

## CHAPTER IX.

## Lodge 155 from 1784 to 1813.

The period from 1784 to 1813, in the history of Masonry in Halifax and Nova Scotia, begins with the organization of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and ends with the union of the rival Grand Lodges of England, the Ancients and Moderns, into the United Grand Lodge of England.

In world affairs this period includes the years following the American Revolutionary War, the French Revolution and the great Napoleonic wars, and the War of 1812-5. These military and political events, the coming of the Loyalists, the naval events which made Halifax a port of great and growing importance, and the development of the Province, politically, socially and commercially, are all reflected in the story of the Lodge.

Some of the more important events so far as they concern Halifax may be mentioned. In 1783 the penal statutes against Roman Catholics were repealed. Their emancipation was immediately reflected in the purchase of a piece of ground on Barrington St., and the erection in 1784 of St. Peter's Chapel. The House of Assembly was dissolved the same year after sitting for fourteen years. A general election followed in 1785, in which John George Pyke, S. S. Blowers, R. J. Uniacke and Michael Wallace were returned for the county, and John Fillis and Wm. Cochran for the town. In 1787 the Church of England in Nova Scotia was placed under a bishop, Charles Inglis, whose jurisdiction covered all the inhabited portions of Canada, and whose appointment was the first in what is now the Overseas Empire.

The whaling industry beginning about 1785, became of growing importance, the newspapers recording the arrival of numerous vessels with cargoes of oil and cut-bone.

In 1792, the Hon. John Wentworth, formerly Governor of New Hampshire, arrived in Halifax as Governor of this Province. In 1793, war broke out between Great Britain and France. A regiment known as the Nova Scotia Fencibles was raised for the defence of the town. The Halifax Militia Artillery (60 strong) under the command of Capt. J.