

THOMAS BIRD HARRIS, Esq.

GRAND SECRETARY.

We this month present our subscribers with the portrait of a Brother whose name is "familiar as a household word" throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion. R. W. Bro. HARRIS took a prominent part in the organization of the Grand Lodge of Canada; and from then up to the present time, he has striven early and late to increase its usefulness, and has materially assisted in its reaching its present high position.

R. W. Brother Thomas Bird Harris was born at Bristol, England, on the 22nd July, 1819, and subsequently removed with his parents to the family estate at Viveham, near Barnstaple, Devonshire. At an early age he entered and commenced learning the General Grocery, Tea and Spirit and Wine business in the establishment of his uncle and father, remaining there five years, and then abandoned the business for the more attractive one of a Silk Mercer and Linen Draper. This he followed for a few years and then started for the city of London, the world's metropolis, and for nine years held several important positions of trust in one of the largest lace manufactory establishments. Not feeling contented with the prospect before him, he became possessed of a strong desire to see more of the world, and determined to pay a visit to the Western Hemisphere, sailing for New York in the spring of 1848, arriving at that city on the 30th April. He spent a few weeks with some friends, and then proceeded to Canada West, and found himself located at the city of Toronto.

After a temporary sojourn in that city, he removed to the city of Hamilton in the fall of 1849, and commenced business as a Dry Goods Merchant, and continued carrying on the same until the year 1856 when he retired in favor of his brother who was a partner.

He has since devoted the whole of his time to Masonry.

During the year 1852 Bro. Harris joined the "St. George's" Benevolent society and for many years continued an active Member, taking a prominent position and interest in the administration of its benevolent and philanthropic objects. After having filled the minor claims, he was unanimously elected President in 1855.

He was for two years a Director of the Hamilton and Gore Mechanics' Institute and during which time he materially aided in placing its affairs in a satisfactory condition, and to which may be attributed much of its present usefulness and prosperity.

Soon after the commencement, in 1860, of the disturbances between the Northern and Southern States of the American Republic which finally resulted in a great civil war, the organization of the Militia of Canada was made a necessity of the time for the defence and protection of its Frontier from invasion, and during these troublous times Bro. Harris was gazetted and received his Commission bearing date the 13th Nov. 1861, of Lieutenant in the 9th Battalion, Wentworth Militia and taking precedence from the 31st July 1861.

CRAFT MASONRY.

Bro. Harris was first brought to Masonic "Light" in "St. Andrew's" Lodge, No. 449, E. R., Toronto, on the 14th October, 1848, was passed to Fellow Craft degree on the 16th January, 1849, and raised to the