

He purchased and brought into the county its first printing press, and for a year and a half edited the 'Norfolk Observer.' There are now five papers published in the county, four of which are printed in Simcoe.

He commanded a troop of cavalry during the rebellion which broke out in Canada in 1837, and was kept on active service for nearly three years. In acknowledgment of which he received from the Provincial Government the appointments of Clerk of the Peace and Clerk of the County Court, both of which offices he still holds; and has since been appointed Her Majesty's Crown Attorney for the county.

He is a member also of the Canadian Bar. In politics, moderate, conservative—rather popular, but has always declined being a candidate for parliamentary honors.

July 22nd, 1847, he laid the corner-stone of the county jail, assisted by the masons and authorities of the county.

After taking the preliminary degrees, he was exalted to the Sublime Degree of a R. A. M., in 'The Hiram' Chapter, in the City of Hamilton, Canada West.

At the revival of the Prov. Grand Lodge, on 15th of June, 1848, opened under patent issued by the G. L. of England to the R. W. Bro. Sir Allan Napier McNab, Col. Wilson was appointed G. Pursuivant; and at laying the foundation stone of the Town Hall at St. Catharines, on the 30th October, 1848, by special appointment, he officiated as Grand Orator—(This was one of the most magnificent and numerously attended Masonic displays that ever

took place in Canada.) The address was published, *in extenso*, by the papers of the day, and subsequently printed, by order of the P. G. Lodge, in pamphlet form, together with a dedication by the author to R. W. Bro. Thos. G. Ridout, Esq., D. P. G. M..

He visited England, in 1851, as a delegate from the Provincial Agricultural Society of Canada to the Great Exhibition. There he availed himself of the opportunity of searching in the archives of the Grand Lodge of England for information as to the antiquity, &c., of the Lodge of which he was then Master. The intelligence thus obtained was gladly received and gratefully acknowledged by the Brethren.

When in Europe, he visited many Lodges in England and France, and returned to Canada with, if possible, a deeper veneration and higher appreciation of the value of Masonry than ever before.

A series of letters, addressed to his friends in Canada, containing extracts from his notes of travel, his visits to the Crystal Palace, Paris, &c., was published, and attracted much attention. On his return, he was honored by a public reception, when his numerous friends, with music, &c., welcomed him home again.

At the formation of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, for the Province of Canada, on the 10th Oct., 1851, he was elected by the Representatives of forty-one Lodges to fill the distinguished position of Grand Master.

Since Col. Wilson's elevation to the highest position in the gift of the craft of Canada, he has been called upon to perform the following public masonic acts:

On the 19th September, 1859, he, assisted by the masonic fraternity, laid the corner stone of St. James' Presbyterian Church, at London, C. W.

On the 25th Oct., 1859, at the request of the Mayor and Corporation of the city of Toronto, he laid the corner-stone of the Reformatory Prison at that city, with masonic ceremonies.

On the 24th May, 1860, at the request of the Mayor and Corporation of the city of Hamilton, he laid the corner-stone of the Provincial Industrial Palace, with masonic ceremonies, on which occasion upwards of twenty thousand spectators were on the ground: he also laid the foundation stone of an Episcopal Church at Brantford. His last public masonic act was the laying of the foundation stone of the new Court House in the town of Simcoe in July last.

At the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, held at the city of Montreal in July last, the fraternity, over whose deliberations Col. Wilson had presided for five consecutive years, to mark their appreciation of his valued services, presented to him in Grand Lodge, as a small token of their regard, a very elegant and substantial testimonial, costing nearly \$1,000. It consists of complete Breakfast, Dinner, and Tea sets, all in silver, with an antique carved oak case, made to contain the whole. We give a cut illustrative of this on page 265. ✓



SERVICE OF SILVER PLATE, ETC., PRESENTED TO COL. WM. MERCER WILSON.

THE GRAND MILITARY REVIEW AT TORONTO.

(Condensed from the Globe.)

The Volunteer Military Review at Toronto on Thursday the 9th inst., was a splendid success. There were four thousand troops on the ground, and the spectators were estimated at fully thirty thousand. The ground was all that could be desired for field operations. The heavy rain of the previous day and night had made the turf soft and heavy; yet it was not so soaked as to induce fears of mud, and at the same time dust, that plague of very fine weather, was equally little to be apprehended.

During the forenoon the sky was overhung with dull slatey clouds, and a flying shower or two came sweeping past, but as the day wore on the prospect improved, and a red glowing sunset shone out from the west, giving at times a weird beauty to the scene. The general effect of the whole spectacle, to which the spectators themselves largely contributed, was of the most cheering and spirit stirring description. Ladies on horseback, admirably mounted, who dashed spiritedly from point to point of the field, contributed to enliven the scene with what we may call the 'poetry of (equestrian) motion.' The early hour at which the people pressed on to the ground, to secure seats or good places thereon, caused the crowd to have a good spell of waiting before the actual business of the day commenced. At length, as if to atone for the gloomy appearance of the early part of the day, and to make amends to the people for an hour or two of anxious expectation, the sun shone brightly out, and General Lindsay almost directly appeared

on the field, to the immense gratification of all beholders. The serious business of the review was now at hand, and the troops after some preliminary manœuvring commenced the march past at quick time and in open column, the bands of the 16th, of the Queen's Own, and of the Royals, playing as their corps appeared. Here we may appropriately give the designations of the various companies present, the names of their Captains, and the number of officers and men in each.

FIRST BRIGADE,

Lieut. Col. Peacock, of the 16th, in command.
Major Armstrong, in charge of the 16th Regiment.
Capt. Moorson, of the 30th Regiment, in charge of the 2nd Battalion.
Capt. Carter, of the 15th Regiment, in charge of the 3rd Battalion.
Lieut. Col. Cumberland, in charge of the 10th Battalion.

SECOND BRIGADE.

Col. Denison, commanding.
Col. Durie, in charge of Queen's Own.
Brigade Major Villiers, in charge of 2nd Battalion.
Brigade Major Denison, in charge of 3rd Battalion.
Major Patterson, in charge of 4th Battalion.
Major Vessy, in command of the Royal Artillery (Armstrong guns,) 6 guns, 6 officers, 90 men.
Lieut. Col. Boulton, in command of the Cavalry.
Major Denison, in command of the field Battery.
The General's staff consisted of the following officers:—
Lieut. Col. Connolly, Dep Adjutant General; Capt. Elliott, aide-de-camp; Brigade Major Hall, Col Mountain, Commissary General Brown.
Captain Morrison was in charge of the Military Train,

and Capt. Clark in charge of the R. C. Rifles who performed the by no means pleasant part of keeping back the anxious spectators.

CORPS ARRIVED.

From Ashburnham, one company of infantry, Captain Rogers, 3 officers and 28 men.
From Owen Sound, one company of infantry, Capt. Brodie, 3 officers and 38 men.
From King, one company of infantry, Capt. Garden, 1 officer and 40 men.
From Peterboro', one company of infantry, Capt. Kennedy, 3 officers and 46 men.
From Lindsay, one company of rifles, Leut. Hudspeth, 22 officers and 19 men.
From Peterboro', one company of rifles, Capt. Poole, 3 officers and 50 men.
From Albion, one company of infantry, Capt. Evans, 2 officers and 29 men.
From Campbellford, one company of infantry, Capt. Tice, 2 officers and 23 men.
From Aurora, one company of infantry, Capt. Peel, 3 officers and 30 men.
From Lloydstown, one company of infantry, Capt. Armstrong and 25 men.
From Markham, one company of cavalry, Major Button, 2 officers, 15 men, and 17 horses.
From York, (2nd troop), one company of cavalry, Col. McLeod, 3 officers, 14 men and 18 horses.
From Barrie, one company of infantry, Capt. Russell, 3 officers and 47 men.
From Cookstown, one company of rifles, Lieut. Cook, 2 officers and 46 men.