

Bro. N. I. Steiner, by presenting him with an address, commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the completion of his term as Worshipful Master of the Lodge. The presence of so many distinguished brethren of the Craft, as well, as so many old members of the Lodge, greatly enhanced the occasion, and one of the sublime tenets of the Institution, the universality of Freemasonry, was also fully exemplified by the bringing together of so many men of the different religions and political persuasions of the world.

Following is a brief sketch of the history of St John's Lodge. On the 8th November, 1856, a meeting was convened by Bro. George B. Wyllie, for the purpose of considering the propriety and expediency of establishing a Blue Lodge in connection with St. John's Chapter of Royal Arch Masonry. As a result of the meeting a petition, signed by the following brethren :—Bros. George Black Wyllie, William Hay and Joseph Jackes, of St. Andrew's Lodge, Toronto ; John Peter Dunn, George H. Halse and Alfio De Grassie, of King Solomon's Lodge, Toronto ; David Sterling, of Burns Lodge, Halifax, N.S. ; Robert Wishart, of St. John's Lodge, St. John's, Newfoundland ; and Philip St. Hill, of 1st Royals Reg't Lodge, No. 396, Montreal, to form a new Lodge to be named St. John's Lodge was forwarded to the M. W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England.

The petition being granted, on December 1st, 1856, a meeting was held, by laws were framed and other preliminary business was transacted : then on December 5th, 1856, the Lodge was consecrated as St. John's Lodge, No. 55, P.R., and the Provincial Grand Secretary, R. W. Bro. Francis Richardson, assisted by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Thos. G. Ridout, as P. M., and Bros. S. B. Harman and W. M. Jamieson, as S. W. and J. W., respectively installed

the following officers :—W. Bro. George B. Wyllie, W. M. ; Bro. William Hay, S.W. ; Bro. David Sterling, J.W. ; Bro. Geo. H. Halse, Treasurer ; Bro. Joseph Jackes, Secretary ; Bro. Alfio De Grassie, S.D. ; Bro. Robert Wishart, J.D. ; Bro. Philip St. Hill, I. G. ; and Bro. James Forman, Tyler.

Among the first initiates into the Lodge in 1856 were :—Bros. Hugh Smyllie, Thomas Grundy, William Simmonds Taylor, Rev. Robert J. MacGeorge, (a name eminent in literature) A. F. Scott, (who became Judge of the County Court of Peel) J. H. Woodman, and Henry Macpherson, (who also became Judge of the County Court of Gray, and 1st Grand Principal Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada.)

This Lodge on the 6th August, 1860, voted \$40 towards the construction of a Masonic Arch on King Street East, (foot of Toronto Street) to celebrate the visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales to Toronto.

On the 25th November, 1881, the brethren celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Lodge by a banquet at the Walker House, Toronto, W. Bro. William Simpson, the W. M. at that time, occupied the chair. Among some of the prominent Masons present upon that occasion were :—M.W. Bro. Lieut. Col. Moffatt, G.M. ; M. W. Bro. Seymour, P. G. M. ; M. W. Bro. Kerr, P. G.M. ; R. W. Bro. Spry, D.G.M. ; R. W. Bro. Mason, Grand Sec'y, and W. Bro. Joseph Jackes, the first Secretary of the Lodge, he being the only one of the original members in attendance.

Many prominent citizens of Toronto have been members of this Lodge, and it is no idle boast in saying that St. John's Lodge, in the past, has shown great vitality in disseminating pure Masonic principles, and its history although brief, is one that the present brethren of the Lodge have no cause to be ashamed of.

Among the many distinguished brethren present were :—M. W. Bro. William Gibson, M.P. ; R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, D.G.M. ; R. W. Bro. Aubrey White, D.D.G.M., of the 11th Masonic