



Most Worshipful (2013) and Illustrious Louis Kerford Campbell, IGH, reflecting on the Newport News Scottish Rite Valley during their 100th Anniversary celebration.

Centennial Reflections

In 1913 the Romanovs celebrated the 300th anniversary of their succession to the Russian throne. Repressive, authoritarian government was firmly entrenched.

In that same year your predecessors entered into a venture that was as different from the Romanovs as anything could be. Scottish Rite Freemasonry 100 years ago taught and advocated freedom, social justice, toleration - especially religious toleration - and government for and by the people.

One degree even focused largely on the concepts of "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity!" Your ancestors were radical, social progressives, even employing the motto of the French Revolution!!

Today our political institutions often seem crippled by inflexibility; their leaders appear-

ing to lack statesmanship and basic civility. Public discourse seems infected by an unwillingness to compromise, an inability to see the other side and to respect differing opinions.

Even our religious institutions can be harshly intolerant, seeming to believe there is one and only one true way and that they are the God-given possessors of it. Persecutions and wars have their roots in religious intolerance.

The world needs more of what Scottish Rite Masonry teaches. It needs more Masons doing more Masonic work. The world needs justice, equality, toleration and civility. The Romanov dynasty was overthrown the next year. One hundred years later the work of Scottish Rite still continues here. For that I offer my congratulations and encouragement.

Sincerely and fraternally,



Louis K. Campbell, Grand Master