Board of General Purposes.

ANNUAL REPORT.—FINANCE AND AUDIT.

The Board of General Purposes begs leave to report for the information of Grand Lodge, that its semi-annual meeting was held in the city of Hamilton, on the 21st and 22nd days of February, 1871. The books of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, together with the accounts, statements and vouchers, submitted for the financial year ending 31st December, 1870, were then carefully examined, and found to be correct in every particular, the entries being neatly recorded, and the records in all respects accurate and reliable.

The total receipts of the year, as per Grand Secretary's statement, were shown to be \$9,793.88, being an increase of \$110.40 over those of the previous year, and were derived from the following sources:

Dues	\$4,619 73
Fees	1,415 00
Certificates	2,665 00
Warrants	180 00
Dispensations	345 00
Constitutions	356 13
Proceedings	13 02
Total	<u>\$9,793 88</u>

The position of Grand Lodge funds at the close of the year, as shown by the Grand Treasurer's statement, was as follows:

General Fund account	\$25,580 50
Benevolent Fund investment account	10,454 76
" " current account	933 69
Asylum Trust Fund account	5,376 31
	<u>\$42,345 26</u>

Invested as follows:

Dominion Stock, controlled by G. L.	\$24,000 00
" " Asylum Trust	4,800 00
Middlesex Debentures, bearing 6 per cent.	1,600 00
Bank of Toronto, Asylum Trust	576 31
Bank of Commerce, current account at 5 per ct. .	11,368 95
	<u>\$42,345 26</u>

The year's expenditure from General Fund, for all purposes, amounted to \$9,149.85. It is, however, worthy of mention in this connection, that several unusually large items are embraced in this outlay that will not occur again.

BENEVOLENCE.

The Board had submitted for consideration a number of applications for pecuniary assistance, and after careful examination, they made appropriations amounting to \$900, or within a fraction of all the funds at their disposal.

ACCOUNTS.

Accounts amounting to \$1,360.67, submitted by the Grand Secretary, were carefully examined, and being found correct, were ordered to be paid.

THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR.

Application having been made to the M. W. Grand Master by the Grand Orient of France, for an appropriation towards alleviating the distress, regardless of nationality, amongst members of the fraternity, caused by the unhappy war then raging in that country, the case appeared to be one that peculiarly commended itself to favorable consideration. Accordingly, your President had a circular prepared, setting forth the facts, and sent to every member of the Board, asking each to mark his approval or disapproval of a sum not exceeding \$250; and in reply, there was only one solitary exception to unanimous concurrence in sending the amount named. A cheque was therefore drawn for that sum, and steps taken to forward the money to France; but it being found impossible at that period to transmit anything with safety to Paris,

correspondence was opened with the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England, in the hope that he might be able to send the money in safety as designed. That officer having kindly expressed his willingness to aid in any way in forwarding the money to the French capital, was instructed to draw upon our Grand Treasurer for \$250, but up to this time has not done so. The benevolent intentions of your Board have not, therefore, been of any avail; and the order and cheque still remain in custody of your Grand Secretary, subject to any action Grand Lodge may see fit to direct.

GRAND LODGE FUNDS.

The Board had under consideration the advisability of investing in Dominion Stock \$8,000 of the funds of Grand Lodge, deposited in the Bank of Commerce; but finding that the high rate of premium to be paid therefor would not justify any change being effected at that time, it was decided to await the action of Grand Lodge at the present Communication.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS.

Your Board has much pleasure in reporting that no case of grievance or appeal came before them at this meeting, which afforded gratifying evidence of the fraternal harmony prevailing throughout this jurisdiction.

HOSPITALITIES.

The Board desire, before closing this Report, to express their thanks and satisfaction for the courteous manner in which the fraternity of the city of Hamilton entertained the members thereof, a pleasant and fraternal interchange of sentiment having taken place during the meeting.

GOLD JEWELS.

An application was received from Niagara Lodge, No 2, for permission to wear gold jewels and lace, in consideration of its age, and having preserved its records from 1770 to 1869, when fire unfortunately destroyed the warrant, records, and everything connected with its paraphernalia. After consideration, the request was withdrawn.

The whole respectfully submitted.

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT.—FINANCE AND AUDIT.

The receipts for the six months ending 30th June, 1871, amounted to \$4,516 31.

The Grand Treasurer's Statement shows that the funds on hand 30th June, 1871, were \$41,864.19, invested as follows:

Dominion Stock, controlled by G. L.....	\$24,000 00
“ “ Asylum Trust.....	4,800 00
Middlesex Debentures, 6 per cent.....	1,600 00
Bank of Toronto, Asylum Fund, 4 per cent.....	720 31
“ “ Commerce, 5 per cent.....	13,743 88

\$44,864 19

Accounts amounting to \$656.17 were examined, and recommended for payment.

INVESTMENT OF GRAND LODGE FUNDS.

The Board has again considered the question of the large surplus of Grand Lodge funds now remaining on deposit in the Canadian Bank of Commerce, bearing interest at the rate of five per cent per annum at call; and while approving of the course pursued by the President in not withdrawing any portion of the said surplus for investment in Dominion Stock at the current rate of premium, it is gratified to learn upon official authority that a new issue of Government five per cent. stock will shortly be made, in which it will be desirable that at least ten thousand dollars of the available funds of Grand Lodge be at once invested.

WARRANTS.

Upon a recommendation from the Board, warrants were authorized to issue to the following Lodges:

Tweed	Lodge, Tweed, Ont.
Prince Rupert's	“ Fort Garry, Manitoba.
Quinte	“ Shannonville, Ont.
Macoy	“ Mallorytown, Ont.
St. George's	“ St. George, Ont.

Manitoban	Lodge, Lower Fort Garry, Manitoba.
Tecumseh	" Thamesville, Ont.
Union of Strict Observance	" Montreal, Q.
Ashlar	" Yorkville, Ont.
Eureka	" Pakenham, Ont.
Caledonia	" Angus, Ont.
Thistle	" Embro, Ont.
Assiniboine	" Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.
International	" North Pembina, Manitoba.
Minden	" Kingston, Ont.
Clifton	" Clifton, Ont.
Sydenham	" Dresden, Ont.
Farran's Point	" Farran's Point, Ont.
Galt	" Galt, Ont.
Guelph	" Guelph, Ont.
Springfield	" Springfield, Ont.
Washington	" Petrolia, Ont.

CONDITION OF MASONRY.

The B. G. P. begs leave to present the following report on the condition of Masonry.

The board has had before it and considered the reports of the D. D. G. M's. of the Wilson, Huron, Wellington, Hamilton, Niagara, Toronto, Ontario, Prince Edward, Ottawa, Montreal, and Bedford Districts.

The board rejoices to receive continued assurance of the general and increased prosperity of the Lodges in these districts, and that each year adds to the zeal and efficiency with which the D. D. G. M's. perform the various and important duties of their offices.

From the reports the board finds that with very few exceptions the authorized work is well known and properly exemplified, and that Masters thoroughly competent have charge of the Lodges.

Very few complaints have been made during the year and in nearly every instance these have been settled amicably or disposed to the satisfaction of the brethren and Lodges interested without trouble.

Some of the D. D. G. M's. have visited every Lodge in their respective districts, and many more than once—and in every district a large majority of the Lodges have been visited and reported on. The D. D. G. M. of the Ontario district held no less than three Lodges of instruction in his district during the year, one of which was attended by representatives from all the Lodges in his district with the exception of two—and these Lodges were represented at one or other of the two additional Lodges of instruction. The D. D. G. M. of the Toronto district, had made arrangements to hold a Lodge of instruction in his district but family afflictions prevented his being able to carry out his intentions.

These Lodges cannot fail to be of great service to the brethren and Lodges, by bringing together a number of the officers and members of the Lodges and teaching them thoroughly the authorized work, besides giving them instruction and advice on questions of Masonic law and usage which may have arisen amongst them.

A number of Lodges have been constituted under warrants granted by last G. L. and a number of dispensations have been granted by the M. W. G. M. The work done under them is spoken very favorably of by the D. D. G. M's. of the different districts.

The M. W. G. M. has presided at and conducted many Masonic ceremonies during the year, amongst them may be mentioned—laying the corner stone of the Asylum for the blind at Brantford, at which time he also dedicated and consecrated the new Masonic Hall at that place, and laying the corner stone of the new Court House in the city of Ottawa, and constituting the Lodge of Fidelity, No. 231 in the same city. The M. W. G. M. has also granted several dispensations to hold Balls all of which are mentioned as being successful.

The D. D. G. M's. of the different districts have also granted dispensations to a

number of Lodges to appear in Masonic clothing at festivals concerts and excursions, all of which are reported as having been conducted in peace and good order, and to have assisted in promoting harmony and social feeling amongst the brethren.

Two districts the Niagara and Ottawa district are reported as having procured Masonic Regalia for the D. D. G. M's. of their districts.

A number of presentations have been made during the past year, amongst them may be mentioned the presentation in Brant Lodge of a service of silver plate, to R. W. Bro. Curtis P. D. D. G. M. by the Lodges of the Wilson district over which he had long presided—and of a P. D. D. G. M's. Jewel to R. W. Bro. C. D. McDonald, P. D. D. G. M. of the Ontario district at Peterborough.

It is gratifying to be able to report that two Lodges have been resuscitated during the past year viz., Rehoboam Lodge No. 65 Toronto, which has increased its membership from seven to 46 in six month, and St. Francis Lodge No. 24 Smiths Falls which is now working with most cheering prospects of success.

It is our melancholy duty to record the death of many valued and faithful brethren who we sincerely hope have attained membership in the Grand Lodge, above where T. G. A. O. T. U. above presides. Prominent among those who have been called from their earthly labours, your Board desires to mention the death of our Rev. Bro. Dr. Neville, Chaplain of Strict Observance and St. John's Lodges, Hamilton, he was an able and popular Minister, and a devoted friend and brother.

Your board cannot refrain from mentioning the fearful murder of Bro. Joel Dean of Union Lodge 334 of Bradford Penn. U. S. A. who was brutally murdered in the County of Bruce. His remains were interred with Masonic ceremonies by Goderich Lodge No. 33 and Maitland Lodge No. 112.

Bro. Blaisdell, Treasurer of Dalhousie Lodge No. 571 E. R. who has been an active and zealous Brother of that Lodge, and its Treasurer for many years has departed. His remains were followed to the grave by his Brethren of Ottawa City who desired to pay this tribute of respect to a Brother, who both as a man and a Mason fulfilled all his obligations.

In conclusion the Board regrets that many of the D. D. G. M. do not observe the requirements of the constitution by transmitting to the G. S. the reports of their districts previous to the meeting of the board, thereby delaying the board in its work, and taking up time later in its sessions, which might well be devoted to and is required for various other important purposes—at this time no report has been received from the D. D. G. M. of Quebec district.

All of which is respectfully submitted

The following Brethren presented their credentials as Representatives, and received the usual salutations :

M. W. Bro. Bernard, from G. L. of New Brunswick.

W. Bro. Ramsay, from G. L. of Ohio.

R. W. Bro. D. McLellan, from G. L. of Georgia.

R. W. Bro. Jas. Seymour, from G. L. of Mississippi.

R. W. Bro. the Rev. C. P. Bess, P. G. Chaplain of the Provincial Grand Lodge of New Brunswick was introduced, and on motion of M. W. Bro. Bernard, was accorded the rank of a P. G. Chaplain in this Grand Lodge.

At this stage of the proceedings, R. W. Bro. Barber, on behalf of the Masonic Fraternity of the city of Ottawa, tendered to the Grand Officers and Representatives in attendance, the hospitalities of the city, and extended an invitation to a Banquet to be given on Thursday evening.

The Grand Master, on behalf of Grand Lodge, thanked the R. W. Bro., and cordially accepted the same.

The Grand Secretary read a communication from Bro. J. H. Dorwin, presenting to the Grand Lodge of Canada a Sabre which had originally been presented to Union Lodge No. 8, E. R., by H. R. II., the Duke of Kent. On motion the present was accepted and the Grand Secretary was instructed to convey to Bro. Dorwin the thanks of Grand Lodge for his valuable and interesting donation.

Several communications from the Grand Orient of Lusitania were submitted, announcing the union of the heretofore two existing Grand Masonic Bodies under one supreme head, and also a document accrediting R. W. Bro. T. B. Harris as its Representative.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS

Grand Lodge resumed labor at 11.30 A. M.

In accordance with notice given at last Annual Communication, R. W. Bro. T. F. Chamberlain moved to amend the Book of Constitution having reference to the constitution of the Board of General Purposes. In the motion it was proposed to leave off the Grand Wardens, and the elected and appointed members, substituting therefor the election of a member from each Masonic District, after the manner of the election of District Deputy Grand Masters.

The motion was lost by a very large majority.

During the discussion upon the foregoing resolution, R. W. Bro. T. White called the attention of the Grand Master to the fact that the notice of motion did not in any manner set forth the nature of the proposed amendments, and in his opinion did not comply with the requirements of the Constitution.

The Grand Master ruled that notices of motion must clearly set forth the nature of any proposed alteration or amendment to the Constitution.

R. W. Bro. Seymour, President, submitted the following Report on that portion of the Grand Master's address relating to the condition of Masonry in Quebec.

The Board has had under consideration the state of Masonry in that part of our jurisdiction known as the Province of Quebec, adverted to by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master. With a desire to improve the condition of Masonry, in that Province, and if possible to remove all cause of trouble amongst the Brethren; the Board begs to submit the following resolutions to the Grand Lodge for adoption :

1. That the Grand Lodge desires to re-assert the principles of Masonic Law, adopted at the Special Communication, held in the City of Montreal, in December, 1869, and subsequently re-affirmed by unanimous vote of Grand Lodge at the last annual communication held in the City of Toronto, as to the "extent of its jurisdiction," comprising the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

2 That whilst it has seen no reason to alter its views thus formally pronounced, this Grand Lodge regrets the continuance of the difficulties which have arisen in the Province of Quebec, and that no approach has been made to a restoration of Masonic harmony in that Province, as Grand Lodge had reason to hope would have taken place.

3. That an unanimous desire on the part of the Lodges in Quebec to have that Province set apart as a separate Masonic territory, would at all times have been and will be favorably entertained by Grand Lodge.

4. That Grand Lodge most earnestly desires the removal of all difficulties amongst Masons in the Province of Quebec, and with that view resolves that a Committee be appointed by Grand Lodge to confer with a Committee of the Lodges of Quebec, which have ceased to work under the authority of Grand Lodge, with a view to the restoration of Masonic harmony in that Province.

5. That the suspensions by edict of the Masters of Lodges and Masons in that Province, subsequently confirmed by Grand Lodge, be removed.

6. That the Committee so appointed shall with all convenient speed report the result of their conference to the Grand Master, and that he be requested to take immediate action upon such report.

The adoption of the Report of the Board, was moved by R. W. Bro. T. White, seconded by R. W. Bro. the Rev. H. Montgomery.

In amendment it was moved by M. W. Bro. Bernard, seconded by R. W. Bro. Rev. V. Clementi,

That the Report be received, printed, and distributed amongst the members of Grand Lodge.

The amendment was adopted.

The President of the Board submitted the following Report from

THE ASYLUM TRUST FUND.

No further offers of land or cash for the Asylum have been received since the date of the last report, but the Trust have been assured by a member of the Niagara Lodge that \$3,000 in cash, as originally proposed, will be paid by that Lodge towards the construction of the building if it is erected in that town.

The Trust have to state that the sum of \$432.31 was transferred from the Bank of Montreal to the Bank of Toronto in September last, on the return of R. W. Bro. Harman from England, and the Bank of Toronto has since that time allowed 4 per cent. interest on the deposit account.

STATEMENT.

DR.	Cr.
Balance last annual report.....\$5232 31	By Dominion Stock (cost \$4836)\$4800 00
Interest Dominion Stock..... 283 00	Balance in Bank 736 31
Interest on Deposits..... 16 00	
Total.....\$5536 31	Total.....\$5536 31

KIVUS TULLY,
JAMES BAIN, *Chairman.*

Toronto, July 11, 1871.

The Report was received and adopted.

COLORED MASONS.

A letter from E. C. Cooper, Secretary of a Lodge in Chatham, as also a petition from J. J. Moore and others of a Lodge in Toronto, both holding Warrants from a Grand Lodge in the State of New York, desiring to surrender the same, and affiliate with the Grand Lodge of Canada, were referred to the Board of General Purposes for consideration and the following Report thereon was submitted to Grand Lodge—and adopted.

The Board of General Purposes to whom the M. W. the G. M. referred the communication of E. C. Cooper, of Chatham dated 24th May, 1871, and the Petition of J. J. Moore, Wm. Harrison and others, beg leave to report

That the R. W. the Grand Secretary be instructed to acknowledge the receipt of the letter and the petition above referred to, and to state in reply thereto that the Grand Lodge of Canada is in communication and friendly intercourse with the M. W. the Honorable Fraternity of A. F. and A. Masons of the M. W. Grand Lodge of the State of New York, and cannot recognize any other Body claiming to be a Grand Lodge within the jurisdiction of that Grand Lodge or any Body assuming; derive its authority from any such unrecognized Body.

That any application for admission to our privileges, or jurisdiction by those referred to in the said letter or in the said petition, must be made by the personal application of each candidate to a Regular Lodge, in accordance with the course pointed out in our Constitution.

The whole respectfully submitted.

RE-PRINTING OF GRAND LODGE PROCEEDINGS.

It was moved by W. Bro. S. E. Mitchell, seconded by V. W. Bro. John Urquhart, and

Resolved,—That 1,000 copies of the proceedings of this Grand Lodge from its formation to the present time be reprinted. That a full index of the same be prepared

and also printed. That they be then bound together in the most convenient form and sold to Lodges and the members thereof, at the cost of printing and binding, and that the whole be ready if possible on or before the next annual communication of Grand Lodge, the Grand Secretary to notify all Lodges by circular when ready, and that 100 copies be appropriated for the purpose of this Grand Lodge.

BENEVOLENCE.

It was moved by M. W. Bro. Bernard, seconded by R. W. Bro. Clementi, and

RESOLVED,—That the sum of \$2500 be appropriated from the general funds of Grand Lodge and placed to the credit of the fund of benevolence.

V. W. Bro. Falkiner's motion to dispense in future with the reading of the Reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters was brought up and lost.

AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. I. P. Wilson, seconded by R. W. Bro. MacPherson and

RESOLVED,—That Article 3 of the Constitution under the head of proposing members be amended by striking out the following words, "without the consent by resolution of that Lodge which shall be signified in writing."

REPORT OF BOARD ON QUEBEC QUESTION.

The adoption of the special report of the Board of General Purposes on that portion of the address of the Grand Master relating to the Quebec difficulty was then moved by R. W. Bro. White, seconded by R. W. Bro. Montgomery.

In amendment it was moved by W. B. Bro. McKechnie, seconded by V. W. Bro. N. B. Falkiner,

That having in view the true interests of Freemasonry, the maintenance of harmony, and the avoidance of scandal, be it

Resolved—That the suspension of the adherents of the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec be and is hereby withdrawn.

That the Grand Lodge of Quebec be and is hereby recognized as a duly constituted Grand Lodge.

That we hereby cede to the said Grand Lodge of Quebec the whole of the Province of Quebec, subject to the following conditions, viz.:—That all Lodges therein now in connection with the Grand Lodge, and that are desirous of maintaining that connection, may do so.

That this Grand Lodge do strongly, and with the most fraternal feelings, recommend that all the Lodges in the Province of Quebec, and now in allegiance to this Grand Lodge, do take into serious consideration the necessity of sinking all differences, and cordially uniting themselves to the Grand Lodge of that Province.

In amendment to the amendment it was moved in by V. W. Bro. E. Racicot, seconded by R. W. Bro. Gutman,

That all the words in the said report after the word "adoption" be struck out and the following words substituted for them: "That this Grand Lodge, while reaffirming its former opinion expressed at the Montreal and Toronto meetings, December 1869 and July 1870, as to the illegality of the organization of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and although no valid reason has ever existed for the disruption of this Grand Lodge in the manner attempted by the said so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, but being desirous of re-establishing peace and good will and harmony amongst all the Masons of Canada, and of preventing further trouble and complications, and being now of opinion that these objects can best be obtained by the existence of a Grand Lodge for the Province of Quebec properly organized, with the unanimous assent, if possible, and good feeling of all the Masons in that Province; while at the same time the duties and obligations of this Grand Lodge towards the same loyal Masons should not be disregarded;—this Grand Lodge will give up and cede all the territory which it has occupied since 1855 in that part of Canada now constituting the Province of Quebec, make all just and financial settlements, remove all suspensions

and do all such things as may become necessary, so soon as this Grand Lodge receives notice that a settlement or compromise, mutually satisfactory, shall have been effected between the Masons residing in the Province of Quebec, who have been and are now loyal and faithful to this Grand Lodge on one side, and the members of the so-called Grand Lodge on the other, in such manner as they may decide amongst themselves whilst acting in a true Masonic spirit; and this Grand Lodge will not, for the present, take any further step or action of any kind whatever concerning the said so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec." And that the said report so amended be adopted.

After a lengthy discussion, V. W. Racicot's amendment was carried by a large majority, and Grand Lodge was called of until Friday morning.

THIRD DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Grand Lodge resumed labor at 11.30 A. M.

CREDENTIALS.

The Report of the Committee on credentials was received and adopted.

The Grand Master was pleased to appoint the following brethren as scrutineers of the ballot for Grand Officers and for members of the Board of General Purposes, viz., W. Bros. Lash and Nevin and Bro. Levin.

The ballots having been distributed, the election of Grand Officers was proceeded with and the scrutineers reported the result as follows:

R. W. Bro. Jas. Seymour,	St. Catharines,	Grand Master.
" " " T. White, Jr.,	Montreal,	Deputy Grand Master.
V. " " Allan McLean,	Ingersoll,	Grand Senior Warden.
" " " R. P. Stephens,	Toronto,	Grand Junior Warden.
" " " Rev. Forest,	Merrickville,	Grand Chaplain.
R. " " Henry Groff,	Simeoe,	Grand Treasurer, re-elected.
" " " J. B. Bickell,	Brooklin,	Grand Registrar.
" " " T. B. Harris,	Hamilton,	Grand Secretary, re-elected.

By an open vote of Grand Lodge Bro. W. W. Summers, Grand Ty'.

D. D. G. M.'s.

Nominated by the representations of Lodges of the several masonic districts as District Deputy Grand Masters and approved by Grand Master,

R. W. Bro. J. Tracy,	Petrolia,	St. Clair	District.
" " " J. Billington,	Strathroy,	London	"
" " " P. J. Brown,	Ingersoll,	Wilson	"
" " " Isaac F. Toms,	Goderich,	Huron	"
" " " A. B. Petrie,	Guelph,	Wellington	"
" " " E. Mitchell,	Hamilton,	Hamilton	"
" " " Robt. M. Willson,	Niagara,	Niagara	"
" " " J. K. Kerr,	Toronto,	Toronto	"
" " " J. Wright,	Port Hope,	Ontario	"
" " " E. C. Flint,	Belleville,	Prince Edward	"
" " " John Kerr,	Kingston,	St. Lawrence	"
" " " E. C. Barber,	Ottawa,	Ottawa	"
" " " John Urquhart, Jr.	Montreal,	Montreal	"
" " " J. Erskine,	Waterloo,	Bedford	"

OBITUARY.

M. W. Bro. Simpson, in affecting language, informed Grand Lodge that he had just received the sad intelligence that R. W. Bro. S. D. Fowler, of Kingston, had departed this life.

It was then moved by R. W. Bro. Clementi, seconded by R. W. Bro. T. White, and unanimously

RESOLVED,—That this Grand Lodge has received with profound grief, the intelligence of the decease of our late R. W. Bro. S. D. Fowler. That it desires to place on record the high sense it entertains of the important services conferred upon the Craft by that distinguished Brother; and to give expression to its heartfelt sympathy with the bereaved family of the deceased. That to mark further the grief of this Grand Lodge at the great loss it has sustained, it be an instruction to the R. W. the Grand Secretary to prepare a memorial page in which to record the rank, name, age, &c., of the lamented deceased; and that the officers of the Grand Lodge wear mourning for the space of thirty days, during which time its jewels and furniture are also to be draped in mourning.

NIAGARA LODGE NO. 2.

The Grand Secretary read a communication from W. Bro. Clement, P. M., Niagara Lodge No. 2, praying that the members of that Lodge may have permission to wear Gold Jewels and Lace.

On motion of R. W. Bro. Seymour, seconded by R. W. Bro. I. P. Willson, the prayer was unanimously granted.

GRAND LODGE, 1872.

On motion it was resolved that the next Annual Communication of Grand Lodge be held at the City of Hamilton.

CREDENTIALS.

M. W. Bro. Harington, on behalf of M. W. Bro. Wilson, presented credentials as Representative of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky.

M. W. Bro. Harington stated that he had received his credentials as Representative of the Grand Lodge of Vermont, but he declined to present them until satisfied by further intelligence from that Grand Lodge.

GRAND LECTURER.

A motion introduced by V. W. Bro. Falkiner, for the appointment of a Grand Lecturer was negatived, as was also an amendment on the same subject moved by R. W. Bro. Chamberlain.

DUAL MEMBERSHIP.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. Otto Klotz, seconded by V. W. Bro. F. Mudge, and

RESOLVED,—That Grand Lodge declare that no Brother can be an ordinary member of more than one Lodge in the same city, town or village.

GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS.

R. W. Bro. Seymour submitted the following Report of the B. of G. P. upon the address of the Grand Master.

In reviewing the very able address of the M. W. the G. M., prepared notwithstanding the great demands of military and other duties upon his time, the Board would unite with him in the expression of the hope that the legislation of G. L. during its present session may be productive of the highest possible good to our ancient and honorable institution.

The Board rejoices to learn that G. L. continues to increase in numbers and usefulness as evidenced by the fact that eighteen new lodges have been formed during the past year under circumstances favorable to their success, and placed under the control of skilful craftsmen—that two old lodges have been resuscitated, and that one of the lodges in the Province of Quebec, which had for a time forgotten its allegiance, has returned to the fold.

The Board is gratified to learn that steps have been taken on the application of Brethren in Manitoba to extend the blessings of our order to that distant Province, and they feel assured that the Rev. and R. W. Bro. who has been selected by the G. M.

to exercise there the important functions of D. D. G. M., will discharge his duties with ability and zeal.

The fact that no less than four special communications of Grand Lodge for the purpose of laying the foundation stones of buildings quite unconnected with Masonry have been held during the year, is pleasing evidence of the growth of sentiments of respect for our institution among those who have not been admitted to a participation of its privileges.

In the opinion of the Board the thanks of Grand Lodge are due to the M. W. G. M., for the promptitude with which he carried out the resolution of G. L., at its last session by presenting M. W. Bro. Simpson with a testimonial which will be a lasting expression of the esteem and honor in which he is held by this G. L.

The Board notices with pleasure that the M. W. G. M., was pleased to extend to our distinguished and M. W. Bro. the Earl De Grey and Ripon, G. M., of England, an invitation to accept the hospitalities of this G. L., and regrets that the pressing nature of his duties prevented us from enjoying the pleasure of a visit from so eminent and distinguished a Brother.

The Board coincides with the M. W. G. M., in the opinion that much mischief may arise from the practice of permitting brethren to become *ordinary members*, of more than one Lodge, in the same city, or town, and they would recommend G. L., to adopt such a regulation as may put a stop to the practice in future.

The Board agrees with the M. W., the G. M., in regretting that so many subjects exclusively of Masonic interest should be discussed in the columns of the secular press, and earnestly hopes that the good sense of brethren will induce them to discontinue a practice which can accomplish no good, and may have the effect of degrading Masonry in the estimation of the outside world.

The Board while deploring the fact that so many lodges in the Province of Quebec still remain alienated from us and that so many G. Lodges in the United States, have thought it their duty to extend to them their countenance, and support, are, deeply impressed with the desirability of taking some steps in the direction indicated by the M. W. the G. M. for the purpose of solving the difficulty thus presented.

All which is respectfully submitted.

SPECIAL REPORT OF BOARD.

R. W. Bro. Seymour, submitted the following special report of the Board of General Purposes upon Bro. J. S. Smith, of Kingston.

The praiseworthy exertions of Bro. J. S. Smith, of Cataraqui Lodge No. 92 Kingston; in the cause of masonic benevolence, having been brought to the notice of your board, it desires to place on the records its warmest commendations of such disinterested and laudable services, which have proved peculiarly valuable in relieving want and distress in various parts of the country and more particularly in the vicinity of Kingston, as has been adduced by various resolutions passed by the Lodges of his own city, and that Grand Secretary be authorized to transmit to Bro. Smith, their expression of the sentiments of this Grand Lodge.

RE-PRINTING THE PROCEEDINGS.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. White, seconded by M. W. Bro. Simpson, and

RESOLVED,—That having reference to the resolution passed by Grand Lodge yesterday authorizing the printing of 1000 copies of the proceedings of Grand Lodge since its formation.

BE IT RESOLVED,—That the Grand Secretary be instructed to advertise for tenders for the printing and binding of the said proceedings.

That he also issue a circular to each subordinate Lodge in this jurisdiction, setting forth the resolution of Grand Lodge, and enquiring how many copies the Lodge or the members thereof are disposed to subscribe for, the price being based upon the tenders received.

That the tenders and the returns to the circulars to Lodges be referred to the Board of General Purposes at its next semi-annual meeting and that the question of proceeding at once or reserving the printing of such proceedings be left to their judgments with instructions to report at the next annual communication of this Grand Lodge.

VOTES OF THANKS.

Votes of thanks were unanimously passed to the Scrutineers, Brethren

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MISSING