

MASONIC CEREMONIES AT WALKERTON,

AN especial Communication of Grand Lodge was held at Walkerton, county of Bruce on Dominion Day, for the purpose of assisting R. W. Bro. Jas. K. Kerr, Acting Grand Master, in laying the corner stone of the new Public and High School building, about to be erected in that town.

PRESENT:—R. W. Bros. Jas. K. Kerr, Acting Grand Master; J. H. Benson, as Deputy Grand Master; W. Bros. H. O Connor, P. M. 276, as Grand Senior Warden; R. Hodson, P. M., 162, as Grand Junior Warden; Bro. S. Waldo, P. M., 276, as Grand Chaplain; W. Bros. James Hargreaves, P. M., 197, as Grand Treasurer; John Creasor, jr., W. M., North Star, as Grand Registrar; R. W. Bro. J. J. Mason, Grand Secretary; W. Bros. Robert Hunter, P. M., 184, as Grand Senior Deacon; F. T. Zinng, P. M., 178, as Grand Junior Deacon; W. Trealeaven, P. M., 184, as Grand Superintendent of Works; John S. Tennant, P. M., 184, as Grand Director of Ceremonies, A. Gold, P. M., 306, as Assistant Grand Secretary; John Eastwood, P. M., 131, as Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies; John McLaren, W. M., 200, as Grand Sword Bearer; D. McDonald, P. M., 301, as Grand Organist; Jabez Stephens, W. M., 197, as Assistant Grand Organist; John McDonald, W. M., 203, as Grand Pursuivant; K. McL Walton, W. M., 315, Grand Tiler; Bros. Thomas Lawrence, 184; A. C. Clark, 301; H. P. Adams, 301, A Butler, 306; W. Vullet, 306; J. Craig, 197, Grand Stewards; and about 150 brethren hailing from neighboring Lodges.

The Grand Lodge was opened in due form at noon, in the Lodge room of Saugeen Lodge, 197, and from thence the brethren marched in procession to the site of the new building.

The front of the procession having reached the site of the new building, a halt was made, and the ranks opened out and faced inwards, when the Grand Master, supported by the Grand Officers, and by the Rev. John McLay, Esq., and other members of the Board of School Trustees, and by John H. Bell, L. L. D., Inspector of Public Schools; passed through to the north-east corner, where a platform was erected for their convenience.

A prayer having been offered by the Rev. Mr. Bell, the Acting Grand Master delivered the following

ADDRESS.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES, MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN NOW ASSEMBLED:

I rejoice to greet this large concourse assembled to give countenance to our proceedings, and to witness the manner in which we shall to-day take the part which our ancient and honorable fraternity has taken in the erection of stately and superb edifices in ages gone bye, from time immemorial.

Know then, that we are all lawful Masons—*free* to discharge our duties to each other and the rest of mankind; *accepted* in those fraternal bonds which in all time have served to unite us together and to distinguish the members of our Order from the rest of the world; *professing* to fear God, who is the Great Architect and Ruler of the universe, and to honor our beloved Queen—long may she reign over us, happy and glorious; *true* to the laws of our country and to the obligations which are cast upon all good citizens of our happy, united and prosperous Dominion; *prepared* to confer benefits upon all our brethren and to practice universal benevolence towards the whole family of the human race.

We have, peculiar to our Order, secrets which are withheld from all other men, which no man has ever discovered and that may not be revealed. But whilst we withhold such secrets, be assured that they are lawful, honorable and instructive, and in testimony of this we can point with confidence to the position which the Craft has ever enjoyed in the estimation of men, and I may boldly claim that if any of our tenets were not lawful, honorable and useful, so many loyal, illustrious and enlightened brethren throughout the length and breadth of the civilized world, in all time past, would not have been enrolled under our banners; eminent statesmen and distinguished scholars have always been found amongst our numbers, and from the days of the Royal Solomon to the present day, even monarchs distinguished as well for their wisdom as for the propriety of their conduct have not thought it derogatory to dignity to exchange the sceptre for the gavel and to lay aside the robes of royalty for the lambskin apron of a Freemason.

But a few short weeks ago, we witnessed in London, the seat of learning and science, the centre of refinement and civilization, the heart of England which makes the pulse of the whole world to beat, and with its wealth and moral power, its congregations of enlightenment and assembly conception of intelligence, gives expression to, and furnishes thought for, the learned and the active over the face of the habitable globe. In