

As a Mason, Bro. Senator J. R. Gowan also holds an enviable record. He was initiated into St. Andrew's Lodge, July 3rd, 1840, passed October 28th, 1840, and raised Nov. 24th, 1840. The Lodge at the time was working under the Mastership of W. Bro. Thomas Gibbs Ridout. For eight years previous to 1840 no active interest was taken in the welfare of the Lodge, owing no doubt to the appearance of cholera then in Canada, and also possibly to the rebellion of 1837, but through the zeal and energy of W. Bro. T. G. Ridout, a special meeting was held on Tuesday, 27th of January, 1840, when the following resolution was adopted:—"That the brethren present feel it their duty in order that the principles of our ancient and honorable institution may be more generally diffused to re-organize St. Andrew's Lodge No. 1, and that the present moment is extremely auspicious for that object." It was during this period, when Bro. J. R. Gowan was initiated into St. Andrew's Lodge, W. Bro. T. G. Ridout being the Master, that a great revival in Freemasonry took place in Upper Canada, and from that time onward St. Andrew's Lodge has continued to prosper under the able administration of good executive officers. Bro. Gowan has been a member of St. Andrew's Lodge for 56 years, thereby making him the oldest living member of the Lodge at the present time. In his younger days he took an active part in Blue Lodge Masonry and at one time was one of the Wardens of St. Andrew's Lodge.

In 1841 our distinguished brother became a Royal Arch Mason, he being exalted in St. John's Chapter, No. 4, P. R. which afterwards united with St. Andrew's Chapter, No. 487 E. R., on May 27th, 1870. In Royal Arch Masonry Companion J. R. Gowan has held the position of Principal Sojourner.

In the early days of Bro. Gowan's connection with Masonry he was installed in the Masonic Cross Degrees of Knights Templar of Jerusalem.

Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and of Malta.

Bro. Senator Gowan has also taken an interest during his Masonic career in the higher degrees of Masonry, he having received the degrees of the Lodge of Perfection in the A. & A. S. Rite, and also the degrees of the Rose Croix Chapter in the Toronto bodies, and in the McLeod consistory of Hamilton he has advanced to the rank and dignity of S.P.R.S. 32°.

THE OLD YORK RITE.

BY JOHN YARKER, 33° 90° 96° P.M., P. M., Mk., P.Z, P.E.C., ETC.

It is almost needless to say that York Masonry has always been regarded amongst the English speaking races, and even outside of these, with the greatest veneration, and our American brethren are enthusiastic on its behalf. All our MSS. Constitutions of the 16th century recognise York as the original centre from which the Society radiated, and that it was then so anciently established that its right of Assembly was attributed to King Athilstan about the year 926, though we usually concede that Edwin, King of Devia, about 626, may have a prior claim to the patronage of the Society in that city. Every one who knows the rudiments of Freemasonry is aware of these undoubted facts. When Freemasonry was more openly revived in 1717, York lost none of its ancient prestige, and though all its documents prior to 1705 are now lost, yet had they been in existence they would have afforded us no light upon esoteric ceremonial, because it was the universal custom of genuine and true Masons to write nothing, even in the minutes, that would give the slightest hint of the nature of their proceedings in receiving Masons. The minutes recently printed by the New-College of Rosicrucians of the Hen-