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The Deputy Grand Master then addresses the M. W. Grand Master as follows :

M. W. GRAND MASTER.—The School Commissioners of the City of Halifax having decided to erect on this site a Building for the promotion of education in the higher branches of knowledge ; and the Commissioners having requested you to lay the Corner Stone, it becomes my duty to inform you that the necessary arrangements are completed, and that the Brethren are now assembled for the purpose of witnessing the impressive ceremonies. I have much pleasure therefore in presenting to you the Contractor for the Work, under whose Superintendence the Stone has been prepared.

The Contractor then says :

MOST W. G. MASTER.—The Building Committee having awarded me the Contract for the erection of this new edifice, and having assigned to me the duty of preparing the Corner Stone, and making arrangements for its being laid, I have much pleasure in reporting that labor completed. It is now ready, M. W. Sir, to be made the foundation Stone of this New Building.

The Grand Master says :

Men and Brethren here assembled to behold this ceremony, be it known unto you, that we be lawful Masons, true and faithful to the laws of our country, and engaged by solemn obligations to erect substantial buildings, to be serviceable to the community, and to fear God, the Great Architect of the Universe.

We have among us, concealed from the eyes of all men, secrets which may not be revealed, and which no man has discovered ; but these secrets are lawful and honorable, and not repugnant to the laws of God or Man.

They were intrusted, in peace and honor, to the Masons of ancient times, and having been faithfully transmitted to us, it is our duty to convey them unimpaired to the latest posterity. Unless our craft were good and our calling honorable, we should not have lasted for so many centuries, nor should we have so many illustrious Brothers in our Order, ready to promote our laws and further our interests. We are here assembled to-day in the presence of you all, to build a house, which we pray God may prosper, if it seem good to Him, that it may become a building for good men and good deeds, and promote harmony and brotherly love throughout the world till time shall be no more. As the first duty of Masons in any undertaking is to invoke the blessing of the Great Architect upon their work, we will unite with our Grand Chaplain in an Address to the Throne of Grace, after he shall have read a lesson from the Holy Scriptures.

The R. W. Grand Chaplain reads the following :—

LESSON.

“ Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth ? Declare, if thou hast understanding.

“ Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest ? or who hath stretched the line upon it ?

“ Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened ? or who laid the Corner Stone thereof ?

“ When the morning stars sang together, and all the Sons of God shouted for joy. Job xxxviii. 4-7.”

“ That our daughters may be as Corner Stones, polished after the similitude of a palace.”—Ps. cxliv. 12.

“ Therefore, thus saith the Lord God—Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation Stone, a tried Stone, a precious Corner Stone, a sure foundation : he that believeth shall not make haste. Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet.”—Isa. xxviii. 16-17.

“ What is this, then, that is written, the Stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner.”—Luke xx. 17.