

THE CRAFTSMAN,

AND

CANADIAN MASONIC RECORD.

Bro. J. J. MASON, 18^o, } 'The Queen and the Craft.' } \$1.50 Per Annum,
Publisher } in advance.

VOL. V. HAMILTON, ONT., JANUARY, 1871. No. 4.

WILLIAM BENJAMIN SIMPSON, ESQUIRE.

PAST GRAND MASTER.

M. W. Bro. William Benjamin Simpson, whose portrait we present this month to our subscribers, was born on the 26th July, 1818, at Augusta, Upper Canada.

His parents were English, and came to this Country in 1814.

About a year after his birth, his father and mother moved to Quebec, where the former was appointed private Secretary to Lord Dalhousie, the Governor-General. Subsequently to this, his father was appointed Collector of Customs at Coteau-du-Lac, where the subject of this memoir resided until 1850. At the age of twelve, he was sent as a private boarder to the then well-known grammar school, under the Rev. Dr. Urquhart, at Cornwall.

After remaining there for several years he returned to his father's residence, and continued his education under a private tutor.

During the rebellion of 1837-8, he served as a volunteer, and was appointed aide-de-camp to Col. Carmichael, the officer in command of the Beauharnois expedition.

On his father's resignation of the appointment of Collector of Customs of Coteau-du-Lac, in order to enter the Parliament of the United Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, he (W. B. S.) was on the 5th of March, 1841, appointed to succeed him in that office. Subsequently, on the 15th of June, 1843, he received an Imperial Commission as Collector of the same Port.

In 1849, he married Miss Mary L. Wilson, daughter of John Wilson, Esq., a leading merchant in the city of New York.

In 1850, he was promoted to the Port of Brockville, and after residing there ten years, was further promoted to the Port of Kingston, where he still resides.