

rail, and that, in the aggregate, nearly ten thousand brethren were present at these meetings, or nearly one-half of those on the register of Grand Lodge.

The present year promises to be one of prosperity for the Canadian Craft. The indications are that the Fraternity will have a much greater meed of success in the future than it has had in the palmiest days of the past. The merits of the Craft work are being appreciated by an ever-growing number of the best and most intelligent men in the country, and the lodges are gradually attracting a class of brethren that will reflect credit not only upon the Masons of this land but upon the Fraternity at large.

This history of the Craft has been inspired by a wish to describe the activities of Craft life in Upper Canada during the past century. He who reads will readily realize not only what Craft life was but what Craft life is. Our records, to which it would be impossible to give more than a passing notice, show that the Craftsmen of the olden time did a great deal of good work, and, though we may not trace our antiquity to as early a date as is possible in a few other jurisdictions, we, at least, have the satisfaction of knowing that our history has not been an inglorious one. Many may assert that our brethren of long ago heeded not the guide posts, which marked the pathway, and that the pioneers, who, in the early days, carried the Craft flag, made many mistakes. Yet all must admit — and especially we who have a direct knowledge of their work — that in their mission they were earnest and sincere and did the right as God gave them to see the right. Their successes and reverses, their triumphs and tribulations come to the Masons of Canada as a lesson eloquent of instruction. Profiting by their errors — whatever they may have been — should we not look with favor on the work of our forefathers and make the present an example for the rising generation of Masons, who, kneeling at our altars, and guided by the three Great Lights, shall have imprinted upon their hearts the truth of the story symbolized in the teachings of the Craft, — teachings which are founded upon the truths we find in the volume of Holy Writ, that lies unfolded upon the Craft altars of every jurisdiction within the bounds of an empire whose drum-beat encircles the world?

Yours fraternally

J. Ross Robertson