

Silently, but with no little difficulty, around the Capitular world

"Again, we have been silently, but with no little difficulty, around the Capitular world. We have met many old friends among the Grand High Priests and Correspondents. We have found them debating many of the old questions ; but, little by little, unwise rules and regulations are being replaced by saner constitutions ; little by little, extreme and unreasonable interpretations of landmarks, or of customs which were never landmarks, are giving place to a more spiritual and enlightened interpretation. Railroading candidates is a custom that is very rapidly disappearing. The habit lingers in only three or four jurisdictions to any extent. Dependent membership has become almost a universal requirement. It is every day becoming easier for gentlemen of high intellectual attainments to enter the Order, notwithstanding physical imperfections that were once considered an inseparable obstacle to such advancement.

We find our Companions in many parts of the world clothed in the habiliments of mourning, in consequence of the havoc wrought by the terrible conflict now raging in Europe. We found altars draped in mourning. We found official stations filled with substitute officers, serving for those who had gone to the front and into the trenches.

It made us all the more profoundly grateful that we are at peace with all the world, although we are virtually threatened by a neighbouring nation, and relations are somewhat strained with others across the sea. God grant that we may be spared any serious encounter, and that some way out of this horror may soon be found which shall be honourable alike to all concerned.

Whenever such a peace is established, its basis will be upon those foundations which form the moral keystone of our beloved fraternity."

**Sources:**

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada at the annual convocation, 1917 report on Foreign Correspondence – NEW HAMPSHIRE