

of its introduction into this region, in an organized form, and to show that its prosperity has kept pace with the increase of population and civilization in this great lone land.

Individual members of the fraternity have come and gone from the time of the earliest settlement, but it was not until the year 1864 that a sufficient number were domiciled in the neighborhood to permit of an effort to establish a Lodge at Winnipeg, which was at that time a mere hamlet about a mile from Fort Garry.

We cannot conveniently trace up the distinctive rank to which each member of the fraternity was from time to time entitled, and, therefore, free from any intention of slight in this respect, will deal to all alike, simply as Brother.

The officers stationed at the American Fort Pembina, about sixty miles distant southward, had formed a Lodge there, and some of them occasionally visited Winnipeg, and during such intercourse encouraged the Winnipeg Brethren in their design to form a Lodge, and recommended their petition to the M. W. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota; this Territory bordering on that of Minnesota, the then Grand Master, Bro. A. T. C. Pierson, considered the Red River settlement to be within his Masonic jurisdiction and granted the prayer of the petitioners by issuing a Dispensation authorizing Bro. John Schultz as W. M., Bro. A. G. B. Bannatyne, S. W., and Wm. Inkster, J. W., to institute a Lodge in the Red River settlement, Rupert's Land, and there to Initiate, Pass, and Raise Free Masons. according to ancient custom, the said Dispensation was dated St. Paul, Minnesota, the 20th May, 1864, and was signed by the Grand Master above named.

Some delay occurred in the transmission of the paper, and in fitting up and furnishing a Hall in which to meet. This Hall was in the second story of what is now a dry goods house, at the corner of Main and Post

Office streets, and the first meeting of the Lodge was held on the 8th of November, 1864, with the following named officers:—Bro. John Schultz, W. M.; Bro. A. G. B. Bannatyne, S. W.; Bro. Wm. Inkster, J. W.; Bro. J. E. Sheal, Treas.; Bro. Wm. Caldwell, Sec.; Bro. W. B. Hall, S. D.; Bro. Chas. Curtis, J. D.; Bro. R. Morgan, Tyler.

Several petitions for initiation were received at this and subsequent meetings; the Lodge flourished amazingly and made many good Masons. I may mention Hector McKenzie, John and Thomas Bunn, Dr. J. C. Bird, and Archdeacon Hunter, as a few of the worthy Masons made in the old Northern Light Lodge.

The Lodge was held by the same principal officers for three years. The Dispensation having been extended and election of officers permitted which took place on the 23rd of December, 1867, resulting as follows:—Bro. A. G. B. Bannatyne, W. M.; Bro. Thos. Bunn, S. W.; Bro. John Bunn, J. W.; Bro. E. L. Barber, Treas.; Bro. Hector McKenzie, Sec.; Bro. C. J. Bird, S. D.; Bro. Charles Curtis, J. D.; and Bro. E. H. C. G. Hay, Tyler.

During the year 1868 the Masonic horizon in the Red River settlement became somewhat cloudy; the prospective change in the proprietorship of the Territory, and other causes, had materially dispersed the members of the Lodge; the Grand Lodge of Minnesota also, seemed to doubt the propriety of maintaining the right of jurisdiction within this Territory, a sort of apathy for a time prevailed, and finally the Grand Lodge cancelled the Dispensation, and thus ended the course of the pioneer Lodge of Rupert's Land.

The few members of the old Lodge who remained in the Province have affiliated with the Lodges formed more recently.

After the transfer of the Territory to the Government of the Dominion of Canada, the troubles of 1869 and