

which 209 had yet occupied, albeit it was used as a dining-room on all other occasions but the night of meeting. One year later (1847) the upper portion of the new Robinson Hall was rented, and a part of it fitted up as a place of meeting. It wasn't an elegant place; it was simply an attic with a floor laid on the loose rafters of the lower rooms. This floor is remembered by every one who ever met in the old hall, as the most rickety, squeaky and uncertain of the day, and Mr. H. A. Baxter asserts that it would sometimes wave up and down like a sheet of water. "There were some interesting old raisings there," said Chamberlain Brown, reflectively; "Yes, and some hot ones too," chimed in Mr. Abbott. However inadequate the apartment may have been, it was retained until the erection of the Victoria Buildings in 1855, opposite the site of the new Temple, when the now growing body of Masons made another move. On the 15th of May, 1856, Kilwinning Lodge, No. 64, was instituted, with Bro. William Muir as the first Master. The new Lodge remained in the Victoria Buildings, but after two or three meetings 209 went over to the Albion Block. The number of Brethren increased rapidly, there was a boom in Masonry, and on Nov. 6, 1855, nearly a year before the advent of Kilwinning, St. John's, No. 20, was formed and took rooms next to 209 in Mr. Carling's new row of buildings on Richmond street. The luxury of carpets and other articles of furniture were now indulged in, and each Lodge was thought to be a perfect palace. On July the 14th, 1858, St. George's Lodge, No. 42, branched off from the other bodies, and held its first meeting in the Revere House block. In the course of time, however, it immigrated northward, and occupied the St. John's rooms in the Albion block. In this shape time whirled on, and ten years has passed without witnessing any noticeable event in Masonic circles, so far as Lodge rooms were concerned. Then Tuscan Lodge, No. 195, was instituted, and accepted the offer of the other Lodges to meet in their rooms. In 1870, 209 ceased to work under the Irish Constitution, and received a charter from the Grand Lodge of Canada, under its present appellation of "209(a)." In this united form, in 1872, all the Lodges moved to the apartment fitted up for them in the Huron & Erie Bank Building, on Richmond street. The total membership was now large and constantly increasing, and an agitation was set afoot several years later for the erection of a building similar to the Temple now in course of construction, the ceremony of laying the corner stone of which was celebrated on the 5th ult. The Brethren of the city entered heartily into the project, and subscribed very liberally at first to the enterprise. Then the "hard times" came,

lethargy took the place of energy, and for a time the movement was at a complete standstill. A few of the leading Brethren of London, desirous of seeing the building completed, entered boldly into the work, and secured an eligible site for the contemplated edifice. From this time forward greater activity was displayed in the matter of paying up stock, and, finally, at the earnest solicitation of the Brethren, instructions were given for the preparation of plans. Messrs. Tracy & Durand were entrusted with the work, and the junior member of that firm, in company with three of the Directors, visited New York, Boston, Philadelphia and other cities this spring with the view of acquiring information relative to the construction of halls used for similar purposes as the one projected here. The plans were approved by the Board of Directors, the stockholders authorized their representatives to negotiate for a loan sufficiently large to cover the entire expenses, tenders were called for, the contracts awarded, and a couple of weeks since work upon the foundation was commenced. The reader has been brought step by step to the interesting ceremony of laying the corner stone, which has just been completed."

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#### Eli Harrison, Esq., Grand Master of British Columbia.

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The following sketch of the Masonic career of M. W. Bro. Eli Harrison, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, is taken from the June number of the *Voice of Masonry*:

"Eli Harrison was admitted into the mysteries of Freemasonry, January 17th, 1861, as a member of Victoria Lodge No. 1085, on the English Register, afterwards called No. 783 on said Register, but now called Victoria Columbia Lodge No. 1, on the Register of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia.

"In 1867 he accepted the office of Senior Deacon, in a Lodge then being formed called British Columbia Lodge No. 1187, on the English Register, and faithfully discharged the duties of that office for eighteen months. He then was appointed Senior Warden, and in the following year (1869) was unanimously elected Worshipful Master of the Lodge. On retiring