

it into the wall with the inscription exposed; but, very stupidly, it is said the plasterer covered it over with plaster, and even the spot cannot now be traced, although the plaster has been removed at several places to look for it. Before these facts were made known to me, or any trace could be had of the stone, I had a long correspondence with the Institute authorities, and I further offered a reward of \$1,000 for the stone if it could be found, but it was all to no purpose. I regret extremely that I can throw so little light on it at this day. If ever the present building be taken down diligent search should be made for the historic stone, perhaps, the oldest inscription stone in America."

I have now been favored by the secretary of the Canadian Institute with a sketch of the inscription on said stone, and to all Freemasons it is deeply interesting; proving beyond doubt that it was made not by a common stone mason, but by one who was then a fellow-craft, which was the highest degree then given. To the ordinary observer it has no meaning more than its historical discovery, but to us, who more thoroughly understand its position, it is full of meaning, satisfying us, one and all, that it was the work of one who was actually a Freemason.

The first warrant for North America granted under the authority of the Grand Lodge of England, as reorganized in 1717, so far as any reliable evidence is known to exist, was the dispensation or commission, granted to Daniel Coxe, Esq., of New Jersey, by the Duke of Norfolk, Grand Master, bearing date at London, the 5th. day of June, 1730, appointing said Brother Coxe Provincial Grand Master of the Provinces of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, for the term of two years from the Feast of St. John the Baptist next ensuing the date of the commission. It is believed, however, by Masonic students generally that the authority granted by this deputation was never exercised by Brother Coxe.

On the 30th. of April, 1733, Anthony Browne, Lord Viscount Montague, Grand Master of the Free and Accepted Masons of England, granted to "our Right Worshipful and well beloved Brother, Henry Price," a deputation, or commission, constituting him "Provincial Grand Master of New England, and Dominions and Territories thereunto belonging."

By virtue of this Commission ten brethren, resident in Boston, were convened on Monday, July 30th, 1733, at the Bunch of Grapes Tavern, in King Street, Boston; on the spot where the New England Bank now stands, on the westerly corner of Kilby and State streets. The names of this immortal band of Brothers, all of whom had been Masons in England, were as follows: Andrew Belcher, Thomas Kennelly, John Quann, Henry Hope, Frederick Hamilton, John MacNeal, Peter Hall, Matthew Young, John Waddell and Edmund Ellis.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was duly organized by the