



CANADIAN MASONIC PIONEER.

“Memor et Fidelis.”

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[No. 3.

Grand Lodge of Canada.

At the first annual communication of the Grand Lodge of ancient free and accepted masons of Canada, held at the Masonic Hall, in the City of Hamilton on Wednesday the 9th day of July, A.D. 1856. A.L. 5856.

PRESENT:—

- The Most Worshipful Bro. W. Mercer Wilson, Grand Master.
- Right Worshipful Bro. A. Bernard, Deputy Grand Master.
- Do do W. C. Stephens, District Deputy Grand Master.
- Do do W. B. Simpson, District Deputy Grand Master.
- Very do Charles Magill, Grand Senior Warden, *pro. tem.*
- Right do James Daniels, Grand Junior Warden
- Do do Rev. Dr. Lundy, Grand Chaplain,
- Do do Wm. Bellhouse, Grand Treasurer.
- Do do T. B. Harris, Grand Secretary.
- Bro. Dr. Duggan, Grand Superintendent Works.
- Very Worshipful Bro. G. L. Allan, Grand Senior Deacon
- Do do Henry Crouse, Grand Junior Deacon
- Do do John Osborne, Grand Director of Ceremonies.
- Do do J. H. Isaacson, Assistant Grand Secretary.
- Do do W. J. Thomas, Grand Organist.
- Do do J. W. Powell, Grand Pursuivant.
- Bro. John Morrison, Grand Tyler.

Past Masters.

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| W. Br. Geo. Powell | W. Br. Jno B. Baine. |
| Hiram Fullord | C. Magill |
| W. B. Simpson | W. C. Stephens |
| James Daniel | Thos. B. Harris |
| A. S. Abbott | Elisha Gustin |
| Joseph F. Rolfe | David Brown |
| Geo. Duncan | Rev. F. J. Lundy |
| Joseph Cornick | Wm. Bellhouse |
| Thos. Fletcher | H. B. Butt |
| A. Bernard. | |

And representatives from the following Lodges, viz:—

- Norfolk Lodge,.....Simcoe.
- Sussex do,.....Brockville.
- Prince Edward do,.....Pictou.
- St. John's do,.....London.
- Great Western,.....Windsor.
- Thistle do,.....Amherstburg.
- Wellington do,.....Dunville.
- St. John's do,.....Cayuga.
- St. John's do,.....Hamilton.
- St. George do,.....St. Catherine.
- Harmony do,.....Binbrook.

- St. George do,.....Montreal.
- Social and Military Virtues...Montreal.
- Zetland do,.....Montreal.
- Strict Observance do,.....Hamilton.
- Barton do,.....Hamilton.
- Acacia do,.....Hamilton.
- Prevost do,.....Dunham.
- Union do,.....Grimsby.
- King Solomon's do,.....Toronto.
- Shefford do,.....Waterloo.
- Vaughan do,.....Maple
- Brant do,.....Brantford.
- St. Andrews.....Caledonia.
- Kilwinning.....London.
- Rehobam.....Toronto.
- Jacques Cartier.....Montreal.
- St. Francis.....Melbourne.
- St. Johns.....Ingersoll.
- King.....King.
- Victoria.....Sherbrooke.
- Alma.....Galt.

And a large number of visiting brethren.

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master appointed the following brethren a Committee on Credentials, R. W. Brothers Simpson, Daniels and Harris.

The Grand Lodge was then opened in ample form with solemn prayer.

Worshipful Brother David Brown was introduced and presented his credentials as representative of the most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of the State of Vermont, which the most Worshipful the Grand Master was pleased to receive and confirm.

The minutes of the Convention held on 10th October last, at which the Grand Lodge was established and on the 2nd November following, when the Grand Lodge was consecrated and the Grand Master and Grand Officers were installed and invested, were read and confirmed.

The Grand Master then read the following Address:—

Worshipful Brethren and Brethren,

Nine months have passed away since the brethren met in this city in solemn convocation, for the purpose of taking into their most serious consideration the state and requirements of masonry in this province; the result of their labors was the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Canada. It is unnecessary now to refer to the doubts which agitated the minds of the brethren as to the necessity and propriety of the step which was ultimately decided on, after a long and anxious discussion on the various important points the question involved, and when after a careful research into precedents, the light of truth directed us, without violating

any of our obligations, but acting in strict conformity with the true spirit of them all, to that great result which will be remembered with gratitude by all future generations of Canadian freemasons, and looked upon as the dawn of a new era of masonic prosperity in the Province.

Whilst we have much cause for deep gratitude to T.G.A.O.T.U., for the large measure of success that has already rewarded our zealous labors in the cause of masonry; our path has not been free from difficulties and obstacles. In both sections of the Province there are some brethren, who, regarding the claims of charity and brotherly love, have aspersed the integrity of our motives and sneered at our earnest efforts to advance the interests of our common cause, and unmindful alike of justice and of truth, have characterized us as traitors to the order. But actuated by the true spirit of masonry which has, and I trust ever will direct the actions of this Grand Lodge, your officers have steadily persevered in the conscientious discharge of the important duties intrusted to them, to remove the unfounded prejudices of the ignorant, and to correct or to defy the opposition of the violent. The arduous nature of these duties and the manner in which they have been performed, merits your warmest approval, and I trust that the Lodges will continue to afford them their united and earnest support, to ensure the permanent prosperity and dignified position of the Grand Lodge.

There are many matters of interest and importance to be brought before you at this communication, and your prudent action thereon will secure the future harmonious working of the Grand Lodge. You are fully alive to the necessity of approaching the discussion of those matters in a proper masonic spirit, keeping prominently in view that the good of the craft is the object to which our efforts are directed, and I feel assured that, however, we may individually differ in opinion, as to the best method to be adopted, in order to secure that great end, we shall never forget that as brethren it is our especial duty to work together in harmony, peace and unity.

The amended constitution comes before you as first in importance, and I am satisfied that the Grand Lodge will cordially join with me in saying, that we feel deeply indebted to those brethren who have devoted so much time, care, and ability to the compilation of that important work. I would here refer in an especial manner to the valuable services of R. W. Bro. Stephens, in that and other matters, his advice and co-operation have been of the greatest advantage to our cause, and I have ever found him ready and willing to afford both. At my suggestion printed copies were forwarded to every Lodge for careful consideration,