

### Presentation.

At a stated meeting of St. George's Lodge, No.—, Montreal, Canada, a Past Master's jewel was presented to R. W. Brother A. Bernard. The compliment is one well deserved, and the members of St. George's Lodge have evinced a proper regard for merit and worth in appreciating the service of a faithful member and officer. The jewel is of fine gold, and has engraved on it the following:

"Presented by the members of St. George's Lodge, late 643 E. R., now C. R., to R. W. Bro. A. Bernard, D. G. M. of the G. L. of Canada and Past Master of said Lodge, in testimony of their appreciation of his valuable services in promoting the best interests of this Lodge, and of Freemasonry in Canada.

"Montreal, April 15th, 5856."

The W. M. Bro. P. D. Brown in presenting the jewel, delivered the following address:

*R. W. Bro. Bernard*—The brethren of St. George's Lodge have requested me to present to you this Past Master's jewel. I feel gratified that so pleasing a duty has fallen to my lot, and yet I regret my inability to do justice to the occasion. It has ever been characteristic of Freemasonry to honour its deserving votaries, to confer its favors upon those who by merit and ability, rather than by rank and fortune, were justly entitled to them.

The services which you have rendered to the cause of Masonry in Canada have already placed your name upon the list of honorary members of this and of several other Lodges in this city, and the St. George's, your mother Lodge, has been proud to bestow upon you as a faithful and dutiful son, her highest offices and honors. By your exertions, as much, if not more than by any other means, Masonry in Canada has been emancipated from the condition in which it was enthralled, and now stands free and unfettered, a brilliant star whose lustre and beauty shall continue, and I trust increase, while Masonry exists. In your zeal and exertions for the interests of Masonry generally, the good of the St. George Lodge in particular has been your study. And when I speak my own, I know I speak the sentiments of every member of the Lodge in saying that to your talents and exertions are we greatly, if not mainly indebted for the present flourishing condition of this Lodge.

The brethren of St. George's Lodge feel that services, such as you have rendered to the Craft, call for something more than a mere verbal expression of gratitude. They desire to tender to you, as Past Master of this Lodge, this Past Master's jewel, as a token of their fraternal regard and esteem. Please accept it, R. W. Brother, with the best wishes of St. George's Lodge for your future happiness and prosperity. Long may you live to wear it, and when you cease to wear it in earthly Lodges, may you wear a brighter jewel in the

Grand Lodge above, where the world's Great Architect lives and reigns forever.

R. W. BRO. BERNARD'S REPLY.

*Worshipful Sir and Brethren*—I receive with emotions of gratitude and pleasure, which I am unable to express, this rich and beautiful jewel as a token of your approval of my Masonic conduct.

Placed by your fraternal kindness in the chair of this, my *alma mater* Lodge, I felt myself called upon, not only to see that the work of the Lodge should be correct and respectable, its rules and regulations observed and harmony and good fellowship preserved and promoted among its members, but also to exercise the influence my position afforded in assisting to relieve Canadian Masonry from its many disadvantages, and, if possible, render it more efficient in its beneficent purposes. A degree of success has been realized, which could not have been, so early, expected; and circumstances now promise us the peaceful enjoyment of all the blessings of Masonic privileges.

My personal efforts, it is true, have been attended with considerable care and anxiety, with sacrifice of time, and, perhaps, in a few instances of cherished friendship, and at every step I have found my responsibilities increasing. That my abilities and exertions have proved equal to the requirements of my position I have not the vanity to imagine; my services have been greatly over-estimated, and you have honored me more than I have deserved. But this has been and still is my consolation that, however deficient I may have been in the discharge of my duty, no one can boast a heart more sincerely devoted to the true interests of our time-honored Institution and to the prosperity of St. George's Lodge. I shall greatly cherish this memento of your fraternal regard until the latest period of my life, and I hope to have many opportunities of wearing it among you; and when we shall have ceased to meet in earthly Lodges, may we each receive a crown of rejoicing which shall not fade away.

### Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia.

At the semi-annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, held on the 6th inst., the Grand Lodge of Canada was acknowledged and "welcomed into the family of Grand Lodges" by that Grand body. We have been favoured by a kind friend and brother with a copy of the resolutions passed by the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, and also with a copy of the fraternal communication of the intelligent Grand Secretary R. W. Bro. George C. Whiting, addressed to the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, in making known to him the action of his Grand Lodge in acknowledging the Grand Lodge of Canada.

The resolution and letter we take great pleasure in laying before our readers.

Office of the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, F. & A. Masons of the District of Columbia WASHINGTON, May 8, A.L. 5856

To the Most Worshipful William Mercer Wilson, Grand Master of Masons in the Provinces of Canada.

*Worshipful Sir and Brother*:—I have the pleasure of informing you that the address of the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Canada, which accompanied the letter of R. W. Bro. Thos. B. Harris, its Grand Secretary, dated the 11th of March last, was duly received and laid before the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia at its semi-annual Grand Communication held in this city on the 6th inst., and that the Grand Lodge of Canada was welcomed into the family of Grand Lodges by the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia by the unanimous passage of the enclosed resolutions.

In extending, as the organ of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, the right hand of fellowship to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Canada by the transmission of these resolutions, permit me, Most Worshipful Sir, to congratulate you upon the unanimity with which the subordinate Lodges of Canada seem to have so justifiably and wisely adopted the principle of self-government, and to express the sincere and fervent hope that the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe may preside over the destinies of our youngest sister in the family of Grand Lodges—the Grand Lodge of Canada—and that it may be ever truly said, that "Peace is within her halls and Prosperity within her borders."

(Signed) Geo. C. Whiting,  
Grand Secretary.

*Resolved*, That this Grand Lodge do cordially extend to our brethren of the Provinces of Canada a welcome hand as a Grand Lodge; and that while this Grand Lodge holds in peculiar regard the rights and prerogatives of the Grand Lodge of England and the other Grand Lodges under which some of the Canadian Lodges are working, and from which they hold charters, and would not by implication, either directly or indirectly, do ought to impair their powers or functions; yet, that it is regarded as peculiarly appropriate that the Provinces of Canada should have accorded to them the independence they appear to have so properly assumed.

*Resolved*, That this Grand Lodge recognizes the Grand Lodge of Canada as an independent Masonic Grand Jurisdiction, and will hold correspondence and fraternity therewith as such.