

Charles Rann Wilkes, W. M.,  
David Curtis, P. M.,  
George William Malloch, S. W.,  
Matthew William Pinyan, J. W.,  
Thomas Chesman, Secretary.

Some gold and other coins were also deposited in the stone. A silver trowel having been presented to the M. W. G. M. he spread the cement, and the stone was then lowered and adjusted with all the ancient Masonic ceremonies.

The G. M. then delivered the following address:

Men, women and children, were assembled to-day to behold this ceremony, know all of you that we be lawful Masons, true to the laws of our country, and established of old with peace and honour, in most countries, to do good to our brethren, to build a great building, and to fear God, who is the Great Architect of all things. We have among us, concealed from the eye of all men, secrets which may not be revealed, and which no man has discovered; but these secrets are lawful and honourable, to know by Masons, who only have the keeping of them to the end of time. Unless our craft were good and our calling honourable, we should not have lasted so many centuries, nor should we have had so many illustrious brethren in our Order ready to promote our laws and further our interests. To-day we are here assembled, in the presence of you all to build a church for the public use of this Town, when we pray God may prosper, if it seem good to Him, that it may become a building for good men and good deeds, and promote harmony and brotherly love till the world itself shall end.

The Grand Chaplain and the Clergy then repeated some prayers, after which the G.M. poured corn, wine and oil, upon the stone, saying at the same time "May corn, wine and oil, and all the necessities of life abound among men throughout the world, and may the blessing of the Supreme Grand Architect of the universe be upon this undertaking and all connected with it; and may the same Providence preside over and preserve it from ruin and decay to the latest posterity."

After a Psalm and benediction, the Procession re-formed, and proceeded to the Kerby House.

This terminated the ceremony of the laying of the corner stone of Grace Church, being the first ever laid in Canada by a Grand Master of the Ancient Craft of Free Masons.

The proceedings terminated by a Grand Banquet at the Kerby House, at which Geo. S. Wilkes, Esq., presided. After the usual loyal toasts had been given, the chairman proposed,

"The Lord Bishop of Toronto.

The Rev. Dr. Crown responded, and bore testimony to the care with which His Lordship had superintended the affairs of the church in this province, and also complimented the people of Brantford on the improvement their town had made since he first visited it, twenty years ago. He then suggested that since the accident in church had prevented a collection from being made, the omission should now be remedied and a collection taken up. The suggestion being acted upon upwards of \$150 were collected.

The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge was next toasted. Col. Wilson, in answer, alluded to the fact that masonry is the only universal language, everywhere understood. He had recently visited the brethren in the Lower Province, and he found that in almost every lodge there, the clergyman of the parish was a member, and no more efficient aid than that of the clergy, could masons receive in their work of spreading the cement of brotherly love, relief, and truth. He then proposed a

gentleman's health whom to know was to esteem:—The Rev. M. Usher, the rector of Brantford, and a member of the Building Committee. Mr. Usher responded, reviewing his career and that of the church of Brantford.

Several other toasts were given and heartily responded to, and the company broke up at about nine o'clock.

The Visiting Brethren have all expressed themselves delighted with the kind and fraternal reception given them by the craft and residents of Brantford. In short everything went off well, save the trifling giving way of the church beam, and surpassed the expectations of the most sanguine.

We cannot conclude this short sketch without recording the praiseworthy conduct of R. H. Barlow, Esq., in putting a special train at the disposal of the visiting brethren, both in coming to, and departing from Brantford.

The Philharmonic Band also gave their services gratuitously, for which they deserve the thanks of the public.—*Expositor.*

### MASONIC REFORM.

Probably the title of this article may awaken the susceptibilities or shock the prejudice of many, but we are not without hope that a calm and dispassionate consideration of the arguments shadowed forth in these prefatory remarks will remove any false impressions from those who consider the word "reform" as meaning violent or radical change, to which we are most strongly opposed. Our views, so far from being fraught with danger to Masonry, are directed solely by an earnest wish to achieve such improvements in its administration, and in the routine of its general management, as may tend to increase its efficiency in carrying out the great objects which lie within the compass of its purpose.

Freemasonry is not a thing of mushroom growth, which need fear scrutiny, or shrink from examination. It boasts a foundation in far-off years of the illimitable past; it has endured ceaseless the fires of persecution; triumphed over obstacles and trials; withstood the shafts of ridicule; and now stands confessedly one of the noblest institutions in the world. With the views of those who hold that any discussion of its principles is to be deprecated, we have no sympathy; neither can we agree in the opinion that in its nature it is so widely different from every other institution that the general maxims of polity which apply to others, and to some extent kindred bodies, are inapplicable to this. Those secrets and mysteries which are peculiarly its own cannot, of course, be too securely guarded from the inquisitive; they naturally belong to and can be known only by the initiated; but the grand principles on which the Order is founded are cosmopolitan in their effect and tendency, and the more wide-spread is the knowledge of them the better for the interests of the craft and most unquestionably for those of humanity in general. Look for a moment at the persecutions which Brethren in various quarters of the Globe have recently encountered—is it to be believed that they originate in any other source than entire ignorance of our tenets and professions? Could they have arisen had these been understood and appreciated? Moreover, as to details of management, if the interests of the body are universal, the greater is the necessity that the executive should be maintained in a condition of the most perfect efficiency and hence most is the justification of Masons who take upon themselves to discuss whether the ruling powers properly fulfil the conditions required of them.

We do not shut our eyes to the ungraciousness of the task of finding fault, especially when those against whom censure is to be directed are, by either their personal character or by the services they have rendered, objects of regard and esteem. But past efficiency cannot be accepted in excuse for present incompetency, any more than the existence of abuses can be held as a valid plea for

their continuance. We are quite willing—nay, happy—to admit the value of services rendered in times past by some most distinguished officials, and to attest the advantages resulting from their exertions; but, on the other hand, we are bound to maintain that the treatment of our Canadian Brethren, as proved by their petition and memorial, and the complaints we constantly receive from Masons at home and in the colonies, prove the existence of gross and unpardonable neglect, and of a state of things that imperatively requires amendment.

We had hoped, indeed, that the sullen endurance which ill concealed the ever and anon outspoken dissatisfaction at his tenacity of office, would have induced Lord Zetland to have relinquished a charge which he is evidently incompetent to fill, or that some lingering spirit of independent pride, or conscientious recollection of his duty, would have won a few hours towards the maintenance of Masonic honour; but sarcasm, ridicule, sneer, or invective, fall powerless before the love of patronage, and we therefore find the announcement of an organization that will assuredly correct neglect, if it does not coerce efficiency, by shaming indifference into action.

The remarks of the G.M. at his installation, 31st March last, prove incontestably that there is no hope of redress from that quarter; while the appointments of the Grand Officers on that occasion would seem to have been purposely made to exasperate the notoriously increasing spirit of discontent.

In alluding to this latter subject we may be blamed for interfering with the prerogative of the G.M., still we disclaim any such motif, only advancing the fact as a proof of the evil; but while we thus disclaim all idea of touching upon prerogative, we reserve to ourselves the right of criticizing its exercise, and in the selection of some of the officers we fearlessly assert that the bestowal of honours has afforded satisfaction to none in the Craft save the recipients. Brethren who have labored for years without fee or reward, who have given their time and expended their money to support our charities, and in endeavouring to extend their usefulness and efficiency, have been passed over in silence and their claims neglected; whilst others have been honoured who have contributed little or nothing, whose very names are almost unknown out of the select Lodge of which they are members, or recognized only by the small coterie who manage the patronage department. As to Lord Goderich's nomination, he is so well renowned as an administrative reformer elsewhere, that though Masonry has had but little of his acquaintance, we augur much from his activity, and can only promise him ample occupation for his favorite vocation, in cleansing the Augean stables of Grand Lodge.

A speaker on a recent occasion, alluding to Masonic allegiance, expressed himself to the following effect:—Fatal would it be to the happiness, interests, and prosperity of the order should the clouds of disaffection arise—such may one day be the case—but he trusted he should not live to see that day. We tell him and others whom it may concern, that the Mason is already dark with clouds, the effect of which is to induce earnest Brethren who have the good of our noble institution as sincerely at heart as any of those who join in condemning their motives, to unite in order to avert the impending storm, and to concert measures for placing the government of the Order on an efficient basis. We are happy to say that an organized body of Masonic Reformers has already received the adherence of many well-known Brethren of the Order, and that their numbers are rapidly increasing. Certain plans have been propounded and measures discussed, which hereafter carried out and elaborated, must revive the bright days of Masonic glory.

In a future number we hope to be able to place before our readers further details of the progress of this noble movement. Meanwhile we invite the co-operation of our friends, and shall be happy to receive any suggestions or communications bearing on the subjects alluded to. In conclusion we would assure all, that the Masonic Reformers desire to rivet, not to sever, fraternal unity; that