



MONTREAL, DEC., 1860.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

St. John's day is rapidly approaching, doubtless to most of us a day of festivity. Of course no brother will think of the Printer, of necessity he must dine too, so when with a liberal hand you are paying your subscriptions, do not forget to add a little more and pay the printer at the same time.

ROYALTY AND THE ROYAL ART.

(To the Editor of the Canadian Freemason.)

SIMCOE, 21st November, 1860.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—I have just finished reading an account of the sayings and doings of our fellow-subjects and brethren at the Cape of Good Hope, on the occasion of the visit of H. R. H. the Prince Alfred to that Colony, and as it may interest your readers to know how they managed matters in that distant portion of the empire, I propose occupying a portion of your columns with some brief extracts from the *Cape Argus*, and some few comments thereon.

In an eloquent and beautiful address made by the Hon. William Porter, the Attorney General, at the opening of the Museum and Library of the Cape of Good Hope, he remarked that the Prince Consort, in the course of an interesting speech delivered by him at Trinity House, referring to the vast and still growing greatness of the colonial empire of England, spoke of the remarkable coincidence, suggestive of many thoughts and characteristics of the present age, that whilst the Prince of Wales would be in Canada, opening the bridge over the St. Lawrence, Prince Alfred would be at the Cape, commencing the breakwater in Table Bay. In welcoming Prince Alfred in the Cape, continued the Attorney General, where we are still in many respects in the day of small things, we could not, of course, aspire to emulate the splendour of the reception, which the Prince of Wales will have received in the great colony of Canada, still less the yet greater reception, which was awaiting him in the country which adjoins Canada, where a kindred nation, sprung from English blood, do not, after all forget their origin. The events connected with the visit of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales to Canada, are now matters of history, and our fellow-subjects and brethren in Cape Colony, have ere this had an opportunity of reading a detailed account of them, and I doubt not that the members of our ancient fraternity there have both felt and expressed

some surprise that their brethren of the mystic tie here, took no part in the many ceremonies connected with the Prince's visit to Canada. I have read with much pleasure a full account of the ceremony of laying the corner stone of the "Sailor's Home," at Cape Town, which was performed by Prince Alfred, assisted by the masons; at the conclusion of the ceremony M. W. Bro. Brand, P.G.M. of the Netherland's, the highest masonic dignity at the Cape, advanced with the trowel, and addressing the Prince, said—"May it please your Royal Highness, I am charged with the performance of a most pleasing duty, that is to hand over to you the instrument with which you have laid the foundation of this building, which will serve as a lasting memento of your visit. On your arrival I had the pleasing duty, on the part of my brethren, of wishing you welcome. We now tender to your Royal Highness this assurance of our attachment to your beloved and august mother, and the kindly feelings which we have towards your Royal Highness personally, and we beg you to accept of this emblem of your labours today." The inscription deposited under the corner stone, (with a copy of which H. R. H. was presented) was as follows:—"By the favor of Almighty God, on the 18th day of September, A.D. 1860, of the era of masonry, 5860, in the 24th year of the reign of our beloved sovereign Queen Victoria. His Excellency Sir George Grey, K.C.B., being Governor of Good Hope, the foundation stone of this Sailor's Home, &c., &c., was laid by His Royal Highness, assisted by Bro. Sir C. J. Brand, Kt., D. G. W. M., bro. J. W. S. Herman, W. M. of the Goede Hope Lodge; bro. B. J. Van de Sandt de Villiers, W. M. of the Lodge Goede Trow; bro. J. S. Rowe, W. M. of the British Lodge, 419; bro. J. Saunders, W. M. of the Lodge Southern Cross, 398, and attended by all the masons Lodges in Cape Town, according to the ancient usages of masonry, &c., &c.

I will not venture to trespass too much on your columns, as even to attempt a reference to the many pleasing incidents connected with the visit of the Prince to Cape Colony, but will simply state that his reception was enthusiastic, and that all classes vied in displaying their loyalty and delight.

In this letter I have, in a special manner, called your attention to the masonic part of the public ceremonies at the Cape, and will leave your readers to compare the position accorded to the fraternity in that Colony with their treatment in Canada.

The ceremony at the opening of that great triumph of engineering skill, "the Bridge," over our beautiful St. Lawrence, was of the most meagre and uninteresting description; that it would have been made much more interesting and attractive by the assistance of the craft, it is surely unnecessary to add. Again, laying the corner stone of the new

Parliament Buildings at Ottawa, was surely an occasion on which our ancient and honorable order should have occupied a prominent position; but although the masons of Canada were on the spot, having been specially summoned, by order of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of Canada, to give their assistance, they were informed by the authorities that although they might be present as spectators at the ceremony, they would not be permitted to take any part in it, and this too, after our M. W. Grand Master had been informed, that H. R. H. the Prince of Wales had expressed an earnest desire for the presence and co-operation of the craft! I cannot venture to allow myself to comment upon this most contemptuous and unjustifiable treatment of a body who, whether as masons or as men, were entitled to more consideration and respect, but will rest satisfied in the belief that some reparation will yet be made for an insult so gross and unprovoked.

In connection with this most unpleasant subject, I cannot avoid referring to an editorial which appeared in a September number of the *London Freemasons Magazine*, founded upon an article which appeared in the *Toronto Globe*, with reference to the treatment of the masons at Ottawa. The writer of the article referred to, must not only have been entirely ignorant of the real facts of the case, but must have been actuated by feelings of personal animosity to our M. W. Grand Master, otherwise he would not have written in the unkind and unmasonic spirit in which that article is penned; the position assumed by the Grand Master, on the occasion referred to, was undoubtedly the correct one, and I am satisfied that he will be unanimously sustained and thanked by the craft at large. The Grand Lodge of Canada stands undeservedly high in the estimation of the masonic world, and is second to none, and the writer of the article in question betrayed gross ignorance, when he assumed that our distinguished Brother, the Duke of Newcastle, who ranks as a Past Provincial Grand Master, merely was entitled to take precedence of the actual Grand Master of our independent Grand Lodge. Our Grand Master, although neither Duke nor Lord, holds a position in the craft, which would add lustre to either crown or coronet, and any attack made, or insult offered to him, will be resented by every mason in Canada.

Yours fraternally,

P. G. M.

MASONIC NOTES.

(Original.)

BY V. W. BRO. C. P. L.

The relation as Masons, we hold to each other and to society, is a theme which has employed more able pens than I can wield; yet its exhaustless and instructive field is open to all, although my jottings may open nothing new to the readers of your very valuable publication.