

He has always taken a leading part in the Church of England, to which he belongs; and from the first formation of its synod in Upper Canada, he has been a representative of that body, and has held and still holds high offices of trust therein.

On the 2nd of March, 1853, he embarked on his masonic career by being initiated into the mysteries of Free Masonry by Norman McDonald, Worshipful Master of Sussex Lodge, Brockville, then No. 479, on the Registry, of the Grand Lodge of England, and has ever since evinced an earnest desire to promote the interests of the Craft.

About this time a growing feeling of dissatisfaction at the course pursued by the Grand Lodge of England towards the fraternity in Canada having manifested itself, he naturally turned his attention to the subject and after careful investigation, made up his mind that the only course to be pursued, with advantage to the interests of Masonry, was to declare our independence, and establish a Grand Lodge for the whole of Canada; and at a special communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Upper Canada, called to meet at Niagara Falls, in July, 1855, for the purpose of taking into consideration a proposition made by W. Bro. W. M. Wilson, Norfolk Lodge, Simcoe, for the erection of two or more Provincial Grand Lodges for Upper Canada, he, in opposition to this course, presented a petition from Sussex Lodge, Brockville, praying that a Grand Lodge might be formed for the United Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, which proved so satisfactory to many of the Brethren present, that Brother Wilson at once adopted this view, and requested leave to withdraw his resolution. The Provincial Grand Lodge, however, having been called for a special purpose, could not, of course, take up the subject, neither was that a fit and proper place to discuss such a measure. A Convention of the Brethren in attendance was organized after the adjournment of the Provincial Grand Lodge, to co-operate with a deputation then in attendance from the Lodges, working under the Registry of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, at which, resolutions were adopted, calling a General Convention of the Representatives of Lodges in Upper and Lower Canada to meet at Hamilton, on the 10th of October, for the purpose of considering the expediency of forming a Grand Lodge. On that, the General Meeting of the Craft was held, and the Grand Lodge of Canada established. M. W. Bro. W. M. Wilson, of Simcoe, being elected Grand Master: R. W. Bros. A. Bernard, Deputy Grand Master; W. C. Stephens, of Hamilton, District Deputy Grand Master for the Western District; and W. B. Simpson,^o for the Central District.

In 1860, he was elected Deputy-Grand Master, and *ex officio* President of the Board of General Purposes, which offices he held until the 15th July, 1864, when he was elected Grand Master of the Order, and continued in office two years. Bro. Simpson deserves much credit for his zeal during the time he presided over the deliberations of the