

that hard practicality which is the boast and pride of our Anglo-Saxon family. And to some of us, no doubt, the days of enthusiasm are over in most things, and even in Freemasonry time has destroyed our illusions and thinned our friends; age has made us old and wheezy, gouty and irritable.. No "couleur de rose" appears on the scene for us now; all is dry and dusty, and brown and withered. What charmed us once charms us no more. What once was the delight of our eyes has passed away in the finished record of our being. And so there has come upon us a numbing of interest and a quenching of enthusiasm. Anticipation and realization are two very different things. The promises of youth have faded before the stern advances of years. We shake our heads to-day at the eager impetuosity of youth; we are no longer enthusiasts, we deprecate enthusiasm, we condemn sentimentality, and we denounce unpracticality. Those of us who began our Masonic career some years back may remember early days of Masonic enthusiasm. And, to say the truth, the experience of onward "lustra" has not really diminished our love for the good old Craft. If we are a little more measured in our words, a little less high-flown in our theories; if we keep before us ever that Freemasons are but men, and that we cannot expect impossibilities, we still have lost nothing of that enthusiasm for our Order which led us to make many sacrifices for it, and to give much time, and care, and thought to it, a long, long time ago! It is still, despite some drawbacks, what it always professed to be. It is still, despite some weaknesses and defects, a great, a useful, a beneficent Order; and if, following the colder current of the great Gulf stream of the world and society, we are less enthusiastic in speech and estimate, we do not the less undervalue its claims, or deny its mission in the world. Never does a thought come over us of deserting its honored flag. To us that flag seems floating out high and full, and under it we are happy to march, and for it we are ready to fight. It will not be pulled down by us. Other hands may seek to do so, enemies and calumniators may arise, but we shall never let go our loyal adherence to that old brotherhood of whose great name we are proud, and for whose principles, let the world say what it will, we are still enthusiastic.—*London Freemason*.

MASONRY IN NOVA SCOTIA.

FROM the Halifax *Chronicle* of the 1st September, we take the following:

The corner-stone of the new Masonic Hall was laid yesterday afternoon with one of the most imposing displays ever made by the Craft in Halifax. The weather was perhaps a trifle too warm for comfort in the early afternoon, and the streets through which the procession had to pass were dustier than they should have been. Otherwise everything favored the ceremony.

At two o'clock the Grand Lodge met in the old Masonic Hall, Barrington Street, and the Subordinate Lodges met at the same hour in the Skating Rink, South Park Street. After the necessary preliminaries, each body marched to the appointed place of meeting, on Spring Garden Road.

The scene at the building, when the Masons had taken their positions, was a brilliant one. The whole area of the new building had been covered with substantial seats, rising tier above tier, which were now filled with the Masons' lady friends to the number of about six hundred—the youth, beauty and fashion of the city. In front were representatives of the Army and Navy, the Dominion and Local Governments, the City Corporation, the Clergy, &c., with their lady friends. Below them, and near the corner-stone, which hung suspended from a derrick, were the Grand Master and officers of the Grand Lodge wearing the brilliant regalia, rich jewels and other emblems of their rank. Around them, within and without the lines of enclosure, were the Masons generally, to the number of nine hundred, wearing black clothing, white ties and gloves, bouquets of flowers and varied regalia—some having only the simple white lambskin or leathern apron, "the emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason," and others having more showy ornamented aprons. Outside the Masons' circle was a great gathering of spectators, and many others filled the windows and covered the roofs of the neighboring houses. Such a scene must be memorable in the annals of Masonry in Halifax.

ADDRESS BY THE GRAND MASTER.

Grand Master Laurie said: Men and Brethren here assembled to behold the 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 handsome buildings to be serviceable to the brethren, 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 entrusted, in peace and honor, to the Masons of ancient times, and having been faithfully transmitted to us, it is our