

WILLIAM MERCER WILSON, L.L.D.

Judge William Mercer Wilson, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, died at his residence, in Simcoe, on Saturday, the 16th inst.

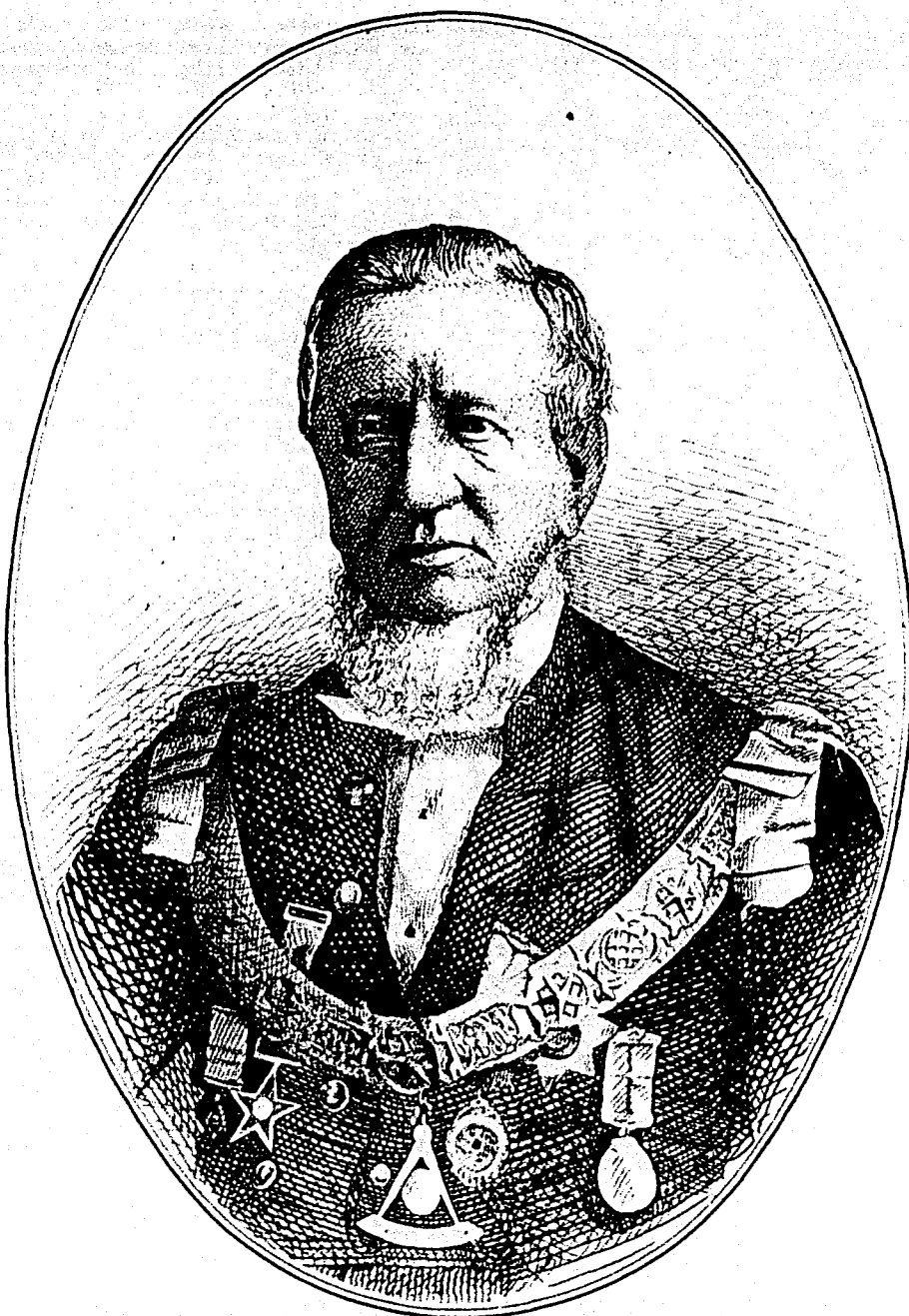
He was born in Scotland on the 24th of August, 1813, and emigrated in this country in April 1832, receiving, next year, the appointment of Commissioner of the Court of Bequests. For three years, during the rebellion, he actively commanded a troop of Cavalry and did service on more than one occasion. In 1839, he was appointed Clerk of the Peace and of the County Court of Norfolk; in 1842, Registrar of the Surrogate Court; in 1848, gazetted as Lieut.-Colonel of Militia; in 1853, called to the Bar of Upper Canada; in 1858, appointed County Crown Attorney; from 1862 to 1865, he served as Warden of the County; in 1868, tendered his resignation as Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion, Norfolk Militia, and was allowed to retain his rank—a special *Gazette*, in which his past services were noticed in most complimentary terms, being issued and an engrossed copy forwarded to himself, by order of His Excellency the Governor-General. On this occasion he was appointed County Judge of Norfolk.

In regard to his Masonic career, 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, 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, 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 Macnab, was appointed G. Pursuivant, officiating as Grand Orator at the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Town Hall at St. Catherine, 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, 1851, (as delegate from the Provincial Agricultural Society to the Great Exhibition) he availed himself of the opportunity of searching the archives of the Grand Lodge 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 this 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,

OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY. No. 214.



THE LATE JUDGE WILSON.

LATE M. W. G. M. GRAND LODGE OF CANADA. A. F. & A. M.

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:

He had been exalted to the sublime degree of a Royal Arch Mason in the Hiram Chapter of Hamilton, and on the organization of the Grand Chapter of Canada, in 1857, was elected Grand First Principal.

On the 18th February, 1862, installed as Knight Companion of the Order of Masonic Knights Templar, in the *Richard Cœur de Lion* Encampment, at London, Ont., and presented on same occasion with a full suit of the clothing of that degree.

On 21st Oct., 1864, enregistered as a Knight of Malta, and subsequently installed as Eminent Commander of the *Godfrey de Bouillon* Encampment of Hamilton.

On the 9th May, 1866, appointed Grand Constable or Mareschal of Grand Conclave of England and Wales.

On the 28th August, 1866, appointed to the honorary rank of a Past Deputy Provincial Grand Commander of Knights Templar, in Canada, and at the date of his death was Provincial Prior for Western Ontario.

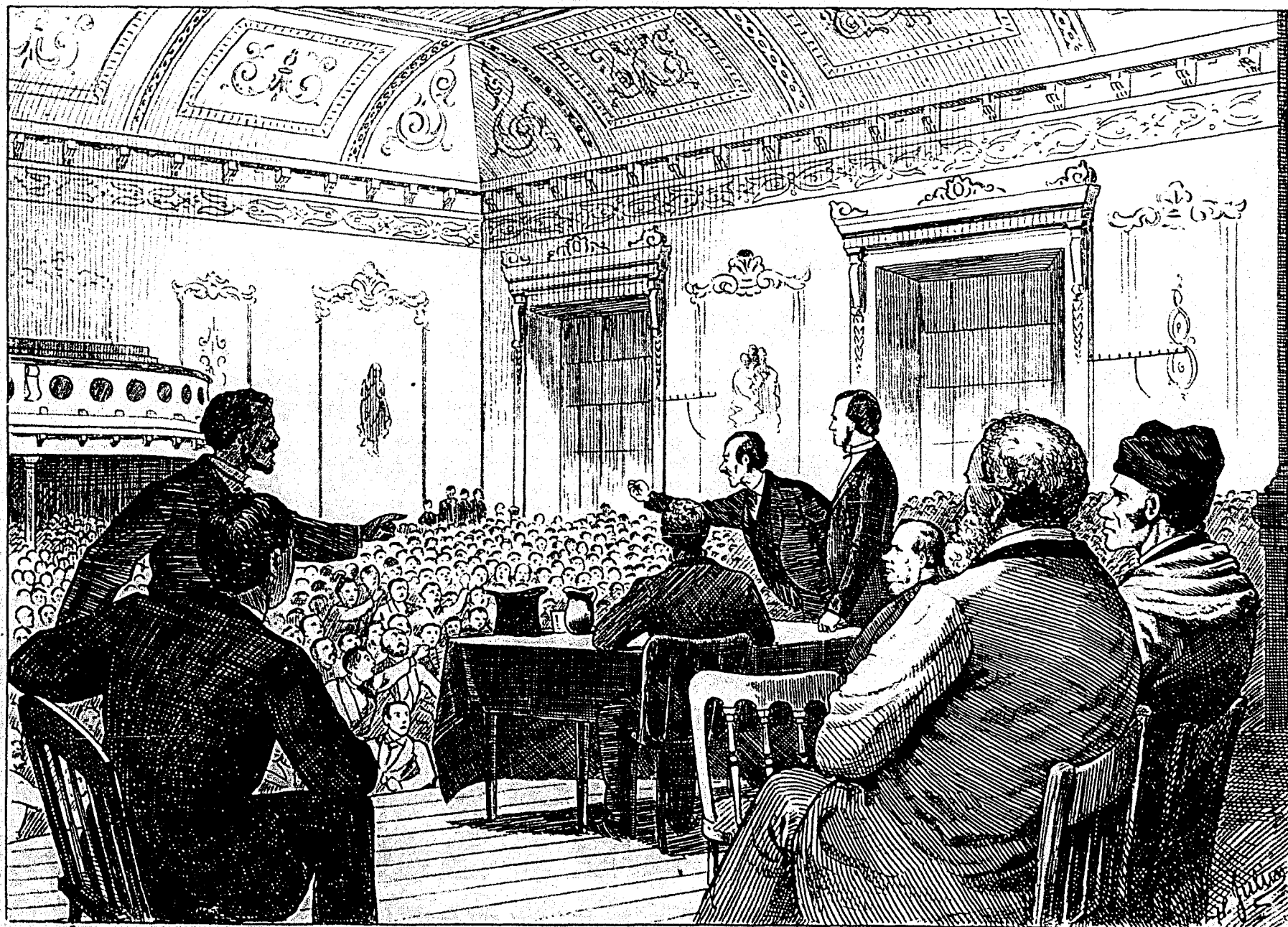
On the 21st June, 1865, Col. Wilson, having proceeded to Halifax for the purpose, installed the First Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia there.

Was an honorary member of many subordinate Lodges, both in Canada and the States, and Grand Representative of the Grand Lodges of Illinois, and the Grand Orients of San Domingo, and Kentucky, and Central America.

Was also an honorary member, with full privilege, of Ezra Chapter, No. 23.

Degree of L.L.D., conferred by the University of Kentucky.

Dealing with his Grand Lodge connection we have to record that on the establishment of the supreme Canadian body, in October, 1855, Col. Wilson was elected as First Grand Master and occupied the chair for five years, retiring in 1860, but being again elected in 1866, and sitting for two years, when in consequence of a judicial appointment, he declined to offer himself for re-election. He was in 1872, however, prevailed upon to preside over the Order, and consented, and was re-elected in '72 and '73 and last year, remaining in office until his death. He was ever indefatigable in the discharge of his important duties, and during the early years of the Canadian Grand Lodge spent much time, toil and money in visiting sister Grand Lodges. He also personally visited a majority of the Lodges in Upper and Lower Canada, and did good service for the order at large.



TORONTO ELECTIONS.—MEETING IN MUSIC HALL: AN INTERRUPTION.—FROM A SKETCH BY F. M. BELL SMITH.