

Among these latter we instance the following, as an acknowledgment of peculiar pride:—

Presented by the Grand Lodge of Canada, in virtue of a resolution passed at its eighth Annual Communication, held at the city of Montreal, July 8th, A. L. 5863, "an elegant, carved oak case, containing complete silver sets for breakfast, dinner, and tea, valued with the engraving, &c., at about \$1,000, and bearing the following inscription: 'Presented to the Most Worshipful Brother William Mercer Wilson, Esq., LL.D., by the Grand Lodge, subordinate Lodges, and his brethren of Canada, as a testimonial of their sincere regard and respect, their appreciation of his high qualities as a man and a Freemason, and an acknowledgment of his valuable services at the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and as its first Grand Master, which high office he held for five consecutive years, viz., from 1855 to 1859 inclusive.'"

Referring to his earlier masonic progress, we find that he was initiated at Simcoe, in St. John's Lodge (now called Norfolk Lodge), on the 11th June, 1840. Was passed and raised 9th July of same year; elected Junior Warden in December following, and called to the chair in December, 1842, filling the office worshipful for ten years with brief intermissions. He had been exalted to the sublime degree of a R. A. M. in The Hiram Chapter, Hamilton, and, at the revival of the Prov. Grand Lodge on the 15th June, 1848, under patent issued by the G. L. of England to R. W. Bro. Sir Allan Napier Macnabb, was appointed G. Pursuivant, officiating as Grand Orator at the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Town Hall at St. Catharines, on the 30th October of same year, one of the most splendid and numerous-attended masonic displays which had ever taken place in Canada.

During a visit to Europe in 1851 (as delegate from the Provincial Agricultural Society to the Great Exhibition) he availed himself of the opportunity of searching the archives of the G. L. of England, for information as to the early history of St. John's Lodge, of which he was then master. He also visited many Lodges in France, and there acquired that intimate acquaintance with home and foreign masonry which, in a higher station, he turned subsequently to such useful purpose.

The wide-spread reputation throughout the continent deservedly enjoyed by the subject of our memoir, is evidenced in the fact that a masonic district and several lodges of Canada bear his name, and that his addresses have been extensively quoted throughout the United States, of many of which lodges he is honorary member; while the subjoined enumeration of some of his masonic dignities will show that his estimation has not been confined altogether even to our own and the neighboring commonwealth:—

On organization of the Grand Chapter of Canada, in 1857, elected First Grand Principal.