

cavity, after which Mr. J. A. Fraser presented the acting Grand Master, and the ceremony proceeded, the stone being duly laid according to the forms prescribed in the book of Constitution. The acting Grand Master, R. W. Bro. J. M. Gibson, then addressed those assembled :

REVEREND SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—“ There is no part of the Craft work more acceptable than that in which we are engaged to-day. It is the pride and pleasure of the fraternity to do what they can to co-operate with the people of the land in works which stimulate men, women and children to good works, and by influence and example soften the asperities of life, and as shareholders in public morality, encourage the reverence of the Deity, and enable us to restrain our passions, and do all that lies in our power to practise in every day life the teaching of our Order, so that we may be true men and loyal citizens. Masonry is an association for a common object, and whatever criticism its work may evoke in foreign lands, in Anglo-Saxon jurisdictions it has proved not only a powerful factor for good, but as a benefactor of humanity; one of the almoners of the Divine Architect, it has brought sunshine to many weary and heavy-hearted, and, in so doing, has been guided by the golden lesson : “ When thou doest thine alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth.” This is one of the fundamental principles which guide the Craft in its work. No man can be made a Mason unless he believes in God, that His will is revealed to man, and that He will reward virtue and punish vice. It is a belief in these principles which gives the fraternity its stability and permanence. All ceremonials of this kind I know awaken a certain amount of curiosity on the part, perhaps, of our fair friends, and although I should like to give you all the same insight as I have myself into the mysteries of the Order, while I know that the fair sex could shield the secrets, there are so many of the stronger portion of humanity present, that it might not be advisable, under the circumstances, to say any more on this particular feature of the subject. (Laughter.) The members of this congregation, and the adherents of this church, are to be congratulated on the outlook of prosperity stretching before them, and in this fine structure, the corner stone of which is to-day being laid, I can assure the people will be a building which, from an architectural standpoint, and as a commodious and well arranged edifice for worship, will not only be a credit to the town but to the Province at large. The advance in church architecture in this Province has, of late years, been phenomenal, and no branch of the Christian Church has founded more useful, commodious or beautiful places of worship than the descendants of those who, in the olden time, on the heathier-clad fields of old Scotland, notwithstanding persecution of the bitterest character, opened the Word of God, making the mountain ranges resound with the echo of prayers and songs in His praise. To you all, whom we, as Masons, are so pleased to have with us to-day, let me briefly state that the fraternity of Masons came originally from the Colleges of Roman Builders, that the laying of foundation stones was, in ancient times, attended with great pomp and ceremony, and that the Masons of the earlier ages were operative craftsmen in the strict sense of the term. In later days men of learning, seeing that there was in these operative lodges the essence of work which might be turned to good account, joined or affiliated, in other words, became members of these operative lodges. The bands of operative Masons soon spread over Europe, then into Britain, and the great churches, which stand to-day all over the Continent, and in many parts of England, owe their sublime fronts to the hands of the travelling bands of Freemasonry. The early English Guilds really were the out-