

MASONIC EXCURSION AND PIC-NIC.

On Thursday, the 27th ult., the members of the Masonic Fraternity of Toronto visited Hamilton, and held a pic-nic at the grounds of Dundurn Castle, in that city. The party, including ladies and children, numbering between 300 and 400, left Toronto at 8 o'clock, per steamer *Rothsary Castle*. At 10 o'clock, the members of the various Hamilton Lodges met at the Drill Shed, and proceeded to Mackay's wharf, where, at 11, they met their Brethren and friends from Toronto. Cabs and carriages had been secured by the Brethren of Hamilton, in which the ladies of Toronto were conveyed to the Drill Shed. The Masons then formed in procession, the Hamiltonians headed by the City Band. The band of the 10th Royals came next, the Toronto Brethren bringing up the rear. Arrived at the Drill Shed, the procession formed open column, facing inwards, and countermarched into the Drill Shed. Here a very capital lunch had been prepared by Brother George Lee. The head of the table was taken by R. W. Bro. Harris. V. W. Bro. Thos. White, jr., then, on behalf of the Hamilton fraternity, welcomed their Toronto friends, and requested R. W. Bro. T. B. Harris to read an address, which was done:—

TO THE WORSHIPFUL MASTERS AND BRETHREN

Of the Toronto Lodges, A. F. and A. M.

WORSHIPFUL BRETHREN AND BRETHREN,—The Brethren of the Hamilton Lodges of Freemasons bid you a hearty and fraternal welcome to this city.

They rejoice in the interchange of brotherly greetings, for which your presence here affords the opportunity.

The universality of our Order, the remembrance which we are bound to cherish of Brethren whosoever dispersed o'er land or sea, are matters which we all recognize. But there is in the actual grip, and the personal interchange of brotherly sentiments, something which brings us nearer and reminds us more forcibly of our common brotherhood.

May your moments in Hamilton be moments of real enjoyment; and may you, as you return to your homes, do so with a still higher appreciation of the oneness of Masonic sentiment among Freemasons everywhere.

On behalf of the Fraternity of Hamilton,

(Signed,) WILLIAM EDGAR,
W. M. Barton Lodge, No. 6.
F. C. BRUCE,
W. M. Strict Observance Lodge, No. 27.
GEORGE WALKER,
W. M. St. John's Lodge, No. 40.
EDWARD MITCHELL,
W. M. Acacia Lodge, No. 61.

The address was responded to on behalf of the Toronto brethren by Right Worshipful Brother M. H. Spencer, D. G. M. Toronto District, who, in a brief and happy manner returned thanks to the Hamilton brethren for the cordial reception they had received from the Hamilton fraternity. He felt assured that he was expressing the sentiments of all the guests when he informed them that he was taken by complete surprise with the efforts their Hamilton friends had made to give them a brotherly welcome—such a welcome only as Masons could give, wherever they were to be found.

After lunch had been partaken of, speeches were made and patriotic toasts and reciprocal cheers given by brethren of both cities, and at half-past twelve the guests, with their ladies, were conveyed to the beautiful grounds of Dundurn Castle.

There is not, we believe, a more delightful spot

for such a purpose in this broad Dominion, and the afternoon was most pleasantly spent in games, sports, dancing, &c. Mr. D. Black had his large tent on the grounds and supplied refreshments. About five o'clock the party were got together, and a stand for the speakers having been provided, speeches were made by Bros. Spencer, De Grassi, Stevens, Bain, Spry, Kerr, and Kingsmill, of Toronto, and Bros. Harris, Magill, White, and Mitchell, of Hamilton. At six o'clock the party with three hearty cheers for the Queen, prepared for home, and proceeded to the Railway Wharf, where the steamer had, by the kind courtesy of the officers of the G. W. R. been permitted to land for the greater convenience of the excursionists. All were got safely on board about seven o'clock, and with hearty cheers from the wharf which were as heartily responded to from the boat, the party got under way. Thus closed one of the pleasantest excursion pic-nics ever held in Hamilton. No accident occurred during the day to mar the harmony of the occasion, which cannot fail to be remembered with pleasurable feelings by the Freemasons of both cities.

After the return of the Toronto brethren they met and prepared the following address which was transmitted to the brethren in Hamilton:—

TO THE WORSHIPFUL MASTERS AND BRETHREN

Of the Hamilton Lodges, A. F. and A. M.

WORSHIPFUL BRETHREN AND BRETHREN,—Having returned to their homes, the Brethren of Toronto feel that they ought not to separate without putting on record their deep sense of the pleasure and gratification experienced by them on their visit to Hamilton, and especially of the unparalleled kindness and attention displayed by the Hamilton Brethren. "Behold how good a thing it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity,"—a truth fully manifested at the recent meeting of the Toronto and Hamilton Brethren in Hamilton, and well calculated to promote the unity and harmony of our noble and ancient Fraternity over the face of the globe. Diverse as may be our theological, political, and municipal opinions, varied our positions in life, our employments, and our abilities, if, when introduced into the fabric of our noble Edifice, we are found capable of becoming perfect ashlar, we cannot fail to be firmly united in the strongest and most enduring bonds of friendship and fraternal feeling.

The visit of the Toronto Brethren to Hamilton will henceforth be an era in the history of Freemasonry in those cities, promoting, we trust, the best interests of the Craft.

In conclusion, the Brethren of Toronto express their hope that the Brethren of Hamilton may find an opportunity of soon visiting Toronto, and thus afford them the gratification of still further cementing the tie which now binds the Brethren of the two cities together.

JOSEPH ADAMS,
W. M. St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 16.
DANIEL SPRY,
W. M. King Solomon's Lodge, No. 22.
R. P. STEPHENS,
W. M. Ionic Lodge, No. 25.
JOHN SEGSWORTH,
W. M. Wilson Lodge, No. 36.
JAMES BAIN,
Chairman of General Com.

Toronto, August 29th, 1868.

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REFERENCES.—Dr. Thorburn; Dr. Richardson; Dr. Uzzel Ogen; Dr. Newcombe; and F. Cartyle, Head Master Model School.

"THE CRAFTSMAN,"
And British American Masonic Record,
Issued on the 15th of each month, at \$1.50 a year, by
Bros. T. & R. WHITE, HAMILTON, ONTARIO.